

Ohio River Scenic Byway

America's Story - Your Story





Barge on the Ohio River at Golconda



Rhonda Belford

Rhonda's Letter

Greetings (Dear) Byway Friends,
I hope this finds you enjoying or perhaps planning a trip along the beautiful Ohio River Scenic Byway. This is a time of family gatherings and celebrations, with heartfelt reflection and thanks for our Independence and Freedom.

I am grateful and excited as well to be a part of this fascinating endeavor with the Ohio River Scenic Byway, its contributors and partners in their adventures as we uncover and explore this Land of the Free and home of the Brave inside the Second issue of "America's Story—Your Story".

The Beauty and intrigue is awe inspiring from past to present, particularly in this Southernmost Land of Lincoln. So, sit back, relax and take a journey once again across time....

And remember,

"I'm Thinkin' bout You on the Ohio!"

Sincerely,

Rhonda Belford
Ohio River Scenic Byway President

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FROM THE COVER:

Photograph Provided by Steven L.
Boles: Ceramic Discoidal—appro-
ximately 5.5 cm across – from the
Orr-Herl Site



Photos by Mike Korte and Steve Gerlach
Fort Massac State Park

Fort Massac State Park

Metropolis, IL

Monument
of Colonel
George
Rogers Clark
Overlooking
the Ohio
River



Mike Korte

Fort Massac State Park is Illinois' first state park. Through the efforts of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 24 acres were dedicated on November 5, 1908. Today the park encompasses 1,450 acres.

Fort Massac is rich in history. There is no doubt that Native Americans took advantage of the site because of its strategic location on the river with a view upstream for several miles. Legend has it that, as early as 1540, the Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto and his soldiers constructed a primitive fortification here to defend themselves from native attack.

Officially the fort has flown under three flags. Fort Massiac was built by the French in 1757, during the French and Indian War and was originally called "Fort de l'Ascension". The name was changed in 1759, in honor of Claud Louis d'Espinhal, Marquis de Massiac, the French Naval Minister. Following the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, the French abandoned the fort and a band of Chickasaw

burned it to the ground.

The British then claimed possession but never rebuilt the fort. In 1778, during the American Revolutionary War, Col. George Rogers Clark led his regiment of "Long Knives" into Illinois near the fort at Massac Creek.

In 1794, during the Northwest Indian War, President George Washington ordered the fort rebuilt, and for the next 20 years it protected U.S. military and commercial interests in the Ohio Valley. In the fall of 1803, the Lewis and Clark Expedition stopped at Fort Massac on its way west, recruiting two volunteers. The Fort was damaged by the New Madrid Earthquake in 1812. It was again rebuilt in time to play a minor role in the War of 1812, only to be abandoned again in 1814. Local citizens dismantled the fort for its timber, and by 1828 little remained. The site briefly served as a training camp early in the Civil War, marking the last time U.S. troops were stationed at the site. The fort was abandoned after a measles epidemic in 1861-62 claimed the lives of a substantial number of soldiers of the Third Illinois Cavalry and the



Re-enactors at the Annual Fort Massac Encampment

131st Illinois Infantry, who were using the fort as an encampment.

Of course, the main attraction to the park is the 1802 replica Fort that is currently closed due to safety concerns. The footprint of the original fort lies adjacent to the George Rogers Clark Statue and the 1802 fort lies just east of this area. The current fort is scheduled to be repaired or replaced this year and should be completed in time for the 2015 Encampment which is usually held on the third weekend in October. The 41st Annual Fort Massac Encampment is scheduled for October 18 and 19, 2014. Historical re-enactors and skilled craftspeople representing French, British and Americans gather at the Encampment to demonstrate the skills and lifestyles of early residents in this area. However, the fort is not the only attraction that draws visitors to the park.

Many visitors come to simply enjoy the panoramic views of the Ohio River, which is about a mile wide in this area. Some come to watch the boats ply up and down the river while other come to watch the waterfowl and other wildlife that also flock to the river. Chances are high that while you're sitting and enjoying the river, you may be approached by an inquisitive squirrel begging for a hand out. A visitor center just north of the reconstructed fort contains a museum with Indian artifacts, wax figures in period clothing, and other exhibits explaining the history of Fort Massac. Campsites and a boat launch are also available



at the park as well as several hiking trails. A nearly completed bike trail is also a new feature to the park. The George Rogers Clark Discovery Bike and Hiking Trail is approximately 8.8 miles long and goes from Metropolis to Brookport with the majority of the trail passing through Fort Massac State Park. Once on the rail-trail section, it's all dense bottom land forests along the Ohio River flood plain. There are newer steel bridges over Fourmile Creek and Sevenmile Creek; the latter is the longest prefab pedestrian bridge in Illinois. Massac Creek is the dividing line between the eastern and western half of the bike trail. Due to fluctuating river levels the bridge that crosses Massac Creek, known locally as the 'Horse Bridge', is therefore prone to flooding especially in the spring and fall months. It is recommended that if you wish to enjoy the bike trail it is a good idea to call ahead to see if the 'Horse Bridge' is flooded. The Visitor Center phone number is (618) 524-4712.

Since the majority of the bike trail is on the East side of Massac Creek, access to the East side of the bike trail can be obtained from Belgrade Road which is just east of the intersection of IL 145 and US 45.

If you've never been to Fort Massac State Park, it is well worth the trip. A grocery store and several restaurants lie adjacent to the park, which makes for easy picnicking. There are many picnic areas to choose from with several of them next to the river. Several shelters are scattered throughout the park which makes a perfect location for family reunions. Or come and enjoy the newest addition to the park which is an 18 hole disc golf course that meanders through this well maintained park. Come visit us at Fort Massac State Park, where history comes alive!

News from the Shawnee National Forest

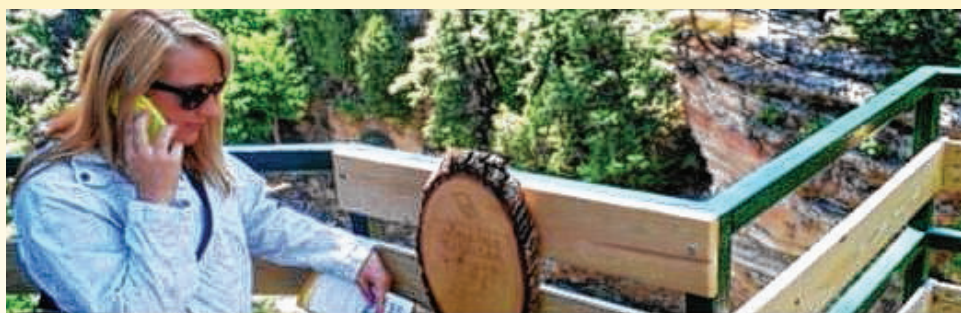
Mobile Interpretive Tour Launched

**Amanda Patrick,
Public Information Officer**

The Shawnee National Forest has launched a new mobile-based interpretive tour designed to better connect visitors with national forest lands. With the concept of traditional communication methods and new technology merging, visitors will be able to either dial-in using a cell phone or scan a smartphone-friendly QR code to gain instant, on-site information while touring the Forest.

