



JEFFERSON HERITAGE AND LANDMARK SOCIETY

FALL 1988

AWARD-WINNING YOUNG AUDIENCES TO GIVE FREE "BINGHAM'S MISSOURI" PERFORMANCE

The St. Louis Chapter of Young Audiences, Inc. and Jefferson Heritage and Landmark Society in cooperation with Jefferson College, Hillsboro, Missouri, will present "Bingham's Missouri," on Sunday, November 6, 1988 at 2:00 P.M. in the Little Theatre at the college.

This event is being presented free to the public and is an excellent presentation for the entire family to see. The program which has been presented 500 times in schools during the last eight years is based upon the paintings of noted 19th century artist, George Caleb Bingham. It depicts the rich history of the Missouri river valley with slides of Bingham's works, 1800's attire and a collection of authentic folk music. The program will appeal to elementary school children up to grandmother and grandfather. We believe this to be the first time the program has appeared in Jefferson County, so take advantage of this opportunity to be entertained and educated in a most unusual way. Bring your friends, family, children and grandchildren with you!

FLETCHER HOUSE REPORT

A plaque has been purchased showing that Fletcher House is on the National Register of Historic sites. It will be placed on the house after the Park Board finishes repainting the house in a color scheme appropriate to the 1850s.

A new parlor carpet was purchased and makes a lovely addition to the house.

Work is proceeding slowly on the acquisition of an additional strip of ground adjoining what is presently owned. Ben Cytron, County Attorney is handling these negotiations.

We are still looking for a sideboard suitable for the 1850 time to place in the dining room. We will soon have the antique spinning wheel ready to go into the house.

The house will be open for tours at Christmas time. Contact Joyce Schubert at 789-3911, Extension 335 if you have a group who would like to book a tour.



(photo by the late Tony Casner)

The just-published catalogue of Missouri historic sites contains a picture of this house at Hillsboro, built by Thomas Clement Fletcher when he was a county official and married Mary Clara Honey. Born at Herculaneum when that city was the county seat, Fletcher became Missouri's first governor native to the state.

He and his brother-in-law, Louis Rankin, filed the first plat of De Soto in 1857. Fletcher was elected governor while serving with Union forces in the closing year of the Civil War.

(De Soto Press Clipping 1963)

Betty Mueller, President

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MAPS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR SALE. \$2.50 to members, \$3.00 for non-members. They can be purchased at the De Soto Public Library, 126 South Main Street, De Soto, Missouri, 63020. If you want them mailed to you include \$1.00 for postage and handling charge.

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A NEW PUBLICATION HAS COME ACROSS OUR DESK that we think our members might be interested in. Below is a reduced page from the current issue of OZARKS WATCH. The current issue is very interesting, dealing with house styles in the Ozarks. We give you a sample by reducing some of the pages in this issue so that you can see what it covers. As you look at the houses, you realize that there are houses just like that in your own town. At present you can subscribe without cost. See the editorial page below. It is well worth your time.

Betty Olson

Editorial

OzarksWatch Society formed?

In a WatchNote on this page, we note that with this issue, OzarksWatch begins its second year of publication.

The expanded size, the large number of pictures, and the increasing mailing list means that OzarksWatch is becoming more expensive to print and distribute. With the exception of a small grant to support Preservation Corner, received from the Historic Preservation Program of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the University is funding the entire costs of printing and mailing OzarksWatch. As these costs increase, it will be necessary for us to find the means for OzarksWatch to share in these costs.

Front Page

1887 photograph of the Gray-Campbell House, Greene County, Missouri. A rare antebellum vernacular Greek Revival farm house of a prominent pioneer family, it is now preserved and undergoing restoration in Springfield's Nathanael Greene Park.

OzarksWatch

OzarksWatch is a periodical publication reporting on issues affecting the course of the Ozarks. It is published at Southwest Missouri State University by the Center for Ozarks Studies in conjunction with the Office of Publications.

OzarksWatch has been funded in part by the Historic Preservation Program, Missouri Department of Natural Resources; and the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Grant awards do not imply an endorsement of contents by the Grantor. OzarksWatch is available to anyone interested in Ozarks life and times—past, present and future.

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There is an obvious way to do this — set a subscription rate and charge people to receive OzarksWatch. This would help pay for the publication, but it would also have the effect of cutting down the number of people who now read OzarksWatch. We would much prefer to find a method that would permit OzarksWatch to be distributed rather freely, while at the same time raising some money to help with publication costs.

One possible method would have the advantage not only of producing some funds for OzarksWatch, but also of creating an association that would enable a number of us who share a common concern for this interesting, fragile and peculiar place we call the Ozarks, to share, among ourselves and with others, our knowledge, our resources, and our concerns.

This association could be called "The OzarksWatch Society."

The idea would be to build upon the already existing base of some 1600-plus readers of OzarksWatch to establish an organization that could, among other purposes:

— Be an advocate for the Ozarks, but without embracing narrow special

interest positions.

— Be concerned with a number of issues affecting the region, including quality of life, environment, economy, society, preservation of history and heritage, and education.

— Explore (and perhaps help influence) Ozarks futures from the context of the Ozarks present and past.

— Plan ways of sharing our knowledge, ideas, and information with a broader audience.

There would be a modest cost to be a member of The OzarksWatch Society. A portion of the money raised would go to help support the publication OzarksWatch — the remainder to support whatever activities the membership of the Society decides to promote.

This is a broad proposal presented in a sketchy form. But we wanted to get the idea for an OzarksWatch Society before you and to stimulate some thinking. If there is any support for the notion, we'll get a group of interested people together to do some careful planning.

Won't you write or call with your reactions and suggestions?

WatchNote

Did you notice what it said on the front page? "OzarksWatch. Volume II. Number 1." Volume III! OzarksWatch is beginning its second year of publication.

While the event may not rate an interview on the Today show, the Editors feel that it deserves at least a WatchNote in this very special issue devoted to Ozarks dwelling and dwellings.

If this issue of OzarksWatch feels a little heavier, it's because it's bigger. We started with 8 pages, but soon moved to 12. Now we've gone to 16 pages so that we can cover topics in a little more depth. And use more pictures, charts, and maps. We hope you like those.

Our mailing list is at about 1600 names and growing. It's growing because a number of you tell us you

appreciate the publication and ask us to add the names of friends and neighbors and relatives. We're proud of our mailing list. We think it's a quality group of folks who are reading OzarksWatch — people who are interested in and really care about the region. While, as you might expect, the majority of our readers live in the Ozarks, copies of OzarksWatch are mailed to readers in 29 states.

Because OzarksWatch is for and about the people and events in the Ozarks, our readers' reactions are important and vital to our efforts to watch the Ozarks. We welcome and encourage your input on any issue or topic we've covered, as well as any ideas or suggestions you have for future issues.

Let's hear from you!