



Field Notes

THE EUGENE FIELD HOUSE & ST. LOUIS TOY MUSEUM
National Historic Landmark • City of St. Louis Landmark • National Register of Historic Places

Volume 19 - Number 1

Summer 2012

From the President...



It's hard to be overwhelmed by a blank page, but a certain amount of staring at the empty sheet always faces me before writing. Happily, today I have to try to figure out which of several things to emphasize, which surely beats wracking my brains for anything on which to comment. I often envy Eugene in working on "Sharps and Flats" – commenting on human frailties is a never-ending source of material – but today I need do so a good deal less than when confronted by some past deadlines.

I won't spend much time on the *Mark Twain Tonight!* presentation here – most of you know it went marvelously well and better than we had hoped. Everyone involved deserves all the appreciation we can muster.



Bill Piper, Hal Holbrook, Taylor McMullin

But we must continue to move forward, and we have another very different and very interesting event to present shortly. As explained elsewhere in this newsletter, Della Reese will be in concert and conversation for our benefit in about a month from when you see this. It'll be a very different setting and type of program from Hal Holbrook's wonderful show, as well as differing greatly from anything we've tried before. I hope all of you will come and make it a success.

We also have an event coming up in September at the Strathalbyn Farms Club in St. Charles County. The event committee is hard at work and has lined up some wonderful entertainment already, with auction items in the works. Please mark your calendar for this celebration.

Things have also been very busy on the Dred Scott front, if you will. I've attended two scholarly presentations in recent weeks about freedom suits in general, and those of the Scotts in particular. I'm pleased to say Roswell Field has received full credit for the significance of his work in representing the Scotts and making the matter a federal case, and we've gotten some good publicity for the house as a result.

Finally, there are two new pieces of statuary about. A statue of the Scotts is to be dedicated on a site very near the Old Courthouse, (though not the federal one), where their state court trials took place, on June 8th. Also, a bust of Dred alone has been unveiled in the Missouri Capitol, alongside those of other famous Missourians. However, I note that Mr. Field has not been similarly honored, though he is pictured in one of the lunettes in the Capitol dome, so perhaps we should be satisfied with that. In any event, it's good to see the Scotts memorialized.

I have no ringing statement with which to close. We have our goals, and we will reach them as long as we keep moving forward.

Mark your calendars:



July 27, 2012

Della Reese Special Engagement
"My Life in Song"
Sheldon Concert Hall

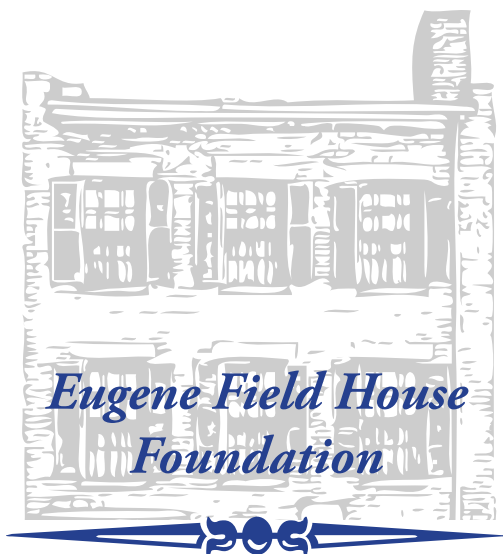


September 15, 2012

Enjoy a gala celebration at the exclusive Strathalbyn Farms Club, featuring a live auction and entertainment by the St. Louis Ragtimers

William R. Piper

William R. Piper
President



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William R. Piper

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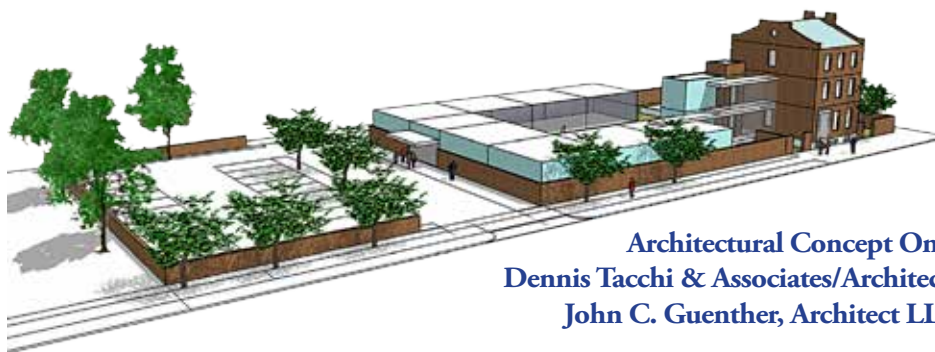
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Expansion Plans

Having celebrated 75 years in 2011, The Eugene Field House and St. Louis Toy Museum is looking forward to our next chapter. The Eugene Field House is embarking on a much-needed expansion to improve accessibility, exhibition, and education space beyond the existing historic home. Fundraising efforts began at Greystone in September of 2011, where the announcement of our expansion was made. In March of this year, Hal Holbrook performed his award-winning one-man show, *Mark Twain Tonight!* before a sold-out crowd at the Blanche M. Touhill Center. These events provided a strong beginning of reaching our fundraising goal and sharing the message with our supporters that a long-term dream to expand could actually happen for the Eugene Field House.

On July 27, 2012, Della Reese will be celebrating her career through music at the Sheldon Concert Hall with her one-woman show, "My Life in Song." A separate mailing with ticket information and performance details will be coming at the end of May. Please make reservations early, because it certainly will sell out, like our Holbrook performance. On September 15, 2012, the Eugene Field House will hold a gala at the exclusive Strathalbyn Farms Club. Bus transportation, stunning sunset cocktail hour, a delicious dinner, spectacular auction items, and entertainment by the St. Louis Ragtimers will be part of this fundraiser. We at the Eugene Field House appreciate your support of history and our exciting plans for the future!

***We are looking for auction donations
for the Strathalbyn Event!***

Staff Changes



The Board of Trustees at the Eugene Field House would like to thank Barbara Faupel for her six years of service to the house. Best of luck, Barb!



The Eugene Field House is proud to welcome Katherine Heugatter as our Assistant Curator. She earned her Masters in Museum Studies from the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

MARK TWAIN TONIGHT!

A Success!

On March 16, the packed house at the Touhill Performing Arts Center gave award-winning actor Hal Holbrook a standing ovation for his performance of *Mark Twain Tonight!* A wonderful time was had by all, as Mr. Holbrook performed selections from Twain's work. Before the performance, VIP Patrons were treated to a pre-show cocktail reception.

Afterward, patrons had the chance to meet Mr. Holbrook at our artist reception. Signed copies of Mr. Holbrook's book, *Harold: The Boy Who Became Mark Twain*, were on sale at the event as well. A limited number of signed copies of the autobiography are available in the gift shop. The Eugene Field House Foundation, staff, and volunteers would like to extend thanks to all those who underwrote, sponsored, and attended the very successful event.



Hal Holbrook, Larry Horgan



Judy Behle, Larry Heugatter, Hal Holbrook



Shirley & Don Zork, Mary & Kevin King



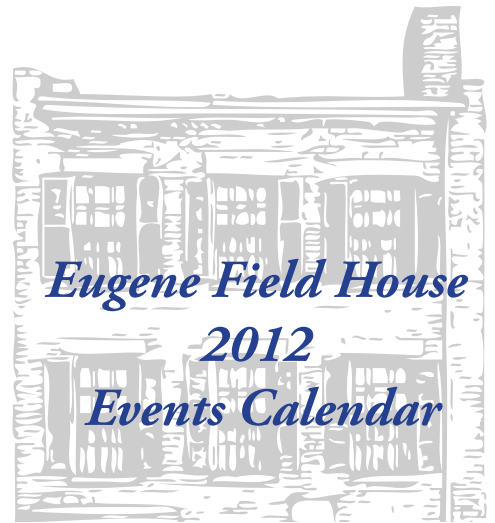
John Guenther, Jennifer Shanks, Dennis Tacchi



Christopher Smith, Bill Piper, Sharon Smith
(with Mr. Holbrook's book)