There are approximately 30 sites around the Forest with a mobile tour stop. Areas highlighted via the tour include a range of sites across the Forest, including recreation areas like Garden of the Gods and Lake Glendale, historical sites including Rim Rock and natural resource management locations like Oakwood Bottoms, LaRue Pine Hills and more. The goal in the pilot year of the program will be to get feedback from the public, especially in determining which tour stops are being utilized the most, along with other sites that the public would like to be included in the tour.

Each location included in the tour will have signage with the phone number and a QR code. To access the tour using your mobile phone, dial (618) 219-7032, follow the prompts and enter the specific stop number to hear the recorded interpretive message for that particular site. The tour stop's QR code takes you to mobile content using your smartphone, including text, videos and even multimedia slideshows. The Forest's mobile tour can be accessed by visiting: <http://myoncell.mobi/shawneenf>. You can also contact the Forest via phone (800-MY-WOODS) or visit the Shawnee National Forest website to learn more about the tour, including



Access Forest Information with your Mobile Phone

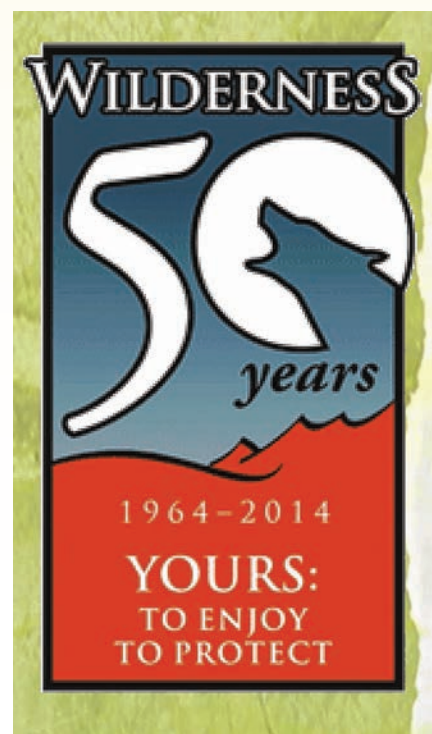
Forest areas featured as part of the new outreach tool.

The Shawnee joins two other pilot forests, the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado and the Wayne National Forest in Ohio, as the agency's three pilot locations for the new mobile-centric interpretive platform.

To learn more about the interpretive tour, please feel free to stop by any of the Forest's three offices (located in Harrisburg, Vienna and Jonesboro). You can also contact the Forest via phone (800-MY-WOODS) or visit the Shawnee National Forest website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee>.

Shawnee National Forest America the Beautiful Quarter to Launch in Early 2016

In 2010, the United States Mint began issuing 56 quarter-dollar coins featuring designs depicting national parks and other national sites as part of the United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters® Program. Through a multi-step process, a total of six U.S. Forest Service sites were selected to be featured as part of the series. For the state of Illinois, the Shawnee's Garden of the Gods was selected as the image to be highlighted. The quarter is scheduled to be





launched in early 2016, and more information will follow as the Forest coordinates plans for the event. The United States Mint issues the quarters in the order in which the honored site was first established as a national site.

Naturalist in the Classroom

The Shawnee NF will be offering a new school program in 2014 called Naturalist in the Classroom. Naturalist in the Classroom (NIC) is a combination of classroom programs followed by a field trip to the Shawnee NF; all guided by natural resource professionals. All content will align with Illinois Common Core Learning Standards, and through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), teachers can also apply for grant funding to help cover costs associated with transportation needs. The targeted area includes some of the highest underserved populations in southern Illinois with high unemployment rates. The goals for NIC are three-fold: to strengthen and expand the Shawnee's environmental education program, to get kids in the outdoors, and to assist local educators in

meeting Illinois learning standards. During this pilot year of the program, efforts will focus on offering NIC to 3rd through 5th grade students in the choice of two program themes: forest ecology and wetland ecology.

September 3rd, 2014, marks the 50th year anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson's signage of the 1964 Wilderness Act; a historic bill that established the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and set aside an initial 9.1 million acres of wildlands for the use and benefit of the American people. Over the past 50 years, and as a result of America's support for wilderness, Congress has added over 100 million acres to this unique land preservation system.

There are seven designated wildernesses in Illinois; all located in southern Illinois and under management by either the Shawnee National Forest or Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge. For five decades, the Wilderness Act has protected many of America's greatest and most breathtaking lands, including areas like Crab Orchard Wilderness, Bald Knob Wilderness and Garden of the Gods Wilderness.



Areas highlighted via the tour include a range of sites across the (Shawnee National) Forest, including recreation areas like Garden of the Gods and Lake Glendale.

Prom in a River Town

Alli Armstrong

Prom is something that every teenager looks forward to and it is a common high school memory for most people. In our small town of Elizabethtown, it's no different. I could not wait to go to my junior prom and the fact that the theme was "Southern Charm" made it even better because it was so fitting for our little river town.

The morning of prom started out just like any other spring Saturday morning since at least one of us Armstrongs was in the woods.

Adriana and Dad went out turkey hunting and if I hadn't already tagged out, I would have been right there with them.

That might be the only thing that could've made the day even better. I was very excited for my prom day to begin.

My friends and I were on the prom committee so we had spent many hours putting everything together for that night with the help of some talented and dedicated adults.

After everyone had a chance to get dressed up, we were all ready to meet up and enjoy a meal together. My group of friends and I had decided to stay in our beautiful little county to eat and avoid the large weekend crowds elsewhere. My Aunt

"All of the hard work and many hours put into the prom preparation paid off, big time! It was a fantastic night and I couldn't have been happier with it."

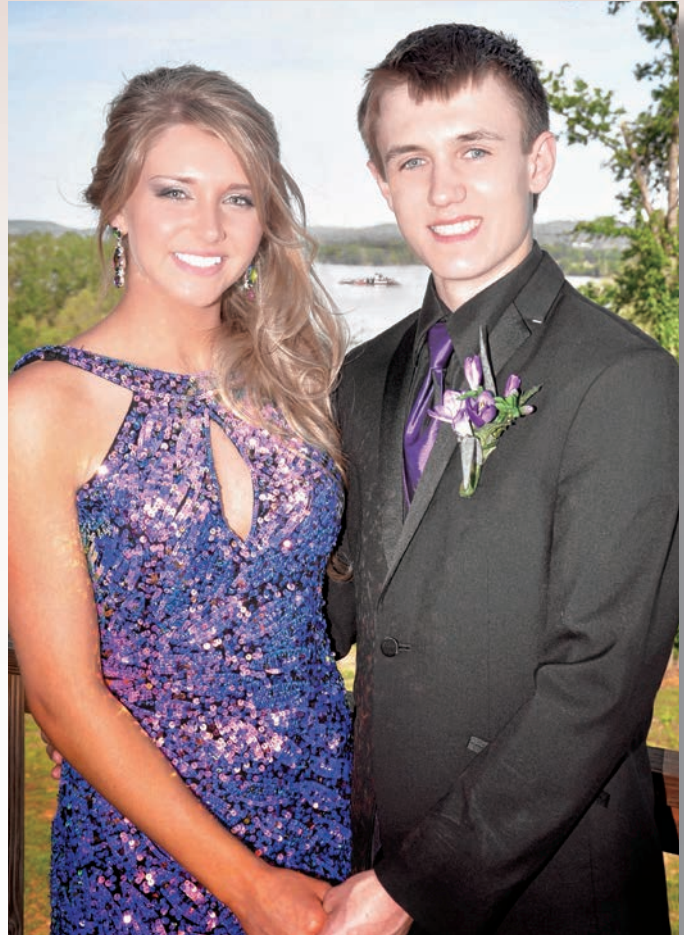
Rhonda and Uncle Michael welcomed all of us into their lovely home for our pre-prom dinner. What more could we ask for than a beautiful view of the river and a tasty home-cooked meal. Uncle Michael grilled out for us and it was far better than anything we might have ordered at a restaurant. We were also fortunate enough to have Aunt Rhonda and her friend, Jim, sing and play some tunes for us while we enjoyed our meal and our evening. The view from the deck where we ate overlooking the beautiful Ohio River couldn't have been more perfect or fitting for the night.

