



The Almost Monthly Publication of  
the Ionia County Historical Society

# the CHRONICLE

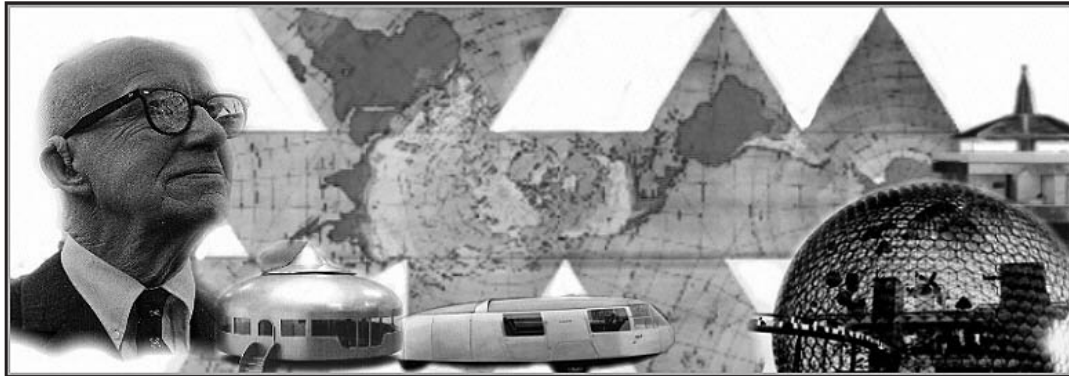
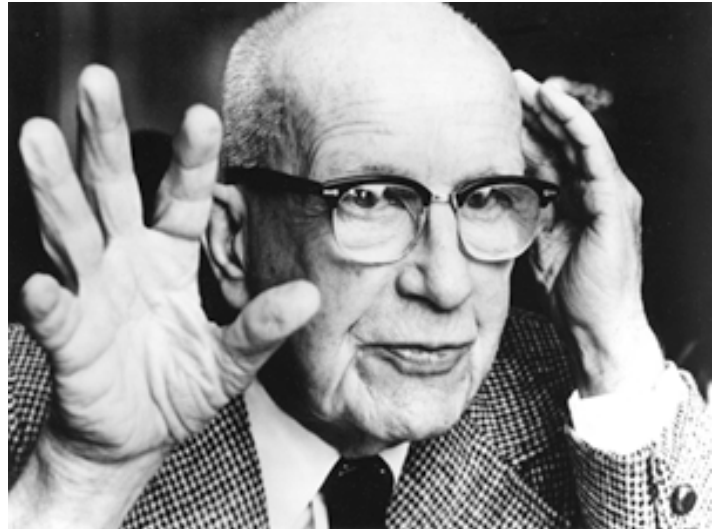


## Bucky Fuller - crackpot Genius

I could write VOLUMES about R. Buckminster Fuller — as those of you who attended the March meeting could probably tell. In fact, many volumes have already been written about my hero, Bucky, and much better than I ever could, make no mistake. It was difficult, but I kept my presentation to the allotted time. All the way home, I kept saying to Annette (my loving wife): “Rats, I forgot to talk about such-n-such!” or “Dang, I forgot to mention this-and-so!” and “How could I have forgotten to talk about whatsis!?”

Anyhow, this article will not be a repeat of that presentation, except to say thank you and share with you all a few of my favorite Bucky quotations and photos. Thanks for your indulgence, and I hope you get a chance to learn more about this fascinating personality.

— David McCord (*Not a genius, but maybe a crackpot*).



*Above - My favorite Bucky portrait - caught expounding on some “geometry of thought” or “comprehensive anticipatory design science” or the “omni-interaccommodative interconnectedness of experiential special-case patternings of Universe.” Wow.*

*Left - a collage of Bucky's more significant inventions. Before a Dymaxion Map are (left to right) the Dymaxion House, Dymaxion Car, Geodesic Dome (this is the Expo '67 dome) and behind that the original 4D house model.*



*Left again - Bucky and an early dome experiment - like a kid with a wonderful toy.*

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### MINUTES of the March '09 Mtg.

The March 2009 meeting was called to order by President Linda Ciangi at 7:10 pm at the Ionia County Commission on Aging building. After greetings to friends and guests, the motion was made by Bob Nixon and supported by Joe McCord to accept the Secretary's report as published. Motion passed, and the president moved directly to the subject of “old business.”

The 2010 Calendar project will continue under the direction of Kathleen Perrin — all interested parties are encouraged to contact her to

help. (The calendar's photos, captions, and advertising which pays for the calendar all must be done by September.

The Community Expo will be March 7 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Ionia High School. We are at booth #1 along with the Ionia BPW and will be hosting an artist at the booth from 11:00 to 2:00. Setup is Friday from 6:30 pm to 9 pm, also Saturday morning from 7:00 to 8:15 am. Volunteers are welcome to help. There will be door prizes (which are on display at the meeting): a tiffany-style lamp, shadowbox picture, and

*Continues on page 2*

painted step-stool.

On March 28 will be an Appraisal Road Show at the Commission on Aging from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Our staff is mostly in place, but interested volunteers can contact Joan McCord. It's \$5 per item, as usual, and our appraiser is Glen Rairigh again. Doni and Barb are talking about offering a luncheon – more to come on that topic.

We are signed up for the Indoor Yard Sale at the Armory on April 24 & 25. Members are asked to collect items for the sale and bring them to the Armory on the 23rd (the evening before the sale). Transport of larger items can be arranged with Hank Knoop.

The Blanchard House will be open on Sunday, May 3, as part of the Tri-River Museum Tour weekend "Spring Into The Past." We'll welcome guests from noon to 5:00 pm, and a display will be set up to honor people who serve the community.

May 16 will be the local Church Walk, organized by Joan McCord. The events has been listed in the American Profile publication. Refreshments will be offered at the Blanchard House that day as well.

Remember Summer Sundays in June, July and August! Volunteer hosts and tour guides are needed, and members are encouraged to be in costume if possible. (It's great fun!)

Hank Knoop presented the Treasurer's Report and financial forecast. The budget will fall short unless we can come up with some new funding this year, so all are asked to make suggestions and to help wherever possible to raise money! Dave Cook moved to accept the report; it was supported by Joe McCord and passed. As always, copies of the report are available on request.

Items from the estate of Viggo Nielson are still being cataloged = many, many photos and memorabilia of interest.

The new Blanchard House Rental Brochure is now available, and the newly revised rental agreement will soon be available, including a down-loadable copy on the website. The website continues to be updated, including the new calendar.

David McCord offered some wooden toys that can be sold as souvenirs at the Blanchard House, and work continues on refinements for the Scavenger Hunt for young visitors to the house. David also

noted that a rubber stamp with the new ICHS Logo would cost approximately \$40, and that sheets of stickers with the logo can be made as well to mark items.

Joan Nixon announced that the Presbyterian Church is having a "gold party" as a fund raiser, and invites anyone to bring gold items to be appraised, and the appraisers then make an offer to purchase the gold if you wish to sell. This will be held March 19 at 6:30 pm.

President Ciangi also announced arrangements being made for a concert to be held at the Ionia Theatre to raise money for the Historical Society. At this time, the performers include tribute acts to Neil Diamond, Roy Orbison, the Blues Brothers, and Elvis Presley. The concert will be at 2:00 pm on August 16th, and tickets will be \$12.50 in advance, \$15 at the door. Sponsors are being sought to help pay for the event.

With no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned and the floor given over to the program for the evening: "Bucky Fuller, Crackpot Genius" by David McCord.

### MINUTES of the March '09 Board Meeting

The ICHS Board met on March 23, 2009, at the Blanchard House. Present were Directors Kathleen Perrin, Stephanie VanderMolen, President Linda Ciangi, Gerry Perry, and Barb Ehlert, plus Secretary David McCord, Treasurer Hank Knoop, and guest Deb Dudek.

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with a presentation from Ms. Dudek RE: her project to pull together a "Walking Tour" brochure for the community. She presented her detailed production plan, hoping to publish the brochures in early May through the generosity of the DDA. She's seeking the help of ICHS members to gather information, map, and photos in digital format. Once she has received this content, she will work the layout. Aside from the hardcopies of past Home Tour documents, we also have Sarah J.'s architectural study and other resources. David M. reported that many of the past Home Tour resources are already in digital format, and he will retrieve what he can for the project, as well as offer help with the map.

The kitchen crew is getting organized for the March 28 Appraisal Road Show at the Commission on

Aging. Doni will not be there, so Barb is taking charge of the food. The appraisal itself is organized as usual, chaired by Joan McCord.

Volunteers need to sign up to work the Indoor Yard Sale at the Armory on April 24, 25, and to help with set-up on the evening of the 23rd. Contact Hank Knoop with your larger loads to be moved, or Linda C. to volunteer.

April 23 will also be the "Creek Clean-up Day" at the Blanchard House grounds. If you'd like to help with this event, contact Kathleen Perrin. She's enlisting the help of the Enrich Kids Club for this project.

The House will be open for the Tri-River Museum Weekend on May 3 from noon to 5:00 pm. President Ciangi is going to be doing a story for the Sentinel-Standard to publicize the event. Our display will support the theme "Those Who Serve" by focusing on community volunteers.

It was decided to set up a box to collect food items for the local food pantries at the Blanchard House. This will be publicized, and also noted clearly that "cans of food are not a condition of admission to the Blanchard House. Monetary donations are still encouraged."

The Lawn Care Contract with C&C was reviewed. Hank K. suggested that we only contract for the mowing and trimming, and the fertilizing and other clean-up can be done on a volunteer basis to save money. Kathleen P. said she would take over the contract negotiations as "Lawn Chair", and she will also be contacting other organizations for lawn care help throughout the season. Gerry Perry moved that we enter into this agreement with Sean Morgan for Lawn Care; it was supported by Barb and passed.

The Ionia Chamber is recognizing the ICHS for community service - more information will be forthcoming.

The "Salute to the Super Stars" concert is on the calendar for August 16th, 2:00 p.m., at the Ionia Theatre. The poster supplied by the promoters has been reviewed, and David McCord will contact them with our comments, corrections, and suggestions to get this poster and other materials into production. The information will be on the Internet as soon as it's all in place. Tickets are being sold on-line, but the ICHS has to distribute them. Wolber's has donated \$50 toward this effort, and President Linda has suggested that we write "Thanks to

Wolber's Landscaping for the postage" on each envelope to recognize their contribution. After some discussion, it was agreed to enclose a Blanchard House brochure with each envelope of tickets. An e-mail appeal is being composed to approach local businesses as sponsors for the event. We discussed the possibility that the Chamber of Commerce might help distribute this e-mail, and Linda C. will check with Tina W. to see if that's possible. David McCord will compose the letter and include links to the SuperStars and Theatre websites, etc. This e-mail is to be reviewed by the Board and sent ASAP to get sponsors on board right away.

The question was asked whether we wanted to close the Blanchard House on August 16th due to the concert, but the question will be brought to the membership in case someone wants to staff the House and skip the concert.

We're going to have a float for the Free Fair Parade! C&L Trucking is donating \$250 towards the ICHS and will help with the float. It was suggested that we recognize our "Superstars" sponsors on the float, as we want to promote that event as much as possible.

The theme for the Antique Village at the Free Fair this year is "The General Store" - so our display will feature fitting artifacts.

Stephanie V. and Deb D. also talked briefly about the subject of Cemetery Tours, and that several possibilities exist for an ICHS program - or several.

David M. also noted that a Cub Scout Pack would be touring the Blanchard House on April 11, and Barb E. asked if she could schedule a brief ceremony at the house for some relatives wishing to renew their wedding vows. The board acquiesced, noting that a nominal donation would cover the arrangement sufficiently.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.

**SORRY  
I'M LATE!**

Humble apologies from the secretary and editor of this publication for being late with this issue of the Chronicle. Stuff happens! Thanks for your understanding.

— D. McCord

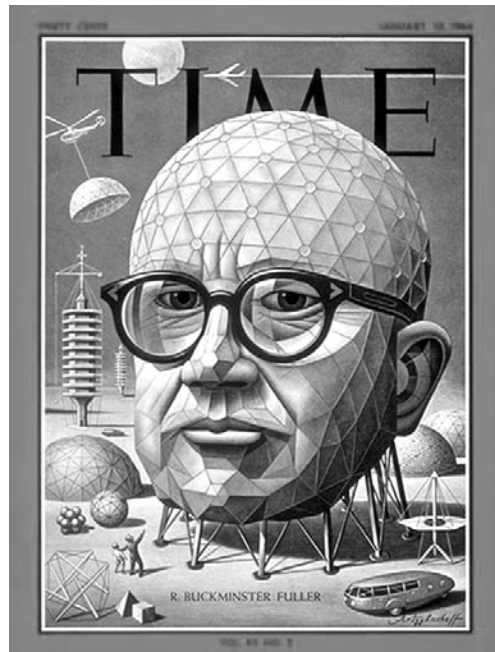
# More Bucky Pix

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*More Bucky photos, from top:*

- Bucky and the 4D House in 1929 on display at Marshal Fields store in New York City.
- The 1934 Dymaxion Transport, one of the three prototype vehicles built. It carried up to 11 passengers, 22 miles per gallon, and traveled 120+ miles per hour. The single rear wheel steered like a ship's rudder.
- The 1946 Dymaxion House. This was the only completed one, lived in for many years by the Graham family of Witchita, KS. The house is now restored and on display at the Henry Ford Museum.
- Right, Bucky's likeness on the cover of Time, Feb. 1964. This image was also on the 1964 U.S. Fuller Postage Stamp.
- Far right, the McCord's geodesic dome house ca. 1972 (now sadly but a fond memory of days gone by).



## Upcoming Programs and Events

### Thursday Evening Workshops at the Blanchard House.

If local history is of interest, this is a great way to get involved. Stop in!

Wednesday, April 1  
Regular Meeting (No Foolin'!)  
at the Blanchard House.

April 24-25 "Inside Yard Sale"  
at Ionia Armory - donations welcomed!

Sunday, May 3  
"Spring Into The Past" Museum Tour  
includes the Blanchard House

Wednesday, May 6  
Regular Meeting at the Blanchard House

Saturday, May 16  
Ionia's Historic Church Tour

*For other upcoming events - visit the ICHS  
website at [ioniahistory.org](http://ioniahistory.org).*

### **AUGUST 16: SALUTE TO THE SUPERSTARS**

LIVE Concert at the Ionia Theatre to benefit ICHS  
See our website for more info & get your tickets now!

## And Bucky said:

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." • "Everyone is born a genius, but the process of living in today's world de-geniuses them." • "Pollution is nothing but the resources we are not harvesting. We allow them to disperse because we've been ignorant of their value." • "Love is metaphysical gravity." • "Faith is much better than belief. Belief is when someone else does the thinking." • "Those who play with the devil's toys will be brought by degrees to wield his sword." • "You can never learn less, you can only learn more." • "Reality' should always be in quotes." • "God is a verb."





# the [www.ioniahistory.org](http://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, 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).

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!**

*April 2 – The Appalachians*

*April 9 – The Life Giver*

*April 16 – Touring England*

*April 23 – The Great Smokies*

*April 30 – Greenville Gliders of World War II*

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

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