



# The Tavern Log

*A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society*

December 2014

Volume XXIII Issue 6

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

### Submit material to:

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Miamisburg Historical Society  
P.O. Box 774  
Miamisburg, OH 45343  
or via e-mail to  
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**E-Mail Address:** MHSociety@att.net  
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**Webmasters:** Don McLaughlin, Jay Robinson

## "Christmas at the Tavern - 2014"

Co-Chairs, Judy Wuerstl and Laura Bornhorst

Our "Christmas at the Tavern" event this year drew a record crowd, according to Judy Wuerstl. There were 87 signatures in our guest book for the day. Christmas music was performed by the Miamisburg High School Madrigal Singers and the Star City Dulcimer group. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to both of these groups who provide a wonderful, and very special afternoon of holiday entertainment.



*Miamisburg  
High School  
Madrigal  
Singers*

We must also mention the delicious array of sweets and appetizers, along with hot cider that was served to guests by Murielene Case. Many thanks to all who contributed the tasty goodies, and to all the Heritage Village docents who helped make the event a success.



Tom and Joyce Zimpfer's decorations were lovely as usual, and add so much to the 1800's ambience at our Christmas holiday event.



*Star City Dulcimers*

## Canal Days Dinner Draws Large Crowd

Thanks to all our members and friends who came out to support our annual fundraiser in October. This year's Canal Days Dinner attendance was good, but we hope to eventually double attendance in the coming years. The success of this fundraiser is essential for the financial health of the Society, and because it's now being held at the Parkview United Methodist Church on Benner Road, we can accommodate many more folks than in previous years.



The silent auction of gift baskets and many other contributed items also serves to raise revenue for the Society, and this year the auction brought in a total of \$521.

This dinner is a team effort and takes the dedicated work of many volunteers coming together to make it happen. To all who helped out in any way, we send a big thank you!



*Photo by Jay Robinson*



*Photo by Jay Robinson*

Miamisburg Star, one of the donated auction items.

Ed and Cindy Hiehle help to serve up the bean and vegetable soup dinners in the kitchen.



## Community Suffers Great Loss with Passing of Dr. Clifford Gebhart

Well known physician, Dr. Clifford Gebhart, passed away on November 12. Dr. Gebhart was beloved in the community and many knew him as doctor and friend.

He graduated from Miamisburg High School in 1944 and went on to graduate from Otterbein College in 1947 and from Western Reserve School of Medicine in 1951.

Dr. Gebhart also served as Captain in the Air Force medical corps during the Korean War. After the war he joined in a family practice in Miamisburg with Dr. R.C. Doan, and continued his professional career for 37 years.

He was a member of St. Jacob Lutheran Church, the Miamisburg Historical Society, the Minerva Masonic Lodge No. 98, the Scottish Rite and Shrine Antioch Temple and Rotary. Dr. Gebhart also held memberships in the Montgomery County Medical Society, Ohio State Medical Society, American Medical Association and American Academy of Family Practice. He established a memorial scholarship for Miamisburg High School.

The Society sends condolences to Wanda Gebhart, his wife of 66 years, and to his entire family. Dr. Gebhart was a regular attendee at Historical Society events and will be greatly missed here and in the community.

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

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**WHAT'S COMING UP**

**No General Program in January**

**February General Program**

**February 26 at 7:00**  
**Market Square Building**

Our newly revived  
 Media Production Group  
 will give a presentation on their  
 recently completed programs, and let  
 us know what's planned for the future.

**PLUS...**

**It's all the pizza you can eat,  
 delivered hot from Ron's Pizza.**

**Wishing You Well!**

We're sending our very best "Get Well"  
 wishes out to Loueda Schultz who had a  
 recent fall, resulting in broken ribs.

**Mend quickly, Loueda!**

**Society Sends Condolences**

Sophie Mahan, long time Society member, passed away on December 10. The Historical Society sends sympathy to her family and many friends. Sophie was active in the Society's HRRC Committee and her smiling face was always a welcome sight at any gathering.

Our condolences to all.

**Membership Application**

I would like membership in the category checked:

- ☐ Student Membership \$5.00  
☐ Individual membership \$15.00  
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Donation

Total enclosed \$

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

Method of Payment:

- ☐ Check ☐ MasterCard  
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Please make check payable to Miamisburg Historical Society.

- ☐ New member ☐ Renewing member  
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 Please note your areas of interest:

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## No Wonder They Called It The Good Old Days!

### A bottle of Bayer's 'Heroin'

Between 1890 and 1910 heroin was sold as a **non-addictive substitute** for morphine.

### Cocaine drops for toothache

Very popular for children in 1885. Not only did they relieve the pain, they made the children very happy!



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## Bobbie Sweny Serves As Grand Marshal in Community Holiday Parade



*Photos by Jay Warrick*

Congratulations to Society member, Bobbie Sweny, who was selected as Grand Marshal for the Holiday Parade this year. We're very proud of Bobbie, who has worked hard over the span of many years for the betterment of the community. A resident of Miamisburg for 67 years, she's been a member of the Historical Society for the past 25 years and has served three separate terms as President.

Bobbie began the Children's Educational Programs at the Society which won the History Outreach Award in 2010 from the Ohio Assn. of Historical Societies. In addition, she has served on the planning committee for the 150th and 175th celebrations of Miamisburg and you can be sure she'll be involved in the upcoming Bicentennial celebration in 2018



*Bobbie with her great-granddaughter, Emma O'Boyle, who is a direct descendant of one of Miamisburg's founders, Col. Emanuel Gebhart.*

She's always been a very involved and productive citizen of our city and is very deserving of every honor she is given.

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## The Season at Heritage Village Ends With "Old Time Craft Day"

By Judy Wuerstl, Heritage Village Coordinator



*Scott Hamilton, furniture maker*

We closed out the season with our annual 'Old Time Craft Day' on October 19 and were blessed once again with a perfect autumn day. Our spinners, Barb Willis, Janice Dohn and Amy Baird were back as was Karen Schnee, weaver; Janet Wead, tatter; Anne Freimark, knitter; and Carol O'Connell, crocheting. Also returning, whittler/carver/story teller, Russ Kidwell; Scott Hamilton, furniture maker; Debra Hamilton, chair caner; and Karen Izor with her draw knife. Then there was Art Glidden, the blacksmith and his wife, Nancy, with herbs; and Josie Reno, herbalist.

New this year was Cheryl Rice, quilter. Cathy Sweny displayed a new craft of yarn wrap baskets. We were very pleased to have a new and unusual craft this year, rug hooking, demonstrated by Jennifer Gray, Pam Smiley and Melissa of the Miami Valley Rug Hooking Guild. Matthew Mowery again handled the display of primitive antique tools, with some new ones added.

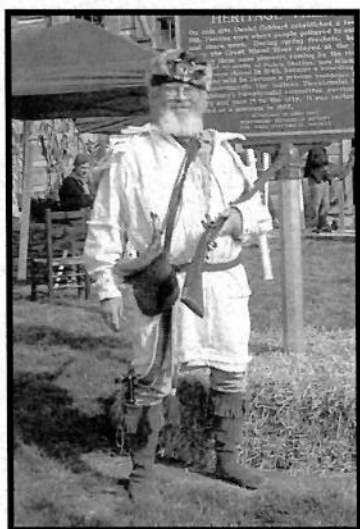
The always popular dulcimer music was provided again by Linda Lewis, and Mr. Tom Conway joined her and brought

his "limberjack". Then there was Marilyn Shade and Shirley Holbrook helping the children make "rag dolls" with pretty pieces of fabric. Annie Gilkison and Murielene Case had a lot of interested folks stop by their Historical Society table. Jane McGriff brought her wonderful lavender cookies, Sherry Kahler took care of the guest book. By the way, we had many more visitors than ever this year!



