

The Bedford Bee.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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bedfordohio.com/history

June – August 2002

Issue 269

Up Coming Events

June 7,8 &9 Annual Strawberry Festival

(see accompanying article)

July 13 & 14 Street Dance/Classic Car Show

August 10 Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Antique & Flea Market on the Square

June, July & August, Every Wednesday Evening-
Parties-in-the-Park

Annual Strawberry Festival

This year's Strawberry Festival is shaping up to be the best ever. Festival Coordinator, Betsy Lee and the committee members have been meeting to plan this year's event. We welcome Pat Papish, who will head up kitchen duties during the festival and Lynn Jones, who is arranging the entertainment schedule.

The Strawberry Festival is our most important fund raising event. Our operating budget for the next year is based largely upon what we earn during the Festival. Historical Society members know that we have been 'penny pinching' so that every bit of extra money is secured for the Town Hall addition.

Your help is needed! Please call Betsy Lee at 440 735-0135. Tell her when you can help, how long you can help and what you are able to do. The tasks are varied: serving berries, museum tours, booths, setup and takedown, trash pickup, assisting crafters. If we all pitch in, we can get the job done!

Festival Entertainment

Entertainment this year again focuses on our ethnic heritage. The *Syrena Dance Troupe*, a polish ensemble, will again perform this year on Sunday 4-5 pm. Also scheduled are *Spanish Flamenco Dancers* and *South American Dance Troupe* under the direction of Gilbert Pena. This is scheduled for Saturday 3-5 pm. On Sunday 3-4 pm an ensemble from the *Cleveland Kiltie Band* will play the pipes and drums.

Our own *Bedford Community Band* under Bob Kautz' direction plays Saturday 2-3 pm. And on Saturday 1-1:30, Anne Droste directs the *Spirit of '76 Fife and Drum Corps*.

A *Quilt Display and quilting demonstration* is scheduled in the old church on Saturday 2-4 pm.

Annual Dinner

The Bedford Historical Society Annual Dinner was held on May 9th. The Society voted in the following six trustees: Art Dickard, Pete Dickson, Bob Hamilton, Jim Harding, Ed Romito & Jay Squire. We wish to thank them for their willingness to serve on the Board. The Bedford Historical Society Board of Trustees consist of 18 members. Members may serve two three year terms and must rotate off before being eligible to serve again. We also welcome Shirley Taussig and Dave Beveridge who will fill unexpired terms for one year.

Under new business, the members voted to increase dues and restructure categories to the following: Individual: \$10.00 Family \$20.00 Junior (17 & under) \$5.00, Contributing/per person \$25.00, Corporate yearly \$250.00. These are to take effect for the 2003 membership drive. Additionally, Life membership is to be \$150.00 beginning July 1, 2002.

The Society honored Jack and Lois Wardley for their years of dedication to the Society. Lois' poor health and Jack's attention to her care and comfort did not allow them to be present at the dinner. The engraved plaque will be delivered to them at home.

The Society also honored director Dick Squire for his continued years of service. Dick, who holds membership card #1, is one of the five founding members who formed the Bedford Historical Society in 1955.

An annual report was distributed showing the year's activities and building reports. Members, unable to attend the Annual Dinner, who wish to obtain a copy may contact the Museum 440 232-0796.

The evening culminated with a lovely and informative concert by the 'Park Avenue' Sweet Adelines. This four time award winning group gave us a history of the Sweet Adelines International. The musical selections were great. (And as one of our members present said; " They not only sing good, they are beautiful!")

What's New in the Museum

The Dresses of Mary Cowan : Although the second floor permanent exhibits are still packed in anticipation of the new addition, the open space allowed us a chance for a special exhibit.

The Museum was very fortunate to receive many of the fashionable dresses of Mary Cowan. The second floor center hall now displays twelve dresses from this collection. The clothing on display spans many years of her life. Mary was always meticulously dressed and many of the dresses on display were custom tailored for her. The collection includes a favorite childhood dress, daytime and evening apparel.

Mary Cowan will be remembered for her world renown forensic capabilities with the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office. Her keen scientific mind helped solve some of the most notorious crimes.

Mary lived in the same Bedford house most of her life. She was active in many organizations and in her church. She never married but always had a full social schedule.

An additional note: The dress forms used in the exhibit span almost 100 years.

Also on display.....

A History of Baseball Cards

Tim Grubb, has assembled a display for fans of the game. The Museum has a set of early cards from the turn of the last century. Tim has these on display along with some of his favorite modern ones. He has researched the history of baseball cards so that visitors can learn about this interesting hobby. The display is on the first floor of the Museum and will remain throughout the summer. (Even longer if it brings luck to the Tribe.)

Antique & Flea Market

The Antique and Flea Market on the Square is scheduled for Saturday August 10th 10 – 4. Call Chris Sweet, 440 439-7470, if you want to reserve a space for your items or call Lynn Jones, 330 467-4338, if you can donate an antique or collectable for the Museum table.

This event has been growing in popularity each year. Cost is \$15 for a 10ft space advance sale and \$20 on the day of sale. Set up begins at 8:00am. If you can donate to our table, please bring you items in the week before the sale. It helps if you price the items too. Thanks

Our Thanks to.....

Pat Papish for chairing the Kitchen crew at the Strawberry Festival

Lynn Jones for chairing the entertainment for the Strawberry Festival.

Helen and Steve Batko for sorting & organizing archival material on Clubs, Schools and Archibald Willard. Now Helen is setting up an index for part of our obits section. Steve recently painted the display area where we show off our antique irons.

Barb Vargo, Rose Grossenbaugh, Marion Henderson Betsy Lee, Tim Grubb and Joe Ross- "The Newsletter Crew" who makes sure you receive your newsletter.

Thanks to all of you who completed and returned the volunteer questionnaire.

Viaduct Park Dedication

The construction of a graded trail and improvements to this historic area are nearing completion by the Metroparks. The Historical Society has been assisting with the historical markers that will tell the history of this important area. When the project is completed, the Great Falls of Tinker's Creek and the ruins of the old Mill Sites will be accessible to all. A dedication of the park is scheduled for June 20th. Please check the papers for details or call the Museum. We will post the particulars when they become available.

The Dunham House

The Dunham House is ready for the season . Kay Parsons and Pat Papish have freshened up the interior and will keep the house open on the second Sunday monthly, 2:00- 5:00pm from April through October. If you have out of town relatives who wish a tour other than these hours, arrangements can be made by calling the Museum.

Dot Schwende, Kathie Williams, Cyndi Barker, Trish Karabowicz, Yvette Cintron, Roman and Linda Boldyruff and Mary Baldwin will be keeping the front and side gardens at the Dunham House in beautiful form. The side yard was landscaped in 2000 by Ellen Byers with a gift from Betty MacAlonan . The front yard was designed by Mike Bucur several years ago and maintained by Jack Wardley. Dot and crew will continue this legacy for the benefit of the Society.

Pete Dickson will continue to do interior repair work on the House to keep it in good condition. Our thanks to all of these people for the important jobs that they do.

Oral Histories

From Joanne Rose.....

Charlie Vincent 1891 – 1999

Many people remember Charlie Vincent as that spry old fellow who walked up town every day. He was 95 when this conversation was taped and almost 108 when he passed away. He was tossed out of bed when a car hit his home once. Afterwards Charlie was interviewed on TV, showing the camera how he still had full motion of his arm, he refused to go to the emergency room.

“ At Marble Chair they were making airplane propellers during WWI. I cut the outline for all of them. Then they were shaped by hand with scrapers. I probably cut the one hanging right here in this museum.

“ Ice was cut in back of my house on Union Street. By going along a mark and then they squared them off to start the cake. The first cake they might have to break it to get the saw started and they keep sawing like that right along through. The squares were about 2ft x 2 ft. They would back up their sleds with a shoot and have those big hooks that would push the ice up on the sled. Took them up to Charley Marble’s Ice House that was insulated and they would put sawdust all around the ice so it wouldn’t melt even in summer. This wasn’t for people in houses—they had window boxes and fruit cellars. This ice was for meat markets.

“ I worked for Elmer Flick (a Baseball Hall of Famer and Bedford resident). He hired me to stay with his family when he was out playing ball. He had two horses and one cow, chickens—things like that, to be taken care of. He had a farm at the end of Button Rd. In the winter he would have some bats turned out and they would oil them with some kind of oil and he would open the stove door of the coal range and keep rubbing them up. He had had them turned by someone else, but he treated them with this oil. I would drive his daughters to school by hitching up the horses and then pick the girls up when school was out.

“ I live on Union St. I keep the whole yard mowed (age 95). All the leaves raked, plus the neighbors leaves. Painted the house myself and of course, clean the gutters. The old willow tree—I put many an hour sawing on that thing, but finally got it all sawed up, piled up. Used a two man saw, but there wasn’t another man. I took the handle off one end of a 6 ft. saw and used this two man saw with only one man. Wind blew the willow tree over. I imagine it was 150 years old and 3 feet across.

“ I just smoke one cigar a day. As a rule, here’s how I work it: when I leave to go up to the Midtown (restaurant) for lunch, I light my cigar. It takes me up the hill. When I come here to the Historical Building (Town Hall Museum), I figure that was about half. Then I figure the other half would take me home.”

The Old Church / Community Building

Evelyn Sawastuk will continue to handle rentals for the Community Building. Dave and June McCandless are our custodians for keeping the hall clean and ready for the next rental.

The following volunteers have been busy in the old church building: Mike Sawastuk has been doing routine maintenance. He and Evelyn also recently reorganized the kitchen cupboards and storage rooms. John Piazza and Bob Schroeter Sr. have replaced the light bulbs in the sanctuary (not an easy task!), Frank Caldwell repaired a broken door jam and blocked the interior entrances used by a resident raccoon.

Our application for the National Register of Historic Places for this building is being reviewed. We will not hear the results until June.

From Lynn Jones...

As I reminisce over my years as Lyceum chair, I remember favorite programs, last minute changes and good fun had by all. Thanks to my husband, Andy for his help. He is an unsung hero! And thanks to you, the members. Your yearly dues and your presence at the meetings are what makes this happen. (*Lynn is transferring her energies to entertainment for the Strawberry Festival & the Teas*).

The Glenwillow Historical Society

Plans are being made to move the old Wheeling & Lake Erie Depot in neighboring Glenwillow. The Village of Glenwillow is in the process of preserving it’s historical buildings along Pettibone Road. Glenwillow was the only ‘company town’ in this area. It was built by the Austin Powder Works. Rather than destroy the old homes and buildings, the Village has been restoring the exteriors and using the various sites for different village departments. The Depot has been given to the Midwest Railway Preservation Society for use as a train museum with the stipulation that they also keep the history of the Village. To that end, the Glenwillow Historical Society has been formed to collect and preserve the history of the village. If you have any documents or artifacts which you are willing to donate to the new Society or if you wish to join and support this new group, please call Glenwillow Village Hall, 440 232-8788. The Bedford Historical Society has offered technical assistance and wishes them well on this important endeavor.

From the archives.....

53 Years Ago

With road improvements, affordable automobiles and the popularity of mass media, residents of Bedford could pursue entertainment farther afield. That new device, Television, became popular in Bedford homes.

The following bits of information come from a small publication 'Cleveland Key'. The Key published entertainment venues throughout the Greater Cleveland area. From the Dec. 31, 1948 – Jan. 9, 1949 issue:

The Lakewood Little Theater offered "Life With Father".

The Play House offered "John Loves Mary".

Fergie Ferguson was packing 'em in at the Talley-Ho Room in the Hotel Sterling.

The TV listings for WEWS- Channel 5 list-

The Old Hearse

If you have ever visited the Henry Ford Museum in Deerfield Village you may have seen a beautiful hearse from earlier years. The horse drawn beauty was made by Mertz & Riddle carriage works in Ravenna Ohio and purchased by Bedford Township. It was used here for many years to carry Bedford's departed to the Cemetery, free of charge. When it was retired from service, D.B. Johnson, a new funeral director in town, saved it from oblivion and the hearse became part of the growing collection at Deerfield Village.

Docent Training

Please reserve Monday June 3rd 7:30 – 8:30pm. If you are one of our regular volunteers or if you are a first timer, who would like to know more, please attend this one hour session to review what exhibits are new in our buildings and what is important for our visitors to know. Summer is our busy season, we have extra visitors during the Strawberry Festival and during the Wednesday Parties-in-the-Park. Your help in keeping our buildings open is essential to our goal of serving the Community. *Please come and share refreshments and receive a small token of our appreciation for your hours of service. RSVP 440 232-0796. Thank you.*

Obituary

Michael Bucur

Long time friend of the Bedford Historical Society, Mike Bucur passed away on March 16, 2002. An expert arborist, Mike is responsible for the landscaping of the Public Square and for the landscaping at the Hezekiah Dunham House. Mike not only planned and planted many of the City's trees and plants, he also would water them himself and tend each new addition.

A Marine Corps veteran of WWII and Korea, Mike was awarded the Purple Heart. He is survived by his wife, Ethel and children Barbara and Kathleen. Burial was at Bedford Cemetery. On Arbor Day, April 19th, the Bedford Garden Club and the city of Bedford planted a tree in Mike's memory at the Veteran's section of Bedford Cemetery.