

THE ERIE CHRONICLE

ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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September 5, 2005

A Year of Anniversaries

This year of 2005 is a year of 150th anniversaries. The Sandusky Schools are celebrating the first graduating class, St. Mary's Parish is celebrating its founding and the Erie County Fair celebrated the first Fair in Erie County. St. Mary's Parish, formed by the German families in the area, built their first church in 1855 on the corner of Decatur and Jefferson Streets. They also built a rectory and a schoolhouse. The cornerstone for the present church building was laid in 1873 and the building was dedicated in 1880.

The first directors of public education in Sandusky, Eleutheros Cook, Francis Parish and Samuel Caldwell, built a high school and three elementary schools in 1845. The high school was on the present Court House square, facing Columbus Ave. The first graduating class consisted of four girls – Sara and Martha Root, Helen Norris and Emma Bouton. This building was replaced by the present Adams Junior High building in 1869. The two elementary schools, one on the corner of Franklin and East Market Street and the one on Fulton Street and West Market are still standing, but the one built on West Madison Street is gone. The present older elementary buildings, which are now in danger of being torn down, were built between 1874 (Barker) and 1894 (Monroe). Sandusky was one of the first Ohio towns to establish a public high school.

Also, early in October of 1855 the first Erie County Fair was held on the south end of town on Monroe Street between Lawrence and McDonough Streets. Previous fairs were held in conjunction with Huron County. In April they announced all the awards that would be given – to the best farm, the best barn, the best implements and the best of each kind of farm animal. There were also awards for quilts, needlework, knitting, rag rugs, painting and flower arranging. The fair was counted a great success but there was not another one in Sandusky until 1865. Then the fairgrounds were established south of Scott Street between Columbus Avenue and Hancock Street.

Erie County Historical Society has placed a marker on Wayne Street marking this fairgrounds. In 1900, after this land was sold for development, the fairs were held on land on the north side of Perkins Avenue, between Camp and Mills Streets, where MacArthur Park is now located. The last fair held there was in late October of 1928 and there was snow that fell during the fair.

After World War II, Fall Festivals and 4-H Junior Fairs were held in various locations, including Strobel Field and Cedar Point, until 1957. Then the County leased land to the Agricultural Society that had been part of the Erie County Home Farm and a permanent Fairground was once again established.

The Heritage Society of Erie County, of which we've been an interested party since its beginning in 1984, seeks to preserve the agricultural and domestic history of the area. Artifacts are displayed in a reconstructed 1890 barn, moved from Avery, and the Carl Dahm Pavilion behind it. Agricultural machinery is displayed in the surrounding area. Prize exhibits are a 1918 Sandusky Tractor by Dauch Manufacturing and a 1922 Courier Car, both built in Sandusky.

Janet Senne

Erie County Historical Society

September 18, 2005

2:00 P.M.

**Grace Episcopal Church
Wayne Street – Back Entrance**

Dick Spier

**“Forty-four Foto Flashback”
A highly recommended program
he put together for his class reunion
featuring old(?) Sandusky photos.**

Refreshments will be served.

Display Case

When you are downtown, stop in the County Office Building and look at the new display in our display case just inside the Columbus Avenue door. This new exhibit is the work of Neil Allen of the Sandusky Maritime Museum. Past exhibits were the Sandusky Underground Railroad Education Committee and the contents of the 1953 Time Capsule. If you know of an organization who would like some exposure or has an interesting story to tell, have them send the information to us at our Post Office Box 944 and we will get in touch with them. These wonderful cases were the gift of the Great Lakes Historical Society, and are a great opportunity for us to make our local history visible.



More ECHS Meetings

Annual Meeting
Sunday, November 13
6:00 P.M.

Sandusky Yacht Club

Lake Shore Electric Railway
By Albert Doane & Dennis Lamont
More info later.

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Sunday, March 19, 2006
2:00 P.M. at First Presbyterian Church

Early Bellvue & the Tremont House
By Bill Oddo

.....
Sunday, May 21, 2006
2:00 P.M.
To be announced.

Time Capsule

We will be working with station WLEC to have the 1953 Time Capsule reburied for another fifty years in the Court House lawn. We can tell you more when the plans are finalized. We will ask them to repack the items, as they unpacked them, and we hope they remember how they were.

We also plan to have another capsule showing this present point in time, to be opened in one hundred years. The committee will be co-chaired by John Schaeffer and George L. Mylander and will consist of the ECHS Board of Trustees and volunteers Judi Hill and Dr. Robert Bartholomew, Steve Shoffner from WLEC and someone from the Sandusky Register.

Categories suggested for items to be included are electronics, manufacturing, literature, history, the arts, science, agriculture and tourism. A phone book and city and county directories should be included. Needless to say, this will have to be a larger capsule than the other one.

The committee would like input from all ECHS members as to suggestions of what you think is significant of our area and time. We will go to the public also. Please think about this!

Mark Your Calendar

September 10 & 11	Pioneer Days Lyme Village 10 th from 10:00 – 5:00 11 th from 11:00 – 5:00
September 17	2:00 P.M. Sandusky Library Veterans History Project
October 1 & 2	Hayes Pres.Center Civil War Encampment
October 8 & 9	Harvest Happenings Osborn Park

ECHS BILLBOARD*

Veterans History Project: Preserving Stories of Service for Future Generations

The Veterans History Project is a nationwide program that helps preserve the history of our nation's war veterans through the collection of oral histories and documents from those who served. Sandusky Library is an official Partner Archive for this project. On September 17, at 2:00 p.m., join us in the Library Program Room to learn more about this Project and how you can contribute to the preservation of our nation's history. Brief videos and samples of documents and artifacts will be presented. All members of the community are strongly encouraged to participate – students can interview parents and grandparents; adults also can discover more about family members, neighbors, and the life of the community in the recent past; war veterans and home-front workers can share their experiences with others. Volunteers are needed to make this project a success. Registration is requested. You can register by calling the Library at 4519-25-3834 and press Option 7. If you cannot attend on September 17th, but would like to participate, please contact Ron Davidson, Archives Librarian, at 419-625-3834.

Serving Our Seniors Seeks Drivers

Serving Our Seniors is seeking help from the community for our Out of Town Medical Transportation Program. Older residents use this service to keep their appointments for healthcare specialists such as cardiologists, oncologists, dialysis, etc.

Serving Our Seniors has seen an 81% increase in out of town medical transportation in the last year. In 2004, Serving Our Seniors funded 516 out of town trips compared to 285 in 2003. The increasing demand and associated costs for our out of town medical transportation is exceeding available funding, and with the growing number of older adults due to the aging baby boomer generation, we expect this trend to continue.

To remedy the problem, Serving Our Seniors is working to recruit volunteer drivers. By staffing this program with two volunteer drivers per day Monday thru Friday, we anticipate a cost savings of approximately \$10,717.00. This will position the Out of Town Medical Transportation Program to help 552 Erie County elderly, who are medically stable, keep their necessary appointments.

We are asking volunteers to drive just one (1) day per month Monday thru Friday. Volunteers will use cars provided by Serving Our Seniors to transport seniors to medical appointments. Anyone interested in volunteering for the Out of Town Medical Transportation Program should contact Renee Claycomb at 419-624-1856 or 1-800-564-1856.

*Items printed to help others in the community.

THE ERIE CHRONICLE is a publication of The Erie County Historical Society.
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