



# West Virginia State Museum *Heritage*

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## Commissioner's Corner



It is, I believe, safe to say that the more we embrace and build upon today's technologies, the more likely we are to have a presence with the audiences that we want to reach.

The State Museum education staff is doing just that with its West Virginia: A Digital Primer. This interactive online resource allows teachers, students and parents to access content from

the State Museum to study West Virginia history. Working with West Virginia Public Broadcasting and the West Virginia Library Commission, Chris Reed and Rachel Moses have done an amazing job of providing a service that spans Kindergarten to 12th grade.

The Digital Primer includes age appropriate videos, lesson plans and vocabulary resources and links to other resources to help expand learning opportunities. If the students who are using the program in the classrooms have half as much fun as the students who use it when they visit the State Museum, our team has succeeded.

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**Photos by Stephen Brightwell &  
Rachel Moses**



## Stories from the Collection

By Charles Morris

I just recently had the honor of receiving the James R. Short Award presented by the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC). This award, first presented in 1981, goes to the individual who has exemplified a lifetime of achievement and professionalism in the museum field. When thinking about the conference, I suddenly realized that many visitors and supporters of the museum do not know how the practices and policies followed by museum professionals are developed.

West Virginia is a charter member of the SEMC dating back to its formation in 1951 and consists of the West Virginia State Museum and other museums across the state. Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are all members of the SEMC.

The network of professionals from SEMC member states work together to develop policies and procedures to protect artifacts and heirlooms placed in the care of museums. Professional guidelines include collections processing, lighting levels, environmental controls, storage, ethics and disaster plans. Depending on the need, conference members occasionally have to be hands on in assisting other museums. Strict guidelines and policies are developed, sometimes over years, to make sure artifacts are maintained in the condition received, utilized for proper museum purposes, used as an educational tool and carefully documented provenance that can be passed from generation to generation.

SEMC, and the other regional conferences

support the American Alliance of Museums, the largest cultural conference in the world. The State Museum also is a member of the national conference and works with both groups to maintain professional standards, constant study of processes and guidance for all members of the museum field.

One of the most important things to think about when dealing with a historic, irreplaceable artifact is that in some cases one mistake can cause irreparable damage. Of course, that is something that no one in the museum field wants to see occur. We are thankful that we have a network of professionals constantly researching museum needs and scientific principles that test applied methods to find the best solutions. The museum field is a constant changing environment that requires museum professionals to stay connected.

I would like to thank Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith and my colleagues around the state for nominating me for this honor. I also am very grateful for the tremendous support from the members of SEMC. As a former board member of SEMC, I have a great understanding of the dedication of museum professionals in all positions throughout the region. They care greatly about their museums, the collections and the education mission of each institution.



*Charles Morris receives the SEMC  
James R. Short Award.*

# 20th West Virginia Juried Exhibition

By Cailin Howe



*Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith at the opening*

For nearly four decades, artists and craftspeople across West Virginia have participated in the West Virginia Juried Exhibition, showcasing the exceptional artistic creativity our great state has to offer. On November 12, 2017, the 20th West Virginia Juried Exhibition opened in Morgantown at the Art Museum of West Virginia University with an awards ceremony and reception to honor and celebrate artists selected for the show. This year, 84 pieces of two- and three-dimensional artwork out of 291 total entries were accepted for the exhibit. Submissions for the Juried Exhibition are incredibly diverse and include printmaking, sculpture, digital artwork, photography, mixed media, painting, crafts and drawing, providing the public with a comprehensive view of art and craft activities in the state.

Throughout the years, the West Virginia Division of Culture and History has been able to present purchase awards to artists and, through these purchase awards, add many different contemporary pieces of art to the State Museum collection. For the 2017 West Virginia Juried Exhibition, \$33,000 in awards will be presented to artists for their outstanding work.

Top awards for the exhibit include three \$5,000 Governor's Award recipients with one award designated as the D. Gene Jordon Memorial Award. The 2017 Governor's Award winners are Bruce Fransen (Jefferson County), Chris Krupinski (Putnam County), and Kylene Babski (Monroe County), who received the D. Gene Jordon Memorial Award. The seven \$2,000 Awards of Excellence recipients are Susan Feller (Hampshire County), F. Brian Ferguson (Fayette County), Seth Hill (Harrison County), Joseph Lupo (Monongalia County), Robin McClintock (Tucker County), Thomas Wharton (Ohio County), and Gabe DeWitt (Monongalia County). Finally, eight \$500 Merit Awards were awarded to Douglas Chadwick (Pocahontas County), Betsy A. Cox (Marshall County), Pat Cross (Putnam County), Cheryl Ryan Harshman (Ohio County), Awyn Danielle McQueen-Milam (Kanawha County), Marjory Moses (Randolph County), Norm Sartorius (Wood County), and Maggie Starcher (Kanawha County). The Governor's Award and Award of Excellence are purchase awards and recipients will have their artwork purchased for the collection, continuing to offer the opportunity to expand the museum's collection of contemporary artwork.

Although the artwork received for the show remains diverse in medium and style, the inspiration artists take from the natural beauty and history of our state is a common thread. This creativity, displayed in the exhibition throughout the years, has garnered high praise from both jurors and governors. It is a favorite exhibit of many, and is highly anticipated throughout the year.

The 20th West Virginia Juried Exhibition will be on display at the Art Museum of West Virginia University from November 12, 2017 to February 11, 2018. Please visit this magnificent facility and view the unique artwork found throughout the Mountain State.

# Recent events at the Museum Sites



*Above: Mr. Lowery portrays a Civil War Mortician at Museum in the Park.*



*Above: The Civil War Ladies Tea and Coffee with a Cop. Museum in the Park.*

*Below: Exhibit Opening for "West Virginia...The Mountain State." West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling.*



*Above: Students pose for a picture inside the dug-out canoe display at Grave Creek Mound Archaeological Complex in Moundsville.*



*Right: Participants at the 2017 Appalachian String Band Music Festival at Camp Washington - Carver in Fayette County.*



## The Centennial of World War I - The Great War of Civilization

by James R. Mitchell, Curator

Like most artifacts and family heirlooms in a museum collection, World War I veterans typically did not donate their own uniforms, because they treasured those pieces and saved them. The same goes for the state museum's collection. These items have all been donated by wives, children and grandchildren of the service members, who wished to preserve their loved one's history after they passed away.



*WWI artifacts on display*

The state museum has uniforms and/or personal equipment from 23 men and women who can be personally identified. The amount of pieces the museum owns for each of the service men and women varies greatly. In some cases, we own the sailors' and soldiers' uniforms and personal equipment. In other cases, we have complete uniforms with no equipment provided and vice versa – equipment used by the soldiers, but without any uniforms. Some families only donated their loved ones' uniform blouses.

The collection also includes items worn and owned by two former governors. These items include a pair of leather leggings from Governor Herman G. Kump's uniform and Governor Ephraim Morgan's Sam Brown belt, a pair of boots and his blanket. Enlisted soldiers' uniform blouses are important, because we can learn their rank, how long they served overseas, if they were wounded and if they received an honorable discharge, which most soldiers did.

Miscellaneous pieces of equipment and parts of uniforms have been donated over the years. One very interesting collection includes German spike-topped helmets worn from the late 19th century until 1916, when the German high command decided that the spike helmet provided no protection for anyone's head. They transitioned to steel helmets for the remainder of World War I and beyond. Allied Forces used steel helmets from the beginning of the war.

Firearms are a large part of the collection, including machine guns, rifles and hand guns made in the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain, Russia, Japan, Austria and Germany. One of the museum's rifles, a Spanish Mauser, was taken from an enemy combatant by a Naval officer at the Battle of Vera Cruz in Mexico in 1914.

## 2017 Congressional Art Competition

By Cailin Howe



*Viewing the artwork of fellow students*

This past February, the annual Congressional Art Competition opened at the Culture Center on the State Capitol Complex. This was the largest display of the competition to date with 127 pieces of original student artwork displayed in the Balcony Gallery, from students in grades 9-12. Over 100 students from 16 West Virginia counties submitted artwork for judging this year. The exhibition is sponsored by the West Virginia Office of Secretary of Education and the Arts and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. Cabinet Secretary Gayle Manchin formally opened the exhibit and welcomed congressional representatives, students, and teachers, on Friday February 17, with an awards program honoring all participants in the exhibit, including the eight award winners.

Students were invited to attend a free drawing workshop before the ceremony led by local artist Sharon Mullins of Pinch. Mullins also was the judge for the competition and selected the winners. More than 85 students attended the three-hour drawing workshop from as far away as Wetzel and Harrison counties.

First place awards were given to District 1 winner Kaitlyn Starks, Robert C. Byrd High School, Harrison County; District 2 winner Leigh-Anna Johnson, Capital High School, Kanawha County; and District 3 winners Jazmine Aliff, Sherman High School, Boone County, and Shyanna Ashcraft, Wayne High School, Wayne County. First

place winners received a \$100 gift certificate from Dick Blick Art Materials, and their work is currently representing West Virginia in the annual Congressional Art Competition at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Their artwork will be exhibited in the U.S. Capitol for one year before it is returned to the student.

Four second place winners include Seneca Whyte, Bridgeport High School, Harrison County, representing District 1; Sydney Moore, St. Albans High School, Kanawha County, and Logan Gunter, Nitro High School, Kanawha County, both representing District 2; and Tyler Courts, Huntington High School, Cabell County, representing District 3. Second place winners received a \$50 gift certificate from Dick Blick Art Materials.

Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide high school visual-art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Since the competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated. The competition is sponsored by members of the United States Congress and culminates in a year-long exhibition at the United States Capitol building.



*Students who participated in the Art Competition*

# Museum Pest Management 101

By Mary McFarland



*Material damage from moths*

Pests come in various forms that can include insects, bugs, rodents and even microscopic organisms such as mold. Any of these pests in a museum environment can be quite disastrous to thousands of irreplaceable artifacts. A moth infestation or a few hungry mice could destroy many objects before the damage is even noticed. The preferred method of handling an infestation is not to have one. Preventative measures are addressed in what is called an Integrated Pest Management policy. An IPM is a set of guidelines and procedures designed to address pest prevention and what to do if you find evidence of harmful pests in your collections.

All new acquisitions to a museum are placed in an isolative environment not attached to the museum or the collections area. Within this environment, each object can be inspected for evidence of pest activity. The procedures used to rid an object of pests are determined based on: the material and fragility of the object, the type of pest suspected of infecting the object, if the infestation is active or if it's residue from pests that are no longer present. In cases where evidence of residue is left from a past infestation but show no signs of current activity, the object is cleaned of the residue and released to the collections.

If current activity is suspected, then steps are taken to remove the cause of the infestation. The first step of ridding an object of infestation is placing the object in an air tight bag. Polyethylene zip tight plastic bags are well suited for this application since they are clear and won't let any organisms escape. If an object is too large for these bags, then a bag is made from plastic and taped shut to make it air tight. Once the object is secured in a bag, it can be frozen, heated, or left in the bag.

The objective of all these methods is to kill the live bugs and any eggs, larvae, etc. The process can take several weeks or months depending on the life cycle of the pest. The proper method used is determined mostly by the material and fragility of the object. Objects that are usually safe to freeze are made of materials that are not fragile or brittle and won't be damaged by expansion and contraction of the freezing process. These types of objects include textiles, nonbrittle paper, books, baskets, stuffed toys, and other items made of fibrous materials. Objects not suitable for freezing include glass, metal, stone, plastic, photographs, paintings, record albums and other non-porous items.

Continued on page 14

## Lee and Traveller's Legacy

By Rachel Moses

On the morning of April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee, dressed in full general's uniform, surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Appomattox, Virginia. Three days later, a formal ceremony marked the disbandment of the Army of Northern Virginia and the parole of its officers and men, ending the war in Virginia. This triggered a series of surrenders across the South, signaling the end of the Civil War.

After the war, Lee hoped to retire to a farm of his own, but found he was too much of a regional celebrity to live in obscurity. In October 1865, he accepted an offer to serve as the president of Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) in Lexington, Virginia. He brought along his trusty companion and horse Traveller, who spent his time grazing the campus. One of Lee's most cherished past times was taking a ride on Traveller and at times the pair would ride 40 miles in a single day. Traveller was such a famous horse that he lost many hairs from his tail to admirers who plucked them for souvenirs. "The boys are plucking out his tail, and he is representing the appearance of a plucked chicken," Lee wrote to his daughter Mildred.



*Traveller's grave marker at Lee Chapel, Lexington VA.*

Lee died at his home in Lexington on October 12, 1870 following a stroke and complications from pneumonia. In his funeral procession, Traveller was led behind the casket, his saddle and bridle draped in black. Not long after, in 1871, Traveller stepped on a nail and developed tetanus (also called lockjaw). With no cure, Traveller was euthanized to end his suffering. Initially buried on the college grounds, his bones were exhumed and put on display. In 1971, Traveller's remains were finally buried in a wooden box, encased in concrete, next to Lee Chapel on the Washington and Lee Campus, a few feet away from where his master was put to rest. The stable where he used to dwell still stands with its doors open to allow Traveller's spirit to wander freely. Today, Traveller remains known to Washington and Lee students, as he is the namesake of the Safe Ride Program, which assists students who do not live near a bus stop or need a ride when the buses are not running. Students are known to say, "call Traveller and you will get home safely."

## Pianos from the Piano Forte Collection

By Jim Mitchell

*Editor's Note: This is the second of a two-part series on the museum's piano forte collection.*

The West Virginia State Museum has about a dozen piano fortes in its collection. They all come with their own personal story. Most of these pianos have traveled from generation to generation, and some were even owned by famous West Virginians.

Although they are known as "square" pianos, most pianos made in the 19th century are rectangular in shape. Circa 1890, the "harp" shape became popular and superseded the square, even though the harp is historically older. The modern harp-shape concert grand piano has the best sound. The first square piano in the collection was donated before 1938 by Miss Mary Shrewsbury of Shrewsbury. It was made between 1821 and 1839 by John Tallman for Klemm and Brother of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who sold it to the Shrewsbury family.

Waitman T. Willey (1811-1900) played a pivotal role as one of West Virginia's first two U. S. Senators in shepherding the Statehood Bill through Congress in 1862 and 1863. He also was a devoted Methodist and a serious Temperance advocate lecturing on that cause locally, but also as far away as Washington, Philadelphia and New York. Perhaps on one of his trips to New York he bought the piano that his great great great granddaughter gave to the state museum in 2010. The narrow Empire-Style square piano was made in New York by Horatio Worcester, who made and sold piano fortes at the corner of 14th Street and Third Avenue from circa 1836 until after 1864.

Between 1840 and 1865, Timothy Gilbert & Sons in Boston, Massachusetts made an Empire-Style square grand piano with symmetrical legs, which was owned by Daniel D. T. Farnsworth (1819-1892). He was the second governor of West Virginia serving for seven days in 1869. At the time, he was president of the senate and succeeded Governor Boreman who had been elected U. S. Senator. In 1821, Farnsworth's grandfather built the first house in Buckhannon. Young Farnsworth learned to be a tailor in Clarksburg, which he was for 13 years, then a merchant in Buckhannon for 13 more before becoming a farmer. He was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1860 and served in the Second Wheeling Convention, helping to organize the Reorganized Government of Virginia. Farnsworth was a Unionist Republican, who was elected to the first West Virginia House of Delegates and later the State Senate.

Between 1850 and 1860, Gaehle's Piano Manufactory in Baltimore made a black Victorian square grand piano with cabriole legs. The original owner, Jonathan McCauley Bennett (1816-1887) of Lewis County, Virginia, kept the piano in his home, which is now the Louis Bennett Public Library in Weston.



*A piano from the collection*

Continued on page 14

# Proper Storage Environments for Museums

By Holli Vanater

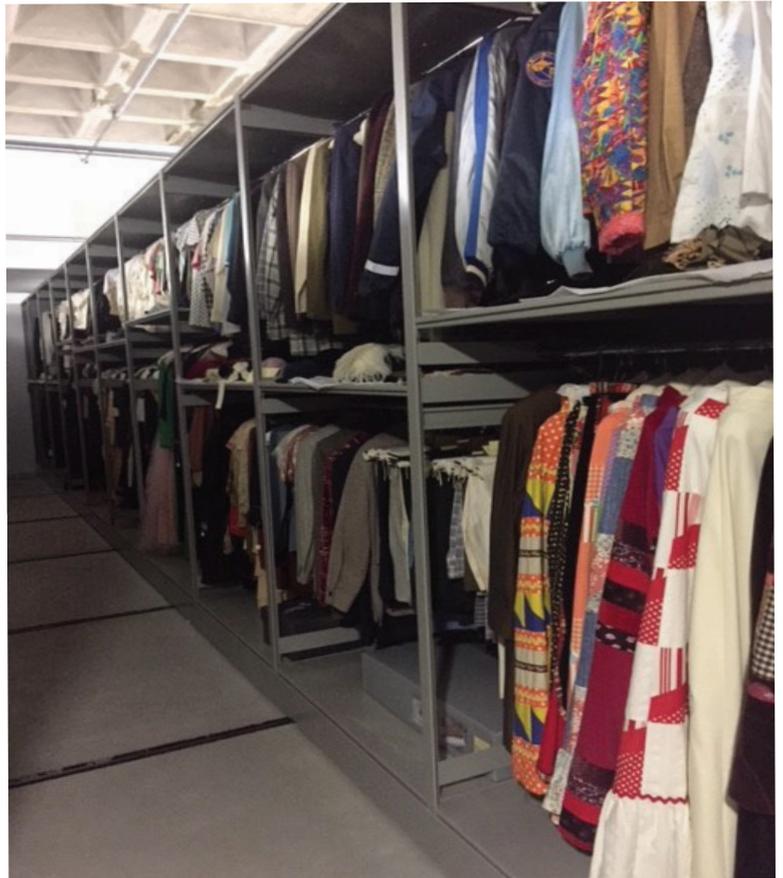
*Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series.*

What is the primary mission of a museum? The mission of most museums is to collect, preserve, exhibit/present, and interpret historical objects. Can you have one without the other? If you ask most museum professionals, the answer is no. If you do not have proper storage for artifacts, your collection is in jeopardy. If proper precautionary steps towards preserving and maintaining the condition of artifacts is not addressed, the long-term effects of both environmental and natural deterioration is inevitable. If artifacts are exhibited and not protected from human touch, ultraviolet light, or improper mounting, the damage could be irreversible. So it is important to understand that suitable storage environments for museums is more than coated steel or anodized aluminum shelving, archival boxes and unbuffered tissue paper.

Suitable storage environments are the successive layers of protective spaces – accession and containment rooms, exhibition staging and arrangement areas, as well as the long-term storage room. They all are significant to the life of artifacts. If a museum has incoming 'loaned' pieces, staff are also responsible for ensuring they too have the same suitable storage while they are in the museum's possession. This multi-layered approach will provide the collection the best possible protection from all threats of deterioration.

During the initial assessment of a donation, it is extremely important that the items be taken to an area far from the main collection and exhibit areas. This will eliminate exposure and contamination of unwanted pests, mold, and other threats. The area should have the necessary supplies to deal with 'live' infestations, like a freezer, air-tight plastic bags, and adequate cleaning supplies.

Many museums are faced with using suitable storage areas for multiple activities such as processing incoming donations and exhibit preparation. It is extremely important for staff to always maintain these areas as protective storage. As the artifacts are moved, so should the documentation associated with them.



*Textiles in Museum storage*

## Museum Education: Afterschool Classroom

By Chris Reed



*Students using Museum Classroom*

With the new school year underway, the museum education staff has been busy with the development of new programs to enhance the student experience. We have a new afterschool program available this year that allows students a chance to learn more about the beautiful state of West Virginia. Using the museum's chronology as a guide, students will learn about the state's past from early prehistoric inhabitants through the 20th century. To sign up for the afterschool program, please call (304) 558-0220 x185. Upcoming topics include state symbols, The Civil War, statehood, industry and the state capitol.

## Family Fun at the State Museum

Bring the whole family to enjoy the museum, see the exhibits and play games!

# Family Game Day

## Saturdays 10:00am – 3:00pm

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH – MARBLES

SECOND SATURDAY – CLASSIC BOARD GAMES

THIRD SATURDAY – CLASSIC VIDEO GAMES

FOURTH SATURDAY – TRIVIA

FIFTH SATURDAY – CARD GAMES

## State Museum Gift Shop: Woodworking

By Steven Holsclaw

Woodworking is an Appalachian tradition that stretches back for generations. The works of many talented woodworkers from across the state are showcased in the State Museum Gift Shop, including Greg Cartwright, Matt and Terri Thomas, and Steve and Ellie Conlon.

Cartwright works out of his home studio in Taylor County, where he creates beautiful turned pieces from reclaimed historic wood, including porch swings, picture frames, furniture and pens. He has obtained wood for his pens from many historic sites, such as the Philippi Covered Bridge, the state capitol, Morris Harvey College (now the University of Charleston), Marshall University and West Virginia University. He has collected 300 pieces of history from 43 of the 55 West Virginia counties. If you would like to learn more about Greg Cartwright, you can visit his web page at [www.cartwrightscreations.com](http://www.cartwrightscreations.com).

Matt and Terri Thomas operate Thomas Work from a family farm in Shock, Gilmer County. They make hand-crafted wooden products customized with laser engraving from woods such as cherry and sycamore. Their creations include journals, bookmarks, business card holders, tea candle holders, center pieces, and West Virginia shaped cutting boards. West Virginia's First Lady Cathy Justice is among their customers. To find out more, visit [www.thomaswork.com](http://www.thomaswork.com).

Mountain Craft Company Old Time Toys make American folk toys. Steve and Ellie Conlon operate in Wetzel County, creating reproductions of early pioneer children's toys. They create their designs from those handed down through generations and use Appalachian hardwoods from Proctor.

### Artifact Spotlight / On the Cover

The largest artifact on display in the State Museum is the Vance family cabin. Located along the showpath, the cabin makes up Discovery Room 4. Inside are artifacts that would have been found in an early Virginia log cabin dating back to the 1700s and mid-1800s.

The cabin was constructed sometime in the 1870s in Monaville, Logan County. It served as a home, a one room school house, and then a home once more. The cabin was donated to the state museum in 2008 by the McCoy family and dismantled by Antique Cabins and Barns from Lewisburg. It was reassembled using most of the original materials. The logs are from poplar trees, some weighing up to 400 pounds.



*Cabin in its original state*



*Cabin being disassembled in Logan County.*

## Commissioner's Corner

Continued from page 1

Students and teachers are engaged in the activities and their interaction with each other are as invaluable to the learning process as their interaction with the computer screens.

We've heard positive comments from teachers around the state. If you have a chance, check it out! You'll be amazed at how new technology is translating history and bringing West Virginia's story to our younger generations!

## Piano Forte

Continued from page 10

Bennett is one of the most significant people in Lewis County history. Born in Lewis County, Bennett married Margaret Elizabeth Jackson, a cousin of Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson. From 1836 to 1865, he was active in the political and social life of Lewis County in the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 1857, he was appointed auditor of Virginia and served the state until 1865, when he returned to Weston. Mrs. Bennett was an accomplished musician who traveled to Cincinnati for the Opera Festival and Baltimore for the opera season. In 1918, the piano descended to their granddaughter Agra Bennett McKinley in Wheeling, after having been owned by her father Louis Bennett, Sr. Her grandson, U.S. Representative David McKinley, donated the piano to the museum.

Circa 1917, Nelson Camden McKinley and Agra Bennett McKinley designed and built a new home in Wheeling named Willow Glen. It was opened with a grand party where Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians supplied the music. They used the McKinleys' new six-foot Chickering baby grand piano. The piano, made in Boston in 1922, was acquired for the house. Fred Waring came back to Willow Glen in the early 1970s and remembered exactly where the piano stood at the Willow Glen opening party. The piano was used for weddings and entertainment.

Although the history of the piano is important, the beautiful sounds produced by them are more so. I urge readers to enjoy the sound piano music and the few old pianos exhibited at the West Virginia State Museum.

## Museum Pest Management 101

Continued from page 8

Objects that can't be placed in the freezer or heated are kept in the bag for several weeks. The length of time is determined on the life cycle of the insect or bug that is causing the infestation. Although many steps are taken to prevent pests from entering the building and the collections, the existing collections must be monitored closely to assure that no pests find their way into the collections or museum. If anything is discovered, then the object is removed and is treated using the same methods used for prevention.

# It's Kid Time

## Sports Edition

### West Virginia Trivia

1. The 1988 West Virginia Mountaineers played what team for the National Football Championship?
2. Who is the head football coach of Texas A&M University, born in Clarksburg, West Virginia?
3. Born in Fairmont, who is the head football coach who has won 5 National Championships with the University of Alabama?
4. Who was this basketball great who was born in Huntington, played for Marshall University and helped lead the Philadelphia 76ers to an NBA Championship in 1967?
5. Who is the MLB pitcher from Fairmont, drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals, Houston Astros, New York Yankees and the Atlanta Braves? He currently signed with the Tampa Bay Rays in 2017.

1. Notre Dame 2. Jimbo Fisher 3. Nick Saban 4. Hal Greer 5. David Carpenter.



What is this artifact?  
Unscramble the letters  
below to find out!

BAFOTOLL

LMHETE

— — — — —

— — — — —

### ...Did you know?

Braxton County native Danny Heater holds the record for most points scored by a single person in a high school basketball game. In 1960, he scored 135 points in a single game leading his school, the Burnsville Bruins, over the Widen Buffalos 173 - 43.

#### State Museum Hours

Tuesday - Saturday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday - Monday

CLOSED

(304) 558-0162

#### The Culture Center Hours

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday CLOSED

(304) 558-0220



The Culture Center  
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1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, WV 25305-0300

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# West Virginia State Museum

