

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society

—January 7, 1999—

The fifth meeting of the Athenaeum Society's 1998-99 year convened on Thursday, January 7, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds.

The meeting began at 6:42 with a prayer by Marvin Denison. Following a tasty dinner, President Peter C. MacDonald called the meeting to order. Roll call indicated that 25 of 38 members were present for a 65% attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Two persons were nominated for membership and will be voted on at this, the February 4, meeting.

Papers were presented by George Draper and Jim Adams.

Mr. Draper's paper was titled "An Abridged Account of the History, Structure and Safety of Bridges". Mr. Draper presented a statement from Joseph Gies, author of a book about bridges: "The oldest engineering work devised by man, it is the only one universally employed by him in his pre-civilized state." Mr. Draper recounted the development of bridges down through the centuries; the different types of bridges, their strengths and weaknesses. He described the artistic precision of the Roman builders through the development of bridge construction of today. It may be surprising to learn that several bridges built centuries ago remain standing and are in use today.

Mr. Adams's paper was titled, "The Lighthouses of North Carolina". Mr. Adams began his enlightening navigational light trip with the first light tower in Egypt in 300 B.C. He quickly brought us up to the first navigational lights in the United States, in Boston in 1716. He related the importance of lighthouses in maritime navigation. He told us of the importance of the Fresnel reflector lighting system developed by French engineer Augustine Fresnel in 1819. He recounted his experiences on a vacation trip to the North Carolina coast and the various lighthouses of that coastline. He described the size and construction of several lighthouses and their importance for early maritime navigation on America's coastline.

It is appropriate to say that members were treated to two enlightening papers that bridged the gap of centuries to present day.

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

As the meeting began the weather brought freezing rain and members had to scrape their windshields prior to driving home.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the Athenaeum Society

—February 4, 1999—

The Athenaeum Society's sixth meeting of the year convened on Thursday, February 4, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds.

The meeting began at 6:35 with a prayer by Frank Nash. Following a tasty dinner of beef stew and cornbread, President Peter C. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:10. Roll call indicated that 25 of 38 members were present for a 65% attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Two persons were nominated and voted into membership. The Secretary was directed to write letters of invitation to them and did so the next day.

Papers were presented by William Rowlett and Charles Tilley.

Dr. Rowlett's paper was titled "Can You Teach An Old Dog New Tricks". Dr. Rowlett asked a lot of "Whys"....why this, why that. The sort of questions that may come from children and adults alike. Then, he told of the many ways that senior citizens may continue their education and learning experiences. He discussed the study of geography, amateur/ham radio, travel and learning through elder hostels, Donovan scholarships to Kentucky universities for those over the age of 65, instruction and communication via computers and the internet. His answer to the question, "Can You Teach An Old Dog New Tricks?....is, yes, of course. Thank you William Rowlett for reminding us that we all have something to look forward to.

Mr. Tilley's paper was titled, "Laughter, The Gift of the Gods". Mr. Tilley spoke of the importance of humor and laughter in one's life and especially how beneficial humor and laughter are in maintaining good health and even in recovering from an illness. Mr. Tilley then began his unauthorized practice of medicine by recounting a number of humorous anecdotes that drew laughter from his captive patients. While a few of Mr. Tilley's puns were lengthy and rather obtuse, it is fair to say that he drew laughter, not blood, successfully and the patients lived.

It is appropriate to say that members were treated to two enlightening and entertaining papers.

Following a brief comfort break,
The **comment session** brought remarks from several members followed by a brief **rebuttal session**, followed by adjournment at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

March 4, 1999 Meeting of the Athenaeum Society

The Athenaeum Society's seventh meeting of the year convened on Thursday, March 4, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds.

The meeting began at 6:30 with a prayer by William Rowlett. Following a tasty dinner President Peter C. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:03. Roll call indicated that 29 of 40 members were present for a 72% attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

- Two new members, William Cramer and Hollis White, were in attendance for the first time. This brings our membership to forty.
- The Nominating Committee reported their nominations for next year. They are: for President, Jim Love; for Vice-President, Marvin Denison and for Secretary-Treasurer, Hal King. The official vote is to take place at the April 1 meeting.
- President Peter MacDonald reported that the Open Meeting Committee has selected the Country Club for the site of the May Open Meeting.
- The Meeting Site Committee presented information about Ella's Restaurant as a possible new meeting site. Several members had comments and questions concerning the establishment. Most were concerned about adequate space and facilities and meal cost. The Committee was asked to investigate further and report.

Papers were presented by Frank Nash and Nick Terhune.

Dr. Nash's paper was titled "Signs of the Road and Some Related Histories".

Dr. Nash informed and entertained with a collection of stories about roadside sign advertising, how it evolved, and listed several examples including the famed Burma-Shave signs, the Rock City signs, motel and restaurant signs and many more.

So, Let us rehash...for a good time trip—get a grip—and make a dash—with good ol' Nash.

Dr. Terhune's paper was titled, "The Story of Joseph Gant Gaither, M.D."

Dr. Terhune presented a very interesting and informative paper on the life, experiences and times of former Hopkinsville physician/surgeon Dr. Joseph Gant Gaither. He told of the great influence Dr. Gaither held over the medical community for several years, of his skill as a surgeon, his sometimes unorthodox but effective methods, his many interests and contributions to the arts and to his church. Truly a man of great influence in Hopkinsville history.

It is appropriate to say that members were treated to two enlightening and entertaining papers.

Following a brief comfort break,

The **comment session**, began at 8:49 with remarks from several members.

The **rebuttal session**, began at 9:13

followed by adjournment at 9:18

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the April 1, 1999 Meeting of the Athenaeum Society

The Athenaeum Society's eighth meeting of the year convened on Thursday, April 1, at the Western Kentucky State Fairgrounds.

The meeting began at 6:39 with a prayer by William Rowlett. Following dinner President Peter C. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 7:05. Roll call indicated that 23 of 40 members were present for a 57% attendance.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

- The Society voted on a slate of officers for the coming year and elected: Jim Love, President; Marvin Denison, Vice President; and Hal King, Secretary-Treasurer.
- The resignation of long time member Mike Herndon was received and accepted with regret.
- The Meeting Site Committee presented more incomplete information about Ella's Restaurant as a possible new meeting site. Several members had comments and questions concerning the establishment. Most were concerned about adequate space and facilities and meal cost. Although no assurance on the space or definite price for the meals was established, the membership voted 13 to 9 to hold the September meeting at Ella's.

Papers were presented by D.D. Cayce and Logan Askew.

Mr. Cayce's paper was titled "The Second Promised Land". He discussed the contributions of of the Jewish faith to the world. He localized the narrative with a history of the Jewish families and businessmen and their contributions to Hopkinsville. He noted the decline of Jews in Hopkinsville from 140 in 1947 to only 5 today. An interesting and informative paper that rekindled memories of many families and businesses of the past.

Mr. Askew's paper was titled, "Professional Wrestling."

Mr. Askew entertained the society with his fond memories of professional wrestlers and their work and lifestyle. Without displaying any legal guile whatsoever, his presentation prompted several members to reveal their hidden TV preference. Many were quite familiar with the flashy names and performances of the great wrestling showmen of the past....and today.

It is appropriate to say that members were treated to two enlightening and entertaining papers.

Following a brief comfort break,

The **comment session**, began at 8:46 with remarks from several members.

The **rebuttal session**, began at 9:33

followed by adjournment at 9:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the May 6, 1999 Meeting of the Athenaeum Society

The Athenaeum Society's ninth meeting of the year, the annual Open Meeting with guests, convened on Thursday, May 6, at the Hopkinsville Golf and Country Club.

The meeting began at approximately 6:45.

Following dinner President Peter C. MacDonald called the meeting to order. Roll call indicated that 25 of 39 members were present for a 64% attendance. In addition there were 46 guests.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not read as the normal business procedures were dispensed with because of the open meeting.

Papers were presented by William T. Turner and Robert Sivley

Mr. Turner's paper was titled "The Homeland Heritage of a Poet Laureate". He discussed the contributions of poet/author William Penn Warren and somehow managed to tie it in with several local events.

Dr. Sivley's paper was titled, "The Death of Psychoanalysis or The True Story of Cinderella." With tongue in cheek and wit in high gear, Dr. Sivley presented an entertaining and thought provoking paper that should be re-printed in a professional journal of some sort.

It is appropriate to say that members were treated to two enlightening and entertaining papers.

Following a brief comfort break,

The **comment session**, began at ????? with remarks from several members.

The **rebuttal session**, began at ??????
followed by adjournment at ??????

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the September 2, 1999 Meeting of the Athenaeum Society

The Athenaeum Society's first meeting of the new year, convened on Thursday, September 2, at Ella's Eatery, the first time the Society had met at this location. The meeting began at approximately 6:45 with a prayer by William Turner.

Following dinner President Jim Love called the meeting to order.

Roll call indicated that 23 of 39 members were present for a 58% attendance.

The room was small, crowded and quite warm. The meal was good. The Secretary notes the increase in cost per meal from previous years from \$7.50 to \$11.00 and that present dues will not cover the increase in meals. (\$88 while present dues are only \$62).

The Society voted to elevate long time member Duard Thurman to Honorary Member.

The minutes of the April and May meetings were read and approved.

Papers were presented by Wynn Radford and John Rittenberry.

Mr. Radford's (7:36 to 8:06) paper was titled "Slavery: Christian County's Distinctive Legacy." He discussed the unique roll of Christian County among the counties of Kentucky concerning slavery before, during and after the Civil War.

Mr. Rittenberry's (8:07 to 8:37) paper, his first since becoming a member, was titled, "From Communism to Conservatism." He recounted the times of socialist/communist activists such as David Horowitz, Huey Newton and others. And, the gradual change of Horowitz to a conservative view.

It is appropriate to say that members were treated to two well researched, enlightening, informative papers.

Following a brief comfort break at 8:37

The **comment session** began at 8:47 with remarks from several members.

The **rebuttal session** began at 9:09

followed by adjournment at 9:20.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the October 7, 1999 Meeting of the Athenaeum Society

The Athenaeum Society's second meeting of the year, convened on Thursday, October 7, at the Holiday Inn, the first meeting at this location. The meeting began at approximately 6:35 with a prayer by Dr. Brooks Major.

Following dinner President Jim Love called the meeting to order at 7:07.

Roll call indicated that 23 of 37 members were present for a 62% attendance.

The new meeting facilities were pleasant and spacious with good service and food.

The Society received the resignation of Mark Lovely, who has moved to Bowling Green. This leaves the membership at 37, allowing for three new members.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

Papers were presented by Tom Westerfield and David Cavanah.

Mr. Westerfield's paper (7:17 to 7:37) was titled "Father Knows Best." A study concerning a breakdown in trust from boyhood idols to the machinations of international politicians, diplomats and other connivers, through the years, toward a diminution of U.S. strength towards a goal of internationalism. *DEFINITELY NOT A LIGHT PAPER.*

Mr. Cavanah's paper (7:38 to 8:04) was titled "Response", a supposed response to Athenaeum member Robert Sively's less than enthusiastic remarks about "baby boomers." Mr. Cavanah entertained the society with memories, mostly imaginary we think, about his boyhood athletic exploits and other characters of the "baby boomers" generation.

It is appropriate to say that members were treated to two well researched, enlightening, informative papers. Well, one anyway.

Following a brief comfort break—

The **comment session** began at 8:14 with remarks from several members.

The **rebuttal session** began at 8:30

followed by adjournment at 9:36

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the November 4, 1999 Meeting of the Athenaeum Society

The Athenaeum Society's third meeting of the year, convened on Thursday, November 4, at the Holiday Inn.. The meeting began at 6:33 with a prayer by Marvin Denison. Following dinner President Jim Love called the meeting to order at 7:00. Roll call indicated that 23 of 37 members were present for a 62% attendance.

The Minutes of the October meeting were read and approved.

Logan Askew of the membership committee proposed three people for membership. They will be voted on at the December meeting.

Papers were presented by David Riley and Edwin White.

Mr. Riley's paper (7:08 to 7:23) was titled "Clouds in My Crystal Ball." A study of the happenings at the turn of the century...1899 turning into the year 1900. It was an interesting look at the events of Hopkinsville-Christian County as reported in the area newspapers.

Mr. White's paper (7:24 to 7:58) was titled "Offended Sensibilities: A Look At Obscenity, Censorship and Free Press." Mr. White offered a study of society's changing views and attitudes concerning matters of sex, free speech and censorship.

It is appropriate to say that members were treated to two well researched, enlightening, informative papers.

Following a brief comfort break—

The **comment session** began at 8:08 with remarks from several members.

The **rebuttal session** began at 8:17 followed by adjournment at 8:36

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer

Minutes of the December 2, 1999 Meeting of the Athenaeum Society

The Athenaeum Society's fourth meeting of the year, convened on Thursday, December 2, at the Holiday Inn. The meeting began at 6:30 with a prayer by Hal King. Following dinner President Jim Love called the meeting to order at 7:03. Roll call indicated that 28 of 37 members were present for a 75% attendance.

The Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

The Society voted on admission for three prospective members. All were accepted. The Secretary was directed to write letters of invitation and has done so.

Papers were presented by Wendell Rorie and Hal King.

Mr. Rories' s paper (7:22 to 7:39) was titled "The Rabbit Box." A look back at boyhood memories of trapping rabbits in a specially designed wooden box, how that rabbit box became a Christmas gift to a new family in the neighborhood, and other childhood memories of growing up in Christian County.

Mr. King's paper (7:40 to 7:50) was an original work.....originally written by someone else in the year 1902. It was a brief history of the Athenaeum Society and he was thoughtful enough to read the Athenaeum Constitution and By-laws at this final meeting of 1999. He thoroughly enjoyed doing it.

While some may say that members were treated to two well researched, enlightening, informative papers....it is possible that others may not share that opinion. Certainly no one came away feeling castigated as one member did at one time.

Following a brief comfort break—

The **comment session** began at 8:00 with remarks from ten members in a humorous exchange of observations and remarks.

The **rebuttal session** began at 8:19 followed by adjournment at 8:24

Respectfully Submitted,

Hal King,
Secretary-Treasurer