



Field Notes

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

1936 ~ 2011

Volume 18 - Number 3

Winter 2011

2011 Holiday House Tour Featuring:

The Eugene Field House
 The Campbell House
 The Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion
 The Old Courthouse
 Tower Grove House

Holiday House Tour Ticket Information

Thursday, December 1, 2011
3:00 to 8:30 pm

Guided Bus Transportation ~ \$30.00

Includes tours of all five historic homes, free parking with guided bus transportation, and light holiday refreshments served at each site. Bus transportation sponsored by Destination St. Louis.

Self-Guided Transportation ~ \$20.00

Includes tours of all five historic homes with free parking available on limited basis, and light holiday refreshments served at each site.

Café DeMenil Buffet Dinner ~ \$9.95

Advanced Reservations Required

For an additional \$9.95 reservations can be made for a dinner buffet at Cafe DeMenil. Seating available from 4:00 to 7:30 pm. For additional information, tickets and dinner reservations call 314-421-4689.

Inclement Weather Date - December 8, 2011

'Twas the St. Louis Holiday Historic House Tour

*'Twas the months before Christmas,
 When all through Saint Louis
 The historic houses were getting ready,
 To shine their biggest and brightest.*

*All the kugels were hung on the feather trees with care,
 In hopes that cheery visitors soon would be there.*

*The teddy bears and dolls were all snug
 Under the trees so fair,
 While cookies and hot cider were put out to share.*

*All the historic houses were once again ready
 For the best time of year,
 What a wonderful tradition to continue,
 Thought the staff and volunteers without fear.*

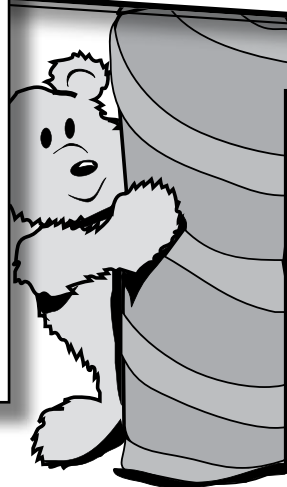
*Open the evening of December First they would be,
 A ticket purchased would guarantee a
 Wondrous sight to see.*

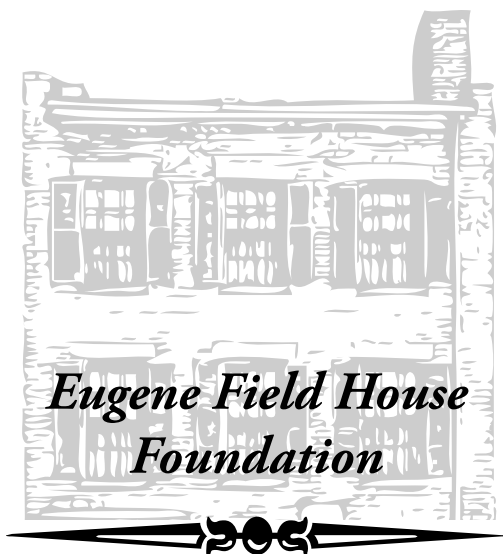
*To The Eugene Field House, Campbell House,
 And DeMenil Mansion they came,
 With the Old Courthouse and Tower Grove House
 Adding to the tour's fame.*

*Come one, come all to the tour of the season,
 This festive opportunity needs no more reason.*

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From the President...

As I write, our neighbors to the north with lots more lights and many tons more bricks are World Champions again. It's a very different crew from the people I first saw play at Grand and Dodier in 1963, but the hearts inside the uniforms are very much the same. The birds sit in the same positions on the bat, even if they have an oddball cousin working the stands these days; not to mention a certain squirrely ally as well. Everyone has a role to play, which came together wonderfully for our friends this year, who now get a few months rest.

We, on the other hand, are bracing for the busiest time of the year. That statement may dismay all those who knocked themselves out to make the afternoon at the Greystone event so successful, full-time and volunteer staff as well. Still, it will be Christmas again and, between decorating, greeting our regular visitors and conducting the holiday house tour; we truly will have our reward for a job well done - the opportunity to do more. You'll get to see the results of Kim's gift shopping expedition as well as visit favorite and new decorations. I'm looking forward to working with the Old Courthouse again after a break and with Tower Grove for the first time. Part of me looks forward to the crush of bus changeovers (a nice problem to have). Another part wonders how spilled goodies will ever be removed from the carpet - but they've always come out so far.

