Development of the neighborhood west of the Missouri River Bridge in Jefferson City began in the early 20th century and gained momentum during the teens, with the introduction in 1911 of electrically powered streetcars that could carry residents of this early suburb to jobs downtown. The streetcar line extended as far as Vista Road but by the time the streetcars were discontinued, automobile ownership had increased, so that nice homes were being built even farther west on lands that had been pastures and farms in previous decades.

One of the first to build on this far fringe of the city was John M. Sommer, Sr. owner of the Jefferson City Baking Company on E. High and Chestnut. He built a prairie style in 1929 on several acres which included a large orchard, chickens and sheep. This is one of the homes that will be featured on the homes tour this year.

The four corners at Dix and Boonville Road and West Main have been a thriving intersection for over 75 years. This year’s homes tour highlights the growth around this historic hub of the Westside neighborhoods. Many of the homes in this area were built after 1930.

Seven homes will be visited with a variety of architectural styles, floor plans and history. The area includes homes on West Main, E. Circle, N. Circle and Boonville Road, all within a comfortable walking distance. There is plenty of parking in the West School lot and along Boonville Road.

The D&D Market is excited about participating in the festivities and will be selling tickets for HCJ. They plan to have live music the day of the homes tour to entertain strollers. Lemonade stands will be set up by neighborhood children along the route and will sell bottled water as well.

Advance tickets are $12 and will be available a month before the tour. Ticket sales will start May 7 at Samuel’s Tuxedos, 236 E. High; The Art Bazaar, 114 E. High; and the D&D Market, corner of W. Main and Dix Road. Tickets the day of the homes tour will be $15, available after 12:30 at the HCJ sales tent on the parking lot of the D&D Market.

Many volunteers will be needed for this event. Please call Mary Ann Hall at 635-8512 or Steve Veile at 635-3265 if you can volunteer or have further questions.

Submitted by Mary Ann Hall
Could this Historic Landmark become an Economic Opportunity?

A new idea has surfaced regarding the current County Jail and Sheriff’s residence that seems to have great merit. With so much interest in the prison tours at the old MSP, what if the county would take a cue from the CVB and turn the old jail into a museum and tourist attraction for Jefferson City?

Here we have a building that has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1972. It has been the county jail since 1936 and for many years also served as the residence for the Cole County sheriff and his family. The combination jail-sheriff’s residence used to be quite common in Missouri and we have one of the few buildings of this kind left. That makes it unique and, if we could turn the clock back just slightly and recreate the sheriff’s residence, it might just be another little economic tourism gold mine for the community. It would be a little taste of Mayberry with Andy Taylor and Barney Fife. Tourists will pay money to see it and will hopefully eat and shop downtown before or after and stay in one of our hotels, too.

Until the old MSP site is redeveloped, which could still take years away, there is a need for a space to be a museum that would display artifacts from MSP. There is a large quantity of memorabilia that can and should go on display somewhere. The old jail might be the perfect place for a prison museum.

The Cole County Commission is currently mulling over its options in regard to the old jail and sheriff’s residence. Unless they are persuaded to do otherwise, it is believed their intent is to tear down the buildings and build back up a garage facility that could be used to securely transfer prisoners from the new jail to the courthouse when prisoners must go to court for arraignment or trials.

A coalition of groups seems to be forming to oppose the demolition idea and to encourage adaptive reuse of the building. HCJ has appeared before the commission to suggest this, and the Downtown Association has also sent a letter suggesting adaptive reuse. The City Council passed a resolution nominating the jail and sheriff’s residence for a Local Landmark Award and the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau is expected to take up the issue at an upcoming meeting.

A little creativity and flexibility on the part of our Cole County elected officials could turn a negative into a very big positive. If you get the opportunity to voice your support for this concept, by all means, please do so!
Heritage Month HCJ Program:
Jefferson City History in Postcards

By Carolyn Bening

As a part of the National Historic Preservation Month, Dr. Arnold G. Parks, Professor Emeritus of Sociology with Lincoln University, will present the Heritage Month Program on May 18th on his newest book Jefferson City in Arcadia Press’s “Postcard History Series.” Using his book’s collection of over 200 postcards, Dr. Parks will highlight with slides the historical development of the capital city of the “Show-Me” State. The meeting will be held on May 18 at 7:00 pm at the Clydesdale Room of the N. H. Scheppers Distributing Company on St. Mary's Blvd.

