

The Bedford Bee.

BEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 46282

Bedford, Ohio 44146

Founded 1955
Bedfordohio.com/history

March – May 2004
Issue 276

Up Coming Events

March 4, 2004 8:00pm; Lyceum- Wildlife in the Backyard. Linda Gilbert shares her love & knowledge of the outdoors. Bedford's proximity to the National Park and the Metroparks allows us many visitors. She will help us learn & appreciate nature's gifts.

March 6, 2004 6:30 pm; Annual Reverse Raffle

April 1, 2004 8:00pm; Lyceum- A History of the Camera. Jules Rhine demonstrates the earliest pin hole camera and moves us through to the newest technology. It is not your ordinary Brownie anymore!

April 4, 2004 2:00 – 5:00pm; Annual Spring Open House
(see article inside)

April 25, 2004; A Walk Through Historic Bedford
Sponsored by the Cleveland Restoration Society

May 6, 2004; Annual Dinner; (see article inside)

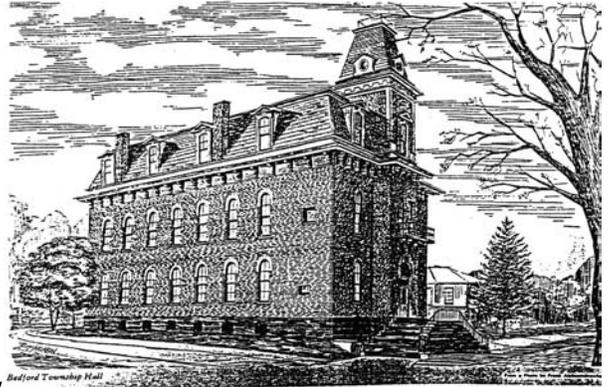
From the President

The Annual Reverse Raffle, one of our main fundraisers, is scheduled for March 6th starting at 6:30pm. The prime rib dinner will be at Catered Elegance. Tickets are available by calling the museum 440 232-0796 or me 440 232-3849. Thank you for your support. We hope you will enjoy an evening out and help raise money for the Society.
Bob Schroeter, Sr.

50 Years of Keeping History

2005 marks an important milestone in the life of your Bedford Historical Society. We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding. We have come a long way from a display in the window of the Lincoln Press and a classroom at Central School.

Roy Hearn sketch



1971

Town Hall Addition

Work continues to progress on the Town Hall addition. The cold weather slowed things down however demolition work was completed. The old fire escape on the east side of the building has been removed. The building originally had a double staircase inside the front of the building. In the early 1900s, a staircase was removed for the addition of indoor plumbing. A proposal to attach an iron fire escape shows blueprints of the project in 1909. The old rusty attachment has been blocking the beauty of the Town Hall for almost a hundred years. Our restoration plans call for returning the second floor door to a window; just as Frank D. Marble, the architect planned it in 1874. The Town Hall was constructed at a cost of \$13,500. The massive sandstone base was quarried along Tinkers Creek and the red bricks were made in the local brick yard.

The cost has changed a bit in 130 years; our restoration work and the addition for handicapped accessibility are costing us \$675,000. The project should be completed in late summer. (Save your pennies, members, we are still short about \$60,000!)

Oral History...

This issue of the Bee presents excerpts from Ned Hubbell's reminiscences. Ned was born in 1886 and lived his entire life in Bedford. He was one of Bedford's great 'history keepers'. His book; "Life in Bedford 1813 – 1970" was published by the Bedford Historical Society in 1971. He died in 1978.

“When I was a boy, we had no electricity or gas heated furnace in the basement to send heat into all of the rooms of the house. Instead we had only two rooms heated by coal or wood burning stoves. These were the living or sitting room and the kitchen but even these rooms were not entirely comfortable, because we had no insulation, no weather stripping and no double windows.

We had no indoor plumbing but drained water off the roof into a cistern in the basement and pumped by hand from the cistern up to a sink in the kitchen.

We had no electric lights and illuminated our rooms by means of coal oil lamps which had to be cleaned and filled every day. Once I was at the home of a boy friend when the lamp was tipped over onto the carpet, causing the carpet to catch fire. The man of the house grabbed the lamp and threw it outdoors while the rest of us poured water on the carpet and stamped out the fire, otherwise the house would have been burned down.

