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WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION IMAGES OF THE PAST

Waukegan, IL January 22, 2014—WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT-CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION --Through January 2014 the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive in Waukegan Park District's Bowen Park will feature the work of Photographer and documentarian Wayne Munn. Selected works historic celebrity photographs by LIFE Magazine photographer Brian Seed are also on display.

ABOUT THE EXHIBIT:

Wayne Munn is exhibiting 48 images from his portfolio. They include historic buildings from Waukegan, many now gone, in all their glory. For the first time Wayne is exhibiting select images of the pre-restoration Genesee Theatre taken throughout the facility over several weeks in 2001. You can peek in one of the abandoned apartments, sneak into the basement and even climb into the organ pipe chambers. There are also "Lost Places" locations in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and other areas.

Brian Seed is exhibiting 1960s images of prize fighter Cassius Clay (later Muhammad Ali) in London, golfer Arnold Palmer after winning the British Open, and rare images from 1956 London following Marilyn Monroe and her entourage including playwright and husband Arthur Miller, Sir Laurence Olivier, and actress Vivian Leigh.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Wayne Munn has been a practicing photographer since the mid-1960s. In the late 1960s he was an assignment photographer and darkroom/printing technician for the daily newspaper of Michigan State University. He worked under the direction of the master commercial photographer who headed the photography department and was an attentive mentor in both assignment photography and B&W. Wayne's major was in media including TV and Radio production and filmmaking.

While the desire for regular meals and shelter led him to the "dark side" in corporate positions for almost 30 years, he made time to indulge his passions whether through photo excursions, teaching college classes in photography and TV production, and

writing the “Latent Images” column for a professional photography society for nearly a decade. Several years ago Wayne returned to focusing on his artistic passions full-time.

Wayne invests a good deal of time producing professional digital images and prints. He also employs leading edge imaging technology and techniques to convert his four decade portfolio of 35mm and 4x5 film, bringing them into the realm of high-definition, archival digital imaging. This often includes employing leading edge technology in the restoration of important historic and heirloom pictures. He does similar work for other photographers and artists.

Over the past four decades Wayne’s core work features old buildings and communities. His “Lost Places” series features out of the way locations that were once bustling with life. Ghost towns, abandoned houses and farms, factories and commercial buildings. Even a “hidden” 2nd story apartment in an 1890s Waukegan building, known as the “Time Capsule Apartment”, that had been sealed off and largely forgotten since for over 50 years.

Beginning in 1975 and extending to today Wayne has documented what was once a lumber company town on the shore of Lake Michigan. When the timber ran out in 1953 the mill shut down and the whole town was “sold, lock, stock, and barrel.” The hotel, general store, school, and dozens of other buildings were closed and kept under seal for many years.

On lucky occasions Wayne was the right person in the right place at the right time. He arranged access to record views of treasure troves of memories. Wayne lives to capture images of abandoned spaces so that each viewer’s imagination can take them “into that place and time.” Many times Wayne is fortunate to be able to meet people who share captivating stories of early times in these places. For every picture in the “Lost Places” Series, there is a story.

Brian Seed was a long time London photographer for LIFE, beginning with them in 1947. His feature story work appeared in all their publications, LIFE (both the US and International editions), TIME, and Sports Illustrated. Brian’s photographs were the cover of Sport Illustrated on six occasions.

For further information on the Jack Benny Center for the Arts and its programs, performances and exhibits, please call the Center at 847-360-4740 or stop in to 39 Jack Benny Drive, Waukegan IL. Partial sponsorship of the Cultural Arts programs is through a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, an agency of the State of Illinois.

The website for the Cultural Arts Division may be found at jackbennycenter.org

About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 47 properties and 720 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports and Fitness Center, the Jack Benny Center for the Arts, the Waukegan SportsPark, the Waukegan Skate Park, the Waukegan BMX Track, recreational centers, an outdoor swimming pool, disc golf course, dog exercise

area, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, and sports courts including basketball and tennis. A full range of programs and services are offered year round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, the Bowen Park Theatre Company, and the Waukegan History Museum. There is something for everyone! The award-winning District employs 57 full-time and over 250 part-time, year round, seasonal, and temporary employees. The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), and Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). The district maintains national accreditation from the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), the Illinois Association of Park Districts' (IAPD) Distinguished Agency accreditation and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) accreditation and sustains a Level A Loss Control Program. The district was a NRPA Gold Medal Finalist in 2012 and 2013, and awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013.