



McFarland Historical Society

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For a color version, go online: <http://www.mcfarlandhistorical.org>

McFarland Historical Society Now Owns The Larson House

The McFarland Historical Society, after a successful bid at a Dane County Sheriff's sale last June, finally received the deed to the Larson house, on Feb 1, 2012. The once beautiful Queen Anne style home, built in 1898, has been empty and neglected for many years. However, the Larson House is structurally sound and water-tight. We plan to make initial repairs to the exterior so that the house stands as an attractive public landmark. We will phase in additional internal repairs and upgrades over a period of several years.

The McFarland Historical Society intends to preserve this early home as a house exhibit. Because of its beauty and location, it will serve as a memorial to the pioneering spirit of early McFarland settlers, including the Larson family, which settled here as early as 1862. The house will portray life in the early 20th century, approximating the era of the 1920's, with period decor, historical photos, art work and a variety of displays all available for public open house activities and viewing. Many towns and villages in Wisconsin have such house exhibits.

We have raised over \$79,000 so far toward the purchase and restoration of the Larson House. We thank all of you so much for your enthusiastic and generous support. We still have a long way to go to realize our dream of turning the Larson House into a beautiful addition to our museum.

We thank you for all that you have contributed to the museum in the past, and look forward to your continued commitment as we undertake this important and exciting project for our community. Volunteers will also be needed to help with its restoration and renovation.

Dale Marsden, President



Dale Marsden is holding the deed to the Larson House.

2012 Annual Meeting of the McFarland Historical Society Meeting Features Author and Stories of Wisconsin's Civil War Heroine

On the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, Bob Kann, author of [Cordelia Harvey: Civil War Angel](#), will be the featured guest at the McFarland Historical Society's Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 11, at the E. D. Locke Library beginning at 1 PM.

In his presentation, Bob will share amazing stories from his biography on Cordelia Harvey from her early life as a teacher and homemaker to her experiences as the wife of a rising politician in the 1850's and later Governor Louis Harvey. After her stint as First Lady of Wisconsin, Cordelia's experiences during the Civil War will be presented. Cordelia became known as "The Wisconsin Angel" and "The Florence Nightingale of Wisconsin" for her compassionate and competent care for Wisconsin soldiers – caring for the wounded, giving hope to the sick and comfort to the dying. Bob will also highlight her successful efforts to convince President Lincoln to open a military hospital in Madison. "The Harvey Hospital" and its subsequent conversion to an orphanage (Soldiers' Orphans Home for the State of Wisconsin) with Cordelia as superintendent provided care for hundreds of needy Wisconsin soldiers and children.

The public is invited. Teachers, students and anyone interested in Wisconsin's role in Civil War history are encouraged to come. Kann's book will be available for purchase. Don't miss this special presentation on "a true patriot" – a description used by the Memphis Bulletin in December, 1862.



*Cordelia A. P. Harvey (1824-1895)
the Wisconsin Angel*

Celebrating the Beginning of McFarland High School

by Wes Licht



Fifty years ago in the summer of 1962, construction of the first McFarland High School was completed. It had been an uphill battle but with the dauntless support of many residents and the leadership and legal maneuvering of Attorney Lloyd Schneider, the dream that started in the mid-1950's became reality.

Enthusiasm for McFarland's own high school was high. From 1958 to 1961 over 200 people regularly attended special school board and parent-teacher (PTA) meetings. Telephone company owner Harold Jahnke often rang the general exchange and announced, "School meeting tonight. You'd better come." Gilbert Blum, enthusiastic supporter and owner/operator of the Green Lantern tavern, would close the bar to business just before the meeting, take his patrons with him, and reopen again after the meeting was finished. The bond issue for \$650,000.00 was approved by vote of 329 – 14 in January 1961.

Archie A. Buchmiller, first school superintendent of McFarland, profoundly affected the beginning and later

development of the high school. At the end of 1961, he began the challenging task of creating the high school, from the initial development of the architectural plans to the selection of educational components and the hiring of a solid teaching staff. Everything was ready for the fall semester of 1962.

