

McFADDIN-WARD HOUSE VIEWPOINTS

September 2023
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Traveling in the Summertime



Mamie McFaddin Ward and Ida McFaddin traveled to South America by ocean liner in the summer of 1949, departing from New York on July 15th.

By Judy Linsley

We know that the McFaddins sometimes escaped the summer heat by traveling to cooler places — the beach, Winslow (Arkansas), Can-

ada, New England, even Europe. But first they had to get there, and hot weather could make the journey, whether by train, automobile, or ship, a challenge.

Of course, there were places to cool off in

Beaumont, especially as air conditioning became available in public places, such as the Jefferson and later the Liberty theaters. In 1932 the YMBL sponsored a talent show in Beaumont's City Audi-

torium, cooling the space "with blasts of air blown across tons of ice." But those who could afford it often traveled to interesting places that offered cooler weather as well.

McFaddin-Ward House archives—diaries, letters, and oral interviews—provide us with valuable glimpses of travel in the early twentieth century. Mamie McFaddin Ward, in her diary, often recorded that day's weather—"cool" or "rainy" or "hot." Occasionally she provided more specific information, describing the oppressive heat on a trip to San Antonio in June, 1938, followed by her grateful appreciation of the St. Anthony Hotel: "all air cooled &... grand." Her use of the adjective "grand" indicated high praise indeed.

Rail was the most practical mode of travel in the early 1900s, but for years trains didn't have air conditioning. In June, 1919, when Mamie and Carroll Ward returned from their honeymoon in Huntington, Mamie wrote that the train was

"hot as fire." The only recourse was to open the windows, which unfortunately allowed soot and cinders from the locomotive to blow in. Mabelle Bryant, Carroll Ward's niece, remembered the cinders burning her eyes. Most travelers wore black, and some changed clothes just before their destination. For others, ever-efficient Pullman porters brushed off their clothing as the train pulled in.

In 1930, the Baltimore & Ohio Railway installed the first air-conditioned dining car. The next year the B&O ran the "first air-conditioned train" between Washington and New York. Other railroad lines followed suit. On August 3, 1938, Mamie happily reported that the train was "cool and nice" when she and Ida boarded it to go from Beaumont to New Orleans.

By the 1920s, automobiles were growing in popularity as they became more affordable and available. They presented the same problem as trains, however, in

See TRAVEL page 4

Director's Desk

MUSIC
AT THE
MCFADDINS

THURSDAY
SEPT. 28
6:30 P.M.

FEATURING JIMMY SIMMONS & FRIENDS

LIVE MUSIC EVENT • ADMISSION FREE |  | 1906 MCFADDIN AVE • BEAUMONT

Dear Friends -

In 2003, I left my law practice here in Beaumont to embark on a “second career” that took me to Washington, D.C. and the National Endowment for the Arts, then to Simi Valley, California and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, then to New Orleans at Longue Vue House and Gardens, back to D.C. again with the Arts Endowment, and finally home to Beaumont here at the McFaddin-Ward House. With leadership responsibilities at each stop, the realization came that “I know what I don’t know” and the importance of surrounding myself with knowledgeable, talented people who knew those things that I did not know. Of the eight approaches to leadership styles, my approach is known as “Servant Leadership” where, rather than insisting others follow my lead, I seek to channel energy into elevating and developing people.

The McFaddin-Ward House is fortunate to have an exceptionally talented staff in place - people who know the things that I don’t know - each with a particular expertise that works in tandem with other staff members to produce memorable visits and quality programming for our

many visitors throughout the year. In August we were pleased to welcome Jennifer Lowrance as the museum’s Director of Educational Programming. Jennifer comes to us from Hamshire-Fannett High School where she created and taught a variety of curriculums to students with varying degrees of familiarity with the subject matter being taught - skills which will be in high demand as we strive to be a continuing source of inspiration through programs, exhibitions, and partnerships



Jennifer Lowrance,
Director of Educational Programming

that encourage life-long learning. I’m delighted that Jennifer chose to join our dedicated and remarkably knowledgeable staff - and share with us the many things regarding teaching and education that we do not know! So . . . Welcome Jennifer!

We’re eagerly counting down the weeks before the historic house will again welcome visitors. Insulation, which was previously not possible due to the knob and tube wiring, has been blown in between the third and fourth floors of the house, and even though a few electricians continue to come and go, the house has been given a thorough cleaning and polishing the likes of which even Mamie would be proud! The last major hurdle is the return and re-installation of EVERY light fixture in the house - following each fixture’s repair, re-wiring, and cleaning of every last crystal prism! We’re expecting the delivery of those treasures from Crenshaw Lighting in Floyd, Virginia in mid-September. Can’t wait!

Tony L. Chauveaux

Curator's Corner

Windows to Eras Gone By: Journeying Through History at the McFaddin-Ward House Museum

By Morgen Clements

Summer Collections Intern

I've held an interest in history as far back as I can remember, and I've always loved a good story. Going to antique shops and learning about all the tools, trinkets, and décor of the past felt the same as reading a good book. I realized all the items surrounding me have a history to them. They all carry a story that for most gets lost to the passing of time. I wanted to help save these stories for others to learn from even the most mundane and often overlooked pieces of history as they too hold a significance to the stories of our collective past.

As a recent graduate in Library Science with a focus in archival studies, embarking on a summer internship at the McFaddin-Ward House Museum collections department felt like stepping into a dream world where history came alive in the most tangible ways. Over the past few months, my experience at the museum has been nothing short of transformative, igniting my passion for preserving the past and breathing life into forgotten narratives.

From the moment I walked through the museum's doors, I was struck by the sheer magnitude of its historical treasures. The opportunity to work closely with artifacts, photographs, and documents dating back centuries was a privilege I never took for granted. As I meticulously cataloged and digitized these items, each piece became a window into a different era, telling stories of lives

once lived and experiences long past.

Collaborating with the collections team was an eye-opening experience. Their guidance and mentorship not only enhanced my technical skills but also showed me the importance of collaboration in the museum world. The sense of camaraderie among us,

speak to future generations. The idea that my work might help someone connect with their ancestry, understand a pivotal historical moment, or simply experience a moment of nostalgia was truly humbling.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my work with McFaddin-Ward House Collections is the exhibit showcasing forgotten women's fashion trends of the 20th century. These once key statements of a woman's wardrobe have since been either snuffed out by shifting trends or become obsolete with advancements in technology. Their initial creation lends to the innovation of women's styles as wars and economic hardships shifted the role of women in society and culture.

As my internship at McFaddin-Ward House Museum comes to an end, I reflect on the journey that has brought me here. From the academic halls of my studies to the hands-on realm of archival preservation, I have found my passion amplified and my purpose clarified. I am grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to the museum's mission of preserving heritage and am excited to carry forward the skills and insights I've gained into my future endeavors.

The McFaddin-Ward House Museum has not only been a place of learning but a space where history lives on through dedicated individuals who understand the significance of the past in shaping our collective future.



Morgen Clements, Summer Collections Intern

fueled by our shared passion for history, made every day an opportunity for growth and learning.

What struck me most profoundly was the ability to give voice to history's silent witnesses. Whether it was an old check stub or an original designer hat, I felt a deep responsibility to ensure that these artifacts could

