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

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!

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. E-mail: _____ Please Share a Please Check Your Membership Type: Little Information: Regular = \$20 Renewing Member Sustaining = \$35 New Member If you're a new member, how Corporate = \$250 did you hear about us? 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.

} }

Ionia County Historical Society CHRONICLE



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



JACK-O'-LANTERN

Jack-o'-lantern, Jack-o'-lantern, You are such a funny sight. As you sit there by the window, Looking out into the night. You were once a sturdy pumpkin, growing on a curly vine. Now you are a Jack-o-lantern, See your night lights shine.

(Girl looks a little scared to me!)



'Twas Halloween night and all through the sky, The clouds hid the moon as the bats glided by. I was dressed all in white in my mama's old sheet, Walking with friends down the ghost-haunted street.

All the kids were dressed in bright costumed array, While flashlights and street lights guided our way. We giggled and laughed as we hurried to each door, Ringing or knocking, then laughing some more.

There were pumpkins aglow and skeletons dangling, Scarecrows and shadows and silver chains clanging. Grownups in masked faces opened doors in greeting, As we stood with our bags and waited for treating.

Some people say that we should not have this night, That too many kids are harmed by the sights or the fright -

But it's the one time a year when we can pretend to be Someone else for a while, not you - not even me.

Let them celebrate now, as the bats glide on by, For childhood is brief, like the blink of an eye. Listen to their laughter and let the children be Someone else for a while, not you and not even me.

Poem by Judith A. Lindberg

From the Editor: A busy month for meetings, friends! First, the regular monthly membership meeting, then the Annual Meeting, then the first meeting of the new Board to elect officers, then the monthly Board meeting. It all starts to get a little redundant, and maybe even a bit boring. But it's my job. Well, here are the minutes for the...

2007 Annual Meeting

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Ionia County Historical Society was called to order by President Linda Ciangi at 8:00 p.m. on October 3 following the regular membership meeting. It was moved by Mike Gallagher and supported by Larry Tiejema to forego the reading of the roll, the reading of notice, and the reading of the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting; the motion passed.

The Report of the President included thanks to all the members of the ICHS throughout the past 23 years, and she expressed hopes for the continued enthusiasm from the present members and the community. Linda is looking forward to continuing to work with other community organizations to promote and improve the community, whether she is re-elected as ICHS president or not. She expressed specific thanks to the Board and Officers as well as committee chairs and volunteers.

The Secretary's report consisted of thanks to the members for their understanding when errors found their way into the Chronicle, and for the occasional missed issue. Secretary David McCord stated that he would like to continue in the office if the Board and members would have him.

The Treasurer, Hank Knoop, reported that the fiscal year had ended on September 30, and that the annual report of the Treasury was presently under way. He thanked the former treasurers Bob Nixon and Larry Tiejema for their support, and noted that Larry's role as our "Accountant of Record" was invaluable.

President Ciangi then moved on to the distribution of ballots to the paid members in attendance, and the votes were collected by Sara Jezewski.

Bob Nixon put forth a motion to commend the Board, Chairpersons and Volunteers over the past year, which was unanimously supported.

No other business was forthcoming, so it was moved by Barb Ehlert and supported by Mike Gallagher to adjourn the meeting. Secretary David McCord was asked to tally the votes and the results to be announced shortly after the meeting.

The candidates on the ballot for three Board positions were Gerard Perry (incumbent), Jim Metzen (incumbent), Linda Ciangi (incumbent) and Stephanie VanderMolen. Of 19 ballots collected, the vote went to Perry, Ciangi, and VanderMolen. Jim Metzen was then applauded and recognized as Director Emeritus.

ICHS Chronicle - October 2007

Travelogues at the Ionia Theatre

November 8...... Yosemite National Park

November 15 Great Parks of Alaska

November 29..... Australia and New Zeeland

December 6.....Little Palaces-Historic Movie Houses

December 13Pacific Coast By Rail

...and many more coming in 2008!

Minutes of the October '07 Meeting

The October 3, 2007, meeting was brought to order by President Linda Ciangi at 7:00 p.m. at the Blanchard House. The Secretary's report was complimented regarding the photos used and thanks were extended to Hank Knoop for his contribution to the issue. The Treasurer's Report was passed around to interested members, and Hank Knoop explained the entries, citing September as a very good month for fund-raising this year. It was moved by Mike Gallagher and supported by Bob Nixon to accept the reports as presented.

Old business centered around the upcoming events on the Calendar:

The Appraisal Roadshow at the Eclectic on Sunday the 21st, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 25 is the Harvest Fest on Main St. in Ionia, including a Chili Dog Cook-off for the benefit of Big Brother/ Big Sisters. Doni K. and Barb E. are in charge of our booth, with all the food being supplied by Kitty's Cafe. The money raised will be split between BBBS and ICHS. Plans are also underway

Come travel with

us each Thursday

at 9:30 a.m. for a

FREE travel video.

sponsored by the

Ionia County

Historical Society.

to display a scarecrow on a Main St. lightpost, and volunteers are needed. You are invited to wear a Hallowe'en costume if vou like.

Under new business:

Tony Raymor of Accentric Designs has volunteered to build a new screen door for the back of the Blanchard House which will match the style and material of the others.

There are still additional painting and repair jobs to be tackled on the steps and railings in the back of the house. If not enough volunteers are forthcoming, the Board asks the members if professional help should be contacted. It was moved by Bob Nixon and supported by Doni Knoop to do so. Hank K. did note that the ironwork for the widow's walk is now painted and ready to be re-installed.

Holiday decorations and cleaning will be done in November. (An early start is important.) The first week of November will be cleaning week, and anyone who would like to help with that or the holiday decor, please contact Doni K.

Marilyn Nash and Linda Ciangi, with the help of DDA volunteers, will be decorating

windows in empty storefronts along Main St. If anyone has decorations they'd like to donate, contact Enrich, where they can be dropped off between 9:00 and 3:00 on weekdays, or by appointment (check with Dave Cook at the Theatre).

December 8th will be a luncheon at the Blanchard House at noon (see advertisement) and the "Peace in the Valley" concert with Fred Wolfe will be at the Theatre at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the concert will be available soon, \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. The SSPP Children's Choir will open for the first show, and the second show opener is yet to be confirmed

Barb Ehlert is willing to chair the 2008 Historic Home Tour next May. Several members voiced their support and willingness to help.

Jerry Adams will be installing the Museum software soon and training will be available to interested members. This software will help us catalog and track our valuable collections.

Artist Roy Bills is well known in music industry circles for his portraits of performers painted on guitars. He has graciously donated a guitar with a portrait of Garth Brooks on it to be raffled by the ICHS this winter. After some discussion it was decided to raffle this off before Christmas, and offer tickets at upcoming events. Hank Knoop will get the necessary permits and tickets will be printed. Linda Ciangi will contact the media for publicity and possible support.

David McCord read a report from Joan McCord (absent from the meeting) which outlined a proposal from Glen Rairigh (the appraiser) and Jim Carlyle (of WION Radio) to conduct a "Heat the House" fund raising campaign over the winter months. They would publicize the event, and McCords would provide recognition for donations at certain amounts, plus a plaque of all donors to be displayed at the Blanchard House, A dedicated account needs to be set up at Firstbank to deposit the funds. It was moved by Jim Metzen and supported by Knoops to proceed with the campaign, with the McCords as chairpersons, and with Joan McCord and Hank Knoop on the signature card at the bank. The motion passed

unanimously. Sara Jezewski from the DDA Two Shows - 3:30 addressed the members of the ICHS next. She is pursuing her Masters Degree in Historical Preservation at Eastern. As part of her requirements, she will be updating and enhancing the National Register Report from

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!

would serve in the office again.

David McCord was nominated

by Linda Ciangi for the office of

Secretary, supported by Barb

Ehlert, and summarily voted

by Linda Ciangi for the office of

Treasurer, supported by Barb

Ehlert, and summarily elected

needed a Corresponding Secre-

tary - an office which had been

vacant for some time. It was de-

cided to bring this position to

the attention of the members at

the next meeting to see if anyone

was interested in serving. (This

office would include recording

donations, returning paperwork

associated with the donations,

sending out thank-yous and

notices, as well as general corre-

spondence on behalf of the ICHS

The Board was asked to open

the Blanchard House to host

two upcoming meetings of the

Ionia Women's Festival commit-

tee - Nov. 7 and Dec. 5 at noon.

President Ciangi noted that

an ad was being developed to

appear in the Country Register

regarding Ionia's "Hometown

the concert and Historical Soci-

ety events. A proof was passed

around, and approved with a

Committees should be set up.

and that this should be ad-

dressed by the Board at a future

meeting to help facilitate long-

Discussion ensued concern-

ing the schedule of Board Meet-

ings and the fact that Stephanie

and David are not able to attend

the daytime meetings. It was

concluded that the Board would

meet on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at

9:00 a.m. (on the established

schedule), but that the Board

would convene briefly at 6:00

p.m. at the Blanchard House

prior to the regular November

meeting to include those who

could not attend on the 17th.

The meeting schedule will be

further defined at a future time.

The New Board's

Second Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned

The October 17, 2007, ICHS

Board Meeting was brought to

order by President Linda Ciangi

at 9:00 a.m. at the Blanchard

Arrangements for the No-

vember meeting are complete;

the members will meet at the

Eclectic Gallery and visit Main

St. Treasures next door, then

return to Eclectic for our meet-

ing. Steele St. Coffee Co. will be

furnishing the coffee, additional

refreshments by Joe & Joan

McCord. These are the first two

stops honoring the merchants

who have preserved their tin

It was noted that Standing

plans, including

Barb noted that the ICHS

Hank Knoop was nominated

into office.

to the position.

as necessary.)

This was approved.

Christmas"

few corrections.

range plans.

at 9:25 p.m.

House.

1978 on Ionia's historic architecture - primarily the Italianate style. She will be seeking information on the buildings and their histories, and will appreciate any help she can get. She also hopes that it will become an ongoing project to be continually

Robert Nixon noted that there were over 15 paid members present - the required minimum to convene the annual meeting. With that observation, the motion was put forth to adjourn the regular membership meeting, which was done at 7:58 p.m.

The New Board's **First Meeting:**

The new Board of Directors of the ICHS gathered following the Annual Meeting to elect officers and address business of immediate concern.

The Board was brought to order by President Linda Ciangi at 8:45 p.m. and the election of officers was addressed. Doni Knoop nominated Linda Ciangi for President; Barb Ehlert moved that the nominations for President be closed, supported by Stephanie VanderMolen. The Board the unanimously elected

The Office of Vice President has been filled by Gerard Perry for the past year, and he was again nominated for the position. Due to his absence, it was decided to table the vote until he could be contacted to see if he

DECEMBER 8th, 2007

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.

— D. McCord, Editor

updated and enhanced.

Linda for another term.

The Ionia Theatre will present Fred Wolfe and music of the Christmas Season. 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

Upcoming Programs and Events

Thursday, October 25

Big Brothers/Big Sisters Chili Dawg Challenge!

ICHS 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 Eclectic at 412 W. Main Street in Ionia.

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

Saturday, December 8, 12:00 noon

Blanchard House Holiday Luncheon

Program by Helene Dunn, ticket \$10 and are limited! Get yours at Main St. Treasures, 414 W. Main in Ionia, or call Joan at 527-3369.

Concert follows at Ionia Theatre, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance / \$7 at the door.

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

table games. Doni Knoop and Barb Ehlert are in charge of the kitchen

our special guest this year.) The Tri-River Museums Group met in Portland on Oct. 16. The next meeting will be at Charlton Park in Hastings on Nov. 13 at 10:00 a.m. There are now 16 museums in the group There will be an "All Churches

Bazaar" at the KofC on November 17th. Linda C. will check to see if we could set up a table and sell raffle tickets at the event. The evening of November 30

The Blanchard House lawn

needs some care. Joan McCord

has spoken to the Sheriff's De-

partment and they will try to

help if the Alt Ed students can-

not. Sheriff's Dept. will provide

us with snow removal this sea-

son. Carol Gallagher scraped the

back steps in prep to be painted.

There is no report of progress

on the new back door from Tony

the "Heat the House" campaign.

There is \$150 in the account al-

ready. Thanks to Glen Rairigh

plan for the 2008 Home Tour.

She hopes to get 6 houses plus

the Blanchard House and Court-

house. It's planned for May 17

from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — inter-

ested members should call Barb

Things are all set for the Ap-

praisal Roadshow on October

21st at Eclectic. The committee

Metzen, Gloria & Dave Cook,

Pam Withrow, Bob Boufford and

Boy Scout Troop 85. (Last min-

ute note: Bob Boufford will not

be able to help - he is recover-

ing from a broken leg.) Thanks

to Celia Jackson for her gener-

coming October 25 on Main St.

We will be set up in front of Kit-

ty's Café between 4 and 8 p.m.

Thanks to Linda, Doni, & Barb,

set for cleaning and decorating

the Blanchard House for the

holidays. Anyone who can spare

some time please call Linda at

527-4945. (Santa Claus will be

November 2 and 3 have been

The Chili Dawg competition is

Genevieve Werdehoff, Mary

Barb Ehlert is beginning to

The account is open now for

Raymor.

at 522-0844.

will be the Ionia Christmas Parade. We have had a lead on a horse-drawn wagon which could carry some ICHS members and a banner. Contact Linda C. if you'd like to participate. The line-up is at 5:30 p.m. and the parade starts at 6:30. This is in cooperation with the DDA.

December 1 is the Mrs. Claus Bazaar at the Middle School. Linda has contacted the Commission on Aging about a booth for the ICHS where we can sell raffle and concert tickets, as well

A Christmas Luncheon is being hosted at the Blanchard House on December 8th/ Tickets are being sold at Main St. Treasures. Girl Scouts will be serving lunch, and Helene Dunn will deliver a humorous program. Lunch will be at 12:00 noon followed by cards or other

Fred Wolfe presents a concert of Gospel and Christmas music at the Ionia Theatre on Dec. 8th. The 3:30 show will be opened by the SSPP Children's Choir, and there is a 7:30 show also. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door, presently on sale at the Theatre, Kitty's Café, Dood's Jewelry, Keeper of the Crows, Steele St. Coffee Co., Lamplight Grille and SoZo's.

The Blanchard House will be open for tours on Sunday December 2, 9, and 16 from 1:00p. m. to 4:00 p.m. — volunteers please!

The license for the Garth Brooks Portrait Guitar raffle has been applied for and everything is ready for the tickets, which will go on sale as soon as the permit is received and tickets can be printed. The date for the drawing is still TBD. "Balloons and Gifts" on Main St. has consented to handle the ticket sales. We will soon have pictures to help with ticket sales publicity

posters and fliers.

A date needs to be set for Jerry Adams to come and install the software on our computer, and for training in its use. Because the house is not heated in January, February, and March, a date will be set for this after the cold season.

The ICHS is going to have 15second ads on the screen at the Ionia Theatre. This is a free service for non-profits. Their ads will be shown every day before each movie. Thanks to Dave Cook and Cassie Frost.

A new membership list is available on request. We are continually updating this list as memberships come in.

Security deposits are paid to the ICHS for rental of the house, and these need to be returned to the renting parties when their event is complete. There are several such events in the near future: a wedding on Oct. 20, a possible Christmas party on Dec 22 or 23, and a catered dinner on Dec 30.

Don't forget to purchase your tickets early for the ICHS Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 8th! Seating is limited to the first 50 - tickets are \$10 each on sale now at Main Street Treasures, 414 West Main, Ionia