With a 50-year celebration in mind, the lobby theme for 2012 will highlight many of the educational events of McFarland Schools throughout the early years. Anyone (parents, teachers and students) with stories, photos and grade school/high school paraphernalia, is encouraged to share their bits of history with the McFarland Historical Society to build the record of our beloved school district. Contact Wes Licht at 838-8178 or any of the board members.

*More details about the battle for the high school is recorded in City of the Second Lake, A History of McFarland, Wisconsin. Books are available for sale.



Lloyd Schneider speaks at the dedication of the McFarland High School, November, 1962. Construction begins on the high school (top left) and construction nears completion (below.)



Crystal's Memories Book Published

by Wes Licht

Crystal (Carol) Helmke Lokken was a dedicated McFarland Historical Society board member for four years. Before she passed away suddenly in March of 2010, she completed a series of personal stories for a family historical record. With encouragement from her children, the book has now been edited and published. Memories of McFarland is a charming memoir about life in the village of McFarland, Wisconsin, in the 1930's and 1940's. This sixty-page book is now for sale at the introductory price of \$6 and will be available at the society's Annual Meeting at the E.D. Locke Library on March 11 from 1 to 3 PM.



Crystal is demonstrating lefse making with former board member, Christi Campbell, during Pioneer Day.

In her introduction, Crystal explains, "This little book is about my memories of growing up in McFarland, Wisconsin, which was then a little village of about 375 people. I wrote this in response to a series of questions posed by Ron Larson of the McFarland Historical Society. It often comes as a surprise to me that my life as I write this stretches back 75 years, that I am an 'elder' and that what I have been writing is a kind of 'ancient' history. But I have truly enjoyed reliving the past during the time it has taken me to put this together. Happy Reading!"

Many early black and white photos are included in the book as well as detailed maps of the locations of points of interest that Crystal writes about. Readers, both young and mature, interested in local history, Norwegian-American history, and life in the Village of McFarland before the second world war, will not want to miss this little gem.

Crystal returned to the home of her youth after living many years in Berkeley, California, with her Lutheran pastor husband, raising a family, teaching art education,

and traveling extensively. After buying the family home in McFarland from her sisters, she upgraded it while taking care to preserve most of it as it had been when she lived there 70 years prior. She became very active in the community.



Crystal lived in the Helmke farmhouse on Elvehjem Road before moving into McFarland.



Crystal is giving trolley tours during the 2009 Family Festival.



Six smiling third graders stop to pose for this picture with docent Ginny Dodson during their tour.

Waubesa Third Graders Visit Museum

by Wes Licht

"Welcome to the McFarland's parlor," was the opening for 8 classes of third graders from Waubesa Intermediate School (WIS) on tour to learn more about the early history of their community. With a busy schedule for the kids, including stops at the village municipal building, the McFarland House Café and the community food pantry, tour guides wasted little time in highlighting historical tidbits about the museum. The lobby exhibit, featuring original furniture from the William McFarland family along with a "modern" self-feeding coal parlor stove, took them back over 100 years. Did you know that William was the first in the community to own a cylinder-type phonograph, which he probably kept in his parlor?

After the introduction, each class then split and alternately spent half their time in the log cabin and with the museum exhibits. Curiosity, lots of questions and genuine excitement along with good cooperation and positive

The museum opens on Memorial Day with a parade, popcorn, bake sale, hot dogs, ice cream and carriage rides.



behavior earmarked each group from Waubesa. Many children marveled at the old sturdy wooden scooter among the historic toys on display, comparing it to the very modern scooters they now ride down their own sidewalks. But the log cabin seemed to capture the most interest. The fact that nine Skare children were born in this small dwelling and the work involved in providing the basic necessities for family life got many students to thinking. However, imagining what it must have been like to sleep in the loft of the cabin on a straw mattress on a bed with rope springs intrigued the majority of the 3rd graders.

