

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

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2007 Ice Cream Social

Good ol' Summertime and the living is easy! All that is missing is a big band sound and a big bowl of Boy Scout ice cream. This is your chance! The annual Parke County Historical Society Ice Cream Social will be August 18th at the Parke County Historical Museum on West Ohio Street in Rockville from 6-8 p.m. The band is called the “Fabulous 40's.” Bring your lawn chairs and your appetite. We'll see you there!

We've had some great people offer to donate three dozen cookies each. They are: Lorraine Morlan, Mary Alice Barnes, Sheron Fortenberry, Sharon Malone, Avis Plummer, Wilma Gastineau, Karin Woodson, Martha Hartman, Margaret Ellis, Clara Jane Berrisford, Ruth Holsapple, Phyllis Grover, Helen Bills, Marceil Chapman, Phyllis Dwyer, and Katharine Marsolf. You know these ladies are all great cooks; their cookies will be great with ice cream. Ladies, we really appreciate your donation.

Crowder Log Cabin Pitch-In

There is more good stuff going on this fall from the Historical Society. We're going to have a NEW community event. We all hope it will become an annual gathering of friends and neighbors getting together to break bread and chat. On September 8th at 5 p.m. to ???, we're planning a pitch-in dinner at the Crowder Log Cabin on West High Street in Rockville. Make up your favorite recipe, pack up your own dinner service and lawn chair to share an evening celebrating our shared Parke County history at the cabin. We once again have wonderful volunteers who will help with the evening. They are Ben and Lorraine Morlan, Karin Woodson, Joyce Shoemaker, Marceil Chapman, Alberta Butler, and Waneta Willoughby. Volunteers are wonderful!

Local Lore, Back Roads, and Random Thoughts

by
Gary Cowan

Greetings again from Gary Cowan, Docent at the Parke County Museum. As I started thinking about what might be a suitable topic for the Newsletter, I saw the news on television. Another day, another set of deaths in foreign land. That took me to the sacrifices that this proudly patriotic county has made over the years in various wars—lest we forget.

One need only to walk through this museum to fully appreciate the sacrifices our locals have made to preserve our way of life. Look at the weaponry that took so many lives; young farm boys not far removed from an idyllic pastoral youth were forced to inflict damage on people not that unlike themselves—young men with families and dreams. All because of the megalomania of some despot. As one looks at the physician's instruments, it is easy to imagine the anguished screams of a young boy losing a leg with a shot of whiskey for antiseptic. It is not so easy to imagine the life of those left behind to carry on the family farm or business without the guiding hand of the man or men of the house, many who ultimately never returned. I remember talking with my uncle who fought in some of the fiercest fighting on Guam; he came back a very different man than when he left, scars that did not show. Name the war; Parke County always gave in full measure.

All too often, our returning veterans did not receive the gratitude they so richly deserved. But this is Parke County; we are people who know where we came from. We are a people who appreciate the gift that our veterans gave us. We are a people who put up ribbons in our schools, remembered our veterans in the local paper, maintained active veterans' organizations, and proudly erected markers on the

Courthouse square. Our Society is all about our heritage and gifts of the past. This is so very imperative that we, as carriers of the lamp, do so. Lest we forget...

Answers to the last newsletter's

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Mordecai Brown got his big pitching break as a pitcher for Coxville when the regular pitcher drank too much and spent game day in the Bridgeton jail, thus opening the door for Mordecai. The rest is Baseball history.

2. Java was a suburb of Bloomingdale, so named because of a brand of aptly named coffee introduced at the Free Labor general store. Java also had a blacksmith, school, and post office.

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Who used to show up at Lyford and regularly flirt with a waitress?

2. What famous circus figure stopped at the Rockville depot?

COME AND SEE:

A Nyesville record of coal mined by each person from the 1890's.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi, everybody! In the words of Ronald Reagan to Jimmy Carter, "Well, there you go again." What you've done this time is the same thing you've done every time you've been asked...support the Parke County Historical Society. Thanks to you, we've reached the fundraising level required to not only receive a matching amount from the Parke County Community Foundation for our endowment, but we receive \$500 of much needed funds for our general fund. I never had a doubt. There were those who just weren't sure we could do it, but I knew you would make it. I believe we've had three such fundraising efforts, and you have come through in flying colors every time. You're just plain good folks. Thanks to every one of you!

This is only happening because of our great members who have so graciously donated. A big thank you to: Marilyn Allen, Baird Sawmill, Sam and Madonna Ball, Clara Jane Berrisford, Helen Bills, Martha Bowsher, Branson Insurance Services, Tom and Fern Burgess, Alberta Butler, Tim and Monti Byers, Max and Marybell Causey, Marceil

Chapman, Gayle Cole, Delores Collings, Ronald and Barbara Cook, Jean Ann Craycraft, Norval and Patricia Dixon, Dooley Farms, Dr. John Ferguson, Roger Fisher, Tom and Sheron Fortenberry, Charles Fortner, Raymond and Jane Fox, Larry and Helen Gambaiani, Marsha Garrison, Evelyn Gibbs, Gooch Funeral Homes, Craig and Diane Green, Roger and Phyllis Grover, Mary Hanner, Joe and Martha Hartman, Wanda Hartman, Marjorie Hays, Gary and Roberta Hobbs, Evelyn Hobson, Ruth Holsapple, Earnest and Rosemary Hutchins, Charles and Mary Hutson, Paul and Amy Insley, Gene and Maxine Jones, Kathy Jones, Zackary Jones, Richard Kremer, Clifford and Dixie Kunze, Dan and Janet Leonard, Patricia Lester, Ronald and Karen Lewis, Barbara Loden, John and Sharon Malone, Pauline McKinney, Larry and Linda McLaughlin, Jim and Gayle Meece, Bennie and Lorraine Morlan, Fern Musson, Mike and Nellie Myers, Wilma Myers, Colleen Neuwirth, Paul and Doris Newton, Sue North, In Memory of Marjorie Osborne, Ashley Overpeck, Bill and Waneta Overpeck, Patty Overpeck, Parke Clinic, PC, Edward and Marilyn Payton, Alta Pickett, John and Jane Russell, Scott Pet Products, Joyce Shoemaker, Dorothy Smith, Phyllis Snodgrass, Mark and Linda Spelbring, In Memory of Max Swaim, William Swern, Barbara Taylor Clodfelter, Melvin and Patricia Teague, Steve and Elaine Waltz, Phil and Carolyn Weatherman, John and Jane White, Nancy Witty, Karin Woodson, Milton and Dorothy Woody, George and Wilma Wooten, Dr. Belle Zimmerly in memory of Great Grandfather Joseph Kilgore. Thank you!

The golf day is July 8th at Turkey Run Golf Course, and we start smacking the ball at one o'clock. That will give us about 9 hours of daylight. That is about eleven holes an hour. That is less than 6 minutes per hole!!! Gayle is driving the golf cart to haul me around, and I imagine that is going to be a long day for her. Bad enough to have to spend nine hours with me, but she will have to endure watching nine hours of bad golf! Oh, well...we'll make it. I think it falls under that "for better or for worse" clause.

I hope your summer has started well, and you are surviving the heat. See you at the Ice Cream Social on August 18th! Bring your lawn chair and your appetite.—Jim Meece