



the **CHRONICLE**

The Almost Monthly Publication of
the Ionia County Historical Society



The Last Man in Merrinsville

On November 1st our members and guests welcomed Raymond Goodwin to the Blanchard House. The program was sponsored by the Ionia Community Library.

The presentation, entitled "The Last Man in Merrinsville" is a one-man play written by Mr. Goodwin based on some historic documents he found left behind by Mr. Henry Ralson. He played the part of Mr. Ralson in a first-person portrayal of the aging railroad station manager reminiscing about his life in the small town.

Henry Ralson lived in the dying town of Merrinsville from 1918 to 1953. His memories of family and friends, small-town landmarks and institutions, and all the changes - good and bad - that tell the man's life story. The play was peppered with laughs and perhaps a few sniffles.

Mr. Goodwin has also written a small book, which he brought copies of, called "Sawdusted." He signed them for interested buyers and donated a copy to the Library.

Many thanks for entertaining us!

The November 1st Program Meeting

President Linda C. called the meeting to order, welcoming members and guests with thanks to Dale Parus from the Library for another co-hosted program offering. (See story above.)

She noted Joel Kilgore's help to supply us with new DVD copies for the Gift Shoppe, and thanked the local Democratic Party organization for raking leaves on the grounds. Thanks were extended to Jane Horrocks for chairing the Refreshments Committee. She also announced that Phil Kahl's 80th birthday would be on the 4th, and birthday wishes were given with applause from the audience.

The Membership Committee under Ally Cook will be mailing out membership cards and receipts as soon as the updates to the list are verified. Shawna Hoekstra of the Accessions Committee shared an example of how improperly stored artifacts can result in damage in the form of a photo with a cardboard backer that used acidic inks. Bryan Kimble mentioned that more examples of the Accessions Committee's procedures will be shared with the members at future meetings.

Linda noted that she's hoping to publicize Ionia's 185th "birthday" (and other institutional anniversaries) next year, and members interested in helping should contact her.

Goose gave a brief description and example of how he photographed a pair of large panoramic photos. Some discussion ensued regarding portable hard drives to store such archives on and off site. (More to come.)

The meeting then adjourned for refreshments as our guest prepared for his presentation.

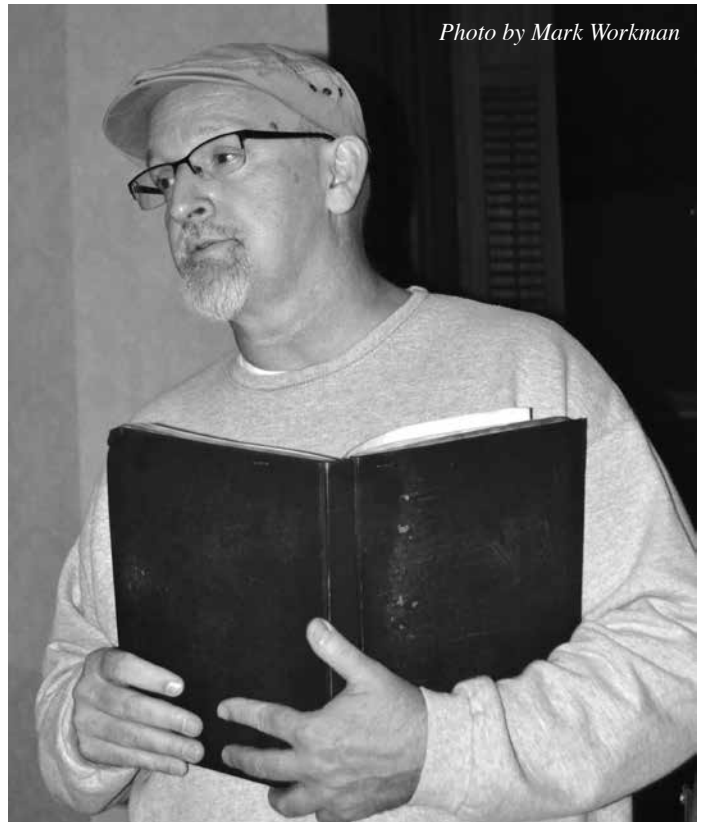


Photo by Mark Workman

ICHS Board Meeting Minutes - November 8th, 2017

Due to schedule conflicts, the meeting was rescheduled to this date (from the regularly scheduled Nov. 15th). In attendance were Goose Elliot, Barb Ehlert, Stacy Tchorzynski, Ally Cook, Annette and David McCord, and president Linda Ciangi. Director Dave White was absent. Due to the rescheduling, the agenda was less formal than usual.

The meeting opened with a brief review of upcoming events:

December 2 - The Mrs. Claus Bazaar. We have a single table. Ally will set up; Patty Simpson-Goeke will help with the take-down. Helpers are welcome for both these efforts, as well as staffing the table during the 10:00 to 4:00 event. As usual, the ICHS will donate a door prize (to be determined).

November 9 - Linda, Goose, and Ally will attend the Chamber's Business After Hours gathering at the Restore Church to share ICHS information.

November 17 - The Tri-River Museum Network will hold their November meeting at the Blanchard House. Joni McCord is handling the arrangements and refreshments, David M. is doing a brief presentation on John C. Blanchard, and we will take delivery of our Tri-River booklets for 2018.

November 18 - the ICHS has a booth for the F.U.M.C. Christmas Sale. Barb E. and Linda C. will be there.

Continues on page two

December 3 - Rose Scheller has rented the Blanchard House for her annual Tea party.

December 6 - Our annual Holiday Pot Luck for members and guests.

December 10 - The Blanchard House will be open for holiday tours from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. McCords will be here - greeter and additional tour help will be appreciated.

December 17 - ditto.

December 19 - Rental for Heartlands Employees party.

December 20 - ICBS Business Meeting.

It was noted that the Library's Murder Mystery event on November 4th at the Blanchard House was a success and a good time had by all. Proceeds are to be split 50-50 with the Friends of the Library, and we are waiting for the results.

We received new DVDs for the Gift Shoppe, copied by Joel Kilgore. Joel added music to the silent movies and artwork to the DVDs themselves. A new supply of 100 plastic cases has arrived also. Inserts are needed from S&K; David M. will check with Mary at S&K to be sure she has the original graphics for the inserts.

Linda C. asked David M. to provide a list of the prominent visitors to the Union Hall that he uses for the Upstairs/Downtown tour that she can share with area teachers. She would also like a copy of the membership list. (See next entry.)

A print-out of the mailing list for the newsletter, a stack of 100 new Membership Cards, and our email list was passed to Ally Cook. In her role as Membership Chair, she will send out receipts for memberships with the new cards, and verify Life Members and Business Buddies listings.

The new flags that were donated by Bryan Kimble (U.S. and Michigan) need to be put up. Hopefully someone can do this before Thanksgiving? Contact a Board member if you can help.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed briefly, and Linda C. submitted an invoice from our cleaning service. Some income was also passed along from souvenir sales. Annette M. said that the snow removal contract was signed and ready to send in. Barb E. submitted receipts for housekeeping expenses to be tallied and put into the system. Linda C. requested that the Board consider getting a few new folding tables (perhaps next spring) to replace some that are worn and feeble.

The Board is seeking a chairperson to run a raffle in 2018. In years past, this has been a great fund raiser, with prizes of dinner deals and free Blanchard House rentals. A plan was discussed to begin the raffle at the Expo in March and have a drawing near the end of August. Interested members can contact a Board member for more information.

This brought up the issue of budgets, expenses, and grants. Stacy T. said that she's still in "learning mode" being new on the Board, but she believes that there are opportunities for grants. She would help acquire them, but someone else would need to do the implementation. Goose is interested in helping with this process. More to come...

**Thanks to our
ICHS "Business Buddies"**

**Dan Balice
Darin Elliott
Larry Heffelfinger
Lyle Joslyn
Glen Rairigh
Todd Reurink
Rich and Lindsay Thompson**



**JUST IN TIME FOR
CHRISTMAS!**

A new addition to the ICBS Gift Shoppe, the 18x24-inch poster on heavy gloss paper sells for \$15, and the packet of NINE "Made in Ionia" automobile post-cards are just \$10. (Artwork by David McCord; proceeds go to the ICBS.)

David M. presented his latest contribution to the ICBS fund raising efforts: He's drawn a series of nine full-color postcards and an 18x24 poster depicting cars that were built in Ionia. The product cost will be near \$750, but the return would easily double that amount for the ICBS. Goose E. moved to fund the production cost. The motion was supported by Ally and passed. Linda asked that one of the images in the series be sent to the Sentinel-Standard to her attention so that she can arrange some publicity in her next Weekender article.

Linda C. noted again her hopes to publicize Ionia's 185th birthday next year through ICBS participation at community events. She'd like to spotlight something each month, including the arrival of the Dexter Colony in May, and the ICBS float for the Free Fair Parade in July. More to come...

David M. noted that the S&K storage-space rental expires at the end of November, and that our property needs to be moved from there to the Sentinel-Standard storage area. This brought up the need for an official policy and procedure for the new storage space: who has keys, the need for properly filed inventory, intent for the storage areas and shelving, etc. Linda C. said that she was working on such a policy and recognizes the need. Stacy T. asked for a chance to see the facility (she hasn't yet) and other Board members voiced the same desire now that it is in use. More to come...

Linda also showed the Board a "Mystery Uniform" which was offered as a donation to the Historical Society. Several in attendance offered to research the uniform (which appears to be about 100 years old or more), but chances are it has nothing much to do with Ionia history. It was suggested, however, that it might make a good "costume" for historical presentation. Further discussion will take place after more information is gathered.

Meanwhile, the house will be decorated for Christmas by Linda and Barb E. - helpers are invited to contact them. (Note: This effort was completed before this newsletter was published. - D.M.)

Dave White was not present to discuss maintenance issues at the Blanchard House, but the south ginkgo tree is now gone, the northern one has been trimmed. David M. repaired a broken table and the latch for the kitchen-to-porch door. Annette M. is still planning to paint the back stairway, but Barb E. suggested waiting until after the holidays so the paint on the steps could set thoroughly during the winter months when there is no traffic.

Meeting adjourned.

On Tuesday, November 14, the ICHS hosted a meeting of the Tri-River Historical Museum Network at the Blanchard House. The Ionia County Historical Society has been a member of the TRHMN for several years now, sharing our common interests, challenges, and information.

The organization does wonders to promote all the small museums in central Michigan. The annual Tri-River Bus Trip in the fall is always sold out. The passengers tour small museums all around the state, gaining insight into how other museums do what they do, and having a great time, too!

As a way to inform folks just what the organization's about, here's a "Who-What-Why-Where-When" document that will explain it all.



WHO IS THE TRI-RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM NETWORK?

We are a group of thirty-one small museums, societies, commissions, and historical groups from the counties of Kent, Montcalm, Ionia, Barry and Eaton. The Tri River in our name depicts the Grand, Flat and Thornapple Rivers that flow within our network area.

WHAT IS THE TRI-RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM NETWORK?

We are a support group formed to raise awareness of the existence of our member groups and to be of help to each other. Our Mission Statement: "To provide collaborative support to the small museums within the Tri River area while recognizing the unique qualities of each museum."

WHY ARE WE THE TRI-RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM NETWORK?

As our group was forming in 2002 we discovered that we were all having the same issues: membership, funding, collection management, etc. We were all trying to get the public to realize that there were people and groups out there trying to preserve their local history.

With just six museums on board we formed our Tri River Historical Museum Network. We charged no dues and our first big event was to be a weekend the first of May in 2003 devoted to encouraging the public into spending two days visiting the museums with free admission. This event, has continued and in 2018 we will be holding our 15th Spring Into the Past annual event.

In 2014, as our organization grew, we decided we

Our Calendar of Upcoming Events.

Sunday, November 26 — The Blanchard House will be open for tours to show off our Christmas decorations

Saturday, December 2 — Mrs. Claus Bazaar at Ionia Middle School (ICHS will have a booth)

Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m. — Annual ICHS Christmas Pot-Luck. Bring your favorite Christmas treats and special foods to share!

Sunday, December 10, 1 - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 17, 1 - 4:00 p.m. — The Blanchard House will be open for tours to show off our Christmas decorations.

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00 p.m. — Business Meeting at the Blanchard House.

PROGRAMS for 2018 are being planned as follows: January, New Year's Dinner at the Lamplight; February, L&D Hardware building; March, Lyons-Muir Museum; April, "Road Building", May, Musical Program by Three Husbands on the Loose; MORE TO COME...

Be sure to monitor our Facebook Page and Website for current information!

needed to have a set of By-Laws and apply to the State of Michigan for a license to protect our name and all the hard work we had put into forming this group. This was accomplished and as of 2017 our membership includes thirty-one museums, societies, commissions and historical groups.

One of our group had her son design us a logo that we use. We also worked with the State of Michigan to allow the "Pure Michigan" logo to appear on some of our booklets and brochures.

WHERE IS THE TRI-RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM NETWORK LOCATED?

The Tri River Historical Museum Network does not have one meeting place; we take turns hosting our monthly meetings. This gives us a chance to see the various museums, so we are "located" in all the counties mentioned above.

You can also find us at www.commoncorners.com and on Facebook.

WHEN DOES THE TRI-RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM NETWORK MEET?

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month February through November at 10am.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE

November 1817

On November 27, the Seminole War began with General Andrew Jackson's incursions into Spanish Florida against the Seminole Indians shortly after the end of the War of 1812. The governments of Britain and Spain both expressed outrage over the "invasion". The strong-willed Jackson was intent on conquering the peninsula, taking it from the Spanish to claim new territory for American settlers. The entire scheme was only partially acknowledged by the U.S. government at first.



From "The Lady's Monthly Museum, Vol. 6, 1817"

THE MORNING DRESS—

A Jaconaut muslin round dress, made to button behind; the body is high with a small collar, which is open in front, so as to display the throat a little. The back is full; the lower part of the front is ornamented with byas tucks, and the upper part plain. The skirt is of a moderate fullness, and rather longer than they have been lately worn; it is finished round the bottom with six or eight very small tucks, put as close as possible together, and surmounted by a full deep flounce of the same material as the dress; this flounce has a deep heading, through which is drawn a bright rose coloured riband.

Over this dress is worn a spenser, composed of rose coloured velvet, elegantly ornamented with white satin, intermixed with narrow rose coloured silk trimming. The spenser is made tight to the shape, and finished at the throat with white satin formed into puffings by this trimming. Plain long sleeves, of a moderate width. Half sleeve and cuff to correspond with the trimming of the throat. Leghorn bonnet of a French shape, and trimmed in the Parisian style with large rows of riband to correspond with the spenser. It ties with a very full bow under the chin. A rich lace frill stands up round the throat. Swansdown muff, straw coloured kid sandals and gloves.

THE EVENING DRESS—



A Fawn coloured crape frock over a white satin slip; the body, which is cut very low all round the bust, is loose; it is extremely short, and confined to the waist by a narrow cestus of white satin, fastened in front by a brilliant clasp. The body is ornamented round the bust by a single fall of Mecklin lace, disposed in large plaits. Very short full sleeve, finished at the bottom by a rouleau of white satin, and narrow lace plaited to correspond. The trimming of the skirt is a double row of white satin, Spanish puffs made very full, and set in byas.

The hind hair is brought up high, and disposed in front of the forehead in a large tuft. The front hair is slightly parted, and curled very full upon the forehead. A garland of Provence roses is placed rather far back to the left side. Ear-rings and necklace of pearl. Spangled crape fan. White kid gloves, and white satin slippers.

November 1867 —

Harper's Bazaar was first published in November of 1867. It was one of the first publications dedicated to looking at the lives of women through the lens of fashion. "A repository of fashion, pleasure, and instruction" is how Harper's Bazar described itself on the cover of its inaugural issue, in 1867. Bazar—then spelled without the double "a"—was founded by Harper & Brothers, a New York-based publishing firm run by siblings James, John, Joseph Wesley, and Fletcher Harper. At the time, the Harpers were already established book publishers.



Illustration to HARPER'S BAZAR, 1867

November 15 - On this day in 1867, the first stock ticker was unveiled in New York City. The advent of the ticker ultimately revolutionized the stock market by making up-to-the-minute prices available to investors around the country. Prior to this development, information from the New York Stock Exchange, which had been around since 1792, traveled by mail or messenger.



The ticker was the brainchild of Edward Calahan, who configured a telegraph machine to print stock quotes on streams of paper tape. (The machine got its name from the sound made by its type wheel.) Calahan worked for the Gold & Stock Telegraph Company, which rented its tickers to brokerage houses and regional exchanges for a fee and then transmitted the latest gold and stock prices to all its machines at the same time.

On November 25, Alfred Nobel was granted a patent for dynamite, which revolutionized mining, excavation, and ultimately made railroad expansion possible. And regarding the railroads - the first refrigerated railroad car design was patented by J.B. Southerland of Detroit during the same month.



November 1917 —

November 2nd - The British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour makes the Balfour Declaration proclaiming British support for the "establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people" with the clear understanding "that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities".

The workers of the Petrograd Soviet in Russia, led by the Bolshevik Party and leader Vladimir Lenin, stormed the Winter Palace on November 7th and successfully destroyed the Kerensky Provisional Government after less than eight months of rule. This immediately, triggered the Russian Civil War.

"The Night of Terror" occurred on November 14, 1917 at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia. A group of 33 female



protesters, members of the Silent Sentinels who picketed the White House daily to ask for voting rights for women, were brutally tortured and beaten by the workhouse guards and the superintendent, W.H. Whittaker. The women were mostly members of the National Woman's Party (NWP), an organization led by Alice Paul and Lucy Burns.

There was continued mistreatment in the form of harsh living conditions, rancid food, being denied medical care when many of the women were ill and some very old, being denied visitors, and "punishment cells". Many women went on a hunger strike, sparked by the co-founder of the NWP, Alice Paul. These women were placed in solitary confinement and subject to force-feeding.

After about two weeks, a court-ordered hearing for charges against the women suffragists took place. The decision of the hearing declared that every one of the 218 suffragists had been illegally arrested, illegally convicted and illegally imprisoned. The Night of Terror was not addressed in the hearing. The women who were illegally imprisoned and tortured for picketing were aiming to promote women's rights, and they were backed by the National Woman's Party. However, when the Nineteenth Amendment for women's rights was passed in 1920, very little credit was given to the NWP.

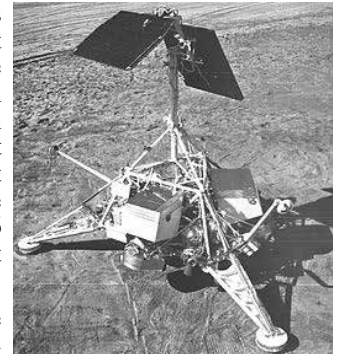
A World War I army camp was established in 1917 called "Camp Custer" near Augusta, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Named after George A. Custer, a Michigan native. It was renamed Fort Custer and designated a permanent military training base on 17 Aug 1940, and is now known as the Fort Custer Training Center.

