

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

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

## Scouting is Historic!

Randy and Al Meyers arrived about an hour early for the September 5th ICHS meeting. They had a trailer load of very special displays to bring into the Blanchard House, unpack, and set up for the members to see. They had the help of a few local Boy Scouts, appropriately enough.

Introduced by local Scouter (and ICHS Secretary) David McCord, the Meyers Traveling Scout Museum was the program for the evening.

Randy began with the story of how he had become interested in Scouting memorabilia, starting with a few family heirlooms and beginning to acquire others from yard sales and friends. After a while, the collection began to outgrow the storage bins and closet shelves in their home near Zeeland.

His wife, Al, encouraged him to put together some display cabinets so the artifacts could be shared with others. Soon, the museum began to generate some word-of-mouth attention, and scouting families from all over began to inquire about the collection - and even more - to make donations to it.

Al Meyers then began to take an interest in Girl Scouting and its affiliated organizations. (It was only natural!) And so their collection of GSA artifacts grew as well.

The research has been sometimes difficult (don't believe everything you read on the Internet!), but always interesting... even exciting. From scrapbooks and newspaper articles to the eagerly shared stories of life-long scouters, Al and Randy have brought together a splendid display of the history of Scouting (now 100 years young) and the significant contributions that it has made - and continues to make - in the lives of its members, of communities around the world, and particularly to our own country.

Thanks to the Meyers for their wonderful display, the stories they shared, and their enthusiasm for scouting!



Scouts in Ionia County are part of the G.R. Ford Council, named for our famed Eagle Scout / President. The Michigan councils have changed several times over the years, and at one time there was an Ionia Council.



Many are familiar with the works of Norman Rockwell, many of which depicted themes of Scouting through the years. This is one of his first - a recruiting poster for Boy Scout Week in 1918.

### Minutes of the September '07 Board Meeting

The September 2007 Board Meeting was held on Wednesday the 19th at the Blanchard House at 9:00 am. Barb Ehlert provided pound cake, strawberries and whipped cream. Present were ICHS President Linda Ciangi, Gerry Perry, Barb Ehlert, Doni Knoop & Hank Knoop.

Gerry is working on

repairing (replacing?) the back door to the Blanchard House. Linda provided information regarding a local carpenter, if professional help is needed.

The Widows Walk iron work needs to be finished. We need painters to paint sections and Bob Miller and Hank will then install it.

Programs - Candidates for 2007-08:

- DVD on "The Old Chicago Road" from the Michigan Historical Society.

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### In Fond Memory...

...we remember Dennis Ehlert, ICHS member and husband of Board Member Barb Ehlert. Dennis passed away as a result of a motorcycle accident on September 12. He will always be remembered for his many skills and eagerness to help. He personally installed the lexan windows in the Carriage House and did plenty of painting and clean-up work. A plaque recognizing his contribution has been made and donated by Joe & Joan McCord to be hung in the Carriage House.

### PAINTERS NEEDED

The widows walk iron work is currently in the Carriage House and needs to be painted before it can be re-installed. Also, the ironwork on outside light posts needs a coat. Supplies will be provided - we just need the labor. If you'd like to help, please call Hank Knoop at 527-3130!

### ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

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 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Free Honorary Membership for Students under 18

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

Please Share a Little Information:

Renewing Member

New Member

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

**Minutes...**

*continued from page 1*

• A Governor Green Program was discussed... more discussion is needed.

• Video on the way 1930's Road Commission handled a major snow storm.

• Final Schedule for 07-08 need to be reviewed.

The recent ICBS Yard Sale brought in \$177, of which the ICBS profit was \$152 profit.

The Duck Races at the Ionia County Fall Festival included the sale of 302 Ducks: \$272 gross / \$222 Profit.

ID badges for workers to advertise ICBS are needed.

Renewal of Michigan Historical membership is approved \$45 fee to be paid annually.

The ICBS website needs updating and future use plans developed. Hank to work with Dave McCord on this, including the contact information on the site.

Plans to decorate store fronts for Christmas underway. First theme will be to high light the Blanchard House and the ICBS Christmas events.

Information on the December plans provided to Sara J for inclusion in an ad for Ionia with no charge to the ICBS. Details will be provided to David M for inclu-

sion in Chronicle.

