



Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center

P.O. Box 517, Weirton, WV 26062

Preserving Our History and Culture For Future Generations

Hollywood Production Designer Visits WAMCC



Looking at Negatives of 1979

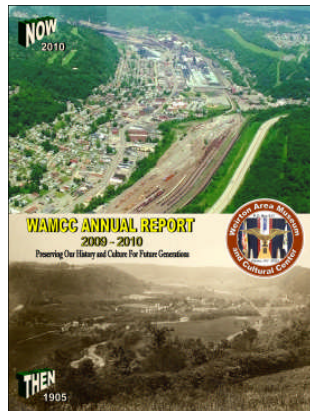
Misty Dailey, Administrative Secretary of the West Virginia Film Office, South Charleston, and Martin Whist, Production Designer from Los Angeles, are shown in the back office at WAMCC / CVB, looking at Weirton Steel negatives from the year 1979. If Weirton is chosen as a sight for filming their future movie project, the scenes captured from 1979 by Weirton Steel photographers may help in the designing the production. WAMCC and the WV Film Office are doing their parts to help this movie become a reality for Weirton.

On June 24 the Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center was visited by Martin Whist, Production Designer from Los Angeles, CA. Martin explained to WAMCC President Dennis Jones that he came to our museum for help in researching his next movie, which is based in the year 1979, and it may be filmed in sections of Weirton that qualify for the design he has in mind. Mill towns in WV and OH are being considered. While at WAMCC, Martin learned about the history of the town and looked through Weirton Steel Employee Bulletins, High School Yearbooks, and other pictures for the 1979 time period. The following day, Martin returned to the museum with Misty Dailey of the West Virginia Film Office. Several negatives (of year 1979) from WAMCC's Weirton Steel Archives were borrowed by Mr. Whist, so appropriate storefronts, street scenes, clothing, houses, etc... can be used in his design. Before heading back to LA, Martin indicated that he would be in touch with questions as his project progresses. Art Dept. Coordinator, Leia Pratapas, has also been in email and phone contact from their base at Paramount Pictures, Los Angeles / Hollywood, California.

Earlier that week, Pamela Haynes of the West Virginia Film office had contacted Dennis seeking information about the history of the houses near the football stadium. Dennis asked Andrea Anderson, who lived in that area as a child, to work with Pamela. Pamela was also put in touch with C. Robert Cattrell, son of Clyde Cattrell, who built several of Weirton's first homes. All of the people who visited from Paramount Pictures in Los Angeles and from the WV Film Office in South Charleston, were very pleasant to work with.

Annual Report - Annual Meeting

As indicated in our by-laws it is the duty of the WAMCC President to present an annual report of the museum's activities for the past year to the Board of Directors and membership at the annual meeting. WAMCC's annual meeting will take place on July 7, 2010, at 10:00 am at the Mary H. Weir Public Library. This will be the second annual report written by Dennis Jones, current WAMCC President. The cover for this year's 2009-2010 Report combines 2 pictures of the Cove Valley. The bottom picture was taken in 1905, before Weirton existed, and Dennis Jones was offered an airplane ride by Dr. Gurdev Purewal in order to take the top "Now" photo. "It was an enjoyable ride with Dr. Purewal in his single-engine Cessna, seeing our city as the eagles do, and I am very grateful to him for the opportunity," commented Mr. Jones. He added, "Thanks to Dr. Purewal, we now have a present-day picture to compare with the old 1905 Holliday's Cove photo." For more details on stories in the annual report refer to the newsletters kept on line at: <http://www.weirtonmuseum.com/displays.html>



The cover of WAMCC's 2009-2010 Annual Report, which will be available to the Public on July 7, 2010.

JUNE



Volume 2, Issue 6

June 30, 2010

Upcoming Events:

July 16-17, 2010
"Weirton MovieFest"

July 23-24-25, 2010
Weirton African-American Festival, Inc.

October 16, 2010
Robert Haworth Memorial Art Show

Museum Officers:

President
Dennis R. Jones

Vice President
Pamela Makricosta

Vice President
Andrea Anderson

Treasurer
Paul B. Zuros

Secretary
Despina Melonas

Museum
3393 Main Street
Weirton, WV 26062

Museum Hours:
Monday thru Friday
9:00 am thru 4:00 pm
(other times available)

Editor: Dennis Jones
Dennis143@comcast.net

Museum Phone:
(304) 479-7266 (cell phone)

Website:
www.weirtonmuseum.com

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Other Special WAMCC Visitors



Pictured Left to Right: Veronica, Lynne Ros (President Weirton Rotary), Sachalis Ortegarrivera, Luis Antonio, Ada Hernandez, Cindy Koval (First Vice President Weirton Rotary), and Luis Alfredo (GSE Team Leader).