In 1917 it was one of sixteen National Army Camps dedicated in June 1917 under the supervision of construction quartermaster Major Earle B. Morden on a site of about 8,000 acres. Construction began on 27 Jun 1917, by 1 Sep 1917 it could accommodate 11,000 troops and by 30 Sep 1917 it could accommodate 30,000 troops. The camp was to have a capacity of about 48,000 officers and enlisted men that were to become the 85th U.S. Infantry Division. The camp was completed in November 1917 at a cost of \$14,000,000.

November 1967 —

Plenty of space-race news this month: On November 3, the ATS-3 satellite was launched by the U.S.A. It would take the first "full disc" photos of the entire planet earth. Then three days later, the U.S. launched the Surveyor 6 spacecraft, which made a soft landing on the moon on November 9th. Also on the 9th,

an unmanned Saturn V rocket was launched into earth orbit - the first of its class into space. Sadly, the only fatality in the X-15 program occurred on November 15 when pilot Michael J. Adams lost control over the Mojave Desert and the aircraft tore apart in the sky. On the 17th, the Surveyor 6 became the first man-made object to lift off from the moon.



On November 20th, 1967, the Department of Commerce "census clock" passed the 200 Million mark. This is a number estimated by projections based on national census data collected every ten years. (50 years later, the population as of July 4, 2017, was 325,365,189.)

In November 1967, the first Print Ads showing the 1968 Shelby GT 500 cars appeared in Car Life, Playboy, and Road & Track magazines. The convertible used in the ads was the 1967 Convertible (0139) with '68 fiberglass body panels created by the Dearborn Steel Tubing company. Shelby Mustang production moved to Ionia's A.O. Smith plant in August of 1968.

Carroll Shelby has gone and done it!

Convertible types, rejoice! He's built Shelby COBRA GT performance, handling, style and safety into a Mustang convertible complete with the best-looking roll bar in the business. If you don't flip your lid over this, you just don't flip (unless his Mustang-based Cobra GT 2 + 2 fastback gets to you).

Both styles are available in GT 350 or GT 500 versions. The GT 350 boasts 302 cubic inches of Ford V-8 performance with an optional Cobra supercharger for added zip. The GT 500 really delivers with your choice of two great V-8's... 428 cubic inches are standard. A new 427 engine is the ultimate performance option. All the Le Mans-winning handling and safety features are better than ever for 1968. They're wrapped up in a fresh new luxury package. And the Mustang base means an exciting price. Any questions? Your Shelby Cobra dealer has some great answers!

Shelby COBRA GT 350/500

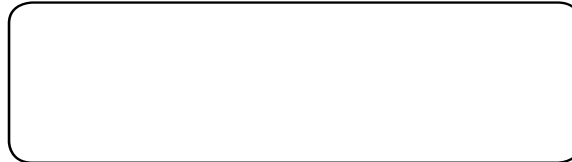




the www.ioniahistory.org **CHRONICLE**

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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!

Have you got something to donate?

The Historical Society accepts most donations of antique and vintage photos, documents, or larger artifacts IF they are relevant to Ionia's history in some way. Please contact a board member for more information, and be sure to get a receipt for your donation—it may be tax-deductible! (We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.)

Ionia County Historical Society 2018 Board of Directors & Officers

Linda Ciangi, President — 616-527-4945

Ally Cook, Vice President — 616-821-1406

Dave White, Director — 989-855-2350

Goose Elliott, Director — 616 755 2486

Stacy Tchorzynski, Director — 517-763-1770

David McCord, Secretary — 616-527-3784

Annette McCord, Interim Treasurer — 616-527-3784

Kathleen Cook, Treasurer — 616-527-2626

Barb Ehlert, House Rentals — 616-522-0844

For information on your long-lost relatives in Ionia,
please contact the Ionia County Genealogy Society.