After Dr. Parks’s first Arcadia publication Lincoln University: 1920-1970, he and the publisher developed the idea of a book that would relate the architectural and historical significance of Jefferson City through postcards. Park’s visual work would compliment Dr. Joseph Summers and his daughter Dottie S. Dallmeyer’s 2000 pictorial history of Jefferson City in Arcadia Press’s “Images of America” series.

Dr. Parks credits local businessman and active HCJ member Sam Bushman as the initial supporter of the project with HCJ’s endorsement. Then, through “a stroke of luck” at the organization’s annual meeting, Dr. Parks met Alice Fast, a local postcard collector for over 20 years who graciously invited Parks to use cards from her extensive collection of Jefferson City. In addition to his own collection of postcards, Dr. Parks acknowledges his use of other local postcard collectors and Jefferson City historians: Mayor John Landwehr; retired local businessman and HCJ member Bob Herman; and historian and journalist Bob Priddy’s collection, now housed at the Missouri State Archives.

From all of these sources Dr. Parks noted that the book itself just “fell into place.” Parks recounts that one of the most popular cards still today is the state capitol building depicting the buildings destroyed by fire and resulting replacement structures. Other popular state buildings include the Supreme Court, the Governor’s Mansion, and state office buildings.

A close second to the Capitol postcards would be the Missouri State Penitentiary images, followed by lodging and dining facilities (Governor, Madison and Missouri Hotels, Warwick and Viets Villages), educational institutions, churches, and many scenes from the High Street business district through the years. The postcard collection includes also the Andrew Carnegie Free Public Library, built at the turn of the 20th century.

Dr. Parks is certainly an enthusiast of local history with a knack for storytelling, despite his protest, “but I’m a sociologist, not an historian.” The audience for HCJ’s Heritage Month Program will be offered, in Park’s words, “a rare glimpse into the very heart of Jefferson City’s vibrant past through a collection of mostly vintage postcards.”

Dr. Park’s book, Jefferson City, is available exclusively at Samuel’s Tuxedos at a discount to HCJ members for $18. It can be ordered from Arcadia Press on line at the regular price of $21.99.
The Cole County Commission is comprised of three elected officials who will decide the fate of the old Cole County Jail. Built in 1936, this stone Romanesque Revival structure was placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1972. In 2010, it was nominated by the Jefferson City Council and awarded by the Historic Preservation Commission as a Local Landmark designation. The Jefferson City Convention & Visitor’s Bureau includes information on this historic building on its walking tour of downtown Jefferson City. It is part of their “Feel the History” slogan. If this is not enough recognition, Sheriff Greg White himself, supports an adaptive re-use of the historic landmark.

Yet, the intent of our county commissioners appears to be to tear it down. Just three people can decide this for our whole community. Up to this point, the plans have been discussed under the public radar.

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 provides a means by which local communities may protect their historic and cultural resources. A Section 106 Review is crucial to the NHPA program. Before Federal money can be allocated for a project, its impact on historic properties must be evaluated. Since it is on the NRHP, our Cole County Jail is automatically a candidate for a Section 106 Review, if Federal funds are requested. Its historic value to the community has already been established.

The Cole County Commissioners are considering applying for $3.2 million in Recovery Zone Bonds that are part of the Federal Stimulus Package to tear down the old jail and construct a sally port. A sally port is a garage that allows defendants going to court to be shuttled securely from a vehicle to the inside of the court house. Currently there is a pedestrian sally port in use. Without Federal funds this project could not be funded.