In contrast with riding in a heated automobile, it is interesting to note that when we went sleigh riding we had heated soapstone at our feet and a wooly buffalo robe over our knees.

My family lived at 500 Main Street (now Broadway). My grandfather lived on Main Street just south of our house and when I was a boy his cow came to the pasture bars opposite our house at milking time. My father, Clifton D. Hubbell, became superintendent of Schools in 1881. In 1885 a new Central School building was erected on Washington Street about where the Central School now is. It cost \$15,000. It was of the Mansard style of architecture like that of the old Town Hall which still stands by the Public Square.

The eating habits of the people in those days were different from our eating habits now. Most people were more active and ate heartier meals. We had little salad, almost no citrus fruit and no green vegetables in the winter, which perhaps accounts for the fact that men and women were three or four inches shorter than they are today. When I was young, I recall only one man who was over ix feet tall. This was Will Shannon, who was six feet three.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner meeting of the Bedford Historical Society will be held on Thursday, May 6, 2004. Once again, the meeting will be held at the Astorhurst Country Place. We will again choose from either of the Astorhurst favorite choices: Lemon Chicken or Breaded Pork Chops. Our speaker is Dr. Neil Glazer who will present the story of Col. Franklin Sawyer commander of the 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Cost of the dinner and the evening's entertainment is \$23. A post card will be sent in early April as a reminder.

Help!!!!

Volunteers are needed to unpack and help position the second floor exhibits. We will need both muscle and delicate hands. If you have either of these attributes and are available to assist in early summer please notify Janet at the museum 232-0796. Six teams of 4 people working 6 hours should get the job done. It is a monumental task that must be accomplished before the official 'Grand Opening'. What fun to show off our treasures again!

Wanted: Pillowcases

If you are cleaning out the linen closet, please donate any unwanted 100% cotton pillowcases to your museum. We are using the cases to protect some of our treasures. They don't have to be in excellent condition, just clean and 100%cotton. Drop them off at the Town Hall or call for a pick-up at your home. 440 232-0796. Thank you.

A New Treasurer – Welcome June!

We are pleased to announce that June Martin will be the treasurer of the Bedford Historical Society. June worked for several years at Cleveland Trust Bank and continues to work part time as the office manager for Casale Insurance. She is a life member of the historical society and we are pleased that she is willing to fill the shoes of Alice Weisenbach who has not been able to continue due to health restrictions.

Bob Schroeter, Jr. will continue to serve as assistant treasurer.

Pleasant Diversions 1930s Style

The comics in the Cleveland Press: The Nebbs, by Sol Hess; Tim Tyler's Luck by Lynn Young; Secret Agent X9 by Dashiell Hammett; Little Orphan Annie, by Harold Gray; Joe Palooka by Ham Fisher & Thimble Theatre by E.C. Segar (Thimble Theatre showcased Pop Eye and friends).

In 1934, four radio stations listed their programs in the Press. WTAM listed Twilight Tunes, Cugat's Band, Baseball Resume, The Goldbergs, Jack Pearl and Wayne King; WHK offered Buck Rogers, Bobby Benson, Jack Armstrong, The Columbians, Burns & Allen and Ed Day's Band (Bedford's own Glens band); WGAR offered Uncle Clyde, Cash's Band, Lowell Thomas, Crime Clews, Amos & Andy & Actor's Dinner; WJAY had the Breakfast Club, Dan & Sylvia, Ted Bergman, Song Bag and Ed Pepper's Band.

Early Race Picks were listed on the front page in case the reader was interested in horse racing. The results were listed for Aurora, Woodbine, Detroit and The Belmont.

And for you golfers-According to an ad from the Cleveland Railway Company: If a \$1.25 weekly pass was purchased for the streetcar, a rider would save \$3.07 a week by not driving to town. This savings was enough to pay for greens fees, golf and a caddy with a few cents to spare.



About Those Coat Hangers...

