



THE
PUBLIC
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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

REFLECTIONS ON THE

RIVER



The Library Celebrates
TALL STACKS

August 15, 2003

Sneak Preview of

Tall Stacks 2003: Reflections on the River

Steamboats Remembered in Story and Song at
Main Library on Sunday, August 24, 2 p.m.

A celebration of river life in music, drama and
narrative comes alive at the Main Library, 800 Vine
Street, on Sunday, August 24, 2:00 p.m. with *Steamboats*

Remembered in Story and Song. As part of the Public Library's tribute to the river, this
preview performance is the first in a series of free programs and exhibits, *Reflections on
the River: The Library Celebrates Tall Stacks*, to take place through October at the Main
Library and at various branches, as well as on the riverfront. (Don't miss the Library's
booth and online digital exhibit during Tall Stacks October 15-19.)

Let steamboat enthusiasts John and Gwen Noftsger and Lois Kidd from The Ohio
River Steamboat Company take you on a cruise from the riverboat era of long ago.
Dressed in period costume, the performers take the audience from the time of the early
settlers arriving by flatboat on through the great steamboat era and the glamorous
showboat days. Folksinger John Noftsger, actress Gwen Noftsger, and
historian/storyteller Lois Kidd weave enthralling tales and lively tunes, sharing their love
of steamboat history and river lore in the Ohio Valley.

Lois Kidd, whose family owned and operated two steamboats, has published river
history articles in *Ohio Southland* and has contributed to several Ohio historical
publications. Gwen Noftsger portrays renowned showboat captain and performer Callie
French in a first-person account of life on the river 100 years ago. She has published
articles on the French family and their *New Sensation* showboat in regional magazines.

Husband John sings traditional and original songs highlighting particular aspects of river history, while also playing the guitar, banjo and harmonica. He has performed aboard the *Delta Queen* and *West Virginia Belle* and was featured in the Miami Valley Dinner Theatre production of the musical comedy *Smoke on the Mountain*.

Reflections on the River: The Library Celebrates Tall Stacks will include a free series of programs and exhibits at the Main Library and branches around Hamilton County. Watch for details on the Library's web page at www.CincinnatiLibrary.org/tallstacks/ for a complete schedule.

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√**Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**

√**Interpreter available upon request for the hearing impaired. Please call 369-6944 (TDD 369-6946) at least one week before program.**