Since federal funds might be involved, it appears a Section 106 review is imminent. However, this does not guarantee the building will be spared, as we learned from the Bassmann house debate. This Review requires that agencies seek public input as a part of the process. The federal agency doing the review needs to hear from the public alternative plans and options that are available for the property. HCJ President Steve Veile reported on a very good adaptive re-use option! (See his column on page 2.) Consulting Parties can be useful to the Section 106 Review process by expressing these options. The Jefferson City Historic Preservation Commission could be a Consulting Party or even the City Council.

Your Commissioners need to hear from you!

Presiding Commissioner, Marc Ellinger, mellinger@blitzbardgett.com
Western District, Chris Wrigley, cwrigley@colecounty.org
Eastern District, Jeff Hoelscher, jhoelscher@colecounty.org

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**Suggested Reading: First Ladies of Missouri**

By Jerena East Giffen

*First Ladies of Missouri*, authored by one of Jefferson City’s own, Jerena East Giffen, is available at Samual’s Tuxedos and Communique for a bargain price of $10. This is an entertaining and informational collection of anecdotes that covers our first ladies from earliest settlers to Jean Carnahan in 1996. Mrs. Giffen, better known as Jere, is the wife of the late Dr. Larry Giffen. A graduate of the University School of Journalism and a former staff writer for United Press International, she has authored three books on local topics; The House on Hobo Hill, 1964; Plus Two for Joy Hill, 1976; and First Ladies of Missouri, 1996. Some HCJ members may remember that she was one of our program speakers in 2003 regaling us with stories from The House on Hobo Hill.

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**) - : PROBLEMS WITH OUR WEB SITE : - (**

If you have tried recently to use the HCJ Web site you have no doubt experienced some frustration. It was hacked into...corrupted! Our self-taught and pro-bono Web Master, Tony Smith had to become a self-taught web-site trouble shooter. He discovered the problem was in a java scripted Google software product which has been removed. The Web site has been declared cured and disease free. It is back up and running.

*We are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused you! Thanks for your patience.*
May is National Historic Preservation Month. This is celebrated in Jefferson City with Art and Essay Contests for local school children, local landmark awards and the Gregory Stockard Distinguished Service Award. In an official ceremony hosted by City Hall, the Mayor presides over the award ceremony May 27th, 4 PM in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

The Art and Essay Contest is organized by HCJ member, Dottie Dallmeyer. Sketch day will be Monday May 3rd and Essays are due by that day as well. Art work of the 6th-8th graders will be displayed at Hawthorn Bank downtown. The 9th-12th grader’s art work will be displayed at the Miller Performing Arts Center Lobby where there will also be a reception for these artists on May 4th from 3:30-5:30pm.

Walter Schroeder to Receive Gregory Stockard Award

The Historic Preservation Commission has Awarded the 2010 Gregory Stockard Distinguished Service Award to Old Munichburg historian Walter Schroeder. Schroeder grew up in Old Munichburg and is current president of the Old Munichburg Association. He has become the repository of history of the area and helped establish recognition of this historic district and the association. Mr. Schroeder is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Missouri at Columbia and currently working on a book titled "Breweries and Saloons in Jefferson City."

Meet the HCJ Ambassadors

Jamie Wade
Joni Henderson
Tammy Boeschen

In the last issue of this newsletter the new HCJ Ambassador program was announced. We thank these charter ambassadors for reaching out to the community and providing support for the Golden Hammer Award ceremonies in particular and other HCJ activities in general.
The McClung Park Pavilion was the scene on Sunday evening, March 21 for the Historic City of Jefferson’s Annual Dinner Meeting with the theme “Collaboration Makes It Happen.” With music provided by Jim Logan, nearly 100 members and guests greeted old and new acquaintances during the wine reception. Emcees Sam Bushman and Warren Krech called the members to their seats to welcome recognized guests and to thank event supporters and the many volunteers who planned, set up, and cleaned up. Scattered throughout the buffet dinner were Sam and Warren’s history trivia competitions vying to win a copy of Dr. Arnold Park’s recently published Jefferson City “Postcard History Series” and other prizes.

