



Life Lines

Dover Church of Christ
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The Snowman

An ancient art form

“Snowman making is one of man’s oldest folk arts,” says Bob Eckstein, author of *The History of the Snowman, From the Ice Age to the Flea Market*. The art is one of the few activities that modern man shares with his earliest ancestors.

“Man has always wanted to depict an image of himself. It’s a natural instinct,” says Eckstein, 45, a New York cartoonist and writer who devoted six years to documenting the snowman’s history and enduring popularity, a journey through the silly and the sublime as he visited art museums and libraries around the world, and interviewed authorities on art, philosophy, medieval customs and religion.

The earliest snowman illustration Eckstein found is in a religious manuscript, *Book of Hours*, written about 1380 and preserved at the Royal Library in The Hague, Netherlands. Snow sculpting was popular entertainment during the Middle Ages and a way for artists to display their talents at winter festivals. Even Michelangelo sculpted snow figures in 1494 in Florence, Italy, and during an event that became known as the “The Miracle of 1511” in Brussels, Belgium, artists and nonartists alike populated the city with 110 snow people in scenes with social and political meaning.

America had its own snow “miracle” on New Year’s Day in 1857, when residents of Brattleboro, Vermont (pop. 12,005), awoke to find an eight-foot-tall sculpted snowwoman holding a pen and tablet as if recording the year’s events. Townspeople credited the statue to an angel, and newspapers publicized the miracle.

Eventually, sculptor Larkin Mead took credit for his snow angel.

Melting Hearts: The image of the snowman has changed through the centuries. The modern-day snowman resembles the plump button-nosed and coal-eyed Frosty, who debuted in 1949. The familiar icon is such a well-liked character that hundreds of companies have used his image to sell everything from electric razors to life insurance.

“The snowman is a frozen Forrest Gump with this friendly look that the common man can relate to,” Eckstein says.

Ken Borton, of Gaylord, Michigan (pop. 3,682), discovered just how snowman-crazy people are after he staked a wooden one in his yard in front of his webcam in 2006. Borton, 50, wanted his urban friends and family to see the bears, deer and turkeys that wander his 175 acres.

“It was kind of boring without wildlife, so I decided to stick something in the scene,” Borton says. The snowman was ideal since his wife Sheryl, collects snowman figurines. Today, more than 2,000 people a day visit his website, www.snowmancam.com and about 20 people a week drop by in person to see the snowman. In 2007, a couple from Scotland flew into the Detroit airport, rented a car and drove four hours in a snowstorm to pose with the wooden celebrity.

“This is a piece of plywood in my backyard that has gained worldwide recognition and love,” Borton says. “I don’t get it, but I’m having fun.”

Let it snow: Just as in the Middle Ages, snowman building remains a welcome diversion in northern climes during the black winter months.

When the snow flies in Brielle, New Jersey (pop. 4,893), residents celebrate the season by building snowmen garbed as

cowboys, football players and firefighters throughout the town for an annual snowman contest. Participants submit photos of their creations by March 15 for a chance to win a snow cone machine. Meanwhile, residents in Salem, Illinois (pop. 7,909), have until March 20 to submit photos of their snowmen built in the city’s Bryan Memorial Park, where all can enjoy.

Colossal winter fun is what residents of Bethel, Maine (pop. 2,422), had in mind when they created the world’s biggest snowman with 8 million pounds of snow in 1999. Residents topped their own record last February with a 13 million pound snow beauty, Olympia, who towered 122 feet, 1 inch, and could be seen from four miles away. The glamour girl sported eyelashes made from snow skies and ruby lips from painted automobile tires. Schoolchildren fashioned her 6 foot carrot nose from chicken wire and muslin, and stitched a 48 foot-circumference fleece hat to adorn her gigantic head.

“A lot of people like to hibernate in the wintertime and don’t like cold, but this is a push back against nature and people saying, “I can go out in the cold and have fun,” says Robin Zinchuk, executive director of Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mammoth or mini, the snowman’s appeal is timeless. “The snowman is a simple portrait of our humanity,” Eckstein says.