The annual Chili Dawg Challenge is coming to town again for the Big Brothers / Big Sisters organization on October 25th. Kitty's Cafe will be helping by sponsoring us thanks to Joan McCord. Barb and Doni will lead the team. Linda, Mary M. Joan M, Joan G. & Stephanie to be asked for help.

Roy Bills, Louella Ludlow's brother, paints guitars and may have a display at the Dec. 8 Christmas concert at the Ionia Theatre.

Discussion about when the next Home Tour should occur. Some want in '08 and some want it to be every two (2) years. Vote at the next meeting to occur.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by Jerry Adams. It was an open discussion on how he has worked with other museums / historical societies. He highlighted that the Internet is now the most common first source for information. The use of a computer to catalog items was a small part of the discussion and will be pursued at a later date. He has offered his ongoing expertise and assistance since his roots are Ionia and include school activities with Linda C. and scouting with Gerry Perry.

Respectfully submitted by Hank Knoop.

**Order Your Rural School Newsletter today from the Ionia County Genealogical Society!**

**ORDER FORM**  
(Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

For office use only

Check No: \_\_\_\_\_  
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The newsletter will be published three times a year at a cost of \$12.00 per year. Complete the form here and send in your check or money order (no cash please) to:

**ICGS Rural School Newsletter**  
P.O. Box 516  
Lake Odessa, MI  
48849-0516



**DON'T FORGET!**

**PAY YOUR DUES BEFORE OCTOBER 1ST  
SO YOU CAN VOTE IN THE ANNUAL ELECTIONS!**

**PUT THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST**

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT  
IONIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S  
APPRAISAL  
ROADSHOW!**

**To be held at ECLECTIC  
412 W. Main St. • Ionia  
from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

*with*  
**Glen Rairigh  
of Americana Auctions**

**ORAL APPRAISALS ONLY;  
\$5.00 PER ITEM**

**The Ionia County Historical Society, Eclectic, and  
American Auctions will not be responsible for any loss  
or breakage the day of the appraisal.**

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

**DECEMBER 8th, 2007**  
The Ionia Theatre will present Fred Wolf and music of the Christmas Season. Two Shows - 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$5 in advance, \$7 at the door. See you there!

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 ICBS at P.O. Box 1776, Ionia, MI, 48846 or via www.ioniahistory.org.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Duck Race Winners!**

The Duck Race that was held at the Ionia County Fall Festival in Bertha Brock Park on September 15th was a big hit! 302 Ducks were sold, \$272 received and \$222 profit to the ICBS. Thanks to the sponsors and especially to the five Boy Scouts who waded in the creek to make sure the ducks all finished the race! Next year we have been invited back, and it will be bigger and better!

(Thanks to Hank Knoop for his chairmanship!)



**1st Place: \$25  
#639 - Paige Miller  
of Ionia**

**2nd Place: \$10  
#203 - Tabi Baker  
of Lowell.**

*More Boy Scout History: Another famous Normal Rockwell painting entitled "Our Heritage"; a group of scouts greeted by President Hoover at the White House (below), and a typical Boy Scout encampment in the early 20th century.*



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**Upcoming Programs and Events**

**Wednesday, October 3, 7:00 p.m.**  
The ICBS Annual Meeting and Election of Directors at the Blanchard House.

**BE SURE YOUR DUES ARE PAID ON TIME!**

**Sunday, October 21st, 1 to 5 p.m.**  
**Antiques Road Show Appraisal!**  
with guest appraiser Glen Rairigh at the Eclectic Gallery - 412 W. Main St., Ionia

**Thursday, October 25**  
**Big Brothers/Big Sisters Chili Dog Challenge!**  
ICBS will be selling hot dogs for Kitty's Café on Main Street in Ionia.

**Wednesday, November 7th, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Regular Membership Meeting**  
at Dood's Jewelry - 223 W. Main Street in Ionia!

**Wednesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Regular Membership Meeting**  
**Pot Luck and Christmas Stories!**  
at the Blanchard House.

**Wednesday, January 2th, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Regular Membership Meeting**  
at Ionia Theatre - 201 W. Main Street in Ionia

**Wednesday, February 6th, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Regular Membership Meeting**  
Place To Be Announced (May be at the Courthouse)

**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

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

... and more souvenirs and information!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT!**