My friends and I were so thankful that we were able to spend such a special night at such a gorgeous place.

After our delicious dinner and live entertainment, it was time to head out to prom. Once we arrived at promenade, we had our first chance to see everyone in his or her formal wear.

All of the girls looked stunning in their dresses and all of the boys cleaned up pretty well too. All of the hard work and

many hours put into the prom preparation paid off, big time! It was a fantastic night and I couldn't have been happier with it. Prom in a River Town was everything I had hoped for.



Alli and her prom date, Logan.



Alli Armstrong and Friends all Ready for their Prom ... Beautiful Southern Charm! They are (from left to right) Logan, Alli, Dalton, Allie, Darrien, Carson, Cameron, Grace, Garrett and Jayci.



Southern Dinner Charm on the Ohio River!



Perfect Dinner Style on the Ohio River!



Alli's Aunt and Singer/Songwriter Rhonda Belford and Guitarist Jim Steffen

By the By ... Way!

Debbie Moore

If we were to give you a list of all the great places to take photographs along the Ohio River Scenic Byway, we might run out of pages in our magazine! Did you know that Elizabethtown has been named one of the most photograph friendly places in the region? Maybe it is because of that one perfect spot ... the gazebo on the lawn of the Rose Hotel, the oldest operating hotel in Illinois! The hotel was built in 1812 and the gazebo was added 70 years later in 1882. It is a perfect photo opportunity!

(Old) Shawneetown is the oldest town in Illinois. That's right! It is also one of only two cities in the United States that was originally chartered by the U.S. Government. Washington D. C. is the other one.

The production of salt is the oldest industry in Illinois. French settlers began making salt near Equality in 1735, but prehistoric Native Americans knew about the Great Salt Springs in the Woodland Era. If you'd like to see one of the big kettles used for boiling the water away from the salt, make sure you visit the Ohio River Scenic Byway Visitors Center in Equality. The volunteers can tell you all about the process.

If you are looking for a good meal and homemade pie at the restaurants along the Byway, you might want to start with the Barbecue Barn in Harrisburg. You'll find several varieties of pie there, as well as, homemade cream horns! At the Red Onion in Equality, you'll find fruit cobblers. Rosie's Café in Cave-In-Rock has great coconut cream pie.

There are several places along the Byway where you can stop and take a little jaunt on the Ohio River's edge. The Rosiclare River Walk is a very pretty location, with plenty of parking space and it is an easy walk. In Golconda, there is a great pedestrian walk with adequate parking space and a hand rail along the ramp. The views of the river and the passing barges are exceptional.



Gazebo on the Ohio River at the Rose Hotel in Elizabethtown

While you are there, drive to the end of the road and take a look at the Old Dam 51 Houses, which are now available to rent as vacation cottages.

If you want to get on the river, visit the Golconda Marina. They rent pontoon boats and fishing boats. You can visit their site at www.golcondamarina.com for additional information or call them at (618) 683-5875.

Superman watches over downtown Metropolis and he surely helps protect the several collectible shops located there. If you like to hunt for treasures, that's a great place to spend a day. The shops are filled with everything from Depression Glass to vintage cookbooks and the shopkeepers are filled with lots of conversation to help you plan the rest of your trip!

Have you ever heard of Green Berry Raum? He was born in Golconda in 1829 and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Illinois. He reached the rank of Brigadier General in the American Civil War and was a prominent figure in the Carolinas Campaign. He came back to Illinois after the War and obtained a charter to build the Cairo to Vincennes (Indiana) Railroad Company. He was the Company's first President. He served as the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service and was responsible for making certain that Civil War Veterans received their pensions. He practiced law in Chicago for several years and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. There is a statue (bust) of Green Berry Raum in the Vicksburg National Military Park. Raum's Cairo to Vincennes



Gazebo at Magnolia Manor in Cairo

Railroad was very important to Southern Illinois. You can visit one of Railroad's green cabooses in Olmstead.

If you like gazebos, you don't have to stop with a visit to Elizabethtown. One of the most beautiful examples of a Victorian era structure sits on the lawn of Cairo's Magnolia

Manor. Magnolia Manor is open for tours, but the landscaping is almost as magnificent as the interior of the home.

Some of the oldest Gingko and Magnolia trees in the Midwest are located at Magnolia Manor.

It is summertime along the Ohio River

Scenic Byway, and that means it is festival time! You are likely to find good food, great entertainment and wonderful times on almost any weekend.

Make sure you check our website for a list of special events at www.ohioriverscenicbyway.net.



New York Central Caboose in Olmstead

Hardin County's Fluorspar Festival

hosts Noel E. Hurford Photograph Contest



1st Place Entry by Mari Clayton Rock Formation at Garden of the Gods

Darlene Hamilton

The Noel E. Hurford Photograph Contest is one of the many events featured at the Hardin County Fluorspar Festival in Rosiclare, Illinois. Rosiclare, located on the beautiful Ohio River in rural Hardin County, has hosted the Fluorspar Festival since 1965. The annual Fluorspar Festival is the first weekend in October and celebrates the impact of the Fluorspar Mining Industry on the rural county. Fluorspar has been part of Hardin County since 1839 when the first lead ore was discovered a mile south of Rosiclare. With the discovery of Fluorspar, a booming mining

industry developed throughout Hardin County. The developing mining industry brought people and businesses. Rosiclare became known as the "Fluorspar Capital of the World". In 1965, fluorspar became the Illinois state mineral. As fluorspar mining was expanding in other places around the world, the industry began to decline in Hardin County. By 1995, the last of the mining companies were shutting down. The Fluorspar Festival helps keep the memories of those booming days alive in the community for both the young and the old.

In 2008, the Noel E. Hurford Photograph Contest became part of the Fluorspar Festival in

honor of Noel E. Hurford, the editor and owner of the Hardin County Independent. Noel began working at the Independent in 1947. In 1951, he moved to Marion, Kentucky to work at Moore Business Forms. He returned to the Hardin County Independent in 1956, became managing editor in 1960, and became the owner of the Independent in 1970. He remained the editor until 1999 when his daughter, Julie, became editor. When Noel passed away in 2008, Julie became the owner of the Independent. Noel was well respected in the community and well known for his love of history. He enjoyed documenting the history of the county with his photographs. Along with history, Noel appreciated the natural beauty of the county and enjoyed photographing it when the opportunity arose. He and his family enjoyed walking the trails of the Shawnee National Forest looking for wildflowers and other natural wonders to photograph. This love of photography inspired the committee to name the photo contest after him.

