



JOURNAL

July / August 2007 | Volume 35, Number 4





At the North Carolina Beach, ca. 1890s

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Director's Corner

by Fred Goss

In all my years of working, I've never run across such a wonderful, talented group of individuals as those who graciously volunteer their time to the museum.

Whether it is capturing the curiosity of fifth graders, trouping a traveling trunk to a senior citizens meeting, greeting visitors, working in collections, archives or the Museum Shop, or serving on the museum board, the efforts of our volunteers are welcomed with sincere appreciation.

As we aim to enhance our services, we are in need of a few more volunteers. If you would like to join our remarkable team, or know someone that may be interested in sharing with others Greensboro's fascinating story, please contact Curator of Education Betty K. Phipps at (336) 333-6831.



Volunteer recognition celebration, June 4, 2007

Left to right, docent and visitor host Tom Brittingham, traveling trunk trouper Sandy Richardson, docent Lee Leahy, traveling trunk trouper and board member Betty Gail Sikes.

A Tradition That Reads Like An O. Henry Story

by Taneka Bennett, Director of Marketing and Development

It's opening night of Five by O. Henry. Stage manager Laura Jenkins is making her rounds, checking props to ensure they are in the proper place. "Thirty minutes," she yells down the hall to the cast. "Thank you thirty," they respond, acknowledging they are aware of the time.

Meanwhile in the men's dressing room, "Does anyone have an extra mirror?" one of the actors asks while attempting to apply his make-up. "I'm not very good at this," he jokingly says, smiling with pink lipstick on his teeth.

Next door in the women's dressing room, costumer Jay Cheek has styled the wigs to perfection and has neatly placed them upon styrofoam heads. Make-up is everywhere. "Has anyone seen my mascara? Can I borrow your eye shadow? Does anyone have a blush brush?" rambles a cast member.

"Fifteen minutes," yells Laura. "Thank you fifteen," they say in unison.

Everyone is finally dressed with makeup on. Some sit relaxing in isolation listening to music, envisioning their performance. Others talk amongst themselves, often perusing photos from shows of years past. "Oh my goodness, is that me?" says playwright Joseph Hoesl while looking at a picture of himself from the late 1980s.

"Has anyone seen my script? I need to look at my script!" an actor frantically says while pacing up and down the hallway, thinking he might forget his lines.

"Five minutes."

"Thank you five."

"It's time to warm-up our voices," sings music director Pam Murphy. Everyone gathers in the women's dressing room. The melodic sounds of la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, echo throughout the room. "Break-a-leg," says director Pauline Cobrda while giving everyone last minute hugs.

"One minute."

"Thank you one."

All the cast proceed to the museum lobby, anxiously waiting to sing the opening song, anxiously waiting to take the stage.

Audience lights dim.

Clever lighting by stage set and light designer John Saari illuminates the stage.

Pianist Michael Greena begins to play.

The cast enters.

"East Side, West Side, all around the town," is sung in perfect pitch.

An actor portraying O. Henry greets guests.

The first story begins.

The last story ends.

Another O. Henry tradition unfolds

THE END



FIVE BY O. HENRY

September 7, 8, 13, 14,
and 15 at 8 p.m.

September 8, 9, 15,
and 16 at 3 p.m.

THIS YEAR'S PLAYBILL

The Rathskeller

The Exact Science of Matrimony

A Poor Rule

The Buyer from Cactus City

The Third Ingredient

OPENING NIGHT PARTY

Show followed by dessert and
coffee with the cast: Friday,
September 7, \$20 per person

