

Whiskey Museum has thousands of artifacts

Associated Press

BARDSTOWN, Ky. — Emma Getz came to Bardstown to inspect her labor of love: the world's only museum dedicated to the history of whiskey, founded by her late husband.

Oscar Getz, an owner of Barton Brands distillery, established the museum in 1957 in an old home and later moved it to the Bardstown distillery. It contains artifacts, documents and memorabilia from the American whiskey industry that the Chicago philanthropist collected over 50 years.

After Getz's death in 1983, the distillery decided it didn't want to maintain the museum, so last year it moved to Spalding Hall, a former Catholic college built in 1826.

Several other sites were considered for the Oscar Getz Museum of Whiskey History. However, the four-story hall behind St. Joseph's Proto-Cathedral was selected after local officials asked that the tourist attraction remain in the Nelson County town of 6,000, about 30 miles south of Louisville.

Mrs. Getz, 85, who is currently writing a book about the 61 years she and her husband were married, helped pay for some of the renovation work.

The museum includes a house-shaped whiskey bottle filled around 1840 by E.C. Booz, a distiller from Philadelphia whose name led to the term booz.

Also on display is a stone from George Washington's still and a copy of a tavern grant issued in 1832 to Abraham Lincoln in Illinois. Hundreds of whiskey bottles and advertising novelties are in a room made to look like a bar.

A copper still that was confiscated in 1952 in Hardin County is on display, with the government's permission, as well as a bottle that is said to have been chipped in a raid by Carry Nation, the liquor foe from Garrard County.

"Whiskey has never been included in the history of our country," although it is one of the country's oldest businesses, said Flaget Nally, one of the museum's curators. She says many of the artifacts help tell the history of the country from the late 1700s to around 1920.

Scientist believes fire-ravaged gully may hold victims of Custer's Last Stand

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — In a fire-blackened gully on the Montana prairie, an Arizona scientist suspects he has found the graves of the remaining victims of Custer's Last Stand.

Twenty-eight of the bodies of the 266 soldiers who were slaughtered 109 years ago have never been recovered.

The University of Arizona's C. Vance Haynes, an Indian wars buff since boyhood, has a hunch that they are at the bottom of a thread of an arroyo called Deep Ravine.

But Haynes won't be able to prove his theory until at least next year. Mud in the ravine prevented excavation this summer.

"As near as we can tell, those guys are still there," Haynes said. He believes they are entombed in a cut in the stream that was "at least six feet lower than it is today."

Haynes bases his belief on differences in soil texture in the ravine, which is a half-mile from the Little Big Horn River.

Haynes, a geologist, archaeologist and authority on stratigraphy, the arrangement of soil and rocks in layers, spent two recent weeks at Custer National Battlefield, near Crow Agency, Mont., with a team of excavators that for a second summer tried to resolve some of the controversy over the battle.

Gen. George Armstrong Custer, in one of history's more classic imprudences, thought on June

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25, 1876, that he could easily overpower Sitting Bull and his Sioux Indians.

To his fatal surprise, he was outnumbered 10-1 by the Sioux and Cheyenne. Not one of the troopers from the Seventh Cavalry commanded by Custer survived.

Most of the troopers were buried in the field, and most of their officers in military cemeteries around the country.

Custer was interred at West Point, N.Y., where he had graduated in 1861, one cadet removed from "the goat" — the scholastic bottom of the class.

But the remains of 28 members of Troop E never have been accounted for. Indian accounts suggested the men were trapped — and annihilated — in Deep Ravine. So that is where Haynes looked.

A wildfire in 1983 wiped out vegetation on the rolling rangelands and helped the excavators by exposing the soil for their search.

The scene, Haynes said, is about a third of a mile from

where Custer fell. Eroded soil has washed in above where Haynes believes the bodies to be.

Unfortunately, the ground-water level in the ravine bottom was so high that Haynes' backhoe bogged down in the mud. That precluded any real removal of the overlying dirt.

Haynes hopes to return next year to sift the site by hand. His chances are uncertain.

Over the past two summers, the archaeologists have uncovered literally cases of artifacts: bones, buttons, bullets, weapons and the like.

These, they say, will help settle such riddles as the relative battle positions of the Indians and the doomed soldiers.

