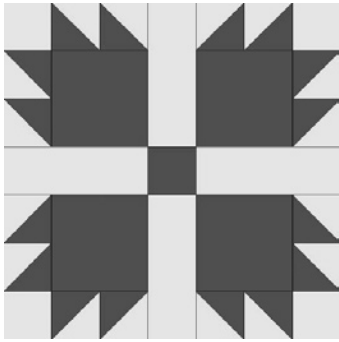




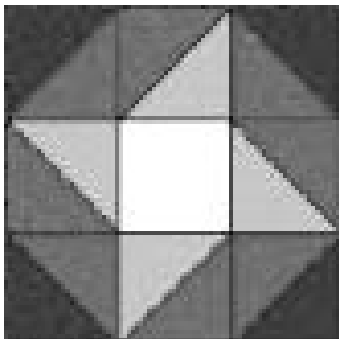
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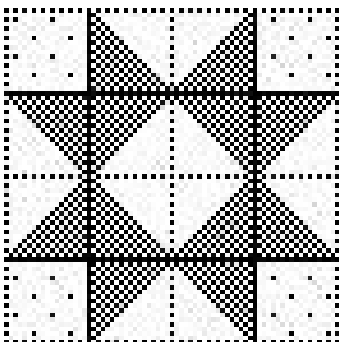
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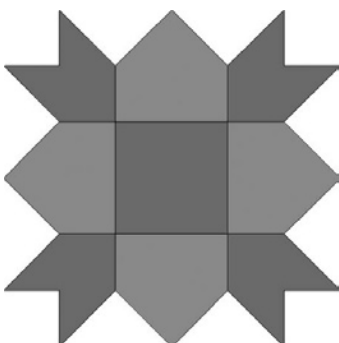
The Bear Claw ^



The Friendship ^



The Ohio Sawtooth ^



The Weathervane ^

QUILTS!

When the Nixon's moved to Ionia 30-something years ago, Joan joined a group of Quilters affiliated with their church. Now, many, many quilts later, Joan is still a fervent participant in the art and skill of quilting. She has created and collected a wide variety of quilts over the years ("too many to carry"), and brought a few samples to share with the members of the ICHS at our August meeting.

The first example she showed was a "crazy quilt" of Belding silk. The pieces of fabric had the textile factory name imprinted on the selvage, so the identity was assured before the quilt was sewn together. "Crazy" quilts, explained Joan, were traditionally not for bedding, but for lap quilts.

Joan unfolded many samples of her outstanding collection, many of which she made herself, and every one with a story to tell.

One of them is over 100 years old, displaying fine embroidery on the reverse of a spider-and-web pattern. Another was made from blocks made by an 11-year-old girl over 75 years ago from patterns published in the Lansing State Journal.

Popular patterns in small quilts and table runners included a "Cathedral Window," "Christmas Stars," "Maple Leaf," and "Irish Squares." Joan showed several examples of the "Drunkard's Path" pattern, and explained how the pieces could be fit together to form many intricate and beautiful variations. In addition to patterns and colors of printed fabrics were several examples of embroidery and appliqué using different techniques and styles.

Joan offered words of advice to quilt makers and quilt owners. Silks especially should be stored in the dark; quilts should be USED and not packed away; stored quilts should be taken out and refolded periodically; they are best stored in pillow cases, fluffed and loosely shelved. For quilt makers, always label your work with your name, date, and place, plus why and for whom the quilt was made. All this will ensure that the quilts will be preserved and enjoyed and appreciated for generations to come.

Many thanks to Joan for her interesting and entertaining presentation, and thanks to Sarah Hamilton for her display of miniature quilts and needlework, too!

Here is just one example of the many designs that can be made using the "Drunkard's Path" quilt pattern.



Summertime, Summertime, Summertime, Sum-Sum-Summertime,

A lot of events, activities, and general happenings around the Historical Society this summer! And I've been quite busy myself, which is why we didn't have a July Chronicle this year. Sorry about that. I will attempt to make up for that this issue and next, and I thank you for your understanding. — David McCord, Secretary/Editor.

MINUTES of the August '09 Mtg.

The August 5, 2009, meeting of the Ionia County Historical Society was called to order by President Linda Ciangi. We welcomed new member Sharon Dunsmore, as well as all members and guests.

Linda noted that there had been no Board Meeting in July due to the busy schedule with the Free Fair and other activities during the month. The Board will be meeting again on August 19th.

