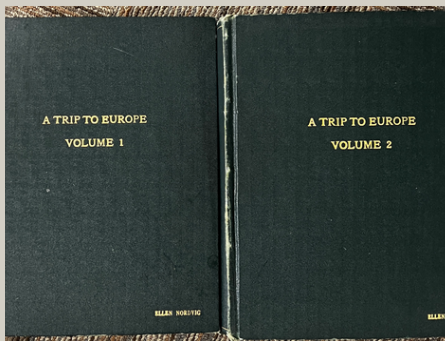


# THE TOWNER TATTLER

The Official Newsletter of the Boone County Museum of History

FALL 2022

## Artifact Spotlight



This issue's spotlight shines on the travel journals of Ellen Ellingson. These Journals take you on a 1938 trip around Europe. With photos and descriptions of the whole trip, Ms. Ellingson gives us an interesting view of what Europe was like just before the breakout of World War Two



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND DINNER



**MUSEUM MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND DINNER ON DECEMBER 6. THE EVENT WILL BE FROM 5-7PM AT THE MUSEUM.**

### Museum Updates

The museum is going through many changes and updates! Our newest exhibits, the Jack and Peggy Wolf Art Gallery and the military exhibit, Boone County Remembers, are up and running. The grand openings of both were a hit with keynote speaker Jay Allen giving a lecture on the history of public art in Boone County and Chuck Larson giving a lecture on a Soldier's Perspective of the Vietnam War.

The current exhibit in the art gallery is **El Arte Está En Todas Partes: Art is Everywhere** featuring Mexican artwork on loan from Lori Pepper.

### Funderburg House Updates

The Funderburg House has been a roaring success with the house rented for various events almost every weekend for the last month. Many school reunions, bridal showers, and birthday parties have taken place.

The first annual Funderburg House Christmas Gala will take place on December 9. Tickets are going fast and this event is expected to sell out.

Find us on Instagram @bcmuseumofhistory and @the\_funderburghouse



Find us on Facebook at [The Boone County Museum of History](#) and [The Funderburg House](#)



## Flashback to the Past

This issue's Flashback is brought to us by the wonderful Mary Ralston Newport.

"My story begins when I was a first grade student at the Livingston grade school located at the corner of Livingston School Road and North Boone School Rd. Our home was ½ mile west of the school on what was then called Livingston Cemetery Road. When I was in first grade, there was an older boy in the school named Anton Tannis, about 5 or 6 years older than I was. He walked past our house, to and from school, to his home which was a short mile west of our house. The Tannis home and farm buildings were back off the roadway on a slight incline or hill, as I remember, there was a stream that ran along the east side of the farm and under a bridge on the roadway. These details are important to the story. One night in late November of 1933, our father, Walter Ralston, woke my sister Anna and Me, probably against our mother's wishes, and brought us downstairs to see something from a west window in the back of our house. My father held me up so I could see clearly the sky above the Tannis Farm. It was filled with bright lights. We called them 'searchlights'. I don't remember any sounds, but our father told us what was happening. He knew that it was being raided by federal agents. My sister, Anna, learned later that our father, an electrician, knew of the still from being asked to do some wiring for a Delco generator. I believe it was in the base of a silo. While working, a man came out to the silo and told him "you haven't seen anything!" The federal agents worked fast and the Tannis Still was, before the next night, on its way to a Chicago junk yard. The story was that the still was discovered from mash from the grain used in the making of the alcohol, and was seen floating down the check from the form. Five men were arrested and taken to Ottawa, IL on federal charges. I don't know what was their fate. It is a night I haven't forgotten as I near my 95th year! I often thought of Anton and what his life was. I wish I had asked my dad if he really "didn't see anything" or if he had reported something. There are many unanswered questions."

**-Mary Ralston Newport, 2022**

### Important Dates to Remember

- Tuesday Twilight Tours at the Funderburg House: Tuesday December 6th, 4-6pm and Tuesday December 13th, 4-6pm
- General Membership Meeting: December 6th, 5-7pm
- Funderburg House Christmas Gala: December 9th, 6-10pm

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