

YESTERDAY & TODAY

"Life holds more meaning when the past ties into the Present—When this happens one gains assurance that the Present will also tie into the Future—Author Unknown

Parke County Historical Society Organized May 12, 1894
Spring 2007

2007 Annual Meeting

The Parke County Historical Society will host our annual meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2007, at Saint Joseph's Holy Family Hall in Rockville at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be \$12.00 per person payable at the door. Please make reservations by calling the Rockville Public Library 765-569-5544 before April 17th. The caterers have promised a scrumptious meal with mouth-watering pie for desert.

The program for the evening is entitled "Just Recollecting" by Bob Foor. It promises to be a knee-slapping adventure. After this winter weather, everyone can use a good laugh. Thank goodness Spring is just around the corner!



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Local Lore, Back Roads, and Random Thoughts

by
Gary Cowan

Greetings from Gary Cowan, Docent at the Parke County Museum! I am excited about the continuing basis of this newsletter. It will afford all of us the opportunity to travel back in time to smile, remember, and reflect. Although I am an avowed "city slicker", I will endeavor in aiding you in a bit of retrospection. Join me!

Picture yourself on a windswept, hardscrabble farm just west of Coloma. The school wagon has just brought you home, and you are "cipherin" by the light and warmth of the fire. Your stomach is full of ham, fried mush, and some hard candy bought from the general store. Your father walks in, his shoulders slumping as he eases into his favorite rocking chair and lets out a tired sigh. Mother flips on the radio and adjusts the knobs. Thank the Lord that REMC now reaches all the way out here! What's on? Maybe Major Bowes Amateur Hour. Or Orson Welles scaring us with aliens. Or the "Opry" is playing Bluegrass classics from the Carter sisters or Bill Monroe. Mother would probably dance the two-step if only she weren't so tired from using the washboard, from cooking, and from sewing.

Such was the stark reality of life of the 1930's in Parke County. Like all of us, these true pioneers were just trying to eke out an existence with happiness, hope, and dignity.

Come to the museum and see:

1. Our 1861 Henry Rifle—a new and improved weapon of mass destruction!
2. A floor tile stood on by Adolph Hitler.

Answer to the last newsletter's

Did You Know:

1. Johnny Green was an Indian with an avowed hatred of Whites, having bragged of killing several. He was mysteriously killed on the rocks somewhere between the Turkey Run Suspension Bridge and the Narrows Covered Bridge.
2. Hogback was a remote settlement in the hills east of Coxville and west of Jessup. It had a sand plant and a sawmill.

Did You Know?

1. What gave Mordecai Brown his first big pitching opportunity?
2. Where was Java?

**Just in Case You Have
Forgotten**

**Dues for the year of 2007 for the
Parke County Historical Society
are \$10.00 per person.**

**REMEMBER THAT
DONATIONS TO THE
PARKE COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

Message from the President

Hi, everyone. Spring is practically here, isn't it? I know it will get cold again before it gives up entirely, but these 70+ degree days are getting me in the mood.

Just finished up maple syrup for another season. It was a late season, but it turned out to be about normal as far as production. Color, taste, and quality were all superb. Makes all the work worthwhile.

I hope you all have made it through the winter in good shape and in good spirits. Things will be greening up soon, and we'll all be out of the doldrums. I look forward to seeing everyone at the 2007 Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 19th, at St. Joseph's Holy Family Hall. We have lots of plans for the summer, and there will be opportunities for anyone who would like to help do good things. See you soon!

—Jim Meece

