

VOLUME XXV • ISSUE VIII



KENTUCKY
GATEWAY
MUSEUM
CENTER

Messenger

KYGMC

HOME OF THE KSB MINIATURES COLLECTION
& THE OLD POGUE EXPERIENCE

MAYSVILLE, KENTUCKY

WINTER/DECEMBER 2020



GET IN THE

Holiday Spirit

WITH KYGMC!

THE VIEW FROM SECOND AND SUTTON

It's Christmas in Downtown Maysville! Our displays are beautiful from the hundreds of *Nativity Scenes, Christmas Trains and Lego Express, the KSB Miniatures, The Old Pogue Experience* to the *Age of the Ocean Liner* exhibit. It's a great time for a visit to the Museum.

This is also the time of the year we ask for your support as we enter into 2021. *The Annual Sustaining Fund Drive* provides the necessary financial resources to support the programs of the Museum. The year of 2020 will be marked in history as the year of the international pandemic. Yet your *Kentucky Gateway Museum Center* continues during these uncertain days with unwavering service to our community. While in this year of COVID-19 restrictions, research continues in our library, patrons continue to view our changing exhibits, we continue to offer resources for our students and teachers by virtual programs and resources, and we continue to tell the story of Maysville and our surrounding area. Your financial support, membership in the Museum and encouragement to our staff has allowed our Museum to remain open and resolute in providing our services to our members and guests.

Special grants and donations from our patrons have allowed the formation of *Gateway Virtual Resources* allowing a new program of web-based presentations for our educators

and schools to use the Museum resources both at home and at school.

The Annual Sustaining Fund Drive in 2019 provided the financial foundation for this unchartered year. It is your donations that have allowed the museum to remain our community's depository for history and to provide programs, exhibits and educational services in 2020. It is our hope and request for your financial support of the *Sustaining Fund* to again provide a secure level of funding to the Museum for 2021.

It has been a year of concern for the health of our family, friends and community. This year has been unchartered in many ways but at the same time we have the security of knowing our Museum is a constant resource for our community. It is a joy in knowing that we provide a point of historical, educational and museum reference for all patrons. You are a part of the Museum Center, the oldest chartered museum in Kentucky, and since 1878 our mission has been one of community service.

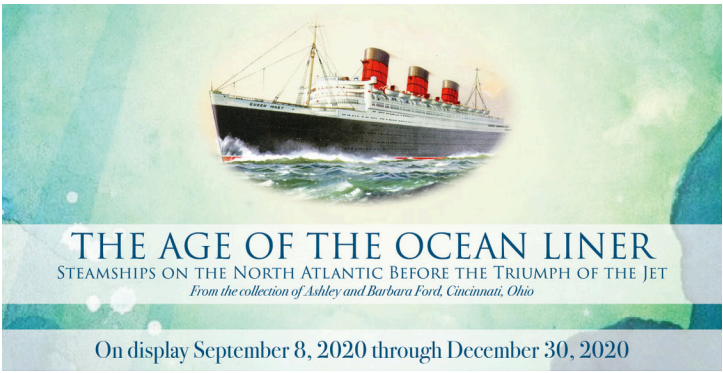
It is with a thankful spirit that we again ask for your generous financial support for our program in 2021. Please consider being a *Sustaining Patron for 2021* and helping your Museum maintain and expand our outreach and services in the coming year. Your donations can be mailed to

our office at 215 Sutton Street, Maysville, Kentucky 41056.

Thank you for being a blessing to the Museum Center and Merry Christmas.

C.J. Hunter IV
Executive Director





THE AGE OF THE OCEAN LINER
 STEAMSHIPS ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC BEFORE THE TRIUMPH OF THE JET
From the collection of Ashley and Barbara Ford, Cincinnati, Ohio

On display September 8, 2020 through December 30, 2020

Visit the KYGMC Atrium & Still Room Gift Shops for unique & local stocking stuffers!



SANTA'S TRAVELS

It is believed that Santa usually starts at the International Date Line in the Pacific Ocean and travels west. So, historically, Santa visits the South Pacific first, then New Zealand and Australia. After that, he shoots up to Japan, over to Asia, across to Africa, then onto Western Europe, Canada, the United States, Mexico and Central and South America.

