MUSEUM OF THE GULF COAST

THE LOOKOUT

Spring 2018

www.museumofthegulfcoast.org

From the Director

Tom Neal, Director

Looking back on 2017 we had some great moments with the *Betting Booze and Brothels* exhibit. We have also added new inductees into the Music and Sports Halls of Fame and in December opened our new Texas Navy and Maritime Exhibit, thanks to the gracious support of Andy and Joyce Green. Even with the loss of 1/3 of our business year in 2017 due to Hurricane Harvey that came on August 30, 2017, attendance at the museum has grown and was over 10% greater than 2016. Thanks to all of you who came to visit! Our Facebook friends have grown too. 2018 promises to be a great year.

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Bobby Leopold "officially" inducted into the Museum's Sports Hall of Fame for years but had not received his certificate. Pictured L-R: Coach Leroy Leopold, Museum Director Tom Neal, Bobby Leopold, Port Arthur Historical Society President Dr. Sam Monroe, and Michelle Leopold. Photograph by Bart Bragg

Reunion pregame ceremony on October 7. He has been featured in our

In 2018, membership is also on the rise over previous years, and there is excitement and anticipation across the area about the museum. **Cont. Page 4**

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LIKE US!

Quicker Updates regarding Events and Exhibits. Historic Gulf Coast Photos every Thursday! https://www.facebook.com/museumofthegulfcoast Already our friend? Give us a review!

INSIDE THE VAULT

The Museum stores its collections inside of two bank[illegible] showcases items not usually on display.

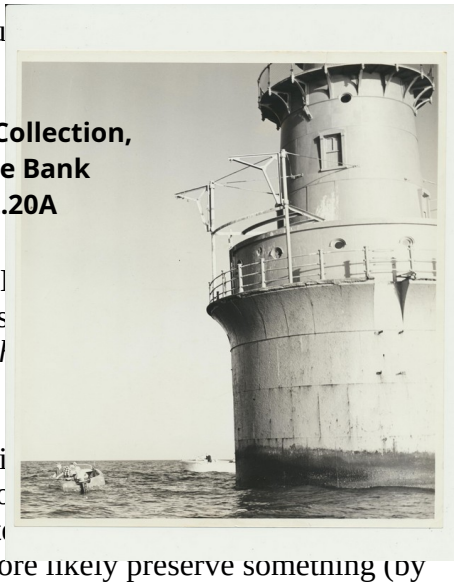
1996.49.1—Coffee Mill, ca. 1873. Donated by Ruby S[illegible] Philadelphia #1 model, manufactured Oct. 21, 1873. U[illegible] became very ornate, this mill never had a wheel or a co[illegible] McDaniels/Young family, who were originally resident[illegible]

Processing a Collection

Sarah Bellian, Curator

Do you have lots of unsorted papers or photos at home? Wou

A.) get it organized
B.) get it scanned
or
C.) write down the information somewhere



(Right) Ed Holder Collection, Sabine Bank Lighthouse 2016.2.20A

If you're like most people, it's difficult to find the time to do these things. I where to start. Many boxes of unorganized material are brought to the Mus count the number of times I've had someone come to me and say *"My moth this, and I have no idea what to do with it."*

Some boxes which have come to us include very personal letters, videos, bi and/or other legal paperwork (with social security numbers). This is one go to accidently donate or throw out something that can be used to st a deceased family member). Another good reason is that your heirs will more likely preserve something (by bringing to a Museum) or pass it down within the family if they know its significance.

As you might imagine, organizing many collections here at the Museum is a lot of work. For this reason, we rely on a standard numbering process (called accessioning). If you have a lot to go through, doing things like a Museum may make finding what you need to do this are some folders ncil (believe it or not, graphite is te directly on your photos).

(Above) Ed Holder Collection, Fishing— Women 2016.2.27A
(Right) Ed Holder Collection, Hunting— Ducks, Ed Holder 2016.2.64A

016.2 and 2018.4 donated to us by Fred Holder as an example. Fred ganization before bringing these donations. His willingness t we were getting into made it easier for us to accept and process

Director's Article. Cont. from Page 1

Our book signings have already begun with Little Joe Washington coming home for his signing of *The 7 Secrets of the Silver Shoes*. Last year we had book signing events by Coach Wade Phillips and Jamaal Charles. Great events all at the Museum and we anticipate more this year.

Our next Family Fun Day is Saturday, May 5, 2018, 10am—2pm. Stay tuned for upcoming events, and we hope to see you soon!

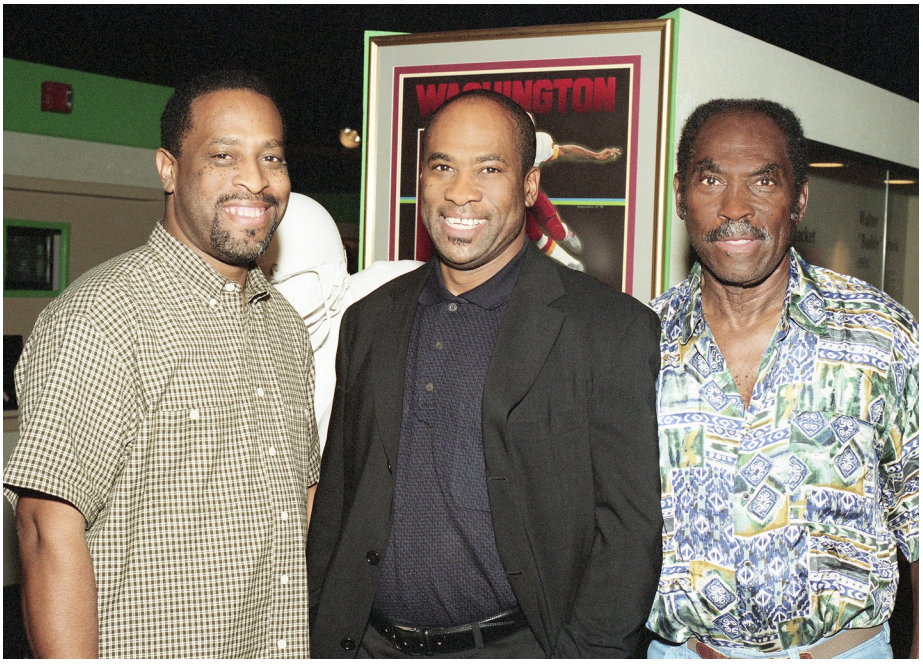


Photo of Ken, Joe Jr., and Joe Washington Sr.

Education Corner

Andy McCall, Education Coordinator

It's hard to believe that we are already coming up on my first anniversary here at the Museum of the Gulf Coast! Let me tell you, it's been a fascinating ride since coming on board in early July of 2017!

One of my favorite things about this job, is meeting people from all corners of the world. When I hear that someone from another country is visiting us, I typically like to go introduce myself to them and visit with them for a little bit. I love to listen to their accents and hear about their journeys! You may be surprised at how many foreigners hear about the museum somehow (usually via the internet) and plan an overseas trip around visiting little old Port Arthur, TX! We're the main attraction! Any other places they go, like New Orleans, Las Vegas or Los Angeles, are the "side trips." On average, we have about 8 to 20 international visitors walk through our doors every month! I have personally met visitors from Spain, Germany, England, The Netherlands, Norway, Canada, Mexico, Bulgaria, India, Switzerland, Sweden, and Poland... just to name a few. There have certainly been many others that came when I was either not in the museum or was tied up with something in my upstairs office.

Another one of my favorite things about being the Education Coordinator is seeing the smiles on hundreds of faces during my Discovery Trunk programs at area schools and during our Family Fun Days! Prior to this publication, our last two Family Fun Days (in December and March) have both seen attendance exceed 500. Keeping 500 people entertained is quite a task, and I couldn't do it without my volunteers and Teen Troupe!

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From Trip Advisor:

Visitor Comments

Also of interest was a film they were running on trench warfare in WW1...fascinating!

5 Star Review from Joseph B. (Murrell's Inlet, South Carolina) Nov. 22, 2017:
Amazing Museum—While downtown Port Arthur appears to have seen better days, this museum is an oasis among run down and abandoned buildings. You can easily spend several hours there. It has a variety of exhibits and artifacts about the history and natural science/history of the region from New Orleans to Houston. Of particular interest were the 2nd level exhibits about the many celebrities from the Gulf Coast. A surprising number of famous musicians came from the region, most notably Janis Joplin (from Port Arthur), Big Bopper. Rex Ritter, Johnny Winter and Edgar Winter. If staying in the area, it is definitely worth spending an afternoon.

5 Star Review from Christopher F., February 22, 2018:
Everyone was so friendly — Loved this museum, it was so extensive! It hit on every industrial, historic, and cultural area of the Gulf Coast. I would highly recommend this stop. Especially if you're a music fan. But it honestly has something for everyone.

From Facebook:
5 Star Review from Cisca Vd Poel (Netherlands) Nov. 9, 2017:
(Google translated from Dutch) What lovely, helpful people. The stories are great and yes, Janis really is exposed to death, but she will be alive on my bus (RV) together with Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix, and for (The United States) unknown but master Roy Gallagher. Hope to keep the legends alive.

5 Star Review from Jana Winberg (Silsbee) Nov. 22, 2017:
This is a great place to spend some time learning about the history of this area. Also a large number of athletes, olympians, musicians, actors, directors, authors and many other well known famous people are from this area and their stories are in the museum. Then there are shells, furniture, ww1 history, glassware, a nautical room and many more areas. Plan on about 3-4 hours depending on how much you read.

5 Star Review from Jan Russell, Feb. 16, 2018:
I have been there many times to see the changing exhibits, but my favorite part is still the indigenous animals and birds section on the first floor. Those stuffed birds were at Franklin Elementary when my mother was in school! When I came along she took me to see them at Franklin. I'm so pleased to know that they are still preserved and delighting people today. Tom Neal and the staff are so friendly and accommodating. The Museum of the Gulf Coast is a Port Arthur treasure.

Got something to say? Send us an email, review us on Trip Advisor or Facebook, or send us a letter! Like everyone, we love getting things in the mail that aren't bills!

Continued from Page 3…

The Ed Holder Collection was sorted for an upcoming exhibition. It consists of objects (cameras), articles, photos, and negatives related to local outdoor writer and conservationist Ed Holder.

To take thousands of items and make sense of them in just a few days, this is what we do:

Museum Processing 101

Set up a space where you can lay out everything you have (table or floor). Get **four** bins.

Separate kinds of materials. Your first bin is for newspaper. Newspaper is highly acidic and will damage photos and other documents, so it should always be stored separately or in a sleeve. Your second bin is for other kinds of paper items, and your third bin is for photos. Bin 4 is anything that doesn't fit into 1-3.

Divide your table into four sections with masking tape. You can further divide these sections later. Let's say we are working on our Photograph bin. We start with sorting Duck Hunting, Saltwater Fishing, Freshwater Fishing, and "Other" - anything that doesn't fit into 1-3. Once we are done, we then take "Saltwater Fishing" and further divide it into Redfish, Flounder, etc.

When items are sufficiently divided, assign each group of items a number alphabetically by name. This will be the folder it goes into. File folders alphabetically and numerically in a box and then put items into the individual folders. So, for example — Redfish is #48.

You can use a legal pad or enter items into your computer (I use Excel) to provide a reference list of what is in the box, and then tape the list to the inside of the lid. As you have time, you can individually pull folders, add information or scan them without the burden of trying to do the whole collection at once. You can mark on a folder "scanned" and know exactly where to start when you have free time again. This breaks up a huge task into something manageable and makes finding what you want very fast!

Janis Joplin may be an inspiration to many, but who were her musical heroes?

Bessie Smith, a blues musician who died in 1937 (Janis was born in 1943) was so beloved by Janis that she contributed money to have a marker put on her grave in 1970. *A Cast of Blues* features 15 resin-cast masks of blues legends created by artist Sharon McConnell-Dickerson. “A life cast is like a 3D photograph to someone who is blind,” says McConnell-Dickerson, who is visually impaired herself. “It captures the flesh, muscle, bone, hair, and subtle expressions of emotion. I wanted to discover the faces behind the music I love." In addition, the exhibition includes 15 color photographs of blues artists and the colorful juke joints in which they played. The images are selected from acclaimed photographer Ken Murphy.

The exhibition features braille labels and educational materials, as well as music and a closed-captioned film. In addition, visitors are encouraged to touch the resin-cast masks.

Leah Rhodes

Born: July 21, 1902, Port Arthur, TX — Died: October 17, 1986

Hall of Fame Spotlight

Left: Leah Rhode's Oscar on display.

E
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is an actual Oscar winner? And, yes, that person's golden statue is on display at the Museum of the Gulf Coast!

Leah Rhodes started out as a window dresser in her home town of Port Arthur and in San Antonio. In 1926, she and her husband moved to California. She soon began working in the Warner Brothers wardrobe department. Rhodes eventually took over the department when her boss, famed costume designer Orry-Kelly, was drafted into the war. Rhodes made history in 1949 when she won the first ever Oscar for Best Color Costume Design for Adventures of Don Juan, starring Errol Flynn.

During her career with Warner Brothers, she dressed some of Hollywood's biggest names, including Bette Davis, Ingrid Bergman, Hedy Lamarr, Doris Day and Jane Wyman. Rhodes would later do freelance work for Universal Studios and Paramount...where she worked closely Edith Head - one of the most famous costume designers in Hollywood history.

She remained passionate about her work and continued to create costumes until she was in her 80s.

Visitor Spotlight

Right: Spott

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donation is 100% tax deductible!

...r money, tools, office supplies, craft materials, and ...useum). The traveling test and crew of "A Night with Janis" who performed at the Lut... ...ry came to visit us.

Society Donations and Memorials

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Tom and Linda Neal

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MUSEUM OF THE GULF COAST

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