TRAVEL

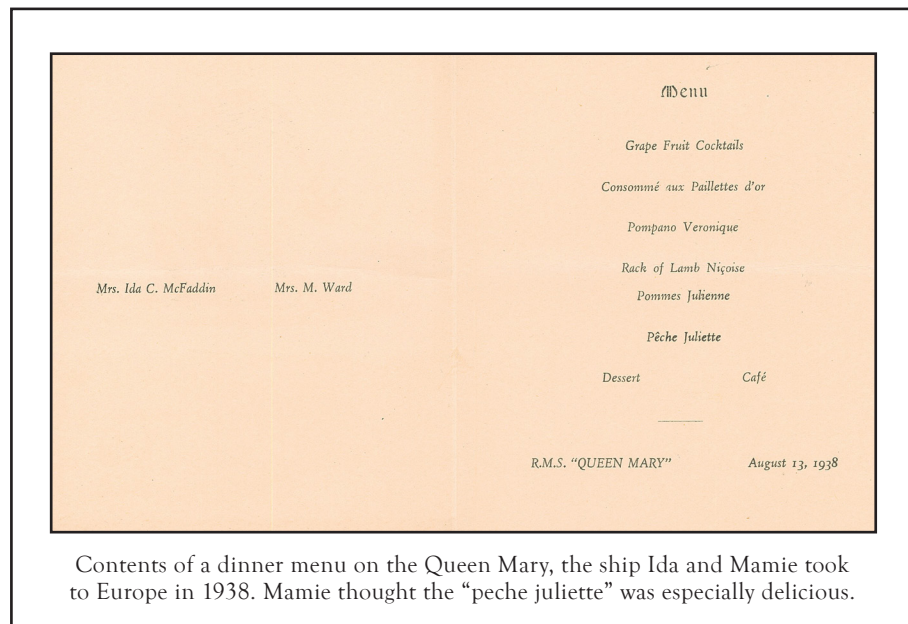
Continued from page 1

that the only way to stay cool was to open the windows. Also, in many areas the roads hadn't been improved. On a chauffeur-driven trip that Mamie and her mother Ida McFaddin made to Canada and New England in August, 1935, Mamie described the drive from Little Rock, Arkansas, to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as "steaming hot over lots of gravel roads." The next day was "still hot," and though the hotel dining room was air conditioned, their room had only two fans. Not until they reached the Cadillac Hotel in Detroit did they enjoy an air conditioned room, which Mamie praised as being "grand and cool."

Although a Houston car owner is credited with

privately installing the first automobile air conditioner, a Kelvinator, in 1930, the first automaker to offer factory-installed air-conditioning was Packard, in 1940. World War II shut down automobile development and production, but after it ended in 1945, more and more cars began to come with factory air. In June, 1947, Mamie wrote in her diary that she and Carroll "tried the air conditioner" on his car. By 1969, more than half of all new cars sold were equipped with air conditioners.

Ocean voyages might have seemed the epitome of romantic and luxurious travel in the first half of the twentieth century, but they could also be hot and stuffy, with a single



Contents of a dinner menu on the Queen Mary, the ship Ida and Mamie took to Europe in 1938. Mamie thought the "peche julienne" was especially delicious.

porthole the only ventilation in the cabins. When Mamie and Ida journeyed to Europe in 1938, they sailed on the British liner, the Queen Mary. This was a fortunate choice, because in 1936 the liner had installed air conditioning in some of the

public rooms, such as the dining rooms. The two women also benefited from heading to northern Europe rather than warmer parts of the world. Mamie's only temperature complaint on the trip was one "hot and dirty" train ride from Ge-

neva to Paris.

Ida and Mamie's European tour was cut short by the threat of war, and they were lucky to be able to secure passage home on the Champlain, a French liner much smaller than the Queen Mary but comfortable nevertheless.

After World War II ended in 1945, ocean liners continued expanding climate control; in the 1960s, the Empress of Canada was the first to provide complete air conditioning, including public rooms, cabins, and crew quarters. Now passengers can enjoy climate control in every interior part of the ship.

These days travel difficulties usually involve traffic jams or long lines and cancelled or delayed flights in airports. We can be thankful that such problems at least take place in air conditioned spaces.



Mamie Ward, Ida McFaddin, and Carroll Ward dining in Duluth, Minnesota in July, 1948. The ladies came by train for an extended stay, while Carroll flew up to join them later.

Education

A New Start



Jennifer Lowrance (right) joins fellow area museum representatives Dana Howard, Museum of the Gulf Coast, Rayanna Hoeft, Spindletop Museum, and Bel Morian, McFaddin-Ward House, for the BISD Curriculum Fair on August 2, 2023.



BISD educators learn more about McFaddin-Ward House education opportunities from Jennifer Lowrance, Director of Educational Programming for the museum at the BISD Curriculum Fair on August 2, 2023.