The Fluorspar committee wanted the photo contest to showcase the beauty of Hardin County and to give people the opportunity to show off their photography skills while exhibiting this beauty. Later, they realized they were missing the opportunity to showcase the other beautiful areas of Southern Illinois. Last year, the division "Ohio River Scenic Byway" was added to the contest. This was an exciting addition as it allowed pictures to be photographed anywhere along the scenic byway. There were nine divisions with a total of 160 photographs entered in the photo contest. The "Ohio River Scenic Byway" division had 18 entries. As a new division last year, the committee hopes to have even more entries this year. It would be wonderful to see all of the counties on the Ohio River Scenic Byway represented in October for the Fluorspar Festival's 50th year anniversary.

The first place winner in the Ohio River Scenic Byway division was Mari Clayton from



**2nd Place Entry
by Debra Lowry
Camel Rock at
Garden of the
Gods**



3rd Place Entry by Sandy Vinyard Sun Setting over the Ohio River

Madisonville, Kentucky. Her picture, a rock formation, was taken at Garden of Gods. Mari, along with her daughter and a friend, all of whom enjoy photography as a hobby, traveled to Hardin County to take photos of Cave-In-Rock, Garden of the Gods, and anything else that caught their photographic interest.

At the end of the day, they stopped at a local convenience store and saw the flyer advertising the photo contest. Their collective response was, "Why not?" and each of them entered several photographs. Since that first visit, they have returned on numerous occasions to enjoy the beauty of the Ohio River Scenic Byway.

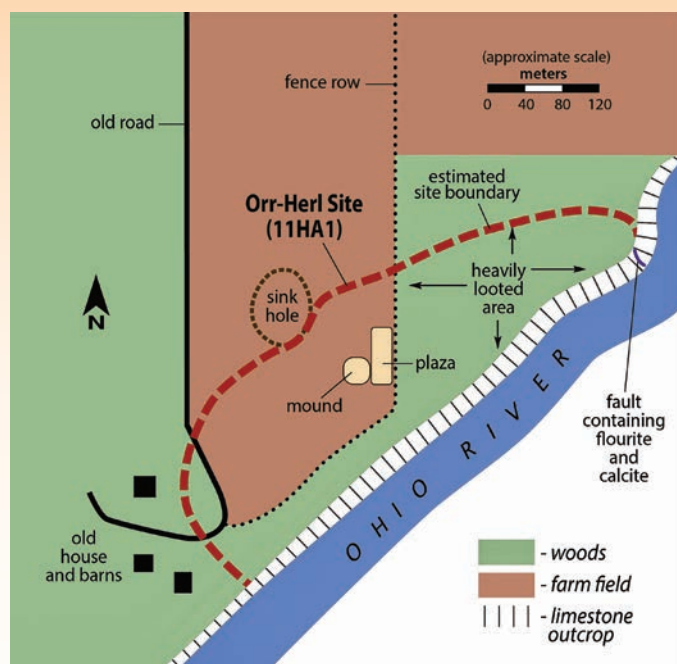
The second place winner was Debra Lowry from Rosiclare, Illinois. Debra's photograph, a fall picture of Camel Rock, was taken at Garden of Gods. Debra was born in San Francisco, California but her father was born and raised in Hardin County. Debra visited Rosiclare with her parents and loved the area. She always wanted to live in Hardin County and moved to Rosiclare in 2005. Debra appreciates the beauty in Southern Illinois and welcomes

any opportunity to take a scenic country drive or a leisurely walk along the Ohio River. There is always something to photograph.

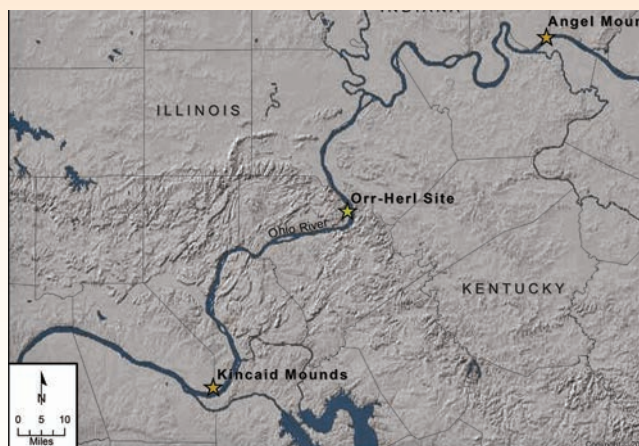
The third place winner was Sandy Vinyard from Rosiclare, Illinois. Sandy's picture, a beautiful sunset over the Ohio River, was taken at the Rose Hotel in Elizabethtown. The historic hotel is a favorite stop for visitors with its lovely gazebo overlooking the river. Sandy is a previous manager of the Rose Hotel. As manager, she brought style and uniqueness to the majestic bed and breakfast hotel with her historic dresses she would wear while serving breakfast to her guests. The view from the Rose Hotel has inspired Sandy many times to try and capture the natural beauty that seems to explode at times over the river.

The 50th Anniversary Hardin County Fluorspar Festival in Rosiclare will be on October 2, 3 and 4. You'll enjoy this family oriented event, which includes really good barbecue, a parade guaranteed to fill your kids' candy bags and great activities to entertain children.

Owls and Human Heads



In Search of the Ancient Bead-makers of the Lower Ohio River



Steven L. Boles

Research Archaeologist — Illinois State Archaeological Survey

Many years ago while conducting a surface survey on a site in southern Illinois, I found what appeared to be a small, somewhat abstract owl effigy pendant made from clear fluorite. Intriguing as it was, I didn't see another such effigy for over twenty years until I went back to college at mid-life to pursue a graduate degree in Anthropology at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale (SIUC). For my Master's Thesis I decided to research the use of fluorite

by American Indians who used the soft, carvable crystalline mineral mainly to produce personal adornment items and on occasion small figurines or large statues. Personal adornment items such as beads and pendants convey the personalities or beliefs of the wearer and the study of such items provide an intriguing way of learning about past peoples on both an individual basis or, if patterns exist, as a society.

Fluorite occurs across the country in various places but surface exposures appear to have been limited to just a couple regions in the southeast. Large deposits of fluorite along with some surface exposures were known to exist in Hardin County in southern Illinois and across the Ohio River in Crittenden County, Kentucky. The handful of the fluorite artifacts illustrated

in publications were also reported from this region. I begin my research on the fluorite objects recovered from the Kincaid Mounds site located along the Lower Ohio River in Pope and Massac Counties just southwest of the fluorite district. Professional excavation of the site began in the 1930s by the University of Chicago (UC) coming to halt in the early 1940s due to World War II. Professional excavation resumed many years later by SIUC in the early 2000s. Unfortunately, only a handful of fluorite items were recovered by SIUC and UC. I broadened my study to include professionally recovered material from other sites in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and Arkansas. Still, the sample for my study remained relatively low. Again, I broadened my research to include private surface collections



Ceramic Discoidal –
approximately 5.5 cm across

Human Head
Effigy Pendants,
all made from
Fluorite—size
range
approximately
1-2.5 cm



from this same region. The inclusion of private collections greatly increased my sample and upon completion of my thesis in 2012, I had recorded over 1100 fluorite artifacts. I also recorded 600 similar artifacts made from other media such as cannel coal, clay, galena, and calcite.

