



The Almost Monthly Publication of
the Ionia County Historical Society

the CHRONICLE



Hope You Had Happy Holidays!

Summary from the MINUTES of the December '09 ICHS Board Mtg.

The December meeting of the ICHS was our annual Pot Luck and social event, which was very much enjoyed by all members and guests.

The Blanchard House with its fine holiday decorations by area merchants has been a great hit with visitors, and the house has been rented for several private parties and special events this month. Also, Sunday Open Houses were well attended.

The Board voted to renew our Chamber Membership and to pay the balance of expenses for the "Business Fater Hours" event in November.

The new season's monthly ICHS program plans are nearly done. January will be a special showing of "Lightnin'" starring Will Rogers at the Ionia Theater. This was the first movie to be shown at the Theatre back in 1931. Thanks to Theatre Manager Gary Ferguson for the use of the theatre for this meeting.

The February meeting will be held at SS Peter & Paul Church & School. (The meeting will begin at the Apostles Hall, which is in the basement of the school. Members should park in the south east lot and enter the school from the south entrance.)

The March meeting will be held at the Ionia Co. Mental Health building, with a program by Bob Sykes regarding Ionia service agencies.

A full schedule of upcoming programs will be published in a future Chronicle.

Other events coming soon include the "Valentine's Day Elvis for Everyone" show at the K of C - Fred Wolf will perform romantic songs for attendees. The party will be from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and include a dessert buffet.

A March Appraisal Roadshow is being planned - details coming soon - and May 1-2 will again bring the Tri-River "Spring Into The Past" tours.

Other plans in the works include a "Yard Sale" at the Blanchard House to be chaired by Barb Ehlert and Doni Knoop (probably in June) and hopes

are expressed for more activities to coordinate with our Summer Sunday open houses. Outdoor activities were discussed, including games and ice cream social, visits by demonstrating artisans or reenactors, and musical performances are all possibilities. Suggestions and help is welcomed!

In August, the ICHS will partner with the Theatre to bring a world-class Johnny Cash tribute artist to town. With lessons learned from the success of past shows, and the recent Galagher show as well, we look forward to another good turnout, and the raising of much needed funds for both organizations.

Thanks were expressed to Joan Nixon for managing the refreshments schedule for the past year. A new chairperson is needed for the 2010 schedule - interested members please contact the Board to volunteer!

The website continues to be enhanced, with the recent addition of a link to GoogleMaps on the contact page. As of the next edition of this Chronicle, many members will NOT be receiving their news on paper! Nearly 40 or our members have opted for "electronic delivery" which will save the ICHS significant fund this year. Other members will continue to receive their news in the US Mail as usual.

Projects around the Blanchard House still require attention and volunteers! The many artifacts entrusted to our care must be cataloged and accounted for. This has been an ongoing concern for the ICHS for a long time, and the process is now in place to make this vital inventory happen! Anyone interested in helping is encouraged to join us at the Blanchard House on Thursday evenings to get involved in this work. This will begin with the inventory of the recently acquired Blanchard family heirlooms donated by Duane Todd and his family.

The Board of Directors is reviewing the By-Laws of the ICHS to be sure that our governing documents are in order and serving our needs.

And, as seasonal expenses mount, donations are happily accepted for the "Heat the House" fund again this winter. If members wish to donate to this specific fund, please contact Hank Knoop.

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, January 6, 7:00p
Regular Meeting - at the
IONIA THEATRE
for a special movie presentation!

Wednesday, January 20, 7:00 p.m.
Board of Directors Meeting
(location to be announced)

Wednesday, February 3, 7:00p
Regular Meeting - at Saints Peter & Paul
Church & School (see details elsewhere
in this issue)

Sunday, February 14
at the Ionia K of C hall
A VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY
with Fred Wolf's "Elvis for Everyone" show.
(Watch for more information soon!)

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

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 may get your Chronicle quicker, too! Send your e-mail address to:
info@ioniahistory.org

Due to the Holidays and all that this season entails, the Chronicle for this month is somewhat abbreviated. I present you with the highlights of the news and upcoming events of the Historical Society. Thank you for your understanding.
— D. McCord, Secretary



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!**

- Jan 7 — Big Bend National Park
- Jan 14 — Alaska's Glacier & Hawaii
- Jan 21 — Michigan - Winter Wonderland
- Jan 28 — World Wonders
- February 4 — Six Horse Hitch
- February 11 — Valentine Special
- February 18 — Gentle Giants: Whales
- February 25 — England

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

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- Kathleen Perrin, Vice Pres. — 616-675-4618
- Kris Haskins, Director — 989-855-3685
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