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MORGANTOWN HISTORY MUSEUM



useum News

Spring 2011

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New Model Keelboat Completed

Among the many items that will be on display at the Morgantown History Museum's new venue on Kirk Street will be a model of a keelboat. This type of boat was one of the crafts used for navigating the Monongahela River and other western waterways during the days of the pioneers. During that period, keelboats played a major role in transporting goods and people downriver to Pittsburgh and even farther.

The model of the keelboat was donated to the museum by local model boat builder Jean Preckel, who hand-crafted



Jean Preckel is putting the finishing touches on the model keelboat

INSIDE . . .

- ❖ Greetings from the Chair
- ❖ Equipment Donations
- ❖ New Acquisitions
- ❖ Thank You

the boat herself. Jean has been building models of schooners, crabbing skiffs, racing yachts, runabouts, and motor yachts professionally since 1983. Her models can be found in museums, yacht clubs, visitor centers, and private collections throughout the United States.

Her work on a new project usually starts with studying the line drawings and pictures of a boat. She then constructs

Cont. p. 3

**Morgantown Museum
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Michael Mackert

The Morgantown History Museum is the first city-sponsored museum in the Greater Morgantown area. Its mission is to preserve the history of the region for the public by collecting and displaying local cultural artifacts.

Morgantown History Museum
111 High Street
Morgantown, WV 26505
(304) 319-1800

MorgantownMuseum@yahoo.com

Tuesday – Saturday
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Friends,

The Morgantown Museum Commission and the Morgantown History Museum are going through many exciting changes. Our long-time dream of having a much larger museum space is soon to be realized.

The construction of the new Kirk Street museum facility is moving along steadily. Currently, the electrical conduits and drywall plastering are being completed. It has been fun and gratifying to see the space demolished and then re-constructed in a new configuration! Flooring, lighting, and paint colors have been chosen and will soon be installed. Thus, this project is well on its way to completion. We hope to be in our new museum space by the mid-summer of this year.

One of the most exciting things to happen for the museum is being chosen as one of the six venues in West Virginia to host a new Smithsonian traveling exhibit entitled *The Way We Worked*. The Morgantown History Museum will host the exhibition for six weeks during December, 2011 and part of January, 2012. The exhibit tour is sponsored by the West Virginia Humanities Council.

The Morgantown History Museum will receive technical assistance and funds from the West Virginia Humanities Council to develop displays and supplemental programs that focus on the Greater Morgantown area and our very interesting industrial past.

Finally, I would like to thank our many donors and volunteers. I would particularly like to thank local resident and craftsperson Jean Preckel. Jean is a well-known figure in the model boat arena. Her model boats are located in private collections as well as museums along the eastern seaboard. Jean completed researching and building a model of a keelboat for the Morgantown History Museum. The keelboat will be on permanent display in the new Kirk Street museum facility.

Donors and volunteers like Jean Preckel make our museum project grow. Won't you help us with our mission?

Pamela A. Ball
Chairperson, Morgantown Museum Commission
Coordinator, Morgantown History Museum

Equipment Donations Needed

The Morgantown History Museum has been fortunate in receiving many artifact donations since it opened its doors in June, 2006. These donations have allowed us to create all of the exhibits currently on display and to plan new exhibits for our new venue.

For the new venue, which will open later this year, the museum has an additional need: new equipment. In order to present Morgantown's history in a user-friendly and interactive way to visitors and to run office operations efficiently, the museum is looking for the following items:

Display Equipment

- all-in-one desktop computers with touch-screen monitors
- LCD flat-panel TVs
- 1 LCD projector

Office equipment

- 1 micro-cut shredder
- 2 desktop computers
- 1 laptop computer

Please consider donating equipment or contributing to the purchase of equipment. For questions, please contact the museum office at (304) 319-1800 or email us at MorgantownMuseum@yahoo.com. Monetary donations should be made to "The Friends of the Morgantown History Museum." They can also be made via the link to "Just Give" on our website at www.MorgantownHistoryMuseum.org.

Help Us Make the New Museum Venue a Success!!!

Keelboat cont.

a model that is scaled exactly to the required size by using construction methods similar to those used in building full-sized boats. As materials for the 34-inch-long and 5½-inch-wide model keelboat, Jean picked white cedar for the hull; spruce for the deck, frames, and cabin; and fir for the mast and yard.

"The hardest part of building this keelboat was deciding on a representative example," she says. "A 'standard keelboat' did not exist. Each boat was different, and now there is not a lot of information on keelboats available." Once Jean had decided on the design of the keelboat based on her research, she spent the next six weeks working 40 hours a week on the model.

To learn more about Jean's work and to view a selection of the models crafted by her, visit www.preckelboats.com.

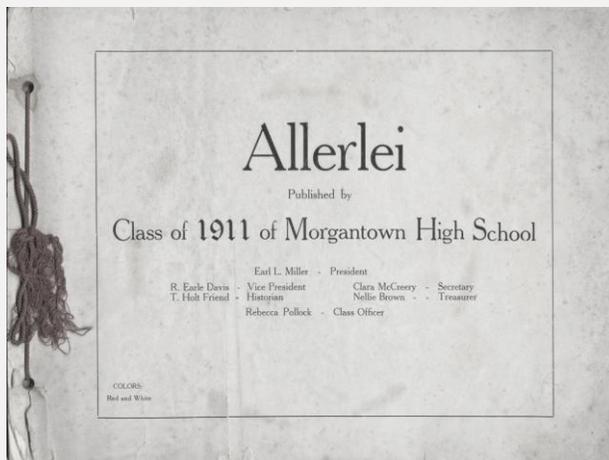
New Acquisitions

Photographs

The over 900 items comprising this recent accession depict street scenes, events, and construction sites in and around Morgantown from the 1930s through the 1960s. The collection includes photographs showing the Morgantown sewage treatment plant under construction, a City of Morgantown float in the 1941 Defense Parade, and President Lyndon B. Johnson at the Morgantown Municipal Airport dedication in 1964.



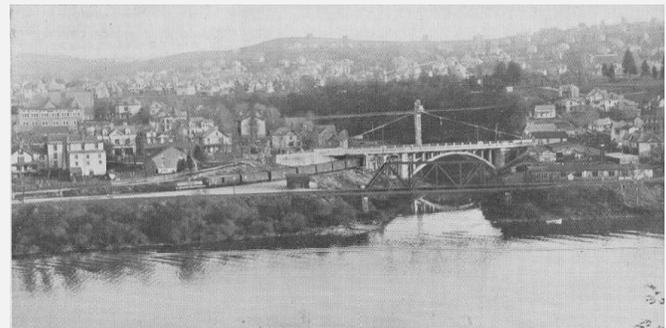
High School Year Book



High school year books have been around for a long time as this 62-page publication by the 1911 class of Morgantown High School shows. Apart from various stories and descriptions, the book contains names and photographs of the faculty, the students, the members of different student societies, and the players on the school's football and baseball teams. The book also features advertisements from local businesses, such as the Boston Confectionary Company, the Acme Department Store, and the City Meat Market. The book was printed and bound locally by the ACME Publishing Company.

South Morgantown Bridge Brochure

This 15-page booklet details the construction of the 1915 bridge across Deckers Creek. The bridge was 430 feet long and 50 wide and, at the time, featured the longest concrete arch span in West Virginia. The structure cost \$62,000 to build and contained 4,500 cubic yards of concrete and 170 tons of steel. The photographs in the booklet show the bridge at different stages during its construction.



To stay informed about the latest events and exhibits at the Morgantown History Museum, visit our website at www.MorgantownHistoryMuseum.org or our page on www.facebook.com.

Thank You for Your Support!

We would like to thank the following individuals, families, organizations, and local government bodies for their volunteer work and/or their generous contributions to the Morgantown History Museum:

Jon Scott Anderson
Appalachian Education Initiative
Pamela Ball
BOPARC
Susan Braidi
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Julie Bryan
Charlie Byrer
Chesapeake Energy Corporation
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Friends of the Morgantown
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Museum of Natural History
Harold Shaver
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WAJR
WCLG
West Virginia Geological and
Economic Survey
West Virginia University Press

Membership Application

The Morgantown Museum Commission invites you to join the Friends of the Morgantown History Museum to help promote and preserve the rich history of Morgantown and the surrounding area.

\$25.00 Individual _____

\$30.00 Family _____

\$50.00 Corporate _____

Additional Contributions:
\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (h) _____

(w) _____

Mail to:

Friends of the Morgantown History Museum

111 High Street

Morgantown, WV 26505-5412

To donate objects or to volunteer some time, please contact the Morgantown Museum Commission at (304) 319-1800 or at MorgantownMuseum@yahoo.com.

A Morgantown First

Did you know that the first U.S. aircraft powered by gasoline made from coal flew from Morgantown, WV to Washington, DC on November 6, 1943?

New!

Visit our website by using your smartphone and the QR code on the right!



WANTED: Sterling Faucet Artifacts

We are still looking for artifacts from the Sterling Faucet Company. If you own any products or memorabilia from this company, please consider donating them to the Morgantown History Museum.

Preserving Morgantown's Cultural Heritage