Rotary Group Study Exchange Team Visits

On June 17, 2010, the Weirton Rotary Club hosted a visit to WAMCC for their Group Study Exchange team from Puerto Rico. Members of the group indicated that it was being planned to start up a steel mill in Puerto Rico, and they were deciding on the pro and cons. One of the team purchased a WAMCC 2011 picture calendar showing scenes of Weirton Steel Co. throughout the years. The museum was just one stop for the team as they made their way through Weirton.

“Weir” Just Passing Through

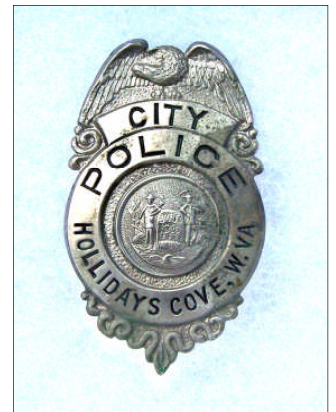
On June 13, 2010, Henry Weir Davis, grandson of Ernest T. Weir, stopped by the Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center with his family from Texas. There was only one problem with their visit - it was Sunday, and the museum was closed. Henry called the phone number on the door and spoke with WAMCC President Dennis Jones, who came down to meet them and let them in. Once inside, the Davis family was very happy to see paintings of their ancestor, E. T. Weir and eager to learn the great history and see pictures of the town he created. They were very grateful for being able to see the museum and acquired several museum gifts to take with them, including the Weirton Area History Game. After returning home, Henry was so pleased with the information and photos provided with the game, he ordered 5 more of them for gifts.

It was just one month earlier on May 19, 2010, when another grandson of E. T. Weir visited WAMCC. That was Greg Weir, son of David M. Weir. David M. Weir visited WAMCC in April this year and is the son of E. T. Weir and Mary Hayward Weir. In 2008, David was made an honorary member of WAMCC and he continues to stay in contact via email.



Steve Ivady helped present WAMCC's exhibits to the GSE team during their visit on June 17, 2010.

Items Recently Donated



Above Left: Bottle is for “Weirton Brand” Ginger “root” Beer. It was donated by a family from Virginia, who were in town settling their father’s estate.

Above Right: Holliday’s Cove Policeman’s Badge circa 1930-40 was donated by Mary Hannah-Finton.



Henry Weir Davis, grandson of Weirton’s founder - E. T. Weir, is shown with his wife and family visiting the Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center on June 13, 2010.

New Series of Photos Added to WAMCC Website



Above insert shows the menu page of Weirton Area Museum's website, which now has a picture of John F. Kennedy and Edward Kennedy as the "Feature Photo." By clicking on the "Rainbow Button" below the "Feature Photo" over 30 other photos of Kennedy's visit to Weirton can be viewed. The 1960 photos were donated by WEIR Radio from the Michael Sinicropi Collection. The 1965 photos are from WAMCC's Weirton Steel Archives. We are also very grateful to Lou Serra and John Sorrenti for helping identify people in the pictures.

The feature photo on our website has now been changed, as we are in the 50th Anniversary Year of the visit of John F. Kennedy to Weirton. On May 1, 1960, Senator John F. Kennedy, and his brother Edward "Ted" Kennedy attended the ISDA Banquet at the Weirton Community Center. They were in West Virginia for the Presidential Primary Campaign. You can now see many of the pictures and read about the visit by clicking on the rainbow button, just below the feature photo. There are 13 photos of JFK's visit, which were donated by WEIR Radio to the Weirton Area Museum and Cultural Center four years ago, and this anniversary year is the time to bring them out for people to see. Lou Serra was toastmaster for the 1960 event and helped us identify many of the people in the photographs. John Sorrenti also helped with identifying the guests. 2010 is also the 60th Anniversary of WEIR Radio, which started in Weirton in the fall of 1950. In addition to the 1960 photos, we have added over 23 photos from our Weirton Steel Archives for the 1965 JFK memorial bust dedication, attended by his brother, Senator Robert Kennedy. A direct link to the photographs at our website is provided below:

<http://www.weirtonmuseum.com/kennedy.html>

Photos on Display with JFK Memorial Bust



Pictured Left to Right: Senator Edwin J. Bowman, Deb Witkowski (Parks Chairperson), Terry Weigel (Parks Director), Dennis Jones (WAMCC President), and Pam Makricosta.

WAMCC recently collaborated with officials of the Weirton Parks Board to install photos of the 1960 & 1965 Kennedy visits around the Bronze Bust of JFK in the Weirton Room at the Millsop Community Center. The photos were enlarged to a 18" x 24" size and mounted on the wall around the memorial. In addition to the photos, a copy of a campaign letter from JFK to Mike Sinicropi was displayed. Also several Weirton museum items were provided for the display case currently near the door outside the lobby.



