

## TOUCH HISTORY

A Publication of the Friends of the Mississippi River Sculpture Park

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### **In This Issue**

Lochner Building Burned

Aftermath of the Fire – Friends of the Sculpture Park Step Up to Help

Speaker's Bureau Calendar – June 2010

### **LOCHNER BUILDING FIRE DESTROYS SCULPTURE PARK DISPLAY**

Dear Friend,

We plan to issue our e-newsletter quarterly, with additional issues from time to time bringing important news to your attention. We did not expect to do so immediately following our first issue.

However, we are sad to report a fire in Prairie du Chien destroyed the Lochner Building on Blackhawk Avenue. The building's storefront displayed maquettes and artifacts related to the Mississippi River Sculpture Park and the building provided storage for other important documents, art works, artist's supplies and materials for the Sculpture Park and its sculptor, Florence Bird.

In addition to the clay maquettes, the fire destroyed drawings, paintings and artist's supplies. The artist, Florence Bird, said, "I've never seen anything so devastating in my life...All of the 20 maquettes, the big river painting and others, our brochures, Dave Skemp's model of the pontoon bridge, two baskets woven by Emma Big Bear and loaned to the display by a private owner—all are completely gone. Thank God there were no people in the building."

Bird and Sculpture Park Board members affirmed that the fire would not diminish the group's commitment to realizing the vision for the Park.

### **AFTERMATH OF THE FIRE: FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER SCULPTURE PARK STEP UP TO HELP**

Volunteers are presently pulling together an inventory of everything that the sculptor and other donors and volunteers for the Park stored in the building. Some destroyed paintings, art works and artifacts are irreplaceable, particularly the original basketry of Emma Big Bear, on loan for display from a private collector. The artist had moved her artworks and supplies to the Building just last week; these contents were not insured.



The Park's sculptor needs to replace art supplies, tools and display materials, and to sculpt new clay maquettes replacing the 20 clay figures burned in the fire. The Board needs to reprint brochures and promotional materials, replace exhibition supplies and reconstruct records.

You can help. To make your tax-deductible charitable contribution, download the donor form, [TOUCH HISTORY - Become a Friend](#).

Thank you for your friendship!

#### **SCULPTURE PARK SPEAKER'S BUREAU CALENDAR - JUNE 2010**

June 10 - 9 AM at City Hall

Ten-minute presentation to the Prairie du Chien Visitors Council by Florence Bird, "Making Cast Bronze Sculpture - Art and Artisanhip."

June 15 - 7 PM at City Hall

Presentation by Florence Bird to the Prairie du Chien Common Council, "The Vision of the Mississippi River Sculpture Park." Council meetings are broadcast on local Channel 6.

City Hall, 214 E. Blackhawk Avenue, Prairie du Chien 53821.



~Mississippi River Sculpture Park at Prairie du Chien~