

The Bedford Bee.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 46282

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Founded 1955 440 232-0796

Bedfordohio.com/history

December 02 – February 03

Issue 271

Up Coming Events

December 8, 2002 2:00 – 5:00pm: *Annual Christmas Open House* ; Come enjoy the Holiday transformation. The second floor has a *special display of dolls*. Rose Grossenbaugh has loaned some of her favorites for the display and we will exhibit some recently donated dolls from the Museum collection. Refreshments will be served.

December 14, 2002 Noon – 6:00pm: *Christmas in Bedford Falls Celebration*. Activities on the Square and throughout the Historic District. Historic District Walking Tours and the Town Hall Museum and Train Depot will be open.

January 2, 2003 8:00pm: *Lyceum – A History of Residential Landscaping* ; Landscape architect, Arlene Cichan will discuss the history of residential landscaping. She will explain the significance of certain plantings used in past years.

February 6, 2003 8:00pm: *Lyceum- A Historical Perspective of the Natural World*; Metropark ranger, Wendy Weirich tells us about another history parallel to our own. Learn how Chestnut Blight, Dutch Elm Disease and other events affected our own place in history.

March 1, 2003: *Annual Reverse Raffle* Reserve the date and start saving your money !

from President Bob Schroeter...

We mourn the loss of our former Director Dick Squire. As announced in the last issue of the Bee, Dick had been in failing health for some time. Our condolences to the Squire family.

The Trustees and Interim director, Janet Caldwell have examined our organization and have prepared an operating manual that will serve the Society and the programs that Dick cherished. An outside audit is reviewing our finances so that we remain fiscally sound. With your continued support, the Bedford Historical Society will continue to preserve the history that Dick and his colleagues loved and protected.

Jordan Rongers Earns His Eagle Award

The Bedford Historical Society worked with Bedford resident, Jordan Rongers to complete his Eagle Scout project. Jordan chose a conservation project that benefited the Society. He organized a large group of volunteers who reorganized our clothing and textile collection. They aired each box, packed items in acid-free tissue, hung some items on new cotton padded hangers and inventoried our military uniforms. The group moved furniture and carried wooden panels to better locations.

All of this over a period of three hot days and in cramped quarters! He made sure that his workers took breaks, he had ice water and food available. Jordan is now at the University of New Orleans studying Naval Architecture. A remarkable young man. Our thanks to Jordan Rongers!

Membership Renewal for 2003

Marion Henderson and Betsy Lee eagerly await your prompt renewal of your yearly membership dues. As voted upon at the 2002 Annual Meeting, the dues structure has changed starting with 2002. Annual membership increased from \$7.50 to \$10.00. That extra \$2.50 may not seem much out of your pocket but it is a most appreciated increase for our continued operation.

A membership form is enclosed with this issue of the Bee along with the 2002 membership roster. Thank you for your continued financial support.

Building Addition Update

Financially, we are getting there. Construction could begin this Spring.

Tracing Your Home's History

Bedford area residents who want to know the history of a particular home can access information at the County Archives. The archives are located at The Rhodes House, Franklin Blvd. Cleveland OH.

One Home's Story

Some Bedford residents already know the history of a house. Luverne Skillicorn, an active Historical Society member, grew up in a house on Tarbell Ave. Her father, Ivan Milz, built the home in 1909 with help from Luverne's grandfather, Christian Milz. When the house was completed, Ivan and his bride, Lottie Collins moved in. The row of beautiful sycamore trees along the street were planted in 1910 by Ivan and his friend, Roy Leach who owned the local hardware.

The pretty house is now owned by Luverne's grand daughter who is completing her residency at a nearby hospital. How nice to be in the home built by a loving great grandfather almost 100 years ago!

Century Plaques

If you live within the 'Township' and reside in a 100 year old or older home, you are eligible for entry into the Century Home Program.

The Society has a brochure available with information. We have a certificate for home owners who verify the age of their residence and many residents pay for the bronze plaque for the front of their house. Homes in Bedford, Bedford Heights, Maple Heights, Oakwood and Walton Hills are within the Township area overseen by the Bedford Historical Society's Century Home Program.

A Virtual Display

Members may recall a popular display of Aprons at the Town Hall Museum a few seasons ago. Chris Mallin, who maintains our web site, keeps photos of the exhibit on the web site. This is known as a 'virtual' display. A museum curator in Ross County Ohio recently contacted us requesting help in setting up a similar Apron exhibit. We supplied them the necessary information. They sent us a thank you and invited us to their Chillicothe Bicentennial Kick-off Celebration in March.

