

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Athenaeum Society

—January 2, 1997—

The fifth meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 96th season convened on Thursday, January 2, 1997, at the Convention Center.

President Edward Higgins presided at the meeting.

The meeting opened with prayer, followed by dinner consisting of: pork chops, cole slaw, potatoes, corn, green beans, rolls, cornsticks, cake, tea, coffee.

Minutes from the December meeting were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences involved religious meetings, preparations and attendance of Christmas music programs, internet browsing and other less notable excuses. All were accepted by a compassionate and forgiving membership.

Members voted to accept into membership, Dan Kemp. The Secretary was instructed to write a letter of acceptance to Mr. Kemp.

Twenty-Three (23) members were present. Sixteen (16) members were absent for a 59% attendance. Attendance for the five month period September thru January has averaged only 59%.

Papers were presented by Mike Herndon and John Freer.

Mike Herndon's paper was titled "Golf: An Ancient Game in Modern Times ." Mr. Herndon presented several views of the sport, game, pastime, or whatever. He described golf as something that some people love while others show indifference. Mr. Herndon described his own change of attitude towards the game from one of early derision to a present attitude of love. Mr. Herndon presented a brief history of the game and of local golf courses. He also managed to insert several humorous anecdotes about the game. That obviously stirred the memories of the membership. Mr. Herndon teed off at 7:20 and approached the nineteenth hole at 7:45.

John Freer's paper was titled, "The Meaning of Frogs and Toads." He informed us that frogs are the most common animal on earth, that they first appeared on earth about 300 million years ago and new species are still being identified. We learned that the Latin name for frog is **Rana**, which means "noise," and belongs to the order of **Anura**, which means "without tail." He also told us of the differences between frogs and toads. (The frog is usually smaller and brighter in color, the skin is smoother, more moist, the body is longer and thinner, the hind legs are longer and frogs spend more of their time in or near water). Mr. Freer also entertained us with a video and a dazzling display of frog memorabilia. Mr. Freer, who described himself as "an old frog kisser" hopped to his presentation at 7:47 and croaked at 8:14.

After a ten minute comfort recess, several members participated in the remarks portion of the program, most of whom seemed to have an unending supply of golf and frog stories. Comments began at 8:24 and ended at 8:45.

Rebuttal portion of the program went from 8:45 to 9:00 at which time the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King, Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Athenaeum Society

—February 6, 1997—

The sixth meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 96th season convened on Thursday, February 6, 1997, at the Convention Center.

President Edward Higgins presided at the meeting.

The meeting opened with prayer by James G. Adams, followed by dinner consisting of: fried chicken, baked potato, succotash, salad rolls, pie, tea, coffee.

Minutes from the January meeting were read and approved.

Excuses for previous absences involved parental and church responsibilities, political celebration, management re-training and memory lapse. All were accepted by a compassionate and forgiving membership.

The president appointed Jim Adams, Edwin White and William Turner to a committee to select a site for the May open meeting.

Thirty-one (31) members were present for a 77% attendance. Nine (9) members were absent. Attendance for the six month period September thru February has averaged 59%.

Papers were presented by William T. Turner and D.D. Cayce, III.

William Turner's paper was titled "The Christian Co.-Hoptown Connection." Mr. Turner's paper was built upon the theory that "divine providence decreed long ago that anything important in the history of the world has a direct connection to Hopkinsville and Christian County." Mr. Turner then related numerous worldwide events involving people with Hopkinsville-Christian County connections. Mr. Turner began his entertaining, informative, and, yes.....historical journey at 7:15 and left his audience wanting more at 8:00.

D.D. Cayce's paper was titled, "Korean Lespedza, A Saviour." Mr. Cayce's paper provided an interesting account of the seed business in Christian County, the importance of different types of seeds, crops and their respective importance. His paper also provided knowledge of the times, conditions and people involved in the seed business, giving us an insight into the workings and importance of the seed business that few people understand. Mr. Cayce began sowing his seed at 8:00 and sacked the harvest at 8:29

After a ten minute comfort recess, several members participated in the remarks portion of the program, heaping a plethora of complimentary remarks that sent the presentors home with a warm glow.