By Jennifer Lowrance

Director of Educational Programming

My first month at the McFaddin-Ward House Museum has been wonderful. Getting to know other staff members, researching, and planning new educational resources, as well as doing outreach to BISD through their Curriculum Fair filled my first days. Everyone has been so welcoming and kind as I make my transition from teaching into Director of Educational Programming at the museum.

Coming from a High School teaching background, I am passionate about creating educational resources that educators can use in the classroom. As part of the mission of the McFaddin-Ward House Museum, I want to preserve and share the legacy of the McFaddin family and their contributions to the economic, social, and cultural history of Beaumont and the Texas Gulf Coast. The best way to do this, I believe, is through on-site activity-based field trips tailored to the learning targets of the grade level that align with TEKS. It is also equally important to meet our community where they are, and provide educational opportunities for them by bringing the museum to them through virtual field trips and classroom learning kits, sometimes known as a "museum in a box".

I believe the vision of the McFaddin-Ward House Museum is prospering as a continued source of inspiration

and education through its exhibitions, programming, and partnerships that encourage life-long learning. As we reach out to the community in new ways through virtual field trips and internet accessible lesson plans for educators, we can inspire an appreciation for the past while encouraging future civic engagement.

If you would like to volunteer as a docent at the museum, please reach out to me at jlowrance@mcfaddin-ward.org. Follow us on social media for upcoming education opportunities, and community events.



FIELD TRIP OPPORTUNITIES

With TEKS-aligned presentations for various age groups, McFaddin-Ward House education programs offer a unique opportunity to learn either on-site at the historic house or in your classroom.

For more information contact:
Jennifer Lowrance, Director of Educational Programming
office: 409-832-1906 | email: jlowrance@mcfaddin-ward.org




'Other Views' Cooling Off



The McFaddin-Ward House was designed with architectural features such as spacious porches, transom windows, and tall ceilings to help with cooling.

By Arlene Christiansen

With the record high temperatures we've been experiencing lately, my thoughts turned to how the McFaddin and Ward families handled the heat back in the day. One way was that architect Henry Conrad Mauer's original design encouraged air movement. Transom windows over the doors can be opened and are situat-

ed in line with external doors or windows to allow the air to move through the house. The large wraparound porch shades the first floor, and window awnings provide shade to the upper floors. The tall ceilings throughout the house allow the heat to rise, leaving cooler air in the living spaces. Around 1912 Mauer added a screened-in porch on the second floor, and according to Mrs. Ward's

diary and family memories, the family would move out there in May for cooler sleeping.

In 1915, the McFaddins bought a beach house at Caplen, on Bolivar Peninsula. They named the house "Miramar," and spent a lot of time there that summer in the cool Gulf breeze. In one diary entry on July 19, Mamie wrote "went up to Caplen." Unfortunately, they didn't get to en-

joy it for long, as 1915 was the year of a major hurricane that hit Galveston. Ida wrote on a photograph of Miramar, "my cottage at Roll Over [another name for the Caplen area] Texas destroyed by flood August 16, 1915." They didn't rebuild at the beach until 1930, when the family built three homes, one for Ida and Mamie, one for Perry, and one for Caldwell. Ida named her house "Guyandotte"



McFaddin family beach house "Miramar," ca. 1915.



McFaddin family beach homes at Caplen, ca. 1930s.

for the river that flows through Huntington, West Virginia. Perry's house was destroyed by a hurricane in 1943, and the other two by Hurricane Carla in 1961.

Between beach homes, Ida rented a cabin in Winslow, Arkansas, a retreat in the Ozark Mountains. In 1918 she wrote her husband, W.P.H. McFaddin, that "the air is crisp and cool, and the sun still is shining. From the porch the distant hills are superb... Really never is Winslow so beautiful."

Meanwhile, back in Beaumont, the family was fortunate that when Mauer designed the house he included electricity in the plan, which made it possible for them to use electric fans. Electric fans became widely available early in the 20th century and could be ordered from catalogs such as Montgomery Ward and Sears. Of course, most were expensive, like the two Jandus table fans in the museum collection. Many Americans would not have been able to afford them. Fans of this size were usually made for offices, not domestic interiors. They had 16" brass blades that could move large amounts of air.

The McFaddins rarely discarded even their early fans. One, a General Electric model made about 1901, was still in use in the Butler's Pantry in 1982 when Mrs. Ward passed away. The original ceiling fans were also still installed in the less formal rooms. While the parlor, dining room, library



Caldwell, Mamie, and Perry Jr. stand arm in arm at their vacation spot in Winslow, Arkansas, circa 1917.

and entrance hall had chandeliers, other rooms such as the breakfast room, the music room, and second-floor bedrooms had ceiling fans, all dating to about 1910. (There had originally been a chandelier in

the Music Room, but sometime after 1909 it was replaced with a ceiling fan with four art-glass shaded lights.) Other ceiling fans can be found on the porches and in the kitchen. The McFaddins were ap-



A variety of electric fans are part of the museum's collection.

parently not loyal to any brand, as Westinghouse, Weber, General Electric and Dayton fans can be seen. They also had a variety of styles: box, desk, standing, and ceiling fans dating from ca. 1900 to well past 1950, the ending year of the museum's interpretation.

In July 1938 Mamie had a York window unit air conditioner installed in Ida's bedroom. Ida left for Huntington, West Virginia, not long after, and Mamie and Carroll moved into her room temporarily. They

loved the "grand and air cooled room," as Mamie described it in her diary, at one point reporting that she slept better than she had in months. In 1940 Mamie installed a Frigidaire window unit in her own bedroom.

In 1947 Mamie had a new air conditioner installed in Ida's bedroom. In June of 1948, she purchased a York air conditioner for her husband Carroll's birthday. In 1952 the pink and primary bedrooms were connected with ductwork to a single air conditioning unit, the nearest thing to a central system the house had during Mamie's lifetime.

Over the course of time, the McFaddins dealt with the heat in many ways. They circulated the air, took cool baths, or traveled to cooler climes. Only occasionally did they complain of the heat in diaries and letters, leaving us with the impression that they probably handled the heat better than we do today.

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The
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Public Programming Perspectives

By Bel Morian

The McFaddin-Ward House invites you to join us for interesting, dynamic, and rare opportunities to hear several very special musicians and lecturers this fall. We have more in store for the Spring, but below is a glimpse into our first half of the season:

Thursday, September 28
6:00 p.m. gates/6:30 p.m. music

Music at the McFaddins' featuring Jimmy Simmons and Friends
East Lawn

Thursday, October 5
6:30 p.m.

McFaddin-Ward Lecture featuring Andre LuJan
"Texas Fossil Finds: Following the Journey from Dig to the Museum"
Visitor Center

Friday, October 20
6:00 p.m. gates/6:30 p.m. presentation

Music at the McFaddins' & Lecture featuring Rachel Clark, Lamar University Center for History & Culture, and live music performance by Jivin' Gene
"Swamp Pop: History & Sounds of a Gumbo-Combo of Rock'N' Roll, Country, & Cajun Music"
East Lawn

Thursday, November 2
6:30 p.m.

McFaddin-Ward Lecture featuring Jennifer Pickens
"Entertaining at the White House with Time Honored Holiday Traditions"
Visitor Center

Sunday, November 12
12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

McFaddin-Ward House Holiday Photo Shoot (*by reservation 409-832-2134)
Front Walk of McFaddin-Ward House Museum

Wednesday, November 29

The museum will be fully decorated for Christmas. Bring your family and friends for a festive tour.
Visitor Center

Sunday, December 3
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

McFaddin-Ward Holiday Open House #1
Holiday Décor, music, holiday treats, Santa, lights, carolers and more
Begin at the Visitor Center

Sunday, December 10
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

McFaddin-Ward Holiday Open House #2
Holiday Décor, music, holiday treats, Santa, lights, carolers and more
Begin at the Visitor Center

Follow the McFaddin-Ward House on social media
for behind-the-scenes glimpses of museum life & historical happenings.



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Scan the QR code with your phone
to preview upcoming MWH events.

