




# CSF News

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## Hello Again!



For those with long memories you may recollect an earlier newsletter of this genre back in September of 2006. What was a good idea then is still a good idea. A regular newsletter can be a great way to keep in touch with family and friends of the Foundation. The newsletter would also include tasty snippets of Schmitt drop-by-drop over time thereby engendering a greater appreciation of his life, works and thought. We're all excited that Sam Schmitt will be moving his young family to Connecticut and will be joining the Foundation. In the interim, as far as the newsletter is concerned, Chesterton said, "if something is worth doing it's worth doing poorly." 

"A man who has lost his faith is a man who is locked out of his own house."

Notebook #13, 1942

## "Mark Twain"



Last century when paddlewheel riverboats plied the Mississippi the leadman would often take a depth reading. "Mark Twain" was a frequent call showing that the water was 2 fathoms (12 feet) indicating a safe depth.



**Gertrude Schmitt in Cape 1930**  
**The Epic Plane**

"an epic poem ... is lyricism sustained into space and shadow"

It wouldn't hurt as we again inaugurate a newsletter to take our own reading of the Foundation. While the waters can indeed be unpredictable and even sometimes treacherous we too at this time are taking a reading of "Mark Twain". While acknowledging that the future is uncertain we are currently getting that safe depth reading.

"Wee strokes fell mighty oaks" and the Foundation by dint of perseverance has accomplished a number of great things with more to come. Thanks to Dave Schmitt and the Homeland Foundation the move of the Studio to

its current site was a great success. The generosity of Robert and Gertrude Schmitt is enabling the Foundation to procure Carl Schmitt's home and property for posterity. The legal and corporate structure is in place to add to the Board of Directors and move forward in an unprecedented way.

While these accomplishments are not to be overlooked it is Schmitt's legacy that explains the magnitude of what the Foundation is trying to do and what it has to offer the world. It is that legacy that energizes us to push upstream to grow the Foundation to its potential and to constantly find the Providential "Mark Twain" reading.

"A light is not meant to be put under a lampstand" and Schmitt's unprecedented wisdom, grasp of Reality, holiness, artwork, life and writings are meant to be shared with a world that (whether it realizes it or not) is starving for such things. His advances in the progress of Western art and the appreciation of the beautiful can enable other artists to pick up where he left off. What Schmitt has to offer those who are willing to probe into what he was all about is a level of real world sanity, awe, peace, wisdom and delight in the created order staring us in the face. It is the conviction of these truths that drives the Foundation forward and energizes us to push to better introduce Schmitt to the world.



## CSF Family Update

**R**ecently Austin spoke with Dave Schmitt who successfully transplanted Joan and himself to Stratford after his 59 years in Wilton. They're doing well as are their two sons, Michael and Thomas.

Michael and Anne are living in Niantic not far from Groton where Michael is an engineer with Electric Boat.

Thomas, an attorney in Dayton, Ohio is engaged to Jessica Moss. They are planning a September wedding with a reception at the Butler Art Institute in Youngstown, Ohio.

That's no coincidence given the Schmitt connection with Mr. Butler, founder of the Institute which has approximately 15 Carl Schmitt paintings. Dave mentioned that he will be bringing another 8 of his own to hang during the reception. He added that the large statue on the front lawn of the Institute was selected by Thomas' great grandfather our very own Carl Schmitt.

"I have no money and don't know where we shall or when we shall get some. Society does not owe the artist a living because the artist's product is without economic value. It is unfortunate that I can barely exist. A life toward humility, poverty, and purity is worth much more than one devoted to form and space and quality. Yet I cannot feel it as much as I know it ... So I take little doses of virtue as a duty and spend the greater part of my time in the contemplation of beauty. Sancta Rita, ora pro nobis!" Notebook #2



Carl Schmitt at lunch 1978

"Any reform must start with the person and the family. To start with society ("world vision") is futile, doubly so if such action is an escape from self and family."

Notebook #13 - 1942

## Reminiscences

**I**want to say I was in my late teens or early twenties when I asked my grandfather Carl Schmitt the question "What is life all about?" Without hesitation he replied, "Getting the chip off your shoulder."

He then went on to explain that he was interested in the concept of abduction as a third means of arriving at knowledge and truth in addition to the two that we are all familiar with: deductive and inductive reasoning.

He explained that as the sculptor chips away at a block of marble to reveal what he is attempting to sculpt, so we must be chipped away by our Creator in our process of growth. I want to say he mentioned Walker Percy, and especially his first more philosophical work, as someone whom he had been reading in this regard.

Maybe Grandpop was talking about his own life and growth in humility and that it wouldn't hurt for me to reflect upon that challenge as well. ... Austin

## Let us hear from you!

There's an ongoing interest to see all the wonderful things the successive generations of Schmitt family and friends are doing. That link to Schmitt either by blood or appreciation is very special. Just drop us a line to let us know what's going on in your neck of the woods. Don't forget to send us your email address and those of any interested friends as well.

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