

CARROLL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Winter/Spring 2008



Aerial view of the Algonquin Mill Farm, taken by Janice Petko shortly after the 2007 Fall Festival.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By David McMahon

Because of the lead-time that is necessary in putting together each of our semiannual newsletters, I am writing this message at the beginning of January. As far as the calendar is concerned, one year is ending and a new one is commencing. As far as our Historical Society is concerned, this is probably the quietest time of the year. Between the activities of the holidays that demand everyone's attention and just getting used to the darkness and growing cold of winter, there is a brief opportunity for us to maybe catch our collective breath before another cycle of CCHS activities begin again. By the time you read this, the brief opportunity will have passed and the new cycle will be in full swing.

Before taking a look forward to the coming year, it is time to take a quick look back. For everyone of you that had the opportunity to spend three days in

October deep in the heart of Carroll County, you already know that everyone else, that did not have the opportunity, missed out on a beautiful Festival. The addition of the partially completed 100-year-old Slaughterhouse structure was an area of added activity. It was the type of Festival that makes all of the hard work and preparation satisfying. Quick on the heels of the Festival was the annual ritual of processing an unbelievable amount of apples into applesauce for the next batch of apple butter. (Not to mention the necessity of making a batch of apple butter just to have some available because it was a sellout at the Festival). Then there was another successful sauerkraut supper held to benefit the goals of the Society. Wrapping up the year was the annual Festival of Trees at the McCook House. If you have not yet been to the Friday evening candlelight open house during that event, you should plan on attending next year. All in all, it was a very good year.

Looking forward, there are a number of subjects

that will need the attention of all CCHS members. I will list some of these here and ask that you give each of them some thought.

Annual Election of Officers: March is the time of year when it is time to elect those persons to lead your Society. It is also your opportunity to step forward and run for an office, if you so choose. Becoming involved is what makes democracy work. March 16 will be the general membership meeting and election to be held in the Mill Dining Room at 1 p.m.

McCook House: In October the Ohio Historical Society informed us that the State Legislature was investigating the possibility of reducing the number of state owned sites from 60 down to 40. This comes about from the fact that there has long been a chronic underfunding of the budget needed by the Ohio Historical Society to maintain and operate all of its sites. One of the 20 sites being considered for transfer of ownership to a local organization or government agency is the McCook House. In November two members of the Legislative Service Commission came to Carrollton on a fact-finding visit to evaluate both the McCook House and local interest in a possible take over. Because our Society has been operating the McCook House under an agreement with the Ohio Historical Society since 1981, Shirley Anderson, John Davis, and I were present during their visit. We expressed that our biggest concerns had to do with the repairs that the house needs along with the funding, or lack of funding, needed to make those repairs. With the information gathered at the 20 sites from around the state, the Ohio Legislature is going to see if they can come up with an incentive plan for transfer of these sites to local control. We will keep everyone informed when and if the Legislature does come up with a proposal for the McCook House.

Nivin-Beckley House: As of this writing, we are waiting for Rosebud Mining, the current owner of the house, to review our proposed agreement to again gain access to the property so we can move forward with plans for the possible moving of the house to the Mill Complex. Once we again have access to the property, we can then develop a complete financial plan for this project and begin the task of securing the funding.

Overall Society Financial Picture: The financial position of our Society as of January 2008 has improved since our "three days of rain" Festival in 2005. A number of factors have taken place to improve our current position. Those major factors being: 1) Two successful Festivals in a row when the weather

was on our side. 2) The Board made major cuts in our insurance coverage, mostly dealing with the buildings, and has been as austere as possible with spending. 3) A bequest from the estate of the Myles Luce. The money was received in two installments with the first \$30,000 coming just before Festival time. The second payment of \$14,693.13 was received at the end of December for a total amount of \$44,693.13. The board took the first \$30,000 and invested it in nine month CD's. The board will take action on how to invest the second amount at the January Board meeting. 4) Finally, the Board has been working to increase the money in the endowment account. Through the actions of investing the money from life memberships over the past few years into this account, leaving most of the money earned in the account, and a \$500 donation to the account from the Algonquin Spinning and Weaving Guild, the account has gone from \$25,224.00 in January 2005 to \$37,750.09 as of December 2007. This is good news.

Now, for the other side of the financial picture. On average, the money earned from a successful, dry Festival, after the bills and shared concessions are paid, leaves the Society with just enough operating capital (non-endowment money) to last until it's time for the next Festival. Normally that amount does not include the large amount of up-front money needed to make the Festival happen. Add to that picture, should we have another wet Festival as in 2005, then the Society is short the money needed for one year's operation. There has always been a need for a rainy day fund just for such a year as 2005. The money from the Myles Luce estate will go a long way as a cushion in case of such an event, plus it will provide the large amount of start-up money for the Festival. Even with a good Festival, there are precious few dollars available to do major repairs or improvements to our buildings and complex. Right now there needs to be some major renovation work done on our lower pavilion, and the shingle roof on the dining hall has just about reached its time limit. There are even fewer dollars to do any significant historical preservation that our Society should be undertaking. What your Board members are proposing is setting up an account for donations that would be used toward capital improvements. The money would be used for repairing and preserving what we have and possibly adding to and preserving even more. It would not go toward the every day expenses the Society incurs. Donations to such an account could be any amount and on a periodic basis.

Just as many individuals make donations to local charities, public television and radio stations, United Way, etc. every year, the same could be done for our Society into such an account. Our Society has a large membership base. Periodic donations of a nominal amount from many into such a fund would go a long way for preservation now and in the future. (Large donations would be welcome also). All donations are tax deductible.

As our mission statement says, "The mission of the Carroll County Historical Society is to collect local artifacts, preserve local history, and provide opportunities for connecting the past with the future."

As I said at the beginning of this article, these are subjects that everyone needs to think about. See you down at the Mill.



ALGONQUIN MILL REPORT: THE CLICHE EDITION

By Mike Mangan

Well, it's been a quiet few months here on the edge of Union Township at the intersection of the distant past and the 21st century.

With all the momentous events going on in the world today, it seems a little presumptuous to think anyone would be interested in anything going on at the Algonquin Mill, but here goes anyway. Bold, italicized, trite, and stereotyped expressions have been added here and there for the sake of modest emphasis.

We put on another Festival; therefore we exist. (Apologies to whatever thoughtful philosopher first wrote, "I think; therefore I am.")

The controversy continues about whether this activity is enough to justify our existence and, if not, what else should we be doing. But putting that debate aside for now, it can be reasonably said that a huge number of people at the Festival had a really good time. We made a big pile of money, the third or fourth biggest ever. This is our version of *make hay while the sun shines*. But that pile quickly shrank, and we must be prudent and wise with our monthly expenditures throughout the year until our next October opportunity for significant income. We are delicately balanced between prosperity and oblivion just like all societies have been in the entire history of civilization from the Stone Age to this present

desperately volatile era. We'll see what happens from this point on. *Life can change in the blink of an eye*. One day life is stable and good; then before you know it, you're sleeping in your car.

Now that I am having the opportunity to be living as well as working at this historic site, it could almost be said that the Algonquin Mill is *open 24/7*. But realistically, since there is a trip to the post office six days out of seven to get the Historical Society's mail, 23/7 would be more accurate. Less, if we have to pick up cat food or other essential supplies.

Some people might point out that we are really only totally open and fully functional during the three days of the Fall Festival. This point of view ignores our traditional Thursday work sessions and other special projects during the year. However, the current situation probably accommodates most all apple butter, cornmeal, and other product sales to the public. To be sure we're here, you should call before coming down (330) 627-5910.

Home is where you go and they have to take you in. The Mill is a little like that. Tolerant. Accepting. Not too fussy. There has really only been one person who was so aggressively unlikable that we had to discuss how to move him out. Fortunately, he took care of exiting on his own. Chemical imbalance in his brain, probably.

Fortunately, our membership is varied, skilled, dedicated, and congenial. Some have such full schedules they really have to coordinate their calendars to be able to fit our activities into their plans. Others live more solitary lives. Their friends at the Mill are very much like family.

They look forward so much to helping with our regular get-togethers, and even more so the yearly Festival, that they feel it is a privilege and honor to participate in the overall effort.

No man is an island, alone unto himself. The familiar accounts of this flouring mill all point to George Tope building and operating it all by himself. So maybe he was a kind of island. A lone wolf. A proud, independent exception to the cliché. We don't really know. Maybe his spirit still inhabits the valley. A recent dream sequence featured a young George Tope milling his very first barrel of whole wheat flour, which he took home (right next door) to his first wife, who used it to bake her first loaf of bread. There the dream ended, but those same things go on for the Festival at a scale the originator probably never imagined; five or six millers working together and two

women mixing the dough for nearly 2,000 loaves of bread. And that is just one aspect of the multifaceted event that is the end result of the efforts of more people than most of you can possibly imagine.

What we have here is a failure to communicate. Have you ever noticed how so many of the problems in the world, from the tiniest misunderstanding between individuals to the most catastrophic multi-national disasters, are caused by either accidental or intentional misinterpretation and/or distortion of information?

Referring now, not to Iraq, but to the Carrollton community's opinion of the Historical Society and its Festival achievements, these unfortunate and usually inaccurate conclusions that people have jumped to are disappointing to many of us. This has been going on for a long time.

Finally, someone with some insight and good communication skills has written clearly and completely about the cooperative effort between the CCHS and the other members of the local community; the way we share the work and the money generated at the Algonquin Mill Fall Festival. This topic was explained better than it ever has been before in a letter written to the Free Press Standard newspaper, reprinted below, by the current CCHS president. If you read it, you will be well-informed and better able to deal with criticism of our organization.

To all of you who got this far and didn't give up reading this report, thank you.

ELEVEN LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SHARE \$30,897 FROM THE SUCCESS OF THE 37TH ANNUAL ALGONQUIN MILL FALL FESTIVAL

(This article, written by CCHS President David McMahon, appeared in the Free Press Standard on November 29, 2007).

The mission of the Carroll County Historical Society is to collect local artifacts, preserve local history, and provide opportunities for connecting the past with the future. One added bonus to attaining that goal has been the fact that many local community organizations have also benefited, since 1981, in pursuing their organizations' goals. At the Society's

General Membership Meeting held on November 11, 2007, those organizations involved in the 37th Algonquin Mill Fall Festival benefited, yet another year, from their hard work.

When the annual Festival grew too large for the Society membership to handle alone, local community organizations were approached to staff various functions of the Festival on a shared profit basis. The Society provides all of the necessary supplies and equipment needed for each organization to operate their assigned task. The organizations provide the manpower to operate each venue, with no monetary risk involved. After the expenses for their venues are subtracted, the organizations share in the profits of their work.

In 2007 these 11 organizations, Dellroy Ruritans, Our Lady of Mercy Youth, Friends of Pack #143, F.F.A. Alumni, Carroll County Humane Society, Masonic Temple Fund, Carrollton Civic Club, One Way Youth Group, Dellroy PTO, Carroll County Volunteer Fire Department, and the Youth Boosters realized a total of \$30,897 between their groups.

In the last 10 years, the various community organizations involved in the Festival have realized an average of \$25,000 each year for their groups. It has been a successful partnership that has benefited the Historical Society, these community organizations, and the entire Carrollton Community.

(Editor: Additional questions about this press article can be directed to CCHS President David M. McMahon at (330) 875-1948.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by John Davis

CCHS Financial status as of 11/20/08

Fiscal Year 511107-4/30/08

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	
<u>Cash on Deposit</u>	\$ 3,305.78
<u>Savings</u>	Z.~
National City Savings	55,246.77
Certificate of Deposit-Huntington	5,000.00
Certificate of Deposit-Huntington	25,000.00
<u>Endowment Fund</u>	
Carroll County Foundation	37,750.09
TOTAL ASSETS	\$126,302.64

Profit & Loss Statement

Income

Membership	\$ 2,078.00
Annual Meeting	942.00
Donations	46,821.88
McCook House	5,050.41
Mill Sales	3,457.80
Outside Use	250.00
Festival	168,833.55
Historic Church	423.85
Arboretum & Grounds	60.00
Interest	2,367.38
Sauerkraut Dinner	1,362.00
Leases (oil & gas, ballfield)	378.50
Other	64.50

Total Income \$232,089.87

Expense

CCHS	\$ 34,507.58
McCook House	6,527.19
Mill Complex	33,365.32
Fall Festival	86,769.35
Historic Church	144.00

Total Expense \$161,313.44

Net Income \$ 70,776.43**

**Includes \$44,693.13 received from the Myles Luce

Fall Festival Expenses

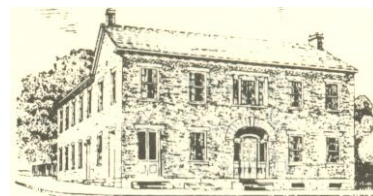
Our costs to start and operate the Fall Festival each year are significant whether we have a good year or not. We receive approximately \$6,000 from the crafters before the festival begins. Thus CCHS has a commitment of about \$27,000 before the whistle blows on Friday morning.

