



# MORGANTOWN HISTORY MUSEUM

# useumNews

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## Evans Art Exhibit Still on Display at MHM

This temporary exhibit at the Morgantown History Museum opened on August 13, 2015. The exhibit showcases the art of Preston County resident George Bird Evans (1906-1998) from the 1930s and 1940s. Evans was a noted artist, author, outdoorsman, and founder of the Old Hemlock line of English Setters.

He created the artwork on display for pulp magazine stories and advertisements. The exhibit also includes selected pages from Evans' journals and original *Cosmopolitan* magazines featuring his art. Evans' work appeared in notable magazines such as *American*, *Cosmopolitan*, and *Women's Home Companion*.



Courtesy of the Old Hemlock Foundation

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In addition, Evans produced sixteen books and numerous articles on birding and bird dogs published in outdoor magazines. He also kept extensive hunting journals and coauthored five mystery novels with his wife Kay Harris Evans (1906-2007) under the pseudonyms Brandon Bird and Harris Evans.

The exhibit is the result of a cooperative effort between the Morgantown History Museum and the Old Hemlock Foundation. The exhibit, free and open to the public, will be on display at the history museum through November 14 this year.

**Morgantown Museum  
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Museum News Editor**

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  
175 Kirk Street  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
(304) 319-1800

[info@morgantownhistorymuseum.org](mailto:info@morgantownhistorymuseum.org)

Tuesday – Saturday  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## Greetings from the Chair

Dear Friends,

The fall leaves have been beautiful this year and are now starting to fade. I am hoping for a long fall season — my favorite time of the year.

We at the museum have had a productive six months. Our Flatboat Project completed its second phase during the summer. We are currently looking for a volunteer coordinator for the third phase, which will start in the spring of 2016. In this third phase, we will be starting the construction of the boat. The volunteer coordinator that we hope to find to bring this project to completion during this third and final phase should, ideally, be retired and understand wood construction methods. The coordinator should also like to teach others in the old construction methods and have the time for this project. The time required for the position includes three or more hours on Saturdays and a couple of meetings a month for planning purposes. We have had a number of folks express interest in learning the old construction methods used on this project. If you or someone you know would be interested in the volunteer coordinator position, please contact the museum.

Our third annual Best Chef Contest, which was held at the Lakeview Resort at Cheat Lake in early August, was once again highly successful. With 200 attendees this year, we had a full house! We will be having the fourth contest in early August 2016. Try to attend next year as the event is a great deal of fun, and the food is quite tasty. The contest benefits both the Morgantown History Museum and the Flatboat Project.

We have many folks to thank for helping with this year's Best Chef Contest. They include Commissioners Pamela Casto, Rick McEwuen, and Matt Held. We would also like to thank Swifty Shaver of the Friends of the Morgantown History Museum, the family of Barry Casto for donating cash prizes and trophies, and all the folks who donated to the auction. In addition, we would like to thank Brenda Shinkovich, who created the event and provides continuing support for the project, and the many local restaurants supporting this effort and giving the time of their staff to prepare and serve the food. Lastly, we would like to give special thanks to all the many people who have supported this event over the past three years — without you, there would be no Best Chef Contest.

Finally, if you have not had the chance to come into the museum to see the George Bird Evans art exhibit, come in to see this great display. The exhibit will be up until November 14 this year.

Thanks for all of your continued support — we at the Morgantown History Museum are truly grateful!

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

## Flatboat Construction Project – Second Phase, Summer 2015



To stay informed about the latest events and exhibits at the Morgantown History Museum, visit our website at [www.MorgantownHistoryMuseum.org](http://www.MorgantownHistoryMuseum.org) or our page on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

# New Acquisitions

## New Dominion Industrial Edition

As part of a location marketing effort, this special ninety-page issue of the local newspaper was published on May 10, 1906. The publication provides information about the city's infrastructure, energy sources, businesses, industries, and the university to attract new companies and investors to "The Athens of West Virginia." It also includes photographs of prominent Morgantown citizens, residences, views of businesses, and industrial facilities. The back cover of this edition features a map showing the Sabraton Railway Company's Lines and Connections and the industries located along the Morgantown and Kingwood Railroad.



## Civil War-Era Newspaper

*The Semi-Weekly Monitor* was a local newspaper owned and published by W. P. Willey and G. C. Sturgiss. The issue donated to the museum was published on Wednesday, May 6, 1863. The feature story on the front page gives a detailed account of the events taking place in Morgantown the previous month during the Jones-Imboden Raid. The issue also includes an announcement by Alexander L. Wade that he was running for the office of Recorder of the County Court and various local and regional advertisements.

## Photographs of Local Impersonator

A recent donation included eight black-and-white photographs showing Morgantown resident Russell L. Long (1889-1972) performing as Uncle Sam and as Charlie Chaplin during parades and other events. Long often performed on stilts equipped with a foot pivot, which he had invented himself. His design of the stilts allowed him to stay on them from three to four hours and to move around easily. On his stilts he was twelve feet tall. Long had opportunities to join circuses and vaudeville shows but stayed in Morgantown, working in the glass industry.



## Thank You for Your Support!

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

Pamela Ball  
Kimberly Betsill  
Donna J. Biess  
Mary A. Biggs  
Francis Billes  
Al Bonner  
Susan Braid  
Julie Bryan  
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Mary L. "Cookie" Schultz  
Ryan Sharpe  
Harold "Swifty" Shaver  
Brenda Shinkovich  
Steve Stathakis  
Tanner Family  
Lori A. Tanner  
Deanie van Camp  
Wamsley's Cycles  
Marjorie Wolfe

## Membership Application

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

### Annual Memberships

\$25.00 Individual \_\_\_\_\_  
\$30.00 Family \_\_\_\_\_  
\$50.00 Corporate \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contributions:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (h) \_\_\_\_\_

(w) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Friends of the Morgantown History Museum  
175 Kirk Street  
Morgantown, WV 26505

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

To make a monetary donation, go to <https://npo.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=26-0859732>.

## Missing History

West Virginia University's new Art Museum is displaying Blanche Lazzell's (1878-1956) well-known mural "Justice over Monongalia County," which previously hung in the Monongalia County Courthouse. The mural depicts West Virginia University's Stewart Hall, glass factories, and Morgantown's First Methodist Episcopal Church. Art Museum staff are looking for a photograph of the mural in-situ in the courthouse. If you have a photo of the mural as it hung in the courthouse, please contact Art Museum Curator Robert Bridges at [bob.bridges@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:bob.bridges@mail.wvu.edu).

Preserving Morgantown's Cultural Heritage