My study revealed that fluorite was used to produce a number of bead and pendant types, mostly geometric in shape. A limited number of effigy types were also produced with the two most popular being owl and human head pendants. My study also revealed the greatest use of fluorite occurred almost exclusively during the late prehistoric period, referred to by southeastern archaeologists as the Mississippian period (A. D. 1050-1450). During this time people were attracted to river floodplains as they were composed of rich soils that were generally drought resistant. The rich bottomland soils were intensively farmed during the Mississippian period with maize being the principle cultigen. Farming allowed for reliable food stores which in turn allowed for population expansion and ensuing social complexity. Some Mississippian sites developed into large palisaded villages enclosing earthen mounds used for ritual and status dwellings or to inter the dead. Social complexity allowed those with special skills and or access to specific raw materials the opportunity to spend their time on certain tasks, exchanging their goods or services for other goods and services. The level at which this exchange occurred is a topic of debate amongst archaeologists and shows the importance of identifying areas of craft specialization as it relates to the level of social complexity.

The working of fluorite appears to have occurred to a very limited degree at various sites both large and small; one intensive workshop area however was identified from surface collections at Kincaid Mounds. A search for other intensive fluorite working locales during my thesis research revealed a couple possible sites mentioned in old reports, neither of which could be confirmed at that time. Recently however, I was able to record two personal surface collections from a site located in the heart of the fluorspar district that confirmed a second site of intensive fluorite working and dramatically increased our knowledge about this poorly understood site, the Orr-Herl site.

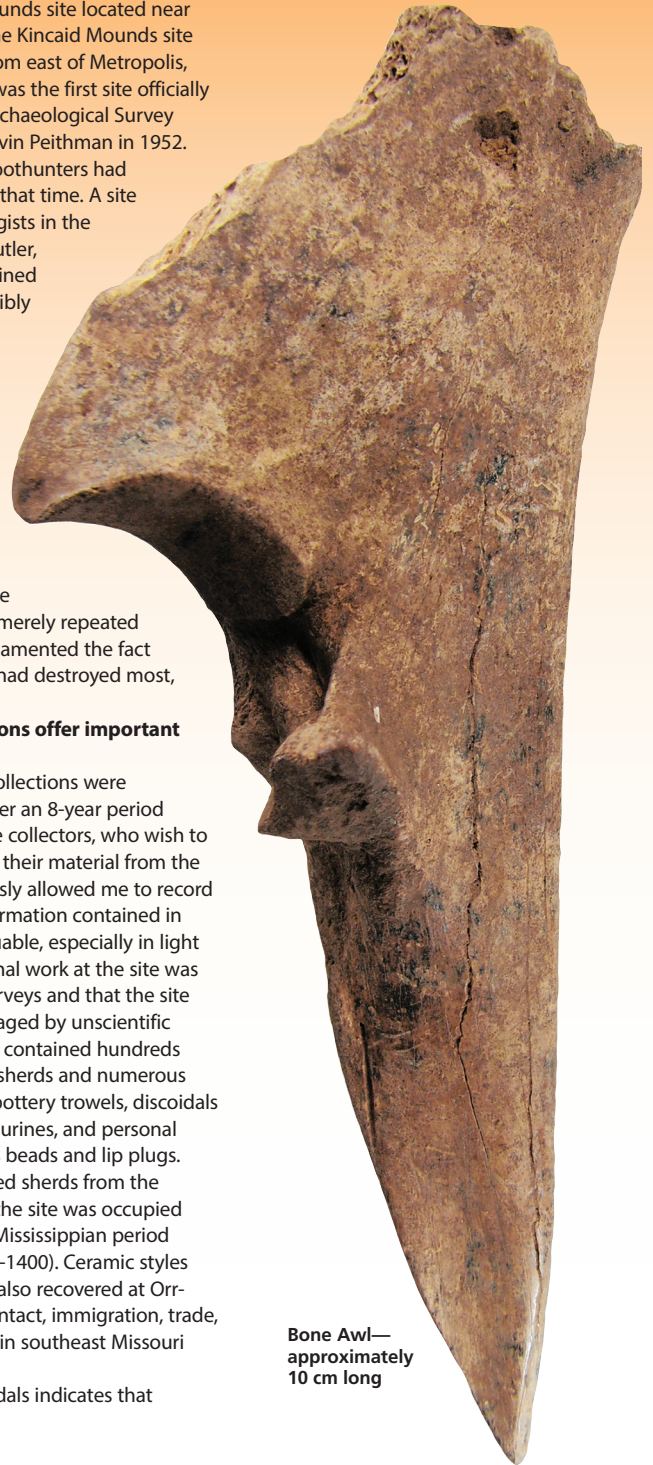
The Orr-Herl (11HA1) site is situated between the two largest Mississippian sites on the Lower

Ohio River, the Angel Mounds site located near Evansville, Indiana and the Kincaid Mounds site located in the Black Bottom east of Metropolis, Illinois. The Orr-Herl site was the first site officially reported to the Illinois Archaeological Survey from Hardin County by Irvin Peithman in 1952. Peithman reported that pothunters had heavily looted the site at that time. A site revisit by SIUC archaeologists in the late 1970s led by Brian Butler, stated that the site contained at least one mound, possibly two, numerous looted burials, and an extensive fluorspar bead industry that likely played an important role in Mississippian (A.D. 1050-1450) economics in the Lower Ohio River Valley. Subsequent mentions of the site in the archaeological literature merely repeated earlier observations and lamented the fact that unscientific diggers had destroyed most, if not the entire site.

Documented collections offer important information

The Orr-Herl surface collections were accumulated basically over an 8-year period roughly 40 years ago. The collectors, who wish to remain anonymous, kept their material from the site separate and graciously allowed me to record their collections. The information contained in these collections is invaluable, especially in light of the fact that professional work at the site was limited to two surface surveys and that the site has been so heavily damaged by unscientific digging. Their collections contained hundreds of broken pottery vessel sherds and numerous ceramic objects such as pottery trowels, discoidals (gaming items), pipes, figurines, and personal adornment items such as beads and lip plugs. Broken rims and decorated sherds from the collections indicate that the site was occupied from the Middle to Late Mississippian period (approximately A.D. 1200-1400). Ceramic styles from other regions were also recovered at Orr-Herl and demonstrate contact, immigration, trade, or influence with groups in southeast Missouri and northeast Arkansas.

