

# SHARING THE SECRET

October 2007

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Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc., 123 W. George St, Arcanum , OH 45304

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## **President's Report** by Richard Troutwine

Now, the conference room is under renovation and near completion. Lonnie Norris, Keith Fourman, Tim Temple and Ralph Holsapple have put up 2x4 on the original ceiling and attached plaster board to them. Richard Rinehart in extremely hot conditions has plastered the ceiling and repaired the walls. John Hicks has primed and painted the room. The upper windows that were exposed when the drop ceiling was removed have been framed in with storm windows by Dave Flora. With the room cleared of furniture, the floor has been sanded and will be stained and clear coated with polyurethane. New window trim is being made for the two large front windows. New lighting and ceiling fans are installed. The new speaker system will be completed before the Oct. meeting.

Upstairs, a new hanging light was installed in the northeast room. The floors have been painted on the west side. Ceiling light fixtures are being installed. Hallway floor and stairway also need to be painted.

Tim Todd and Jerry Snyder Construction Company successfully repaired the stage and stairway at Veteran's Park. The cost of same was \$845 and covered by the auto owner's insurance company.

I would like to thank all the people who helped with the food stand at the Lions Club Cruise In, The World's Longest Yard Sale and The Great Darke County Fair Gate. These projects required quite a few hours of labor and netted the society \$1650. Please contact Jenny Quigney with ideas for fundraisers, 692-5994.

Due to renovation of the conference room not being completed, the September membership meeting was rescheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup>. Guest Bob Menker was able to rearrange his schedule to give his talk, "The Social History of the Bicycle From 1818" at the time. Bob will bring part of his bicycle collection.

Finally, the AWTHS debt at Second National Bank is \$9667.53 whereas the checking/savings account is \$7783.88.

## **January 10, 2008 Annual Membership Meeting & Election of Officers**

### **Speaker - Scott Phillips, Host of American Woodshop**

In keeping with AWTHS by-laws officers and directors will be elected at the January meeting immediately following the annual business meeting. Please mark your calendar for Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

### ***This will serve as your official notice of the meeting.***

Pres. Dick Troutwine asked Tom Staley to serve as nominating committee chairman. Please notify Tom if you are interested in serving the society as an officer or director.

We are privileged to have Scott Phillips as our guest speaker on this evening. Scott, a resident of Piqua, is host of the award winning television show American Woodshop. He is a master craftsman and an expert on wood of all types. His show can be seen weekly on PBS, the new season begins this fall.. Scott judges the annual wood toy show held at Ansonia Lumber.

### **Officers and Directors**

President		Directors 2 <sup>nd</sup> year	
Richard Troutwine	692-5128	Dave Flora	692-8413
Vice President		Jeff Puterbaugh	692 5302
Fred Troutwine	692-8939	Directors 1 <sup>st</sup> year	
Treasurer		Keith Furlong	548-6556
Jerry Kramer	692-5764	Wendell Miller	692-8425
Rec. Secretary	Pat Jones	662-9114	
Corres. Secretary	Barbara Deis	678-7832	

### **Inside This Issue**

President's Report, Board Members,	page 1
Nov. Speaker & Annual Meeting	1
Committee Reports	2
Theaters	3
Religious Heritage	4
2008 Membership Renewal Forms	5
Calendar of Events & On Going Projects	6

## **November 8<sup>th</sup> Program - Fort Nesbit - Guest Speaker Ryan Buckingham**

Ryan Buckingham is among the most recent generation descending from those who first settled Darke County. He will focus on the early history of the Darke County area that led to the establishment of Fort Nesbit, the scope of life in the area during this period and the activity before and after the War of 1812 that saw the greatest activity in the chain of forts running from Cincinnati to Fort Wayne. Join us Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> to learn more about Fort Nesbit.

**Committee Reports**

Landscape - Rose Lambert, Chairperson

A new flower bed has been added next to the black wrought iron fence on the north edge of the property. Fred and Carolyn Troutwine planted daylilies and hostas which were donated by Joan Rench.

Membership - Carolyn Furlong, Chairperson

January 1 is the date 2008 membership fees are due. Please use the membership renewal form printed on page 5. You may want to consider becoming a Lifetime member for a donation of \$1,000. All memberships are due Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> unless you are a new member who has joined after June 1, 2007 in which case you will renew January 2009. If you have not paid dues for 2007 and don't renew your membership for 2008, your name will be dropped from the membership roll. The current number of memberships include: Single-36, Family-51, Sponsorship-3, Corporate-2 and Lifetime-2 .