Remembering Holidays Past

Historical Society member, Carol (Cowen) Cermak recalls a pleasant childhood memory. Carol grew up in the house at the corner of Taylor Rd. and Washington St. where the Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad trestle crosses. Carol recalls the anticipation and excitement waiting for the train during the War years. The engineers would whistle at the Broadway crossing. The fireman, Frank Ivey was a childhood friend of Carol's Mother. Mr. Ivey would swing the red lantern and toss out a package containing rayon stockings for her Mother, cigarettes for her Dad and candy for the family.

Another Holiday memory was recently related from Helen (Pfenniger) Batko. One year, Helen found a recipe for Parsley Jelly. Because it sounded so unique, she made it and served it on Thanksgiving. Her children were young at the time. It became an instant hit. She didn't realize how much of a tradition it had become until years later. Her son, then a Dad himself, told her that it wouldn't be Thanksgiving without emerald green Parsley Jelly on hot steamy, homemade yeast rolls.

Christmas Shopping? Don't forget to support your Museum Gift Shop!

She is a Belle of Bedford

The Museum Gift Shop has a new addition: A limited edition porcelain doll. Betsy Lee, inveterate sewer and gifted seamstress, is making available a limited edition 15" porcelain doll duplicated from an 1890s photo of a young Bedford lady. Our photo shows the girl dressed in a skirt and blouse with an apron advertising 'Pansy Mills' flour. She has a flour sack over her shoulder. Each doll will be boxed and has a tag explaining the history of the photo. These are *very limited* edition dolls, each one will have a number identifying it. If you are a doll collector or would just like a charming piece of Bedford history, send in your order, a form is enclosed.

This could be the first in a series of Bedford Belles if there is enough interest. They will be based on significant periods of Bedford's history.

Other Unique Gift Items...

Wood artisan, Pete Dickson is making beautiful bell ornaments from maple hardwood. Each bell is hand decorated with a bit of holly and comes ready to hang.

Stow artist, Janet Tipton is supplying hand tatted Christmas ornaments for the gift shop. Tatting is almost a lost art form because of the time consuming detail. Janet studied tatting to renew the link with her Mayflower ancestors. These white and ecru samples are pretty enough to wear as a necklace. If you want a gift for a reader, we will have hand tatted book marks too.

Antique Christmas Tree Lights on Display

In conjunction with our November Lyceum Lecture Series, Helen Pratt has arranged a display of antique Christmas Tree lights. This is a portion of her marvelous collection. The display is located on the main floor of the Town Hall Museum and will remain throughout the Holiday Season. Put it on your 'must see' list, as the younger crowd would say-'its awesome!'

Sportsman's Park Video

Sportsman's Park fans may want to obtain a short video that has been made available to the Bedford Historical Society. The video is unedited and about 10 minutes long. It has no sound. It was copied from 8mm movie film taken in 1956. The original film is the property of John Warren who attended the races as a child with his father. His father took the movies.

Mr. Warren has offered to make copies of the video to interested race fans for a donation to the Bedford Historical Society. (We don't have a set price on this priceless piece of history. \$10.00 - \$15.00 seems reasonable.) Proceeds from the copies will be applied to the purchase of a dehumidifier for the Sportsman's Park Exhibit and other conservation measures needed to help preserve these important items. If you are interested, please stop into the Museum during hours or we will mail a copy to you upon receipt of your donation. Our Thanks to Mr. Warren for sharing this history with our members. He has offered to copy other Sportsman's Park 8mm film onto video if any of our readers have footage.

Autumn Tea- A Success!

Our afternoon Autumn Tea was a success. As expected, it sold out quickly. Our guests enjoyed a magical afternoon. They were surrounded with beautiful hats from our collection, beautiful table settings, delicious foods and teas and a tour of the fairy tale Gates Handyside House.

Our thanks to Lynn Jones for her willingness to chair the event. Thanks to the Victorian maids: Pat Papish, Evelyn Sawastuk, Ruth Kotila, Dot Schwende, Patti Sirna, Lindsey Sirna, Chris Sweet and Pat Bosway. These women decorated the tables and hall, made and served the foods, and cleaned up afterward! Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 131 and their leader who helped with coat checking and busing tables. All of the above were dressed in costume. Thanks to Roger Fuhrmeyer for designing a beautiful limited edition menu cover suitable for framing. And our thanks to Holsey Handyside who graciously opened his home for a memorable tour.

Our thanks to the following friends and businesses who donated: Rose Grossenbaugh, LeeFlagg, Andy & Lynn Jones, Marilyn Trewartha, Giant Eagle, Target Stores, Hometown Buffet, Great Bear Resort and Sheraton Suites.

We had many requests for the Onion Sandwich recipe that was served at the Tea. As promised, from Pat Bosway, here is her recipe:

Onion Tea Sandwiches

2 large sweet onions
1 cup sugar
1 cup water
1 cup white vinegar

Slice onions thinly. Boil sugar and water, add vinegar. Cover sliced onions with mixture and store covered in refrigerator 24 hours to 1 week. Drain well. Chop into small bits. De-crust Pepperidge Farm thin white sandwich bread. Spread mayonnaise on both sides and sprinkle with powdered sugar. Place the onion bits on and put the sandwich together. Cut into finger size or triangles.

