

The Bedford Bee.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 46282

Bedford, Ohio 44146

Founded 1955
Bedfordohio.com/history

September – November 2003
Issue 274

Upcoming Events

September 4, 2003 8:00pm: Lyceum- Music & Tales from the Old Church on the Square; Hear the 1914 Moeller Pipe Organ played by Jerry Maddox and hear stories about the old church from member Jean Jorgensen.

September 13th 9:30 am start. OK, lets try it again: Historic Bicycle tour of old Bedford. You must register for this so that we know how many will be on the tour, 440 232-0796. (Also, we can call you if rain cancels the event.)

October 2, 2003, 2:00pm: Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Town Hall Museum addition. Rain or shine. Refreshments will be served.

October 2, 2003 8:00pm: Lyceum- Artist of the Year: Rick Backo. Join us for a champagne reception as we listen to Bedford's Rick Backo discuss his work.

October 4 & 5, 2003, 10am – 3pm: Train Ride to Kent. (see article)

November 6, 2003 8:00pm: Lyceum- Antique Christmas Decorations; Nationally known collector, Jerry Arnold shares his love and knowledge about antique Christmas decorations.

November 7 & 8, 2003 10:00am – 5:00pm: Antique Appraisal Fair; (see flyer inside)

November 7, 2003 6:30 pm; An Evening with Chris Jussel and our appraisers. (see flyer inside)

December 14, 2003 2:00 – 5:00pm; Annual Christmas Open House; Join us for the festivities.

The pleasure of your company is requested to witness the
GROUND BREAKING
FOR THE
BEDFORD HISTORICAL
SOCIETY TOWN HALL
ADDITION
THURSDAY OCTOBER 2, 2003
AT 2:00PM.

After many years, the dream is becoming a reality. Please witness this important moment in the history of your Bedford Historical Society.

From the President

Hope to see all of you at the ground breaking ceremony on October 2nd. After many years of fundraising and scrimping, we have saved enough to get this important project started. We still need to raise the last few thousand before completion next Spring.

The architectural renderings are on view at the museum for you to review. On the 2nd, you will meet the architects and construction supervisors to whom we have entrusted our precious building.

Won't it be nice to have our museum accessible to all people regardless of their disabilities?

The smiles of Mayor Don Grossenbaugh and Former Director Dick Squire will be looking down upon us. And this is a time to publicly thank Mayor Dan Pocek, Senator Eric Fingerhut and Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones, who was our representative in the State House. Through their help, we were able to obtain a state grant to help with the project.

Consider the Coat Hanger.....

Oral Histories

From Joanne Rose....

Steve Szaraz

1900 - 1990.

Steve was an entrepreneur in Bedford. Here he discusses how he started.

“When WWI came, I went and got a job, I was 14 or 15, at McMyler Interstate. They were making 8 inch Howitzers for Russia and Great Britain. There must have been 100 of us boys that were under-age. They found all 99 of them, but they didn’t find me. So one day Mr. Charles Bellar, a master mechanic, he asked me what I was doing there. I told him I worked in the shell shop. He asked me how old I was. I said I was 16. Then he asked me how many years ago was it my mother let him pitch a tent and he lived in our back yard all summer? Oh, I told him, maybe 10 or 12. He said...no you weren’t and he said, ‘You’re going.’ So I was walking out the gate and Tom Soburn, who was an accountant and paymaster, he asked me where I was going and I said I was going home. He said go on home, wash up and come back and work for him. We didn’t have any adding machines or computers. I was a human adding machine. We had about maybe 40 – 50 college men working up in payroll. We must have had 2 – 3000 men working at the factory. So after about two or three years, we had a man by the name of Louis Babcock come in the office and said that I was going to be a superintendent. I was about 16 at the time. So now it was my job. We had Dr. Hubbard from Bedford that would run our emergency room. If he wasn’t there and we had an emergency I would have to take care of the injured. A fellow would maybe have a flattened finger. I would rub and rub until it came back. Sometimes I was worried about what I was even doing there.

About 1916 or 18 my folks bought a general store. It had everything from ice cream, shoes to general clothing to an insurance office, real estate office, travel office and an exchange. So I would work at McMyler and I would work in my office there. A lot of these people from Hungary would take their pay and all they would buy was a piece of bread and a piece of salami or bacon. That is all they would have for breakfast and dinner. The rest of their money I would send home to Europe for them.”

Recording Your Family’s Roots

Jim & Joanne Rose have donated a copy of “To Our Children’s Children” by Bob Green. The book offers insightful ideas to record your memories of childhood and life’s events. These are the stories that are passed down from generation to generation.

Do you have a coat hanger in your closet that has a story? Did your grandmother have that hanger? Did it follow you home from some glamorous resort? A honeymoon souvenir? Maybe it is unusual in shape or size. We would like to display these coat hangers along with some that we have acquired.

Most people don’t give these everyday items much thought. They have been useful servants to mankind. Thomas Jefferson has been credited with developing an early wooden hanger. An internet article by Mary Bellis informs us that the wire coat hanger was inspired by a clothes hook patented in 1869 by O.A. North of New Britain CT.; Albert J. Parkerhouse, an employee of Timberlake Wire and Novelty Co of Jackson MI created a wire coat hanger in 1903 when fellow employees complained of too few coat hooks. Schuyler C. Hulett received a patent in 1932 for a hanger with cardboard tubing. In 1935, Elmer D. Rogers created a hanger with a tube on the lower bar which we still use today.

So now you know a bit about the lowly coat hanger. How many variations can we assemble? Are they all being replaced with plastic?

If you have a hanger that we can borrow, please send it or drop it off at the Museum. Don’t forget to tag it with your name, number and address. And jot down the story about it so that we can share the tale with our visitors. We will get it safely back home to your closet. The display will commence in late January 2004. Thank you. Janet

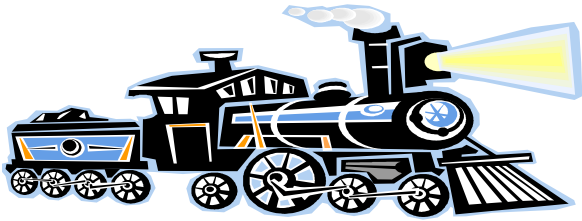
Flag Corps

Bedford Historical Society’s Historical Flags Corp won second place at this year’s 4th of July parade. Our congratulations to the marchers! Our special thanks to Chris Sweet who enrolls our unit in parades, stores the flags and lines up volunteers to march. If you would like to represent us in a parade please call her at 440 439-7470.

We march in the Bedford Memorial Day Parade and the Joint Community 4th of July Parade. If your community has a parade, talk to Chris. If we have enough volunteers, we can show off our Corps in other communities!

Reorganizing Storage

Scouts: Bobby Popowski, Jeremy DeWitt, Jeff DeWitt, Daniel Grubb & Nate Smith helped reorganize and clean two storage areas in the museum. They assisted Bob Schroeter Sr., Bob Schroeter Jr., Dave Schroeter and Jimmy Schroeter, Gary Watts and Frank Caldwell. Our thanks to all of these gentlemen.



A Fall Train Excursion

Our friends at the Midwest Rail Preservation Society are offering a Fall Color tour from Glenwillow to Kent. October 4th & 5th from 10am -3pm. There will be time to enjoy a browse through town and lunch. Cost is \$35/adult, \$25/child 3-12yr in restored historic coach cars or \$50/ all ages in a restored vintage caboose! Please call 216 781-3629 or 440 232-0796 for more information or stop into the Museum for the form. If you pay in advance at our Museum, we will receive a portion from the sale of your ticket thanks to MRPS. These trips book fast so stop in soon.

Our Bicentennial Birthday Cake

Our cake was an astounding 6ft x 8 ft! And it was beautiful thanks to Nancy from Dairy Queen. She is an artist in icing. Our thanks to Dairy Queen for donating all of the icing and thanks to all of the cake bakers. Good fun.

The Old Baptist Church continues to generate interest now that it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A recent article appeared in the Ohio Historical Society newsletter.

Ret. Ambassador Handyside Appointed

The Honorable Holsley Gates Handyside has been appointed to serve on the City of Bedford's Historic Preservation

Board. As a long time member of the Bedford Historical Society, it was the Society's recommendation that he be appointed to fill the position left vacant upon the death of Dick Squire. He joins Janet Caldwell on the five member board charged to oversee the Historic District. Our congratulations to him and thanks for his commitment to historic Bedford.

Historic District

The final application has been sent to list the Bedford Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. The Bedford Community Development Corporation funded the project as part of their commitment to Bedford. Our thanks to the CDC. Cross your fingers while we wait!

What is New at the Museum

Library photos; Joyce Maruna, our archivist, recently had a photographic display at the Library. It generated many memories and comments. The photos are on display in our own Town Hall Museum & Library for a few weeks in case you missed them.

Railroad plates; A display of early railroad commemorative plates are on view at the Town Hall.

100 Years of Military Uniforms, our Bicentennial tribute to those who have protected our freedom, continues to be displayed on the second floor of the Town Hall. It has brought enjoyment and reminiscences to many visitors since it was installed in March. The exhibit will remain through the Fall.

Added to our permanent display of dairy equipment is a new donation from John Richings. The item is a centrifuge used by the dairy industry to determine the butter fat content of milk. It is sitting on the dairy sleigh for you to inspect.

Thanks!!!!

To Betsy Lee and her committee and the many volunteers who helped with the Strawberry Festival. We netted about \$14,500 for the 2 ½ days event.

