

Starke County Historical 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 the Historical Society in purchasing the building 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 F. 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 and really old 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, nominating committee 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 County Historical Society.



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 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. Schricker 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 interviews with many individuals. These are available to groups and clubs for programs. Some of the videos are short 2-3 minutes, some are 30 – 40 minutes long. 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 Community Foundation has 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/reoccurringdonation.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 may add the Society as a beneficiary through a simple amendment called a codicil. Similarly, a gift provision for the Society may be added to a revocable trust agreement. Bequests can be designated for a specific purpose or for a particular use within the Historical Society that you would like to support. Such gifts are an excellent way to create a lasting legacy at the Historical Society.



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 flag. It says, "Troop 45 Washington Twp. Indiana." That troop was sponsored by the Knox American Legion until 1961, at which time the 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, which shows Scout Troop 45, with flag, marching down Washington Street in Knox past what is now Fingerhut Bakery.



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>

This newsletter has been sponsored by:

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History

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Mark Your Calendars

- July 5, 2015
Ice Cream Social
- November 19, 2015
Starke County Historical Society Annual Meeting
- December 6, 2015
Christmas Open House