But National Park Service officials were deeply divided from the beginning, and still are, over the philosophical question of whether parks should be excavated at all.

"This is supposed to be the last year," Haynes said. "But we hope we can make a case for going back and testing for those guys."

While in Montana, Haynes made another discovery. He pinpointed on the Yellowstone River the location of an earlier encounter between Custer and Sitting Bull, in 1873.

That time, Custer won. And he gloated in his official report, Haynes recalled, that he had taught Sitting Bull a lesson he would never forget.

"He was right," Haynes said. "Sitting Bull didn't forget."

White appoints Houston attorney to Texas Water Commission post

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Houston attorney John O. Houchins, a classmate of Gov. Mark White at Baylor Law School, will be a compromise appointee to the Texas Water Commission, the Austin American-Statesman said Wednesday.

The American-Statesman said White's choice of Houchins was an attempt to settle differences between environmentalists and proponents

of water development projects over the next member of three-member commission.

Houchins has no background on water issues.

The Water Commission will oversee administration of the \$1.4 billion statewide water plan if it is approved by voters in the November election.

"The water development sources killed off the environmentalists' choices (for commissioner) and the

environmentalists killed off their choices," the American-Statesman said quoting a source who refused to be named. "He's never been involved with water, so there's not anything either side can point to."

Houchins has business and law degrees from Baylor and a masters' degree in business from the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania.

IRS seeking to stop sales of tax shelters by investment firm

Associated Press

DALLAS — A suit filed by the Internal Revenue Service seeks to stop a Dallas businessman from selling tax shelters the IRS claims are illegal and have bilked the federal government of more than \$50 million.

The suit, filed in federal court Tuesday, says Allen F. Campbell and A.F. Campbell & Co., the firm he heads, uses a Brazilian research company to help his clients.

According to the suit, Campbell sold at least 167 medical-research partnerships resulting in illegal tax deductions of more than \$100 million during the tax years of 1982 and 1983.

The potential tax loss to the government was \$26.5 million in 1982 and \$23.6 million in 1983, according to the complaint.

The complaint seeks a permanent injunction against the sales of the partnerships. The IRS also is asking that Campbell be required to disclose the names of all investors in the tax shelters.

Such a disclosure could mean bills for back taxes, plus interest and penalties, for his investors, an IRS spokeswoman said.

Justice Department attorneys said the partnerships also were sold in

1984 and 1985, but would not estimate in what amount.

Campbell's secretary said he was out of the country Wednesday and could not be reached for comment.

In a prepared statement, his attorney said the research in question was "productive and successful" and "financed through the totally honest and legal use of the research and development deduction enacted by Congress to encourage just this kind of scientific program."

The attorney refused to provide details on Campbell's business activities or his professional background.

Under U.S. tax law, investors can deduct from gross income the total amount invested in research. But the IRS alleges that Campbell and his firm "were and are inflating the cost to investors of . . . research so as to inflate tax benefits attributable to such research."

According to Tuesday's filing, Campbell puts together \$600,000 partnerships to fund the activity of Coral Monoclonal Antibody Research, a Brazilian enterprise in which Campbell owns a majority interest.

While the government complaint does not question the legitimacy of Coral's research, it says the partnership-funded research was overvalued by more than 200 percent.

Former EPA 'Superfund' chief released from federal prison

Associated Press

PLEASANTON, Calif. — Rita Lavelle, former chief of the federal toxic waste "Superfund," was released from prison today after serving all but three weeks of a six-month sentence for lying to Congress.

"Thank God it's over," the former Environmental Protection Agency official said at a brief news conference outside the Federal Correctional Institute.

"My experience has been a unique one, a dramatic one," she said. "The fact that I was a woman caught

in a power grab between the legislative and executive branches of the government has made it even more intriguing."

