



The Tavern Log

A Publication of the Miamisburg Historical Society

June 2008

Volume XVII Issue 3

MIAMISBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS & BOARD

Officers:

Cathy Oberer, President
Ted Fink, Vice-President
Jeanette Belvo, Secretary
Phyllis Abney, Treasurer
Joe Steffen, Curator

Board:

Dick Church Jr.
Don McLaughlin
Barb Olekas
Randy Staley
John Welthofer
Phil Johnson, Past President

Committee Chairs:

Dick Church, City Liaison
Ted Fink, Programs
Barb Olekas, Ways and Means
Nita Petticrew, HRRS
Randy Staley, Veterans
Bobbie Sweny, Children's Programs
and Education
Diane Warrick, Tavern Log Editor
Les Wead, Jr., Market Square Operations

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

A list of deadlines and publication dates
is available from the board president or
on our website.

Submit material to:

Editor, The Tavern Log
Miamisburg Historical Society
P.O. Box 774
Miamisburg, OH 45343

or via e-mail to
dewarick@abcglobal.net

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

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are held the third
Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm
at the Market Square Building.

GEBHART TAVERN

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

Website:

[http://miamisburg.org/
miamisburg_historical_society.htm](http://miamisburg.org/miamisburg_historical_society.htm)

Webmaster: Jay Robinson

Picnic at the Plaza • Thursday, June 26



This photo of the Plaza Theater is thought to have been taken around 1963.

Each year as we end our winter schedule of General Meetings and prepare for our summer break, we get together for a picnic or carry-in dinner. This year will be a very special treat because our "picnic" will be held at the newly restored Plaza Theater on Main Street.

We've all been patiently (or not so patiently) waiting as the work of restoring the Plaza has gone on for many months. As it finally nears completion, we will be privileged to get a sneak preview of the interior.

What greater venue for our dinner this year. I know that many of our members have wonderful memories of the Plaza and it will certainly be a treat to gather once again in this historic building.

Bring a covered dish and join us at 6:00 pm on Thursday, June 26 at the Plaza Theater. Table service and drinks will be provided. There is no charge for Historical Society members, but non-members attending will be asked to pay a fee of \$10.

**We're looking forward to a great turnout and a fun evening.
Hope to see you there!**

REMINDER!

Please don't forget to submit your membership dues for 2008.
Your support is vital to the operation of our Historical Society.



From the President's Desk.....

By Cathy Oberer

President's Plea for People Power

Have you retired recently? Are you bored with the same old leisure schedule? Do you want to invest time in new interests? I have the answer for you. I know a place where you can match your skills with exiting projects and a group of people that will be happy to take you on a "new" adventure into the past. It is your Miamisburg Historical Society. We are looking for innovative people who enjoy interacting with each other and the public. We need to involve people like you who like to dig up facts about our town and the surrounding area and want to share our rich history with the next generations.

We need you... We need you to join our volunteer groups who help others research the city and family histories. Nita Petticrew (866-1285)

We need you... We need you to hang out at the Market Square Building and show people our displays and share information. Les Wead (866-1604)

We need you... We need you to sell gifts from our shop. Rolla Broerman (866-2497)

We need you... We need you to be a docent at the Gebhart Tavern Museum and the future site of the Kercher cabin home. Judy Wuersil (866-1784)

We need you... We need you to be on our committees to help the Society reach all of its goals.

Ways and Means: Barb Olekas (866-6590) Children's Education: Bobbye Sweny (866-3507)
Membership: Cathy Oberer (866-7896) Programs: Ted Fink (212-5233) Veterans: Randy Staley (885-4458)

Not only do we need you, we want you. I am sure there are areas that we can match to your skills and things that you would like to be involved. You can contact the individuals above or leave a message at our main number 859-5000.

How high is your Miamisburg IQ?

The June Pop Quiz

In what year did the scene below take place?

1972 • 1977 • 1982 • 1987



Answer on Page 7



A Great Memorial Day Weekend

By Randy Staley

We had another great Memorial Day weekend this year. We think a lot of folks wanted to stick close to home due to \$4.00 per gallon gas prices. Gas prices also had an effect on some of the larger parade vehicles who opted out, understandably. As usual we had some last minute problems, which we will address for next year's program. Our Historical Society buggy did not make the parade this year due to the lack of a trained carriage horse. If anyone has a contact on an owner, please let us know.

I would like to thank our sponsors, who provided cash donations, materials and services in order to make these weekend events happen. Without their support we could not bring this annual program home to honor our veterans. Mayor Dick Church's Marriage Fund provides our seed money for the dance, the ice cream and the MHS Band. Sue Montesano and the River Valley Credit Union provided our art work and printed advertising. General Food Service (GFS) provided our free hot dogs at the park. Tom Chapman sponsored our bike decorating contest. A special thanks goes out to our friends at the Baum Opera House and all of our volunteers.

We started this year in early May with our Military Exhibit that opened for the school children and high school history class. Thanks to Bobbye Sweny's committee and Lester Wead, we had over 200 third graders and high school students pass through the Market Square Building, as well as veterans, civilians and MHS members. Until a better count is made, we estimate around 400 visitors passed through.

Continued on page 7

Gebhart Tavern Museum Spruced Up for the Summer Season

By Judy Wuerstl

We had a very successful Gebhart Tavern Museum "cleaning day" on May 1st. You should see how the windows sparkle, thanks to the hard work of Tom Silberman. Also pitching in to help Bobbye Sweny and Judy Wuerstl was Bill Stalder. Jeanne Toadvine again this year provided us with five fine boys from her 8th grade class and the job was finished. The boys were Michael Palmer, Shaun Hudson, Chris Quarmley, Taylor Miller and Ryan Griffiths.

The Tavern opened for the summer season on May 4th with quite a few visitors. For example, a man from Germantown was showing his visitor from England the historical sites and they stopped in. Some bicyclists saw our new sign on the bike path and came down to see us.

We are excited to have recruited seven new volunteer docents for the Tavern this summer. We welcome Bill Stalder, Larry and Marty Williams, Carol O'Connell, Jane McGriff, Nancy Frank and Ron Sprague. Volunteers who worked at the Tavern in May included JoAnne Brewer, Judy Wuerstl, Kathy Fortney, Laura Bornhorst, Jim & Karen Schnapp and Paul & Loueda Schultz. What would we do without our volunteers! We appreciate and thank them!



The Tavern will be open an extra day on Sat., June 21, 2:00-4:00 for "out-of towners" coming in for the Miamisburg Alumni.



MEMORIAL DAY



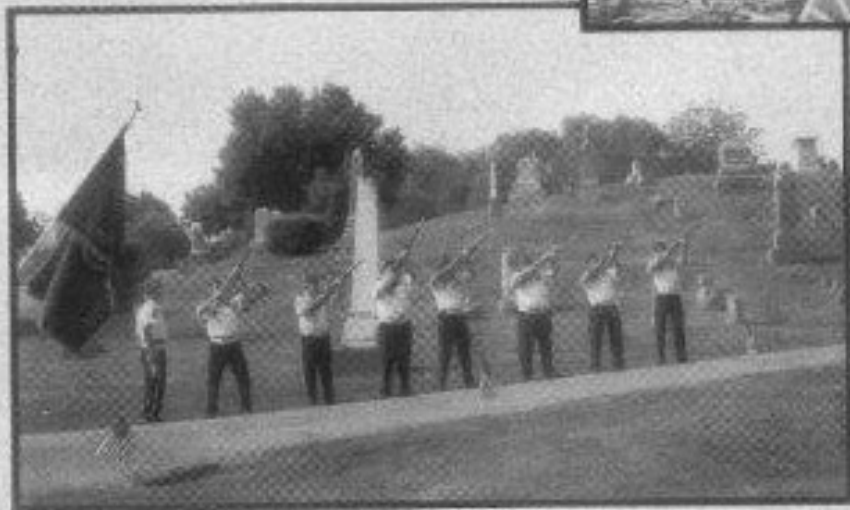
Randy Staley Emcees Silver Taps Program



Robert Sorah, Jim Schnapp
Bill Ellerman and Paul Garrad
take part in Silver Taps Program



