

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society Newsletter

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS



PRESERVING THE VALLEY'S HISTORY FOR 134 YEARS

In this issue

- **Feature Story:**
New Century Club
- **From This Direction**
- **Hands On History:**
Newswoman
Esther Hamilton
- **Artifact-ually Speaking:**
The Life on an Artifact
- **Sight & Sound:**
The Scout Capades

Contact MVHS for information about:

- Membership
- Museum Tours
- Archival Library
- Outreach Programs
- Facilities Rental

Phone: 330-743-2589

Fax: 330-743-7210

mvhs@mahoninghistory.org

www.mahoninghistory.org

Business
& Media Archives
330-744-7621
business_media@mahoninghistory.org



Volume 37 Issue 5

March & April 2010

The New Century Club: Women's History in Youngstown

In 1899 Mrs. Lucius E. Cochran, a member of the Ladies Reading Circle, suggested to her niece, Grace Heath, that she invite some of her young unmarried friends to form a similar club. Grace was enthusiastic about the idea, and she and her friend gathered on October 19, 1899 to formulate their plans. They met at the home of Miss Belle Euwer. After voting by ballot, officers were elected and it was decided that the number would be limited to thirty. The Club would devote its time to current events, music and conversation. Refreshments were bowls of shiny red apples. Meetings were held every Friday at 2:30 p.m. and a "due" of 50 cents was charged the first year.

In those early years few young women had an opportunity for a college education. Clubs provided their social life and club programs offered broadening information horizons. They read and reviewed classic and current literature. They studied foreign cultures and world issues. Their enjoyment of frequent musical programs was evident from secretary's minutes. Dramatic presentations were enthusiastically received. Indeed, the members of New Century Club were receiving a liberal arts education by attending the weekly meetings. Preparing and participating in the carefully planned programs required as much study as any college course. Club membership provided the foundation for many devoted friendships.

As the young ladies matured, many were married and started families. There is little mention in the minutes of husbands or children. Once a year, usually at the end of the Club's season, they had a gala evening party until the mid-1930's. Beginning with the World War I years, they immersed themselves in solving immediate needs and supporting local agencies. New Century Club members provided leadership for the YWCA, Red Cross, Visiting Nurses' Association, the Blood Bank and gave countless volunteer hours to these and other local organizations. During the century they gave annual financial gifts to non-profit agencies including CASA, Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, Barbara Wick Transitional House, Neil Kennedy Recovery Program and Protestant Family Service. New Century Club continues its history of community support and involvement and celebrates its friendships.

The New Century Club collection is part of the Historical Society's archives and includes minute books, programs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, and photographs related to the club and their activities. After the initial donation of materials in 1994, officers and committee chairs of the club actively sought out missing program booklets and records and also routinely bring the latest items for inclusion into the collection.



70th Anniversary of the New Century Club, October 1969.

Back by popular demand!

At the Crossroads: A Walking Tour of Downtown Youngstown

Join members of the Young Leaders Advisory Board for an informative and educational walk through downtown Youngstown. Learn about the different types of architecture used on downtown's iconic buildings and see historic photos of what the landscape looked like years ago.

Tour groups will form in the lobby of 20 Federal Place on Saturday April 17th beginning at 3:00 p.m.

This is a free event

please call 330-743-2589 or email mvhs@mahoninghistory.org to reserve your spot!



A key objective of the Campaign is to increase advocacy and political support for the new History Center. A coalition of organizations dedicated to enhancing life in our community has been formed to educate and influence decision makers on local, state, and federal levels. The first advocacy event took place on February 18 and was a successful premier.

Speaker of the House Armond Budish, Chair of the House Finance and Appropriations Committee Vernon Sykes, Assistant Majority Whip Linda Bolon, and Assistant Majority Floor Leader Allan Sayre visited Youngstown to take part in a driving tour of key arts and cultural organizations, including the Mahoning Valley Historical Society and the Mahoning Valley History Center. Architectural historian Rebecca Rogers gave our honored guests a rich context of the downtown's development and key institutions.

Following the tour, House leadership received detailed panel presentations from local leaders with these organizations: Cityscape—Sharon Letson and Phil Kidd; Mahoning Valley Historical Society—Bill Lawson; Stambaugh Auditorium—William Conti; YWCA—Leah Brooks; and the Youngstown Symphony Society—Patricia Syak.

A reception hosted by Charlotte Gelhaar at the Youngstown Club welcomed our guests and gave the opportunity for boards, members, volunteers, and elected officials to network and discuss their missions and projects. Local Representatives Ron Gerberry, Bob Hagan, Sandra Stabile Harwood, and Tom Letson, and State Senator Joe Schiavoni supported the event and our efforts. Special thanks go out to WRTA Executive Director Jim Ferraro and Mahoning County Commissioner John McNally for their hard work and commitment. The Historical Society's Board contributed considerable time, insights and resources to create a positive impression on the visiting House leadership team.