The recovery of discoidals indicates that



**Bone Awl—
approximately
10 cm long**



Galena, cube shape result of rubbing to produce a white pigment, red coating is pigment produced from rubbing hematite — approximately 3 cm by 3 cm



Ceramic Female Figurine—approximately 11 cm tall



Fragment of a Limestone Falcon Effigy Figurine or Pipe — approximately 5 cm long



Owl Effigy Pendants, two on left made from Cannel Coal, two on right made from Fluorite — size range approximately 2.5-4 cm



**Large Pottery
Trowel –
approximately
15 cm across**

gaming was done by some of the inhabitants of this site. During the historic period, this game was referred to as Chunky. Explorers reported that American Indians rolled stone discs across flat prepared clay playing fields throwing their spears after the rolling stone with points scored based on how close or to what markings on the stick the stone stopped. A playing field or plaza is reportedly located on the east side of the mound at Orr-Herl, an indication that the game was played at the site.

Floodplains are generally comprised of ridge and swale topography thus great effort was often involved in leveling out such plazas. Various researchers have speculated that Chunky played an important role in both social and political life during the Mississippian period.

The two collections also contained numerous

artifacts made from bone and shell. A cache of 30 to 40 cut and snapped deer antler tines was reportedly plowed out one spring. Deer antler tines were most often used as pressure flakers for producing stone tools but were also hollowed out and carved to a sharp point and used as projectile points on spears or arrows. Some modern bowhunters who use primitive weaponry report that they

prefer bone arrow tips over stone tips as bone is less fragile, easier to produce a symmetrical point which is important for accuracy, and penetrates bone better than stone. A number of antler arrow points were also recovered at Orr-Herl. Other bone artifacts include: awls, many made from Whitetail deer ulnas (lower front leg bone), drilled bear and dog canine teeth (worn as pendant's), bone fish hooks, carved bone arrowheads, and a bone hair pin. The collections also contained dozens of marine shell beads and bead blanks. Marine shell beads are relatively common on Mississippian sites and have been recovered from domestic as well as mortuary context. The most famous example of the latter is the "Birdman" burial at Cahokia's Mound 72 in which over 60,000 Marine shell beads were recovered.

Hundreds of stone artifacts were also noted in the collections and include the normal assemblage of knives, scrapers, abraders, drills,

**Caddoan Points—size range
approximately 2.5-3.5 cm**



hoes, picks, adzes, and axe heads and arrowheads. It is noteworthy that several exotic points were recovered at Orr-Herl with some traceable to the Cahokia Mounds site located in the American Bottom east of St. Louis, Missouri and others to the Caddo living in the Red River region of Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Many of these exotic points were direct imports while others made on local materials were either influenced by contact with groups in those areas or made by people who immigrated into the Lower Ohio River region. Special or status artifacts include spuds (ceremonial axe head), pigment stones, discoidals, pipes, figurines and most importantly the personal adornment items including over 1,000 fluorite beads, pendants, and related production failures and worked pieces. It is clear from this large assemblage of fluorite that extensive mineral working was being conducted at this site. In fact, this is without a doubt the largest sample of



Cahokia Arrow Points—size range approximately 2-3 cm

worked fluorite known from any site on the Lower Ohio River or anywhere in the southeast. It is perhaps not surprising given that the site is located on a limestone bluff with an exposed vertical fault that contained fluorite and calcite. A recent trip to the site confirmed the existence of the fault though only trace amounts of fluorite and some larger pieces of calcite remain. According to locals there were also nearby upland fluorite outcrops that were destroyed by historic mining activity in the early 1900s.

Information gained from interviewing the

Orr-Herl collectors indicates that fluorite artifacts were found all across the roughly 7- to 8-acre site with most of the production debris and failures located nearer the mound while more finished artifacts were found in the village area to the south and east. Though

it would be wise not to make too much from this observation it is noteworthy in that the fluorite workshop at Kincaid is also near the largest mound at the site. Taken together it could be inferred that the production of beads and pendants and subsequent distribution were under the control of the rulers at both sites. The reasons why it would be important for the rulers to control such production can only be speculated about but beliefs about crystals and animal symbolism recorded by early ethnographers may shed light on the subject.



Clay Elbow Pipe—approximately 8 cm long

Symbolic personal adornment items

Beliefs about the powers associated with crystals varied amongst southeastern tribes with some feeling that they would bring good luck in various activities from hunting, warfare, healing, and love-making. Others believed that they could be used for prophecy or omens. Beliefs concerning certain animals were also recorded. Of interest here are the beliefs associated with owls since they were the most common effigy type produced from fluorite. Some American

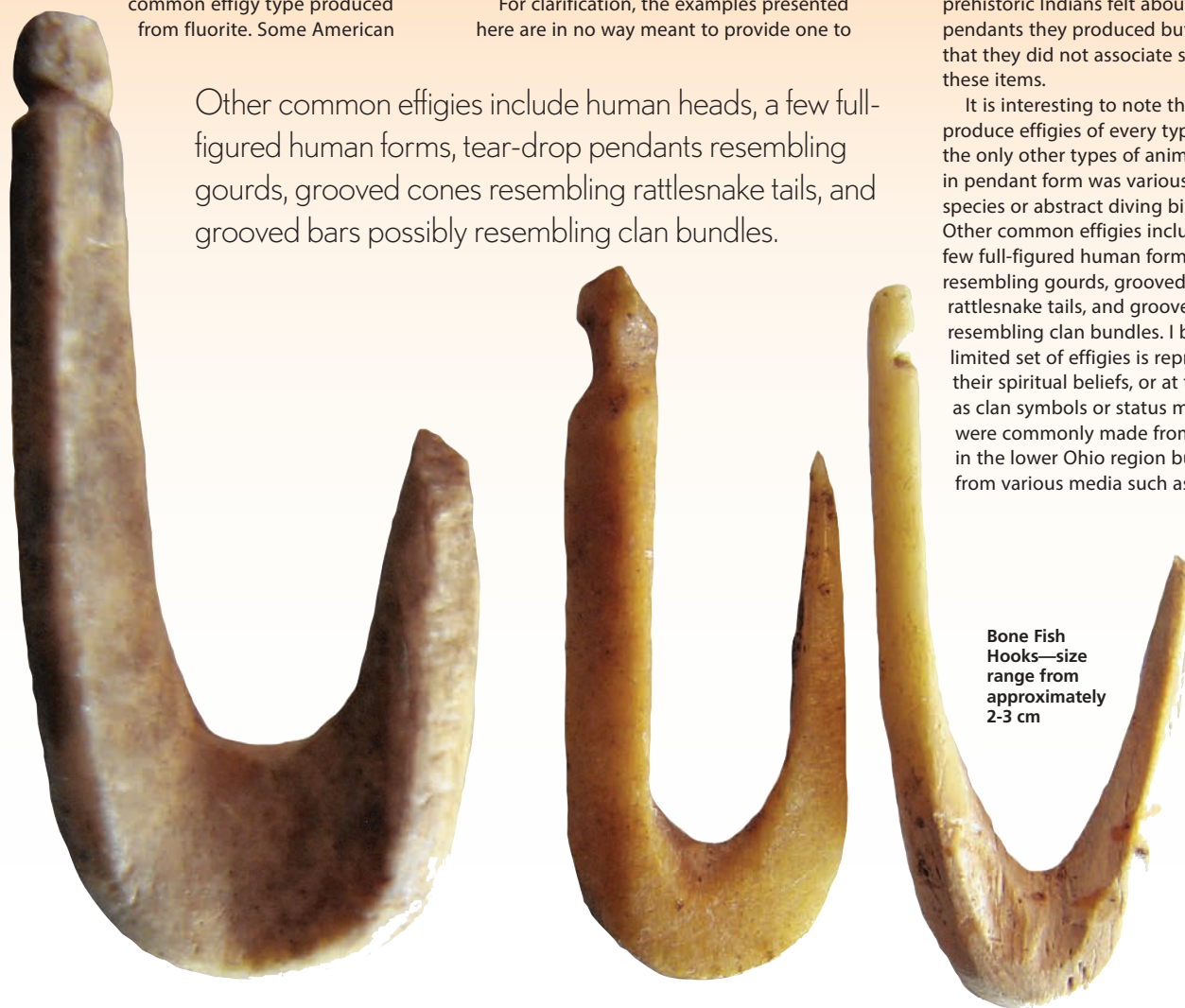
Indian tribes viewed owls as witches or carriers of bad omens while others believed they would provide hunters or warriors with good luck and the ability to see at night. Others viewed owls as guardians to the spirit path and referred to this supernatural guardian as the old woman or the owl woman. Interestingly, a number of owl effigies have both a beak and a mouth and the majority of very distended abdomens reminiscent of pregnancy.

