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Photo: Carmen Reagan at the Cutrer Mansion, Clarksdale, Mississippi, Tennessee Williams' model for the ancestral "Belle Reve" in A Street-car Named Desire.

Newsletter of the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association



"Where the Southern crosses the Yellow Dog"

Ken Grambihler

Carmen Reagan, Linda Nichols and I recently had the pleasure of joining in the 2014 Mississippi Delta Cultural Tour sponsored by the University of Mississippi Center for the Study of Southern Culture. This is an annual event dedicated primarily to an examination of the Delta culture, blues music and southern writers. The starting point for the tour was the Alluvian Hotel in Greenwood, where we stayed each night. We attended an orientation and a preview of some of the highlights of Southern culture we were to see and experience, then we had dinner at the famous Giardina's Restaurant in Greenwood.

The tour began in Moorhead at the site where the "Southern crosses the Yellow Dog." I had never known what this saying referred to. It is the place where the Southern Railroad and the Yazoo Delta Railroad (Yellow Dog) crossed, near where W. C. Handy supposedly heard the now-famous line in an early blues song. What I found most interesting was that when we arrived at the crossing there was an actual old yellow dog there to greet us. I'm not sure whether he worked for the local tourism department or just for dog bones. Either way, it was quite appropriate.

After visiting the crossing we traveled a few miles west to the B. B. King Museum and Interpretive Center in Indianola, and then we had lunch at the iconic Club Ebony juke joint owned by B. B. King. If you ever get to the area, the B. B. King Museum is a must-see place. The next day we visited the gravesite of the "Father of the Delta Blues,"

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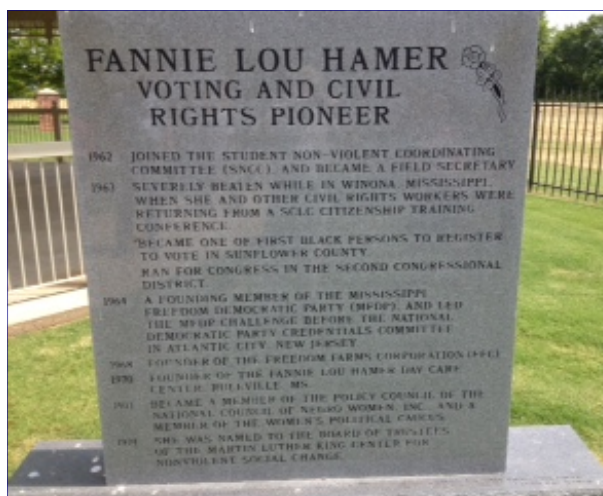
The tracks of both railroads are visible to the front and sides of this plaque.

Charley Patton, in Holly Ridge. We stopped in downtown Leland, the home of Jim Henson and Kermit the Frog, to see Henson's house and murals about the blues. Then we drove west to Greenville, where we visited the William A. Percy Memorial Library and heard a talk on the literary figures from the Greenville and Delta areas. They included William Alexander Percy, Shelby Foote, Angela Jackson, Hodding Carter, Bern Keating, Ellen Douglas, and Walker Percy. It is said that the people in Greenville never read books, because they are too busy writing them. That evening we ate at the famous Doe's Eat Place (yes, "Eat Place") in Greenville. It is truly a unique



eating experience—they serve the largest porterhouse steak I have ever seen.

Tombstone and memorial to Fannie Lou Hamer, a central pioneer in the Civil Rights Movement.



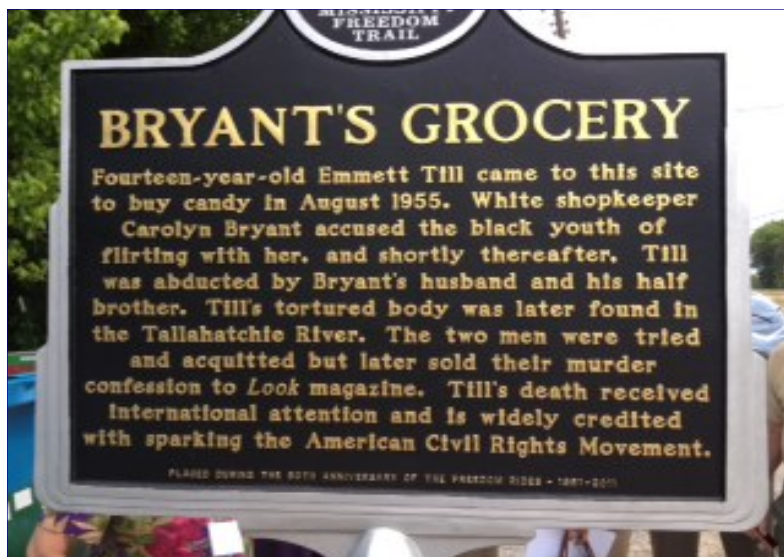
The next day we visited the gravesite of legendary bluesman Robert Johnson and the nearby remains of Bryant's Grocery in the small town of Money, where Emmett Till was alleged to have made his tragic wolf-whistle that ended with his brutal slaying. We visited the grave and memorial garden of Fannie Lou Hamer in Ruleville. In Clarksdale, considered by some as the home of the blues, we visited the Cutrer Mansion which was the model for Belle Reve, the ancestral home of the characters Blanche DuBois and Stella Kowalski in A

Streetcar Named Desire. The young Tom "Tennessee" Williams often visited his grandfather who lived in Clarksdale.

This is a great annual tour and I recommend it strongly. The cost is approximately \$800, including all meals and tour transportation. Accommodations at the Alluvian Hotel are \$185 per night. This might sound a bit high, but the hotel is first class, and stays include complete southern breakfasts. Less expensive accommodations are also available.

Plaque memorializing the murder of Emmett Till and the birth of the American Civil Rights Movement

The point of contact for the tour is Jimmy Thomas, Associate Director for Publications, Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the Univ. of Mississippi, email jgthomas@olems.edu, phone 662-915-3374. Jimmy is a very friendly and helpful guy.



Fall 2014 Calendar of Events

APSURA is on track for a busy season, with a Fall Luncheon, a train trip, a seminar for new retirees, a Nashville Symphony excursion, and two conferences all calling for a good bit of planning ahead. And another convocation picnic, Sunrise Rotary bike ride, Greenway walk, and many concerts and plays will amply fill in any of your calendar dates that are still blank! We list on the following calendar the events APSURA is officially sponsoring or in which we are officially participating, and then we provide some websites that might help you plan other fall events. Please forward this newsletter to others who might be interested in our calendar.

Sunday-Wednesday, Aug. 10-13: AROHE national conference, Minneapolis

Three of your officers will be attending the national convention of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education this August. Aleeta Christian, Hester Crews and Jim Clemmer will be there, with Hester and Jim delivering a presentation about the seminar for new retirees we held with HR last November. Their talk is entitled "Designing a Goldilocks Signature Event for New Retirees," and it takes up the challenges of presenting a ton of information and advice in an easy-to-digest way.



Wednesday, Aug. 20: Convocation picnic (in the Red Barn)

APSURA will again commandeer a table at the picnic following the convocation on Aug. 20. This will be a gathering place for those of you who can come to socialize and to help provide information to those employees who are considering retiring soon. This has been a popular occasion for several years, and you will feel right at home meeting and greeting your APSURA compatriots and faculty and staff friends. The picnic will be in the Red Barn, **beginning around 10:45 a.m.**

Saturday, Aug. 30: Sunrise Century Bike Ride

We will again this year be staffing several rest stops for the Sunrise Century Bike Ride sponsored by the Clarksville Sunrise Rotary Club. This big ride involves over 1000 cyclists riding routes of 33, 62, and 100 miles on roads north of Clarksville. APSURANS who have participated in the past agree that this is an enjoyable event. APSURA also benefits by receiving a nice honorarium for our scholarship fund. If you can join in the fun this year, please email Al Irby at jairby@charter.net by **August 10**. He will provide complete instructions for the day.



Wednesday, Oct. 15: Fall Luncheon with APSU President Alisa White

We are happy to welcome President White to APSU and to APSURA as the guest speaker for our annual Fall Luncheon. The Luncheon will be on Wednesday, Oct. 15, beginning at 11:30 a.m., at The Looking Glass Restaurant, 329 Warfield Blvd. Cost will be \$20 per guest, with entrée choice of chicken salad or Caribbean-spiced salmon fillet on spring mix greens. Please RSVP with payment and entrée choice **by October 1** to APSURA Luncheon, APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044. We expect a full house of 65 attendees, so don't delay registering for this occasion. (For your convenience in notifying others, please copy or forward the official luncheon announcement appended to the email version of this newsletter.)

Saturday, Oct. 18: Fall foliage train excursion from Nashville to Cookeville

All-Aboard will be 7:30 a.m. at the Tennessee Central Railway Museum station at 220 Willow St, Nashville, for the Super Fall Foliage Excursion Train through the Caney Fork River Valley and up to Silver Point and Cookeville, where we will have lunch on our own, then re-board for the return trip. Total time RT is 10 hours. The cost is \$50 each, to be sent to Nancy Irby at APSURA Train Trip, APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044 by **August 30**.

Saturday, Oct. 25: Fall walk on the Clarksville Greenway

We meet at 9:15 a.m. at the Pollard Rd. trailhead for a pleasant stroll on the Greenway, followed by brunch at Silke's. We will travel to the left (north) to avoid the hills on the southern route, which will make it easy for you to bike should you rather do that than walk. This trip will not be narrated this time, which will allow participants a fully a la carte selection of speeds and distances. Please let Phil Kemmerly (tngeologist@usit.net) know if you plan to go, so he can notify you if the walk is canceled because of inclement weather.

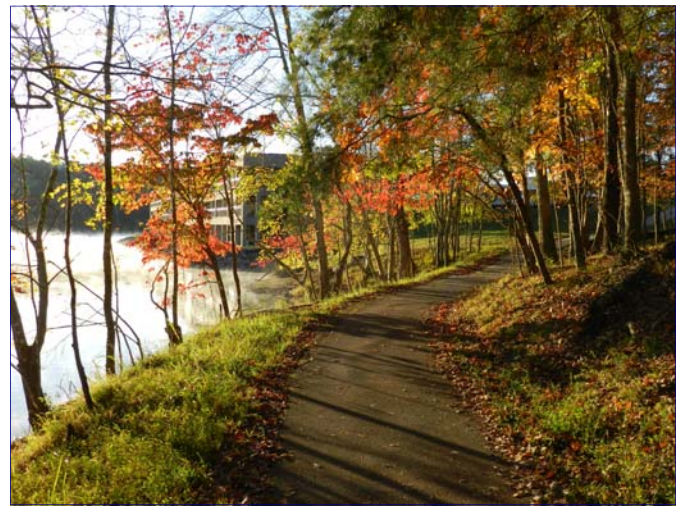
Sunday-Monday, Nov. 2-3: THERA state conference at FCF

This year APSURA will host the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association conference at Fall Creek Falls State Park on November 2-3. The focus this year will be on updates on activities by individual schools' retiree associations, and insurance options and advice for retirees. The conference will begin informally with dinner on our own at the FCF dining room around 6 p.m., with the first session beginning around 7 p.m. The second session will begin around 9 a.m. on Monday and last until noon. There is no registration fee, but we are holding 12 rooms at \$77.75 per room for attendees. Call FCF directly for reservations at 1-800-250-8610, and ask for the rate for retired state employees (not the "conference rate," which is often higher). Please let Aleeta Christian (christiana@apsu.edu) know if you are going, to give us an idea of how many to expect. You will enjoy this very informal meeting, and of course some time to walk around the lake and down to the falls.



Other events for November and December

Our seminar for new retirees will be held sometime mid-November, and the Music Department's two concerts (and probably the APSU President's reception) will be in late November or early December. A Nashville Symphony excursion is also being planned. We hope especially that you will attend the multi-dimensional retirees seminar to provide the new retirees moral support and helpful advice. This is probably the most important yearly event APSURA holds in terms of benefit both to new retirees and ultimately our association. It is now considerably different from the similar occasions you might remember from earlier years.



Websites for information on other events

APSU events: See www.apsu.edu for calendars of events for the Center of Excellence for the Creative Arts, Music, Art, Dance and Theatre, Languages and Literature, Zone 3, and athletics departments.

Newspapers: www.theleafchronicle.com and www.clarksvillenow.com

Arts and Heritage Development Council: www.artsandheritage.us

Musical events: www.clarksvillemusic.org (Community Concerts), www.gatewaychamberorchestra.com, www.nashvillesymphony.org, www.tpac.org

Theatre: www.roxyregionaltheatre.org/

Art: www.downtownartistsco-op.com (Downtown Artists Cooperative)



Kanervo cousins in Lepikorpi, Finland, at the family farm where David's grandfather grew up.

Big family reunions in Sweden and Finland

David Kanervo

One of the best reasons to travel is to visit family members. Inga and Joe Filippo, and Ellen and I used that excuse to take a joint trip to Sweden and Finland to visit the countries of our ancestors and to renew relationships with the current generation of family members. It was a three-week trip, and it was all about family.

Inga grew up near Sundsvall, Sweden, and her sister lives now outside Stockholm with her husband. We flew to Stockholm and began our adventure with a three-day stay with them at their summer home in Norrtälje. We drove from there to the coast where we boarded a ferry for the first leg of our trip to Finland. After an hour-long cruise, we changed ferries to one that would take us on a five-hour trip to Turku, Finland. While Ellen and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary with the Filippas, we could look out the window and see island after island stretching the entire route from Sweden to Finland. In Turku, we visited a historic church and an indoor market with a wide variety of fresh food.

We then drove to Helsinki, where we prepared to meet some of my cousins. It had been thirty years since Ellen and I last saw them. The first day we were treated to a tour of a historic fort outside the Helsinki harbor, one first controlled by the Swedes and then by the Russians. Then we traveled to Nummi, Finland, to see the churchyard cemetery containing my ancestors. From there, we drove to nearby Lepikorpi to the family farm where my grandfather grew up, where we met 15 cousins from my family. For the next two days the Filippas and we explored Helsinki on our own, visiting a museum, shops, and the site of the 1952 Olympic Games.

Leaving Helsinki, we drove north to Jyväskylä and then on to Oulu, Finland, passing through a beautiful region of lakes and woods. In Oulu, we visited with the "Kanervo family north," as one cousin put it. We took a motorboat ride to an outdoor museum on an island a little north of the city, where another group of twelve Kanervo cousins met us.

A Finnish church built into a rock



The next day it was time to leave Finland and head back to Sweden. We drove north around the strait separating Sweden and Finland, arriving in Umea, Sweden. We visited with some of Inga's cousins and

then moved on to stay a night with one of Inga's close friends at her restful summer home in Torpid, which was surrounded by open fields and a lake.

The next stop was Sundsvall where we visited more of Inga's cousins and a childhood friend, and we saw where Inga had lived with her parents. We also visited the university where APSU students can spend a semester. As we closed the circle of the trip, we spent two more nights with Inga's sister before a night at a hotel near the airport in anticipation of the flight home. The trip was a satisfying return to family roots.

Joe Filippo, Ellen Kanervo, and Inga Filippo beside a lake north of Jyväskylä, Finland



Helsinki city square and Univ. of Helsinki. This became the "Red Square" in the movie Reds



Dues reminder and financial statement

Nancy Irby

A big Thank You to the many of you who have renewed your APSURA memberships by paying your \$25 dues for 2014-15. I know it is easy to forget or put off paying dues (I sometimes do that too), so I especially appreciate your alleviating me of the unpleasant duty of hassling you repeatedly! If you have not yet renewed, please send to APSURA Treasurer, APSURA, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044. Dues payments go into our operating fund to cover routine expenses for paper, postage, etc.

Remember that an easy way to avoid the hassle of yearly dues forever is to contribute \$500 for a lifetime membership, which will cover both you and your spouse or partner. This \$500 goes straight into the APSURA Scholarship Fund under the APSU Foundation, and is fully tax deductible. If you give to the Foundation regularly anyway, you might consider "killing two birds with one check" by channeling some of it through a lifetime membership!

We are happy that the Scholarship Fund continues to grow. We ended fiscal year 2013-14 with a balance of \$9,222.50. Even if you don't opt for a lifetime membership, you might consider adding something for the Scholarship Fund when you pay your dues.

The following statement shows the status of the APSURA operating account at the end of fiscal year 2013-14:

Beginning Balance 07/01/2013	\$1,306.34
Income	6,198.00
Expenses	(5,999.11)
Ending Balance 06/30/2014	\$1,505.23
The ending balance includes pre-paid dues for 2014-15 of \$510.00.	

Publication Information

The APSURA Newsletter is published quarterly by the Austin Peay State University Retirees Association. A supplement to the Newsletter, the APSURA NewsNotes, is published monthly to update APSURA members on time-sensitive coming activities and events, both those in which APSURA is participating officially and others recommended by APSURA members. Both the Newsletter and Newsnotes are available at www.apsu.edu/retirees-association.

We invite APSU retirees to send us specific information about coming activities and events you believe will be of interest to APSU retirees. Please send to Hester Crews at crewsh@icloud.com, to Jim Clemmer at clemmerj@apsu.edu, or to APSURA at the physical address below, and include exact dates, times, locations, deadlines, costs, etc. We also welcome the submission of original articles for possible publication in the newsletter, especially descriptions of your accomplishments, travels, discoveries, and other experiences as APSU retirees.

Submissions are limited to 500 words and a maximum of three high-resolution photographs. Send texts as regular email (no tabs) or Word attachments to Jim Clemmer at clemmerj@apsu.edu with photographs sent individually as separate jpg files. Or you may submit typed manuscripts and good-quality photo prints to APSU Retirees Association, Box 4426, Clarksville, TN 37044.

Officers

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Hester Crews, Vice-President
Nancy Irby, Treasurer
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clemmerj@apsu.edu*

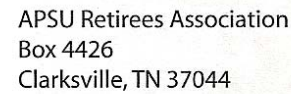
Address

*APSU Retirees Association
Box 4426
Clarksville, TN 37044*

On the Web

www.apsu.edu/retirees-association

See our website for current and past issues of our Newsletter and NewsNotes, a retirement checklist, and information on retiree benefits.



() Retired faculty or staff

() Associate member

Dr._____ **Mr.**_____ **Ms**_____ **Mrs.**_____ **Other preferred title**_____

Additional donation for Scholarship Fund _____ **Lifetime Membership () \$500**

The Austin Peay State University Retirees Association

invites you to

The 2014 Fall Luncheon

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

The Looking Glass Restaurant

329 Warfield Blvd.

Clarksville, Tennessee 37043



Guest Speaker: APSU President Alisa White

On June 30, 2014, Dr. Alisa White became the tenth president of Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn. Dr. White's résumé reflects her impressive rise through the academic ranks in higher education. She has more than 25 years of experience in higher education and has served as graduate adviser; department chair; dean; acting associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, curriculum and instruction; and provost at a wide range of institutions, including The University of Texas at Tyler; Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas; The University of Texas at Arlington; The University of West Georgia; Louisiana State University in Shreveport; and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Luncheon Cost: \$20.00 per guest; make check payable to APSURA

Choice of main entree:

Coconut-Pecan Chicken Salad on a bed of Spring Mix Greens

or

Adobo Caribbean-Spiced Salmon Fillet on a bed of Spring Mix Greens

R.S.V.P. by October 1st

Mail payment and entrée choice to

APSURA Luncheon,

Box 4426

Clarksville, TN 37044