

Around the Office

Here at the Scott Joplin Foundation, we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of spring and warmer weather. We have been spared the really bad weather that hit all around us, but the bitter cold has been around longer than most diehard winter fans care for. With the promise of spring just around the corner, the 2008 Festival plans are well underway!

The Foundation Office and Store will resume the spring/summer hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (Central Time). There are times when we close for meetings and there are times we are open for special events or large groups. But typically, every week day from now until the Festival.

We have had two benefit concerts since the last issue of the Sedalia Rag was published. Dave Majchrzak spent a week in November visiting local schools as our Artist In Residence and finished with a Friday night concert. A good time was had by all and Dave didn't seem any worse for the wear after his week in Sedalia. More recently, Bill Edwards, Marty Mincer, and Adam Swanson made an appearance in a very entertaining Saturday night concert. We have also been contacted by Ivory and Gold about doing a concert next November! Anne, Jeff, and Danny will be visiting our little corner of the world on November 14, 2008.

Our experiment into the cyber world and the MySpace generation seems to be going well. We have our own space – www.myspace/scottjoplinfoundation. On that we have Festival information, performer list, and links to other related people and sites. Turns out we have fans all around the world from all walks of life. We hope to continue improving that site and finding new friends.

Tickets and information for the Festival are available at the store, online at www.scottjoplin.org or by calling 660-826-2271 or 866-218-6258 (toll free). We look forward to seeing many of you at the 2008 Ragtime Festival!

Changes on the Board

This past year there have been only two changes, but they have been significant ones. Jo Ann Neher has stepped down as President of the Foundation. This is a position she has held for the past 7 years and she is quite happy to have turned the responsibilities over to Nevin Almquist. Jo Ann hasn't left the Board by any means. She is still actively helping year round with the store and she will still have her hands full come Festival time! We do want to express our deepest thanks for her years as the leader of this little endeavor. When you see her this June, let her know how grateful we all are for her guidance over the past years. We are looking forward to many more years of Jo Ann serving on the Board.

The other big change is that Bill Long is taking a break from serving as the Co-Artistic Director. Bill has served as a Board member, President for a year, and on the Performance Committee under various titles for a total of 10 years. His work with the performers in coordinating schedules is one of the major undertakings each year and he was always able to create an exciting lineup for all. We don't know if his schedule will allow him to attend the Festival this year, but if you do see him around, he also deserves to know how grateful we are for all he had done in the past.

The year was 1908

Scott Joplin had moved to New York the summer prior to 1908, was living in Tin Pan Alley and from all accounts he was enjoying a fairly comfortable life. In addition to *Fig Leaf Rag*, he also published *Sugar Cane* and *Pine Apple Rag*.

Theodore Roosevelt was in the final year of his Presidency and William Taft was elected that fall. The Edwardian Era in Britain under the rule of King Edward VII. Wilhelm II was the German Emperor, Franz Joseph I was Emperor of Austria, and Pope Pius X was heading the Catholic Church and the Vatican.

The Grand Canyon was designated a national monument, another lasting tribute to the vision of Pres. Roosevelt, and Friedrich Cook found the North Pole. Japanese immigration to the US was forbidden. The Olympic Games were relocated to London after the Mt. Vesuvius eruption of 1906 made it impossible for Rome to remain the host. While the Games were better organized than in the past, they were not without controversy. Irish athletes boycotted the Games as Britain refused to grant Ireland their independence, and the US showed support for the Irish by refusing to dip the American flag to the British royalty.

1908 saw the beginning of many well known things. The Harvard Business School, the FBI, Boy Scouts, Converse shoes, General Motors, and Wachovia all trace their roots to this year. Pamper pooches everywhere began snacking on Milk Bone dog treats and Americans were introduced to a ready to eat breakfast cereal by US Mills and their Uncle Sam Cereal line.

After many failed attempts, Henry Ford found success with the Model T Ford as production began that year. West Virginia celebrated the first Mother's Day. Outlaws Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid are supposedly killed in Bolivia. In New York, the first Time's Square Ball Dropped on New Year's. Women competed in the Olympics for the first time and the Chicago Cubs won their 2nd World Series.

Many notables were born in 1908 including, authors Louis L'Amour and Ian Fleming, psychologist Abraham Maslow creator of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, future President Lyndon Johnson, and a host of actors, Buddy Epton Bette Davis, James Stewart, Milton Berle, Ethel Merman, Rex Harrison, Eddie Albert, Don Ameche, Carole Lombard, and Mel Blanc the voice of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, Sylvester the Cat, Tweety Bird, Foghorn Leghorn, Yosemite Sam, Barney Rubble, and Mr. Spacely.

A few notable deaths were Henry Lomb – cofounder of Bausch & Lomb, Frederick Standley – founder of NHL Stanley Cup, Grover Cleveland – former President, Edward Teller – inventor of Hydrogen bomb. The New York social scene lost Caroline Astor, the un-crowned American 'Queen' of New York's elite.

Henri Matisse opened an art academy, and Rachmaninoff, Ravel, and Debussy all had musical premiers. Literature saw the creation of several classics including *A Room With a View* by EM Forster, *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame, and *Anne of Green Gables* by Lucy Maud Montgomery. Contemporaries of Joplin were publishing the following songs: *Dusty Rag* – May Aufderhelde, *Ham and !* – Arthur Marshall, *Shine on Harvest Moon* and *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* by Jack Norworth.