Comments began at 8:38 and ended at 8:56

Rebuttal portion of the program began at 8:56 and ended at 9:02.

All in all, a very entertaining and informative evening that adjourned at 9:03

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King, Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society

—March 6, 1997—

The seventh meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 96th season convened on Thursday, March 6, 1997, at the Convention Center.

The 6:30 P.M. meeting began at 6:41 with President Edward Higgins presiding.

The meeting opened with a prayer by Jim Adams, followed by dinner consisting of Bar-b-q, burgoo, potato salad, cole slaw, beans, bread, cake, Pepsi and iced tea.

Minutes from the ~~January~~^{FEB.} meeting were read and approved.

The President called for a report from the May "open" meeting selection site committee, however, a decision had not been made at that time.

24 Members were in attendance for 61.5%, with 15 members absent.

Papers were presented by Frank Nash and Paul Guffey.

Frank Nash's paper was titled, "Garden Heat, The Pepper Paper." Mr. Nash traced the history of peppers as far back as 10,000 years B.C. He described archaeological findings in Mexico dating back to 7,500 years B.C. pre-dating the Aztec and Mayan civilizations. And, 2,500 years ago, chiles were an important societal part of the Inca empire of Peru. Mr. Nash traced the popularity of various chiles up to the present day, naming several varieties and their corresponding heat ratings. Mr. Nash mentioned an article that appeared in the St. Thomas Hospital newsletter to the effect that cayenne peppers are good for blood circulation, keeping the arteries clear and that various peppers are now used in some medications.

Mr. Nash's hot lipped love affair with peppers began at 7:16 and cooled off at 7:47.

Paul D. Guffey's paper was entitled, "From the Mansion to the Hill, with Apologies to Hank Williams and His Mansion on the Hill." Mr. Guffey related several anecdotes about the often questionable actions of various government officials, particularly those in Washington, D.C. It was not clear whether Mr. Guffey reported the subject with shocked disapproval or was envious.

Mr. Guffey's attempt at civics expose 101 began at 7:48 and left office at 8:13.

After a short intermission, the Remarks session began at 8:21 with seven members making comments about the papers. The Rebuttal session began at 8:40 and the meeting adjourned at 8:49.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King, Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society

—April 3, 1997—

The eighth meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 96th season convened on Thursday, April 3, 1997, at the Convention Center.

The 6:30 P.M. meeting began at 6:39 with President Edward Higgins presiding.

The meeting opened with a prayer by Brook Major, followed by dinner consisting of chicken, ham, macaroni & cheese, green beans, fruit, rolls, pie, iced tea and coffee.

Minutes from the March meeting were read and approved.

The President called for a report from the May "open" meeting selection site committee, and after a short discussion the membership voted to hold the May meeting at the Country Club, with the price per meal to be decided upon later.

24 Members were in attendance for 61.5%, with 15 members absent.

Papers were presented by Charles Tilley and Jim Adams.

Charles Tilley's paper was titled, "The Good Ol' Boys Network." Mr. Tilley's paper started off with a humorous recollection as a youth league baseball coach, then ventured into the machinations of the NCAA. The paper centered on the NCAA's apparent vendetta to remove Jerry Tarkanian from the coaching ranks at UNLV and subsequent universities. Such terms as "arrogance, high handed unfairness, unrealistic, mean spirited hypocrisy," were brought to mind as Mr. Tilley described the workings of the NCAA. Mr. Tilley evoked the term NCAA 457 times during his presentation. It has been noted that the paper lasted as long as a regulation college basketball game...plus two minutes of overtime. Mr. Tilley's ball began bouncing at 7:20 and ended with a jump ball at 8:02.

James G. Adams' paper was entitled, "A History of Ft. Campbell, Kentucky and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)." Mr. Adams described the early history of the division, the need for a post such as Ft. Campbell, the early training there and the eventual development into today highly trained airborne and special units and their missions. A very interesting paper about a major influence in the area.

Mr. Adams' mission began at 8:03 and was successfully completed at 8:24.

After a short intermission,

the **remarks session** began at 8:30 with nine members making comments about the papers, four of which were very interesting mini-papers in themselves.

The **rebuttal session** began at 9:11 and

the meeting **adjourned** at 9:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King, Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society

—September 4, 1997—

The first meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1997-98 year convened on Thursday, September 4, 1997, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds. The 6:30 P.M. meeting began at 6:37 with President Wynn L. Radford, III, presiding. The meeting opened with a prayer by Lewis Spencer.

Dinner consisted of ham, fried chicken, corn, beans, salad, fruit salad, rolls, corn sticks, pie, iced tea, and coffee.

President Radford called the meeting to order at 7:07. Roll call indicated that 29 of 38 members were present for a 76% attendance. The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved. Papers were presented by Curtis Brasher and Mark Lovely.

Curtis Brasher's paper was titled, "The Economics of Crime".

Mr. Brasher presented several facts and figures concerning the scale of crime across the country and the fact so few crimes are solved and that relatively few criminals actually serve prison time. He theorized that while criminals may not always be of superior intellect, they have figured out that the odds of actually being apprehended and incarcerated are fairly small. Thus, crime pays. Mr. Brasher's paper began at 7:15 and ended at 7:39.

Mark Lovely's paper was titled, "Does God Play Dice With The Universe?"

Mr. Lovely presented several examples of coincidences of people with same names, experiencing similar events, how some people averted tragedy by strange circumstances and how others experienced good fortune. Mr. Lovely suggested that there are only three possibilities regarding coincidences: 1- The connections are all illusions based on human inclination to place information in categories and patterns. 2- God, or some other higher power sometimes puts events into a pattern for us to discern some meaning...although not always a clear meaning. 3- There is some natural force loose in the universe which connects us all and therefore the events surrounding us. Then, Mr. Lovely attempted to explain it all to us. Yes, he did try. Mr. Lovely's paper began at 7:39 and terminated, not coincidentally, at 8:00.

After a short intermission, the **remarks session** began at 8:10 with eight members commenting on the papers. The **rebuttal session** began at 8:35 and the meeting **adjourned** at 8:59.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society

—October 2, 1997—

The second meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1997-98 year convened on Thursday, October 2, 1997, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds. The 6:30 P.M. meeting began at 6:36 with President Wynn L. Radford, III, presiding. The meeting opened with a prayer by Marvin Denison.

Dinner consisted of:

beef stew, baked apples, salad, corn bread, rolls, pie, iced tea and coffee.

President Radford called the meeting to order at 7:05.

Roll call indicated that 25 of 38 members were present for a 65% attendance.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

The Society noted the illness of Dr. Thomas Riley and his move to Lexington. The Society elected Dr. Riley to honorary membership and directed the Secretary to write Dr. Riley of the action. That has been done.

Membership voted to move the January 1, 1998 meeting to January 8.

Papers were presented by Wendell Rorie and David Cavanah.

Wendell Rories's paper was titled, "First Dogs".

Mr. Rorie departed from his expected travelogue paper and presented several stories, some factual, some perhaps not so factual, of the canine pets of former presidents of the United States of America, from the time of George Washington to the present. The meeting very quickly went to the dogs with a variety of hairy anecdotes.

Mr. Rorie's shaggy paper began at 7:14 and ended at 7:34.

David Cavanah's paper was titled, "Cloning: A Way of Life".

Mr. Cavanah seemed to present the paper with mock seriousness. Mr. Cavanah quoted examples of cloning from actual experiments with animals, from works of theory and from works of fiction. Mr. Cavanah presented some thoughts on the legal and moral ramifications of cloning. Results of cloning obviously could be very serious although some rather humorous aspects were presented. One had to be present to understand.

Mr. Cavanah's paper began at 7:35 and ended at 7:56.

After a short intermission,

the **remarks session** began at 8:05 with eight members commenting on the papers.

The **rebuttal session** began at 8:22 and

the meeting **adjourned** at 8:28.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society

—November 6, 1997—

The third meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1997-98 year convened on Thursday, November 6, 1997, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds. The 6:30 P.M. meeting began with President Wynn L. Radford, III, presiding. The meeting opened with a prayer by Edward "Happy" Higgins.

Dinner consisted of:

Bar-B-Q, burgoo, beans, potato salad, slaw, bread, coffee, iced tea and chocolate pie.

President Radford called the meeting to order at 7:02.

Roll call indicated that 20 of 38 members were present for a 52% attendance.

The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved.

The nominating committee reported that it will present a report at the December meeting.

Papers were presented by Tom Westerfield and David Riley.

Tom Westerfield's paper was titled, "Which Witch is Which".

Mr. Westerfield's less than humorous paper explored the nether regions of satanism, devil worship, the halloween costume connection, the lyrics of heavy metal rock music, the beliefs (including mass suicide) of some religious cults, and the lack of God in ~~to~~ one's life and beliefs. Mr. Westerfield asked many times, "Did the devil makethem do it". Perhaps he did.

Mr. Westerfield's paper began at 7:09 and ended at 7:29

David Riley's paper was titled, "Detours and Potholes on the Road to Glory".

Mr. Riley presented a learned paper on the history of military medals, awards, badges, ribbons and recognition of participation in various military events. Mr. Riley noted that while Europeans have long been keen on awarding and wearing of medals for nearly any event, the American military's participation and interest in awarding recognition did not really get organized until World War II. Mr. Riley's paper began at 7:29 and ended at 7:54.

After a short intermission,

the **remarks session** began at 8:01 with five members commenting on the papers.

The **rebuttal session** began at 8:16 and

the meeting **adjourned** at 8:23.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society —December 4, 1997—

The fourth meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1997-98 year convened on Thursday, December 4, 1997, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds. The 6:30 P.M. meeting began with Vice-President Peter C. McDonald, presiding. The meeting opened with a prayer by George Byers.

Dinner consisted of:

potato salad, cole slaw, beans, ham, chicken, rolls, cooke, iced tea, coffee.

Vice-President McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:04.

Roll call indicated that 20 of 38 members were present for a 52% attendance.

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

The nominating committee presented two names for consideration as members to fill the existing two availabilities. (Nick Terhune and Cecil Herndon). Discussion and possible vote to be held at the January meeting.

Papers were presented by Hal King and Dan Kemp.

Mr. King presented a paper in the absence of Durward Thurman.

Mr. King's paper was titled, "From Stem to Stern", and was actually the memoirs of Ken Meiring, of Nineveh, Indiana. Mr. Meiring's recalled the early days of naval aviation from 1935 to 1945. Mr. Meiring helped maintain the airplanes of naval aviation and served aboard various aircraft carriers prior to World War II and during the Pacific campaigns of World War II. Mr. King, with the help of Mr. Meiring, set sail at 1918 hours and anchored at 1934 hours.

Mr. Kemp presented a paper titled "A Soldier's Story", an exercise in oral history, based on interviews with a World War II veteran. In this unusual scenario, Mr. Kemp actually interviewed his father about his experiences in military training during WWII and in the island hopping Pacific campaigns, including Okinawa. He spoke of his experiences in encoding and encoding secret communications, the horrors of the war and the belief that use of the atomic bomb saved hundreds of thousands of both American and Japanese lives.

After a short intermission, the **remarks session** began at 7:58 with six members commenting on the papers. Members expressed interest and pleasure in hearing of "first person" accounts of historical events. One paper concerned World Two events from a Navy perspective, another from an Army experiences, both in the Pacific area. It was not planned this way but then, one never knows what will happen at Athenaeum.

The **rebuttal session** began at 8:15 and the meeting **adjourned** at 8:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer