Starke County Kistorical Society

THE PRIDE OF STARKE COUNTY

February 2015 Newsletter



The Big News for 2014 was the purchase of Dr. Walter and Diana Fritz's Medical Office Building by the Historical Society for additional museum space. Our present museum is overflowing. It is hoped that the medical building will give us a fresh area to expand displays which tell the stories of Starke County. On December 22,

2014, President Ron Vendl received the signed deed from Dr. & Mrs. Fritz.



The Starke County Genealogical Society supported the efforts of Historical Society in purchasing building the by contributing to our Capital Project Campaign. During the Christmas Open House, Ron

Vendl was presented a check for \$5000 by Genealogical Society



members: Alice Dolezal, Blanche Richardson, Ida Kennedy, Audrey Kinezian, Patty Williams, and Susie Szynalski. You will be hearing more over the next few months about this great venture and how you can help.

A number of events are scheduled during 2015. There are three centennials and one sesquicentennial this year that are historic in nature.

No. 1. The Lincoln Funeral Train – yes, it was 150 years ago that Lincoln's Funeral Train stopped in San Pierre momentarily. We had hoped by now that

we would know

the route that the

"Lincoln Train" will follow in 2015. Remember, the tracks in San Pierre have been removed. Since the 2015 train is equipped to travel by semi, also, will it stop

in San Pierre again? Stay tuned for more information.

No. 2.

The Schricker home, which has housed the Starke County

Historical Society Museum

since 1977, is 100 years old this year. It was built by Henry & Maude in 1915.

Story time: Mrs. Schricker's father was a doctor. Since Knox had installed a public water system a few years earlier, the doctor highly suggested that the Schrickers install a *real* well for their drinking water, which they

did. The photo of the kitchen sink below shows the two water sources.



No. 3 The Pony Truss Bridge at the end of Main Street in Knox (Bridge No. 39). is 100 years old this year. It was built in 1915 by the Rochester Bridge Co. The bridge was originally installed over the Yellow River at County Road 1100 East, south of Oak Grove. Engineers determined that the bridge needed to be replaced, so Ware Edgar raised enough money to successfully move the bridge and place it as a walking entrance to

> Wythogan Park in 1992.

No. 4 The 1915

History of Starke County by Joseph N. McCormick is used every week by the Society to answer inquiries from people all over the world. It has so much information about Starke County's past. It is on the internet. So, if you have a question about a place, person, or event prior to 1915, you may find it in McCormick's book on our website:

http://www.scpl.lib.in.us/historical/ocumentgroup/1915-history-ebook

Last year, in November of 2014, the First Source Bank celebrated 150 years. The Knox branch borrowed some items from the Historical Society to add to their display of the history of the bank.



And last year Harold and Bonnie Small's 1914 Studebaker car was 100 years old. Something to celebrate!

Are there other businesses in the county which are celebrating a milestone this year in history? Let us know.

Coming up --- 2016 The Indiana Bicentennial



Library – From time to time the Henry F. Schricker Library in Knox asks us to help them with exhibits which they develop for special events. This past year they added a large children's area.

A 1920 German antique Carousel Horse now looks down upon children in the Public Library.

Fred and Judy Parker from Boca Raton, Florida, formerly from Starke County, had donated this beautiful horse to the Starke County Museum a few years ago.

It has been on display at the Museum, waiting for a special place worthy of its antique value.

Because of space limitations at the Museum, the Board of Directors began looking for another location in the community where it could be properly displayed. With the building of the new children's area in the Library in Knox, they wondered if it might be displayed there. Dave Bullock, a board member of the Henry Schricker Library, made the arrangements to place it in the Library. Dave, with the help of his son, Wesley, built a mount for



it and installed it. The Carousel Horse is now on loan to the Library and beautifully displayed above the reference desk in the new children's addition.

Christmas Memorial Tree

The Memorial tree grew again this year. Thanks to Ron Vendl for being in charge of the Tree and to Wayne Emigh and Eli Roscka for helping to install it.

During the Christmas season, for a \$1.00 donation, a ribbon in memory of a loved one is placed on the outside Memorial Christmas Tree, which was donated once again by Hensler Nursery. There were more than **500** names and ribbons placed on the tree, a record number for the last few years. Thanks to all who donated.

Christmas Open house

Ed Hasnerl kicked off the music for the annual open house at the Museum. Ed always brings his wonderful group of musicians, Doris Michael, Diana Riddle, and Marilyn McCarty. This year our special guests were the Starke County Choralaires. They included Carolyn Chambers, Nancy Ladd, Michelle



Combs, Pat Vanek, Joan Stepien, Susie Szynalski, director, Nicky Mourer, guest and Nancy Taylor, accompanist on Governor Schricker's vintage piano.

Ice Cream Social was on July 6 in 2014. As in past years, we had many beautiful classic cars and tractors displayed. Svenja Chesna spun wool on her spinning wheel, while everyone listened to the dulcimer music of Kathy Jerrell on the porch of the Museum. We had more than 20 exhibitors with antique farm tractors, trucks, autos, arrowheads, wood carvings, musical

instruments and some historic documents. And the Emigh family served that delicious ice cream. Adding to the spirit of the day was Marge Bonham, dressed in period costume. If you have a



collection of historic nature and want to exhibit it at this year's Ice Cream Social on July 5, 2015, call the museum at 772-5393. Join us this coming July 5



to see many old <u>and really old</u> collections. Some items are over 4000 years old.

Annual Meeting this year was held in the Knox High School Cafeteria with approximately 120 people enjoying a carry-in dinner. During the business meeting, reports from the treasurer, committee nominating and president were given. President Ron Vendl presented a special plaque to Marvin and Kathy



Allen for all of the service that

they have given to the Starke

Historical

County

Patrick J. Furlong, professor emeritus, IUSB, was the speaker. The title of his program was "The

Rise and Fall of Studebaker." This was a fascinating story of the famous car manufacturer in South Bend, Indiana. He showed photos of



Society.

Studebakers, which members of the audience remembered. Harold and Bonnie Small were there, but because of the cold temperature, couldn't bring their 1914 Studebaker. However, Mike and Jamie Shireman came with their late 1800's Studebaker buggy strapped to a trailer.



Note:

Governor Schricker drove a Studebaker for years, but we cannot find a photo of him with his car. If anyone has one, please share it with us.

Membership The purpose of the Starke County Historical Society is to foster an interest in local history and the preservation of items of historical interest for future generations. We have members from all over the United States. If you are already a member in 2015, thank you! If you are not a member of the Starke County Historical Society, you may join today and help us tell the story of our county and its people. Membership in the Society is open to anyone wishing to further the mission of the Society.

Starke County Historical Society dues:

Individual \$ 10.00 Husband & Wife..... \$ 15.00

Presentations

Ron Vendl and Jim Shilling have given many presentations this past year. One was a program at the Henry F. Schricher Library in Knox about the "Special Features" part of the Everglades of the North. Everglades of the North has been shown on many PBS television stations around the country during the past couple of years. The Special Features part of the video is not

usually shown on the PBS stations. That part includes several items about Starke County and other areas in the Marsh Land. They are interesting topics that

people seem to really enjoy.

As a fund raiser, the SCHS has been selling copies of this PBS program. Ron Vendl has been in charge of this project and if you are interested in purchasing one of the remaining videos, he may be reached at (574) 772-2580 or vendlr@yahoo.com.

Speaking about presentations, the Historical Society has made videos on several subjects and with many interviews individuals. These are available to groups and clubs for programs. Some of the videos are short 2-3 minutes, some are 30 - 40 long. minutes To some organizations we have shown three or four of the short ones for a program. Some of the titles are:

Nickel Plate Watchman's tower, Early School, 3rd grade school presentation, Spinning wheels.

the Vin Fiz in Starke County, Washington Township Cemetery, Muskrat Mill, Bryan Ames Band Trip (Memorial Day), Ed Hasnerl (Memorial Day), Last Civil War veteran – William Garner, Four Chaplains, Tour of the Starke County Courthouse, Return of the Desardee School Bell, Return of Andy Howes, and many individual interviews of Starke County Citizens.



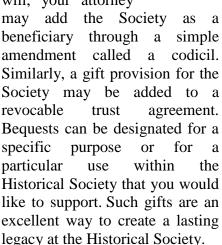
The Starke County

Historical Society Endowment Fund in the Starke County Foundation Community grown to over \$36,112.96. The fund distributes a percentage of the annual earnings back to the Society for the Museum operation. Thanks to all who continue to make financial gifts to this long-term fund. If you would like to donate to the Starke County Historical Society's fund, go to the foundation's website http://www.nicf.org/donate/reo ccurringdonation.html or call Sarah Origer at the Starke County Community Foundation at 574-772-3665.

Planned Giving

Another way to support the Society is to make a planned gift to include the Starke County Historical Society in your will or

revocable living trust. If you have already drafted a will, your attorney



Historic Tour around Bass Lake

No, not on an Elephant, but in shaded



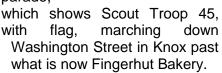
trams pulled by a truck. For the first time in the history of these tours, the SCHS took over the sponsorship of this tour during the 2014 Bass Lake Festival, the last full weekend of July. During the tour around the lake, Jim Nierman narrates and explains historical sites of interest. Over 300 people participated last year. This year's tours will be on July 25 and 26.

Interesting Inquiries

Ed Hasnerl, County Historian, and Jim Shilling have received many inquiries from our websites this past year. One asked, "When was mint first grown in the county?" According to McCormick's 1915 history, 300 acres were grown by one farmer in the year 1915. But when was the first mint grown in the County? Can anyone help with this question?

A another view of the **Boy Scout flag** Last year, Jerry Rhody brought into the Museum a Boy Scout Troop 45 "Troop flag. It says, Washington Twp. Indiana." That troop was sponsored by the Knox American Legion until which time the 1961, at Washington Township PTA became the sponsor, and the troop met at the Eagle Creek School. Jim Shilling recently

received a short video of the 1950 Starke County Centennial parade.



Starke County Historical Society
Board of Directors for 2014:
Peg Brettin, Dean Corey, Alice

Dolezal, Wayne Emigh, Marilyn Folkers, Mariann Gappa, Ed Hasnerl, Erl Henry, Van Janovic, Jerry Jernas, Debbie Mix, Mark Rippy, Eli Roscka, Alan Selge, Paul Sellers, Jim Shilling, Dolores Surfus, Donna Toth, Ron Vendl and Ken Whiles.

> Starke County Museum 401 S. Main Knox, Indiana 46534 574-772-5393

The Society's websites:

http://www.scpl.lib.in.us/historical/ http://www.starkehistory.com



Mark Your Calendars

July 5, 2015

Ice Cream Social November 19, 2015

Starke County Historical Society Annual Meeting

December 6, 2015

Part of Starke County's

History

http://starkecountycoop.com/

Christmas Open House