Pat's notes: Can be made the day before. 2 loaves of bread, one box of powdered sugar and a half jar of mayonnaise usually does it. Pat chops the onion finely before pickling, it saves a step.

Pages from the Past

Editor's note: Portions of newspapers were found under a linoleum floor in the recently removed back portion of the Dunham house. Some of the papers were in Hungarian, no doubt enjoyed by the Nyerges family. Two other papers were found: The Cleveland Press and the Bedford New Register.

From: Bedford News Register, April 28, 1932.

- Bedford Band and Orchestra played at a Band Festival in Kent on Saturday.
- Bedford High Baseball team played Fenn College and beat them 8-2. The second inning play-Solnick hit a triple, Axel struck out, Donofrio walked, Petroff was out on a fly, Twitt got a pass and Yorkievitz hit a double resulting in three runs. Forgoras was hit by a pitched ball, Silvestro walked and Yorkievitz stole home.
- Bedford High Baseball team also 'chalked up a victory' against Euclid. Axel 'pulled out of his slump' and hit a homer and a triple.
- "Fire Boys Unable to Check Blaze With No Water" headlines about a fire 'of undetermined origin' which destroyed three large cattle barns and one small one at the old Maple Heights race track of the Ohio State Jockey Club. The blaze occurred on Sunday evening about 9:30 at the Rockside Rd. location.
- There is a notice to dog owners to keep their pets on a chain. Loose dogs were to be 'dispatched' by the police department. Apparently there had been many complaints about stray dogs destroying flower beds.
- Several unemployed men beautified the City Hall front lawn.
- A front page article reminds folks that it was 'a good time to buy in Bedford'. The article interviews shoppers in the downtown area.
- In church news- Methodists were reminded that Pastor Heaston would exchange pulpits next Sunday with Pastor Buckey from Shaffer Memorial in Cleveland. Joe Maffett, pastor of Bedford Church of Christ was to preach on "Why the Lord's Supper?". The Gospel Tabernacle on Grace Street, Stop 19, had Thomas Knight as pastor and planned Sunday School at 2:30 pm.
- In Maple Heights, the Junior-Senior banquet was held in the cafeteria. 120 attended and ate a Chinese Dinner consisting of Egg Fo Young and Chow Mein. Chinese waiters from a downtown restaurant served the banquet. The hall was decorated with green and white crepe paper. The favors were little carved white elephants. Later the guests danced to Dwight Warner's orchestra and played games of ping pong, fen tan and bridge.
- Samet's advertised Children's Sport Oxfords for \$1.49 & \$1.98. They were located at 673-79 Broadway. Their weekend special was Men's Broadcloth Shirts at 79cents each or 3 for \$2.
- 'Your Rugs Cleaned' for Spring housekeeping could be reasonably done by S.E. Jones of Home Service Laundry Co. Bedford O.
- The Hospital Guild was to meet at the home of Mrs. J.J. Squire. The Bedford Women's Civic League were to meet in Room 108 of the High School.
- Lastly, Jos. A. Burns Dairy 47 Grace St. reminds everyone that a 'glass of milk for lunch' supplies the right amount of energy for the rest of the afternoon.

Oral Histories

From Joanne Rose.....

*Sam I. Hott
1901 – 1992*

Sam Hott, was a teacher and coach in Bedford from 1927 – 1960. He retired to St. Petersburg, Fl with his wife Faye.

“ I graduated from Wooster College in 1927 and came to Bedford that year...one step I have never regretted.

When I coached baseball we went to the state championship in 1930 and again in 1937. We were always runners-up.

The Depression started in 1930. Our pay was very irregular. Once we didn't get a paycheck for 5 months. The Grace of the Lord, I think, probably bore us through. That, plus the fact that we were with friends.

There was a club called the Owls Club which was a group of fellows that were being led astray. We got those boys, unbeknownst to themselves, into Daisy Stackhouse's Domestic Science class. The group got together and sort of forgot the Owls Club. Quite a few of them were athletes and they became the Varsity B Club in 1928 – raising money whichever way they could to supply not only the athletic injuries on the teams, but other places as needed.

Some of our fund raisers were Varsity Club state plays. Vashti Morgan, God Bless her soul, was the heroine of that particular project by helping build stage structures. Faye and Sam, well we got anything we needed for the stage from our household.

One very funny incident happened there. Our daughter Sally, must have been 3 or 4 years old. We had taken the carpet off our floor and used it on the stage for the play. It so happened that Dick Lampke was one of the players on the stage. He supposedly got sick and was putting on a good bit of acting, showing that he was sick and all. Sally, who was sitting in the balcony of the high school said, ‘ Goodness, Mother, I hope he doesn't up-chuck on our rug.’ That of course got a lot of laughs from us as well as from the members of the cast.