Cash for all venues and our bank	\$13,000
Advertising/Printing	2,500
Entertainment	2,600
Recognition Awards	780
Lunch for CCHS Workers ("Mill Bucks")	1,500
Extra Electricity Use	580

Contracts

Security-Highway/Night	2,700
Equipment rental	2,000
Port-a-Johns & Pumping Services	2,500
Emergency Services	250
Parking Cars	3,800
Transport of Steam Engines	700
Trash/Daily Cleanup	900
Total	\$33,810

MCCOOK HOUSE REPORT



By Shirley Anderson

The McCook House is almost halfway through its "long winter nap." By early spring, the school groups will start to visit. In fact, one is already scheduled for late February. I love having children come to the museum. They bring a freshness and spontaneity that is so rewarding.

Recently, we had one of the large trees in the backyard removed. This tree was particularly worrisome because of its close proximity to the house. Twigs continually fell on the roof and filled the spouting. After every storm, there was a lot of cleanup work to be done in the yard. The Ohio Historical Society approved a bid from a local company and issued the work order.

I want to thank all those who have donated time, money, or family treasures to the museum. It's so nice to hear a visitor say, "Oh, is that new? I haven't seen it before."

NEWS FROM THE KRAUT HOUSE

By Diane George

The Sauerkraut House was a busy place during the Fall Festival. We were packing and selling quarts of kraut as fast as humanly possible. The sauerkraut soup was a very good addition to our sales. Luckily the weather was cool enough for soup. If it's too warm, we sell less soup. As we all know, the weather is a major factor for the entire Festival. If it's too cold and wet, we have fewer people attending which means we take in less money to use to complete our projects.

We have had a lot of requests regarding our procedure for processing cabbage into kraut. They seem to think we put magic ingredients into the cabbage. The only ingredients we use are cabbage and coarse canning salt: 15 lbs. shredded cabbage and 9 tablespoonfuls of coarse canning salt.

[I will try to explain the process we use.]

1. Remove dark green outer leaves and any leaves that are cracked or damaged.
2. Remove the core, we use a drill bit; however,

- you can use a knife.
3. Shred the cabbage using a slaw cutter or shredder.
 4. Measure cabbage and coarse canning salt using about 15 lbs. of cabbage and 3 tablespoonfuls of salt at a time. Place in a large bowl and mix well.
 5. Place the cabbage in a clean 5-gallon crock. The crock should be washed thoroughly and rinsed several times with boiling water.
 6. Pack the salted cabbage into the crock. Press down with a wooden stomper. A brine will start to form as you pack the cabbage into the crock.
 7. Repeat the salting, mixing, and packing until all the cabbage (15 lbs.) is in the crock. Continue to stomp down the cabbage until there is enough brine to cover the cabbage completely.
 8. Place two food safe plastic bags, one inside the other, on top of the cabbage and fill partially with water, expel the air, and tie shut. This provides weight and seals the bags around the edges of the crock.
 9. Place the crock in a cool area where the temperature will not rise above 75 degrees.
 10. Uncover the crock at least every other day to check the sauerkraut. Use a clean wooden spoon to remove any scum or film that forms on top. Add enough brine (1 tablespoonful of coarse canning salt to 1 quart of water) to keep cabbage covered.
- II.** Allow 3 weeks for fermentation at 75 degrees; allow 4 weeks at a temperature of 70 degrees. Do not store crock at temperatures below 55 or over 76 degrees because fermentation will not take place and the cabbage will spoil. We keep our kraut in a controlled atmosphere (air conditioned) room.

As many of you know, we work with five to six tons of cabbage when we make the kraut, and we usually accomplish this in two days. How do we process so much in such a short period of time? The answer is **WONDERFUL, DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS!!** A big **THANK YOU** to all of those volunteers. **If** you would like to help, mark your calendar for the first week of August 2008 or contact us at 330-868-5609. No experience is needed.

PORK AND SAUERKRAUT SUPPER

By Donna and Rich Mahoney

We held our second Algonquin Mill Pork and Sauerkraut Supper on November 17th in the Dining Room at the Mill Complex. We served about 185 people, and they all seemed to enjoy the meal. We served mashed potatoes, applesauce, bread, cake, and a beverage with the pork and sauerkraut. This year we had our own apple butter on the table for all to enjoy.

It takes a lot of people to make one of these dinners a success. I would like to thank everyone who bought and/or sold tickets, helped setup, serve, or cleanup. A huge "Thank You" to my sister Marlene Kiener and friend John Lorenz who came the night before and helped us bake the cakes and get everything setup for Saturday. They also spent Saturday helping us get the food ready. We also want to thank Mike who made sure we had everything we needed and ran and ran for us.

We also sold apple butter, flour, shirts, and hats during the dinner and were pleased with the amount of sales from these items. We were happy with the \$1,300.00 total we made that night. That will help to pay a bill or two. Rich and I would like comments about having another dinner or ideas about other ways to make some extra money for the CCHS.

ALGONQUIN SPINNERS AND WEAVERS

By Dave Lewis

The members of the Algonquin Spinners and Weavers Guild are looking forward to many events this upcoming year. We are continuing to use the expertise and experience of our members in presenting numerous workshops. Locker hooking a mug rug will be conducted in March, and a new style of knitting is on tap for April. Sometime during the months of May and June we expect to have a dye workshop. We will also be scheduling a workshop on the operation of our antique sock knitter. We have been using this machine for demonstration in the Two-Story Log Cabin, and we need to have more members trained on its operation. This will happen sometime before the next Festival.

The Girl Scouts will be joining us during the afternoon of our February meeting to visit and learn about the techniques of fiber artists. We will be using a demonstration technique developed by Jo Coad which proved very successful during our last demonstration at Yankee Peddler.

Members are already working with the Historical Society to plan our small garden in front of the Farmhouse. More hostas will be added to continue the bed. As any hosta grower knows, it takes years to develop a proper bed. A few yellows will be added to the areas which receive more afternoon sun.

January is the birthday month of our Native American Elder. The Spinners and Weavers have adopted a Navajo grandmother and send her many packages of food, medicine, and clothes throughout the year as well as providing money for firewood. Our grandmother lives a traditional lifestyle raising sheep on the reservation in the four corners region of the American Southwest. Small personal items were sent to her for her birthday.

This is the time of the year we begin to plan for our annual trip to the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival the first weekend of May. It is the second largest festival of its type, second only to the Black Sheep Festival in Oregon. Many members attend to review the latest techniques and equipment and, of course, to buy more wool.

Interested persons are always welcome at our meetings in the Schoolhouse on the third Saturday of the month from 10-3. We have a potluck lunch and always have artisans involved in various aspects of the fiber arts craft. Wool is often available as batts, roving, and raw fleece. Members actively work on projects and are happy to share their expertise with new people.

FROM THE ART BARN

By She Ida Cobb

2008 is going to be a big year for the Algonquin Mill Fall Festival's Art and Photography Show. We (myself, my husband/assistant, and the loyal hard workers on my committee) are looking forward to the next Art and Photo Show.