From American Profile, Southeast Edition
askap@americanprofile.com

“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good . . .”
(Genesis 1:31a)

Lines for Ladies

By Pat McAlister

We read about Joseph in the book of Genesis, then the scene changes and the time is about 450 years later. The characters have changed, too. In this reading, we are told of the birth of a baby. Generally, when the Bible gives us a "birth story," the baby is someone who has an important role to play in the history of God's people. The baby is Moses.

If you have children, did you keep a "baby book" when they were young? Parents today don't keep baby books as often as previous generations of parents. Instead, they are more likely to maintain electronic baby books on the Internet that friends and family can view from anywhere in the world. But most of us kept baby books the old fashioned way. We wrote down all the important events in a baby's life: the first time he or she smiled, sat-up, got a tooth, crawled, started to walk and started to speak. We recorded details like weight and height at birth, shower gifts and so on. All of this and more we recorded in a baby book.

Moses' mother was Jochebed (her name is not mentioned in this reading). What do you suppose she recorded in Moses' baby book? The striking thing about Jochebed is how she entrusted Moses to God's care and protection. The baby Moses was in grave danger. The Pharaoh had ordered the execution of all male Hebrew babies. But Jochebed and Moses' sister did what they could to protect baby Moses, and they let God do the rest. They put him in a waterproof basket and hid him in the weedy banks of the Nile River. And then, through a series of remarkable events, Jochebed was given her baby Moses to care for in his early life.

Jochebed was a person of faith! When it seemed her child would be taken from her, he was given back to her. Your children are no doubt well into their adult lives and may have children of their own. Some of you perhaps have suffered the loss of a child. Some of you may not have had children. Yet, all of us can appreciate the faith required in all of these situations.

We are people of faith. Let's continue to be strong in faith.

From Home Touch

Remember Our Sick

Amie Barkley – more tests to follow.

Iris Bates – hospitalized, mild stroke. Marion Helton/Joan Vance's sister.

Tommy Causey - critically ill.

Troy Curtis– therapy going well

Christopher Davenport – 25 years old, diagnosed with possible pancreatic cancer. Related to Diane C. Walters.

Hoyt Ensey – home, showing improvement.

Eugene Qualls – still home, slow recovery from surgery on crushed and broken leg.

Shut-ins – need prayers and visits:

Dover Area: **Evelyn Burton**
Robert Lee

Russellville Nursing & Rehab Center:

Joyce Austin
Evelyn Driver
Lorene McNutt

Stella Manor:

Louise Killer

Others Who Need Our Prayers:

Yvonne Adkisson, Bob/Carolyn Bennett, Bill Boley, Lloyd Boley, Lois Boley, Susie Boley, Rachel Curtis, Jeff Davis, Melvin Davis, Pauline Dale, Barbara Dawson, Charles Ensey, Sarah Ensey, Carol Graham, Sue Griffin, Pat Holloway, Dorothy King, Rose Lee, Linda Melton, Helen Moore, Julie Moss, BJ/Don Sheeran, Reddie Smith, Tanya Smith, Juanita Townsend, and Judy Will.

Special Children: Zeke Church, Garrett Hogan, Tiffany Knight, Elysia Lee, Keith Martin and Noah Williams.

Our Military: D. J. Bandy, Travis Coe, Byron Lee and April Morgan.

No Area Wide Devo for the Month of February CHRISTEens Instead.

**H 4 H (Hunger for Healing),
Dover Church of Christ every
Tuesday, 6PM thru March 31st.**

God Knows Just What We Need

A woman was at work when she received a phone call that her daughter was very sick with a fever. She left her work and stopped by the pharmacy to get some medication for her daughter.

Upon returning to her car she found that she had locked her keys in the car.

She was in a hurry to get home to her sick daughter. She didn't know what to do, so she called her home and told the baby sitter what had happened and that she did not know what to do.

The baby sitter told her that her daughter was getting worse. She said, "You might find a coat hanger and use that to open the door."

The woman looked around and found an old rusty coat hanger that had been thrown down on the ground, possibly by someone else who at some time or other had locked their keys in their car.

She looked at the coat hanger and said, "I don't know how to use this." So she bowed her head and asked God to send her some help.

Within five minutes an old rusty car pulled up, with a dirty, greasy, bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag on his head.

The woman thought, "This is what you sent to help me?"

But she was desperate, so she was also very thankful.

The man got out of his car and asked her if he could help.

She said, "Yes, my daughter is very sick, I stopped to get her some medication and I locked my keys in my car. I must get home to her. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"

He said, "Sure." He walked over to the car, and in less than one minute the car was opened.

She hugged the man and through her tears she said, "Thank You So Much! You are a very nice man."

The man replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison yesterday. I was in prison for car theft and have been out less than 24 hours."

She hugged the man again and with grateful tears cried out loud, "Oh, Thank You God! You even sent me a professional!"

God may not always send us what we expect, but He will always send us what we need. It's up to us to have the wisdom to recognize the difference and be thankful.

Events

Dover Church of Christ Children's Church

Every Sunday
11:15 - 12:00 Noon

Ages 4 thru 8
Bible Story and
Activities

Ages 1 thru 3
Nursery Class

2009

Lads to Leaders
Leaderettes

Overall Theme:

*“ . . . All that You
command us we will do,
and wherever You send
us we will go.”*

(Joshua 1:16)

CHRISTeens 2009

February 20-22

West Side Church of Christ
Russellville, Arkansas
Need to sign up, now.

No Dover Church in
home Youth Devos
for February or
March for 2009.

Mark Your Calendars

The song leading, songs
of praise and scripture
reading will continue
every Sunday, 5 PM, for
Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes.

Annual Sweetheart Breakfast

Saturday, February 14th
9:00 AM

(Men Cooking , 7 AM)

For more info see:

Cara Williams

Dover Ladies Night

Thursday, 7 PM

February 19, 2009.

Hostess: Pat McAlister

DOVER LADIES' DAY!

April 25, 2009

Dover Church of Christ
Dover, Arkansas

Continental Breakfast and
Registration 9:00 AM

Program 9:30 AM

Lunch: 12:00 Noon

Theme: “Today's Moments
become . . .

Tomorrow's Treasured
Memories . . .

February Birthdays

- 03 Mildred Turner
- Jon David Vance
- 08 Mary McAlister
- 09 Juanita Whitted
- 11 Kristen Nordin
- 12 Mary Ann Churchill
- Tommy Oakes
- Emily Straight
- 15 Zackary Shelton
- 16 Rachel Curtis
- 19 Carolyn Bennett
- Tyler Mullins
- 20 Kaci Statler
- 21 Julie Moss
- 22 Eugene Davis
- Keri Letson
- Troy Meadows
- 23 Pat McAlister
- Linda Vance Phillips
- 24 Earl Kennedy
- 27 Caleb Chance
- 28 Theresa Motley

If we missed your birthday, *please*
let us know so it won't happen
again.

“In Search of the Lord's Way”

Now 24/7

The Search Program
can now be accessed
any time on website:

www.searchtv.org

Mack Lyon's weekly
lesson can be heard
and seen on

KARK, Channel 4
Sunday, 7:30 AM

THOSE TO SERVE

February 15, 2009

Sunday A.M.

Announcer: Randall Walters

Song Leader: Merrell Shoptaw

Prayers

Allen Veasman

Alan Boatright

Communion

Podium: Jim Killer

Serve: Earl Stamps

Earl Whitted

Gary Williams

Larry Mahan

Scripture Reading

William Boley

Sunday P.M.

Prayers

William Boley

Tommy Oakes

SPEAKER

Sunday A.M.

Micah Williams

Sunday P.M.

Micah Williams

Prepare Table for Communion

Allen & Marilyn Veasman

Communion to Shut-Ins

Chris Loper

Greeters

Jim & JoAnn Killer

Wednesday Night

Devotional

February 18, 2009

Earl Whitted

Meeting Times

Sunday Morning Bible Classes

9:45 A.M.

Sunday Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

Sunday Evening Worship

6:00 P.M.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Classes

6:30 P.M.

Minister: Micah Williams

Church Office: 479-331-3428

Or Cell: 479-264-9244

Elders:

William Boley 858-7131

Jim Killer 331-2802

Allen Veasman 331-2156

Sid Womack 967-2367

Deacons:

Chris Besterfeldt

Donny Forehand

Brent Hottinger

Chris Loper

Rex McDaniel

Chris Moss

Nursery Attendants:

Sunday Class: JoAnn Killer

Sunday Church: Pat McAlister

Kaeli Miller

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Dover Church of Christ

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