Other fund raisers were collecting scrap paper and metal and dinners Mrs. Hott and ladies of the faculty cooked. Drs. Copeland and Wycoff were very generous in their not asking for immediate payment because they knew how hard we were working for the money....there was no other avenue for expenses.”

Bike Tour in the Works

Anyone interested in helping with a Bike Tour of Historic Bedford sites please call or stop into the museum. We'll start at the top (the high school) and work our way down to the cemetery (hopefully not literally!). We'll have interesting stops along the way. Want to help route the map?

The Community Room

A reminder to members that the Community Room in the old Church on the Square is available to rent for parties and other occasions. The hall and kitchen were modernized with funding from Bob and Betty Didham several years ago. The private parking lot is available also. New carpeting was installed last year. Call Evelyn Sawastuk, our events coordinator, at 440 232-7245 for dates and prices. The restored Victorian sanctuary is also available for weddings and other events for a modest fee.

The *Other* Bedford Historical Society

You may be interested in knowing that another Bedford Historical Society exists in Bedford Massachusetts. We exchange newsletters with our ‘New England’ cousins. It is interesting how we parallel each other. They were founded in 1893. The town has a Bedford Commons too.

Get Well Wishes to our Archivist

The Bedford Historical Society has been fortunate to have had Luke Yaeger as our archivist for the past ten years. Many of you have benefited from his expertise and knowledge. Luke's recent health concerns do not allow him to continue in his capacity as archivist. If you wish to send a note of encouragement or a get well card, it would brighten his day. Send to: 546 Emerald CT. Aurora OH 44202. He is in the process of moving but mail will be forwarded.

Obituaries

Helen Paulson

Bedford Historical Society supporter and community volunteer, Helen Paulson died on August 16, 2002. Helen was a tireless worker during the Strawberry Festival and other events on the Square. She would help with event set-ups, serve in any of the booths and would remain late into the evening to help clean-up. Her commitment to the community will be missed. She is survived by her husband Bob and children; Robert (Peggy), Don (Tina), Richard (Cindy) and loving grandchildren.

Richard J. Squire

Membership card #1, Dick Squire, passed away on September 5, 2002. He was one of the original founders of the Bedford Historical Society. Dick served as Museum Director until June 2002 when his failing health would not allow him to continue. The Society's major collections are the result of Dick's tireless efforts to collect and preserve. He gave his entire collection of Lincolniana, in excess of 2,000 volumes to the Bedford Historical Society. He is preceded in death by his wife, Betty (nee: Leeks). Surviving are his children Jay (Alma) and Betsy Lee and loving grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dick wished donations to be made to the Bedford Historical Society Building Fund.

Sue Balogh

Community citizen, Sue Balogh, nee: Ake, died suddenly on September 14, 2002 at the age of 50. Sue was a member of the Bedford Historical Society since 1985 and became a life member in 1993. Her father and brother were past presidents of the Society. Sue was active in her church, schools and community functions. Surviving are her husband, Dale and children Veronica and Kevin.

Robert Vandersluis

Services for Bob Vandersluis were held on October 11, 2002. He passed away on October 8th at the age of 83. He was a veteran of WWII and served in the US Army. He was the husband of the late Catherine and Marion E. (Bielfelt); He was the father of Judy (James) Magyar and brother and uncle to many. The family suggests contributions be made to the Elevator Fund of the Bedford Historical Society in his memory.

Robert W. James

Bob James, known to all in the race car circuit, died on October 25, 2002. Bob's donation of his racing memorabilia to the Museum's Sportsman's Park Exhibit, has offered enjoyment to many museum visitors each year.

In his racing career, he won over 1,000 races often beating such greats as A.J. Foyt, Mario Andretti and others.

He served as past commander of American Legion Post 309 in Maple Heights. He served his country in WWII in the Army. He was stationed in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany.

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Mary Catherine "Kitty" and daughters Cathleen Carol James, Michelle Ellen (Edw.) Hawk, Heather Mary (Thomas) Cogan; and loving grandchildren and great grandchildren.

William B. Cottrill

Life member Bill Cottrill died on November 1, 2002. He joined the Bedford Historical Society in 1965. Bill loved history and was a frequent visitor to the Town Hall Museum. He was a strong liaison between the Historical Society and the Village of Walton Hills. He was preceded in death by his wife, Elisabeth (Gruschka) and is survived by his sons Gary (Joan) and Kevin (Frances) and loving grandchildren. Also surviving are his brothers Herbert and Alfred and sister Alice Weisenbach.

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| <p>“ I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives,<br/>I like to see a man live so that the place where he lives will be proud of him.”<br/>Abraham Lincoln</p> |
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