Thanks to all the students, their teachers Mrs. Dahl, Mrs. Hisgen, Mr. Scharf, Miss Case, Mrs. Beam, Mrs. Eckel, Mr. Webber, Mrs. Ackley and their assistants for visiting us. Museum tour guides were Ginny Dodson, Jane Licht, Wes Licht, Dale Marsden, Meg Nielson and Gini Nichols.

Museum Open, Board Members and Volunteers Needed

by Dale Marsden

The Museum is open on Memorial Day for viewing the new exhibits and the log cabin. Wonderful baked items provided by many society bakers will be on sale. Volunteers are needed to help with the many responsibilities including the Larson House restoration. Board members are needed to keep organizational business running smoothly.

Contact Dale Marsden at: 838-3992 or email at bluebee@madtown.net for more information. Also visit our website at: <http://www.mcfarlandhistorical.org>

McFarland in 1912!

By Gini Nichols

The Stoughton Weekly Courier-Hub published "Neighbors" columns with news from the surrounding communities. The enclosed information was found in the microfilms of the Stoughton newspaper. The McFarland column, in the first part of 1912, was usually published on the third week of the month and toward Spring, more frequently.

Jan. 19, 1912: Oliver Johnson has begun the ice harvest with a crew of men. The cold weather and the snow has delayed the work hitherto.

Never has there been such a general complaint of vegetables and preserves freezing in the cellars as during the recent cold spell.

Jan. 26, 1912: Former McFarland Postmaster Dies. Eugene Eighmy, came to Wisconsin some 40 years ago, and for 20 years conducted a store in McFarland. He was also postmaster of that village for nine years.

B. Hasse, who for several years has managed the creamery here, has undergone an operation for appendicitis. The patrons of the creamery are very sorry to see Mr. Hasse leave. He has built up the business greatly; last winter this creamery took the highest premium on its butter in Wisconsin, and next to the highest in the country.

March 15, 1912: The corporation which owns the fire apparatus in the village will hold its annual meeting in the engine house Tuesday evening, March 26, at seven o'clock. The village has been very fortunate in having no fires during the winter.

Apr. 19, 1912: H. Robertson has moved his tailor shop to the Ole Nelson building on the main street of the village.

Mr. Obrecht, of Lodi, Wis., has moved into the hotel building and will be ready to entertain the traveling public. This fills a long felt want in the village.

May 3, 1912: The fire company is agitating the purchase of two metal tanks on trucks, to be kept full of water for extinguishing fires.

May 17, 1912: Miss Olive Thompson is at home after teaching an eight months' term of school on the west shore of Lake Waubesa.

May 24, 1912: Gunlick Johnson left Wednesday morning for Norway, where he will remain indefinitely, having sold his home here.

June 14, 1912: Fergus Banting, principal of our school this past year, left Monday for Ontario, Canada, where he will spend the summer with relatives, coming back to take charge of the school again in September.

Norwegian confirmation services in the Lutheran church Sunday at 10:30.

June 28, 1912: English services in the Lutheran church on Sunday at 10:30; services in Norwegian in Sime's schoolhouse at 3 p.m.



Second Annual Chocolate Fest – A Sweet Success

by Ginny Dodson

McFarland residents and friends celebrated the magic of chocolate at Chocolate Fest 2011 on November 5, 2011. The event, sponsored by the McFarland Historical Society, was a fundraiser for the restoration of the Larson House, and raised about \$7000, including matching funds provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Our "Featured Baker" was Chris Olson. She has operated Chris's Confections in McFarland for over 20 years, and has received numerous awards for her baking. Chocoholics cheerfully lined up to taste her delicious creations, including decadent chocolate cake, cake pops, and French Silk cups.

