

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, January 2, 1986

Following the Invocation by Dr. J. Brooks Major and dinner at the Log House Restaurant, the meeting convened at 7:37, President Robert B. Sivley presiding.

The Roll Call disclosed 24 members present, 13 absent.

The minutes for the December meeting were read and approved.

Excuses for absences at the December meeting were approved for James G. Adams, Jr., Mike Herndon, and Marshall T. Bassett.

The election of the 3 persons presented for membership at the December meeting was held and those approved will be notified by the Secretary.

President Sivley called for the stated program.

Dr. Thomas L. Riley presented a paper entitled: Some Notes on a Tragic Chapter of Kentucky History Tracing the migration of his progenitors beginning in Pennsylvania in the late 1700's, the author told how cousins by 1860 had settled in Kentucky and Illinois and became opponents during the Civil War. One of these cousins was captured and suffered the indescribable horrors of Andersonville prison camp. The camp was under the supervision of Henry Witz, who for some years was associated in practice with Dr. Augustine Webber of Hopkinsville, and moving to Cadiz married into a Trigg County family.

Edward H. Higgins III presented a paper entitled: The Antarctic, a Land of Superlatives The author in this his first paper to the Society described the geophysical properties, the flora and fauna of the vast land mass where the four South Poles of this planet are located--outlining how its abundant mineral and oil deposits and its fresh water reservoir may become a rich future asset.

The papers were well received and following intermission 7 members offered comments to which the authors replied in rebuttal.

The program for February 7, 1986 was announced:

Prewitt Owen
James H. Love

The meeting was adjourned by President Sivley at 9:22.

Respectfully submitted,


W. Gladstone Major, Secretary-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, February 6, 1986

Following the Invocation by Dr. Mark Lowery and dinner at the Log House Restaurant, the meeting was convened with President Robert B. Sivley presiding.

President Sivley greeted the three new members, J. Dudley Galloway, Marvin D. Denison and David L. Riley, and presented them to the Society.

Responding to the Roll Call were 33 members present and 7 members were absent.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

Excuses for absences at the January meeting were approved for Franklin A. Nash, Jr., Carmichael Fels, William M. Rowlett, James H. Love, Paul K. Turner, J. Thomas Soyars, Prewitt Owen, Jack D. Amis, Robert C. Baker and George W. Engler.

President Sivley called for the stated program.

Prewitt Owen presented a paper entitled:
Comets

In a carefully researched and clearly delivered paper the writer discussed the most absorbing natural event of this century: the return of Halley's Comet. With a description of Halley's revolutionary mathematical and scientific discovery of the nature of comets, their molecular structure, and their effect upon mental attitudes through history, the writer discussed modern scientific reasoning as to probable relationship between comets and the planet Earth during the last 2½ billion years, causing his audience to ponder, what a human is, why a human is and when a human is.

James H. Love presented a paper entitled:
Garrison Keillor and a Prairie Home Companion

For this his first paper the author prepared a delightful script and an innovative means of presentation. Describing the programming of early radio and present television, the writer contrasted these with the variety offering of Garrison Keillor, a radio program producer, about the goings-on in a mythical small central Minnesota town. By means of a prepared re-recorded tape the writer presented the voice of Keillor with excerpts of his subtle humor, sagacious counsel and evanescent pathos.

The papers were well received and following intermission 11 members offered comments to which the authors replied in rebuttal.

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The program for March 6, 1986 was announced:

Carmichael Fels
Peter MacDonald

The meeting was adjourned by President Sivley at 9:27.

Respectfully submitted,



W. Gladstone Major, Secretary-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, March 6, 1986

Following the Invocation by Martin Standard and dinner at the Log House Restaurant, the meeting was convened with President Robert B. Sivley presiding.

Responding to the Roll Call were 30 members present and 10 members absent.

The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

Excuses for absences for the February meeting were approved for Marshall Butler, K. O. Cayce Jr., Wynn L. Radford and for the March meeting for Douglas K. Steele.

Attention was called to the Membership Committee that nominations for officers for 1986-87 should be presented to the Society at the April meeting.

President Sivley called for the stated program.

Carmichael Fels presented a paper entitled:

Nattering Nabobs of Negativism

Using a term coined by Spiro Agnew, the writer dubbed as "Nabobs" those who focused upon the faults, failures and shortcomings of Hopkinsville, pointing out specific evidences of the tremendous improvements and expansion spearheaded by the "fast food places. Enumerating many specific favorable indications for the coming year, the writer concluded "the Nattering Nabobs of Negativism can get out of town. The propitious propaetrors of positivism are coming in."

Peter MacDonald, in this his first paper for the Society, presented a manuscript entitled:

Life in the Middle Ages and a Relatively New and Obscure Explanation for Their End

In a brilliantly condensed description, the author explained the system of Feudalism and the culture of the Middle Ages, and discussed the usual historical reasons for its demise. Then in a surprise conclusion he advanced the idea that the wide spread, habitual and excessive use of alcoholic beverages causing universal lethargy and morning headache having been alleviated by the importation and use of coffee, the era might have transpired into the Renaissance or the Great Awakening.

The papers were jovially received and following intermission 7 members made comments and added levity to the occasion to which the authors answered in courteous rebuttal.

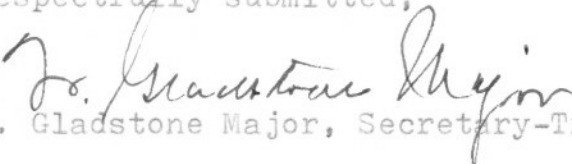
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The program for April 3, 1986 was announced:

J. Thomas Soyars
William T. Turner

The meeting adjourned at 8:24.

Respectfully submitted,


W. Gladstone Major, Secretary-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, April 3, 1986

Following the Invocation by J. Brooks Major and dinner at the Log House Restaurant, the meeting was convened with President Dr. Robert B. Sivley presiding.

In the absence of the official Secretary-Treasurer, W. Gladstone Major, Vice President Martin Standard served as Secretary.

Responding to the Roll Call were 27 members present and 13 members absent.

The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

Excuses for absences for the March meeting were approved for Henry E. Hudson, Dr. Sam Traugher and Douglas K. Steele.

Dr. Jack D. Amis presented the Report of the Nominating Committee for officers for 1986-87. There being no nominations from the floor, the following slate presented by the Nominating Committee was unanimously approved by the membership.

PRESIDENT:- Martin Standard
VICE PRESIDENT:- Dr. William M. Rowlett
SECRETARY-TREASURER:- W. Gladstone Major

President Sivley announced that the May meeting would be on Thursday, May 1, 1986 at 7:00 P. M. at the Country Club, with guests invited.

A motion was made by J. Thomas Soyars that flowers be sent to W. Gladstone Major who is in the hospital. Motion was duly seconded and passed. President Sivley will handle.

President Sivley then called for the stated program:

J. Thomas Soyars presented a paper entitled:
"BIG TIME COLLEGE SPORTS".

This was a carefully researched and documented study of the problems being faced by the Universities throughout the country financially and educationally because of the extreme emphasis being placed on athletics. Salaries being paid to professional players, and the assistance given to student players were reviewed. Also the difficulties many student players were having in keeping up with their studies and meeting the rigid requirements for graduation, were discussed in depth.

William T. Turner presented a paper entitled:
"TENNESSEE GOVERNOR AUSTIN PEAY, NATIVE OF CHRISTIAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY".

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Where 'history' is involved, Mr. Turner is at his best---accurate, eloquent and superbly qualified. The paper dealt with the outstanding achievements of Austin Peay, who was born in Christian County, Kentucky, practiced law in Hopkinsville, and later served as Tennessee Governor from 1923 to 1927. The highlights of his governorship were reviewed, which stressed tax reforms designed to enable the state to live within its income; reorganization of the state government to the extent that sixty-four scattered bureaus were re-grouped under eight heads; and the promotion of many other matters which he thought would contribute to the advancement of the people of the state.

The papers were received with great enthusiasm as indicated by eleven members rising to comment on them. The comments were pertinent and lengthy. At the conclusion of the membership comments, the authors rose and responded in rebuttal.

The program for May 1, 1986 meeting was announced:

Frank A. Yost
Paul K. Turner

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Standard

Martin Standard, Vice President,
substituting for W. Gladstone Major,
Secretary-Treasurer who was absent
due to illness.