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MEMPHIS HERITAGE

KEYSTONE

July - August 2015 | Vol. 18. Issue 4

MILLION DOLLAR GIFT KICKS OFF MEMPHIS HERITAGE'S NEW CENTURY FUND

Memphis Heritage followers may have heard that MHI announced at its 40th Annual Membership meeting in March about the \$1 million donation by an anonymous donor. This generous gift serves as the official start of the nonprofit's New Century Fund Campaign.

Memphis Heritage plans to preserve the principal amount and use the interest income to make grants that will help to save historic properties and support other relative causes. Although major grants will not occur until the three million dollar goal is met, The Board of Directors recently decided to make an initial grant to help support a very successful program that was first created thru the Bloomberg grant dollars under the Mayor's Innovative Team. The program, MEMfix, highlights the potential of Memphis' historic neighborhoods and commercial districts. The first MEMfix supported by The New Century Fund was held in the historic Pinch District on April 11. Similar MEMFix events have used pop-up businesses, live music, temporary street markings and plantings to dem-

onstrate vibrant street life and adaptive uses of historic buildings in older neighborhoods such as Broad Avenue, Cross-town, and South Memphis.

Given the success of MEMFix in these historic areas, we see this as an organization that deserves the community's full support. This relatively small donation will be effective for Livable Memphis' MEMfix program and won't create any draw from our principal.

Memphis Heritage will also consider making matching grants for requests like roof repair for historic properties. Discussions are now taking place with local foundations about the possibility of getting grants to further boost the endowment program that will not only serve MHI but our community as well. Through the advice of several community leaders, Memphis Heritage has hired consultant Younger & Associates to conduct an economic impact study to show the value of preserving and reusing properties.

Donations can be made to Memphis Heritage's NCF by going to

our website and clicking the donate button for New Century Fund. More updates will be coming soon.

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PRESERVATION IS PRIDE

JUNE'S ATTIC, A.K.A. ARCHITECTURAL AUCTION 2015

It's over. It was a success. It was fun. The latest Memphis Heritage Architectural Auction was held this year at a vacant commercial building on Madison.

The immediate challenges were inadequate lighting, no running water, no restroom facilities, and piles of building materials throughout the space. At that point most potential users would have headed for the hills but not June West, our fearless leader. She shrugged off the obstacles one at a time and by auc-

tion time the place was bright, functional, and equipped with a fancy mobile restroom and lots of free parking. This lady "don't fool around." The event boasted multiple food providers including...continued on p3.

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Have you ever passed a buidling....

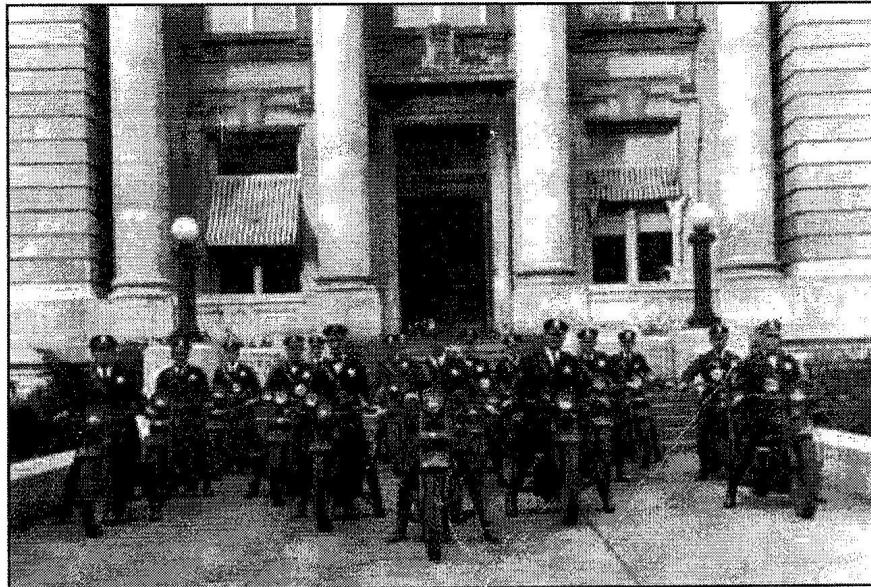
by Bob Clyburn

Greetings friends, have you ever just passed a building over and over again in your daily life and failed to realize how unique it is and how much charm it exudes? Just leaving our cars at home and riding the bus, bicycling or walking will enhance the view of our surroundings. Such a moment of enhancement happened to me recently in front of 198 S. Barksdale. What first caught my eye was the name E.H. Crump as part of acknowledgement of city officials at the time of construction, which was in 1910.

The name of our most infamous political boss and the date of construction was enough motivation for me to research this building further. This building was built to house the mounted patrol unit of the Memphis Police Department. Of course, being mounted in 1910 still meant being mounted on a horse. The Barksdale Mounted Police Station officially began operations on April 4th 1911. Police Commissioner Riechman assigned 17 men to horseback duty in the suburbs. A Sgt. Walter Lee was put in charge. This unit was drilled daily by riding master Patrolman Harry Morrison, a former member of the U.S. Cavalry. Under the skillful training of Drillmaster Morrison, members of the squad of the Barksdale Sta-

tion were whipped into shape and their trick riding, which included Roman riding stunts that were excelled only by the U.S. Cavalry. Also of note, four well trained bloodhounds were kept at the Barksdale Station. These dogs were handled by Neely Carter and 'Red' Templeton. This small unit was part of what has become the Memphis Canine Division. A Police Radio transmitter was installed at Barksdale Station on July 2nd 1931. The call letters assigned to this station were WPEC - meaning, according to Police Commissioner Davis:

'We Protect Every Citizen'



The utilitarian two-story brick structure in the front is joined with a one-story projection to the rear. This part of the building was the stable that housed the horses. There are several arched style windows in the one-story stable that are currently boarded

up. With just a little imagination, you can just see the horses looking out of these windows to view their surroundings. A temporary holding tank for people arrested is also located in this area of the building. The metal bars over the windows are still a visible reminder of that old saying 'Crime Does Not Pay!'

After doing a little reasearch I learned that this mounted patrol unit was created and located here to address criminal activity in what was then part of the eastward reach of our old 'Inside The Parkways' City. This unit changed from horses, to Iron

Horses, or motorcycles, in 1919 as some officers brought their own motorcycles on patrol. The City of Memphis later purchased motorcycles for this unit. What a transition period that must have been - from Oats to Gasoline. In the photos shown, you can see



MEMPHIS HERITAGE
KEYSTONE

The Keystone is a publication of Memphis Heritage, Inc.

Memphis Heritage's mission is to educate and coordinate individuals and groups to save, improve, reuse, and maintain architecturally and historically significant buildings, neighborhoods, parks, and cultural artifacts of Shelby County

Our offices are at 2282 Madison Avenue. You can write to us or call us at 901-272-2727. Or visit our website at www.memphisheritage.org.

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the unit posed in front of the building. On the southeast corner of the property is a rose garden including a small ornamental structure which is still standing undamaged.

The Boy's Club of Memphis was allowed use of the building in 1960. The stable area was converted to a gym and history was made again as boys from the Mid-Town area flocked to this building to compete in sports. The wrestling team was particularly competitive and as such won many awards. Many of these awards were on a national scale. The Memphis Boys and Girls Clubs still use this building, but use is limited to storage and a workshop area. Hopefully, this continued use will keep this piece of history from being considered for demolition. The removal of buildings along the Union corridor area in recent years for commercial exploitation, has shown us that nothing is guaranteed.

Folks, try parking your cars and using a different mode of transporta-



tion. Walking, bicycling, or even a ride on a MATA bus gives you more time to explore your surroundings. Who knows, you might discover a piece of history right in front of you, just as I did. "God I Love This City". Bob supports the efforts of, and is, a regular contributor to The Bridge.

Notes from the author: ¹ These historical facts were quoted from Mid-South memories of the Commercial Appeal found in the Memphis and Shelby County Archives Room at the Main Library on Poplar Ave. ² Photos were also found in the Archives Room and are re-produced from these files. ³ I would like to thank Ms. Sara Fierson, my friend and former employee of the Memphis Library System. Ms. Fierson has recently moved to Rhodes College Library where her talents and great smile make her a great addition to the staff. Best wishes Sara! BC.

JUNE'S ATTIC, A.K.A. ARCHITECTURAL AUCTION 2015

...continued from p1.

ing: Evelyn and Olive, Déjà VU, REC Room, Joy Ride and the Slider Inn. A super bartending team, with head bartender Allen, from Celtic Crossing, and a host of other volunteers performed duties from picking up donut holes from Dunkin' Donuts, to moving heavy objects from private homes (including half a dozen truckloads from June's house), to making sure the vintage (sometimes just "old") wares were clean and appealing.

June depends on a support staff of volunteers in all her projects but this one is especially work intensive. They did not fail her. June's assistant, Nigel, a part-time employee, put in scores of hours of overtime for weeks

before the event. He made the whole thing work in his laid-back way ("no worries, mate. We'll get it done.") with a core team of capable movers (Charlie Lambert and Mark Bieber) who put in days, hours and sweat in to getting everything ready.

And based on the number of items that sold it did get done and very well. There were 2 pictures of Beale Street (a painting and a photograph) that I set my hopes on. Both took off and were bid out of my expectations. Myriad silent auction offerings were whisked away for generous amounts. Other things like two antique (old) waffle irons sat lonely and ignored. Terracotta and concrete remnants of old buildings (Memphis Steam

by Charlie Lambert



Laundry, for instance) sold as did the massive metal lighting posts from the old Overton Square. Seven glass balloons of various colors made of rare Venetian glass by sculpture artist Livio

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di Marchi went unsold. They are probably worth well more than the \$5,000 opening bid that was placed on them. So went the evening as the large crowd partook of great food and potables, listened to strolling musicians The South Side Supper Club, and prowled the aisles for thousands of bits of everything, then adjourned to the 22-item live auction performed by June (with help from Board Member John Griffin).

The Architectural Auction has been an every-other year event. And, indeed, there are some



June West kicks off the Auction!

the cost of producing such an ambitious event.

June asked me to thank each and every one who made this auction what it was. Thanks to our vendors, donors of items, workers, volunteers, sponsors. Again,

Great Music from The South Side Supper Club



spectacular items of architectural value (this year one room was devoted to windows, doors, dental molding, shutters, and other large items). But the essence of this event is the rest of the treasure trove of chandeliers, coffee grinders, chairs, lamps, posters, and a variety of other "indescribables" that fill the space from wall to wall. For that reason, I propose the event be renamed the "June's Attic Happening Auction" and have it at Howard Hall every summer. Even if June eventually leaves MHI, the event should always bear her trademark name. Doing it at HH would reduce the manpower (woman-power) and



"thank you" one and all for all you do and all you give that allows MHI to function so successfully in our community. Special thanks must go to our sponsors, PREMIERE CONTRACTORS, LOONEY RICKS KISS, KATHY MANNING LOEB, HENRY TURLEY COMPANY, LOEB PROPERTIES, CELTIC CROSSING, HICKS Convention Services, CATO and DELTA Wholesale Liquors and DJ Naylor, without their support, we would not be able to pull off an event like this. Mike Todd of Premier Contractors, owner of the venue, went beyond the call of duty to make 320 Monroe into a great space.



Mike Todd @ 320 Monroe



MC - John Griffin



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HEARD IN THE STREETS

WE WERE HAPPY TO HEAR that Shon and Dana Lin, the new owners of the 19th Century Club on Union Avenue, have secured a loan from Bank of Bartlett to restore the historic, 108 year-old building and open a Japanese/French restaurant to be called Izakega. The total cost of the project will be more than \$3 million and it should be open in about a year. Midtown Action Coalition plans on staging a "Thank You!" demonstration outside the building sometime in the near future as a way of showing gratitude to the Lins for choosing renovation over demolition. Another Midtown property saved from the wrecking ball by volunteers and supporters that had a vision and understood the importance of repurposing and saving this landmark.

WE ARE TROUBLED after reading several articles on the loss of historic structures in Nashville. It seems Memphis is not the only city facing this ongoing problem. As Music City booms

with new growth, some vintage properties are being destroyed in the name of progress. It began in 2010 when the Charlotte Avenue Church of Christ, built in 1921, was demolished. The lot is still vacant today. It continued in Hillsboro Village where an entire block of buildings erected between 1910 and 1940 were demolished for a contemporary 47-unit apartment complex. Around the same time the Tennessee Department of Highways building, circa 1952, was taken down for a mixed-use project. Developers in Nashville echo the same mantra as they do everywhere, that restoration is costly, which is true, but many times valuable, iconic pieces of property are lost because the developer wants to erect a multiple-unit structure in order to maximize profits. Looking eastward towards our capital city, perhaps we activists here in Memphis are not doing such a bad job after all!

WE ADMIRE THE EFFORTS of "Get Off Our Lawn" (GOOL) and the volunteers who head out to Overton Park every Saturday at 10:00 AM to use the Greensward as it was designed to be used and to bring attention to the invasive and destructive treatment of the Greensward by Memphis Zoo management. Mayor AC Wharton changed his verbal agreement that parking in the Greensward would end in December 2014 and now says parking can continue for several more years. The City has given the zoo permission to park vehicles on the grassy area that was never meant to be a parking lot. Overton Park is a Memphis Landmark that has been saved by Citizen activist volunteers from being



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COME SEE MEMPHIS HERITAGE AT COOPER YOUNG !!!

Once again Memphis Heritage will host a booth at the 28th Annual Cooper Young Festival to be held Sat. Sept. 19th (rain date Sun Sept 20). Our booth will be on the street to the right of the Beauty Shop Restaurant on Cooper just south of Young Ave. Volunteers will help staff the booth that will be offering lots of cool info on how you can get involved with Memphis Heritage. You can also become a member and receive a free annual calendar. If you are interested in helping us at Cooper Young email us at volunteer@memphisheritage.org or call 901.272.2727.



split in two by the Federal Department of Transportation and protected from other negative impacts. Often times this sort of action is what it takes to bring positive change. Zoo management has been aware for years of the need for additional parking and have done little if anything to help alleviate the problem. To keep up with the group's efforts "like" their Facebook page or just go over to the park this weekend and join in. You may also want to get a "Save The Greensward" yard sign.

WE ARE EXCITED about the Wolf River Conservancy's plan to build 4 more segments of the Wolf River Greenway over the next 16 months and finish the entire 22-mile trail from Germantown to the Mississippi River within 5 years. The Greenway is a paved, 10-foot-wide landscaped trail for pedestrians and cyclists that winds along the Wolf River and ties into the Germantown greenway system. They received a \$5 million challenge grant from Hyde Family Foundations and \$16 million from an anonymous donor.



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A bit of history about the Historic Edge District

The Edge District has been an intersection of industry and culture since the city's earliest days. An examination of the neighborhood's history--from logistics hub to music mecca to art and entertainment district--reveals why the unique area has evolved.

In 1857 the Memphis and Charleston Railroad was completed and for the first time connected the Atlantic Ocean with the Mississippi River. This east-west rail link across the South played a major role in establishing Memphis as the hardwood capital of the world. These rail lines and that river would help deliver hickory to London, walnut to Munich and oak to Tokyo, according to the Lumbermen's Club of Memphis. Many of those rail lines would bleed into what is now known as the Edge District of Memphis and create an involved fabric of warehouses, a network of strangely laid-out streets and eventually a funky district attractive to artists and entrepreneurs.

In keeping with its identity as a transportation district, the Edge evolved alongside technology and commerce and became Memphis' Automobile Row.



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Lined with as many dealerships as there were brands. Huge showrooms took the place of lumber sheds.

A notable point in music history happened as a result of the automobile boom: Johnny Cash found his Tennessee Two at the Chrysler dealership where LIT Restaurant Supply is now. Apparently, Johnny's older brother worked there and knew Luther Perkins and Marshall Grant were budding musicians. They were auto mechanics working at the dealership, so he introduced them.

None of these fun tidbits of celebrity-infused trivia would be traded around had it not been for the next chapter in the area's history. And then there was the birth of Rock and Roll... Sam Phillips rented a building at the corner of Union and Monroe so that he could pursue and record the type of sound that he wanted. It was all about the heart of it. He chose a tiny hole in the wall among car lots to get it done how he wanted.

Formerly the site was a bakery and was divided up into three slots during the Great Depression, which became Memphis Recording Service and Sun Records label business in January of 1950 as well as a restaurant--Miss Dell Taylor's--and a boarding house. The boarding house would put up a lot of musicians who weren't from Memphis.

Phillips' lease was up in 1959, and to keep up with technology he moved to a more efficient studio down the street at 639 Madison, where Phillips Recording is still in operation today. It became apparent to Gary Hardy that rock 'n' roll pilgrims were

not going to dissipate at the Sun location so Hardy reopened the venue as Sun Studio, turning it back into a recording label and a tourist attraction. Sun Studio is now owned by John Schorr and greets more than 125,000 visitors per year as a tourist attraction and active recording studio. The automotive dealerships moved out east and left behind massive amounts of real estate up for grabs for cents on the dollar, which ushered in the most recent chapter of the Edge District. Artists needed big spaces to work and contractors wanted large swaths of warehouse property. Local artists jumped in and set up studios and galleries such as Marshall Arts in the former dealerships and warehouses and installed public art on street corners, in alleyways and on storefronts.



Mike Todd of Premier Contractors Inc. also purchased several properties to store supplies and rent to artists in search of spaces where they could stretch out and hone their craft.

So much confluence of activity in the area led to an informal neighborhood association. Regular meetings and a vested interest in where they lived, worked and played kept residents and business owners poised and ready for the next evolution in this funky, eclectic and edgy pocket of Memphis they called

home. About Premier Contractors: Bringing innovative ideas to life has been the focal point of Premiere Contractors since 1989. The experienced in-house team of construction specialists and architectural designers work to keep Premiere Contractors on the cutting edge of construction and design. Whether it's a residential renovation or a design/build commercial project, understanding clients' objectives and staying within their parameters is how Premiere Contractors continues to build lasting relationships and quality craftsmanship.

Single source accountability, attention to detail, one-on-one service is what you get at Premiere Contractors. From initial design to pre-construction planning to project completion, Premiere

Contractors' knowledgeable, uniformed employees display an unparalleled level of dedication, cooperation, and teamwork throughout every stage of every project. Our hands-on, can-do approach, and extensive field experience are reflected not only in the high-quality of our work but in the satisfaction of our clients.

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DOORS DOORS WHO WANTS A DOOR?!!



MEMPHIS HERITAGE'S 2015 ADAPT A DOOR IS COMING...and you **still have time to sign up** and adopt a door.

Even though we had our Door Dash, the first component of our 2015 Adapt A Door event in April there is still time for creative individuals to adopt a door from us and make it into an object d'art. Door Artists choose a door (or window) that fits either their pre-planned project or whim.

If you want to join in the fun and help raise funds for Memphis Heritage just give us a call on 901-272-2727 or email us at nprice@memphisheritage.org and we will fill you in on everything you need to do to get started.

MHI's Adapt-A-Door is an annual event that brings large crowds to Howard Hall every fall for the silent auction of some amazing works- all made from repurposed doors or windows. In the past, participants have either said that they had a specific project in mind or that they thought the door was cool and hoped for inspiration. Such inspiration has resulted in impressive projects such as wine racks, buffets, a working electric guitar, a soap-box derby car and too many other projects to mention.

Registrants adopt their door from Memphis Heritage's supply of historic doors and turn it into something amazing over the next few months and return it to Howard Hall and donate it for



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our big fundraiser that will be on Saturday, November 7 at Howard Hall. These creative works of art have people in bid-offs and often wishing they had that "one that got away".

Architects, designers, and artist do door projects but those with no design or art background create some of the most impressive works. Adapt-A-Door is an event where people have a blast

and both entrants as well as bidders get to help raise money for Memphis' leading historic preservation organization! To sign up as a Door Artist go to www.memphisheritage.org and follow the links. You can also email nprice@memphisheritage.org or call 901-272-7272. Registration is \$25 per entry which includes your door or window and 2 tickets to the auction on November 7th (a \$100 value). Some scholarships are available!





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Don Newman was a native Memphian. Born in 1919. See more of Don Newmans images of Memphis at: www.newmansmemphis.org

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MEMPHIS HERITAGE - COMING UP 2015

Date	Event	Time	Where
September 19	Cooper Young Festival (rain date 21st)	All day!	Cooper/Young
November 7	Memphis Heritage Adapt-a-Door	Evening	Howard Hall
December	Annual Memphis Heritage Christmas Party	TBA!	Howard Hall

We are Memphis' only non-profit organization that works to preserve historic neighborhoods, buildings and landmarks in all of Memphis and Shelby County - let us all preserve the beauty and history that some people still take for granted. Thank you for supporting our efforts in giving Memphis' past a future, we cannot do it without you, visit us at www.memphisheritage.org and www.newmansmemphis.org