

Museum Musings

By Brenda Plummer

Our special display this month features organizations (past and present) of Fleming County. Whether it is a group of Homemakers, the Odd Fellows, the Women’s Club, etc. we hope to have pictures, items, clippings, etc. for display. Just thinking about the items we have, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the Fleming County Community Theater are organizations which are represented. If you have any of the above and are willing to loan them to us, please bring them in and we’ll add them to the display. The Fleming County Covered Bridge Museum is open on Wednesdays from 10-4 and on Saturdays from 12-4. We are happy to arrange other days and times for groups. Please call the Chamber of Commerce at 845-1223 for more information.

The Fleming County Museum Society will meet on Tuesday, August 12th at 6:00 at the museum on East Water. We will be working on plans for the Quilt show, Dinner with the Departed, etc. Interested persons are always welcome to attend.

On a personal note, I would like to extend sympathies to the family of Don Hardin. As many of you know, he passed away last week at the age of 88. “Hardin” as most of us called him was a fixture at Flemingsburg Elementary for 46 years. I taught with him for 29 years. Several generations grew up with Hardin as their gym teacher. They will remember what it meant to “get on the wall” at breakfast or during lunch if they

were misbehaving. Hardin was a fixture during breakfast in the lunchroom keeping order. But he was also a very caring person, who watched for those who might be hungry and made sure they got extra milk or juice or an extra helping of eggs (probably paying from his own pocket for their food). He could be gruff and most students didn’t try to cross him. Most students looked forward going to gym. I’m sure his teaching techniques evolved over the years. From doing exercises to doing the “Electric Slide” and from having each child do the fitness test at the end of the year to jump rope contests, and Field Day events, Hardin varied what the kids did. For many years he held gym classes in our school’s combination gym/lunchroom, so it must have felt like a dream when we got an actual gym that he could use the whole day. A gym, incidentally which was named for him in 2010.

Hardin was a jokester and faculty and staff were not above getting pranked with fake “vomit” on the floor or rubber spiders in the ice bucket. Back before the library was built at the school and we had a “breezeway” between the buildings, some teachers would park between the buildings (usually the early birds). It was an unwritten law not to get in the first space on the left- hand side. That was Hardin’s space. You would find his jeep parked there almost every day. Hardin seldom missed work. There were times, that I remember

when he could hardly walk (he had problems with his feet) and yet, he showed up!

Outside of school Mr. Hardin was involved with youth in so many different ways. From assistant football coach for FCHS to American Legion baseball, he was a busy man. Before the Gym Dandy’s building was built, Mr. Hardin could be found at Flemingsburg’s gym, teaching young girls and some boys, gymnastics, not only from Fleming County by other counties as well, into the evening hours. I’m sure he got to know every nook and cranny of Highway 32, to and from Morehead by heart. Mr. Hardin retired from teaching in 2012. But that enabled him to devote more time to his gym. Many hundreds of students, football players, baseball players, basketball players and gymnasts are better having known him.

Once again using the Williams scrapbook, I found a more recent article that was taken from the Times Democrat, April 24, 1975 which dealt with Dwight Baldwin. Many know of Baldwin as being the founder of the Baldwin Piano Company in Cincinnati. But Baldwin has a Fleming County connection as well. At one time he taught at a small school near Hillsboro. He also started a salarus factory at Elizaville which failed. He then went to Cincinnati and history was made. As part of the Old Codger’s column, John Kelly Ryan wrote the following:

“We were most happy to receive the following letter from Julian Dorsey, our friend of quite some years, talented pianist and teacher of music. “After Sara’s (Glascock) letter about Dwight Baldwin, I am compelled to add to your notes.

My Great Grandfather Summers, father of my Grandmother Ribelin, Uncle Charlie Summers (here in Flemingsburg) who reared

Florence Grannis, Aunt Lettie Emmarine Price (Mrs. Will Price of Price Funeral Home) and Aunt Ada Fogg of Elizaville –was the old singing school teacher in a wide area. He played violin, and Grandmother Ribelin often told me that he sang a beautiful tenor. She told me of his playing one part on the violin, while singing the other part. He and Dwight Baldwin seemed to have developed some close association. He (Baldwin) married Mr. Summer’s sister, Aunt Emarine, as my mother and Aunt Bessie Williams always spoke of her. Aunt Lettie Price was named for her and incidentally, she also sang beautiful alto. My Grandfather Ribelin and Grandmother were able to purchase a beautiful Baldwin piano with magnificent tone because of the fine acoustical system. Aunt Bessie Williams and my mother, Lucy Dorsey, grew up using this fine instrument.

Grandmother Ribelin gave the piano to me. I used it for years, but Grandmother’s cold parlor did the piano great harm. It would no longer hold in tune. It had a beautiful rosewood case. The piano was traded for a newer one.

My mother always cherished a little china ornament that Grandmother Ribelin was given when the Baldwin home was broken up in Cincinnati. I have the ornament in my home now.

My mother sang beautifully in her early years, and Aunt Bessie played piano exceptionally well. A double cousin, Willie T. Summers (Mrs. Edward Spears), now living in Paris, KY, was a very excellent pianist and taught piano in Paris. She was the daughter of Sam Summers, another son of the old Singing school master, John. I have often wished that I could have inherited the fine tenor voice of Grandpa Summers.”

Another Fleming County connection!

KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPLETE 2025 KENTUCKY GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM

The 2025 Kentucky Governor’s School for the Arts program concluded on July 26, with a class that represented more than half of the Commonwealth’s 120 counties. Growing from 256 students to more than 500 students, the tuition-free program took place during two consecutive three-week sessions (Session 1: June 8 – June 28; Session 2: July 6 – July 26) with students divided into each. Both sessions were hosted at The University of Kentucky.

During the three-week program, student-artists from 72 counties were immersed in a rigorous schedule of daily seminars, creative projects, master classes, and lectures. Instruction was offered in nine disciplines: Creative Writing, Dance, Design, Drama, Film+Photography, Instrumental Music, Musical Theatre, Visual Art and Vocal Music.

Graduates from Fleming County include:

Addison Duff, of Fleming County High School, for Creative Writing

Special activities and performances for GSA 2025 included a Kentucky Shakespeare in Central Park performance and the UK Opera Theatre’s annual It’s a Grand Night for Singing!

Award-winning performing artist and educator, Harry Pickens, as well as artist, teacher, and actress Joy Lanceta Coronel visited students this year. Other events included guests like visual artist LaNia Roberts and musical performer Peter Collins.

Since 1987, more than 8,500 rising high school juniors and seniors have descended on a college campus setting to immerse themselves in an arts intensive environment, with cross-discipline learning, special guest artist performances and lectures, and the opportunity to access critical life-changing college scholarships.

ABOUT THE KENTUCKY GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS:

GSA is a public/private partnership inaugurated in 1987 by The Kentucky Center, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and numerous private supporters. Today, the vital funding required to make GSA a reality is provided by the state through the leadership of the Governor’s Office and the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, as well as The Kentucky Center Endowment Fund, David F. Young and Cheryl Cahill, Toyota Motor Manufacturing and more than 300 corporations, parents, educators, alumni



and friends of GSA.

ABOUT KENTUCKY PERFORMING ARTS

Bringing world class performances to Kentucky, connecting artists with the community, and providing arts education opportunities, Kentucky Performing Arts lives its statewide mission of connecting and inspiring through the arts. Kentucky Performing Arts has a significant impact on the Commonwealth’s tourism and local economy, contributing \$26.3 million in an average year, including \$15.8 million in direct economic impact with our patrons spending an additional \$10.5 million annually. As an integral member of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet, Kentucky Performing Arts, along with the other agencies, seeks to preserve and promote the history, heritage, and arts of the Commonwealth.

Three locations in Louisville make up the family of venues under the Kentucky Performing Arts umbrella:

- The Kentucky Center at 501 W. Main St.
- The Brown Theatre, 315 W. Broadway
- Old Forester’s Paristown Hall, 724 Brent St.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

The University of Kentucky College of Fine Arts offers Kentucky’s broadest collection of visual and performing arts academic programs with four academic units. The college also is home to the Singletary Center for the Arts and the UK Art Museum. The College of Fine Arts declares that the arts are essential to the life of the individual and the community. We express our commitment to the arts through dedication to teaching, scholarly research, artistic experimentation, performance, outreach, and exhibition.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Fleming County Fiscal Court and the Flemingsburg-Fleming County Industrial Authority will retain a qualified engineering firm to provide planning, design, and other required services related to infrastructure development for the Industrial Park Improvement Project. Sources of funding may include but are not limited to Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Housing & Urban Development (HUD), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), USDA Rural Development, and other such state and federal funding opportunities. Fleming County Fiscal Court and the Flemingsburg-Fleming County Industrial Authority will accept Statements of Qualifications from engineering firms interested in working on this project until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, August 22, 2025. An RFQ packet containing information about the project and criteria that will be used to select the engineering firm may be obtained at www.btadd.com or by contacting Kristie Dodge, Community Development Director, Buffalo Trace ADD, via email at kdodge@btadd.com. Statement of Qualifications must be submitted to Buffalo Trace ADD, Attn: Statement of Qualifications Industrial Park Improvements Project. Mailed submission should be sent to P.O. Box 460, Maysville, KY 41056; hand delivered may be dropped off at 201 Government Street, Suite 300, Maysville, KY 41056. Proposals will be ranked on the basis of written materials as set forth in the RFQ packet. Fleming County Fiscal Court and the Flemingsburg-Fleming County Industrial Authority reserves the right to interview top candidates, and to reject any and all submittals.

The solicitation for Statements of Qualifications is being conducted to fulfill state/federal funding agency procurement requirements. Attention of respondents to this RFQ is called to the following requirements: 1) Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968; 2) Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; 3) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 4) Certification of Non-segregated Facilities. All of these may be incorporated into any contract issued pursuant to this solicitation. Fleming County Fiscal Court and the Flemingsburg-Fleming County Industrial Authority are Equal Opportunity Employers and encourage responses from qualified firms.

John Sims Jr, County Judge Executive

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