

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society Newsletter

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS



PRESERVING THE VALLEY'S HISTORY FOR 131 YEARS

Volume 36 Issue 1

July & August 2008

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Under the Arbor: Examining The First Floor of Burt's

The phrase "Under the Arbor" was synonymous with Burt's. The West Federal establishment was a unique blend of retail counter operations selling candy, ice cream, sodas, flowers and baked goods; along with thoughtfully planned eating areas such as the Arbor Garden, the Wistaria [sic] Tea Garden on top of the mezzanine, the Wistaria [sic] Tea Cottage under the mezzanine, The Peacock Banquet Room and the Rainbow Assembly Room. Each location was detailed in a souvenir booklet produced in 1922 for the confectionary's grand opening. Here is Mr. Burt's description of his first floor operations:

...One may sit under a vine-covered pergola at either side with the soft lights from the house itself shining through the windows and shedding a cheery glow over the chummy refreshment booths and out upon the old stone paving of the garden court. Near at hand fountains bubble and golden throated birds respond in sweet notes to the harmonies of the merry making within the doors.



On the way into the "Arbor Garden" one finds the Candy Counter on the right side, Soda Fountain at the left,...with only the Baked Goods Department situated differently, near the front instead of the rear. ...In planning the new establishment we have emphasized this [Bread] department. We can assure now a plentiful supply of all the customary items in Burt "Home Style" line of Baked Goods, Cakes, Pies, Patty Shells, French Pastry, Boston Brown Breads, Sandwiches and Rolls.

The Ross Radio Era

After James Ross purchased the building in 1935 and moved in operations of Ross Radio Company, the area "Under the Arbor" became a retail space with merchandise displays, a sales counter, stock shelves filled with parts, a repair center and offices. Ross Radio continued operations inside the building until 2008.



A totally new service is revealed in the very front of the left as you enter. Here is a neat Cut Flower Department abloom with roses, carnations, etc. We will be prepared to serve not only the transient flower lover, but to take orders in any quantity for delivery to any point of this, or any other city of the United States as well. A particularly happy feature of this arrangement is the facility it affords for fitting decoration with fresh cut flowers of our private service rooms for individual parties, afternoon teas, banquets and ball room functions.

From the "Arbor Garden" one may go "indoors" either by way of the broad flight of steps or through the small trellised doors up at either side of the steps. By the latter way one enters the "Wistaria Tea Cottage" where club luncheon is served each week day from 11:30 to 2 and where private service may be had at any time for as many as 60 people in individual parties, committee and club meetings, afternoon teas, etc.

From This Direction: Annual Report

The 133rd annual meeting took place on Tuesday June 17, 2008, in the Christman Room at Stambaugh Auditorium. Over one hundred members and guests convened for a lovely dinner, a business meeting which included election of new Directors, and presentation of the 2008 MVHS Historic Preservation Awards.

Board Development Report

Germaine Bennett, chair of the Board Development Committee, presented the following nominees who were elected to serve three year terms on the MVHS Board of Directors: Germanie Bennett, Robert Calcagni, William J. Cleary, Jr., M.D., Suzanne Fleming, Tazim Jaffer, Philip Kocon, Karen Kohli, Joan Madej, John McNally and Jeanne Tyler.

Treasurer's Report

Karen Abrams presented the following:

Balance Sheet

Assets

Current Assets

Unrestricted Assets	\$723,098.07
Restricted Assets	102,985.21
Capital Campaign Assets	<u>833,137.69</u>
Total Current Assets	\$1,659,220.97

Property and Equipment

Land, Building,	
Artifacts & Equipment	\$1,627,820.99
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(577,195.81)</u>
Total Property & Equipment	\$1,050,625.18

Endowment Funds

Olive F.A. Arms Trusts	\$1,880,198.41
General Endowment Fund	<u>846,542.75</u>
Total Endowment Funds	\$2,726,741.16

Total Assets \$5,436,587.31

Liabilities & Fund Balances

Total Unrestricted Fund Liabilities	\$150.90
Total Fund Balances	\$5,436,436.41

Total Liabilities & Fund Balances \$5,436,587.31

Statement of Operating Support, Revenues and Expenses for the period ending May 30, 2008.

Total Support	\$126,738.96
Total Revenue	<u>324,076.70</u>

Total Support & Revenue	450,815.66
Total Expenses	<u>471,994.00</u>

Excess (Deficit) **\$ (21,128.34)**



Each department of the Historical Society presented tables of information highlighting activities from the past year.



