

April 2009



news, etc.

 ROWAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Travelers' Club Marker at Library

This spring marks the 100th year of the Travelers' Club, whose members founded the first public library in Rowan County — the forerunner of today's Rowan Public Library. In 1909, the club formed with 12 charter members.

To commemorate the club's anniversary and its connection to the library a marker will be placed on the library grounds and dedicated at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, April 9. The public is invited to attend.

The bronze historic marker will be installed on a foundation block of Salisbury pink granite and will be placed on the Fisher Street side of the library, behind the Henderson Law

Office. The marker will be part of the Salisbury History and Art Trail.

After the dedication of the marker, Travelers' Club members will hold a reception in the Hurley Room for those attending. The events are open to the public.

"The most interesting thing about the Travelers' Club is that it all started because of an earthquake!" said club member Betty Dan Spencer. After the devastating 1908 earthquake in Messina, Italy, several women of Salisbury wondered where Messina was. "They decided they needed to travel *mentally*. They gathered to have a study course each year, then decided

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Friends to Visit Shenandoah Valley

Join the Friends June 12-13 for an overnight trip to explore the beauty and history of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

Leave RPL at 8:00 a.m. Friday and travel to Natural Bridge, VA via motorcoach provided by Crossroads Charters and Tours. Check in at the Natural Bridge Hotel (non-smoking rooms), then have lunch on your own. Spend the afternoon exploring one of the seven natural wonders of the world (called "The Bridge of God" by the Monacan tribe) and the nature trail as well as the museums at your leisure. Enjoy a buffet dinner in the hotel's Colonial Dining Room followed by the *Drama of Creation* light show.



Check out of the hotel Saturday after breakfast and travel to Lexington, VA. Visit the Lee Chapel at Washington & Lee University and the Stonewall Jackson house. Stroll around downtown Lexington and enjoy lunch on your own. Leave Lexington and travel to Poplar Forest, Thomas

Jefferson's "occasional retreat," the house and grounds exemplifying Jefferson's sublime sense of order. Return to Salisbury, arriving early Saturday evening.

Registration deadline is Tuesday, May 5. For more information, pick up a flyer with a registration form at any RPL location or call 704-216-8230.

Sponsored by the Friends of Rowan Public Library

Travelers' Club Marker at Library (cont.)

they needed to start a public library. Mrs. J. P. Moore (Beulah Stewart) was a mover and pusher of this effort. Always involved in the community, she even ran for mayor in 1926."

"The best way to start a library is to start one," stated Mrs. Moore at a meeting of the Travelers' Club held on March 31, 1911.

The empty former Henderson Law Office was located on the property of Archibald Henderson Boyden, on the corner of Fisher and Church Streets. Boyden offered the small building for the use of the Travelers' Club. Members put up



Mrs. J. P. (Beulah) Moore

\$100 to create a library there. While the club members were all women, they got men in town to back it financially as well.

The library opened in 1911. That building housed the public library in Salisbury until 1921, when the county built a new courthouse. The library was moved to the old courthouse, which had become a community building. In 1951, the library returned to its original block, when a new library building was built near the old law office.

The efforts of Travelers' Club members to become better informed about foreign countries and other subjects led them to create that opportunity for others in this community.

Sculpture Installed at RPL

Have you seen the metal sculpture now installed on the front lawn of RPL's Salisbury branch, facing Fisher Street?

"Pipeline," by artist Jim Gallucci of Greensboro, NC is over 400 pounds of galvanized steel in a light, airy design. Part of the first annual Salisbury Sculpture Show,



Discover What's Outside, this is one of 14 different sculptures by artists from the area and around the state that will be on display from April 1, 2009 through January 11, 2010. Events are planned throughout that time that will entertain and educate residents and visitors.



**Friends of RPL host a
"Paperbacks Only" Book Sale
25¢ each**

Saturday, May 2 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 3 1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

RPL Headquarters, Salisbury

This event will be held the same weekend as the Salisbury Cultural Arts Festival .

April Movies Feature Rowan Connections

RPL's April films focus on Rowan Connections. The four films shown will include two movies that were filmed here in Rowan County as well as two that feature a famous Rowan citizen.

Movies are free and begin every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Lemonade and popcorn are served.

Tuesday, April 7 — We'll begin with *Leatherheads*, a romantic comedy set in the 1920's using the backdrop of the budding professional football industry. George Clooney directs and stars as the captain of the Duluth Bulldogs and Renee Zellweger plays a fiery reporter.

The movie tracks the success of Clooney's character Dodge as he tries to keep his team and the league afloat.

Although un-credited as a location, many in Rowan will remember the hubbub caused by the presence of celebrities at the Salisbury Depot during filming. Come enjoy some laughs and spot Salisbury in film.

Tuesday, April 14 — *Coffee Therapy* was completely filmed in Rowan County, so moviegoers will recognize many of its settings. One scene was shot in the Hurley Room of the Rowan Public Library. Described as a charming but bitter-sweet comedy, *Coffee Therapy* depicts one Saturday in the life of coffee shop operator Darnell Shacklebee. There is a



psychotherapist convention in town and each therapist Darnell has ever engaged drops in, leading to funny reminiscing about 25 years of therapy. This film project is unrated.

Tuesday, April 21 — Comic greats George Burns and Gracie Allen lead the talented cast of *College Swing*, which also features Salisbury native Skinnay Ennis as the vocalist in one of the best swing bands around.

Skinnay (Edgar Clyde) Ennis was born in 1907 and raised here in Rowan. He attended UNC-Chapel Hill in 1925 where he met Hal Kemp and other swing musicians. Ennis joined Kemp's band as a drummer and vocalist with a 'breathless' style that made him an immediate hit. He played and sang with Kemp's Orchestra for 12 years.

College Swing, filmed in 1937, was his first movie; in 1938 he formed his own orchestra and appeared in several other movies. The Skinnay Ennis Orchestra played at every major dance palace in the nation and appeared regularly on musical radio programs, including Bob Hope's Pepsodent program.

College Swing is one of those madcap films typical of the Thirties that is the very definition of escapist entertainment. No themes, no messages, just a lot of good laughs.

Tuesday, April 28 — *High Society*, the smash musical comedy remake of *The Philadelphia Story*, stars film greats Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly, Frank Sinatra, and Salisbury native Sydney Blackmer.

Childhood friends Tracy Lord

(Kelly) and C.K. Dexter-Haven (Crosby) got married and quickly divorced. Dexter-Haven, a popular jazz musician, lives in a mansion near his ex-wife's family estate. Now Tracy is about to marry again, this time to a shrewd social-climbing businessman. C.K. still loves her and tries to win back her affections.

Meanwhile, *Spy* magazine is blackmailing Lord's family by threatening to reveal her playboy father's (Blackmer's) exploits if not allowed to cover the wedding.

The movie takes a humorous look at the lifestyles of the rich. Louis Armstrong and his band provide the music.

Well-known Broadway and screen actor Sydney Blackmer was born in Salisbury in 1895. He attended UNC-Chapel Hill where he intended to become a lawyer. His involvement in amateur theater, however, led him to go to New York and try his hand at acting. He made his Broadway debut in 1917, but then went into the military as the US joined WWI.



He returned to the stage in the 1920's and appeared in 15 productions from 1921-1928 before continuing his career in radio and film. Today he is perhaps best known as the warlock leader Roman Castevet in the film *Rosemary's Baby*.

Throughout his career, Blackmer continued to have strong ties to Rowan County, returning often for special occasions.

Staff Spotlight: Lisa Raymer

It takes many people doing many jobs to make a library run smoothly.

For 15 years, at RPL's Headquarters branch in Salisbury, Lisa Raymer has helped get books and other materials ready for people who want to check them out.

In March 1994, Lisa began her work as a page at RPL, working part-time in the History Room. In 2005 she switched to working on the second floor, shelving non-fiction and teen fiction books.

As a library page, she empties the book drops every hour and helps prepare materials for check-out. She is responsible for sorting



As a library page, Lisa Raymer has helped get books and materials ready for RPL patrons for 15 years.

materials, then reshelving them in Dewey Decimal order, by numbers and letters. "Lisa is very dedicated

and hardworking," says supervisor Lynn Denison.

Lisa is deaf and communicates with library staff and patrons with sign language, gestures, notes, and big smiles.

Away from work Lisa enjoys being active outdoors. She likes going to the beach and the mountains. She enjoys riding in her family's four-wheeler and golf cart, walking through fields, and swinging on her front porch. She also loves playing computer games and going shopping.

Three Friends of the Year Honored

At the recent Friends of RPL annual meeting, RPL Director Jeff Hall and Friends President Carolyn Glasgow presented plaques to three individuals who have made important contributions to Rowan Public Library. John Mercer, Gavine Pitner, and Susan Waller were thanked for their commitment and dedication to the library.

For two years, John Mercer, now Acquisitions Librarian at Pfeiffer College, volunteered his Monday evenings to work at the reference desk at RPL's Headquarters, after he earned his degree in library science at UNC-G.



(l. to r.) RPL Friends President Carolyn Glasgow and Library Director Jeff Hall present plaques to Friends of the Year Susan Waller, Gavine Pitner, and John Mercer, in recognition of their important contributions to RPL.

Gavine and Susan co-chaired the fall Friends Basket Sale, coordinating volunteers and creating hundreds of baskets for this successful fundraiser. They have been active in every aspect of the Friends group this year, also serving on the nominating committee, and the book sale committee.

Also at the annual meeting, Barbara Corriher, Carolyn Sadler, Frank Fork, Fran Burding, and Susan Waller were elected to serve for two terms on the Friends Board.

The Friends Board has since then elected Fran Burding as their new president.

April 2009 Computer Classes

Headquarters: (704-216-8243)

Absolute Beginners Computer Class

Monday, April 6, 7:00 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Internet Searching

Thursday, April 9, 2:30 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Introduction to Learning Express Library

Monday, April 13, 7:00 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Introduction to Yahoo Email

Thursday, April 16, 2:30 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Introduction to Career Library

Monday, April 20, 7:00 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Open Office Up Close — Calc

Thursday, April 23, 2:30 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

South Rowan Regional Library:

(704-216-7737)

Basic Windows

Thursday, April 16, 11:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

Intermediate Excel

Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

*Dates and times at all locations
subject to change without notice.*

Gifts That Keep On Giving @ RPL



Rowan Public Library appreciates your gifts and will purchase materials for the library that can be enjoyed by our community for years to come.

Memorials and Honorariums

In Memory of Anita Day given by Melody Moxley

In Memory of Jamima DeMarcus given by Melody Moxley

In Memory of Elizabeth Kdan given by Karen and Warren Young

In Memory of Charles Williams given by Karen and Warren Young



RPL Foundation Endowments support library programs and materials. Share your success with a permanent endowment of \$1000 or more. Call Pam Nance at 704-216-8231.

In honor of Betty Ipoc Mickle given by Bud Mickle to the Betty Ipoc Mickle Endowment

In honor of Susan Waller given by Allan Rouzer, III, to the Susan Rouzer Waller Endowment

In honor of Susan Waller given by Wade and Peggy Rouzer to the Susan Rouzer Waller Endowment

In memory of Francis Luther given by John and Nancy Luther to the Francis M. Luther Endowment

In memory of Margaret Hardage given by Carter Smith to the Margaret and L.B. Hardage Endowment

In memory of Mildred Moxley given by Jo Anne Bartlett to the Elmer and Mildred Moxley Endowment



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*Your very best
place to start!*

Did You Know?

During the month of April, RPL is highlighting pictures and other items depicting the history of Rowan County. A newly acquired portrait of John Steele, pictures and programs featuring Sidney Blackmer and other notables will be on display at the Salisbury library.

Visit RPL on the Web!
www.rowanpubliclibrary.org

Email us: info@rowancountync.gov

Holiday and County Employee Furlough Schedule

Due to the county employee furlough, the library will be closed Monday, April 13; Friday, May 22; and Friday, June 26 — Saturday, June 27.

All RPL Locations will be closed:

Good Friday weekend:	Friday, April 10 — Sunday, April 12
Employee Furlough:	Monday, April 13
Employee Furlough:	Friday, May 22
Memorial Day Weekend:	Saturday, May 23 — Monday, May 25
Employee Furlough:	Friday, June 26 — Saturday, June 27
Independence Day:	Friday, July 3 — Saturday, July 4

Reminder — Rowan County
Literacy Council's

Scrabble Scramble is April 28th!

Call 704-216-8266 for more information.