A comparable tour and reception will be held for the Senate leadership on April 15 at the home of Patricia Syak. ✂

Carol Potter
Campaign Director

From This Direction

Spring is a time for renewal, and such is the case for the Historical Society in March and April. A revised version of the exhibit *The Story of My House*, which details the evolution of Olive and Wilford Arms' home, will be in place in the Arms Family Museum of Local History by the end of March. Nominations for 2010 Historic Preservation Awards honoring those who preserve and adaptively reuse local historic buildings and landmarks are due by Friday, April 9. And Historical Society members and friends are invited to return to downtown Youngstown for an historic architectural walking tour on Saturday afternoon, April 17, sponsored by the Young Leaders Advisory Board.

So, think Mahoning Valley Historical Society when you think spring this year!

~H. William Lawson

YSU Vintage Photography Project

Opening Saturday May 8th will be another exhibit of photographs from the John D. Megown collection. However, these photos are a bit different. Part of the collection included approximately 300 images



John D. Megown

on glass plate negatives dating between 1900-1920. Photographers began exposing glass plate negatives in their cameras in the 1850s allowing them to produce multiple copies of positive prints rather than single, positive images. The first glass plate negatives were *wet collodion* negatives. Each piece of glass was coated by the photographer, immediately exposed and processed. Dry-plate glass negatives were first manufactured in the 1880s and some commercial photographers continued to use them until after WW II. These ready-made negatives could be stored before use greatly simplifying photography.

Students in Richard Mitchell's Vintage Photography Class have been creating contact prints from the Megown dry-plate negatives using the same process that would have been used in the early 1900's. When finished the images will serve as a visual catalogue of the collection for researchers and Historical Society exhibits. Each student will choose two images to include in the exhibit. ✂

Hands-On History: Women in News

Rebecca Whittenberger,
Curator of Education



"She was as large in community pride and spirit as she was short in stature." Such is the tribute paid to newspaper woman Esther Hamilton after her retirement in 1970. As one of the most well known local women of her time, Esther was

characterized not only by her writing career and dedication to community service projects, but her everyday attire as well. Her tailored suit, black and round felt hat, and shoes with low heels, were a well known sight as she zealously covered local news, Rotary Club meetings, the Canfield Fair, schools, hospitals, obituaries and even national events, such as the Lindbergh baby kidnapping case. Coverage of such national events garnered her a reputation that went far beyond the local area.

In 1918, Esther Hamilton came to Youngstown from New Castle to accept a job with *The Youngstown Telegram*. By the time *The Youngstown Vindicator* acquired the *Telegram* in 1936, Esther's daily column "Around Town" had already cultivated a large and dedicated audience, greatly enhanced by the *Vindicator's* acquisition. For 34 years, Esther also produced the annual Alias Santa Claus Show, a variety show featuring top entertainers and big names in show business, which raised funds to buy food bundles needy local families. Esther continued contributing occasional "Around Town" columns even after her retirement, writing from her home in Florida. ✂

Summer Camp 2010 High Tech History

Making video documentaries about local historical topics will give you a unique perspective on the past as well as how to present historical facts objectively in an artistic form. Campers will also learn how to work well with teammates on a fun group project; and how to research, organize and communicate a historical story on video. Family and friends are invited on the last day of camp for the premiere!



Tuesday-Friday ~ 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

July 6-9; Ages 8-10
August 11-13; Ages 11-13

Artifact-ually Speaking

Jessica D. Trickett, Anne Kilcawley Christman
Memorial Collections Manager

Sight & Sound

Business & Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley

Have you ever wondered what happens to the historic objects acquired for the Historical Society's collections? It is an interesting process, which is why we're going to spend a day in the life of an artifact; from arrival to storage and at each stop in between.

The artifact arrives and is deemed significant to the history of the Mahoning Valley and the Historical Society's collecting mission. Historical Society staff and the artifact donor fill out a *Deed of Gift* form, transferring ownership of the item to the Historical Society.



Registrar Lea Mollman enters information into Past Perfect, the collections database software.

The artifact, or group of artifacts, is assigned a unique number based on the year of donation and the order in which that donation came during the year. For example, the eleventh donation in the year 2010 is numbered 2010.11. This is known as its *accession number*. The artifact is then given an *object number*, which is added to the accession number to uniquely identify it within the collection. For example, the second item from the

above accession is numbered 2010.11.2.

The object number is applied to the artifact in one of several ways. If it is paper, the number can be applied in pencil. If it is a textile, a number label is sewn onto the artifact. For materials like metal, wood, and glass, a special base-coat called *Acryloid* is painted on, then the number is written in acrylic paint with a fine-tipped pen, followed by a top-coat of clear acrylic. The artifact is then *cataloged*.

As part of the cataloging process, the artifact is photographed, measured, and physically described in a collections management database. The artifact is classified under a system known as *Nomenclature*, that helps standardize museum record-keeping by providing accepted object names for all types of museum collections. For example, an item that some might call a 'cosmetic bag' or 'makeup kit' is named 'toilet kit' by *Nomenclature*. The artifact's history, or *provenance*, is also entered as a part of its catalog record.

After cataloging is complete, the artifact is ready for storage. It is stored using archival quality materials such as acid-free boxes and tissue paper, unbleached muslin dust covers, and other special packing and padding supplies. This ensures the artifact's preservation for use in Historical Society exhibits, educational programs, and publications, and for the enjoyment of local history patrons.