For clarification, the examples presented here are in no way meant to provide one to

one correlates between the beliefs recorded by various researchers from numerous American Indian tribes with the prehistoric beliefs associated with or the reasoning behind the choice of raw material and the effigy portrayed. These examples were presented to provide various ways in which prehistoric people may have felt about crystalline minerals such as fluorite or different types of animal symbolism. Naturally we will never know exactly how prehistoric Indians felt about the various effigy pendants they produced but it seems unlikely that they did not associate some meaning with these items.

It is interesting to note that they did not produce effigies of every type of animal; in fact, the only other types of animal effigies produced in pendant form was various unidentifiable bird species or abstract diving birds and a few turtles. Other common effigies include human heads, a few full-figured human forms, tear-drop pendants resembling gourds, grooved cones resembling rattlesnake tails, and grooved bars possibly resembling clan bundles. I believe that this limited set of effigies is representative of either their spiritual beliefs, or at the very least served as clan symbols or status markers. These effigies were commonly made from fluorite on sites in the lower Ohio region but were produced from various media such as cannel coal, galena,

Other common effigies include human heads, a few full-figured human forms, tear-drop pendants resembling gourds, grooved cones resembling rattlesnake tails, and grooved bars possibly resembling clan bundles.



Bone Fish
Hooks—size
range from
approximately
2-3 cm



calcite, and clay at sites further from the fluorite source area. This indicates the importance of these symbolic effigies above the media used to produce them and is a strong indication of regional beliefs. Displaying these effigies conveyed the beliefs or personal information about the individuals wearing them and the society to which they belonged. The raw material chosen to depict an effigy pendant or geometric bead also said something about the individual's status and likely the region they lived in or where they came from.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the study of personal adornment items and the prehistoric use of a raw material with limited surface exposure such as fluorite, has provided the opportunity to not only learn about the prehistoric American Indians of the Lower Ohio River region during the Mississippian period as a whole, but to also obtain a glimpse of the individuals within this culture and regional symbolism possibly associated with spiritual beliefs. I have also personally benefitted from this study as I have met some wonderful people who have opened up their homes and collections for which I am truly grateful and indebted. In parting, let me

encourage all who are interested in learning about the past to refrain from unscientific digging and for those that surface collect, please take the time to record your finds and share your discoveries. In doing so you can contribute to our knowledge of the past in a good way so that all can benefit.

Above, Fluorite Spherical Bead Production Failure, left — ground outer surface, right- broken interior surface showing drill hole — approximately 2.5 cm long



Below, ceramic vessel rim rider effigies—size range from 6 to 10 cm tall

Who is B.C. Cole?



Mary Ann Riggs Davidson

Debbie Moore

Southern Illinois residents who are Cave-In-Rock enthusiasts love the stories associated with the Cave. Surely most people realize that some of those stories about notorious bandits, pirates and counterfeiters have been embellished over time and might not be totally true. We still love the notion that the "bad guys" were among us and, good or bad, that lore has helped shape this region.

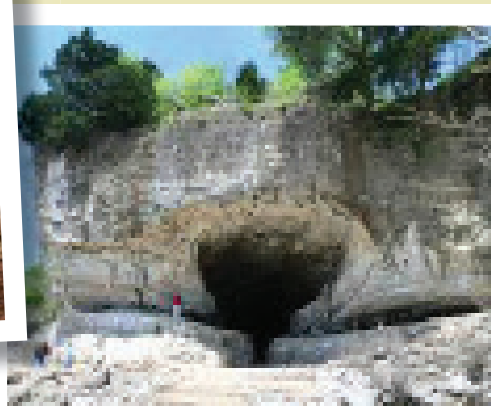
As a lifetime visitor to the Cave, I have long been mesmerized by the names, initials and dates carved into the walls and ceilings. It has prompted much speculation and many conversations about those mysterious folks who clearly boated into the Cave during flooding in order to reach those heights.

In our Spring issue of this magazine, we included a story about the Cave and when detailing that historic graffiti, we posed a question "Who was B. C. Cole?" You won't believe what happened next!

Our Ohio River Scenic Byway Board President, Rhonda Belford, was delivering the magazines to businesses in Cave-In-Rock. When she was chatting with folks in Rose's Kountry Kitchen she met a special lady who said, "I know who B. C. Cole was! He was my uncle!"

That special lady is Mary Ann Riggs Davidson who has lived in many places and traveled the world, but is back in Cave-In-Rock now. Mrs. Davidson invited Rhonda and me to visit with her and she told us all she knew about the carving.

Her Uncle, Corbett Cole, lived on a farm



**At left,
Good
Graffiti at
Cave-In-
Rock on
the Ohio
River, and a
glimpse of
the rock.**

on Tower Rock Road west of Cave-In-Rock, near other members of her family. Cole was married to Mrs. Davidson's grandfather's sister, Jirdie Riggs. Uncle Corbett had shared the flood story with the family and had explained that he and his brother-in-law, John Riggs, lay down on their backs in their boat and made their way into the Cave. The Ohio River was well out of its banks and the water was so high, they couldn't even sit up in the boat. Cole carved his and his wife's initials and last name and the 1913 date in the Cave.

Boston Corbett Cole was born in 1892 in Davies County, Kentucky. He married Jirdie Ella Riggs and they had three daughters. B. C. Cole was born on a farm, and according to census records, he worked as a farmer and was also employed at one time by the Victory Fluorspar Mining Company in Elizabethtown. Cole died in Harrisburg when he was 75 years old.

March, 1913 was a horrendously dangerous month of weather in the United

For additional information about the 1913 Ohio River flood, visit <http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/1913Flood/index.shtml>

States. Temperatures fluctuated in many states. There were numerous tornadoes across the central and eastern U.S. Rain set in and didn't stop until most of the Ohio River Valley was flooded. Railroads were washed out. Roads were swept away. Bridges were destroyed. Dams broke. Within just a few days, entire communities were under water. Data from the Midwestern Regional Climate Center reflects that 600 people were killed and more than a quarter million people were left homeless because of the flooding. At that time, the 1913 flood was deemed the worst natural disaster in the history of the United States.