Thanks to Chris Sweet for chairing our Annual Flea Market on the Square. And to Lynn Jones and committee who manned the Historical Society table. The results are not in yet but we should net about \$1000.

Thanks to the Wednesday Party – in –the Park Popcorn popping teams. From popping the corn to selling it throughout the crowd, it takes a lot of people & a lot of work.

And now, a really big *Thank You* to all of our members and friends who helped with these events. Without your continued support, we could not do it. Isn't it nice that we have fun along the way?

Old Post Office Mural Restored

The Karl Anderson Mural that hung in the old Post Office, 600 Broadway, has been restored this summer thanks to a concerted effort of the Bedford Historical Society, Doty & Miller Architects and the Federal Government. The mural will hang in its original position in the lobby and will be available for the public to view during business hours. If you can donate toward the restoration of this powerful work of art, please make checks to Bedford Historical Society, mark it Post Office mural. Your financial help is needed as soon as possible to obtain the last \$3000, any amount is appreciated.

Depot Dilemma Continues

As of this writing, early August, there is nothing new to report on the status of the 1852 Depot. Thank you for your continued interest. Our City Council has a difficult decision regarding the old building. They are taking their time and considering their options. The real dilemma is money, of course. The Historical Society can offer technical assistance and help supervise a rehab of the old property. But it will take the whole community to find funding to save the structure. Meanwhile, the Ohio Historical Society research indicates it is one of very few depots left of that era. The Bedford Historical Society has documented information from an old article about the Depot's significance in the fight for freedom. The last slave returned to her master was caught in Cleveland. The story says that Sara Lucy Bagby and the federal marshal escorting her back met an angry crowd in Bedford at that old depot. Since the marshals were armed, nothing transpired and the slave girl returned to slavery. Sara was a mulatto, meaning she was 50% Negro and 50% white. After the Civil War, she moved to Pittsburgh and came to Cleveland to speak at the Early Settler's Association. Bedford was a hotbed of underground railroad activity. Has anyone won the lottery lately?!

Hear the old 1914 Moeller Organ!

Our first Lyceum of the season is Thursday September 4th at 8:00 sharp. Jerry Maddox will present a program on the historic organ in the old Baptist church, 750 Broadway. Jean Jorgensen will enlighten us with tales of the old church between interludes. Rumor has it that there will be a soloist too. Come and enjoy a lovely evening. Of course, refreshments will be served.

The Old Moeller Refurbished

The first Lyceum program mentioned above is due largely in part to Al Roseman. Al, ably assisted by wife Pat, has been working on the historic organ all summer to get it ready for the concert. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his volunteer time and expertise.

Bedford's Lustron Homes

When it comes to housing, Bedford is known for its gracious Victorian homes, its grand 1920s beauties and its charming post WWII ranches. But there are two famous houses to add to that list—Lustron Homes. Bedford's Lustron homes are located at High & Taft and Southwick & Gould.

More on Lustrons..

Lustron homes were the invention of Carl G. Strandlund who designed and manufactured the prefab all-steel homes in Columbus Ohio. The homes were manufactured only between 1948 – 1951. The home buyer could order the low maintenance, efficient homes in several colors. They could be assembled in about two weeks. The homes are noted for their built- in amenities and large picture windows.

Only about 2500 Lustrons were built and 2200 survive today. They were very popular in Florida. There are books and web sites dedicated to Lustron Homes, owners are very loyal to their unique structures. Many owners are registering them as landmark status with the National Register.

House Doctors

We are sponsoring the House Doctors Program in 2004. The Bedford Historical Society is fortunate to be chosen for this regional seminar about preserving old homes, schools and commercial buildings. Experts will spend two days with us answering your questions on 'how to'. There is no charge to the public but space will be limited. We'll keep you posted.

Obituaries

Russell Shriver; Member Russ Shriver passed away on May 26, 2003. He was an active member since 1985. Russ was a regular docent for Museum open houses and events. He shared his knowledge with our many visitors. Surviving are his loving wife, Doris (nee: Bielfelt) and son David (wife Gwendolyn) and niece, Judy Magyar.

Russ served his country in WWII in the US Army as a member of the 95th division.

He was a member of the Bedford First United Methodist Church.

Enrico Carnicelli; Rico Carnicelli passed away on June 30, 2003. he was the loving husband of Edel. Rico was a member of the Bedford Historical Society since 1968. He recently helped with our Veterans Oral History project. He was active in Veterans affairs, the Bedford Lions Club and the Glen-Dale Sportsmen Club.

Robert Dalrymple: Bob Dalrymple passed away on July 6, 2003. He was a Life member of the Bedford Historical Society since 1997. Bob was a descendant of the Marble family. Bob served his country in the US Army.

He obtained a Masters degree and had taught at Cuyahoga Community College during the early 90s.