There will be old matters (tuckpointing) as well as new (elbow room) to deal with as we look ahead. We'll miss old friends as well as greet new ones. The challenge is always the same- keeping the doors open and the lights on. The fun comes in figuring out different ways in which to do it. Perhaps Mr. Twain will show the way come the turn of the year. I hope you'll join me in finding out.

William R. Piper

William R. Piper
President

~ **President** ~

William R. Piper

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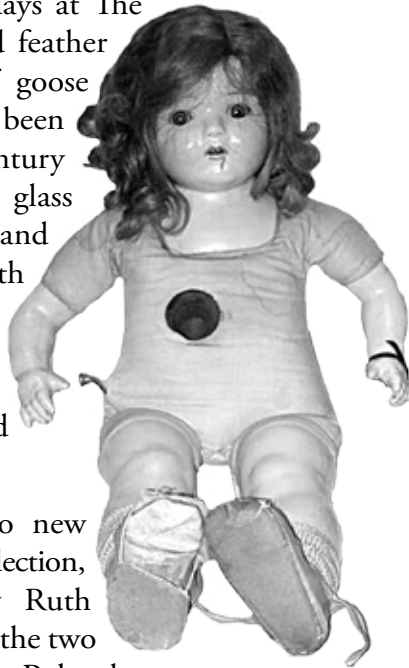
Charles Brennan

~ **Executive Director** ~

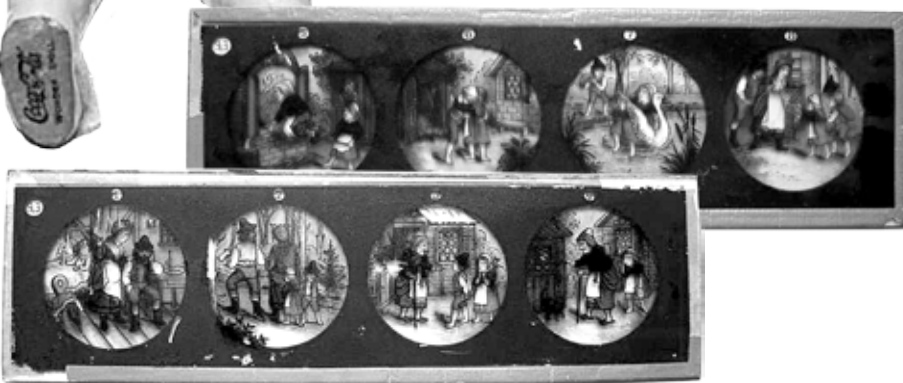
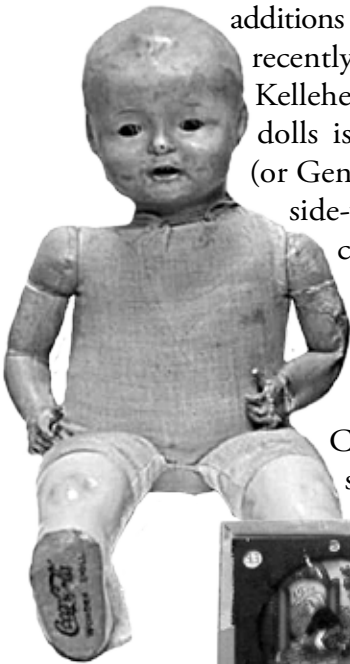
Kimberly Ann Larson

Toys and Dolls During the Holidays

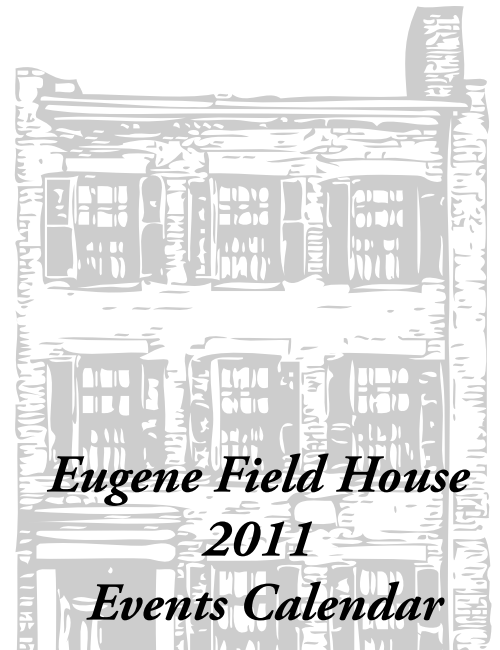
The real showstoppers during the holidays at The Eugene Field House are the two period feather trees in the collection. One made of goose feathers, the other turkey, both have been restored to their late nineteenth century splendor. Adorned with many antique glass ornaments, these trees fill the parlor and library with holiday cheer. The area beneath these trees has always been a wonderful place to highlight the museum's extensive toy and doll collection. This year will be no exception, with both old favorites and new joys filling the rooms.