Thanks to these generous Annual Meeting Donors

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Progress Report

Executive Director H. William Lawson presented an impressive report of all the accomplishments and initiatives made by the Board and staff in the past fiscal year. Here are some of the highlights:

- ◆ The Young Leaders Advisory Board hosted four *History-to-Go* programs and reached over 400 individuals.
- ◆ The Mahoning Valley Collecting Institutions Roundtable continued to meet and develop a new resource guide for historical collections in the region
- ◆ *The Valley Experience* exhibit was redesigned and opened to help orient visitors to the broad themes of the region's history.
- ◆ The collections staff and Collections Management Committee produced a comprehensive and strategic Collecting Plan to govern future collecting initiatives
- ◆ The Business & Media Archives received a complete set of Dr. Milton Greenburg's WYSU-FM radio interview programs
- ◆ Education staff hosted teachers for NEOEA Day; developed the *History on Stage* Summer Camp program; made multiple appearances on the local cable program Homework Express; and completed the Adopt-a-Neighborhood program with students from East High School
- ◆ Attendance for museum, archives and outreach programs and events has exceeded last year's totals by more than 15%. Visits to the Historical Society's website have increased by more than 20%.
- ◆ A new high efficiency heating plant was installed in the Arms Family Museum and the Historical Society closed on the purchase of the Historic Harry Burt/Ross Radio building.



Executive Director Bill Lawson gives his report at the Annual Meeting, and also thanks outgoing Board President C. Reid Schmutz for his years of service.

2008 Historic Preservation Awards Program

Special thanks to the program sponsor the **Raymond John Wean Foundation** and to members of the judging panel: George D. Beelen, Ph.D., Facilitator; Donna DeBlasio, Ph.D., Tazim Jaffer, Thomas Leary, Ph.D., and Heather McMahon.

Community Revitalization Award - Moss Ancestral Home

Mary Lou Godleski, current owner of this 1843 Mineral Ridge home, was in search of the house that her great, great grandfather lived in when he immigrated to the United States from Luxembourg in 1855. What she found was a home in complete disrepair, and condemned by Weathersfield Township. Great care was taken to preserve original elements and to use period materials or reproductions. The 2008 Judging Panel could tell from the application that Ms. Godleski was very passionate about this project. The nomination was submitted by Marcia Buchanan and Linda Ference.



Mary Lou Godleski traveled from her home in Massachusetts to accept the award.

The Moss home before and after.



Community Revitalization Award Mill Creek MetroParks Suspension Bridge

The Valley Drive Suspension Bridge was constructed in 1895 by the Youngstown Bridge Company and is the oldest surviving bridge in Mill Creek Park. The bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 and is a prominent, contributing element in the Park's Historic District designation. Mill Creek MetroParks designed and completed the rehabilitation work in conformance with the National Environmental Protection Act, the National Historic Preservation Act and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines for historic preservation. Justin Rogers, of Mill Creek MetroParks, nominated the project for the award. The Judging Panel was impressed by the steps taken to protect the environment during this project.



From left: the Suspension Bridge during and after. Accepting the award is Mill Creek MetroParks Planning & Operations Director Steve Avery, with MVHS President Reid Schmutz, MVHS Executive Director Bill Lawson and Mill Creek MetroParks Executive Director David Imbrogno.

Commercial Revitalization Award Tod Cemetery Mausoleum



The Tod Mausoleum was erected in 1927 on the grounds of the Tod Homestead Cemetery, a National Register property. The Mausoleum is faced with white Vermont marble over solid concrete floors, walls and roof. The interior is faced

with marble panels, decorative plaster, ornate metalwork and Tiffany stained glass windows. The restoration project included replacing the original copper roof, flashings, gutters and downspouts; removal of asbestos pipe insulation and installation of an improved ventilation system. Corrective work was made to damaged plaster and the entire interior was painted. Project designer Paul Ricciuti, FAIA, from Balog, Steines, Hendricks and Manchester, nominated this project. The Judging Panel commended the Cemetery Association for their investment in original materials, and for showing a genuine commitment to the community and to historic preservation.



Terrance Cloonan, Tod Cemetery Association Trustee accepted the award.

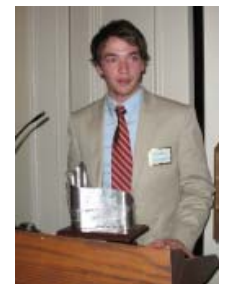
MVHS Directors' Awards of Achievement Wick Pollock Inn Sunken Gardens

The revitalization of the 1930 Wick Pollock Inn Sunken Gardens was led by members of Youngstown State University's Student Government Association in collaboration with YSU Groundskeeper Larry Tooker and Kridler

Gardens of Homeworth, Ohio. More than 40 volunteers contributed over 400 man-hours to the efforts. They removed seven dump truck loads of debris from the garden, and added new plants and mulch to the beds. Erienne Raib, YSU Student Government Association President, nominated this project. The Judging Panel commented that this project showed definite leadership on the student level at YSU.



Larry Tooker provided more information about the ongoing restoration.



Student Government President Mike McGiffin accepted the award



The gardens before and after.



Thank You to these Members that contributed in the July 2007 to June 2008 Year!

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Keep MVHS Strong ~ Planned Giving Options

Did you know that there are many ways to make a difference in the future of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society? Speak with your attorney or financial advisor on the benefits of giving through bequests, life insurance policies, or the tax advantages of donating stocks and securities. These planned giving options are easy and as MVHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, all methods of giving are tax-free. ☼

Volunteer Vitality

On April 29, 2008, the Mahoning Valley Historical Society said "thank you" to our hardworking volunteers. As part of National Volunteer Appreciation Week, MVHS volunteers enjoyed a delicious lunch and tokens of appreciation to honor them for their help.

The Dorothy J. Honey Volunteer of the Year Award, established in 2003, was awarded to Priscilla Sutton. Priscilla drives to MVHS from Columbiana and spends a good part of her Wednesdays in the Archives assisting with research requests. Priscilla started volunteering at MVHS after helping a friend with research and realizing that she wanted to learn more about genealogy and Ohio law. Congratulations, Priscilla!



Priscilla Sutton with MVHS Executive Director Bill Lawson

Our thanks also go to these dedicated volunteers that have worked with MVHS over the past year: Ryan Crincic, Jimmy Evans, Esther Hallaman, Christy Leonard, Mike McCleery, Paula McKinney, Lauran Moore, Gordon Morgan, and Mary Wick.

Founders Day Events



Celebrate the Society's 133rd anniversary by looking to the future with the new Mahoning Valley History Center. A schedule of open houses at the historic Harry Burt/Ross Radio Building at 325 West Federal Street in Downtown Youngstown will allow members and guests to learn the fascinating history of the building and examine the amazing historical details in a "before tour."

Wednesday, September 10th
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

First Look Members Open House

This members only event will include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Members are encouraged to bring prospective members to learn about the Historical Society and plans for the History Center.

Sunday, September 14th
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Free Public Open House

Anyone and everyone is invited to take a peek through the historic Burt Building and get in a "Good Humor" with activities, ice cream and snacks available throughout the day.

Get your Hands-On: Summer Camp ~ History on Stage



Cassie Mead
as the Narrator

What a performance! "History on Stage" was the theme of this year's summer camp as the MVHS combined performing arts with local history. Ten children enthusiastically recreated the true story of a local pioneer woman's journey to Ohio in 1810 with a stage performance for their families and friends. Based on the authentic diary of Margaret Van Horn Dwight, the play featured details on how Margaret left her home in Connecticut at the age of twenty and journeyed to Ohio in 1810 with the Wolcott family to live with a cousin in Warren, Ohio. Candidly written, Margaret's diary reveals that the journey was a difficult one, taking two weeks longer than the original four that were expected. She documented her trip every step of the way in her journal, which was published as a book many years later, and is now available at *Greystone Gifts*.

With this diary as the theme for "History on Stage," children enjoyed scavenger hunts, historical games and a journal-making craft. They also helped create the play by writing their own dialogue for each scene and making the props that would appear during the play. Due to the fact that camp was only 4 days long, the children had a very short amount of time to prepare, rehearse and memorize their lines. Three of the children actually had more than one part! Yet, they all rose to the challenge and gave an excellent performance.



On the last day of camp, about 25 family members and friends attended the performance and the play was well-received by everyone in the audience. The children should all be proud of the wonderful job they did in making this year's summer camp such a success!

