

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, January 7, 1988

Following the invocation by Austin B. Carroll and dinner at the Log House Restaurant the meeting convened at 7:25 with President William M. Rowlett presiding. The roll call revealed 27 members present.

Requests for excused absences had been received by telephone and mail from Frank A. Yost and Sam H. Traughber and request was made by George W. Engler this date with these requests being approved.

Minutes of the December meeting were read and approved after which the Secretary reported that a letter of invitation to membership had been sent to Mr. George H. Byars and that a letter of acceptance had been received from Mr. Byars. This now leaves the Society with a total membership of 39.

After brief discussion a motion was made by Martin Standard that a letter of appreciation be sent to W. Gladstone Major relative to his years of service as Secretary-Treasurer with this motion being seconded by David L. Riley and receiving unanimous approval. Following a suggestion by President Rowlett, Robert B. Sivley made the motion that the letter be accompanied by the gift in the form of a VCR tape. This motion was seconded by Thomas W. Westerfield and unanimously approved.

Following the dinner President Rowlett called for the stated program:

William T. Turner presented a paper entitled The Homeland Heritage of A Poet Laureate. This paper was a graphic and very vivid presentation of some of the family background and life of Robert Penn Warren who two years ago was named by the United States Congress as the nation's first Poet Laureate. It was pointed out that over the past fifty-five years Warren has published ten novels, sixteen volumes of poetry, a play and many other works and is the only person to win Pulitzer Prizes for both fiction and poetry. This paper was of particular interest not only because of the accomplishments of Mr. Warren but also because of the fact that he was born in Guthrie, Kentucky and that most of the incidents presented in the paper took place in this part of our state.

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Peter C. Macdonald presented his paper entitled The Last Drive-In Picture Show. In this paper the author gave the members a nostalgic ride into the past to once again enjoy some of the thrills of the drive-in movie. It was obvious as the author presented his paper that most of the members present were supplementing the paper with some vivid memories of their own experiences with drive-in movies in the past. Among other factors some possible reasons for the demise of the drive-in theater were presented including the author's own participation in the legal proceedings that resulted in the closing of the last drive-in in this area which had deteriorated to showing nothing but x-rated movies.

Following a five minute break comments on each of the papers were presented by fifteen members which were followed by rebuttals from each of the authors.

The program for the February 4, 1988 meeting was announced:

Sam H. Traugher
Wynn L. Radford, III

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Franklin A. Nash, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, February 4, 1988

Following the invocation by William T. Turner and the beginning of dinner at the Log House Restaurant the meeting was convened at 6:55 by Vice-President Sam H. Traughber. The roll call revealed 31 members present and one guest, Mr. Harold Helm, of LaGrange, Kentucky, present as the guest of Wynn L. Radford, III.

Requests for excused absences were presented by Hal King, Sam H. Traughber, and Bobby H. Freeman and a letter of request for excused absence for both January and February from W. Gladstone Major was reported by the Secretary. These requests were all approved.

Correspondence for the month was reported by the Secretary as a letter and gift to W. Gladstone Major from the Society in appreciation of his service as Secretary\Treasurer, and a letter of thanks from W. Gladstone Major which was read to the Society. The minutes of the January meeting were then read and approved.

Under New Business the Membership Committee, chaired by Charles L. Tilley, Jr., presented the name of one person for consideration relative to possible membership. The vote regarding this will be held at the next scheduled meeting.

Following completion of the dinner Vice-President Traughber called for the stated program after requesting a reversal in the order of scheduled presentation.

Wynn L. Radford, III presented a paper entitled Ambition. Ambition was described in part as a strong will to succeed and desire to achieve a particular end. Several possible factors that motivate ambitious people were presented and discussed. One factor is a need to measure self-esteem through social comparison, judging one's own identity against the rest of the world. Another suggestion was that there is a genetic competitive code in chromosomes that motivates ambitious people, and on the other extreme it was suggested that ambitious behavior is learned with such behavior being dependent on external factors. It was pointed out that ambition is often beneficial to an individual and to society but also that when it is improperly directed it can be highly detrimental. When kept in balance ambition was seen as a worthwhile trait but when it becomes insatiable it presents a serious threat to the individual and to society.