Secretary David McCord apologized for the lack of a Chronicle and published minutes for the month, also citing the busy season as the cause. It was moved by Joan McCord, and supported by Linda Ciangi to "accept his excuses in lieu of a Chronicle" for this month. (The motion carried.) It was also noted that the Chronicle is available via e-mail, and soon we hope that the Internet will be the preferred

Continues on page 2

method of delivery, which will save us significant money. (The newsletter printing and postage runs about \$100 per issue.)

Under Old Business, Linda extended thanks to all who helped out with the ICHS involvement at the Free Fair this year at the Antique Village, the ICHS Float in the parade, and the judging at the Art Department. The ICHS won first place in the non-professional category for the Float, with thanks again to our contributors — especially C&L Trucking and Lowe's. The Queen's Reception at the Blanchard House was also a success, as reported by Joan McCord.

Tour guides and hosts are needed for August 23 and August 30 at the Blanchard House — interested members please contact Linda C. If volunteers are able, we can also be open on September 6 for Labor Day weekend visits.

Plans for the Superstars concert at the Ionia Theatre are progressing, with thanks to our sponsors and to the Sentinel-Standard for their support. Gift certificates have been donated by Olivera's, the Lamplight Grill, and Kitty's Café. The members can help by selling tickets and donations to help with expenses for publicity and postage. The program is being prepared for the show listing our sponsors and including spaces for the performer information which can accommodate autographs.

Hank Knoop delivered the Treasurer's Report, which covered two months' records this time. As always, details are available on request. In summary, expenses once again surpassed income, but we are hopeful that the upcoming concert will help close that gap (and more). It was moved by Bob Nixon, supported by Stephanie VanderMolen, and passed by the members to accept the report.



Photo of our prize-winning float in the Ionia Free Fair Parade!

Hank has volunteered to chair the Nominating Committee this year. At the October meeting, we will be electing three Directors to the Board, and nominations must be complete by the September meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the Board should contact Hank K. or Linda C. The Directors whose terms are up this year are Linda C., Stephanie V., and Gerry Perry.

Hank will also be in charge of the Duck Race >quack< at the annual Fall Festival at Bertha Brock Park on September 19th. Tickets can be purchased ahead, and volunteers are welcomed to help with this fun event. Boy Scouts will be there again to help in the water, and J&J McCord will again donate several bushels of free apples for visitors.

Suggestions for programs for our 2010 meeting schedule are being sought. If anyone has seen a program they liked, or a topic they would like to have addressed at a future meeting, please contact a member of the Board.

The roof of the carriage house is in need of repair and re-shingling, and Msrs. Knoop and Perry have been gathering bids from roofing contractors. So far, it looks like about a \$4,000 project. Hank is hoping to solicit some help with grant-writing from the members of the ICHS to help fund the project, the sooner the better.

The estate of John Hague has come to the ICHS, including approx. 10 boxes of artifacts from the Ionia Elks Lodge. Many photos and documents are included, which inspired some discussion about how best to handle them. The ICHS will probably copy what can be copied and offer the originals to the families of those Elks in photos, etc.

Kathleen P. read a few e-mail requests for information which come to us via the website. These e-mails vary a lot in seeking information about families, businesses, homes and other Ionia history. If anyone would like to help with these requests, please contact a member of the Board.

Kathleen and Carol Gallagher also reported that the Garden Club is at

work on the Blanchard House gardens, and if anyone has an interest in this topic, please contact one of these members.

Joan McCord reported on the progress being made for the October 3rd "Upstairs Downtown" event. There will be nine buildings on the tour this year, and volunteers are needed to help staff the sites on the tour. The tours run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and tickets are available at Ionia OfficeWorks the day of the event. Several car clubs have been contacted, as well as a horse-and-carriage service. If you'd like to help, please contact Joan M. at 527-3369.

Joan M. also reported that the Thursday morning travelogues at the Theatre are going well, and the Airstream Club will be in town in a couple of weeks and have scheduled some historical tours in the area. The display window at the Ionia Theatre is being utilized by the Library now, and the window at the "balloon store" will be available for Historical displays.

Finally, several groups will be using the Blanchard House for meetings and tours in the coming weeks. The overall Calendar of such activities is on the sidetable in the kitchen — a place where we can keep track of such things and hopefully avoid schedule conflicts.