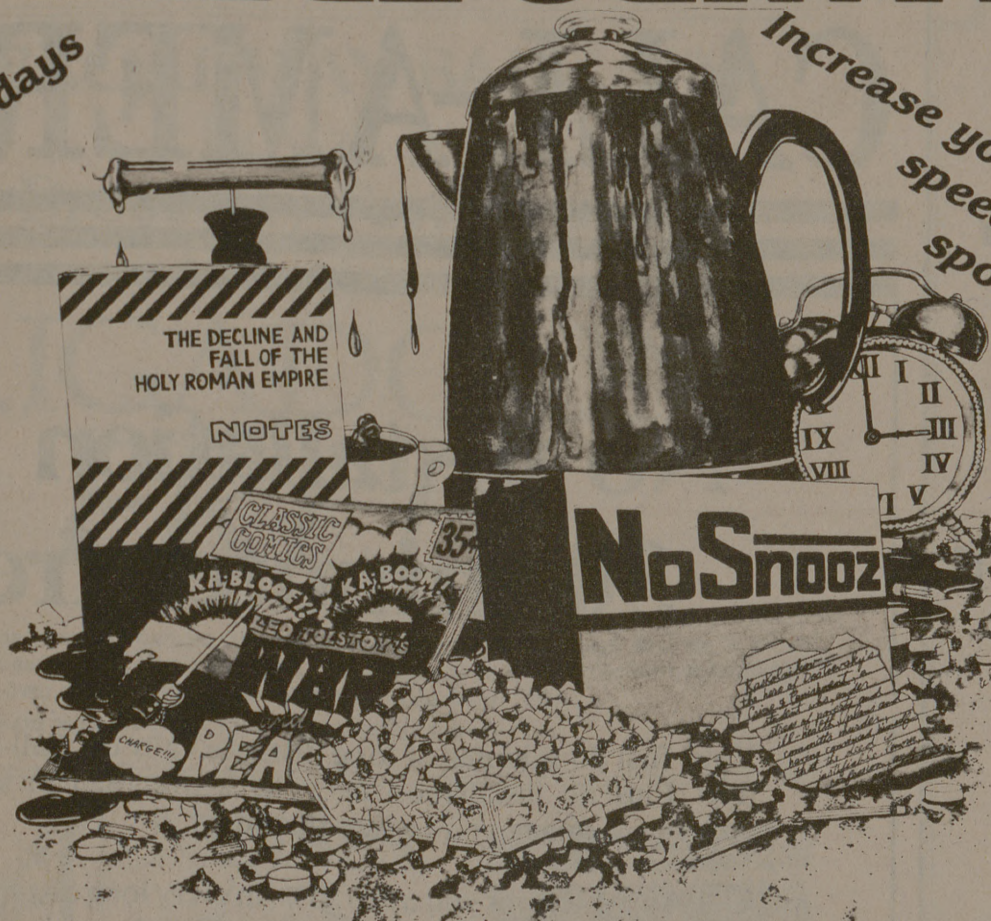
Lavelle, 37, said she has finished the first draft of a book on her experiences. In addition to the prison sentence, she was fined \$10,000.

Lavelle, who was fired from her job by President Reagan, was convicted in December 1983 of lying about when she discovered that her former employer, Aepet General Corp. of Sacramento, Ca. was dumping toxic wastes at the Stringfellow Acid Pits near Riverside.

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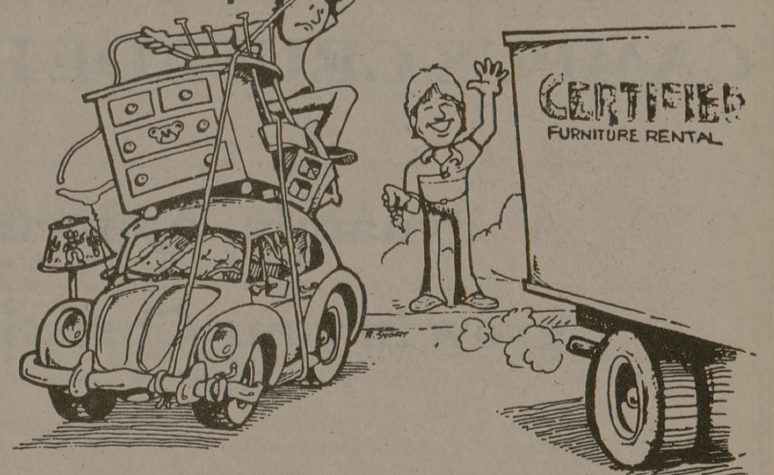
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