The 2007 show was well attended. The barn was full, sizzling, and bursting at the seams every day of the Festival. I had so many visitors tell me such lovely

things about the show and its exhibitors. My workers on the committee and I heard words such as quality, beautiful, excellence, commitment, and devotion to detail. Some people told me how much they appreciated the changes we have made and mentioned their anticipation of upcoming shows.

We had wonderful artists, many of whom were first year exhibitors. We welcome new artists to the show. They bring a certain ambience. We also welcomed back our loyal and seasoned exhibitors. We hope that all of the artists come back to exhibit for many years. We happily welcomed back several of our '05 artists. Their work was sincerely missed. We value each artist's contribution in every category of our show. Each exhibitor contributes to the entire show.

This year we had several of our exhibiting fine artists demonstrate their medium in the little white "Studio House" formerly known as the China Painters' House. These artists gave many hours of their time to show Festival visitors how much fun art can be. Next year we will again have demonstrations with more of our talented artists.

Our Art and Photo Gift Shop is just two years old and growing. We had so many beautiful items for the public to buy that were made by the participating artists or artists on the committee. There were some unique items and everything was not only beautiful but also reasonably priced. If you missed the Gift Shop, you really missed a treat. Be sure to check it out in October.

New to the Art Barn this year was the face painting activity. Painting was done by some of the exhibiting artists and artists that are on the committee. Because the weather allowed it, the painting was done in front of the barn as well as inside the barn. The kids were not the only ones having fun at this event. Some adults even had their faces painted. Everyone loved this "happening" and the Art Fund earned a little money.

The Art Fund revenues go toward preparation of the next year's show and, hopefully, towards some of the prizes. It is my dream that we can evolve into a show with cash prizes for the top IS exhibitors. All good things come to those who wait and dream and work really hard.

I feel that the show is still in its growing years and will evolve into a really high quality show that artists, whether fine or photographic, will want to enter. Growth is our main goal and we are beginning to see

this and it's great. We are attracting not only local artists but artists from greater distances away. We can see a large increase in exhibitor revenues in the last four years. This money is paid directly into the Historical Society's treasury. Competition encourages growth and quality in our exhibitors. Each artist comes with his or her own small group of followers. These folks contribute to the Festival itself by buying food, drinks, and other items at the Festival.

As I have mentioned before, we always need people to assist us. This is not a one person job. There are several different areas where you can help: General Committee - planning and preparation of all work, Subcommittees - working on the preparation of the show and the gift shop, and Volunteers - to sit in the barn or work at different jobs during the Festival. If you could spare a few hours, days, or weeks, please contact me (330-947-2547 or PO Box 34 Limaville, Ohio 44640) for the donation of your time. I would love to see some participation from the Historical Society's membership as well as from the community. We are going to continue to work towards our goal of growth and our show developing into yet a better show. In so doing, we would be bringing more visitors and revenues to the Festival.

For all of us, 2007's show was really a wonderful event. Visitors loved it, the exhibitors were pleased with it, and I, as the director, was very proud and thankful to everyone that helped to make it the best show yet. Special THANKS to Mike for his undying patience with all of us "kookie" artists and his extra work done with kindness and thoughtfulness. All of you folks who worked by my side for long and harried hours, what can I say - THANKS. We will do it again, an even better show than the last. We are all devoted to this show. We would like to see some of you folks join in and enjoy.

MILL & MACHINERY REPORT

By John Miday

MILL

With three days of nice weather and the help of the Mill workers and the bag ladies, we had a very good Festival. We were very successful in selling our flours.

We did some remodeling prior to the Festival with the help of the Mill crew, Harry Hill, and Herman

Miller. The new counter and table worked very well. The new round table gave the bag ladies more room to weigh and bag the flour. The longer sales counter helped in making the traffic flow through the front door smoother and allowed people to move more freely through the Mill and into the boiler room.

The mills and shakers worked well throughout the Festival without any major problems thanks to a good crew of helpers that included Bill Baughman, Dick Bagwell, Larry Bittaker, and Glenn Sanderson. Because these men worked faithfully all three days of the Festival, as well as many days before and after it, we were able to get everything cleaned and ready for winter.

We were able to buy the corn and wheat locally. We still have cornmeal, buckwheat, and whole-wheat flour available for sale. You can come on a Thursday or contact Mike at the Mill (330) 627-5910 to make other arrangements.

MACHINERY

The machinery has been readied for the winter. As soon as the weather warms up, we will start the spring oil changes and whatever else is needed to keep them running.

BUILDINGS REPORT

By Rich Mahoney

We are part way through winter and the buildings are holding up well. We have to do major repairs to the roof of the lower pavilion. The sooner, the better. I am still waiting for decent weather to replace the rear door on the Bookstore. Thanks to the men for roofing the grape arbor and putting up the ends. Others can now use it for outings this spring and summer. GOOD WORK!!!

We still need to replace logs in two cabins, which is warm weather work. The slaughterhouse is buttoned up for the winter. It looks great, and I am looking forward to its completion. The bell on the Schoolhouse is inoperable; the clapper needs repaired.

Some chimney flashing needs replaced on the Mill and the spouting needs to be repaired.

There is plenty of work for anyone who wants to come to the Thursday work days.

IS THERE A FUTURE FOR THE FIDDLE AND BANJO CONTEST?

By Ron Manist

We need a director for the Fiddle and Banjo Contest at the Algonquin Mill Fall Festival. I cannot handle the management of a successful contest; therefore, I need someone to take over that portion of the stage entertainment if we are to continue having it.

When I was appointed the new stage activities director, replacing Martha Jones, we, who attended the transition meeting, agreed to drop the contest. This was fine with me as the project of handling all of the other stage acts was all I desired to attempt. In fact, it was one of the reasons I accepted the position.

Previously the contest had been successful, but it had died out to a trickle and then to nothing. The last two years we have had little contestant response and had difficulty finding judges and workers.

I know how much it takes, both physically and mentally, just to organize all the other entertainers and run the sound system equipment. It alone is a 12-month project, and I was relieved by the decision to drop the fiddle and banjo portion of the stage activities.

But, a few persons want to bring back the contest because it had, in the past, been quite an attraction, and it tended to draw a good crowd. I agree that attempts should be made to bring it back to its original success. It would make a good addition to the stage entertainment if properly reorganized and made successful.

Personally, I do not wish to attempt this. It is not my talent nor my interest to take on anymore lest it distract me from my purpose of helping build a reputation of having not only a great Festival but great entertainment and sound projection as well.

Perhaps you or someone you know would secure the future of our Fiddle and Banjo Contest. Anyone who may desire to volunteer to take over this project can contact me at (330) 627-4942 or praisenword@msn.com or contact Mike at the Mill (330) 627-5910 for the paper work and directions. I will, of course, still operate the sound for the contest and supply a place for the judges to work.

COUNTRY STORE

By Donna Mahoney

What a great year for the Country Store. It was the best year since my sister, daughter-in-law, and I were asked to be in charge of this part of the Festival. A big THANK YOU to all who helped.

We are always looking for new things to add to the store. This year at the popcorn stand, we put candy corn in the fingers of plastic gloves and filled the gloves with popcorn. Our granddaughter Lindsay and her crew could hardly keep up with sales. We finally ran out of gloves. It was a big hit with the kids. Another favorite, for many years, is dill-pickles-on-a-stick. Thanks to John Lorenz, we sold 18 gallons of these. If anyone has an idea for a souvenir with the Mill logo on it, please let me know. We would like to keep the cost to \$8.00 - \$10.00 or less.

Any crafts donated are always appreciated. Crafts over \$8.00 generally don't sell well in the Country Store. We are looking for someone to make bonnets and nylon scrubbies. We probably have material at the Mill for the bonnets. The nylon used for scrubbies is not expensive. Be sure to use the stiff nylon. We have patterns available that you are welcome to use.

Thanks to all who donated jelly jars. I didn't have to buy any last year and probably won't have to buy any this year, so don't throw them out. Bring them to the Mill and we'll store them. They don't spoil. We can use berries of any kind: blackberries, elderberries, and currants sell real well. We also used crabapples this past year. Be sure to mark your calendar for the second weekend in October. We can use extra people, especially to relieve the helpers. Some of our workers worked eight hours every day of the Festival.

FARMHOUSE NEWS

By Donna Mahoney

The ladies are still faithfully coming to the Farmhouse every Thursday. There is always someone at the quilting frame, at the rug loom, and cutting and sewing material. It takes the whole year to get items ready for sale during the Festival.

The quilters always have someone's beautiful quilt in the frame working on it. If you know of someone who needs a quilt quilted, contact Clara Miday to get on the list. They get them done rather quickly.

We have a good selection of rugs ready to be sold.

Remember, they are for sale the whole year, not just during the Festival. If you would like a certain color or size, contact Shirley Anderson. If at all possible, they will make it for you.

We also have a nice selection of baby quilts for sale. Keep us in mind when you have a baby shower to attend or a new baby in the family. The prices are around \$40.00

There are also buckwheat pillows to buy and neck scarves either made on a loom or crocheted. Just come to the Farmhouse any Thursday to look around and visit.

Remember, we have a covered dish each Thursday at noon. If you don't want to bring a covered dish, you can put money in the donation jar if you would like.

We welcome any new help and miss the ones who have helped during the years but, for one reason or another, cannot do it any longer. Each new member brings fresh ideas and we like that.

Not only are the above items available to purchase all year long, but apple butter, cornmeal, buckwheat and whole wheat flour are too. Contact Mike if you're interested in buying any of these items.

SCHOOLHOUSE REPORT

By Karen Gray

A recent donation of a row of student desks to the Carroll County Historical Society made it possible for more students to be seated during our presentations at this year's Festival. The old style school desks are difficult to find, and we are appreciative that we now have a more authentic classroom. Other improvements were the repaired pendulum clock that Mike kept wound and ticking on time. Several hundred students visited the Petersburg School on Friday during the Festival.

An ongoing project at the school is to collect pictures and information on the one-room schools of Carroll County. The schools in Rose Township were numbered from I to 9. At one time, school number 5 became a high school. The building no longer exists but was located on Stallion Road near the present day Harnony Cemetery. The following report was taken from a 1922 newspaper account.

County School News 1922

"Rose township high school is starting into the work of this year with the spirit that makes for better things. A letter from the principal, Prof. C. W. Lighthizer, to the county school superintendent F. E. Bell says:

Rose Township High School

As regards the high school work, the pupils are further advanced than those of nearby high schools. The new library books and Babcock milk tester have been received. A fairly large supply of laboratory equipment is being ordered. A new organ has been purchased from the high school funds. We have new volleyball equipment and are ordering a basketball outfit. We intend the purchase of pictures for the high school and also songbooks.

The entertainment and box social two weeks ago netted the school about \$30. One athletic entertainment for the men has been given, and intention is to have a free radio entertainment for everybody next week. Both rooms of the building have been equipped with new seats. A new ten-stall barn is being built to care for the horses. Grounds are not in very good condition, as there has been so much work going on, but hope to have this cleared up ere long. Glad to have you inspect the school and work at any time.

Rose high school is located near the old picnic grounds, a country location about 4.5 miles distant from Magnolia. Many of the pupils drive to the school, the barn spoken of being one for shelter and care of the horses while there. It is a square structure built of good material, fitted with stalls for ten horses; a really substantial edifice. It is located opposite the school grounds on land donated for the purpose by Mrs. **Downs.**"

It is not known how many students attended the high school or when it was closed. The only high school in Rose Township could have been forgotten if not for this report made to the county superintendent.

2007 FALL FESTIVAL PHOTO GALLERY



Shelda Cobb, Art Show Chairman, painting a young visitor's face.



Helen Truesdale and Holmes Smith, both born in 1915 and friends from childhood, share memories at Helen's Lye Soap booth.



John Lorenz, the pickle-on-a-stick merchant, operating out of the Country Store.



Deloris Kean and Kimberly Reed mixing dough in their Bread House kitchen.



John Rea and his horse, Ginger, who powers the sorghum press behind them.



Charles Lucas, longtime bookseller, operates the recently roofed Grape Arbor Bookstore Annex.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

1929-30

By Helen Truesdale

How well I remember that warm day in September 1929 when my dad got home early from working at the quarry. It was very unusual for him to do that. I was 17, Ruth was 16, and Evelyn was 14 at the time. We got home early from school that day too. I think my sisters and I were thinking how great it would be to go for a walk, but it was time to start supper. Our mother wasn't very well and she said, "Now you have lots of time so get busy and start supper and this evening you gals can do something for fun, maybe make taffy candy or something you like to do." So we were busy trying to think of some new ideas - not for supper, for later on.

Dad came in, put his dinner bucket on the table, went into the room where my mother was and put his face in his hands. Mom said, "What is wrong today? You're home so early." That's when he told her there was no more work at the quarry.

The quarry was called the Buff Mountain Stone Quarry and Dad was the superintendent. The owners lived in Cleveland and also had a home near Leavittsville. Their names were Fred Sr. and Fred Jr. Sherer. My dad had worked at the quarry before the Sherer's bought it. He and a lot of other young kids were hired to carry water, and then as they got older they had a good chance of getting a better job working on the stone.

Quarry work was very hard to do. Steam shovels unearthed the stone. Then it was marked where to cut out the big blocks. After the blocks were cut, they were loaded on flat cars and shipped down a very steep incline to a cut stone plant at the bottom of the hill. A train came up from Sherrodsville, and the big blocks were loaded on it. They were then cut to whatever sizes were needed for the orders.