\$10 for museum members,
seniors, and students with ID
\$12 General Admission

FOR TICKETS, PLEASE
CALL (336) 373-5044



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Archives Uncovered

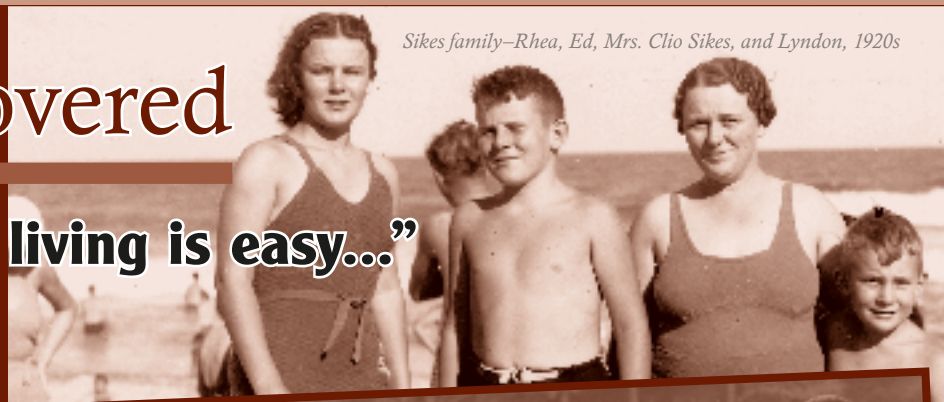
by J. Stephen Catlett, Archivist

"Summertime and the living is easy..."



*Oakhurst Swimming Pool
July 1949*

Summer fun before air conditioning usually meant pools, lakes, oceans, ice cream and lots of ice. And as these photographs from Archives attest, relaxing with family and friends has always topped the list.



Sikes family—Rhea, Ed, Mrs. Clio Sikes, and Lyndon, 1920s



*Young swimmers received instruction at the
Jefferson Country Club Lake on June 10, 1953
Carol W. Martin/Greensboro Historical Museum Collection*



Zesto Ice Cream Store, 1950



*The old Windsor Community
Center pool in Nocho Park, seen here
in the 1950s, was a cool oasis for
thousands after it opened in 1937.*

Passport to History

What would Bertha Sternberger think?

by Linda Evans, Curator of
Community History

Greensboro's first official park came thanks to developer Basil Fisher, who in 1901, according to historian Ethel Arnett, donated 14 acres of low woodlands on each side of North Elm Street.



For Mrs. Bertha Sternberger (1878-1928), the woodlands of Fisher Park were just a beginning, and even the elaborate

entertainments available at Lindley Amusement Park were not enough. She believed that the children in her adopted hometown needed safe and healthy play areas, and it was through her vision and determination that Greensboro's parks and playground movement was born in 1910. Mrs. Sternberger, married to textile mill owner Emanuel Sternberger and the mother of two young daughters, launched a fund drive for a children's playground and city beautification.

Her idea, modeled after a Philadelphia project, was both simple and effective - to print and sell 25 cent stamps featuring local youngsters, and use the proceeds to fund equipment

and landscaping for a downtown park. Despite dismissive remarks by the all-male town leadership, the stamp sale was a resounding success and a playground opened in the heart of town.



Country Park, Greensboro. c. 1950s

That playground had long disappeared by the time that Country Park opened on July 4, 1934. The financial havoc caused by the Great Depression meant that many programs developed in the 1920s – playgrounds, sports, crafts activities and the like – came to a halt. Mayor Paul C. Lindley brought together volunteers, City employees, and laborers from the Public Works Administration to turn 79 acres in the northwest quadrant into Country Park.

Beginning in the summer of 1934, residents could swim, boat, fish, and picnic in a beautiful setting. To the southeast, work began on Nocho [pronounced No-ko] Park, which opened in 1937 with Windsor Community Center, swimming pool, tennis court, playground, hiking trails, and picnic tables.

What indeed would Mrs. Sternberger have thought if she had lived to see Country Park? The serene location is still a favorite spot for residents and

includes a Veterans Memorial, accessible play equipment, and even a Bark Park. How she would have enjoyed the ways that young people can learn about horticulture and biology along the paths of Bicentennial Park (1976), Arboretum (1986), Bog Garden (1987), and the Gateway Garden planned for Lee Street extension. It's certain she would have appreciated the sports opportunities for golfers and soccer players at Bryan Park (1974) and likely been at the first Sunday at Center City Park (2006) to watch youngsters play. Other parks and recreation pioneers would certainly be smiling over her shoulder – Oka Hester and Mabel Smith, Parks & Recreation Department leaders from the 1940s-1970s. They and others have built upon Mrs. Sternberger's legacy, including current department head and McNairy family descendant Bonnie Kuester. The result? Greensboro's Parks & Recreation Department with 170+ parks, gardens and special facilities, is a three-time winner of the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Administration.



by Dawn Kouba,
Gift Shop Manager

The Shop has added to its selection of irresistible reading material two titles that will make great summer companions. For people who like a bit of nostalgia and human interest mixed into their reality there is a powerful volume of poetry entitled *PieceWork* by Barbara Presnell. This book reveals the struggles, joys, hope, and persistence of life in a southern cotton mill during the late 20th century. Some of the poems evoke tears while others bring forth audible laughter. The experiences shared through the many voices of the poet will touch a wide range of readers, from those who have worked in cotton mills to those who have lived in the towns that flourished because of the mills.

The second book is *Travel North Carolina* from the staff of John F. Blair, Publisher. Here is the quintessential guide to road travel in the Old North State from east to west: the coast, piedmont and the mountains. Included are sights to see, places to stay, restaurants to sample and some maps and photos for orientation. There are plenty of places off the beaten path to explore along with the more familiar locales. Pack both books in your North Carolina tote bag (also available at the Shop) and hit the road for discovery and pleasure.

Shop Hours

Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday 2 p.m.–5 p.m.
(336) 373-2949

GHM News

City Council Hears Crossroads Exhibit Plans

by Taneka Bennett, Director of Marketing and Development

On Monday, June 11, the Greensboro Historical Museum shared information with City Council and the City Manager's Office about its upcoming exhibition plans for *Greensboro: A Crossroads for Many Voices*. The primary focus of the presentation discussed how the museum met with more than 3200 members of the Greensboro community to share topics planned for the upcoming exhibit.

"We want to build community through history. Therefore we are reshaping our exhibitions, and services we offer to be more reflective of those who live here. We are expanding our marketing reach to new audiences. We are partnering with groups more than ever before. And we are actively seeking input from those who live in our neighborhoods," said Director Fred Goss.

Churches, civic groups, professional organizations, and university scholars were called upon to provide valuable feedback regarding themes, people, and events which played an intricate role in making the City of Greensboro what it is today.

"During the past two years museum staff met with more than 3200 members of the community. Many expressed personal stories that were, until now, known only by close relatives and friends or spoken only at family gatherings. Bill White, a museum volunteer, shared his grandfather's reminiscences about 19th century Greensboro complete with the tales of merchants, town happenings, city characters, citizen concerns, places long forgotten about, and details about local African American businesses. University Professor Josephine Boyd Bradley, expressed what life was like being the first black student to attend and to graduate from Grimsley High School in the 1950s. Mrs. Almetha Gilbert,



Josephine Boyd and her mother at
Grimsley High School 1957

who attended Price School, graciously donated an original picture of her first grade class," commented Goss.

Sports history was also top of mind for many people. Therefore, the museum has included a sports section highlighting locals such as golfer Marge Burns and Olympic speed skater medalist Joey Cheek. Many were also glad to learn that during the 1948 polio epidemic members of the African-American and white communities rallied together despite a time of segregation, contributing both money and labor to build a treatment center in record time. This information will be included in the exhibition.

"These stories are just a few of many that we learned after conversing with the community. These stories are just a few that might help shape the *Crossroads* exhibition," said Goss.

Exhibition & Event Calendar

July

OPEN JULY 4
10 a.m.–5 p.m.

September

FIVE BY O. HENRY
September 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 at 8 p.m.
September 8, 9, 15, 16 at 3 p.m.
Join us once again for a theatrical performance full of surprise endings that are uniquely O. Henry. Stay tuned for additional information.

October

GREENSBORO: THEN AND NOW WITH AUTHOR LYNN SALS
Sunday, October 7 at 3 p.m.
Author Lynn Salsi will give a talk and show fascinating images of events and people that shaped the Gate City.

GHOST STORIES IN THE GRAVEYARD WITH STORYTELLER CYNTHIA BROWN
Saturday, October 27 at 11 am
Taking place at the First Presbyterian Graveyard, located behind the museum.
FREE



Cynthia Brown

November

ANNUAL MEETING WITH SPEAKER WILLIAM E. LEUCHTENBURG
Wednesday, November 7,
Greensboro County Club
Time to be determined
William E. Leuchtenburg, Professor Emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is the author of more than a dozen books on twentieth-century American history.

POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT DURING WARTIME: COLLECTIVE SECURITY VS. CIVIL LIBERTY
Sunday, November 11 at 2:30 pm
Dr. Stephen F. Schneck, a scholar associated with the Smithsonian and the Catholic University of America, will present a historical look at powers vested in the President during wartime.
FREE
Reservations requested, please call (336) 373-2043

COLLECTIVE SECURITY VS. CIVIL LIBERTIES: PRESIDENTIAL POWERS DURING WARTIME
Sunday, November 18 at 2:30 p.m.
A panel discussion program moderated by Dr. David Olson, focusing on the current political situation and inherent Presidential powers
FREE
Reservations Requested, please call (336) 373-2043

BILL OF RIGHTS EXHIBITION
Friday, November 30 through Sunday, December 2
Be among the first to see North Carolina's copy of the Bill of Rights.
FREE
Group reservations requested, please call (336) 373-2043

In Memory of

CAROLYN STEVENS

Gift From
Barbara Anne Roth
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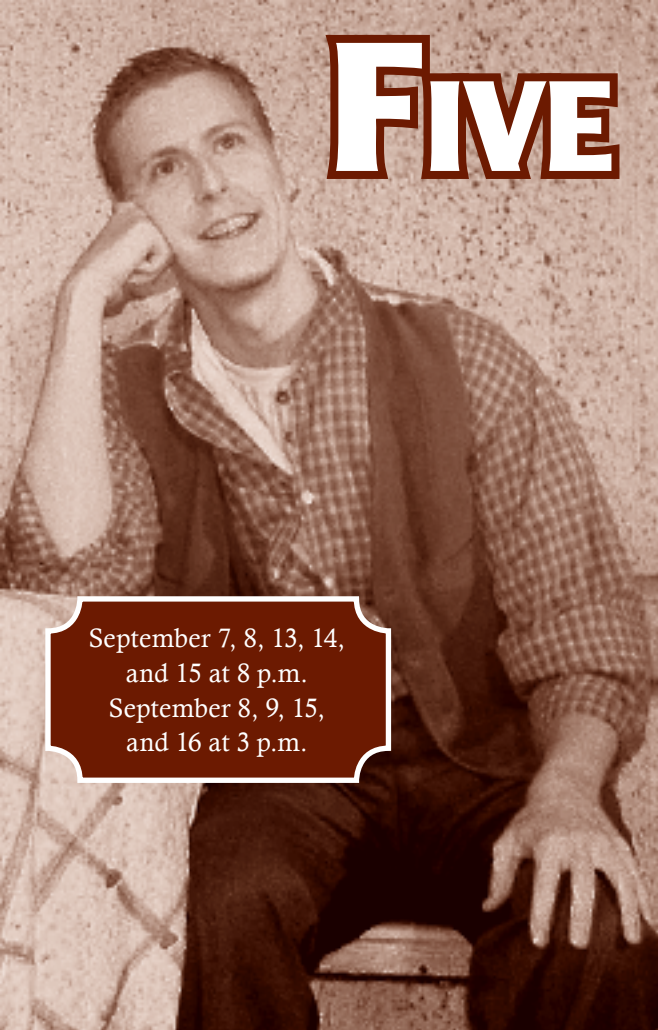
December

THE SECOND AMENDMENT'S RIGHT TO "KEEP AND BEAR ARMS": WHAT WERE THE FOUNDERS THINKING?

Sunday, December 2 at 2:30 pm
Speaker Dr. R. Don Higginbotham to Focus on the Second Amendment
Taking place at the Greensboro Central Library, 219 N. Church Street, in the Nussbaum Room

FREE
Reservations requested, please call (336) 373-2043





FIVE By O. HENRY

Are you among the audience of thousands anxiously anticipating the return of *Five by O. Henry* this September? This year's stories are absolutely hilarious. So make sure to join us and find out why in the world someone has love for an onion. This year's playbill includes *The Rathskeller*, *The Exact Science of Matrimony*, *A Poor Rule*, *The Buyer from Cactus City*, and *The Third Ingredient*.

Opening Night Party

Dessert and coffee with the cast
Friday, September 7, \$20 per person

All Other Shows

\$10 for museum members,
seniors, and students with ID

\$12 General Admission

To charge tickets by phone, please call (336) 373-5044

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