President of HCJ Steve Veile reviewed with a slide presentation the Collaborative Events of 2009, beginning with the spring 2009 Annual Dinner Meeting held at Central United Church of Christ and the conception of the Thomas Lawson Price Society. To celebrate National Historic Preservation Month, Landmark Awards were given in May by HPC to Bob and Bobbie Herman, Stu Murphy and Mary Ann Hall, Gov. and Mrs. Jay Nixon, and Towne Grille. The highlight of the year was the Swift’s Highway Home Tour in June anchored by Villa Panorama and visited by over 800 guests.

Several public programs held during 2009 included Bob Priddy’s program on the “Hidden in Plain View- Treasures of the Missouri State Capitol”; the role of the Wallendorf Log Cabin during the Civil War presented by Mark Schreiber; and Pam Boggs, former Missouri State Penitentiary guard, who shared stories and insights into life behind the walls of the old MSP.

Veile then reviewed the year’s activities: The Golden Hammer Awards chaired by Deedie Bedosky; The Oral History Project chaired by D.J. Nash; and the Thomas Lawson Price society Christmas Tea hosted at Villa Panorama. Steve Veile then reported on the current status and the procedures that led to the establishing in November of the HCJ Foundation. The Foundation was set up to encourage long-term funding options in support of the organization. The Foundation is presided over by a nine-member Board of Trustees with Stephen Stark serving as President.

Recognition was given to the HCJ Board of Directors. Two retiring directors were honored: Cathy Bordner, serving two terms from 2006-2010 and chairing numerous committees; and Laura Ward, 2001-2010, having served as Vice-President and responsible for creating the Lower Jefferson Conservation District. Congratulations were offered to Connie Hubble who was newly elected to the HCJ Board and to Sam Bushman, Membership chair, and Henry Gensky, Finance chair, both re-elected to the Board. Deedie Bedosky, a board member, was elected Vice President of the Board to join other
officers re-elected: President Steve Veile; President-elect Lois Heldenbrand; Treasurer Debbie Goldammer; and Secretary Janet Maurer.

Kenneth Winn, HCJ Board Member, introduced the keynote speaker Esley Hamilton who reviewed with slides the history of preservation efforts in Missouri. Hamilton is preservation historian for St. Louis County Parks and Recreation and a lecturer in the Washington University College of Architecture. His talk for the evening was entitled “Visionaries and Ladies in Tennis Shoes: A History of Historic Preservation in Missouri and America.” Starting with Independence Hall in Philadelphia and following in chronological order, Hamilton took members through a whirlwind journey of exciting models of preservation and not-so-successful tear downs, including Pierre Lacledes Chouteau House in St. Louis. Hamilton interspersed the historical lessons with fascinating stories behind the preservation efforts, such as the women of the Mt. Vernon’s Association who saved the historical treasure and even camped in the building to save it during the Civil War.

For a short period, the attitude toward enhancing buildings was “creating the appearance that never existed in history.” It took the Society for Restoration of Antiquities headed by William Morris in the early 19th century to restore architecture to its original intent. The program closed with restoration projects in Missouri, such as the Mark Twain home in Hannibal; the Eugene Field House in St. Louis (only one of 12 original row houses); and the first state property saved from the wrecking ball in Arrow Rock.

The evening closed with appreciation to event supporters, including Hy-Vee, Gerbes West, Abiy’s International Wine and Liquor, and Jim Logan, as well as Argyle Catering Company for the buffet dinner. And another round of applause for Lois Heldenbrand, Chairperson of the successful evening’s dinner and program.
SAVETHE DATES!
Tuesday, May 18—Heritage Month Program Jefferson City History in Postcards
7:00 PM Clydesdale Room, N.H. Scheppers Distributing Co.

Sunday, June 6th—HCJ Annual Homes Tour on West end, 1:00—5:00 pm

Looking back
Web Master—Tony Smith
Newsletter Editor—Jenny Smith
Membership—Sam Bushman
Oral History—D.J. Nash

Moving forward
Golden Hammer Awards—Deedie Bedosky
Development—Lois Heldenbrand
Homes Tour—Mary Ann Hall

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
To proactively preserve our historic resources and create an environment that makes preservation a central focus for the future development in the City of Jefferson.

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