

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.

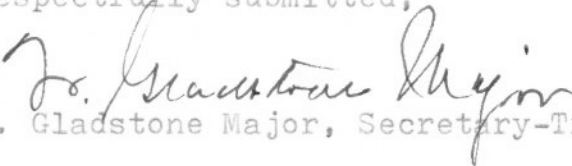
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The program for April 3, 1986 was announced:

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.

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, May 1, 1986

The 85th Annual Open Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the dining hall of the Hopkinsville Golf and Country Club. Members and guests numbered 74. The buffet dinner was excellent and the tables were beautifully decorated.

Dr. Mark Lowery gave the Invocation.

President Dr. Robert B. Sivley called for the program of the evening at 8:10.

Frank A. Yost presented a paper entitled:
Words, Words, Words

With subtle humor and serious comment, the writer described many instances of the use and misuse of words, illustrating how their meanings may be confusing, and how they can be combined to express beauty or bane.

Paul K. Turner delivered a composition entitled:
Rewards of Public Service

In this paper the writer described some of his experiences as Friend of the Court and as City Judge, replete with anecdote and true hilarious incidents.

In the subsequent discussion of the papers 11 members enhanced the occasion with mirthful comment and ludicrous personal reminiscences. One guest, Mrs. Ruth Yost, also participated by claiming the distinction of having attended Open Sessions of the Athenaeum Society longer than any present member in coming with her father at the age of 12 years.

The authors responded in a like mood in rebuttal.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


W. Gladstone Major, Secretary-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, September 4, 1986

Following the Invocation by J. Thomas Soyars and dinner at the Log House, the meeting convened at 7:30, President Martin Standard presiding. 31 members and one guest were present, 7 members were absent.

Minutes for the April meeting and the May Open Session were read and approved.

A moment of standing in silence in respect for Dr. Mark Lowery whose death occurred since last meeting was observed. Mr. William T. Turner was asked to prepare a suitable Resolution to be mailed to his family.

Requests for excused absence were approved for J. Brooks Major, Richard C. Brasher and Peter C. MacDonald.

The letter of resignation of Dr. Jack D. Amis who had moved from the city was read and his resignation was accepted with regrets.

Robert C. Baker introduced his guest, Claude Hoffman, from the Grand Duchy Luxemburg.

The President named Charles L. Tilley, Jr., George W. Engler, and Duard Thurman as the Membership Committee for 1986-1987.

The Treasurer circulated a statement of Receipts and Expenditures for the year 1985-1986.

President Martin Standard called for the stated program:

Henry E. Hudson presented a paper entitled:
Coke Isn't It

In his paper the author described pro and con the effects of the drug cocaine upon the human body, its early introduction through soft drinks, its increasing use among athletes, high school and college students, and business men, and its economic power in the political field.

George W. Engler presented a paper entitled:
Risk and Reward of Reconnaissance

Desc: Describing his personal experiences as a member of a 1969 flight crew in a recon mission off the coast of North Korea, the writer explained how a very serious incident was delicately handled to avoid involvement and the vital need to maintain surveillance at all times.

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Following a 5 minute intermission, these timely and informative papers were thoughtfully discussed, 11 members making comments and posing questions, to which the authors responded in rebuttal.

The program for October 2nd was announced:

Duard N. Thurman
W. Gladstone Major

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 by Martin Standard.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Gladstone Major

W. Gladstone Major, Secretary-Treasurer

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

Following the Invocation by Dr. J. Brooks Major and dinner at the Log House, the meeting convened at 7:30, President Martin Standard presiding with 22 members present, 16 members being absent.

Minutes for the September meeting were read and approved.

There were no requests for excused absences.

The Nominating Committee presented the names of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as prospects for membership to be voted upon at the next meeting.

William T. Turner read the Resolution upon the death of Dr. Mark Lowry which he was asked to prepare. A copy of the Resolution is included with the Minutes and a copy has been mailed to Mrs. Lowry and family at 3409 Valewood Drive, Oakton, VA., 22124.

President Martin Standard called for the stated program:

Duard N. Thurman presented a paper entitled:
Ethics in Business and Business Ethics
Beginning with incidents of moral corruption among specific American corporations motivated by the imperative to make a profit, the writer concluded that individually and on the whole the American businessman is the most honest in the world.

W. Gladstone Major presented a paper entitled:
Tobacco Culture
In his paper the writer explored the mental processes coming out of the culture among the 18th century Virginia Tidewater planters of tobacco which caused them to champion a radical political ideology.

Following a 5 minute intermission the papers were thoughtfully discussed, 9 members making comments and posing questions to which the authors responded in rebuttal.

The program for November 6th was announced:

George S. Boone
James G. Adams, Jr.

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

Respectfully submitted,

W. Gladstone Major
W. Gladstone Major, Secretary-Treasurer

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

Following the Invocation by Dr. Robert B. Sivley and dinner at the Log House Restaurant, the meeting convened at 7:30, President Martin Standard presiding with 28 members present, 10 members being absent.

Minutes for the October meeting were read and approved with the exception to delete from the record the names of those the Nominating Committee presented for membership. This has been done.

Requests for excused absences were presented by Richard C. Brasher, Peter C. MacDonald, George S. Boone, J. Thomas Soyars, Wendell H. Rorie, Kenneth O. Cayce Jr., Mike Herndon, George W. Engler, and James H. Love.

The election of the 2 persons presented for membership at the October meeting was unfavorable.

Since the regular monthly meeting of the Society for January 1987 falls upon the New Year holiday, notice to change the meeting date to Thursday, January 8th was approved and the Log House Restaurant management was so advised.

President Martin Standard called for the stated program:

George S. Boone presented a paper entitled:
Most Favorable Morn

In a learned, admirably documented and definitive paper, the writer outlines the differences between government under the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States adopted in 1787, treating upon the procedures involved in drafting its provisions, together with sketches of the opinions of the personalities involved.

James G. Adams, Jr. presented a paper entitled:
The Socio-Economic Impact of the Tennessee Valley Authority

Cutlining the motivating purposes and attitudes behind the establishment by the United States Congress of the Tennessee Valley Authority May 1933, the writer called attention to the industrial prospects, the unbounded recreational opportunities, and the social benefits its cheap power and adequate water supply has brought to the region.

Following a 5 minute intermission the papers were discussed, 10 members expressing their interest in the subjects with additional pertinent observations and data, to which the authors responded in rebuttal.


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The program for December 4th was announced:

Marshall T. Bassett
David L. Riley

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 by President Standard.

Respectfully submitted,


W. Gladstone Major, Secretary-Treasurer

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

Following the Invocation by William T. Turner and dinner at the Log House Restaurant, the meeting convened at 7:30, President Martin Standard presiding with 29 members present, 9 members being absent.

Minutes for the November meeting were read and approved.

Requests for excused absences were presented by Richard C. Brasher, Carmichael Fels. Dr. Franklin A. Nash Jr., Marvin D. Denison, Robert C. Baker, and Thomas L. Riley.

The request of Dr. Thomas L. Riley for a leave of absence during the next six months because of a conflicting leadership assignment, was granted.

The Nominating Committee presented the names of 2 persons for consideration as new members of the Society to be voted upon at the January meeting.

President Standard appointed a committee composed of Dr. Robert B. Sivley, Chairman, Charles L. Tilley and W. Gladstone Major to consider the possibility of a change of location for regular meetings.

President Martin Standard called for the stated program:

Marshall T. Bassett presented a paper entitled:
An unreconstructed Rebel's Sad Lament
Referring largely from family personal letters and journals, the writer presented incidents and abuses and indignities suffered by the citizens of the Confederate States during the invasion by the Northern States in the 1860's and explained the impossibility to mask or deflect even today the resentment for humiliations endured.

David L. Riley presented a paper entitled:
Historic Preservation at the Grass-roots Level
In a delightfully humorous and brilliant pastiche, together with the author's drawings, the writer described the pleasures and problems of transporting and transforming two portions of a log house into one modern dwelling.

Following a five minute break the papers were discussed, 11 members expressing interest and asking questions to which the authors responded in rebuttal.

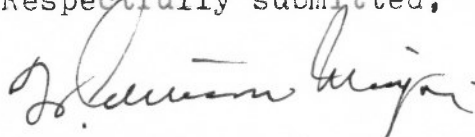
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The program for January 8th, 1987 was announced:

Dr. J. Brooks Major
J. Dudley Galloway

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 by President Standard.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Gladstone Major".

W. Gladstone Major, Secretary-Treasurer