Buff Mountain stone was a very fine grade of sandstone, and there were lots of orders for big buildings, monuments, and churches. A lot of government buildings were being built, and it took a lot of skilled workers to make sure the stone blocks did not crack when they were moved. Dad used to travel to the cities to layout the orders and make sure they were alright. The entire community depended and thrived on this.

When a lot of orders started to get cancelled, it was a sure sign trouble was ahead. Some buildings were cancelled, some left half finished, and people who were buying homes got scared. A new man came into the business to give it a boost. His name was Ellis

Vanderpyle. He was a son-in-law of a great man with a lot of connections, but before too long that was going down too.

My dad decided that if he took less pay and used that money to pay the men, it would be a boost to the business. The owners did that too. For a while that worked, but the building business, slowly but surely, was going downhill. Dad was lucky to have a paycheck at all. The thing that hurt him most was to tell the men there were no orders and no more work.

Well, that sad night we fixed a good supper but the ham and potatoes lost their taste and we couldn't find anything to help. Of course, us girls didn't realize the seriousness of the whole thing. There were lots of phone calls and a lot of people at our house that night. No one could believe that it was true - there was no more work. This affected most of Carroll County in one way or another.

A few weeks later Fred Sherer Sr. had a heart attack and died. A lot of the men that had not found other work stayed at the quarry and worked hoping it would help.

The word of a depression wasn't a rumor anymore. It was very real. Prices on everything hit rock bottom, wages were very low and many people had no work at all. The first winter was bad. A lot of homeowners lost their homes and moved in with family. Some people couldn't even pay their taxes. But life went on and people found work, not good work, but they could live on it.

The first unemployment census was taken in 1930 when Herbert Hoover was President and Charles Curtis was Vice-President. They could not find any answers either.

In the spring I thought I could do wonders. Because I was the oldest, I went out to get work. I got 50 cents a day to iron and do housework. Well, I sure didn't like that. I even hoed gardens and pulled weeds. We had a little farm and big gardens. So did everyone else. They all had weeds to pull.

After that I went to New Philadelphia and Carrollton to work and got \$3.00 a week. I had Sunday afternoons off and got back in time to put the kids to bed. I saved a little bit for Dad's taxes, and Ruth, Evelyn, Mom, and I made jelly and sold it. We surprised him with this money. Then I went to Hudson to work for \$5.00 a week. I didn't get home for two months but got \$40.00. That was big money. My mother got very sick so I went home.

My dad got a job on the highway and happy days were back again. Sugar was 65 cents for 10 lbs., milk was 50 cents a gallon, coffee 30-40 cents a pound, eggs 15 cents a dozen, hamburger 13 cents a pound,

bread 9 cents a loaf, and bacon 25 cents a pound.

Wages were 25-75 cents an hour and income for a year was \$1,973.00. It came out in the paper that a new car could be bought for \$610 and a new house for \$6500.00 (that was a fortune), and rent was \$10-\$25 a month. A dress could be bought for 98 cents, shoes \$1.00, a nice coat for \$6.98 or \$9.98.

Then we began hearing about the New Deal and Franklin Roosevelt. He had many cures for the depression. We studied about him and his family in school. We went to class singing, "Happy days are here again." The happy days were a few months away, but we had a lot of good times and good days.

We met eight or ten of our friends at the Carroll County Fair one year. Our parents took us and also picked us up. We were all together looking for boys, of course. All at once about five girls were hunting through the grass and kicking dirt. My sister, Ruth, just stood there with her arms folded and a sheepish grin on her face when two or three of the gals said, "Move over Ruth, maybe it's under your foot." Ruth said, "I'm not moving. I know what is under my foot." Ruth made a dive for her shoe and came up with a dollar bill. Of course, everyone saw it, but she put her foot on it, and no one could move her. Her best friend, Maxine Toot, was with her and they both agreed it should be hers. It really did turn into a fun thing. They both looked at us and said, "We'll be back. Have fun." They took off for the gate, got their wrists stamped, and walked to the J.C. Penny store. Ruth bought a very pretty dress for 98 cents, no tax. She was wearing it when she came back to the fair. Her old dress was in the Penny's bag. Only one friend grumbled, "We could have had a ride on the Merry-Go-Round." Not Ruthie. She wore that dress to all events. It was her "**Fair**" dress.

When the bottom fell out of business, it was hard to believe that work places closed. When the word got out the banks might close, it caused panic. People stood in long lines outside the banks to get their money out. Then they were told there was no money left. In the big stock market, some directors took their own lives. To the people that never really had a lot of money, it was just a lot less now. Soup kitchens were common, people lost their homes, and families moved in together. A lot of the time wages were paid in food not money. Farmers could do that.

People that lived in the city hurt more than the ones in the country. At least farmers had food. A friend of mine told me they had a coal furnace in town and her dad fired it up so her mother could cook on the furnace bowl where the heat came from, but someone had to check the food all the time while it was cooking on

the furnace. Her mom even baked bread on it. They could get flour and sugar with a card that had stamps on it. Coffee was a real luxury, but coffee grounds could be dried and mixed with fresh ground coffee beans. It made a great cup of coffee.

Corn meal was used with a lot of delicious meals. Corn and fruit could be dried. Fruits and vegetables that were dried did not spoil or go bad. We picked berries, cherries, and grapes for 5 cents a quart. Elderberries were plentiful so we got two gallons. Meat could be canned and smoked. Wild game was a big part of our diet.

There was very little trash. We were given bags of old clothes and mom remade them for us to wear. Any leftover scraps were made into rugs, carpets, quilts, and comforters. Even farmers that had to buy animal feed could choose percale or muslin sacks made from beautiful material. Dresses and clothes of all types could be made from these sacks. We had a lot of colors to choose from.

Admission to movie theaters was 10-25 cents, sports of all kinds cost 25 cents to get in, gas and kerosene were 10 cents a gallon. It seems now it was a cheap way to go, but it really wasn't. Two cars in a family were unheard of.

Churches were always low on money or had no money at all. A lot of the preachers were paid in vegetables, fruit, meat, dairy and eggs, and chickens.

Gene Shambaugh, an older man who went to our church, would come to the store in Leavittsville and show off the money he had for the next Sunday. Always a new "peenie" he called it. He would put just one "peenie" in the collection plate each week, but he would brag about his 4-5 cents a week that he gave. My dad always told him he was a "sure fire payer." We all had a lot of fun about that. He was serious and wrote a letter of protest when the caretaker bought a gallon of kerosene to start the fire.

I do believe people did more things together then and had more fun than we do now. It was a different world. Churches and schools and the community were in touch with each other and helped to blend our lives in more of a family togetherness than we do now.

A lot of people worked a long, hard day for a dollar. Somehow we made it. Our grocery bill for five of us was \$10-15 every two weeks. My grandmother, on my dad's side, thought we were the ruin of our poor father because we spent so much. He was happy because he said we girls kept the bills low. We did not spend a lot only because we did not have it.