A sample catalog record

Nomenclature Category:
Communication Artifact
Nomenclature Sub-Category:
Personal Symbol
Nomenclature Object Name:
Patch

Description: Black on white on red high school letter, centered

with harp; 5 3/8" high by 6" wide; '71' in lower right corner; has gold-colored majorette pin affixed at lower left; 1 1/2" high

Provenance: Worn by donor, Barbara (Copp) Lyras, as a Campbell Memorial High School majorette, 1971. ✂

In November of 1958, over 3,000 local Cub, Boy and Explorer Scouts representing 96 units, staged a two hour 10 act production called "Scout Capades" at the Struthers Field House. The theme was "Boys Today – Men Tomorrow."



Dancing at the Scout Capades November 20-22, 1958.

Forty businesses and civic leaders joined the Boy Scout council in planning the huge scout pageant. Some 1,000 citizens worked on the production which was the first in over 20 years.

The purpose of the Scout Capades was to show the community the true meaning of Scouting; to acquaint the community with the activities of their Boy Scouts; to show the different phases of Scouting; and to show what Scouting is in the life of a boy.

Boy Scouts demonstrated their skills which included first aid, lifesaving, hiking, camping, fire building, cooking and semaphore signaling from towers they built. There were 484 scouts whooping it up in an Indian dance and a bicycle drill of 50 mounted scouts.



A number of scouts appearing on the Major Ted Television show in 1958.

The story of Scouting was narrated by Ted Niemi, announcer and director of special events for WKBN Broadcasting, as a background while Scouts performed on the floor of the field house arena. At one end of the field house an actor depicted William D. Boyce, a Chicago newspaper publisher, who was credited with introducing Scouting to America. A Boy Scout played the unknown English scout who introduced him to Baden Powell, founder of Scouting.

Cub Pack 94 of the Campbell Christian Center was in an act called "men from mars." On Saturday, November 8th three of the Men from Mars Cub Scouts appeared on the Major Ted TV show at WKBN.

Over 8,000 spectators showed up for the three day event. There were over 30 newspaper articles leading up to the Scout Capades. ✂



Be Prepared:

100 Years of the Boy Scouts of America

On exhibit at The Arms Museum until Sunday, May 2, 2010
Scouts under 18 receive free admission during the exhibit.

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society celebrates the history of the people of the Mahoning Valley.



648 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44502-1289

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Youngstown, OH
Permit No. 140

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Historical Happenings

is published bi-monthly by the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. It is sent as a free benefit of MVHS membership.

MVHS is a private non-profit corporation, which owns and operates the Arms Family Museum of Local History, the MVHS Archival Library, and the Business and Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley.

Leann Rich, editor



www.facebook.com/mahoninghistory

Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------|
| Friday, April 9 | Historic Preservation Awards Nominations Due! | |
| Saturday, April 17 | <i>History to Go</i>
At the Crossroads: Downtown Youngstown Walking Tour
Gathering location 20 Federal Place Lobby | 3:00 p.m. |
| Saturday May 8 | Megown Photography Exhibit Opens
The Arms Family Museum | 1:00 p.m. |
| Thursday May 13 | <i>History to Go</i>
Public Library Panel Discussion
Main Branch, 305 Wick Avenue, Youngstown | 7:00 p.m. |

MVHS Board of Directors

J. David Sabine, *President*
John H. Yerian, Jr., *First Vice President*
Robert Calcagni, *Second Vice President*
Patricia Sweet, *Secretary*
John McNally IV, *Assistant Secretary*
Karen H. Abrams, *Treasurer*
Philip Kocon, *Assistant Treasurer*

Paula Barrett	Rev. Lewis Macklin II
George D. Beelen, Ph.D.	Joan Madej
Germaine F. Bennett	Neil Maxwell
Sharon Berlin	Nancy Morris
William J. Cleary, Jr. M.D.	Marilyn Oyer
Sallie Tod Dutton	Tricia Perry
Suzanne Fleming	Mary Lou Reyes
Charlotte Gelhaar	Rebecca Rogers
Jeffrey Grdic	Frank A. Rulli
Donald Gubany	Charles Rumberg
Tazim Jaffer	James H. Sisek
Betty H. Jagnow	Janice L. Tattrie
C. Gilbert James, Jr.	Jeanne D. Tyler
Karen Kohli	

Administrative Staff

H. William Lawson, *Executive Director*
Jessica D. Trickett,
Anne Kūlcawley Christman Memorial Collections Manager
Leann Rich, *Manager of Education and External Relations*
Pamela L. Speis, *Archivist*
T. Lea Mollman, *Registrar*
Rebecca Whittenberger, *Curator of Education*
Constance L. Jones, *Project Manager, BMAMV*
Charles W. Kelso, Jr., *Media Specialist, BMAMV*
Anthony Worrellia, *Building and Grounds Supervisor*
Mary Ann Richards, *Bookkeeper*
JoAnne Nunziato, *Administrative Assistant*