Summer filled with activities

THIS SUMMER has offered a multitude of events along with days spent by the swimming pool, along with some days that bring a mixture of each. There also have been many different festivals and events for the enjoyment of individuals and families.

Robert A. Doll, Jr. Staff Writer

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Sunday, August 11, 2013

WITH a model of the Eliza H. now being displayed at the National Imperial Glass Museum, Belleville is John Bowman, author, historian and steamboat model builder. The exhibit also includes other materials, including a historical novel about Eliza Hechtenberger whose husband, Jacob, was a coal magnate in Belmont County, and the book is available for sale. Museum hours are Thursdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A photo of a painting of the Hechtenberger mansion can be found on Page A1.

Eliza and The House That Jack Built

By BETTY J. POKAS

Times Leader Area Editor

AN EXHIBIT at the National Imperial Glass Museum, Belleville, helps to make more people familiar with coal magnate Jacob Hechtenberger and his wife, Eliza, as well as his faithful and hard-working partner — a little black Infinite-tail jack named Jack.

A model of the Eliza H. steamboat, made by Kent Bowman of Whiting, and commissioned by attorney Daniel H. Pixler, is on display at the museum in an old-cane picture and the historical novel, “Eliza and the House That Jack Built,” were published in 2010. The novel was written by Albert Warren, a Blueprint beneficiary who later taught at the University of Florida.

Whirling, an author and historian once selected as a West Virginia History Honoree, makes strawboat models from scratch, uses available primary pictures and histories of steamboats. Built in 1859, the Eliza H. is depicted in the story by Jack, Jacob Hechtenberger.

This steamboat, which traveled upstream several times, continued in operation well into the 20th century. The Eliza H., a coal and lumber vessel, was 105 feet long, 18 feet wide, and 8 feet deep.

The Imperial Glass showplace is the only Belleville location featuring items related to the Hechtenbergers.

A painting of “The House That Jack Built” by Albert Long is displayed at the Belleville Public Library as is the likeness of Jack’s tail which was carved for the keyhole of the front door, in that magnificent house, which today stands in the area of 16th and Belmont avenues in Belleville.

Designed by an architect brought from England, the mansion was completed by 1890 with the cost being $150,000 to $155,000. It was dedicated on Aug. 10, 1890, the late Eliza H. Hechtenberger Jack to recognition of a companion who never faltered and always went with the wind. The mansion is located at 16th and Belmont avenues in Belleville.

Then, there’s the monument to Eliza’s grave in Greenwood Cemetery, Belleville. The name of Eliza is noted, in addition to a bell, and the Bible. The historical novel concerned that she too was known as a “sly old fish” because of her whiskey binge beginnings.

Jaco1 had the monument erected in honor of his wife, the late Eliza Hechtenberger, who was from Whiskey Run, south of Belleville.

In the 1870s, a reproduction of the House That Jack Built was created by Sirs (Father) Deppas and was displayed at the Belleville Glass and China Show.

The late Jimmy Morrison, a columnist in The Times Leader in 1976, described that model of the house as being “the most beautiful home that I have ever seen that it wouldn’t be surprising if the ghost of old Jacob Hechtenberger were wandering around in it.”

Noting that Hechtenberger with Jack’s help had the “first coal dredging in the entire state,” Morrison said that the mansion was devoted in 1958. He added that in the years prior to that time, mostly everyone ignored the famous implications of the house and setting to prove it.

See, ELIZA, Page 80

A STATUTE of Eliza Hechtenberger adorns the cover of this book about her. It stands in Greenwood Cemetery, Belleville. Her husband, Jacob, was one of the original members of the Christian Church in Belleville. Below is a picture of Jacob Hechtenberger.

Photo Provided

LEFT: The Photo of the steamboat Eliza H. at the local coal mining company in the late 1800s. Pixler is among the photo from the old days, at the exhibit at the National Imperial Glass Museum, Belleville.

Photo Provided

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He said in 1935, some businessmen considered a plan to restore the house as a tourist attraction, "but like too many good ideas, that's all it remained, an idea, and the lonesome old house continued to sit down there on the hillside, getting kicked around by a succession of non-historic-minded owners and unimpressed tenants and disinterested citizens."

The “Centennial History of Belmont County,” notes, in part: “Inseparably connected with Mr. Heatherington’s early and arduous labors was the little black mule called ‘Jack.’ As he grew old and died, worn through years of useful service, the ‘side-partner,’ as his affectionate and appreciative master denominated him, was given burial in a quiet and shady corner of the estate, while the members of the family grieved as at the loss of a friend.”

McKelvey’s book reports the Heatherington family, was “conspicuous for wealth and business activity, but also for its public spirit, civic usefulness and social position.” Jacob and his wife, Eliza, are mentioned in many of the area’s historical books printed in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

Jacob, born in England in 1814, arrived in America as a teenager without any educational advantages. His father settled in West Wheeling, then known as Whiskey Run, and had a small coal mine. Jacob later bought land in Bellaire and eventually owned several coal mines.

Involved in varied business, civic and church activities, Jacob once told the Watt brothers in Barnesville of the need for a mining car wheel that didn’t rust. Stewart Watt developed the self-oiling wheel, and a patent was obtained in 1893 with the Watt Car and Wheel Co. selling cars world-wide by the end of the century. The company also won a blue ribbon at the 1893 Columbian Exposition for the self-oiling wheel.

Jacob’s interests were broad, and he also left visible reminders of those who were so meaningful in his life – his wife, Eliza, and a mule named Jack.

Bellaire graduate earns scholarship

NICOLE TAYLOR, a 2011 graduate of Bellaire High School, is a 2013 recipient of the Ambassador Scholarship, which covers full tuition costs, at the University of Cincinnati’s Blue Ash College.

A resident of West Chester, Ohio, Nicole is the daughter of Marlene Hutcheson (West Chester, OH) and George Hinton (Martins Ferry, OH).

To be eligible for the Ambassador Scholarship, applicants must first interview and be selected to serve as Peer Mentors, who work Summer orientation sessions. After being selected as a Peer Mentor, receiving faculty recommendations and maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 3.0, a student is eligible to apply for the honor of Student Ambassador. The application process includes an interview, presentation and mock campus tour. Both of these positions are open to all University of Cincinnati students, but only ten are selected for the Ambassador title.

Student Ambassadors serve as the “face” of the college and actively engage in events and programs. They also take part in resume building, public speaking, and work with college faculty. It is a one-

THIS LIKENESS of Jack, the mule which was Jacob Heatherington’s hard-working partner, was carved for the keystone of the front door arch in Heatherington’s mansion. It now is displayed in the Bellaire Public Library. Heatherington reportedly took Jack on a tour of the mansion, just after its completion.

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