The Madison Curling Club was transformed into an elegant night club for the event. While indulging in an incredible assortment of chocolate pies, cakes, bars and candies, attendees sipped a complementary glass of champagne or a non-alcoholic beverage and enjoyed the music provided by local musicians. The silent auction was very popular, as was our special edition cookbook, The Magic of Chocolate, which is completely sold out. The book, compiled and edited by Judy St. Clair, features favorite recipes of McFarland bakers. We wish to thank all who came and enjoyed this event with us. We are very grateful to the Madison Curling Club, our many corporate sponsors, individual donors of champagne and supplies, our talented bakers, our musicians, our planning committee, and all those who helped make the Chocolate Fest 2011 a big success.



Jackie Utter and Ginny Dodson registering a guest.

TOYLAND Exhibit Brightens Museum Window

By Wes Licht

Thanks to Kristine Bell for sharing her collection of Fisher-Price toys for our museum's window display. Amazingly, Kristine has only been collecting since 2005. Kristine enjoys the variety of toys that Fisher-Price produces. "In some ways," she says, "toys haven't changed much except for the materials."

Fisher-Price was founded in East Aurora, New York, in 1930, and since then has dominated the infant and preschool toy market for over 60 years as its products are known for their high quality and durability. They have created approximately 5000 different toys including a long line of pull toys, play family sets and their innovative Little People. With their motto, "Our work is child's play," they proved to be adept at knowing what children liked. Take a couple moments to view this colorful exhibit, a fun time for youngsters of any age.

Historic Home Plaque Program

By Jackie Utter

The initial letter of invitation to be part of the "Historic Home Plaque Program" went to the sixty houses built before 1920 in the Walking Tour brochure. Of those sixty, owners of forty of the houses requested plaques. The response has been very positive from recipients as the plaques have been delivered. We will be contacting the remaining twenty owners again and then we will begin to evaluate other older buildings to see if we can add to our list of historic properties. Please contact Jackie Utter at 838-8885 if you feel your home or building may meet the plaque program requirements.



Jackie Utter is displaying the plaque for the McFarland House.



Toys in the the front window display of the museum.

Member Obituary

Hardtke, Stuart B. "Stu"

Stuart B. "Stu" Hardtke, age 70, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012, at Heritage Monona.

After High School, Stu served four years in the United States Air Force, including two years in Germany. After serving, Stu attended and graduated from Michigan State University.

Stu was united in marriage to Julie A. Ducat on Dec. 16, 1961. Stu spent his entire working career at Madison School Community Recreation (MSCR). He was a member of the McFarland Lions Club, the American Legion, the Yahara Fishing Club, the Hope Rod & Gun Club, the Wisconsin Land Owners Association, the National Rifle Association and Ducks Unlimited. Stu's interests included bowling, slow pitch softball, hunting, fishing and anything outdoors. Stu will be remembered for his wonderful smile and great sense of humor. He was quick to volunteer in many different projects and activities. Even as his Alzheimer's disease progressed, his warm smile and friendly spirit helped make a difficult situation a little better.

Donors for the Larson House and the Society 2010-2011

We would like to thank our many historical society members, visitors, organizations, and friends who contributed to the efforts of the McFarland Historical Society.

