



The Holidays Are Upon Us



Members and guests gathered at the Blanchard House on the 7th of December for our annual Holiday Pot Luck. As usual, the food was wonderful and the company as well. Those assembled for the festivities marveled at the wonderful decorations throughout the Blanchard House, with acknowledgements to our local businesses who provided the decorations: Sid's Flowers, Main Street Treasures, Ionia Floral, and Keeper of the Crows. In addition, the special efforts of the members over the past few weeks have made the house especially festive for the season.

President Kris Haskins addressed the members with a quick review of recent activities and a preview of several events to come. Visitors in recent weeks included the Grand Rapids Women's

City Club tour, the Tri-River Museums Group, a group of Cub Scouts, and several private rentals at the house.

We were happy again to host a pick-up stop for the WION Food Drive. They collected over 8,000 pounds in donations during the three-day event. The ICHS also participated in the M-1 Credit Union's Non-Profit event in downtown Ionia.

The sales of DVD copies of the historic Ionia films have been outstanding, with orders for more coming in continually. David McCord assures everyone that more copies are in production now, just awaiting the DVD cases to put them in. Christmas gift orders will be filled on time! In addition, sales of the Bertha Brock History booklet have been brisk.

There are fewer trees on the Blanchard grounds now. Several diseased trees have been felled and the clean-up of brush and branches is underway. Through some bargaining, this process will not cost the Historical Society.

Treasurer Hank Knoop reported that expenses outpaced income over the past two months, but this was mostly due to the payment for the roof work that we had done. He expressed thanks to Larry Tiejema,

our accountant, for his generous discounts for preparing the year-end reports for 2011. Dues and donations have been very generous of late, and we realized nearly \$500 from the Cemetery Tour in October, and over \$600 at the Mrs. Claus Bazaar. Thanks again to the volunteers that made all this happen (and of course the spenders!)

The Quilt Raffle is in full swing, and tickets are available from any Board Member or at the House where the quilt is on display.

There was some talk of further promotions and plans for next year as the members finished their desserts. Several participants in the Cemetery Tour presented their characterizations for the entertainment of the guests, followed by "Season's Greetings" all around as the folks departed for the last meeting of the year.

— D. McCord, Secretary

Upcoming Programs and Events

Don't forget the Holiday Open House
December 18
at the Blanchard House!

Wednesday, January 4th, 7:00 p.m.
Program Meeting will be held at the
Signature Salon on Adams Street
(The former Grand Trunk Railroad Depot)

Wednesday, February 1st, 7:00 p.m.
Program Meeting at the
First United Methodist Church on Main St.

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

NEXT MONTH: The Grand Trunk Depot!
(We meet there instead of the Blanchard House)



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 176, Ionia, MI, 48846 or via www.ioniahistory.org.

Ionia County Historical Society
P.O. Box 176
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 176, 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!**

December 22 — No Movie (MERRY CHRISTMAS!)

January 5 — Yosemite National Park

January 12 — Bakersfield to Mojave, CA

January 19 — Scenery of the Atlantic Coast

January 26 — Anchorage to Seward

February 2 — The Appalachians

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 14, 2012

Art in the Park at Bertha Brock Park, Ionia

Ionia County Historical Society 2010-11 Board of Directors & Officers

- Kris Haskins, President — 989-855-3685
- Stephanie VanderMolen, Vice Pres. — 616-755-0731
- Kathleen Cook, Director — 527-2626
- Patty Simpson-Gokee, Director — 527-0676
- Carol Gallagher, Director — 527-0961
- David McCord, Secretary — 527-3784
- Hank Knoop, Treasurer — 527-3130