*Shirley Holbrook & Marilyn Shade, with rag dolls*

Sharon Maddox and Loretta Colaricci took care of the refreshment table, full of a delicious assortment of cookies and cider donated by our Kroger store. "Ole Jim" Schnapp was resplendent in his latest frontiersman regalia and Diane Warrick again took those great photos. Docents who were on hand to help in taking folks on tours of the buildings and answering questions were Kim and Mary Izor, Iola Hail and Carolyn Kilpatrick. Their help was most appreciated. And as always... special thanks to Doug Stamm for helping us pull it all together and to Tom and Joyce Zimpfer for their usual, beautiful autumn decorations. And our thanks to the City for erecting and taking down the tents that add so much to our event. The efforts of many folks who worked so hard made the event another success!



*Jim Schnapp, frontiersman*



*Karen Schnee, weaver*

Thanks to the docents who volunteered at the Village in October:  
Harley Schram, Loretta Colaricci and Larry Suttman.

And so another good season at the Heritage Village has come to a close.



## Jim & Kaye Lenz Donate 1918 Willys Overland to Historical Society

In October of this year, Jim Lenz attended a Board Meeting of the Historical Society. The reason being that he was offering to donate his historic Willys Overland vehicle to the Society. Of course the Board was very interested in acquiring this car that was originally purchased on October 30, 1917 at the White Star Garage, an Overland Dealership in Miamisburg.

Charles Eagle was the original owner of the Model 90 Touring Car that he purchased for the tidy sum of \$875.00. It has remained in the Eagle family, transferring down to son, Curtis Eagle, and eventually to grandson, Lee Eagle. While in Lee's possession, Lee decided to restore the historic car and reportedly spent five years in the process. To say she's a beauty, inside and out, and under the hood is an understatement. The Eagle family can be very proud of saving and restoring this vehicle which has an almost 100 year long history in Miamisburg.

The next chapter in the story comes in 2005, when Lee Eagle offered the car for sale and it came into the possession of Jim Lenz, who has owned it ever since. It's evident that the Overland has had plenty of TLC in Jim's care, because its bright yellow paint still gleams and the car still runs without coaxing, even in freezing temperatures. It's a show stopper, that's for sure!

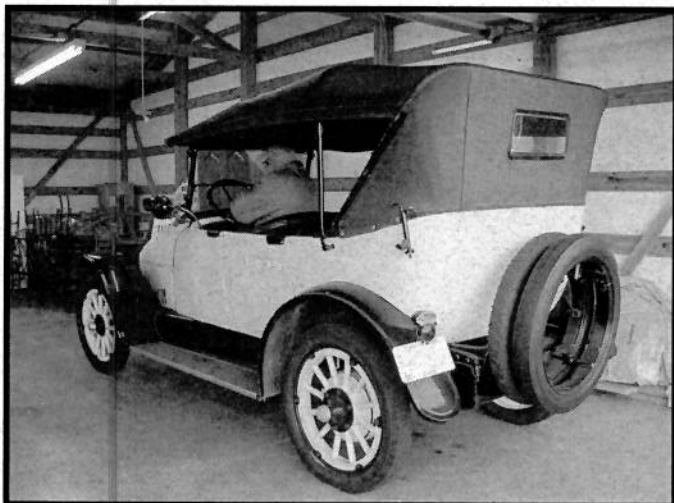
On December 11, Curator, Gary Petticrew and Larry Suttman came out to actually lay eyes on the car and to look it over. After admiring its beauty, Jim gave Larry some detailed operating instructions. (No, it's definitely not as simple as just turning the key.) Some photos were taken and then at Jim's home, papers were signed and the car's ownership was officially transferred.



*Jim Lenz with  
1918 Willys Overland*



*Jim Lenz, Gary Petticrew and Larry Suttman*



The Historical Society Board would like to express its sincere appreciation to Jim and Kaye for their most valuable donation. Not only is the vehicle historic in itself, but its provenance of being originally purchased at a Miamisburg dealership and remaining in the possession of Miamisburg residents all these years, indeed make it extra special. As new owners of the car, we vow to continue the excellent care it has received all these years.

I'm sure you will see the Society showing off its "new" Willys Overland in future community parades.

**THANK YOU JIM & KAYE!**

# Holly & Ivy - 2014



*Carolyn Kilpatrick*

The Holly & Ivy Gala was held this year at the beautiful home of Bob and Carolyn Kilpatrick. Co-chairing the event was Laura Bornhorst. This holiday party is the culmination of the year's work, as members and friends gather to relax and celebrate the season with lots of wonderful hors d'oeuvres, sweets and drinks.



*Laura Bornhorst*



*Paul Schultz*

The evening wouldn't be complete without Paul Schultz's famous bourbon balls that he makes himself. This year he brought two different varieties which were equally yummy!



*Folks sample all the goodies on the food table.*



*Connie Carrell, Josh Fox and Joyce Zimpfer, just a few of the guests at the Kilpatrick home.*

A BIG THANK YOU to the Kilpatrick's for hosting this year's holiday event. Thank you also to all those who helped with food items or who assisted in any way.





*Tom Zimpfer prepares to paint the branches white.*

## Historical Society Float Wins "Media's Choice" Award

A lot of loyal folks worked so hard in freezing weather to construct a float for the Community Holiday Parade - and it was a WINNER! The float featured our 1800's sleigh and depicted the 1947 movie, "Winter Wonderland". We now have a new plaque to display at Market Square, along with prize money of \$50 to add to the coffers.

The float committee was chaired by Judy Wuerstl, with help from Carol O'Connell, and many more. It took a team to transport

the fragile sleigh to Lee Hieronymus's barn, where it was decorated. All our thanks to Lee for his time and for the use of his truck, trailer and barn.



*Judy Wuerstl and Larry Suttman work on decorating the float.*



*Carolyn Kilpatrick and Judy Wuerstl carry the Media's Choice Award banner.*



*Black and white photos do not convey the beauty of the float.*



*Photo by Jay Warrick*

*John and Diane Warrick, dressed in their 1947 winter finery, rode in the sleigh that was originally owned by John's great-grandfather.*

### Thank you to the following people who were involved in the float project:

Judy Wuerstl	Carol O'Connell	Tom Zimpfer	Carolyn Kilpatrick
Larry Suttman	Randy Staley	Joyce Zimpfer	Lee Hieronymus
Gary Petticrew	Ed Hiehle	Cindy Hiehle	John Warrick
Don Wuerstl			Diane Warrick

### Thank you to all our float sponsors:

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*Photo by Jay Warrick*

*Just a few of our tired, but happy workers, Carolyn Kilpatrick, Don Wuerstl, Judy Wuerstl and Carol O'Connell.*



Miamisburg Historical Society  
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## Children's Education Program

By Judy Wuerstl, Chairperson

October was quite a busy month for the Children's Education docents. There were two Heritage Walks for third graders from Medlar View and two for Mound School. Kinder kids came on two days to visit the Village. Later in the month the High School Local History classes were taken on a downtown walking tour which ended up at the Baum Opera House for a tour of that historic building. Then in November they enjoyed visiting the Hamburger Wagon and afterward coming into the Market Square Building for a program and tour.

In November our annual Veterans' Day program took a different direction. All of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams, around 450 students plus teachers, came to the Camp Chautauqua auditorium on November 6<sup>th</sup> and we presented our programs on the history of the American Flag as well as the history of Taps. Vietnam veteran, Mark Kucharski, returned and the students, as always, were very excited to hear his story and then to get up close and personal with his display of military gear. We are so grateful for Mark's continued commitment.

And now it's time for the committee to take a break and enjoy our "time off", then get ready to gear up for the spring, when we'll be back and ready to do what we love. That is giving the school children of Miamisburg an appreciation of the rich history of our town.

## Hope you're feeling better!

"Get Well" wishes go out to Martha Colson who suffered a fall in October. We hope you're getting along great and feeling much better!

## Thinking of you, Wanda

Wanda Gebhart, is now a resident at the Sycamore Glen Health Center. She is having continuing health problems of her own, in addition to the recent passing and great loss of her husband, Dr. Clifford Gebhart.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Wanda.