



A wonderfully exuberant tribute to Elvis

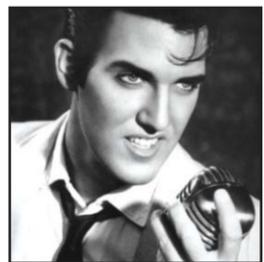
December 15, 2011 at 7 pm
 Capitol Theatre, Wheeling, WV
 Tickets: \$42.00, \$26.50 or \$16.50 per person.
 Call 800-828-3097.

Sponsored by Stratford Springs to benefit The Oglebay Foundation and its Access to the Parks Program
 Since 1999, the Access to the Parks Program has served youth on an individual basis who could not otherwise afford facility fees at Oglebay and Wheeling Park. The Oglebay Foundation pays for all facility fees incurred by the participants in the program.

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Drawing full capacity crowds wherever they go, Scot Bruce (as the young Elvis) and Mike Albert (as the more mature Elvis) recreate the magic embodied by the King of Rock n' Roll. This ultimate tribute show has become known worldwide and features a seven piece Big "E" Band to emulate the sound Elvis' band had in the Vegas shows and on tour.

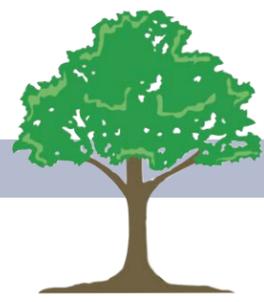


Because of his uncanny resemblance to the young Elvis, and his ability to sing, strum a guitar, and swivel his hips, Scot Bruce has appeared in major music videos, daytime soap operas and national television commercials. CNN says Scot is the closest you can get to Elvis in the flesh...shake, rattle and roll is Scot Bruce!

Mike Albert has been lauded for his respectful portrayal of Elvis and has won several major world "Elvis" contests. An appearance on the Oprah Winfrey show and being featured in several music videos has further exposed audiences to Mike's talent. Mike makes it a point to keep the show fresh with an ever-changing song line-up and special requests are often delivered to audiences who are "All Shook Up"!



Among Friends



Winter, 2011 Vol. 15 No. 3

Information and Updates for Friends of Oglebay

How Winter Came to the Parks

With Wheeling Park's Memorial Ice Rink more than half a century old, and Oglebay's Winter Festival of Lights (FOL) in its 26th year, it is hard to remember a time when the parks were seasonal. In the early years, however, both parks overflowed with summer business, but there was little to do at either facility during the winter months. Many staff members had to be laid off in the fall because of the seasonal business.

Little by little, and facility by facility, this has changed until today business is also brisk from fall until spring. The cold weather improvements have given an economic boost to the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) budget and, most important, have allowed the parks to keep more people employed on a permanent basis.



Although a number of original farm buildings were utilized when Oglebay opened to the public in 1928, most of them were not usable year-round. The first indoor recreation facility to be constructed was the Pine Room in the late 1930s. Although it was used mainly during the summer months, a large rustic fireplace made it inviting for winter sports enthusiasts. Sledders and skiers gathered in front of the roaring fire after testing the hills on the Crispin Center golf course (a thousand-foot rope tow ran back and forth from the No. 9 green to the No. 4 hole and was powered by a jacked-up automobile). In the early '40s members of a popular dance group, the "63 Club," raised five thousand dollars to install a coal furnace in the Pine Room.

The first winterized cottage at Oglebay, originally called Cabin X, opened in 1950, followed by nine others in the next five years. These cottages made it possible to have overnight visitors during the fall and winter months for the first time. Most important, after a decade of planning and fund-raising, construction began on the original wing of Wilson Lodge - an expansive facility with year-round meeting, dining, and lodging rooms - in the late 1950s. At its opening in 1957, Superintendent Homer Fish called Wilson Lodge a "...place where people of goodwill will gather." It has become all that and much more.



During its first three decades, Wheeling Park was strictly a warm-weather recreation area and there were no year-round employees. That changed dramatically with the opening of the ice rink in late 1959. As the 1950s drew to a close, both parks paralleled the growth of the recreation field on the national level, with the WPC making a commitment to provide more facilities and better services to a public with more leisure and greater mobility.

Other year-round facilities followed at Wheeling Park; the Stone Clubhouse in 1968, the Birdair dome over the tennis courts in 1972, and the extensive White Palace improvements in the 1980s. The latter created the largest ballroom/meeting room in the Valley and a smaller, more intimate gathering room with restaurant capabilities. (Continued on page 3)

Dear Friends,

As you read this newsletter we are in the midst of the 26th Winter Festival of Lights, an event that is economically important to the parks' budget and to the community as a whole. Winter was not always such a busy season at the parks, but over the years the planning of year-round facilities, programs, and events has played an important role in retaining staff and cash flow during the cold months.

As always, it is sad to lose a staunch parks supporter like Wheeling's Larry Good. Larry, and his first wife, the late Barbara Mayer Good, gave the seed money that started the zoo in the 1970s and were avid supporters of park programs since that time. We thought you might enjoy reading about Larry, the extended Good family, and their contributions over the years.

Last, I would like to remind you of the importance of the Access to the Parks program as you make your end-of-the-year financial plans. With the extreme downsizing of industry in the Valley, more than half of the youngsters in Ohio County qualify to enroll in the Access program. About 2,000 do enroll each year, and the program now costs in excess of \$175,000. Your gift to the Access program is well appreciated by those young people who might not otherwise have a chance to use Oglebay and Wheeling Park facilities on a regular basis.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and thanks for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Randy Worls, President
 The Oglebay Foundation

Year-End Gifts can Benefit You and The Oglebay Foundation

Supporting Those Organizations that Bring Meaning to our Lives

It has been a trying year for many of us, especially if one is planning for retirement, funding a college education, or just attempting to make ends meet in the midst of rising prices and uncertain times. The parks have also faced a trying year, primarily in respect to a downswing in corporate income at Wilson Lodge, and the struggle to keep staff employed full-time. Because of these enormous challenges, the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) and The Oglebay Foundation will continue to seek ways to adequately serve the public while adjusting to a tighter budget.

You are probably taking a good look at your end of the year finances and, despite the volatile economy, you may make the decision that you still want to support those organizations that bring meaning to your life. Making a year-end gift to The Oglebay Foundation, whether through the

Friends of Oglebay annual campaign or through a gift of securities or real estate, may still have a place in your plans.

Randy Worls, president of The Oglebay Foundation, would be happy to talk with you, your attorney, or financial advisor in order to help you make the right decision that works for you, your heirs, and your taxes. Strategies you put in place now will benefit the parks well into the future and will help make sure the programs and facilities that have been important to you and your family will continue for future generations.



75 Displays will Glow at Oglebay's Winter Festival of Lights

After twenty-six years there is still something new and fresh to welcome you to Oglebay's Winter Festival of Lights (FOL). For the 2011-12 version of the show new exhibits include a Ferris Wheel, Snowball-Chasing Sledgers, and a Conestoga Wagon, the latter reminiscent of an early mode of transportation along nearby Route 40. Two new dinosaurs have also been added to the popular Dinosaur Dell this year. FOL will continue through January 8 and be viewable from dusk to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

"Our lights show continues to earn awards," according to Caren Knoyer, director of marketing for the Wheeling Park Commission. "Last year we were listed as one of the 10 Best Christmas Light Displays in the US according to AOL Travel. The show has also been featured on the Travel Channel's "Most Extreme Christmas Celebrations" and listed on the American Bus Association's Top 100 International Events.

Three years ago, FOL entered a new "green" era with the commitment to use energy-efficient LED bulbs in all new displays and to begin converting all existing ones to LED. In 2010 the festival's tallest display, the Poinsettia Wreath and Candles, was converted to LED. This year the Snowflake Tunnel will also be converted, making this favorite display even more distinctive.

One of the most popular stopping points during the FOL drive is 271-room Wilson Lodge where an expansion project was recently completed that includes 59 premium rooms and the popular West Spa. The lodge is beautifully decorated inside and out, and offers a holiday buffet, cordial gatherings, and entertainment every evening.

For complete information call 800-624-6988 or 304-243-4000 or visit www.oglebay-resort.com.

Did you know these facts about Oglebay's Winter Festival of Lights?

- At Oglebay, over 175 jobs can be attributed to FOL
- Retail sales generated at area hotels, restaurants, and shops because of FOL amount to \$20 million annually.
- Vocational Education students at Wheeling Park High School have provided welding for many of the festival's displays and have created many of the circuits that control animation.

