



Mark Hardy/Index

Antiquated farm equipment and osteopathic relics of the E.M. Violette Collection are being temporarily stored with other ancient odds and ends in Grim Smith Hospital.

# Museum collection to emerge from basement

BY MARIA KAESS  
for the Index

After five years of collecting dust, the E.M. Violette Collection once again is receiving the attention it deserves.

Members of the Truman Historical Society have pledged to sort, organize and clean in the hope of making the collection accessible to the public once more.

Until fall 2003, the E.M. Violette Museum was housed in the basement of Kirk Memorial. When problems with humidity began to cause damage, the collection was hastily moved to Grim Smith Hospital on Patterson Street.

Elaine Doak, special collections librarian and archivist at Pickler Memorial Library, said she remembers the chaos of the move.

"We had to move out and move out in a big hurry," Doak said. "We just packed stuff up and shoved it over to Grim Smith and got it out of the way."

Although the frenzied move preserved the collection from further damage, it left the artifacts in a jumbled mess. That is, until recently.

When senior history major Maggie Abbott heard about the state of the collection, she said she immediately wanted to help.

"It made me sad that there was a mu-

seum here but nothing was being done with it," Abbott said.

Abbott had approached Doak about helping with the collection once before, but it wasn't until Abbott's second attempt that she and Doak were able to work something out.

"I went up to her a second time and I said, 'OK, well, now I'm in the historical society, and we would really love to help you,'" Abbott said. "She was like, 'Great,' because she loves working with the historical society, and they had helped her out for the longest time. So she was really happy to have that contact and to have that assistance again."

As a historical society historian, Abbott soon got other members of the club involved in the project. Although the project still is in its early stages, Abbott said so far she has been a successful liaison between Doak and the club.

"I'm saying, 'Elaine needs help on these days, at these times, 'Here's a sign up sheet. Tell me what days you can make it. Tell me what days you can't' and then from there I make a list of who can work on what days and who goes in and helps her out," Abbott said.

Ultimately, Abbott said she thinks the reorganization of the collection will be good for Truman. She also

said she thinks displaying the collection will increase the prestige of the University.

"It's an extremely valuable collection," she said.

Doak said she would like to see the museum re-established as well.

"The thing was created in the first place as a teaching and learning tool, and that was the focus and the purpose of the museum," Doak said. "If it can be set up nicely to do that again, it would be a great asset."

Once Abbott and the historical society have finished organizing the collection, some pieces likely will be selected for display in the former fire house on Franklin Street, which will become the new Office of Admission.

As for the rest of the collection, Doak said she would like to see it returned to a renovated Kirk Memorial.

Lori Shook, campus design project manager, confirmed the possibility of the museum's return to Kirk Memorial.

Whether the collection finds its way back to Kirk Memorial or not, Doak said she is happy to see it being taken care of.

"I am really grateful to the society, and we're happy that they're trying to do this," Doak said. "So far we've had one work day, and it worked out really well. I think it's going to be a good deal."

# Student organizes diversity awareness retreat

BY ALEX HALFMANN  
for the Index

A new town is being founded within the Kirksville city limits.

Campus Town is a two-day retreat during which 40 to 50 students leaders from various campus organizations come together to learn about and spread diversity throughout campus.

"I wanted to be able to give leaders of organizations the opportunities to make connections across campus with people who they might not have normally met and be able to bring that back to their organization and have some team building ideas or just bring about certain issues that focus on prejudice that they may not have realized," said senior Amy Bockelman, organizer of Campus Town.

Bockelman said she participated in the high school

program, called Unitown, four years ago as a junior in high school. She said she also was a small group student leader her senior year.

"I remember what an impact it made and four years later I obviously still remember that it was such a great program," Bockelman said.

Bockelman said she believes Truman's student body, although small, is dedicated enough to focus on diversity issues.

"While we are a small campus, we do have a large amount of diversity, much more than just some people are black and some people are white," Bockelman said.

The program, facilitated by KC Harmony, teaches students about different topics including, race, class, culture, social status, oppression and power. KC Harmony is a Kansas City-

based organization that works to help improve race relations and raise appreciation of cultural awareness.

Participants will be sponsored by an on-campus organization. Bockelman said all Greek organizations, Multicultural Affairs, religious organizations and Prim Roses were invited. Other organizations such as Residence Life and Student Senate also will be represented.

Bockelman said the participants are asked to fill out an application so KC Harmony can better understand the group they are going to be teaching.

Sophomore Claire Hof is a student adviser and will be sponsored by Residence Life. Hof said

she looks forward to being in the diverse group and being able to put the knowledge into action.

"I am hoping to become more relatable since I have such a variety of residents," Hof said. "... So hopefully this program will allow me to gain a wider variety of knowledge so I can know how to handle certain things with students, what is best for my residents and be able to treat them with the largest amount of respect."

Hof also said she hopes to personally grow from Campus Town.

"I know that there will be some conversations that may make me feel uncomfortable, but I think that is going to be good because it means I am learn-

ing and addressing issues in my life that I am not certain about," Hof said.

Another participant is sophomore Jillian Lopez, who participated in Unitown her senior year of high school. She said she left the retreat with a great sense of community.

Lopez called herself a nerd when it comes to school but she said she is excited for the opportunity to partake in Campus Town and that she is doing whatever it takes so she can go again.

"I hope that I can have some of my own [prejudices and stereotypes] broken down, and although I consider myself a very open-minded person, I am hoping that I can gain new insight and broaden my horizons even more," Lopez said.

Campus Town costs \$2,000, and that figure includes facilitation

costs, lodging, travel and food. Bockelman said she went to Deborah Miller, senior and head of the Campus Diversity Committee for Student Senate about receiving funding for the retreat and that Miller proposed the program to Senate, asking for funding. Senate passed a resolution giving Campus Town \$500. Residence Life and the Residential College Program also are helping fund Campus Town.

Bockelman said Campus Town was supposed to happen last year, but KC Harmony canceled at the last moment. Because of this, KC Harmony offered a discount for a future Campus Town.

Campus Town will take place Feb. 29 to March 1 in the Student Union Building.

"It may be a large time commitment, but the outcomes last a lifetime," Bockelman said.

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### For Rent

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### For Rent

tor, w/d hookups in kitchen. Gas heat, window air. No pets. \$400/month plus utilities. Available May 15. Broker/owner 341-1934

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