

THE ERIE CHRONICLE

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Erie County Historical Society
P.O. Box 944 Sandusky, OH 44870

Bicentennial Notes

By Janet Senne

The Bicentennial Planning Committee for Erie County met January 29th at the Maritime Museum. Two upcoming events were announced. The new quarter honoring Ohio will be issued in March, probably first in Dayton as the design features the Wright Brothers plane and an astronaut.



The Bicentennial Bell for Erie County will be cast during the Erie County Fair next summer. The Verdin Bell Company, working with the Bicentennial Commission will be casting a bell in each county. They plan to cast four bells in an area at one time, so the equipment does not spend a lot of time traveling. After our bell is cast the trucks will go to Huron County and then Sandusky County Fairs. The process takes two days, with the pouring and accompanying ceremony the first day and the mold breaking and bell polishing the next day. Each bell has the county name and the date of the casting, so a new mold must be made for each bell. The bell will be presented to County Commissioners who will determine where it will be mounted.

The next meeting of the committee will be held at 7:00 on Thursday, March 21st. Your president attends and would welcome company.

A Bicentennial program sponsored by the Fayette County Historical Society is named "P.O.P." which stands for Post Ohio's Past. The idea is that each county will sponsor a competition for the residential mailbox with the best decoration showing a facet of Ohio's history. The historical society of the county will be the judges. More about this later.

UP-COMING MEETINGS

Our March 17th meeting will be held in the meeting room at the rear of the First Presbyterian Church at 2:30. The speaker will be James O. Miller, President of the Sandusky Area Maritime Association. Mr. Miller spoke at our annual meeting two years ago about "Steamboats on the Bay". This time he will tell us about the bay in winter, as he describes the one time important ice harvesting industry. Refreshments will follow.

Our meeting in May will be a visit to the Museum at the Ohio Veterans Home. It will also include a talk by Jon B. Silvis of Lakewood on the history of The Grand Army of the Republic, or GAR. We'll send out more details on this meeting closer to the meeting date.

We encourage you to bring interested guests to these meetings. We want to increase our membership as a Bicentennial Project. For

anyone who has not been to the Presbyterian meeting room, the church is at the corner of Jackson and West Washington streets across from the Carousel Museum in Sandusky. The parking lot is behind the church and the doorway to the meeting room opens off Washington St. near the parking lot.

Ohio Association to Meet in Norwalk

Our Society belongs to the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums. Region 2 – North Central Ohio will be meeting at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Norwalk on April 27th. The theme for year 2002 meetings is “Local History and Ohio’s Bicentennial-Creating Legacies for the 21st Century.”

The morning workshop will feature two concurrent workshops.

1. Unloading Grandma’s Attic: Taking Control of Museum Collections with Susan Schwerer, Museum of Carousel Art and History.
2. Who’s in Charge: Responsibilities of Board Members, Staff, and Volunteers with Melissa James, Director of the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and Linda Bersche, President of Firelands Historical Society.

In the afternoon Linda Bersche will moderate a panel discussion on “Your Part in Ohio’s History: Creating Legacies for the 21st Century. Participants will be Bill Loudenslager, Museum of Carousel Art and History; Henry Timman, Firelands Historical Society; and Christie Raber, Wyandot County Historical Society.

Following the panel discussion, a tour of historic West Main Street district in Norwalk and the Firelands Museum and Research Center is offered.

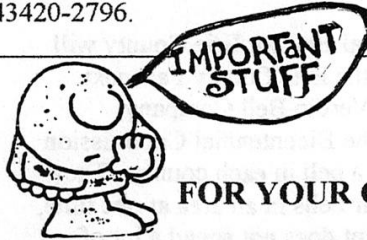
Registration deadline is April 22nd.

Anniversary Celebrations For Edison’s Phonograph

Thomas Alva Edison and the phonograph are being honored to commemorate 125 years of recording and re-creating sound with his favorite invention.

Friends of Edison, at Milan Museum plan a variety of events including collaboration with the Erie-Huron-Ottawa Educational Service Center and Firelands College in an annual Invention Convention sponsored for youth of Erie County Schools. For more information contact: Edison Birthplace Association, Inc. P.O. Box 451 Milan OH 44846.

Hayes Center at Fremont acclaims the genius of the hearing impaired leader in the technology revolution with a special exhibit “Mr. Edison’s Music Makers”. Opening March 17th and continuing through Sept. 1st, this exclusive event will include original Edison phonographs, historic documents on Edison’s life and photographs. For more information contact the Hayes Presidential Center, Spiegel Grove, Fremont OH 43420-2796.



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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| March 17 | Erie County Historical Society Meeting at Presbyterian Church 2:30 P.M. |
| March 21 | Bicentennial Committee Meets |
| March 17 | Hayes Center – Edison Exhibit
See article above |
| April 2 | Eleutheros Cooke House Opens for season-1415 Columbus Ave. |
| April 27 | Region 2 OAHSM at Norwalk |