Ace, Gary A. & Marylou E.
Ackley, Leland & Cheryl
Adrian, Judy
Albert, Myra
Allen, Fern
Allen, Thelma
Allington, Mark & Julie
Allwardt, Eric & Janet
Alsmo, Ken & Marlene
Amtelco
Anderson, James A. & Ruth L.
Anderson, Earl & Virginia
Anderson, Tom & Bev
Annen, Steven M.
Balseiro, Barbara
Barresi, Anthony & Virginia
Bauer, Bernadine A.
Bean, Robert & Mary
Behnke, Richard & Kari
Bengry, Phyllis M.
Bennet, Dennis & Julie
Bergen, Mike & Debra
Berry, Sarah E.
Beyler, Larry & Vicky
Blake, Michael & Linda
Blanchar, Robert & Cheryl
Bolstad, Todd & Dawn
Borchardt, Dale & Linda
Boufflou, Tom and Terri
Bradburn, Mike & Robin
Braun, Darrell & Debra Foesch
Brink, Ann & Jim
Brockmiller, Keith & Judy
Brost, Kenneth & Eileen
Brown, Scott R.
Brunler, David & Beth Edl,
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Coon, Linda L.
Craig, Kenneth & Sherry
Crane Family
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Crossfield, Ian, J.
Dahlstrom, Mary
Davidson, Helen B
DeBlasio, Dante & Dora
Dillon, Charles & Carrie
Divita, Rick & Beth
Dodson, Virginia E.
Dombroski, Bob & Carol
Doran, Barbara Ann
Downs, Tom & Laurie
Droes, Lorenz & Patricia
Duchrow, Rick & Jean
Dull, Dale & Chris
Edwards, Robert M. & Charlotte
Edwards, Robert P. & Jacqueline D.
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Endres, Christopher & Theresa J.
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Harried, Hjalmer & Loraine
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Harrison, Bradley & Julie
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Hazelvine, Debra
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Hein, Lloyd & Celestine
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Murray, Stephen & Jane Riley
Helmke, Rosabelle
Helmke, Rodney & Lorri
Hemmila, Erin
Hermsdorf, Harvey & Patricia
Hess, Gary & Marilyn
Hoekenga, Bob
Hollis, Martha
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Johnson, Gregory & Gail
Johnson, Richard & Shirley
Johnson, Richard E.
Jones, Robert & Bobbi
Jung, Mark & Barbara
Kalish, Charlotte
Kaltenberg, Shirley M.
Kane, Patrick & JoAnn
Kaub, Mark
Kenney, Donald & Lynn
Kiergaard, Cleo
Klemm, Richard
Knutson, Dennis & Janet
Kohl, Dick & Norma
Kolseth, Roger & Phyllis
Kominiak, Virginia
Kosmo, Richard & Susan
Kramper, Edward & Debbie
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Krisher, Keith & Betty
Kristiansen, Jan O. & A. R. Nancy
Krzos, Joseph
Kuehl, Matthew
Kylan, Raymond Van
Lacy, James & Natalie
Landerud, Dave & Jacqui
Lane, Leonard & Beverly
Larsen, Charles & Janet
Larson, Carol
Larson, Dorothy B.
Larson, Lyle & Elsie M.
Larson, Pauline
Larson, Ron & DeAnn
Licht, Wes & Jane
Linda Budnar,
Lister, Matt & Nicole St. Clair
Lofgren, Gordon & Patricia
Lokken, Jane E.
Lokken, Peter
Lokken, A. Vernon & Dixie A.
Lokken, Anne Sigurd
Lokken, Mary Kristel
Lokken, Roald
Lombard, Andrea
Lord, Peter & Julie
Lulloff, Alan & Kathryn Barrett
Lyons, Lyman & Kathryn
Marcum, Geryl J.
Marsden, Dale & JoAnn
Mary Anne Davis,
McCartney, Gene & Beverly
McConnell, Elizabeth
McCormick, Patrick & Patricia
McFarland Lioness Club
McFarland State Bank
McFarland, Michael
McHugh, Michael
Mihlbauer, William & Joyce
Miller, Shawn & Katie
Millette, Ken & Peggy
Minihan, Edmond & Susan
Mitchell, Alvin
Mitchell, Bill & Joan
Mitchell, Tim & Jane
Mobrand, Maj-Britt
Mogden, James & Sharon
Moore, Garry & Pam
Mueller, Richard
Muetting, Joseph -Edward Jones
Mullooly, Bert
Neuman, Carol
Newcomer, Carla
Nichols, Stan & Gini
Niedenthal, Corrine
Niedenthal, Paula
Niedenthal, Simon
Nielsen, Glenn & Margaret
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Opsahl, Erhard
Oren, P. Karen
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Paulson, Bradley
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Perry, Lloyd E. & Donna M.
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Peterson, Ernest J.
Peterson, Sylvester & Loretta
Petersen, Roger C. & Linda C.
Pierce, Huldah
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Pribbenow, Jerome C.
Proctor, Theora
Reinke, Laradene
Reiter, Richard & Constance
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Richards, Evan & Catherine
Riese, Steven A. & Karen A.
Roder, - Brock Spartan Bowl
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Rossman, Wilson & Pat
Roub, Frank
Sabatke, Donald W.
Sakrison, Barbara
Savoy, JoAnn
Sawyer, Richard & Deborah
Schaefer, Glen & Bonnie
Scheid, Linda
Schieffelbein, Linda
Schoenberger, J Steven
Schroeder, Kay
Schwab, Gail
Schwartz, Angela
Seekins, Eleanor
Seth, Clay & Barb
Sherry, Sandra
Shorette, Victor & Lucille
Siebert, Cynthia
Sime, Myron N. & Mary K.
Simmons, Bellie
Simmons, Mrs. Roy
Skare, Don
Smith, Delyla
Soffel-Rosales, Hugo & Michelle
Sorenson, Robert
Southern, Richard & Jane
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Sprang, Sara M. & Aaron L.
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Stolen, Margaret
Stelow, Dianne M.
Swain, William & Sandra
Sweeney, Michael & Kathleen
Swingen, Ed & Virginia
Te Ronde, Craig & Gloria
Thayer, June
The Maple Tree
The Medicine Shoppe
The Parsonage Bed & Breakfast
Thieding, Ernie
Thomas Davis,
Thomas, Bonita
Thomley, Charles & Joan
Thompson, Harv
Thompson, Ingrid
Thompson, Joanna W.
Thompson, Gladys M.
Thoresen, Marilee
Thorson, Lee & Kristi
Thrivent Financial
Thurner, Robert & Margaret
Tollefsen, Robert & Gudrun
Tomcik, G. Jason & Deb Bartz
Trachte, Marion L.
Vick, Homer J. Jr. & Elaine R.
Wagner, Gloria
WAICU
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Wehinger, Nancy
Wells, John & Diane
Wendling, John Jr.
Westberg, Michael
Westby, Gregory & Kathleen
Wildeman, Bill
Wildt, Philip R. & Joyce A.
Ziech, William & Beverly
Zier, Gregory & Brenda
Zier, Raymond & Charlene
Zimmerman, James & Laura