So, to deliver all the presents how fast does his sleigh have to go? Santa's sleigh travels at the speed of light. That is about 186,282.4 miles per second or 671 million miles per hour! It's hard enough on Santa, but he has 8 reindeer - Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder and Blitzen. I am sure that PETA might have some restrictions because the organization focuses its attention on the four areas in which the largest numbers of animals suffer the most intensely for the longest periods of time. That could be the reason Santa travels by other methods. In Iran, he walks with a walking stick. He rides a broomstick in Italy, and in the United Kingdom he rides a white goat. In the Netherlands he rides a white horse, and in Russia and the Ukraine he does use his sleigh, but it is pulled by white horses. In the United States, while his reindeer are taking their contractual rights to take a reasonable break, he rides a Harley Fatboy 1991 Edition or he uses Christmas Trains.

The Kentucky Gateway Museum Center is happy to share some of the trains that have been lent or gifted by some patrons trying to get off the 'Naughty List'. Tanner Pitakis has lent us his LEGO Disney and Christmas Trains; Harry Mann has lent us his Christmas Trains; Bill Savage has gifted his miniature trains; and Ashley Ford has gifted us model trains from a variety of railroad companies.

On exhibit, you will see B&O trains. In 1843 Congress appropriated \$30,000 for construction of an experimental 38-mile telegraph line between Washington and Baltimore along the B&O right of way. B&O approved the project with the agreement that the railroad would have free use of the line upon its completion. The B&O was the first common carrier railroad and the oldest railroad in the United States. Come see trains from B&O, L&N, Union Pacific, C&O and Southern Pacific. You must also visit to enjoy the excursions of the Christmas Trains! If you enjoy them as much as we do, please put a good word in to Santa. Bill Savage has worked very hard to get off the 'Naughty List' for a very long time!



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Compliments of John Sims, Jr.
 70th Legislative District

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Miniature of the Month

By Kaye Browning

The *Russell Theatre* in 1/12th scale by Chicago miniaturists Allison Ashby and Steve Jedd is not only a favorite among visitors to the KSB Miniatures Collection, it's a beloved structure in real life and miniature to the locals of Maysville, Kentucky. The original theater is one of only a handful of atmospheric theaters still standing in the U.S. featuring private

balconies, illustrative ceiling paintings and ornately carved Spanish décor.

The artisans scraped through layers of paint at the real Russell to verify authentic color palettes and relied heavily on research, old photographs, and news articles to preserve the historical integrity of the piece. They created hundreds



of custom molding pieces to replicate the theater's original jewel-toned color scheme and installed 85 separate lighting fixtures to recreate its dramatic lighting. It took more than 1,000 individual pieces to construct and upholster the 100 fine-scale theater chairs alone. All in all, the entire piece took more than two years to complete.

The colorful brick and terra cotta building located on East Third Street in Maysville opened December 4th, 1930. Built by prominent local businessman, Colonel J. Barbour Russell, he billed it as, "What the Roxy is to New York, the Russell will be to Maysville." That was not the only flamboyant billing. The initial estimate for the theatre was \$125,000, but by the time it was finished, that figure had reached \$200,000, which would be about \$3.1 million today.

Over the years the theatre became quite the attraction and in 1953 made locals proud when hometown girl-gone-Hollywood,

Rosemary Clooney, chose the Russell for the location to premiere her first film, *The Stars Are Singing*. While the theater was segregated at the time, Clooney insisted her best friend from childhood Blanche Chambers, who was African American, be seated with her.

Sadly, in 1983 the *Russell Theatre* sold its last ticket. Time, weather and neglect led to the iconic building's deterioration and almost demise until the mid-nineties when Maysville citizens began grassroots efforts to save the historic structure. The miniature *Russell Theatre* contributed to the cause in 2010 and 2014 by holding events in which guests' donations would help in the restoration of the real structure. The theater continues to undergo restoration and periodically shows movies.

The *Russell Theatre* is one of three Maysville buildings in 1/12th scale created by Ashby and Jedd for the KSB Miniatures Collection along with the *Cox Building* and the *Bethel Baptist Church* miniatures.



Education Escapades



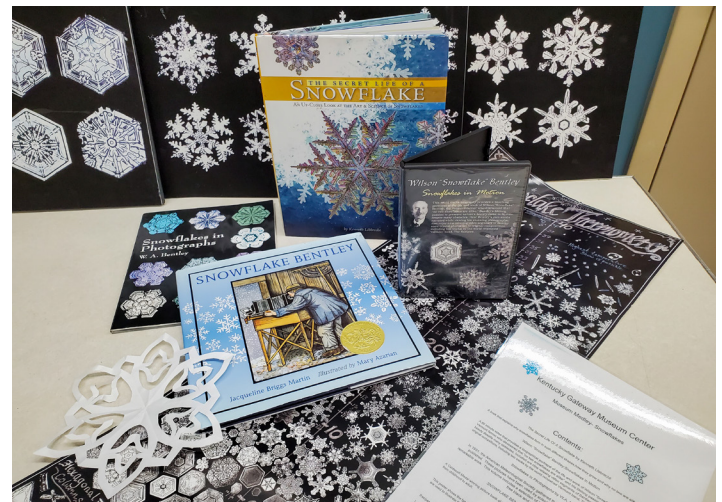
BY TANDY NASH

Did you know a male polar bear is called a boar and a female is called a sow? The education department is proud to announce their newest Museum Medley Box - *Polar Bears!* It has been in production for a while, but it is ready to go out to schools in time for “International Polar Bear Day” after the first of the year.

