

KEYS TO THE CITY **OF ASHEVILLE** DID YOU KNOW?

BY NANCY OAKLEY



1 The French Broad is the third-oldest river in the world, after the Nile and the ironically named New River (which runs through North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia). Since 1987, the Asheville nonprofit River-Link has led a

campaign for the river's economic and environmental revitalization.

2 While it's great to receive praise from the media, what higher compliment is there than to be immortalized in song? The Orange Peel, Asheville's acclaimed live-music club, is featured among They Might Be Giants' *Venue Songs*, written during the band's 2004 tour. Have a listen at tmbg.com.

3 In 1942, trustees of Washington, D.C.'s newly opened National Gallery of Art were so concerned about national security and air raids that they hatched the Biltmore Evacuation Plan and shipped the gallery's most valuable paintings and sculptures to



Biltmore House for safekeeping. The art treasures remained there until 1944.

4 The Asheville Regional Airport opened in 1960 with a single terminal built at a cost of \$2.2 million. Today, with some 22 flights operating daily, it is undergoing a \$9.5 million expansion of Gate A and includes, among other amenities, an art gallery fea-

turing the works of artists from the 11 counties the airport serves.

5 Among the residents of the Grove Park District, developed by E.W. Grove in the vicinity of his iconic Inn, was William Jennings Bryan, three-time presidential candidate and the prosecutor in the famed Scopes "Monkey Trial" of 1925. His colonial revival home, built in 1917 on Evelyn Street, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

6 Zelda Fitzgerald, wife of author F. Scott Fitzgerald, was an accomplished artist in her own right. Her 1946 painting *Hospital Slope* depicts the grounds of Asheville's Highland Hospital, where she was a patient. It is now a part of the North Carolina Collection Gallery at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



7 The witch in "Hansel and Gretel" ain't got nuthin' on the culinary artists who enter the National Gingerbread House Competition & Display, held every year at the Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa. Catch it if you can in November, when the competition takes place November 16, and the houses are on display from November 18 through January 3, 2010.

8 In 1933, the progressive Black Mountain College opened its doors in the neighboring town of Black Mountain. The school was open only until 1956, but the alumni included artist Willem de Kooning, composer John Cage, choreographer Merce Cunningham, and polymath Buckminster Fuller, who invented the geodesic dome while teaching there.

FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF GROVE PARK INN; COURTESY OF THE ORANGE PEEL AND BY STEVEN MORRIS

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