

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society —January 8, 1998—

The fifth meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1997-98 year convened on Thursday, January 8, 1998, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds. The 6:30 P.M. meeting began with a prayer by James G. Adams. Dinner consisted of:

corn, peas, potatoes, ham, salad, rolls, pie, coffee, iced tea.

President Radford called the meeting to order at 7:04.

Roll call indicated that 23 of 38 members were present for a 60% attendance.

The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved.

The membership voted positively on two availabilities for membership. The Secretary wrote letters of invitation the following day, January 9. (J. Nicolas Terhune and Cecil Herndon).

Papers were presented by George Byars and Lewis Spencer.

Mr. Byars presented a paper, aided by video, on his tour of European gardens. The program focused primarily on the gardens of Winston Churchill in England and the artist Monet in France. Mr. Byars began cultivation at 7:21 and ceased fertilizing at 7:56.

Mr. Spencer presented a paper on his efforts at becoming an expert, award winning typist using only his left hand. Boyhood injuries and loss of limb required Mr. Spencer to apply unusual effort to master many things that most people take for granted.

The **comment session** began at 8:40 with comments from 8 members.

The **rebuttal session** began at 8:57 and the meeting **adjourned** at 9:05.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society —February 5, 1998—

The sixth meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1997-98 year convened on Thursday, February 5, 1998, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds. The 6:30 P.M. meeting began with a prayer by Edward H. Higgins. Dinner consisted of:

Bar-b-q, potato salad, beans, burgoo, cole slaw, dessert, coffee, iced tea.

President Radford called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Roll call indicated that 19 of 39 members were present for a 48% attendance on a cold and snowy night.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary reported that Dr. J. Nicholas Terhune had accepted the offer of membership while another nominee had graciously declined. This leaves one membership available.

There were no committee reports or nominations for membership.

President Radford reported that he may delegate responsibilities of arrangements for the May open meeting to Linda Radford. The membership appeared to be relieved and approved of the action.

Papers were presented by Edwin White and Ben Fletcher.

Mr. White's paper was entitled "Names". The entertaining and informative presentation told us of how certain names and expressions evolved and particularly that of the names of automobiles. Mr. White cranked up the starting mechanism at 7:07 and coasted into "park" at 7:30.

Mr. Fletcher's paper was entitled "The Birdcage. It related the history of the nuclear weapons depository at Fort Campbell. Mr. Fletcher provided a drawing of the installation, told us how it got its name "Birdcage", and related several anecdotes and experiences of people who were employed at the high security base. This very interesting paper began at 7:31 and shed its security blanket at 7:50.

The **comment session** began at 7:56 with comments from 11 members, many of whom had donned their topcoats in the cold meeting room. In fact the ice in the ice tea not only did not melt during the evening but some members reported that it had formed other formations.

The **rebuttal session** began at 8:22 and the meeting **adjourned** at 8:37

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society —March 5, 1998—

The seventh meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1997-98 year convened on Thursday, March 5, 1998, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds. The 6:37 P.M. meeting began with a prayer by Franklin A. Nssh. Dinner consisted of:

Ham, chicken, potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, dessert, coffee, iced tea.

President Radford called the meeting to order at 7:07. Roll call indicated that 28 of 39 members were present for a 70% attendance. The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

The membership committee, represented by Tom Westerfield, asked for nominees to be presented for the remaining available membership. The illness of Frank Yost was recognized. Mr. Yost ~~is~~ (was) Athenaeum's senior member, with 56 year membership dating to 1942. Papers were presented by George W. Engler and James H. Love.

Mr. Engler's paper was entitled "The News That Didn't Make the News". His paper concerned various news stories that did not receive much attention from the national news media. The report questioned whether there is a conspiracy among the major news organizations to censor some news stories, downplay their importance or even prevent them from being disseminated. Members expressed doubt about the validity and/or quality of the views expressed in the paper... a view that the presenter himself later expressed in the comments/rebuttal portion. Mr. Engler began this conspiratorial presentation at 7:17 and came to a dubious inconclusion at 7:33.

Mr. Love's paper was titled "The Death of Nostalgia". It related Mr. Love's "love-hate" relationship with Murray State University and some of his "coming of age" experiences over the years of transferring from the University of Illinois to the friendly acceptance of Murray State University. This humorous and interesting "rite of passage" paper began at 7:34. It probably will continue for several years but for our purposes it recessed at 7:55.

The **comment session** began at 8:03 with comments from 11 members. The **rebuttal session** began at 8:32 and the meeting **adjourned** at 8:43.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society —April 2, 1998—

The eighth meeting of the Athanaeum Society's 1997-98 year convened on Thursday, ~~March~~ ²⁴ 5, 1998, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds. The 6:37 P.M. meeting began with a prayer by David Riley. Dinner consisted of:

President Radford called the meeting to order at 7:10
Roll call indicated that 19 of 38 members were present for a 50% attendance.
The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

The membership discussed possible new members and the propriety of voting on them at the May open meeting. After some good humored "Pro's and Cons" it was decided to shelve the voting procedure until September. The membership remains at 38.

The members noted the March death of Senior Member Frank Yost and called his name first in accordance with seniority. Mr. Yost had been a member of Athenaeum since 1942...56 years.

Members were informed that the May Open Meeting will be held on May 7, at 7:00 P.M., at the Hopkinsville Country Club. The cost per meal will be \$20.00

Papers were presented by Kenneth Cayce, Jr. and Edward Higgins.

Mr. Cayce's paper was titled, "We Build, We Fight", an interesting account of his experiences with the CB's, Constuction Battalion of the U.S. Navy during World War II. Mr. Cayce told us why and how the famed battalion came to be formed and its vital role in the war. Mr. Cayce began his foundation at 7:25 and successfully topped off at 7:46.

Mr. Higgin's paper was titled "Major Events of the Millennium". The slightly less than serious, some might say irreverent opening remarks, turned into a more serious recounting of some of the important events of the millenium, in the view of Mr. Higgins. Mr. Higgins time travels began at 8:12 and landed at 8:02.

Following a brief comfort break.....

The **comment session** began at 8:12 with comments from 7 members.

The **rebuttal session** began at 8:33 and
the meeting **adjourned** at 8:43.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society —May 7, 1998—

The ninth meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1997-98 year convened on Thursday, May 7 1998, the "Open Meeting to Guests" at the Hopkinsville Country Club. The 7:00 P.M. meeting began with a prayer.
Dinner consisted of a variety of delicious offerings and fine service.

President Radford called the meeting to order at 8:00
Roll call indicated that 26 of 38 members were present for a 68% attendance.
The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.

Papers were presented by Dr. J. Brooks Major and Hal King.

Dr. Major's paper was titled, "Cassius M. Clay", an interesting account of the famed Kentucky Emancipator. Mr. Clay influenced the Kentucky and national scene for many decades. Mr. Clay was born in Madison County, Kentucky in 1810. This active abolitionist and political firebrand served in the military, adept with the use of pistols and Bowie knife, was an ambassador to Russia, and served in other political and governmental positions. Among his accomplishments, Mr. Clay sired ten children with his first wife. They divorced after 45 years of marriage. At the age of 84 Clay wed a 15 year girl, a marriage which lasted for four years. He died in July, 1903, in bed at his now historic home, Whitehall, near Richmond.

Mr. King's paper was titled "The Scenes Behind the Sounds", a stroll down memory lane of his experiences while employed by various radio stations, particularly in Hopkinsville and Harlan. The stroll lengthened into a trip twice as long as intended. He may have set a record time in presenting a paper, at least since 1987. Mr. King obviously got carried away in his presentation and apologizes to the membership for such a lengthy paper and thanks the membership for their mostly kind remarks and long suffering patience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society —September 3, 1998—

The first meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1998-99 year convened on Thursday, September 3, 1998, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds. The 6:35 P.M. meeting began with a prayer by Frank Nash

Following dinner, President Peter C. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00. Roll call indicated that 27 of 37 members were present for a 72% attendance. The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved.

The membership voted to accept the resignation of James Mossey who will be moving from the area.

A membership committee was appointed to seek out potential new members to fill the three availabilities. The committee is composed of Logan Askew, Tom Westerfield and Edward Higgins. This illustrious trio composed the committee last year. They admitted that they had not been overworked and agreed to serve again at no increase in remuneration.

Two people were nominated for membership, Andrew Self and John Rittenhouse. Both received favorable comments and members will vote on their membership at the October 1 meeting.

Members were reminded that the Society by-laws require that a member scheduled to present a paper and finds himself unable to do so is responsible for securing a substitute presenter and notifying the secretary of such.

Peter MacDonald and Marvin Denison exchanged presentation dates. Mr. MacDonald will present in October and Mr. Denison will present in November.

Papers were presented by Hal King and Mark Schweizer.

Mr. King's paper concerned the USS Vestal, a navy repair ship berthed beside the battleship USS Arizona during the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. He recounted the activities of Vestal crew members and played an audio recording of Mr. Bob Meredith, a crew member of the Vestal, recounting his experiences that day.

Mr. Schweizer's paper was titled, "The Composer's Muse" or "Why Johann Can't Read". Mr. Schweizer played some musical recordings, discussed the positive and negative aspects of some of history's reknown musical composers. He recounted the activities of a lady named Rosemary Brown, who apparently was possessed by a "muse" and wrote music in the style of long since deceased composers. Mr. Schweizer posed the question, "Is there really such a thing as a "muse" — an inner voice that dictates masterworks of deceased composers to living composers, and if so, why do only a few human beings hear original music in their heads?" Mr. Schweizer went on to explain some theory, technicalities and intricacies of musical composition, and did not answer the question. Some members ventured that the answer to the question is "yes"....because such people are different....as is Mr. Schwiezer.