Our Medley boxes include social studies, math, language arts and fine arts activities than can be adapted to all levels. In the Polar Bear Box, you will be able to literally track Polar Bears, do mapping activities based on the arctic circle and there is a link to a live Bear Cam so you can watch them in their environment. As students read books, watch videos or do research, they can write ‘Bear Facts’ on huge paw prints that lead to the classroom or a reading nook. Polar Bear Math Strips introduce algebra with patterns and games work on number sequencing. There are recipes for Snow Slime and Blubber, Melting Sea Ice Activities, and conservation/ environmental lessons. Language Arts lessons are based around books provided in the Medley Box and The Polar Bear Sound activity works on phonological awareness.

Did you know that Polar Bears have black skin? There is a neat art activity that allows you to study why polar bears look white even though their skin is black and their hair is transparent. They are the largest land mammals in North America and have an amazing array of adaptations that allow them to live and survive in one of the harshest environments on our planet. You can also make Polar Bear Marshmallows to go in your hot chocolate at the end of the day while you watch a wonderful movie about ... Polar Bears!

If you are looking for more winter related activities, we also have the *Snow Flakes* Museum Medley Box. There is more to that little sixfold, symmetrical frozen water droplet formed around a speck of dust. Learn the science and math behind all that snow! These boxes can be used in the classroom or teachers can do some of the activities virtually. They may be checked out at the museum by calling **606-564-5865** or send a message to education@kygmc.org.



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MARLA'S MUSINGS



By Marla Toncray



Things are hopping here at KYGMC as we move out one exhibit, move in another, and decorate for the holiday season.

On Saturday, November 7, the Maysville Stoneware Exhibit closed to the public and all items are now back with the owners, Bill and Charlene Boggs. We can't thank them enough for lending us more than 140 pieces of their collection. As with any exhibit, it's always sad to see it end.



If you missed the exhibit, but would like to view the collection and learn more about the potters who made the stoneware and local businesses that sold stoneware, we have copies of the Maysville Stoneware Catalog available for sale at both of our gift shops.

On Tuesday, November 10, Barb Clarke and her dedicated team of volunteers arrived bright and early at the museum to begin set up of this year's *Nativity Scenes From Near and Far*.

The exhibit, which features approximately 200 Nativity sets from around the world, was a favorite with visitors last year, and we hope you will join us again this year.

We have moved the exhibit to the first and second floors of the Wormald Art Gallery because the Calvert Gallery houses the *Age of the Ocean Liner* exhibit until December 31.

With a new space comes the opportunity to showcase the sets differently from years past.

This exhibit wouldn't be complete without the life-size figures of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and the three Wise Men. These figures have been painstakingly restored by Barb and Tom Clarke and are the original figures that were displayed at

the manger scene at Rotary Park beginning in the 1950s. This scene will be displayed on the first floor of the Wormald History Gallery.

The variety of materials and styles used to craft each set illustrates each artist's style and the culture of the country they are from with exceptional beauty and details.

The exhibit opens Friday, November 27 and will run through December 31.

Visitors will also enjoy our Christmas decorations, which were set up under the guidance of Librarian Cay Chamness and Gift Shop Manager Tracey Douglas.

We also have a display of model trains in the cases along the Calvert Hallway which is designed by Associate Director and Education Curator Tandy Nash.

From our family to yours, we hope to see you for some Holiday Cheer here at KYGMC.



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To:



or Current Resident

PLEASE NOTE

In an effort to keep our staff and guests safe and healthy during this time, masks are required while visiting the museum.
Thank you for your understanding.



NATIVITY SCENES FROM NEAR AND FAR

FROM THE COLLECTION OF BARB CLARKE
WITH SUPPORT FROM TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

ON DISPLAY NOW



215 Sutton Street, Maysville, KY 41056
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Holiday Closings:
December 24th-26th & January 1st

Hours:
Sunday & Monday - Closed
Tuesday thru Saturday - 10AM - 3:30PM