Our November meeting will be welcoming Duane Todd, a descendant of John C. Blanchard who will be "breaking his silence about the family" at the meeting. Kathleen Perrin shared some research she had done on the Blanchard family via the Internet, including the fate of John Jr. and the names of some boarders who lived in the house during the Blanchard's residence here. There was also conversation regarding the Blanchard involvement on Bois Blanc Island, both successes and failures. It will prove to be a very interesting meeting!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. and the podium given over to Joan Nixon for her presentation on Quilts and Quilting.

MINUTES of the Aug. '09 Board Mtg.

The ICHS Board met at the Blanchard House on August 19th at 7:00 p.m. Present were president Linda Ciangi, Kathleen Perrin (and Jim), Hank and Doni Knoop, Gerry Perry, Stephanie VanderMolen, and David McCord.

The first order of business was a recap of the Salute to the Superstars concert on the 16th. All accounts have been favorable in the extreme, and approximately 550 people attended. All the financial aspects of the event are not yet complete, but it appears that we earned something over \$2500. The Board thanked Linda C. for her efforts and enthusiasm for the project. A draft of a large thank-you piece for the Sentinel-Standard was passed around for comments and will appear in a future issue of the paper.

The Blanchard House is scheduled to be open for visitors on the afternoons of August 23 and 30, and volunteers are still needed to host. If interested, contact the ICHS President.

Hank reported that plans for the annual Duck Race >quack< are well under way, and he's looking forward to volunteers to help. The event is part of the Fall Festival at Bertha Brock Park on September 19th. Tickets for the Duck Race >quack< will be on sale before the event (\$1 each or 6 for \$5).

The Upstairs-Downtown event is in need of volunteers, too. This event was a big hit last fall, and brought in around \$750. Members are needed to help staff the 9 sites around the business district on October 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you can help, please contact Joan McCord at 527-3369. The Board discussed the future of the event, noting that staffing is the biggest challenge, and perhaps working with another organization should be considered, and perhaps other activities in town might be a possibility. Thanks were expressed to Joan McCord for her work on the project, and her ongoing publicity efforts on behalf of the Society.

The next two Thursday evenings (August 20 and 27) are scheduled "work sessions" at the Blanchard House. Pastor Larry Brown has arranged for some live music shows in the lot near the theatre those two nights, billed as "cool nights, warm music."

The Accessions Committee, chaired by Kathleen Perrin, has yet to meet — still trying to schedule a time when the majority of the committee can get together. There are definite tasks to be tackled, and members now ready and willing to participate once a meeting date can be found. Any other members interested in helping to inventory our collections and help with donations are invited to call Kathleen for more information.

Kathleen also reported that the Garden Club has several suggestions being reviewed for garden treatments around the Blanchard House. They hope to have their recommendations ready to present to the ICHS members

Remember to DO THE DUES!

Join the ICHS and cast your vote this October!



Our community is counting on us to preserve Ionia's history and heritage. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, contact Hank Knoop today!

at the September meeting.

On Sept. 26th, the Ionia Theatre is hosting a “Buckaroo Ball” event. This will include many activities and prizes, lasting from 7:00 p.m. to midnight. The Board discussed a contribution to the auction, which is being held to benefit the Theatre. It was decided to auction off a free Evening at the Blanchard House (a \$300 value).

President Cangil will be coordinating with the Ionia merchants who will be decorating rooms in the Blanchard House for this coming Christmas Season. The house could use a little cleaning up before these folks do their decorating. More to come on this subject in future.

The president also asked the Board to think about putting together a Christmas Wish-List for the Society that we could present to the members as way to inform everyone of projects and plans being considered as well as hinting strongly for donations.

Hank Knoop reported that the Nominating Committee is seeking interested members to fill the three available positions on the Board of Directors at the October elections. Outgoing Directors are Linda Ciangi, Stephanie VanderMolen, and Gerry Perry. Gerry's third term is completed, meaning that he cannot be re-elected, but the other two are up for re-election. Others interested are invited to contact Hank to be included on the ballot. **REMINDER:** Your membership dues must be paid before the October election in order to participate.

Program ideas for the next season's meetings were discussed, and members are encouraged to make suggestions or requests. There are still six unscheduled opportunities for programs next year that have not been scheduled.

Linda C. will check with the Chamber on the status of the ChiliDog Challenge for this year.