Senator Edwin Bowman discusses possibilities for the future with Deb Witkowski, Terry Weigel, and Pamela Makricosta at the Weirton Room lobby in front of the Millsop Community Center. The large mural was painted by Edwin P. Couse for the Community Center, when it opened in 1952.

Future Discussed

Senator Edwin Bowman offered to serve to help facilitate a meeting between the Weirton Parks Board and WAMCC, which will take place during the regular Parks Board Meeting on July 15, 2010. The meeting will explore further possibilities for the museum to be part of the Community Center / Library Complex.

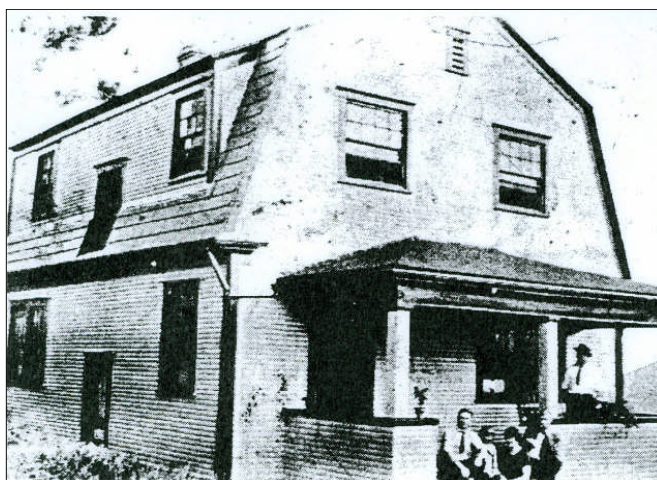
Titanic Survivor's House Still Standing in Weirton



Elin Nummi - Titanic Survivor

In the spring of 2010, museum members Mary and Dave Zwierzchowski took on the task of verifying the existence of a home in Weirton once occupied by Elin Hakkarainen Nummi, survivor of the *Titanic* disaster of 1912. Using a 1920's photo of the house as their only point of reference, they began combing the neighborhoods of downtown Weirton, looking for a similar

structure. Eventually, they came upon a large 2-story house located at 303 Avenue I, which bears a striking resemblance to the house in the photo. Upon closer examination, they concluded that this was, without a doubt, the long-lost "Titanic" house. To further verify the authenticity of this historic structure, they sifted through countless records at the County Court House, searching for the Nummi connection. The search revealed that in 1924, J. C. Williams conveyed a Lot on Avenue I to Emil and Elin Nummi. They constructed a house on the property soon after that. The Nummi family lived there for more than 10 years before moving to Warren, Ohio, where Elin died in 1957. The well maintained home still stands as testimony to *Titanic* survivor Elin Hakkarainen Nummi, a



Elin & Emil Nummi's Home in Weirton, WV - ca. 1920's
From Gerald E. Nummi's "I'm Going to See What Happened"

23 year old Finnish immigrant, who arrived at Ellis Island alone and destitute. Despite her harrowing ordeal in the icy waters in the North Atlantic, Elin continued to pursue the American Dream and eventually found it in the thriving mill town of Weirton.

WV Archives & History Newsletter Includes WAMCC MovieFest



The July issue of West Virginia History & Archives Newsletter provides information and comment about WAMCC's Weirton Steel movies and an event notice about the upcoming Weirton Steel MovieFest in Weirton. Audiovisual Archivist Richard Fauss provided details for much of the article on pages 4 and 5 of the newsletter and commented, "Making this collection more available greatly enhances the moving image heritage of West Virginia."

WV Archives & History News Editor Susan Scouras added the Weirton Steel MovieFest, scheduled for July 16 & 17, onto the event calendar on Page 6 of the newsletter. There are many wonderful history-related events in this newsletter, including a list of Evening Workshop. One session, scheduled for October 5, will be led by Pamela Makricosta, titled "Yiayia's Bundle" "A Greek Experience in West Virginia". The link to July's newsletter is below: <http://www.wvculture.org/history/ahnews/0710news.pdf>

WAMCC Movie List now Expanded to 12 Movies



Movie List

- 1938-1939-1940 Independence Day Parade
- Assignment Accomplished (1945)
- Tinplate (1948)
- 1950 Independence Day Parade
- West Virginia and Its Natural Resources (1951)
- Weirton U.S.A. (1953)
- Men of Action (1954)
- Achievement in Steel (1954)
- Men of Tomorrow (1962)
- Hi Speed Steel (1969)
- On Their Own Again (1984)
- The Great Weirton Steal (1984)

For movie details and snapshots visit our website: <http://www.weirtonmuseum.com/moviefest.html>

Feature Weirton Steel Movie to be Premiered

As part of the Weirton Steel MovieFest on July 16, a new movie produced by Rick Smith will be premiered. The title for the movie is: "Weirton: Our Steel, Our Story." This new movie will first be shown to the public on July 16 at 6:00 pm at the MovieFest at Weirton Millsop Community Center.