Following a brief comfort break.....

The **comment session** brought comments from 9 members.

followed by a brief **rebuttal session**.

The meeting **adjourned** at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society —October 1, 1998—

The second meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1998-99 year convened on Thursday, October 5, 1998, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds.

The September meeting was held in the JayCee building, about a hundred yards past our usual meeting place but out of sight of that building, and caused some consternation for some members who had some difficulty in finding it.

The meeting began with a prayer by Frank Nash, with only six members present but true to the determination of Marco Polo, Leif Ericson and Christopher Columbus, fourteen other members found the meeting place.

Following a tasty dinner, President Peter C. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:00. Roll call indicated that 20 of 37 members were present for a 54% attendance. The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

The membership voted to accept for membership: Andrew Self and John Rittenhouse. The Secretary was directed to write letters of notification and acceptance. Members also requested a letter of congratulations be sent to the Shakespearian Society for achieving its 100th anniversary.

Papers were presented by Peter MacDonald and Bobby Freeman.

Mr. MacDonald's paper, titled "The Last Place on Earth" concerned the life and exploration of Antarctic explorer Robert Falcon Scott. Mr. MacDonald's account of Scott's difficulties and fatal failure to achieve his goal of reaching the South Pole, held the attention of the membership. Some members remarked that they felt a cold chill during the ice laden account but had warm remarks for the presenter.

Mr. Freeman's paper was titled, "The People's Republic of China." The paper dealt with the history, economic, political and military background of China.

Following a brief comfort break.....

The **comment session** brought comments from 9 members.
followed by a brief **rebuttal session**.

The meeting **adjourned** at 9:10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society —November 5, 1998—

The third meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1998-99 year convened on Thursday, November 5, 1998, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds.

The meeting began with a prayer.

Following a tasty dinner, Vice-President Jim Love called the meeting to order.

Roll call indicated that 24 of 38 members were present for a 63% attendance.

Danny Guffey also brought us one guest, Mr. Joe Fucci.

The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved.

The membership welcomed new member John Rittenhouse.

Mr. Rittenhouse brings our membership to 38 with 2 memberships available.

Papers were presented by Marvin Denison and Paul D. Guffey.

Mr. Denison's paper, titled "Political Smoke or Is This Any Way to Treat a Perfectly Good Tobacco Leaf?" related the history of tobacco...its discovery, various forms and uses by people over the years. Mr. Denison's paper ended in ashes with references to President Clinton and Groucho Marx.

Mr. Guffey's paper was titled, "Garryowen—Join the Chorus". Mr. Guffey presented a history of the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry, from its organization at Fort Riley, Kansas, in 1866, thru engagements in the Indian Wars, World War II, The Korean War and Vietnam. Mr. Guffey told us of the Regiment song, an Irish limerick titled, "Garryowen" which has been sung down thru the years. And, he displayed a cap that he wore while serving in Vietnam as part of the 7th Cavalry.

It is appropriate to say the membership enjoyed two very good, informative and entertaining papers.

Following a brief comfort break,

The **comment session** brought comments from several members followed by a brief **rebuttal session**.

The meeting **adjourned** at 8:47.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society —December 3, 1998—

The fourth meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1998-99 year convened on Thursday, December 3, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds.

The meeting began with a prayer by David Riley.

Following a tasty dinner, President Peter C. MacDonald called the meeting to order.

Roll call indicated that 22 of 38 members were present for a 57% attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The membership committee had no report but hinted that they might have one in the new year.

President MacDonald appointed a three member meeting site committee. That enterprising trio is composed of Bill Engler, Danny Guffey and George Byers.

Papers were presented by George Boone and John Freer.

Mr. Boone's paper, titled "Eye Witness to History" related his experiences as a naval officer during World War II. He recounted the experiences aboard various landing craft during the invasions of Sicily, Italy and other points. He spoke of the dangers to the troops embarking on the invasion, the dangers to the crews of the landing craft, the shortage of palatable food, the alternating periods of great danger and great boredom. All in all, a very interesting localized eye witness to history.

Dr. Freer's paper was titled, "A Dickens of a Carol". Dr. Freer, dressed in the garb of Victorian England, presented an account of the life of author Charles Dickens. He described Dicken's early life of poverty, his talent for writing and the fact that he wrote his most popular work, "A Christmas Carol" at the young age of 30. Dickens associated closely with all the characters of his famed book, written at a time when Victorian England was beginning to change from an agrarian economy to an industrial economy. Dr. Freer served the members his concoction of the traditional Wassail beverage and led the group in a toast and song to end his presentation.

It is appropriate and accurate to say the membership enjoyed two very good, informative and entertaining papers.

Following a brief comfort break,

The **comment session** brought comments from several members followed by a brief **rebuttal session**, followed by adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer