

History at a Glance

Volume 5, Issue 2 Summer 2010

Mooney Museum to host Galen Cisco Exhibit

The Auglaize County Historical Society's Daniel J. Mooney Museum, 223 South Main Street, St. Marys, will host an exhibit about local professional baseball player and coach Galen Cisco during the month of June. The special exhibit will include such items as team pictures, signed baseballs, gloves, uniforms, his World Series and All Star rings, bats and his Baseball Hall of Fame plaque, as well as his '57 football championship ring.

The museum will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 20, and Sunday, June 27, for those who would like to visit Cisco's exhibit, as well as the rest of the museum, which focuses on St. Marys and Auglaize County history. Galen Cisco was born three and a half miles north of St. Marys, the third child of Veryl and Esther Cisco. He attended Noble Township School and Memorial High School, graduating in 1954.

"Tom Vincent was my first coach (at Memorial High School)", said Cisco of his early baseball years.

Cisco said he did not begin playing organized baseball until he was a junior in high school because there was no organized Little League or other sports programs for youth at that time.

He headed to Ohio State University to obtain a degree in

physical education and played there on the football and the baseball teams of 1955, 1956 and 1957, playing football for OSU's Woody Hayes and baseball for Marty Karow.

"We played in the Rose Bowl 1957 against Oregon," explained Cisco. "The score was 10 to 7. We were then National Champions."

After graduation, Cisco was the freshman backfield coach for Coach Hayes during the fall quarters for the next four years. Also in 1958 Cisco started his pro baseball career with the Boston Red Sox. During his 130-year playing career, Cisco played 6 ½ years in the minors and 6 ½ years in the majors for the Red Sox, the Mets, and for Kansas City. "I began coaching in 1970 at Kansas City," he explained. "I was pitching coach for 30 years at the major league level."

Cisco coached for Bob Lemon, Jack McKeon and Whitey Herzog at Kansas City; Dick Williams at Montreal and San Diego; Cito Gaston at Toronto, including two World Series; and Terry Francona at Philadelphia.

When Cisco was a player some of the pitching coaches were Mel Harder, Sal Magley, Warren Spahn and Bob Lemon. Stengal, Williams and Lemon are already in the Baseball Hall of Fame, while Herzog will be inducted this summer.

"I learned a lot from each pitching coach and manager that I worked for," said Cisco. "I learned the finer points of the game."

When he retired in 2000, Cisco spent two years scouting for Toronto before he finally hung up his baseball hat.

"I was lucky in my career," he said. "Until last year, I had the longest time as a pitching coach in the major league." The Cardinals' Dave Duncan broke his record last year. Duncan's career was mostly under one manager. Cisco served under several.

"You take a little bit from every one along the way," he said. "I tried to take each pitcher and try to get the most out of his ability. Never try to copy another pitcher's delivery."

Cisco is taking a trip down memory lane as he prepares the exhibit and invites anyone interested in baseball to come and take a look.

"I have quite a few pictures of teams that I can share," he added. He will display those along with other items of interest from his 45-year career.

The Cisco exhibit has been organized by ACHS president Kelly Kill, who also authored this article.

More about “Ohio’s Early 20th Century Authors”



Who are these authors featured in the upcoming Teachers Institute and Lecture Series? Here are some quick biographies:

Louis Bromfield (1896 -1956) was an American author and conservationist who gained international recognition winning the Pulitzer Prize and pioneering innovative scientific farming concepts.

After serving in World War I Bromfield returned to New York City and found work as a reporter. In 1924, his first novel, *The Green Bay Tree*, won instant acclaim. Two years later, he won the Pulitzer Prize for Early Autumn. All of his 30 books were best-sellers, and many, such as *The Rains Came* and *Mrs. Parkington*, were made into successful motion pictures.

One of Mansfield, Ohio's most famous natives, Bromfield's home was Malabar Farm near Lucas from 1939 until his death. Bromfield was also friends with some of the biggest celebrities of his era, with Malabar Farm providing the location for Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall's wedding.

Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906) was an innovative African American poet whose influence extended far beyond the racial divides of 19th and early 20th century America. Dunbar gained national recognition for his 1896 “Ode to Ethiopia,” featured in the collection *Lyrics of Lowly Life*.

Dunbar was born in Dayton to parents who had escaped from slavery in Kentucky; his father was a veteran of the American Civil War. His parents instilled in him a love of learning and history. He was the only African-American student during the years he attended Dayton's Central High School, and he participated actively as a student. During high school, he was both the editor of the school newspaper and class president, as well as the president of the school literary society. Dunbar had also started the first African-American newspaper in Dayton. Dunbar maintained a lifelong friendship with the Wright Brothers.

James Thurber (1894-1961), one of the outstanding American humorists of the twentieth century, is known for his distinctively funny cartoons and short stories. His concise, witty prose spanned a breadth of genres, including autobiography, fiction, children's fantasy, and modern commentary, and two of his short stories, "The Catbird Seat" and "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," are among the best-known classics of American literature.

Thurber was born in Columbus on December 8, 1894. His father was a clerk who often served politicians, and his mother was an eccentric woman who would be an influence for many of his stories. Thurber attended local public schools, and then the Ohio State University.

Thurber launched his professional writing career as a reporter for the *Columbus Dispatch* in 1920. He began writing for the *New Yorker* in 1927 after friend E.B. White (*Charlotte's Web*) got him a job at the magazine. Thurber started as an editor for the magazine but quickly became a writer. His career as a cartoonist began in 1930, when White dug some of Thurber's drawings out of the trash and submitted them to be published in the *New Yorker*. Thurber wrote nearly forty books, including collections of essays, short stories, fables, and children's stories. He won a Tony Award for his popular Broadway play, *A Thurber Carnival*, in which he often starred as himself.

Jim Tully (1891-1947) is considered the father of the “hard-boiled school of writing.” Born near St. Marys to an Irish immigrant ditch-digger and his wife (Jim and Bridget Lawler Tully), Tully enjoyed a relatively happy but impoverished childhood until the death of his mother in 1892. Unable to care for him, his father sent him to an orphanage in Cincinnati, where he remained for six years. What further education he acquired came in the hobo camps, boxcars, railroad yards, and public libraries scattered across the country. Finally, weary of the road, Tully arrived in Kent, where he worked as a chain maker, professional boxer, and tree surgeon. He also began to write, mostly poetry published in the local newspapers.

Tully moved to Hollywood in 1912, when he began writing in earnest. His literary career took two distinct paths. He became one of the first reporters to cover Hollywood. He wrote about Hollywood celebrities (including Charlie Chaplin, for whom he had worked) in ways that they did not always find agreeable. Less lucrative but closer to his heart were the dark novels Tully wrote about his life on the road and the American underclass. His work garnered both commercial success and critical acclaim from, among others, H.L. Mencken.

**Society Seeks Steering Committee Members
for Upcoming Milestones**

With both the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the sesquicentennial of the Civil War fast approaching, the Programs Committee of the Auglaize County Historical Society hopes to establish groups of volunteers to help the organization design and implement commemorative activities. If you are interesting in volunteering for the War of 1812 or Civil War steering committees, please contact Program Committee chair Chad Doll, 419/738-6180, or Historical Society Administrator Rachel Barber, 419/738-9328.

Historical Society Receives Award

The St. Marys Chamber of Commerce recently awarded the Auglaize County Historical Society its Non-Profit of the Year Award. The Historical Society is humbled by this honor, and sends its appreciation to the Chamber of Commerce.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

*The American Civil War's Role
in Developing Baseball*
Sunday, July 11, 2 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish Life Center, Wapakoneta
Featured speaker: Baseball historian and
Wapakoneta native Steve Presar

*Auglaize County Historical Society
Membership Meeting*
Thursday, August 19, 7 p.m.
Zion Lutheran Church, St. Marys
Featured speaker: Christopher Burton,
executive director,
Armstrong Air & Space Museum

*Don't miss Vintage Baseball at the
Armstrong Air & Space Museum!*

Watch the Ohio Historical Society Muffins play the Lunar Rovers on Sunday, July 18, at 2 p.m., playing by 1860s rules. Cheer on our local celebrities, including Auglaize County commissioner Doug Spencer, St. Joseph Catholic Church pastor Pat Sloneker, Wapakoneta Mayor Rodney Metz, Heritage Manor Activities Director Samantha Menke, Miami-Erie Canal Corridor Association director Neal Brady, Heritage Trails Parks District director Allison Brady, McDonald's Bonnie Berry, and many more.

The museum will host other events for children and adults throughout the afternoon, and the Lima Area Concert Band will perform at 7 p.m. But don't miss the ball game; bring a lawn chair and celebrate the 41st Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing—19th century style!

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that the Auglaize County Historical Society notes the passing of
former trustee Margaret Grover (1917-2010),
whose dedication to the preservation of Auglaize County history
is an inspiration to all of us.

Auglaize County Historical Society

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VISIT US AT THE FAIR AND SEE *AUGLAIZE COUNTY ON THE MOVE* in the Gary Log House!

Don't Miss the Evening Lecture Series: June 22-24

The Auglaize County Historical Society will host an evening lecture series for the public in conjunction with "Ohio's Early 20th Century Authors."

The free, three-day series will include some of America's foremost authorities on such important Ohio authors as Louis Bromfield, Paul Laurence Dunbar, James Thurber, and Auglaize County's own Jim Tully.

Don't miss the following presentations:

"From the Farm to the Factory: Ohio Authors and the Rise of Industry"

Tuesday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.,
Rotary Gazebo, Harmon Park
(Harrison Street east of Hamilton),
Wapakoneta—

please bring a lawn chair

(rain location: Wapakoneta City
Building, 701 Parlette Court, Wapakoneta)

In "From the Farm to the Factory," Hiram College professor Jeffrey Swenson will compare the work of Akron journalist and author Ruth McKenney with selected works by Jim Tully, Sherwood Anderson, and Louis Bromfield.

"Hallie Quinn Brown: Teacher to Paul Laurence Dunbar"

Wednesday, June 23, 7:30 p.m.,
Rotary Gazebo, Harmon Park
(Harrison Street east of Hamilton),
Wapakoneta—

please bring a lawn chair

(rain location: Wapakoneta City
Building)

Nationally acclaimed Dunbar scholar LaVerne Kenon Sci will provide a first-person portrayal of Hallie Quinn Brown, one of Paul Dunbar's teachers during his elementary school progression in Dayton. Miss Hallie followed her impressive student's career and at

his death she vowed to keep his works alive.

"James Thurber: His Life and Hard Times; or, Heartland Humorist Meets the Great White Way,"

followed by

"Jim Tully: A Writer's Auglaize County Roots"

Thursday, June 24, 7:30 p.m.,
St. Patrick Catholic Church,
Glynnwood

Geoffrey Smith, of the Ohio State University, is considered an expert on the life and work of James Thurber.

Bauer and Dawidziak are authors of the upcoming biography of Jim Tully, which will be published by the Kent State University Press. Learn about the St. Patrick connection to Jim Tully!