The more Roosevelt talked about the depression, the more everyone thought that he was the "cure" for it. As it turned out, he was. The hard times seemed to

get better and the world was getting back on the right track. Some agreed and some didn't. Jobs got more plentiful.

With a lot of hard work and decisions, the economy started coming back and growing. We had a new President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt; he had lots of answers and his way to solve problems was "work!" People are happier when there are jobs. We have a wonderful world, and the happiest people are the working people. No one wants to live in poverty. We have to trust in our God who oversees us at all times.

Now prices of everything are almost staggering. We have slipped into another big rut. Just who can be the answer is yet to be seen. Some people are in a depression all the time due to no fault of their own. If we look around us, someone is having a chili supper, a garage sale, or a great event that is going to help the family or persons that can see no light at the end of the tunnel. God has his eyes on his children and someone is there to help in a loving way. Just like the dollar bill that fell and was found at the Carroll County Fair, the finder was the happiest girl at the fair. God is still on his throne looking out for us. He will be the guide if we only listen and follow his truth. Ruth's 98 cent dress in her mind was and still is the most beautiful of all.

When I graduated from high school, my graduation outfit, including shoes and purse, cost \$4.75. My Aunt Ollie got my dress for me. It was \$1.99. I knew I had the greatest and the classiest outfit and I was happy. My dad handed my diploma to me. He was on the School Board, and he was so proud of me.

I have always been sure in my mind all these years that God was on our side. Good things happen to good people. I think that our country is in the hands of God-fearing and God-loving people. I feel a sense of pride that's hard to describe when I hear our patriotic songs and see how graciously our beautiful flag is displayed. I hear, "My Country 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty, Of Thee I Sing." Until the end of our lives on this earth, and as we enter the "Gates of Glory," may freedom ring.

I will have to finish "The Depression" next time.

'Til Next Time, Cousin Helen

BIRD DROPPINGS FROM THE MILL



By Janice Petko

Another Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow nesting season has come and gone. I'm happy to report that 2007 was a better year for the bluebirds than was 2006.

The bluebirds laid a total of 68 eggs in 2007. Forty-three (63%) of these hatched and 39 (90%) nestlings fledged (left the nest) successfully. In 2006 we had 66 eggs, 45 (68%) of these hatched but only 32 (48%) of the babies fledged. The biggest reason for the increase in the number of fledglings in 2007 was the decrease in number of dead nestlings I found in the nests. There were 13 (19.7%) dead babies in 2006 and only 4 (9%) in 2007. My guess as to the reason for this was the weather was more favorable in 2007 than in 2006. Better weather means more food is available and more food means healthier nestlings.

The Tree Swallow numbers were down slightly in 2007 from 2006, but the birds still had a very successful nesting season. A total of 174 eggs were laid in 2007. Of these, 155 (89%) hatched, and 149 (96%) babies fledged. In 2006, the Tree Swallows laid 210 eggs, but only 166 (79%) hatched, and 153 (92%) fledged. As you can see, even though there were 36 more eggs laid in 2006, only 4 more nestlings fledged. The biggest reason for this was that the birds abandoned 26 eggs in 2006 as compared to only 4 in 2007.

Why do birds desert their nest and eggs? If something disturbs a nest, such as a raccoon or House Sparrow, the parents will abandon the nest. A predator such as an owl, hawk, or cat (not Sam or Mildred) may kill one of the parents. Even cars and other moving vehicles are a danger to birds. If something happens to a nesting female, the male will abandon the nest because he cannot incubate the eggs. If something happens to the male, the female will most likely desert her nest. The male does most of the feeding of the female while she is incubating. She does leave the nest occasionally to stretch her wings and feed but only for short periods of time. It would be difficult for her to continue incubating if she had to leave the nest for extended periods in order to find food for herself. Therefore, she will abandon her nest.

One of the exciting things about monitoring bluebird boxes is you never know what you will see or find in a box. On June 24, I saw a bluebird fledge (leave the nest) from box # 45. As I approached the box to check it, I saw one of the "fledglings to be" sticking his head out of the entrance hole. I stopped

and while I was watching, the bird flew out of the box into a tree. This was the first time I had actually witnessed a bird fledge and it was very exciting.

As I was banding five 12 day old bluebird nestlings in box #50 on June 2, 2007, I noticed that the right wing feathers of a little female were matted together. There is no way this bird would have been able to fledge and fly. While I finished banding the remainder of the babies, Bernardine Akkerman, a friend who sometimes assists me in monitoring the boxes, poured water on a Kleenex and cleaned the wing. She then, very carefully and gently, used her fingernail to "unmatt" the feathers. The Kleenex turned red as Bernardine was cleaning the wing so we are fairly sure it was dried blood. The only explanation we can come up with is a blowfly larva, engorged with blood sucked from the nestling, was attached to the wing. Of course, we don't know for sure, but we are surmising that one of the parents or one or more of the other nest mates accidentally bumped or stepped on the larva and it burst. The blood dried on the baby's wing and the feathers got "glued" together. I was thrilled when I peeked inside the box on June 5 and saw five healthy 15-16 day old nestlings. I checked again on June 8 and found that three nestlings had fledged and the othertwo were RTF (ready to fledge). The next time I checked on June 11, the nest was empty ... all five had fledged! What a great feeling that was.

Other nesting birds at the Mill included Barn Swallows, Cliff Swallows, Robins, Mourning Doves, and Red-winged Blackbirds. I'm sure there were other nesting species but I wasn't aware of them. The Cliff Swallows built many nests under the eaves of the dining room, kitchen, and schoolhouse only to have them again taken over by the non-native House Sparrows. In spite of this, the Cliffies did manage to raise and fledge a few birds.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were present all summer and delighted everyone who stopped to watch them at the feeders that were hung outside the schoolroom and the kitchen. Other birds seen or heard at the Mill were Chimney Swifts, Song Sparrows, House Finches, Belted Kingfishers, Great Blue Herons, Turkey Vultures, Red-tailed Hawks, Crows, House Wrens, Eastern Phoebes, Starlings, Yellow-shafted Flickers, and Woodpeckers.

As usual, I'm anxiously awaiting the return of the birds and another nesting season. It will be here before I know it.

REFLECTIONS OF 175 YEARS

By Gerald Grimes



New Corporation Sign for the Village of Minerva

Reflections bring back memories of things that you remember ... things that have happened during your lifetime and happenings in your family, relatives and friends during their lifetimes. How many times have you said, "Well, I remember when so and so used to live right over there" or, "Do you remember when they moved that business or industry out of town?" These are reflections.

Minerva is an old town - 175 years old to be exact in March 2008.

From the beginning of time, man has traveled to new frontiers by the most accessible routes. In the case of the Minerva area, these were the streambeds of the branches of the Sandy Creek and the natural valleys.

Some of the earliest people in the area moved into the vicinity directly east of the present village limits. In as much as religion was a very real part of the life of the pioneer, the first buildings of note were houses of worship. The earliest of these was the "Church of the Plains" begun around 1810 at the site of the McKinley tariff farm east of town where the First Christian Church now stands.

The idea for a mill first began in 1813 when Isaac Craig took up land along the Little Sandy Creek. However, it wasn't until 1818 when John Whitacre, on a surveying expedition, came up Little Sandy and decided that it offered an excellent sight for a mill to be run by waterpower. In 1828 the log mill was torn down and a much larger frame building (which was torn down in 1928) was erected in the heart of town and known to the residents of Minerva as "The Minerva Milling Company."

When Minerva was first plotted in 1833, it was divided into four sections each owned by different individuals. In 1835 Pim Taylor, who married John Whitacre's sister, recorded his section of the village in Carroll County. By some lack of detail, the other three sections were not recorded until 1873. Minerva was named for Taylor's daughter. She later lived for many years on Wine Street near Lincoln Way. Because of her habit of keeping geese and other animals in her home, this area was known as "Gander Flat."

The first Postmaster of Minerva was John Poole. He began his duties on February 8, 1928. His first year's salary was \$2.28. No stamps were used at this time. You took your one sheet of paper to the post office and paid for it according to the distance it was to be carried by the horse-riding mailman. Thirty miles cost 6 cents, 80 miles cost 10 cents, and 400 miles cost 25 cents. The first stamps were used in 1847.

In the canal days, Minerva's natural valley formed the ideal place for a branch going from the mouth of the Sandy at Bolivar to the mouth of the Beaver in Pennsylvania. The canal gave way to the railroad and for Minerva it was located in a suitable spot for a building. With four stations located in Minerva, the railroad did much to build up the town, especially passenger business and bringing industry before the railroad gave way to trucking.

The first manufacturing plant was the grindstone factory that ground sandstones from the quarry in the side of the hill opposite the old high school. This was known as Wiggen's Hill, now known as Hart's Hill.

In 1835 LN. and Willard Pennock purchased the foundry building used to build agriculture implements, and in 1879 they began to make freight cars. Even though their factory and all their tools were destroyed by fire, they succeeded in rebuilding and filling their orders. It was their invention of the first steel railroad car in America which brought Minerva its first fame.

Railroads were indeed responsible for most of the early growth of industry. At one time, 12 passenger trains came to Minerva each day. One of these, the O.R. and L.E. was known as the "Old Rails and Leaky Engines" which later became New York Central then Penn Central.

Industry brought people and hotels began to develop. The Jackson Hotel, located at the corner of what is now South Market and West Line, was the show place of the town. President William McKinley had his favorite table in this hotel. Another hotel of note was the Unger House or Center House. It was located at the present site of the Post Office.

In the history of electric power in the village, the

Pennock name again appears. They began the first power generator and leased power to the village. Minerva was one of the first villages to have an electric system. At this time, all lights were darkened at 11 p.m.

The first school in Minerva was a one-room building located on the site of the present First Christian Church. This building was built in 1846 and was used as such until the enrollment increased. Then a larger building (Union School) was built in 1897 at the corner of Line Street and Grant Street. It was used for all grades through high school. The high school moved out in 1915 and Union School was used as a grade school until 1937 when a new building was built on present day Bonnieview Street. Because Union School had no auditorium, graduation ceremonies were held in the Opera House until 1915. This huge building was once a storehouse for the canal.

Many of Minerva's oldest citizens could recall, with pleasure, the many dances and medicine shows that were held in the upstairs of the Opera House. The Opera House was destroyed by fire in 1923, thus wiping out almost an entire block of Market Street.

The churches of Minerva are older than the schools. As previously mentioned, the first church in the area was the "Church of the Plains." Columbiana County records state that the Plains Disciples blazed the trail as early as 1810. Meetings were held in cabins and barns and outside in the summer. From this time on, during the next 50 years, most other denominations moved into the area.

This is just a small portion of the history of Minerva and its life and home for many past and present residents. It is unfortunate that a fire in 1904 destroyed all of the early records in the Village Hall, which at that time was located in the 200 block of what is now West Lincoln Way.

It's unfortunate that the names of home owners, Minerva born citizens, village officers, many beautiful old homes, business places, etc. have been destroyed or burned.

MINERVA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Gerald Grimes

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 21 Annual Dinner Meeting at 6:30 in the Minerva Senior Center. The program will be presented by Sheri Morckel, *Owner/President* of Sheri's Sweets Inc. in Minerva

- AprilS OAHSM Region 5 Meeting - 9 a.m. at
Millersburg Historical Society
- April 26 Ohio Lincoln Highway League Annual
State Meeting in Galion, Ohio
- June 17-21 16th Annual LHA Conference in
Evanston, Wyoming
- July 4-6 Village of Minerva 175th Anniversary
Celebration
- Aug. 7-9 4th Annual Buy-Way Yard Sale across
Ohio and beyond

CCHS DATES TO REMEMBER:

- March 16 1 p.m. General Membership Meeting and
Elections in the Mill Dining Room
- May 3 6 p.m. CCHS Annual Dinner Meeting at
the Dellroy Community Center
(Invitations will be sent out in April).

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You may visit our website at:

www.carrollcountyohio.com/history

Vacationing?

If you are going south during the winter, send
CCHS your temporary address and the dates you
will be gone so we can mail you your Winter/Spring
issue of the Newsletter.

Renew Your Carroll County Historical Society Membership

* Please note your expiration date on the mailing
label!

How to read the membership information on your
mailing label: You will note that on the top line, it
says "Expires" followed by a date, such as "2008 Feb."
If your expiration date is 2008 Feb., this means your
membership to the Carroll County Historical Society
will expire on the last day of that month.

Expires: 2008 FEB

John Doe
P.O. Box 174
Carrollton, OH 44615

Renewing now will keep your membership from
lapsing. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF
THE CARROLL COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY.

MEMBERSHIPS: Memberships in the Carroll
County Historical Society are available in the
following categories:

<u>Yearly:</u>	<u>Life:</u>
Individual- \$12.00	Individual- \$150.00
Family - \$15.00	Couple - \$200.00
Student - \$5.00	Bus./Institutional - \$250.00
Business/Institutional - \$50.00	

Membership benefits include voting privileges at
the membership meetings, free admittance to the
McCook House, periodic newsletters, and one day of
free parking at the Algonquin Mill Fall Festival.

Make check payable to:
Carroll County Historical Society and send it or your
request for information to:

C.C.H.S.
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Carrollton, OH 44615

Carroll County Historical Society
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