Mary Ann Riggs Davidson is a delightful

new friend of the Ohio River Scenic Byway! In September, she'll be 82 years young and she told a few stories that make me know she has enjoyed all those years. She's visited Germany and England and had her toes in the Mediterranean. When she's been given lemons, she's made really good lemonade! She bought a Victorian house and remodeled it herself, making a home for her family. When her mother was ill, she knew it was time to come back home to Cave-In-Rock to take care of her.

Mrs. Davidson was named after each of her grandmothers, and she is just about to get her tenth great grandchild. She is proud of her roots. She is clearly comfortable in her faith and loves her family (that includes pets)! She sat and talked with us surrounded by beautiful house plants and her living room wall was covered with photos and portraits of her loving family. She is an Ohio River Scenic Byway ambassador in the best way; filled with stories and wearing a great big smile!

What's Cookin'?

Mary McSparin

Warm weather is upon us and there is no better time spent with family than a day outside, enjoying the beauty of the Ohio River Scenic Byway. It's a time for family reunions, and 4th of July celebrations. You may want to take a walk on one of the scenic trails, go fishing, boating or bird watching. Maybe a visit to Cave-In-Rock State Park, Rim Rock, or Garden of the Gods is in order.

All that activity is sure to work up an appetite. Grilling out is the idea here; whether you are cooking hot dogs or hamburgers, side dishes are needed. One of my favorites is Good and Easy Salad – simple to make, keeps well in the cooler, and can be made with low-fat and sugar free ingredients.

Good and Easy Salad

- 1 can crushed pineapple
- 1 can mandarin oranges
- 1 small box sugar-free vanilla pudding
- 1 cup cottage cheese (can use fat free)
- 8 oz. Cool Whip (can use fat free)

Drain pineapple and mix with pudding mix. Drain mandarin oranges and mix with pineapple mixture. Add cottage cheese and mix. Add Cool Whip. Refrigerate. This makes a large batch and is good to take for potlucks and family get-togethers.

Is there a better way to end a picnic than with an all American favorite—apple pie? A double crusted pie is in itself a work of art. I

like to use red or golden delicious apples in my recipe, and I prefer to slice the pieces thin. I am not a fan of 'crunchy' apple pie. My recipe calls for quite a bit of sugar to feel free to scale that back if you need to. I really like the flavor of cinnamon along with the nutmeg. I can guarantee this will be a hit so you may as well make two just to be on the safe side. A batch of home-made ice cream tops it off extremely well!

Mom's Apple Pie

Crust for 9 inch – 2 crust pie

- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. nutmeg
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons flour
- 6 large apples
- 2 tablespoons butter

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Roll out and line a 9 inch pie pan with half of the dough. Mix sugar, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, and flour in a large bowl. Peel, core and slice apples; then toss in the sugar mixture; coat well. Pile the slices into the lined pan and dot with butter. Roll out top crust and place over the pie. Crimp or flute the edges and cut vents in top. I use spray butter over the top and sprinkle some sugar and cinnamon over all. Bake 10 minutes at 425 degrees, then lower temperature to 350 degrees. Bake around 30-45 minutes more – until apples are tender when pierced. Cool completely. Slice and enjoy.



Mary (Willie) McSparin spent most of her growing up years in Hardin County, attending grade school in Rosiclare and graduating from Cave In Rock High School. As a fourth grade student, her interest in cooking began when she attended 4-H meetings held at the homes of leaders Ruth Lamar and Catherine Hurford. Mary's love for cooking has grown over the years and she is happiest when she is cooking a meal for somebody else! Mary recently wrote her first book: *Taste & See: A Devotional Cookbook*. She works full time in Harrisburg, and she and her husband Tom live in Eldorado. Mary is the mother of two adult sons.



Mom's Apple Pie



Good and Easy Salad

Perfect hospitality at the Riverview Mansion Hotel in Golconda



Front View of the Riverview Mansion Hotel in Golconda

Debbie Moore

Recently, the Board of Directors of the Ohio River Scenic Byway held their monthly board meeting at the historic Riverview Mansion Hotel in Golconda. The meeting lasted about twice as long as it normally does because of the hospitality of Innkeepers Tony and Beth Eckert! The very comfortable venue and friendly staff encouraged the group to linger and enjoy the soup and salad lunch buffet and a few glasses of good wine.

It had been a couple years since I had visited what locals lovingly refer to as "The Mansion", and the changes that Tony and Beth have made will keep me returning with friends! The moment I walked into the dining room, I realized that I was surrounded by something I love: wine. Wine from all over the world lined the walls in racks and cabinets of all kinds. Tony essentially told us to just "ask for it" because he had it! That was the truth.

The variety of wines from regions all over the United States was wonderful, and the notion that the list contained wines from all over the world was exciting.

Although The Mansion has operated as some kind of lodging establishment since 1920, it was originally built in 1896 by John Gilbert, a successful businessman who owned businesses in Golconda and in Evansville, Indiana. Gilbert made his money in banking and as an operator of river steamboats and had the majestic home built for his son, John Gilbert Jr. and his family.

John Gilbert Jr. was also successful as a banker and businessman. His magnificent home had been built on what was known as Golconda's "Silk Stocking Row" and no expense had been spared. It was only fitting that the 8,000-square foot home would be cherished for generations to come and shared for the enjoyment of the general public.

The Innkeepers are happy to guide tours



The Eckert Family



Bedroom Suite with Champagne



A Welcoming Entrance

of the spacious hotel, which also serves as their home. The masonry walls are 18 inches thick and the gabled roof is covered with slate shingles. Many of the original curved pressed glass windows are still in place. An original stained glass window can be viewed on the staircase landing. There are six tiled fireplaces.

The woodwork has been very well preserved and is one of the best examples of carpenters' hand crafts in Southern Illinois. Many say the wood moldings rival those in the White House. The sliding pocket doors gleam with the luster of the polished wood. The hotel has beautiful suites of rooms that carry special names and unique décor. The Gilbert Suite is named after The Mansion's original owner, who was also the Mayor of Golconda. The elegant Victorian room is very large with a king size bed. The Riverview Suite is perfect for a small family. It has a queen size bed and a full size bed. The room offers a perfect view of the sun rising over the beautiful Ohio River.

Tony Eckert has a graduate degree in Community and Economic Development. After obtaining his degree, he lived, traveled and was active in the tourism industry all over the world. Tony exudes creativity and imagination. To say that he has an eclectic style is probably an understatement because he has created a combination of elegant Victorian and "island exotic" in a way that generates an incredible level of peaceful comfort for his visitors. He and Beth have genuinely brought lots of giggles back to The Mansion with the cute faces of their four little children! You will be greeted by their welcoming spirit.

The Riverview Mansion Hotel

Tony Eckert, Innkeeper
222 South Columbus Ave.
Golconda, Illinois 62938
Phone: 618-683-2196
Email: golcondamansion@hotmail.com



Find us online: Visit the Golconda Riverview Mansion Hotel on Facebook or at www.golcondamansion.com



The Cave In Rock Ferry Shuttles Travelers across
the Ohio River (background)
Industrial Marine Services, Inc. making repairs
(foreground)

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