On display in the parlor, will be two new additions to our doll collection, recently donated by Ruth Kelleher. The older of the two dolls is a 1926 Dolly-Rekord (or Genuine Madame Hendren) doll, with mechanical side-wind. Named "Betty Jane" by her donor, she came with one musical cylinder which would have played *Mother Hubbard*. The record would be wound by the crank and projected through her clothes from a metallic horn fixed in the chest. The other doll is a 1930's Ideal Coca-Cola *Wonder Doll*. With her original socks and shoes intact, the *Wonder Doll* is quite a treasure.



Another unique recent donation to the museum's collection is a set of magic lantern slides from Mary Loire. Made of glass, these slides held images depicting fairy tales and nursery rhymes, moral tales, religious stories, and other images, such as travel destinations. These slides when put in a magic lantern; were the earliest form of slide projectors and were first illuminated by candles. Made for all ages, the slides were often used as part of an act that included music and storytelling.



Eugene Field House **2011** *Events Calendar*



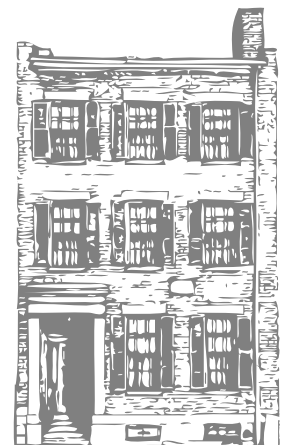
~ December 1 ~

The St. Louis Holiday Historic
House Tour~ **December 5**

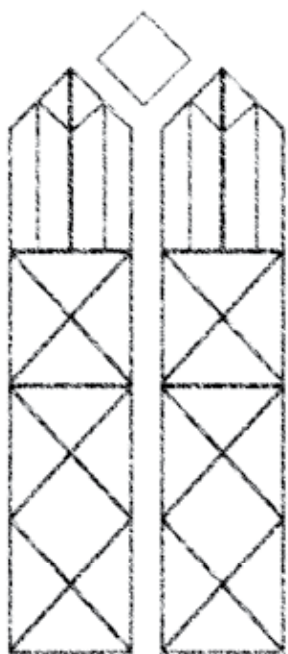
~Member's Holiday Party

~ **December 30** ~ "Transport Me"
closes

~ **March 16, 2012** ~Hal Holbrook
Event



Visit Us Online
www.eugenefieldhouse.org



An Afternoon at Greystone...

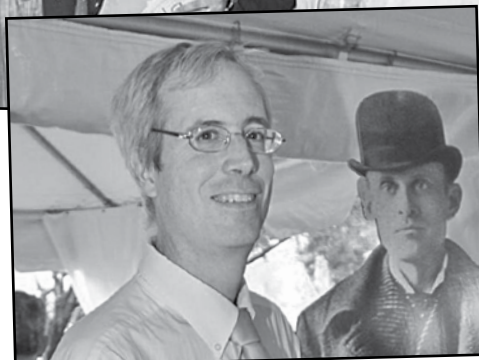


Bill & Susan Piper

Karen Klohr,
Jane & John Guenther,
Soraya Wolverson



Marianne Gleich &
Maureen Clever



Martin & Eugene Field



Angela Hutti,
Master of
Ceremonies



Celebrating our 75th Anniversary as a historic house museum with a garden party at Greystone, the private historic country home of the Piper Family; was a wonderful success. The Eugene Field House Foundation, staff, and volunteers would like to extend their thanks to all those who were underwriters, sponsors and guests that attended the event. Despite the threat of downpour, the light drizzle in the middle of the day added to the merriment as the friends of the museum mingled under the dry tent. With the Master of Ceremonies, Fox 2 Meteorologist, Angela Hutti, starting the event with a joke that choosing her did not guarantee good weather; the food, music, and auction were enjoyed by all.



