



# The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

August 2015

Volume XXIV Issue 4

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*The Tavern Log* is published six times  
a year by the Society for its members.

### Submit material to:

Editor, *The Tavern Log*  
Miamisburg Historical Society  
P.O. Box 774  
Miamisburg, OH 45343  
or via e-mail to  
dewarrick@sbcglobal.net

*The Tavern Log* reserves the right to edit  
any material submitted.

### THE MARKET SQUARE BUILDING

4 N. Main Street, Miamisburg, OH 45342  
Open Wed. & Sat., 1:00–4:00 pm

### THE HERITAGE VILLAGE

Gebhart Tavern and Kercher Pioneer Home  
Corner of Lock St. and Old Main, Msbg.  
Sundays, May thru Oct., 2:00–5:00 pm

### BOARD MEETINGS

Held the third Thursday of each month at  
6:00 pm at the Market Square Building.

E-Mail Address: MHSociety@att.net  
Phone: (937) 859-5000

Website: [www.miamisburghistory.org](http://www.miamisburghistory.org)  
Webmasters: Don McLaughlin, Jay Robinson

## We're Gearing Up For a Busy Fall Season!

Summer's almost over and it will soon be time for the Historical Society to shift into high gear once again. Autumn is the favorite season for lots of people, and it also seems to be the busiest season for our organization.

### Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Board Thursday, September 24, 7:00 pm at Market Square

Come and see what's happening at the Historical Society.  
You'll be impressed by what's being accomplished in our major  
objective of sharing and preserving the history of Miamisburg.

Clip the calendar below and join in for some fall fun.

AUGUST	No General Program (summer break)
SEPTEMBER	<b>Artisan Festival</b> at Riverfront Park Look for the Historical Society Booth Saturday, September 12, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  <b>Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Board</b> Market Square Building Thursday, September 24, 7:00 pm
OCTOBER	<b>Old Time Craft Day</b> - Sun., October 18, 2:00-5:00pm Heritage Village - Corner of Lock St. & Old Main  <b>Annual Canal Days Bean Dinner and Silent Auction</b> - October 22 at 5:00 pm Parkview United Methodist Church, Miamisburg  <i>Further detailed information on October events will be published in the October Tavern Log.</i>
NOVEMBER	No General Program due to Thanksgiving.

### Please Help To Spread The Word!

We'd LOVE to have more visitors at Heritage Village.

Heritage Village is open on

Sundays 2:00 - 5:00 pm, May thru October.

Heritage Village - Corner of Old Main & Lock St., Miamisburg

## Our "New" Willys Overland Makes Its Debut Showing In Centerville Parade



*Photo by Debbie Staley Kinderdine*

Do you remember last December when Jim and Kaye Lenz donated their 1918 Willys Overland to the Historical Society? The Model 90 touring car was originally purchased at the White Star Garage in Miamisburg by Charles Eagle for the sum of \$875.

Greg Wartinger, of the Society, has taken over care of the car which was in running condition when it was donated to us. But, as you can imagine, that old engine needs quite a bit of sweet talk and tweaking to be dependable enough to enter a parade.

Greg has spent many hours fine tuning and working on the vehicle. Finally, early this summer, after ordering a few new parts, he felt confident enough to drive the car some distance. Sadly it was too late to make the Miamisburg Parades this spring, but it did make the Centerville Fourth of July Parade.

Greg made sure that our upcoming Miamisburg Bicentennial was advertised on the spare tire on the back of the car. You can be sure you'll see the historic, bright yellow vehicle in many Miamisburg parades to come.

## Society's Annual Picnic is Moved Indoors

Information provided by Paul Schultz, Program Chair



Yes, the weather in June and July was extremely WET this year! Is anyone surprised that due to the rain, our picnic on June 25 was held inside? The picnic venue, originally planned for the shelter house at Mound Park, was changed because Mother Nature had other ideas, and we picnicked at the Market Square Building. As it turned out, we could have stayed with Plan A, because the sun came out right before the scheduled time.

Lots of last minute reorganizing took place, but thanks to great volunteers and our caterer, The Dawg Haus, our picnic was a success. Over 50 attended and enjoyed hotdogs, slider hamburgers with all the fixins, tater salad and bake beans. The Society provided drinks, and volunteers brought in an array of delicious desserts.

After the meal Larry Suttman gave an excellent oral history of the Miamisburg Mound. He spoke of his childhood memories of his Grandma Studer telling the grandkids the history of the Mound and climbing the tall flight of steps right along with them, something not even his mother did. He remembers the log railings and benches, and how they looked a bit more "friendly" than the metal fences of today. After the presentation there was a question and answer period and many remained afterward to discuss issues regarding the Mound.