Thanks to our many members who have loaned coat hangers and shared stories for our current display of these everyday items. The exhibit is on the first floor of the Town Hall; stop in and enjoy some tales and learn about the history of the coat hanger.

Sportsman's Park

The Sportsman's Park exhibit continues to attract visitors throughout the year. The Bedford Historical Society was the recipient of this racing memorabilia several years ago thanks to the efforts of John Malone, Denny Hudock and the drivers, mechanics and race car owners who carefully saved and donated the items for preservation and for the public to enjoy. Currently efforts are being made to preserve the items according to museum conservation standards. We are also arranging an oral history recording of these pioneer drivers and mechanics. Their interesting stories of the early days of racing will be available for the future.

(A reminder that we have a video containing several minutes of racing excitement from 1955&56. Proceeds from the sale of this help with our conservation efforts. A poster commemorating Sportsman's Park is also available at your museum gift shop.)

Did You Lose Your Milk Money?

The Bedford Historical Society was fortunate to receive relics found during a recent 'dig' on the site of the old Washington Street school property. Terry Starhursky, Jim Blackburn and Bernie Benewiat methodically excavated the site. The resulting finds include almost 100 years of young children's lost nickels and cherished toys. The collection includes marbles, a small model prop-plane, a Captain Midnight Secret Decoder, a 'Kiss Proof' compact powder case, a miniature pitcher, a pen knife and several barrettes. Imagine the heartaches of hundreds of school children who lost these items during recess. Other items found include pottery shards from earlier homesteads. Our sincere gratitude to these modern 'archeologists' for unearthing bits of Bedford's past. See the display at the Museum beginning in mid-March.

A Walking Tour of Historic Bedford

The Cleveland Restoration Society is sponsoring a walking tour of historic Bedford on Sunday afternoon April 25th. A route has been mapped and a brochure is being designed. Visitors will come from all of Northeast Ohio. Volunteers are needed to staff our buildings as part of the tour. Can you help?



The above fashion pattern is from the Museum's collection of patterns. Moms could make this lovely 1952 dress for young misses just in time for Easter. *This brings us to the subject of...*

Our Annual Spring Open House

This year's Open House is scheduled for Palm Sunday April 4, 2004, 2:00 – 5:00. The upper floors of the Town Hall are off limits due to construction; however, we have interesting displays arranged on the first floor including the Coat Hangers.

Also on display will be examples of 80 years of coffee pots on loan from one of our members. The pots are works of art designed to grace the tables of yesterday; All because modern homes were wired for electricity. And since we will view 80 years of coffee pots, we will also have a *coffee tasting* as part of our refreshments. Once we sample several types of beans and roasts, we'll be wired for the rest of the week! See you at the Open House.

Thank you
Our sincere gratitude to everyone who donated toward the Town Hall building addition and the Post Office Mural restoration. Every dollar donated helps pay off the totals.

Obituaries

Rudy Palotta; Member Rudy Palotta died on November 11, 2003 in Temple City CA. He was a member of the Society since 1997. Mr. Palotta served in the US Navy in WWII. He was a graduate of Bedford Schools; the class of 1938. He was the husband of the late Velma Mae (nee: Boutell).

Ruth Wunderlich; Ruth (nee: Williams) Wunderlich passed away on December 22. She was the wife of the late Ralph. She was the mother of Sandra (Richard) Germaine, Thomas (Janice), Tracy Sheets and Scott. She was a loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Ruth taught Spanish and French in Bedford City Schools. She was a medals winner in master's swimming events and was inducted into the Wesleyan University Athletic Hall of Fame. She was a member of the Society since 1970.

Elizabeth Didham; Betty (nee: Truscott) Didham passed away on December 22, 2003 in Bowling Green Ohio. She was a Life Member of the Society who joined in 1964. She was preceded in death by her husband. Bob and Betty were active members of the Bedford Historical Society until health concerns prevented them from activity. The Community Room in the old Church on the Square was remodeled and dedicated to Bob and Betty Didham. She was a member of the Bedford Methodist Church and several societies and organizations. Betty was a teacher in the Bedford City Schools. She leaves a loving son Jim (Edieanne) and loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren.