

# Ionia County Historical Society CHRONICLE



The Almost Monthly Publication of the Ionia County Historical Society — July 2008



July is Ionia Free Fair Month, and the ICHS was well represented at the Antique Village area. Thanks to the volunteers who put together the display and staffed the area this year, and to the Queens Reception committee, too.

The winner of the Garth Brooks portrait guitar by Roy Bills is Shirley Yeager of Lansing. The lucky ticket was drawn on Sunday, June 22, at the B-93 Birthday Bash. The guitar raffle raised \$1200 for the Ionia County Historical Society preservation project. It will be used to purchase supplies for scanning and preserving old photos and exhibiting some. In the photo below are ICHS President Linda Ciangi, winner Shirley Yeager, and ICHS Board Meber Barb Ehlert.



The Free Fair Art Department was once again supported with three prizes from the ICHS for outstanding entries with a Historical theme. The winning entries are pictured here. Thanks to the ICHS judges for their time!

## Minutes of the July '08 Meeting

The weather did not at all cooperate to bring the members together on July 2 for the annual potluck dinner. Power was out throughout the community, and wind and rain were threatening. Nine hearty souls braved the dark and showed up at the Blanchard House where they met, drank, and ate without electricity. (Just like the olden days!) A few battery-operated shop lights and one kerosene lamp created a unique ambience for the evening.

As is the custom, there was a very brief business meeting as well. A thank you was issued for those who worked at the B-93 Birthday Bash with a brief discussion on the attire that the audience wore (or didn't wear). The winner of the guitar raffle was Shirley Yeager of Lansing. She bought five tickets at the Car Rally when she went to the Roy Bills exhibit in the Eclectic Gallery. (Barb or Linda have pictures of Shirley with the guitar.) The guitar raffle netted the ICHS a little over \$1,200 profit.

We also discussed the Ionia Historical Calendar for 2009 fund raiser. Linda is heading this up, but in her absence (a daughter was getting married on July 2) she asked that the membership approve a motion for the ICHS to begin assembling the ads, potential photos, etc. This motion was made and approved with the following amendments: First, the calendars should feature a combination of old buildings as well as people. Second, the earlier the calendars are available the better. If the calendars cannot be ready by November 15, we should not proceed with the project. We must have the calendars available for early Christmas sales!

(Thanks to Hank Knoop for sharing these notes with us, as the Secretary (yours truly) was not at the meeting, being without power, etc.)

## No "Holidays" In August, but...

- August 2, 1909 – the Lincoln Penny was issued, amid some controversy.
- August 5, 1884 – Statue of Liberty's cornerstone was laid
- August 6, 1945 – A-bomb destroys Hiroshima
- August 10, 1846 – Smithsonian Institution was founded
- August 21, 1959 – Hawaii granted statehood

### Famous August Birthdays:

Carroll O'Connor, Myrna Loy, Martha Stewart, Tony Bennett, Neil Armstrong, Andy Warhol, Lucille Ball, Garrison Keillor, Stan Freberg, Billie Burke, Esther Williams, Rory Calhoun, Antonio Banderas, Jimmy Dean, Steve Wozniak, Cantinflas, Don Ho, Alfred Hitchcock, Bert Lahr, Annie

Oakley, Huntz Hall, Napoleon Bonaparte, Fess Parker, Maureen O'Hara, Mae West, Davy Crockett, Meriwether Lewis, Robert Redford, Willie Shoemaker, Gene Roddenberry, Ogden Nash, Benjamin Harrison, H.P. Lovecraft, Ray Bradbury, Claude Debussy, Deng Xiaoping, Barbara Eden, Gene Kelly, Durward Kirby, Sean Connery, Mel Ferrer, Van Johnson, Ruby Keeler, Mother Teresa, Lyndon B. Johnson, Scott Hamilton, Donald O'Connor, Elizabeth Ann Seton, Ingrid Bergman, Fred MacMurray, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, James Coburn, Arthur Godfrey - and Annette McCord!

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, corrections (of course), or contributions should be directed to the editor c/o the ICHS at P.O. Box 1776, Ionia, MI, 48846 or via [www.ioniahistory.org](http://www.ioniahistory.org).

## Minutes of the July Board Mtg.

The July 16 Board Meeting was brought to order by president Linda Ciangi at 7:00 at the Blanchard House.