Kim Larson & Karen Klohr



Sheila & Martin Field,
Fran & Bob Walrond



Bill Piper

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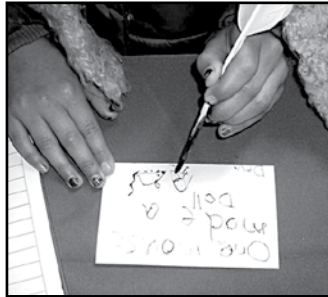
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Education with Eugene

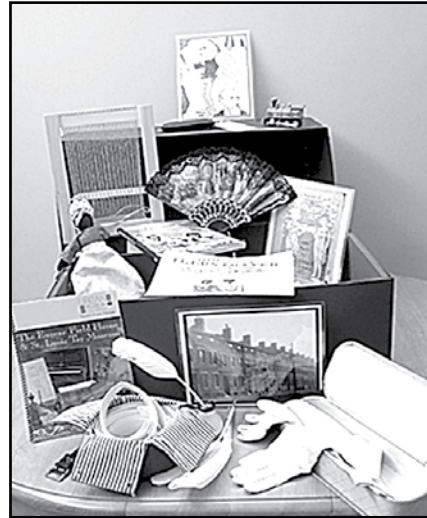
Eugene Field was highlighted as a famous Missourian at this year's Missouri Day. Held at the First Missouri State Capital in St. Charles, Missouri Day gave local students a chance to "visit" many historic sites. Over 200 grade-schoolers came through the First Missouri State Capital.

To represent Eugene Field, staff and volunteers of the museum brought hands-on activities for the children. To represent the writer in Eugene, students could write their names or poetry on index cards with feather quills. It was quite an eye-opening experience for the children to see just how time-consuming and hard it was to write before ink pens were invented.

The children were also able to delve into the toy collector side of Eugene by making their own old-fashioned toy. Spool tractors were made out of easily accessible household items and then raced nearby.



After attending Missouri Day, museum staff and volunteers traveled to the Saint Louis Zoo, where they once again participated in the Resource Center



Network Fair. The RCN group caters to home school families, scout troop leaders, and student teachers who are all looking for unique ways to teach history, literature, science, and other academics to grade school and middle school children. The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum brought

information on its badge programs for scouts, along with the touch trunk and curriculum created with the Urban Museum Collaborative.

Holiday Exhibit at the Maplewood Public Library

"Holiday Toys for Girls & Boys" is traveling to the Maplewood Public Library for the month of December 2011. A highlight of last year's holiday display at The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum, the exhibit focuses on popular toys and dolls of children growing up during the 1940s through 1960s. With a trend towards aluminum trees with color wheels, under the tree were often the little town of Plasticville and the traditional train sets. Visitors of the Maplewood Public Library will see a lobby filled with Lincoln Logs, Slinkys, Liddle Kiddles, kaleidoscopes and much more.



HONORARIA, MEMORIALS & DONATIONS

**Burks Historic Houses Fund of the
Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation
The Donald A & Paul H Tyree Memorial Fund**

Save the dates...

**Member's Party
Monday, December 5, 2011
5 to 7 pm**

The Eugene Field House bursting with cheer,
Is a sight we love to share
With our members that we hold so dear.

On Monday, December Fifth from five to seven
Is our annual Member's Party

And we hope to see all of our friends there;
An evening of food, drinks, and merriment
For all to share.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

***A Special Event*
Friday, March 16, 2012**



For a special event to benefit The Eugene Field
House & St. Louis Toy Museum.

*Watch for a special mailing in the next several
weeks about pre-sale tickets!*

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 ~

Ms. Susan Abernathy
Mr. Thomas Abernathy
Dr. Robert Archibald
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Church
Ms. Ellen Cooley
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Deutsch
Mr. James Grace
Mr. Darin Groll
Mr. Esley Hamilton
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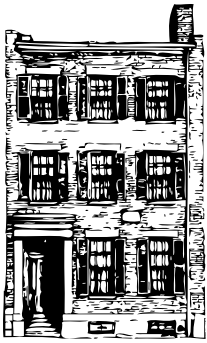
~ New Member ~

Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Hirzel
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Richards

Want to Help?

Honoraria, Memorials & Donations

If you would like to honor someone or remember someone in a special way, consider sending a contribution to The Eugene Field House in their name. Simply mail us the information and we will send you an acknowledgment letter and the designated person a lovely card. Remember, your contribution is tax-deductible.



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St. Louis Toy Museum
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Holidays at The Sugar Plum Tree Gift Shoppe

The festive spirit is bright in the Sugar Plum Tree Gift Shoppe this holiday season. Spread the cheer with belsnickle Santas, snowmen, feather trees and much more. The holidays come alive with our expanded candle and potpourri selection. And don't forget to stuff those stockings with wonders for all ages: new windups, dolls and bears now featured!