Stephanie V. presented the Board with an opportunity to become involved in a “Harvest Fest” at the Boyce School, specifically to utilize the nature trail on the school property in some way. The Board asked Stephanie to bring more details once the plans are further along,

and meanwhile consideration will be given to ways the ICHS might be involved. It's an opportunity to be seen by students and families. This will be a mid-October event.

November 12 the ICHS will be hosting the Chamber After Hours gathering at the house, and on November 17th the Tri-River Museums Group will hold their meeting here.

Hank will forward member's e-mail addresses to David McCord so an electronic list can be put together to distribute the Chronicle on-line in the future. The objective is to save some publication and postage costs, and perhaps make the newsletter available in a more timely manner to those e-mail subscribers. Paper editions would still be available for those not on e-mail, and to use as hand-outs and permanent record in the files.

Negotiations are under way with a service to repaint the trim on the Blanchard House. More on this as plans are formulated.

Hank K. hopes to fix a light fixture in one of the upstairs closets that is presently always ON due to a broken switch.

Hank is also gathering information to submit for a possible grant from the Community Foundation to help with the new roof on the Carriage House for next season.

President Ciangi asks members to be thinking about fund-raising opportunities for next year also. Planning well ahead for these will help ensure that they succeed, especially in terms of scheduling and staffing.

The Board voted to spend \$50 towards membership in the State Historical Society, firstly to get into their directory, and also to allow access to their members-only resources. (Moved by Kathleen, supt. by Linda). The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

To receive the Chronicle via the Internet, please be sure that the Secretary, David McCord, has your e-mail address! This will save us money each month, and you can get your Chronicle quicker, too!

Upcoming Programs and Events

Thursday Evening Workshops at the Blanchard House.

*This is a great way to get involved.
Stop in - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.*

Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting at the Blanchard House
Program: **Ben Merchant's Model T**

Saturday, September 19, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00p.m.
Ionia County Fall Festival at
Bertha Brock Park — and ICHS DUCK RACE
(See ad on this page)

Wednesday, Sept 23, 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting at the Blanchard House

Saturday, Sept 26, 7:00 p.m.
“BUCKAROO BALL” at the Ionia Theatre!

Saturday, October 3, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
UPSTAIRS DOWNTOWN TOURS
All over downtown Ionia!
(See ad on this page)

Wednesday, October 7, 7:00 p.m.
ANNUAL MEETING and **ELECTION**
of officers — at the Blanchard House
(*Be sure your dues are paid so you can vote!*)

Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting at the Blanchard House

*For other upcoming events - visit the ICHS
website at ioniahistory.org.*

quack*

***I could win
you big money
— and lots of
fun, too!**

The Historical Society
is having a Duck Race
again at the Ionia

County Fall Festival in Bertha
Brock Park on September 19th. Sponsor a Duck
for only a dollar (or 6 for \$5.00) and you might
win. If you'd like to help with the race, be sure to
contact Hank Knoop, our expert Duck Herder.



What's Up
There?

Find Out on
October 3rd...

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 and personal stories about “What's up there.”

Tickets are priced at a package deal for the entire tour \$10.00.

**Mark your calendar now!
Saturday, October 3
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

If you would like to volunteer to help with the tours, please call Joan McCord at 527-3369. This event benefits the Ionia County Historical Society.



the www.ioniahistory.org **CHRONICLE**

The Chronicle is the official publication of the Ionia County Historical Society. It is written, edited, and published by David McCord, Secretary. Any comments, 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.

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



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!

Join Us at the Ionia Theatre at 9:30 a.m. every Thursday for **FREE ICHS Travelogues!**

September 3 – Gliders of Greenville in WWII

Sept. 10 – Beneath the Jungle (Guatemala)

Sept. 17 – The Presidents, “George to Abe”

September 24 – The Rockies by Rail

October 1 – Maui

October 8 – Lost Worlds

Oct. 15 – The Presidents “Andrew to Franklin”

October 22 – Versailles

October 29 – Hawaii

Ionia County Historical Society 2008-09 Board of Directors & Officers

Linda Ciangi, President — 527-4945
 Kathleen Perrin, Vice Pres. — 522-0018
 Gerry Perry, Director — 527-4572
 Stephanie VanderMolen — 616-755-0731
 Barb Ehlert, Director — 522-0844
 David McCord, Secretary — 527-3784
 Hank Knoop, Treasurer — 527-3130