Parade
Grand Marshal,
Luke Wade



American Legion Post 165
Services at Hill Grove Cemetery



Laying the wreath

WEEKEND EVENTS

Les Wead shows our Memorial Day display to Charlie and Murielene Case



Reverend Dr. Bob Potts as General Patton and Sheila Borton in period dress

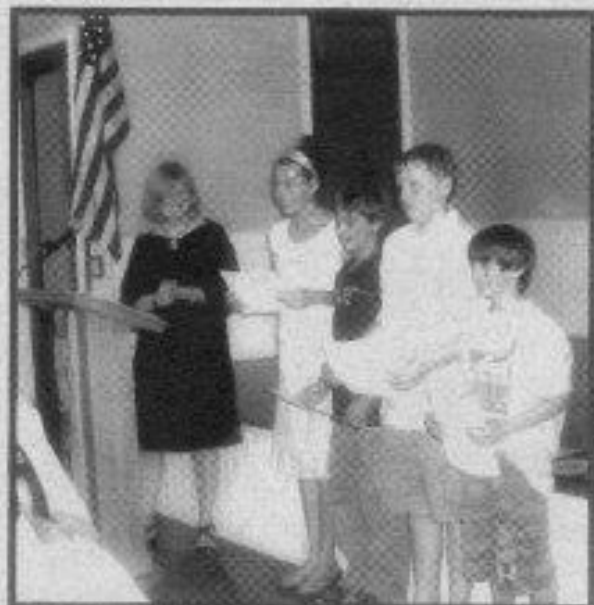
The Victory Dance at the Baum



Lineup at the Ice Cream Trolley

Bud Colvin and Peggy Critzer lead the bikes to the park for judging





Cathy Sweny presenting certificates to art students.

April General Program Features Student's Art Work

By Ted Fink

To begin the monthly meeting of the Historical Society on Thursday April 24, Mr. Robinson, Principal of Mound School, and several of his students presented a check to Historical Society President, Cathy Oberer. The funds are to go toward the Kercher Cabin project.

Following that, local art teacher Cathy Sweny described the art work displayed throughout the second floor of the Market Square Building. The theme of the project was vacations, and each of her students was to create a postcard from a place they had visited in Ohio. Over 50 postcards were put on display for those in attendance to view throughout the evening.

In addition to the art work, there was a presentation by author Cynthia Vogel. Mrs. Vogel is a retired school teacher whose book *Civil War Women: They Made a Difference*, was recently featured in the Dayton Daily News.


Mrs. Vogel has been interested in Civil War history since she was in high school, and for years has been collecting information and stories about women who were important during that era. She related to the audience that while in the waiting room of her doctor, she told another patient, Bob Mikolajewski, that she had been researching the contributions of women during the Civil War, and was hoping to turn that research into a book. Mikolajewski encouraged her to pursue her dream and put her in touch with a friend of his who might be able to help. In July 2007, her book was published. It details the lives of 75 women connected with the Civil War. During her presentation, Mrs. Vogel related the stories of four of those women. Mrs. Vogel has been marketing the book on her own and has been contacting museums and other historical entities in Ohio and elsewhere to gauge interest in her project.

In closing, I would like to thank Dr. Carl Becker and Mrs. Virginia Kinderdine who have agreed to lend their support to the program committee. If you are interested in helping out or have a suggestion for a future program, please let me know.

Condolences

To the family of Mary Etta Kauffman who passed away on May 23rd, we send our sincere condolences.

Mrs. Kauffman, whose father owned the old Miami Hotel on the corner of Main St. and Linden Avenue, was recently featured in a *Tavern Log* article which described her visit back to her hometown of Miamisburg.