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February 4, 1938

Sam H. Traugher presented a paper entitled Scuba (The Joy of Diving). After pointing out that the word "scuba" stands for self-contained underwater breathing apparatus the author presented a brief history of diving that dates back at least as early as 1000 B.C. This was followed by a detailed discussion of the various kinds of equipment used in different forms of diving with some actual examples of the equipment being shown and briefly demonstrated. This was followed by a discussion of underwater physiology, ranging from differences in both vision and sound under water to the all important factors of the body's responses to changes in pressure. Rules and regulations on how to deal with these factors were carefully pointed out. The author then discussed some recommendations to consider when planning a diving trip, including some of the things that can be enjoyed in this sport such as underwater photography. This section of the paper was supplemented with some beautiful examples of underwater pictures. The author concluded by offering some suggestions for consideration for those who might be interested in beginning to learn this art. Throughout the paper, life and interest was added by the author illustrating many of the points with his own experiences with scuba diving.

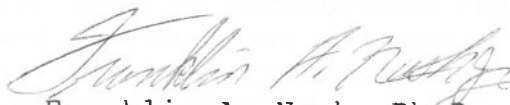
Following a five minute break comments on each of the papers were presented by sixteen members which were followed by rebuttals from each of the authors.

The program for the March 3, 1938 meeting was announced:

Franklin A. Nash, Jr.
Edward H. Higgins, III

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Franklin A. Nash, Ph.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, March 3, 1988

Following the invocation by William T. Turner and the beginning of dinner at the Log House Restaurant the meeting was convened at 6:50 by President William M. Rowlett. The roll call revealed 25 members present. Following the roll call the minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

Requests for excused absences were presented by James H. Love, Thomas L. Riley, Paul D. Guffey, and Richard C. Brasher. After appropriate comments from the members these requests were all approved.

The Membership Committee chaired by Charles L. Tilley, Jr., presented for vote by the members the name of one prospect who had been nominated during last month's meeting. The vote was favorable and the Secretary will send a letter of invitation to membership. President Rowlett then reminded the members that the annual election of officers is scheduled to be held at the April meeting.

Following completion of the dinner President Rowlett called for the stated program.

Franklin A. Nash, Jr. presented a paper entitled By The Sea, By The Sea, By The Beautiful Sea. Information was presented documenting the rather significant rapid erosion of beaches and shorelines around the world with numerous references to specific problem areas in the United States. Natural phenomena such as elevations in sea level and sinking land masses were pointed out as contributing factors to the problem, but perhaps of greatest concern are the effects of current land use practices and other effects on the environment such as the so-called "greenhouse effect." A number of stop-gap measures to hold back the tide were described but it was suggested that the ultimate answer must come from more appropriate use of coastal areas and cooperation with nature.

Edward H. Higgins, III presented a paper entitled Sex Education: The Time Is Now. In a very timely paper, some of the current trends that influence the sex education of our young people were presented. Without hesitation the author discussed significant statistics and examples regarding current sex practices and thoughts among our youth as

well as society in general. After pointing out factors such as the strong emphasis of the media on sex that contribute to the current increase in sexual promiscuity among our youth, the author defended his stand that appropriate sex education in the schools is essential. In doing this he pointed out problems in determining just how this could best be done as well as the fact that there are many who oppose the idea of sex education in the schools in the first place. Although many national organizations do support sex education and some polls have indicated that the majority of Americans at least verbally favor it, not enough is being done to shape policies in the right direction. The author concluded by implying that we as adults must accept responsibility for the existence of much of the problem and for finding the solutions which must include more complete and appropriate sex education with at least much of this being provided through our schools.

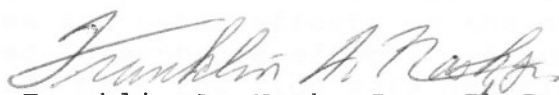
Following a five-minute break, comments on each of the papers were presented by twelve members which were followed by rebuttals from each of the authors.

