

Here's the latest  
issue of the...

# Ionia County Historical Society CHRONICLE

Ionia County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1776  
Ionia, MI 48846

www.ioniahistory.org



## BECOME A MEMBER!

If you'd like to help us preserve the area's heritage, please fill in the form below and send it, with check or money order, to the ICHS Treasurer, care of Box 1776, Ionia, MI 48846.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check Your  
Membership Type:

- ☐ Regular = \$20  
☐ Sustaining = \$35  
☐ Corporate = \$250  
☐ Life = \$1000  
☐ Gift = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Share a  
Little Information:

- ☐ Renewing Member  
☐ New Member

If you're a new member, how  
did you hear about us?

☐ Free Honorary Membership for Students under 18

If you are already a member (thank you!), please  
pass this membership form on to a friend.

### AVAILABLE AT THE BLANCHARD HOUSE "GIFT SHOP"

A FEW OF THE ITEMS ON SALE  
and suggested donation for each:

**Meredyth Jones Lithograph,**  
"Ionia County Court House"...\$15

VHS Videos of Ionia Historical Subjects...\$10

**Headlight Flashes 1896** (a publication of the  
Detroit, Lansing and Northern Railroad featuring  
28 pages of Ionia information)...\$10

**Ionia, 1907 Souvenir Book** reprints...\$10

**City of Ionia Centennial** booklet...\$5

**3 Blocks of Historic Downtown Ionia**...\$3

**History of Ionia**...\$3.00

... and more souvenirs and information!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT!

# Ionia County Historical Society CHRONICLE

The *Almost* Monthly Publication of the Ionia County Historical Society — July 2007



## Rock'n'Rollin' Back the Hands of Time...

Elvis is making his appearance in store windows all over town, along with much memorabilia of the Fabulous Fifties, in preparation for a celebration of that decade to be held on August 9th in downtown Ionia. The focal point of the event will be at the Ionia Theatre with an Elvis Tribute by Fred Wolfe, an appearance by Rob Pearson and the Three Strings, and featuring a costume contest. The show begins at 7:00 p.m., tickets are \$5 at the door. If you have any further questions, ask event organizer (and ICHS President) Linda Ciangi!



(Below) The Historical Society was represented in the Ionia Free Fair Parade by David and Annette McCord dressed in Victorian costume riding with the Willisons in their horse-drawn serry. See more Fair items on page 3!

### Minutes of the July '07 Board Meeting

The Board of the Ionia County Historical Society met at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 18th at the Blanchard House. Present were Barb & Dennis Ehlert, Hank & Doni Knoop, Gerry Perry, Jim & Mary Metzen, Joe & Joan McCord, and president Linda Ciangi.

Joan McCord reported that everything was set up

for the Queen's Reception the morning of the 21st for the Free Fair Parade. David and Annette McCord will be riding in Victorian costume in the serry of Kevin and Linda Willison for the parade. Judging art for the Free Fair this year will be Gerry Perry, Stephanie VanderMolen, and David McCord. Gerry will coordinate this with Amy Smith, the Art Department manager.

There was a \$10 donation from member Cathryn  
*continues on page 2*





# Minutes...

*continued from page 1*

Larsen for correcting a name on the plaque in the front hall. She also left a \$10 donation the previous Saturday, plus some vintage photos.

Also, a bill has been submitted for stamps used to mail the Chronicle, and another for Mort Slowinski to check the fire extinguishers at the house (a yearly requirement).

Training still needs to be arranged regarding the computer program the Society received for cataloging the collections.

Mr. Hagan is not going to be available to tune the piano at the Blanchard House. The search continues for a piano tuner.

Visitors to the House on July 17th are going to research a Marine's uniform for our collection.

Hazard Waste Pick-up for the community will be October 13.

On July 13th, Joan McCord took a collection of ICHS souvenir books to the Steel Street Coffee House where the owner, ICHS member Maureen Drummond, and her husband Bill will offer them for sale at the shop. Picture postcards are also for sale in a rack at Ionia Office Works for the Historical Society.

On August 10 and 11, there will be wedding activity at the Blanchard House. McCords will be able to host the group.

On August 18th, ICHS member Sharon Vosovik from Lowell is planning a shower at the Blanchard House. Guests will be in attendance from noon to 2:30, and time needs to be negotiated for set-up and take-down. They ask the Board's permission to have a spiked punch and about 45 guests. Hosts for this event will be Barb Ehlert and Linda Ciangi.

A membership from last November was just discovered which had not gotten on

the mailing list. Apology has been extended to the person, and the oversight will be corrected.

Hank Knoop, Gerry Perry, and Ron Story are planning to meet with Don Jandernoa RE: the Greenview Point project in the near future.

A \$100 donation was received from Mary Esther Daddazio to be used for carpeting when necessary.

A request was received for some genealogical assistance; it was forwarded to the Genealogical Society.

Most Summer Sundays hosts and hostesses are scheduled now, but more volunteers are always welcomed.

It was suggested to hire someone to clean four hours each month. The Board will consider the matter for future discussion.

A motion was made by Doni Knoop and supported by Barb Ehlert to sponsor an upcoming Chamber Breakfast at Olivera's on behalf of the ICHS. President Ciangi noted that the funds would come from donations made towards the Fabulous 50's weekend in August by the "Super Boosters" - a public school support organization.

It was suggested that we try to present programs for next year's ICHS meetings about the history of business buildings in downtown Ionia.

Gerry Perry also brought along photos of himself in his High School football uniform circa 1930. Linda Ciangi will get these enlarged and add them to her displays in Ionia's downtown store windows.

Meeting was adjourned.

*Right — A flier describing a delightful film about Ionia. We have copies of this movie, if anyone is interested! (Not sure what year this was, though. Ask Joe McCord.)*

## Upcoming Programs and Events

**Sunday, July 29th, 1 to 4 p.m.**

The Blanchard House will be open to the public for "Summer Sunday" tours and displays.

**Wednesday, August 1, 7:00 p.m.**

**Regular Membership Meeting**  
at the Blanchard House

**Sunday, August 5th, 1 to 4 p.m.**

The Blanchard House will be open to the public for "Summer Sunday" tours and displays.

**Sunday, August 12th, 1 to 4 p.m.**

The Blanchard House will be open to the public for "Summer Sunday" tours and displays.

**Sunday, August 19th, 1 to 4 p.m.**

The Blanchard House will be open to the public for "Summer Sunday" tours and displays.

**Sunday, August 26th, 1 to 4 p.m.**

The Blanchard House will be open to the public for "Summer Sunday" tours and displays.

**Wednesday, September 5, 7:00 p.m.**

**Regular Membership Meeting**  
at the Blanchard House

## The Ionia Fishing and Hunting Club

presents

## 'WE'RE IN THE MOVIES'

An Historical Picture of Ionia People and Ionia Vicinity  
IN NATURAL COLOR

Woven Through This Picture is Romance and Comedy, With a Cast of Local People. The Scenes Depict the Civic, Industrial and Business Life of Ionia, and Include the Schools, Churches, Public Buildings and Many Local Businesses and Industries

### THE CAST OF CHARACTERS

MRS. JACK FLECKENSTEIN	MRS. SMITH	FRED WORTMAN	FARMER CORNTASSEL
MURREL JINKS	GARY OWENS	MRS. V. NIELSEN	MRS. CORNTASSEL
DICK SCHLERNITZAUER	"JOE"	JACK FLECKENSTEIN	MR. SMITH
MARIAN WILSON	"MARY"	LUZETTE, the Old Maid Aunt	RAY TAFEL

MANY OTHER IONIA PEOPLE, AND THE HIGH SCHOOL BAND

### SCENES TAKEN AT

IONIA COUNTY PARK	IONIA COUNTY GARAGE	THE ROTARY CLUB
THE SKEET FIELD	ALL SCHOOLS INCLUDING	THE LIONS CLUB
IONIA FIRE BARN	MANY CLASSES	THE CITY COUNCIL
THE CITY HALL	GRAND TRUNK DEPOT	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RIVERSIDE PARK		ALL OF THE CHURCHES

### TICKETS ON SALE BY

Boy Scouts — Club Members — at Fate's Food Market  
Sullivan's Dairy — Frank's 5c to \$1.00 Store

**IONIA ARMORY**  
**Thursday and Friday**  
**APRIL 18 and 19**

**Advance Price 25c - At the Door 30c**

A JOHN B. ROGERS PRODUCTION

# Mrs. Criffield in 1885...

Several members of the ICHS trekked up to Belding on Friday, July 6th, to the Beldrockton Museum to attend a presentation by Barbara Steele. The presentation was sponsored by the Tri-River Museums Group. Ms. Steele, in the character of Mrs. Criffield, portrayed to the audience what life for a lady was like in late Victorian America, facing "the obstacles and insecurities of the average woman; married to the average man; living in an average community." The presentation was accompanied by a pot luck lunch, after which Barbara showed the attendees how to appraise heirlooms such as buttons, glassware, china and jewelry.

If ever you have some interesting tidbit, story, or photograph that you think Chronicle readers would enjoy — particularly as it pertains to Ionia's colorful past, please don't hesitate to let me know. I will be glad to publish it in the Chronicle!

— D. McCord, Editor



Above - Barbara Steele as Mrs. Margaret Criffield, circa 1885.

# FAIR'S GONE!

...for this year, anyhow. Hope everyone enjoyed the event as usual. Here are a few more vintage views for your enjoyment!



The Chronicle is the official publication of the Ionia County Historical Society. It is written, edited, and published by David McCord, Secretary. Any comments, suggestions, or contributions should be directed to the editor care of the ICHS at P.O. Box 1776, Ionia, MI, 48846 or via [www.ioniahistory.org](http://www.ioniahistory.org).