*Visit our gift shop for
Miamisburg Cat's Meows*

*We still have a wide variety
to choose from!*



Market Square Building
4 N. Main Street • Miamisburg
Open Wed. & Sat. 1:00 - 4:00 pm

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Van Dine Family

Become a Member ...

and help preserve Miamisburg

I would like membership in the category checked:

- ☐ Student \$5.00
☐ Individual \$15.00
☐ Family \$25.00
☐ Sponsor \$50.00
☐ Patron \$100.00
☐ Life \$500.00 (per person)

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please make check payable to:
Miamisburg Historical Society

- ☐ I am a new member
☐ I am renewing

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

(please mail to:)

Miamisburg Historical Society
 P.O. Box 774
 Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774

A Great Memorial Day Weekend

(Continued from page 3)

The "Silver Taps" program on Thursday evening was attended by about 50 members and guests with Paul Garrod playing the pipes followed by re-enactors Bill Ellerman (SAR), Jim Schnapp (1812), Bob Potts and Sheila Borton (WWII). Rev. Mike Hout provided the invocation. MHS students, Dylan Turner, a junior, and Charles Williford, a sophomore, sang the National Anthem. Centerville author, Bob Thobaben, provided an interesting program relating to his interviews with WWII veterans after many battles in all theaters during the war. He also provided a list of books relating to WWII and his research which is available at the Market Square Building. After taps were played, Mayor Dick Church ended the program with a roll call of Miamisburg men killed in war.

The Victory Dance, moved to Sunday this year from 7:00 to 10:00 pm, was attended by about 100 members, guests and the public. As usual the music from the Hauer Big Swing Band filled the Baum Opera House and spilled down to the street. It was a great entertaining evening for all attending.

The Memorial Day Parade and Services was the fan fair for a beautiful weekend. American Legion Post 165 served its 60th Memorial Day march and program with honor this year. They have provided this traditional Miamisburg service since 1948, rain or shine, with or without a band. We did have our MHS band which did a very good job as usual, providing the beautiful patriotic music to set our day off. I hope you enjoyed our efforts, and we welcome your comments and suggestions for next year.

Pop Quiz Answer

The correct answer is 1982

The old Miamisburg High School (Bell Building), built in 1922 at the corner of Linden Avenue and Sixth Street, was occupied until 1980. After that time it remained empty and unused until it was demolished in 1982.

Sympathy to the Family of Ted Baxendale

Ted, along with his daughter Abi, have provided the musical entertainment at our Gebhart Tavern Christmas get-togethers for the past few years. Ted passed away unexpectedly on May 25. He and his music will be greatly missed.



Miamisburg Historical Society
P.O. Box 774
Miamisburg, OH 45343-0774

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 638
DAYTON OH 45401

certified by



1907 Hatfield Buggyabout Coming Home?



Newly discovered Buggyabout

We recently learned of the existence of a third Hatfield Buggyabout. Until now only two were known to exist. These early automobiles were manufactured here in Miamisburg at 20 N. Main Street by the Hatfield Motor Car Co.

Larry Suttman of our Historical Society has made contact with the owner who recently put the car on the market. Larry has also contacted a member of the very reputable Horseless Carriage Club in California who has made an inspection of the car for another interested party. This person has also reported his findings to our Society. According to him, very little work needs to be done in restoration.

If our Society is able to purchase the Buggyabout, it would hopefully be housed inside the Market Square Building. For now we're keeping our fingers crossed that the owner will see fit to sell to our Society, so that we may bring the old auto back home again to Miamisburg.

Upcoming Events

J U N E	Event: MHS Alumni Dinner & Dance Date: Saturday, June 21 6:00 pm Place: Holiday Inn - Dayton Mall
	Event: Historical Society General Program - "Picnic at the Plaza" Date: Thursday, June 26 6:00 pm Place: Plaza Theatre (see front page info)
	Event: Cruise the Burg #1 Date: Saturday, June 28 4:00-9:00 pm Place: Downtown Miamisburg
J U L Y	No July General Meeting
	Event: ThunderBurg Date: Saturday, July 19 4:00-11:00 pm Place: Downtown Miamisburg
	Event: Tour d'Burg Date: Sunday, July 20 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Place: Downtown Miamisburg
A U G	Event: Cruise The Burg #2 Date: Saturday, July 26 4:00-9:00 pm Place: Downtown Miamisburg
	No August General Meeting
	Event: Cruise the Burg #3 Date: Saturday, August 23 4:00-9:00 pm Place: Downtown Miamisburg