**Our sincere appreciation to Dayton Mailing Service who so generously donate their printing and mailing services for each issue of *The Tavern Log*.**

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS****Brett Butcher****Charlie Barr****NEW CORPORATE SPONSOR****Mound Development Corp.***Thank You Members!***Membership & Corporate Sponsor Renewals  
During June and July:**

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Kathleen Sweeney	Carolyn Fox
Don & Judy Wuerstl	Jack & Lorna Schoenberger

**Sending Our Sympathy**

To the family and friends of Chervyl Bartos, we send our condolences. Chervyl, a Lifetime Member of the Society, passed away on July 30 after an extended illness. Over the years, she was employed at Frigidaire, Mound Laboratory and at Mead Corporation, in addition to volunteering at Cox Arboretum. She was an active member of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Centerville.

A Celebration of Life is planned for August 14 at the church..

**Membership Application**

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\* Corporate Sponsors will be given a small size ad in the bi-monthly newsletter, *The Tavern Log*.

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Please note your areas of interest:


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## Historical Society To Participate in Upcoming Artisan Festival

By Carol O'Connell, Special Events Director

The second annual Artisan Festival will be held at **Riverfront Park on Sat., September 12, 10:00 am - 6:00 pm.** We are participating at the invitation of Pegge Bellamy and Dina Cain, organizers of the event. You may recall this event takes the place of the of the Starving Artist Show that was discontinued a few years ago. Judy Wuerstl and Carolyn Kilpatrick are coordinating our participation. We will not only sell items from our gift shop, but will also display artifacts from our collection. Last year we displayed small items that people could pick up and look at. We were happily surprised at how fascinated in these items folks were. The Caldwells, American Indian enactors, were on hand to spin tales of Indian lore. Jim and Patricia Caldwell, dressed in their regalia, will be on hand again this year to entertain visitors.

This event is a great opportunity for the Society to be seen as a key organization in the Miamisburg Historic District. Volunteers are needed to welcome visitors to the booth and promote the sale of gift items. We need the "muscle" of our members to help with pitching the tent and setting up tables at 8:00 am and taking down after the festival. Contact Judy Wuerstl at [jk.wuerstl@gmail.com](mailto:jk.wuerstl@gmail.com), or call 866.1784 to let her know what time would be convenient for you to help out. You may also call the Society's office at 859-5000 and leave a message.

### And speaking of festivals...

On Saturday, June 19, the Historical Society took part in the "Rock 'n' Green Tomato Festival" that is put on each year by Ron's Pizza. It was a hot day filled with off-and-on rain, but under the direction of our Gift Shop Manager, Rolla Broerman, we had a very nice booth filled with Miamisburg related items from our gift shop, along with literature about our organization. It takes quite a number of volunteers to set up and break down the tent, man the booth during the day, and to transport gift shop items back and forth from Market Square. A big thanks to Rolla and the many folks who helped out that day.



*Mel Staley, Diane Warrick and Rolla Broerman*



*Carolyn Kilpatrick and Judy Wuerstl*

### **Important Reminder to Register Your Kroger Rewards Card**

To participate in this program which earns money for the Historical Society, you must first register your Kroger Plus Card. When you use your card, automatically a percentage of the amount of your purchase is donated to the Miamisburg Historical Society. **This is an ADDED benefit to your card and will not affect any benefits you personally receive from using your card or the cost of your purchase.**

- Register your card online at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com).
- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and click on Sign In/Register and follow the directions.

## Descendants of Daniel Gebhart Visit the Gebhart Tavern Museum at Heritage Village

By Judy Wuerstl, Heritage Village Coordinator

In May we were contacted by Richard Gebhart who resides in Wisconsin. He is related to Daniel Gebhart through Johan Peter Gebhart. Rich and his wife Jan, along with their son Rich and his wife LaTia were briefly visiting Miamisburg and asked if we could open the Tavern for them. Carol O'Connell and I had a wonderful visit with the family on May 27.



And then, in July we were contacted by George Gebhart, who now lives in Maine with his son, Chris. They are related to Daniel through Philip Gebhart and were in Miamisburg; they asked if we could open the Tavern for them. Naturally Carol and I were quite happy to do so on July 10. George is 84 and remembers much about growing up in his home town. They didn't know about our upcoming bicentennial and hope to return here in 2018 for the celebration.

That's the good news. Now the not-so-good news. As feared, we were unable to open the Village on Sunday, July 12 because of too few docents, so here is another plea for volunteers. It would require a mere three hours a month, so please consider it. Also, sad to say we have not had a lot of visitors this season. Can you lend a hand in spreading the word that we are here and we are anxious to welcome visitors.

Deep appreciation to the docents who volunteered in June and July, and I might add that some of them did a Sunday in both months:

Carolyn Kilpatrick	Larry Suttman	Steve Schultz	Sherry Kahler
Tom Silberman	Sharon Hiatt Yee	Mike Kindle	Marilyn Shade
Jane McGriff	Jessica Trofi	Judy Wuerstl	Mathew Mowery
Annie Gilkison	Murielene Case	Doug Stamm	Kim, Mary & Karen Izor
Paul Schultz	Jeanette Belvo	Harley Schram	Jay Robinson, Amanda & Daniel

## Dale Huffman, a Good Friend To All

By now everyone has read or heard about Dayton Daily News columnist Dale Huffman's passing on July 25, but we'd be remiss if we failed to note his death in our newsletter. Dale's career as a writer, spanned 45 years. His columns were known for their humor, human interest and good news stories about ordinary folks in the Miami Valley. He was a true humanitarian who never met a stranger or made an enemy.

Because of a broken home, Dale spent most of his growing up years (third to twelfth grade) in a Springfield orphanage. As an adult, he was known to attribute his sincere empathy for others to the "hellish" years he spent at the orphanage. He had a very tough beginning, but managed to turn his life into a very productive and worthy one. Dale eventually reunited with his mother and lovingly cared for her for many years at her home in Miamisburg.

Pictured at left is a photo of Dale as he spoke at the 100th Birthday Celebration of Kinder Elementary School on October 1, 2006.



*Dale Huffman at Kinder School*

## How high is your Miamisburg IQ?

### *The August Pop Quiz:*

**Many of the old steel bridges in Miamisburg have been replaced over the years with modern roadways, as has the one pictured at right in this 1987 photo.**

**What was this bridge called and where was it located?**



*Answer on Page 8*



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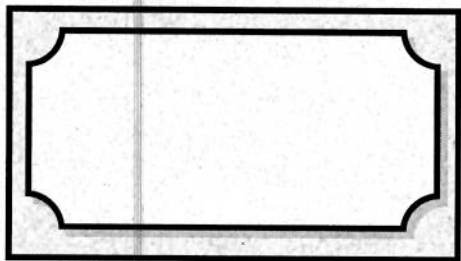
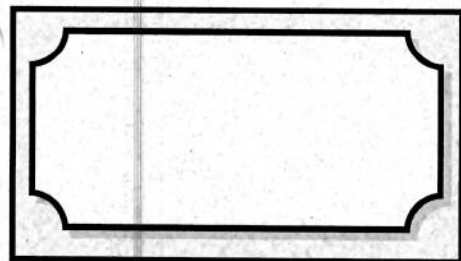
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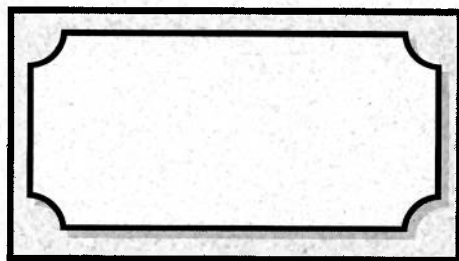
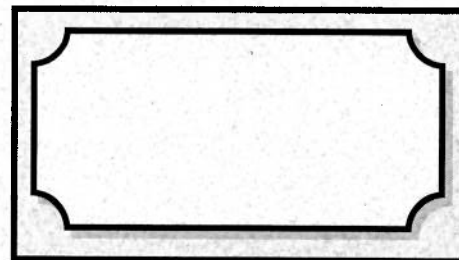




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## Media Production Group Produces More Great Programs

By Carol O'Connell, Commentator, Bicentennial Edition

Carol O'Connell recently hosted Billy Ring on a program about the Miamisburg Train Derailment. Billy Ring, a life long resident of Miamisburg, was a Captain in the Fire Department when the southbound CSX transportation train, on the west side of the Great Miami River, derailed on the trestle over Bear Creek on July 8, 1986 - 29 years ago. As a result, three tank cars containing hazardous material caught fire. This is a two part documentary of what happened from the first alert, to clean up and the challenging events in between, which led to a successful, well-orchestrated ending of the catastrophe. A rail disaster of this magnitude had never happened in Miamisburg or in the nation. This documentary will probably air in October.

John Warrington completed the second of a three part series on the Mound Lab history. His guest was Doug Gabriel, former Mound employee, whose topic was the Miamisburg connection to powering spacecraft and lunar landings from 1960-90.



Our programs may be viewed on Channel 5 or ATT Channel 99. Check for dates and time.

### Condolences on the Passing of Don McLaughlin

We're very sad to announce the passing on August 6 of our loyal Society member and friend, Don McLaughlin. He has been a long time member, board member, and in recent years our website webmaster. He served as commentator for many of the historical programs that have been taped by the Cable Council.

Always fascinated with the history of Miamisburg, Don began photographing sites around town at a very young age. It was rare that you'd ever see Don without his camera hanging off his shoulder.

The Society sends sincere sympathy to Don's wife, Saron, and all of his family and friends. Don will be very greatly missed in this community.



### Congratulations In Order!

Each year at the meeting of the Miamisburg High School Alumni Association, Honor Graduates are announced. This year, at the 128th Annual Meeting, Mike Masters and Scott Masters were the very deserving recipients of the Honor Grad Award.

This honor is awarded to Alumni of Miamisburg High School who have demonstrated a "lifetime achievement of service and dedication to the City of Miamisburg and its citizens".

They personally, along with their company, Masters Insurance Company, have been a vital supporter of the City of Miamisburg and numerous community organizations (including our own) for many years.

***Congratulations Mike and Scott!***

### Pop Quiz Answer

**The bridge was commonly known as Bear Creek Bridge and was located on Soldiers Home-Miamisburg Road on the west side of the Miami River.**





## Bronze Plaques Were a Long Time Coming

National Historic Register information provided by Carol O'Connell, Special Projects Director

Some time ago, Carol O'Connell inquired about the nine buildings which were listed (in 1975) in the National Register of Historic Places, as approved by the Dept. of the Interior (Designated Miamisburg Historic District). She was asking as to why there were never plaques erected on each building. Bobbye

Sweny let her know that the Society did not have the funds to purchase them at that time.

So, with Bobbye's help and encouragement, Carol began exploring companies where such bronze plaques were cast. After considering costs and quality of work, Dayton Stencil Works of Dayton won the job, and the Historical Society Board approved the expenditure. Although there are nine buildings on the list of historic places, only eight plaques were needed, as one of the buildings was razed some years ago. That building was the Groby Bank Building (later First National Bank) on Main Street, across from the American Legion.

Fast forward to June 23 of this year. Larry Retherford of the City headed the crew who installed seven of the eight plaques, which included our own Market Square Building. The remaining plaque will be installed by the owner of the Stocker Building. On hand for the plaque installation on the IOOF Building were IOOF members and Ron Holp of Ron's Pizza, who occupies the IOOF Building. (Side note: IOOF stands for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. This organization merged with the Germantown Chapter and no longer uses this building for meetings.)



*Liz Hess, Bob Hale, Ron Holp, Delmar Burns, Don Owens and Marquerite Owens are present for the plaque installation on the IOOF Building.*



*Bobbye Sweny and Carol O'Connell point out new Market Square plaque.*

Kudos to Carol O'Connell who began this project which definitely needed to be done, and saw it through to the end. Just another of our volunteers who gets things done!

Listed below are the eight historic buildings who received bronze plaques:

Gwinner Block, NE Corner Main and Central Avenue

Market Square Building, 4 N. Main Street

IOOF Block, 1 South Main Street

Liesenhoff Block, 16 - 18 South Main Street

Weaver Building, 79 South Main St., NW Corner Main and Linden Avenue

McGuire House, 115 South Main Street

The Baum Opera House, 15 S. First St., This plaque was put at the side entrance off the parking lot.

Stocker Building, 48 S. Main Street



Miamisburg Historical Society  
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## Summer of '29

*An excerpt from the memoirs of Warner N. Forbes (1914-1995)*

*"Without doubt the most embarrassing thing that happened to me up to this point occurred when I was about 15. I was just learning to drive. One Sunday we had a picnic in our front yard (805 E. Linden Avenue) and it was full of our relatives and friends. Wanting to show off my new found ability, I asked dad for permission to move the car from the street to the garage.*

*We had no sidewalks or gutters in front of our house. I started up and hit the fire plug dead center. The blow broke off the pipe below the level of the ground and the water shot eight or ten feet into the air. The car was an Essex and had strap bumpers which were bent back to the radiator. If I could have found a hole, I would have gladly crawled into it."*