Bernie Braun is holding his first piece of purple slag glass.

Purple Slag Glass Display at the E.D.

By Wes Licht

Bernie Braun is sharing many pieces of his prized purple slag glass collection with the public in the display case inside the Local History Room at the E.D. Locke Library in McFarland. Bernie purchased his first piece of purple slag glass at an antique mall in Beloit, Wisconsin, about 1972. It was a lovely pitcher made in the late 1800's in England.

Slag glass is a collector's name for opaque pressed glass with different color streaks, usually white along with purple, caramel, green, red or blue. Purple was the most common color. Purple slag glass can be found in many different patterns and designs. While the molds may be the same, no two pieces of this glass are ever alike. Manufacturers also referred to their creations as "marble glass."

Stop by the Local History Room to see this special display and learn the rest of the story.

Thanks to Attorney Horton

We extend our grateful appreciation to Attorney Pharis Horton of Madison for his pro bono work on behalf of the McFarland Historical Society in gaining title to the Larson House property. Mr. Horton answered our many questions, gave helpful advice, and represented the Society as he attended two sheriff's sales and the confirmation hearing before Judge Juan Colas. The MHS Board of Directors is presenting Attorney Horton with an honorary life-time membership to our organization and his name will appear along with other significant donors in the Larson House.

Go to www.mcfarlandhistorical.org for information and photos on all McFarland Historical Society activities. We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.



Wes is showing 3rd Graders that you had to check the ropes on the old cabin bed.



*Glenn Nielsen is pouring wine at the Chocolate Fest. (above)
Close-up of the toys in the museum window. (right)*