Before addressing the items on the agenda, Gerry Perry asked that the editor publish a correction in the Chronicle, viz: the local Indian Pewamo was NOT a Potawatomi, but was an Odawa (a.k.a. Ottawa) Indian. (Done!)

Treasurer Hank Knoop noted the addition of two new members, Dennis and Margaret Heybarger to the Society.

The display at the Free Fair's Antique Village display is up now (thanks to the volunteers) and Doni K. moved that we allow the barrel churn to be displayed there. The motion was supported by Barb Ehlert and passed.

Plans are in place to welcome the Fair Queens on Saturday for a pre-parade reception at the Blanchard House as usual. Joan McCord has everything in place for the event.

Jerry Adams has installed the museum software on the ICHS computer now, and has asked the Society for a receipt amounting to a \$1000 donation for the record. This motion was collectively made, supported, and passed by the Board. He's looking forward to doing some training, and Linda C. will check to see if a Saturday might work out so those with full-time employment might participate.

Conservation supplies, financed by the recent Ionia County Foundation Grant, have been ordered. Thursday evening workshops (beginning this coming Thursday) will include making use of some of them.

The noted Thursday evening workshops will also include sorting of photos and documents in the ICHS collections, identifying and categorizing them, eventually to be recorded and carefully stored.

The "Duel of the Decades" event progresses — windows being decorated, local organizations being visited to explain the event and invite participation. As part of this process, President Ciangi visited the Rotary Club, and will present the opportunity at the Free Fair Ladies Day and the Chamber Breakfast coming up.

The calendar on the web site has been updated. In addition, notice has been received from the Michigan Historical Society, the Travel Michigan office, and others, about cross-posting ICHS events on their calendars via e-mail. Another on-line community for such information called "Common Corners" was also shared.

The planned Christmas Photo fund raiser is moving forward, and both fliers and promotional cards are being distributed by Ms. Becca Usher, the photographer.

The nominating committee has not yet begun to seek nominees for the upcoming elections. David McCord, Chairman, and Dave Cook, seek a third volunteer. Nominations for two Board positions are up for election this fall; September's meeting is the deadline for nominations.

Stephanie VanderMolen is still working on the Mystery Theater idea, suggesting that a February "Valentine's Day" theme be considered. More to come...

Joan McCord reported that some pitchers had been left uncleaned, and because they would be needed soon, she cleaned them. Note to future users: don't leave uncleaned utensils at the house!

Program schedule for the coming year needs to be arranged, and the Board members were asked to bring suggestions to the next meeting, including those from the general membership. Stephanie V. relayed requests for demonstrations of vintage skills and forgotten pastimes. Programs on fish and wildlife topics were also suggested.

The president then reported on the status of the Calendar project. It had been planned to put together a calendar with local historic photos as a fund-raiser (based on the popularity of a similar calendar last year). She had been working with Mary at OfficeWorks to work out the cost and production schedule. It appears that collecting all the photos and selling the advertisements to finance the printing may not be done in time. Based on discussion, Doni K. moved that the project be postponed until next year, getting a much earlier start on photo collection and ad sales. The motion was supported by Stephanie and passed. Linda C. said she would continue to chair the project.

We're nearly out of Blanchard House brochures! The Board authorized \$500 to print as many as can be got for that price, and President Ciangi will place the order with OfficeWorks. The hope is to get a quantity of new brochures that can be distributed at the Chamber booth at the Free Fair.

Fall Festival will take place at Bertha Brock Park on September 20. Hank Knoop will again be chairman for the Duck Race, and hope that the local Scout Troop will help out again. The ICHS will

also be giving away apples, and Hank is looking for some help, too.

The August meeting will be held at the Knoop farm on North State St. The program will be the "bird man" with his owl, falcon, and eagle.

(Yours truly had to leave the meeting at this point. Since no additional notes have reached me, I will assume that no other business of the Society was transacted. — D. McCord, Secretary.)