The program for the April 7, 1988 meeting was announced:

Thomas L. Riley
Martin Standard

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Franklin A. Nash, Jr., Ph.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, April 7, 1988

Following the invocation by David Cavanah and the dinner at the Log House Restaurant, the meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m., by President William Rowlett. The roll call revealed 25 members and one guest, Norman Lazar, present.

Requests for excused absences were presented by Marshall Butler, Martin Standard, Wynn Radford III, Austin Carroll, Hal King, Prewitt Owen, George Draper, Sam Traughber, Tom Westerfield, Mike Herndon, and Bobby Freeman. After appropriate comments from the members these requests were approved.

Following roll call, President Rowlett called on Robert Sivley, who was substituting as Secretary for Franklin Nash, for business and correspondence. He read a letter from the Rev. C. Thomas Steiner indicating that he declined to join the Athenaeum Society because of the fact that he could not afford to take additional evening meetings from his family and other pressing schedule. He also cited the fact that it would be difficult to prepare papers on topics that did not have political and religious overtones.

President Rowlett called on Membership Committee Chairman Charles L. Tilley Jr., who presented the following slate of nominees for officers for the 1988-89 year. They were Sam Traughber, President; Tom Westerfield, Vice-President; and Franklin Nash, Secretary. Prewitt Owen made a motion that the nominations be closed and all three nominees elected by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Hal King and passed unanimously.

An announcement was made concerning the open meeting, which is scheduled at the Hopkinsville Golf and Country Club for Thursday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m. Members were urged to get their reservations in as quickly as possible, and told that the deadline for doing so would be May 1. Cost of the open meeting dinner will be \$8 per person.

President Rowlett called on Dr. Sivley for the minutes of the March meeting, which had been prepared by Secretary Nash, and these were read and accepted by unanimous consent.

Following completion of the business, President Rowlett called for the stated program.

Thomas L. Riley gave a paper titled Thirty-Five Years of Service to Hopkinsville-Christian County the United Way. Dr. Riley traced the beginning of united charitable fund raising efforts in this community from 1946, through 1981. Pointing out that there had been some fund raising efforts, going back as far as World War I days, Dr. Riley described the various community fund drives that preceded the formation of the united drive and then painstakingly described each succeeding annual drive from 1946 through 1981, naming the various chairpersons, their goals, and

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the amounts of money raised each year. His essay was spiced by various controversies and colorful descriptions of the campaigns. Highlights of the history of organized charitable giving included the serious problems of the middle 1950s and its discontinuance in 1957. The new effort, under the name United Givers Fund, was born in 1958 and has continued to the present.

Martin Standard then presented his paper titled Retirement as I Have Experienced It and Seen It Among Fellow Employees.

Beginning with a brief sketch of his own background as a farm boy in Todd County, Mr. Standard progressed to his principal subject: retirement. Though admitting that much of his paper had been given to the society some 15 years ago he observed that many of the present members were new and needed the advise that would help them in retirement.

The speaker also proceeded to set forth his philosophical positions on a wide variety of topics, including the value of a good wife, the importance of the Athenaeum Society, and the inevitability of beach and shore erosion, with frequent departures from his written text for personal comments and spontaneous observations, many of which elicited considerable laughter. These comments dealt with the importance of preparation and planning; saving money; the selection of a retirement home; learning how to conduct oneself in the home after having spent one's life in business; adapting to being alone; and many other helpful hints on successful retirement.

Following a five minute break, comments on each of the papers were presented by 10 members, which were followed by rebuttals by the authors.

The program for the May 5, meeting was announced: the speakers will be Richard C. Brashear and Robert C. Baker. The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,


Robert B. Sivley, Ph.D.

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, May 5, 1988

The Eighty-Seventh Open Session of the Athenaeum Society was convened at 7:00 p.m. in the dining room of the Hopkinsville Golf and Country Club, with President William M. Rowlett presiding.

Following the invocation, a delicious buffet dinner was served. The tables were each arranged with flowers, which were taken home after the meeting by the lucky person at each table who had the X under their plate.

Following the dinner, President Rowlett called for each member present to introduce himself and his guests, which revealed that there were thirty-three members and fifty-one guests, for a total of eighty-four present.

President Rowlett then called for the stated program of the evening.

Richard C. Brasher presented a delightful paper entitled "Superstition." The origins and meanings of many popular superstitions stemming from religious, cultural, and personal sources, were presented and discussed to the interest and delight of all present. Although the author concluded by indicating that we are not as superstitious as our ancestors, it is suspected that he was playing with the rabbit foot in his pocket in the hope that his paper would be well received.

Robert C. Baker presented a paper entitled "Impressions of a Passionate Traveler." Rather than this paper being a travelogue, the author shared some of his rich personal observations gleaned from his international travels over the past twenty years, with primary reference to Europe and particular focus on France. Pertinent suggestions on how to truly see any of the countries of Europe, or any other country for that matter, were presented in such a way to make one want to take the next available plane. In general, listeners were encouraged to focus more on getting to know the people of the country rather than getting lost in an ocean of details and changing scenes which often occurs with the typical tour bus approach. Many interesting facts about the cultures of some of the European countries, again with special emphasis on France, were also shared.

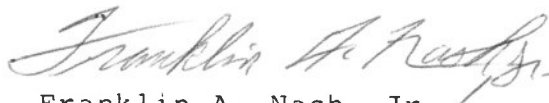
Following a brief break, members and guests were invited to make comments about the papers. Many of the comments were humorous and some of them were supportive of the authors' efforts. Following these comments, each author presented his brief rebuttal to these comments.

President Rowlett then announced the elected officers for 1988-1989:

Sam H. Traugber - President
Thomas W. Westerfield - Vice-President
Franklin A. Nash, Jr. - Secretary-Treasurer

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Franklin A. Nash, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY
Thursday, September 1, 1988

Following the invocation by J. Brooks Major and dinner at the Log House Restaurant, the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Sam H. Traughber. The roll call revealed 29 members present.

Requests for excused absences were presented by Peter C. Macdonald, James G. Adams, Jr., and Franklin A. Nash, Jr., and these requests were approved.

Minutes from both the regular April meeting and the May Open Meeting were read and after brief discussion, both were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Traughber reported that former honorary member Ira D. Smith had died and following a suggestion by President Traughber it was moved and seconded that William T. Turner write to the family on behalf of the Society, expressing our sentiments.

William M. Rowlett then introduced his son-in-law, Mr. Gordon Boh, of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, as his guest for the evening.

President Traughber then called for the stated program:

William M. Rowlett presented a paper entitled "Chasing Young Hemingstein." With some reference to the author's own travels and experience and with obviously considerable research, this paper focused on the life and work of noted author, Ernest Miller Hemmingway. In interesting detail, many of the colorful personality characteristics and life experiences of Ernest Hemmingway were presented with references to how these characteristics and experiences influenced his writing. Many of Hemmingway's works were cited, with reference to their origin, content and success. Hemmingway's many personality characteristics were perhaps best summarized by the author as being a "overbearing contradiction," but "a spellbinding story teller."

David L. Riley, in an untitled paper, very aptly presented the tragic facet of American history relating to the transfer of several Southern Indian tribes from their rich homelands to much less valuable lands West of the Mississippi River. The primary

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focus was on the infamous forced march of the Cherokees from their homes in the Carolinas along what has come to be known as the Trail of Tears. The author pointed out the greed of white men that was responsible for this tragedy and painted a clear picture of it as a great injustice. The high degree of civilization that had been attained by these Indian people was pointed out as being so different from our usual concept of what the Indian tribes of that day were like. Many details of the hardships encountered along the Trail of Tears were reviewed and of special interest was a description of their journey through Hopkinsville and Christian County. This paper was prepared on the 150th anniversary of the exodus and partly in response to the fact that the Trail of Tears was this year made a national historic trail. The author prompted a number of comments later when he raised the question of whether or not we today are responsible for the judgment of our great-grandfathers.

After a five minute break, 14 of the members present made relatively lengthy comments which showed a great deal of interest and appreciation of both of these papers. These comments were then followed by rebuttals from each of the authors.

The secretary announced the program for the October 6 meeting:

Duard N. Thurman
George W. Engler

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Franklin A. Nash, Jr.
Secretary/Treasurer