Soraya Wolverson, Brian Abel Ragen,
Ann Koop, Jean Hajek

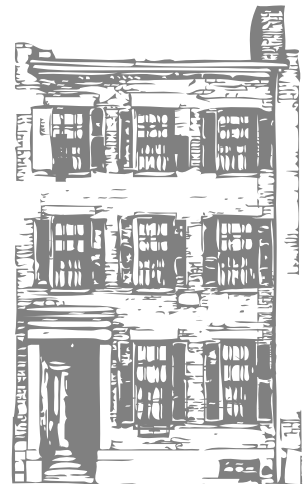


Eugene Field House 2012 Events Calendar

~ March 1 ~
"A Doll's Story"
toy exhibit opened

~ July 27 ~
Della Reese performs
"My Life in Song"
at the Sheldon Concert Hall

~ September 15 ~
Gala Event at
the exclusive
Strathalbyn Farms Club



Visit Us Online
www.eugenefieldhouse.org

WELCOME MEMBERS

The Eugene Field House Board of Trustees and the Staff would like to thank the following members who have continued to support the mission, preservation, and programming of the foundation with their generous membership donations.

~ *Renewing Members* ~

October 2011 - April 2012

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Mr. & Mrs. Donald Zork

~ *New Member* ~

Dr. Ellen Tsagaris

“A Doll’s Story” Opens!

The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum is proud to present our Spring 2012 toy exhibit, “A Doll’s Story.”

Showcasing wonderful examples of our Madame Alexander, Nancy Ann Storybook Company, and Liberty of London doll collections, the exhibit offers visitors a story behind each doll they see.



Poems From Forsyth School

The annual visit from the third graders at Forsyth School took place in December 2011. Each student in Ms. Regina Stone’s and Ms. Christine Torlina’s classes chose an object in the collection that inspired them. The students then followed Eugene Field’s example, writing original poems and illustrating them. The five best poems chosen by the Third Grade Language Arts Teachers at Forsyth will be on display at The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum throughout 2012. Here is “Choo Choo Train” by Theo, inspired by our “Transport Me: Toys from a Riverboat City” exhibit.

Look for more poems in future Field Notes.



HONORARIA, MEMORIALS & DONATIONS

October 2011 - April 2012

Honorariums:

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Zork
in memory of Dr. Slayden Harris

Collection donations:

Questers Eugene Field Chapter #151

Individual donations:

Ms. Deborah Cavanaugh

Ms. Pamela Danklef

Dr. William Landau

Max & Zoe Lippman Trust

Myles Family Fund

William & Susan Piper

Questers Eugene Field Chapter #151

Spirit of St. Louis Doll Club

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Stoltz

Expansion donations:

The William and Sherrie McLeRoy
Family Charitable Fund of the
Community Foundation of North Texas

A Visit to Nipher Middle School



As part of their Black History Month celebrations, Nipher Middle School brought The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum to them! The staff explained Roswell Field's involvement in the Dred Scott Case to the nearly 90 sixth-grade students gathered. Students also had an opportunity to get hands on with our traveling trunk,



part of the Urban Museum Collaborative curriculum. The experience was such a success that teachers invited The Eugene Field House to expand it next year.



Dred Scott Induction



On May 9, 2012, the induction of Dred Scott into the Hall of Famous Missourians became a wonderful reality. Pictured: Ms. Lynne Jackson, President and Founder of the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation.

Dred & Harriet Scott Statue Dedication

June 8, 2012, at 3:00 PM
Old Courthouse, Dred Scott Way

You are cordially invited to attend the dedication of a statue honoring Dred & Harriet Scott, scheduled for Friday, June 8, 2012, at 3:00 PM outside the Old Courthouse, Dred Scott Way (4th Street).



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Printing: Minuteman Press of St. Louis



Summer is fast approaching in the Sugar Plum Tree Gift Shoppe, and it's time to get out and get that unique gift for all of those upcoming birthdays, weddings, and parties that you will be attending. Delight your host with hand-poured candles made in the U.S., locally made soaps, and patriotic home décor. And don't forget the those little ones. We have all sorts of wonderfully unique toys, including windups, dolls, and games!