Zoo Co-Founder, Larry Good, Dies in October

Good Family made Outstanding Contributions to Parks and City

Laurance F. (Larry) Good, co-founder of Oglebay's Good Zoo, died in his beloved home town of Wheeling on October 12. In the early 1970s, Larry, and his wife, the late Barbara Mayer Good, along with their children, pledged a substantial gift to create a zoo at Oglebay in memory of their son and brother, Philip, "a little boy who loved Oglebay Park." (A project of this nature had been on the master plan for some time).

Larry Good was an outgoing, friendly community activist who was never too busy to share a joke or snap a picture when he ran into his many friends. After college, and two tours of duty with the U.S. Navy, he returned to Wheeling to run L.S. Good & Co., the family's flagship business, with his brother Sidney. From that time on, the Goods were very involved with projects and programs that benefited the people of Wheeling.

By sharing their assets, following the death from cancer of 7-year old Philip, the Goods hoped other families would experience happy times as they had done so often with their sons at Oglebay; whether in a cottage, at the stables, or around the geranium-rimmed outdoor pool. Young Philip also loved the hiking trails. For him, Oglebay was the place to be. Energized by the enthusiasm of Larry

and Barbara Good, the zoo concept caught on immediately and, with the addition of federal and regional grants and hundreds of smaller gifts from the public, West Virginia's first accredited zoo grew before the first spade of dirt was turned.

Zoo director Penny Miller spent many hours with Larry and Barbara while the Good children were growing up as they always took immense interest in happenings at the zoo. "Larry also shared my passion for gardening and he would proudly walk me through his garden at their home on the east side of the park," she says.



Larry and Barbara Good on their wedding day at Wilson Lodge October 18, 1959.

Good Family Support Started in Early Years

The Good family's support for the parks began many years before the Good Zoo. It started with Larry's grandfather, Lee Samuel Good, a German/Swiss immigrant who built a thriving dry goods business, L.S. Good & Co., in downtown Wheeling in the early years of the 20th century. Both of Lee's sons, Sidney, Larry's father, and Sam, Larry's uncle, followed their father into retailing. L.S. Good became one of Wheeling's most respected citizens and a "quiet philanthropist" as well after making a substantial contribution to the Wheeling Park purchase fund in 1924.

In 1926, L.S. Good financed the rehabilitation of the old lake at Wheeling Park, a facility that had been useless for years. In the fall of '26 a contract

was let for a new concrete wall and two large concrete dams to impound sufficient water to create beautiful twin lakes. Good died just a few months after the project was completed. After his death, his widow, Fannie, made periodic gifts for both practical and aesthetic lake improvements.

Sam Good is Longest Serving Park Commissioner

L.S.'s oldest son, and Larry's uncle, Sam L. Good, left a remarkable legacy on the Wheeling Park Commission (WPC) after he was appointed to fill the seat of charter member/chairman Otto Schenk upon Schenk's death in 1933. Sam Good served as a park commissioner for forty-one years, nineteen of them as chairman. He closely guarded the WPC's freedom from political interference while taking progressive steps relating to the expansion of park facilities.

Following his retirement, General Manager Randy Worls related that Good had been a commissioner during a significant growth period in the modern era. "Many of the facilities at Oglebay, other than the original estate buildings, were developed in the years of Good's service." A modest and unassuming man who shunned the spotlight, Sam Good's loyalty to the parks was unshakable. His length of service has not been matched.



Barbara Good Grounds Beautification Fund

The Barbara Good Grounds fund was established within The Oglebay Foundation in 2007 following the death of Barbara Good. It provides funds for floral plantings and new trees at the Good Zoo. To support this fund, you can make a contribution to The Foundation.

How Winter Came to the Parks (continued from page 1)

The hallmark of Oglebay – the Mansion Museum – was not winterized until the early 1960s. Earl Oglebay had used it as a summer home and early staff members also used it for summer housing. In 1963, a heating system was installed in the mansion house that enabled the museum to remain open all year. Other year-round facilities followed: the ski lodge, garden center, Good Zoo/Benedum Theater and numerous additions to Wilson Lodge.

With ample meeting, dining, and lodging facilities available, and a variety of retail shops to round out the visitor experience, the opening of Oglebay's Winter Festival of Lights (FOL) in 1985 proved to be a success from the beginning. Although attendance fluctuates from year to year, depending on economic factors, the winter business now generated at the parks, and its economic spill-over into the surrounding community, remains constant and important.