Cast Members (in alphabetical order):

Caitlin Currier: Susan Wolcott
Abby Hughes: Mrs. Jackson and Cousin Louisa
Brendan Kale: John Jackson
Patrick Kale: Deacon Wolcott
Rory Kale: Prop Man
Tommy Lyden:
Ferry Boat
Operator and Prop Man
Victoria Lyden:
Eliza Jackson
Cassie Mead:
Elizabeth/Narrator
Henriette Ovaska:
Mrs. Wolcott and
Mrs. Waldo
Olivia Torisk:
Margaret Van
Horn Dwight



Artifact-ually Speaking

Jessica D. Trickett,
Anne Kilcawley Christman Memorial Collections Manager

The game of baseball has been known as America's national pastime since the 1870s, but its origins are much earlier. While the sport's exact beginnings are disputed, an early English folk game called *stoolball* is likely the forerunner to modern baseball. In *stoolball*, which may have been played as early as the 11th Century, one player defended a target (the stool) while another player threw a ball trying to hit the target. Eventually, the player guarding the target used a bat to deflect the ball. Later, the batter had to run between two stools in order to defend both from the thrower.



1901 Rayen High School Team



1976 General Electric Softball Team

The modern game of baseball did not come to be until the mid-19th Century. The New York Knickerbockers club, founded September 23, 1845, is credited with outlining the rules for playing the game as we now know it. In the following decade, more than a dozen teams, including the Knickerbockers, formed the *National Association of Baseball Players*, the first organization to govern the sport of baseball and its first professional teams. In 1876, that organization was replaced by the *National League of Professional Baseball Clubs*. The *National League*, along with the *American League* which formed in 1901, constitutes modern *Major League Baseball*.

While baseball became a popular professional sport, it also thrived in amateur and school leagues across America. Beginning July 12, the Arms Family Museum of Local History will show the photographic exhibit *The Boys and Girls of Summer*. The exhibit will feature images of local baseball and softball teams from throughout the 20th Century. From the Rayen High School team of 1901 to the General Electric Softball team of 1976, the exhibit will show some of the teams and players that have brought our national pastime to life in the Mahoning Valley.



Sight & Sound

Business & Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley

Over the years the Youngstown area has been important to many presidential hopefuls. Adlai Stevenson and Richard Nixon came to Youngstown in 1956; Hubert Humphrey came in 1964; and George Wallace came in 1968. John F. Kennedy came into town three times before he was elected president in 1960, and his brothers Robert and Ted visited the area many times during their campaigns.



Explore the elections of the past and the roll the Valley played in them at the Business & Media Archives. Whether looking through the news film from the 1950's, or through black and white photographs, the Archives has many images of interest.

You can help preserve the Valley's history!

Did you attend any of the campaign events held during the past year? Consider donating campaign memorabilia including signs, buttons, t-shirts and especially photographs; or spend some time on camera and record an oral history interview!

Calendar Fundraiser

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society opened the doors to the Arms Museum in 1964. In 2009 The Arms Family Museum of Local History will have been in operation for 45 years. Also in 2009, the Mahoning Valley Historical Society will continue to develop the new Mahoning Valley History Center in downtown Youngstown. To commemorate this landmark year in the history of the Historical Society two special calendars will be produced.



The Story of My House

Excerpts from Olive F.A. Arms' essay on her home will be accompanied by historic photos of Greystone.

In a Good Humor

Learn the history of this ice cream confection and its creator, Harry B. Burt.



Calendars will be available by pre-order from now until September 30th for \$10.00 and then for \$12.95 starting in October. An order form is included in this newsletter and will also be available in the September/October issue.

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society,

founded in 1875, educates and promotes an interest in the history of the Mahoning Valley by collecting, preserving and developing material representative of the people who have inhabited the region.



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Thank You from the Garden

A special Thank You to Charlotte Gelhaar for donating the six Boston Ferns that now grace the entrance to the Arms Family Museum for the summer. Thanks also goes to Lutz Greenhouse for providing hundreds of annuals that have brightened the gardens of the Historical Society's campus.



Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Saturday, July 12 | The Boys & Girls of Summer
Exhibit Opening | |
| Wednesday, September 10 | Burt Building Open House
Members only Preview | 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, September 14 | Burt Building Open House
Free to the Public | 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. |

You can stay on top of upcoming events and special announcements by joining the MVHS Email List.

Send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line to: mvhs@mahoninghistory.org

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