**Have your family portraits taken at one of Ionia's most historic and beautiful homes! Photographer Becca (Bales) Usher will take your portraits and create unique holiday cards, or you may choose to order prints.**

**Portrait Sitting: \$40**

**50% will be given to the Ionia County Historical Society.**

**A variety of custom holiday cards available.**

**Prices start at \$18 for 24 cards!**

**PRINT PRICES:**

**4x6 = \$7**

**10x10 = \$20**

**5x7 = \$9**

**11x14 = \$70**

**8x10 = \$15**

**16x20 = \$92**

**October 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th.**

**Evening and daytime appointments available. You may schedule by contacting Becca directly at 616-560-5530 or beccausher@yahoo.com**

**Visit Becca's website at [www.photosbybecca.com](http://www.photosbybecca.com)**

**Visit the ICHS website at [www.ioniahistory.org](http://www.ioniahistory.org) to see photos of the Blanchard House and the many**



## Orders are being taken now!

The Ionia County Genealogical Society is proud to announce the pending publication of "A Collection of Memories & Personal Stories from World War II Veterans of Ionia County."

A hardbound book of over 1,000 pages, collected and compiled by Bonnie (Bonn) Jackson contains biographical stories, memoirs, and news by and about the men and women who served in our country in that great conflict.

### COST:

\$50.00 + \$3.00 sales tax for Michigan residents + \$7.00 shipping to U.S. addresses. **PRE-ORDER BY JULY 31, 2008**, and save \$10.00 off the price of your book!

For more information, and to order your copy today, write to: ICGS-WWII, P.O. Box 516, Lake Odessa, MI 48849, or contact Pam Swiler at 616-374-3141 or pkswiler@voyager.net



## DUEL OF THE DECADES is coming soon!

Thursday, August 7  
"Malt Shop Memories"

Enjoy the 50s Variety Show with an "Early Elvis" tribute by Fred Wolfe, a Buddy Holly tribute by Brian Grob, plus Ionia's own Rydells doo-wop vocalists. (Proceeds to Ionia County Historical Society)

**A • N • D**  
Thursday, August 21  
"Beatlemania!"

The Ed Sullivan Show comes to town, starring SHOUT! with their early Beatles tribute, and several other 60s acts, too!

(Proceeds to March of Dimes)

**Ionia Theatre**  
7:30 p.m. - Tickets: \$10

## HISTORIC IONIA NOW ON DVD!

COPIES AVAILABLE FROM THE ICHS SOUVENIR SHOP, OR BY CALLING **527-3784**. A TOUCH OF HISTORY FOR YOUR OWN VIDEO LIBRARY, ONLY \$15 EA. GET YOURS TODAY!

## What's Up There?

### Find Out on October 11th...

The "Upstairs Downtown" tour in Ionia's historic business district will include nine second and third floor sites. You can see what wonders are generally hidden from the sidewalks, and learn some fascinating facts about "What's up there."

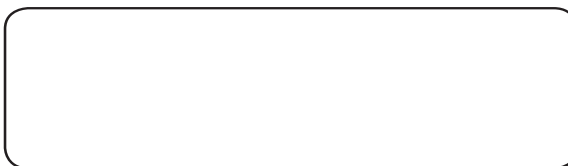
Tickets are priced at \$2.00 for each location, or a package deal for the entire tour [to be announced]. There will also be a door prize, and more! Mark your calendar now: Saturday October 11, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This event benefits the ICHS in cooperation with the Ionia Area Chamber of Commerce observation of the "Rediscover Downtown" program.

Here's the latest  
issue of the...

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P.O. Box 1776  
Ionia, MI 48846

[www.ioniahistory.org](http://www.ioniahistory.org)



## JOIN TODAY!

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
- Business Buddy = \$40
- Corporate = \$250
- Life = \$1000
- Free to Students under 18
- Gift = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Share a  
Little Information:

- Renewing Member
- New Member

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Thanks!

## Upcoming Programs and Events

Wednesday, August 6th, 7:00 p.m.

***Membership Meeting at Knoop's Farm***

***912 North State Road (M-66)***

Special Program will be "The Bird Man"  
with live Birds of Prey to see.

Thursday, August 7th, Ionia Theatre

***"Duel of the Decades - '50s Concert"***

Featuring Elvis, Buddy Holly, and more!

Thursday, August 24th, Ionia Theatre

***"Duel of the Decades - '60s Concert"***

Featuring the Beatles (Shout!), and more!

Tuesday, August 20, 7:00 p.m.

ICHS Board Meeting at the Blanchard House

***INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE ICHS  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS?*** Contact

David McCord, Nominations Chairman - 527-3784

*For additional events and activities, please read the  
minutes, and refer to the website. Thanks.*