Ways and Means - Jenny Quigney, Chairperson

*Food Stand- Lions Club Cruise In* Profit from the food stand AWTHS ran at the Lions Club Cruise In June 23rd was \$315. We were very busy and I appreciate all the help. Thanks to Tom Knick for being the grill chief, to Arcanum Hardware for the use of the pop corn machine and to Sutton's Super Value for the discount on food purchased.

*World's Longest Yard Sale* August 2, 3, and 4 AWTHS participated in the World's Longest Yard Sale on St. Rt. 127. Due to the donations of our members we were able to realize a profit of \$535. I would like to thank all the members who donated items to sell and also to the members that donated their time to work.

*Fair Gate* Once again we managed Gate 3 at the Darke County Fair. This project brings in \$800 and requires a lot of volunteer help. A huge thank you goes out to all who gave of their time, this project involves a lot of hours and I appreciate all who volunteered and made my job much easier. A wood bench was donated to the historical society by Bob Weisenbarger. Our name was painted on the bench by Jenny Clark and used at the fair gate by visitors. Many people thanks us for the use of the bench.

*Holiday Bazaar November 24<sup>th</sup>* The holidays are fast approaching and so is our bazaar. We are asking for gently used greenery, poinsettias and ribbons which will be used to make up wreaths, garlands and arrangements. We need gently used and handcrafted Christmas items of all kinds. This year we are adding a Christmas theme book section. Also, homemade goodies are needed for the Bake Shoppe. Bring donations to the meetings or drop them off at the historical society building. Call me to arrange pickup or for more info (459-8090). We will appreciate any of these items.

This year's raffle includes a Longaberger basket donated by Doug Millikin and a framed photograph by Marlene Creech. Doug and his family were long time residents of Arcanum. The basket is one that was purchased by Doug during Arcanum's Sesquicentennial Auction in 1999. Raffle tickets will be distributed for pre-sale at the Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Look for us at the Farmers Market and Suttons in the coming weeks. Thank you to Doug and Marlene for your generous donations.

I want to say thank you in advance to all who are willing to donate items and their time, the bazaar is a huge undertaking. Further details and work shop info will be available at the Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> membership meeting.

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**A FAREWELL**

It is with sadness that we note the passing of member Ken Blackburn. Ken helped with his engineering expertise, and in many other ways, as renovations of the building began.

Also, we will miss friend of the historical society, Don Burns. Don donated much of the brick which forms the brick walkways and the foundation for the lawn bench.

Both Ken and Don contributed to the window replacement fund.

### Movie Pictures Comes To Arcanum

Phenakistiscope, kinetoscope (1891) and the nickelodeon (1905) all preceded the movie theatres we think of today. Nickelodeons coupled movies with sing-a-longs, vaudeville comics, dog acts and illustrated lectures.

In 1907 the Chancellor brothers, William and Harry, brought movies to Arcanum. The first show consisted of a ten minute reel "Dick the Newsboy" and an illustrated slide program accompanied by a singer, Miss Helen Robbins, with the pianist being Mr. Charles Lowder. All this for the price of a nickel, thus the name nickelodeon.

William and Harry Chancellor named their new enterprise Dreamland. It was located at 108 W. George St. The brothers claimed continuous service of the theatre from 1907 until it closed in 1953. Although between Oct . 28, 1909 and April 28, 1910 the theatre was known as C. R. Jobs Picture Show, operated by C. R. Jobs. This was during a time when the brothers and their mother, Amanda, lived in Florida. Not liking Florida they returned to take over the theatre.

The admission was 5 cents until 1925 when it was increased to 25 & 50 cents for nights and 15 & 35 cents for matinees. During the depression, the average price of admission was 10 & 15 cents and 20 & 25 cents and by 1947 it was still only 16 and 31 cents.

Dreamland was remodeled in 1927 with additional seating, a new front and marquee along with a fireproof room for the two film projectors. The theatre reopened May 6, 1927 under a new name, The Ritz Theatre. With the introduction of "talkies" the Ritz underwent a change again in 1930 to install a sound system.

Not only had the theatre itself been an important part of our community for so many years, so to were the Chancellor brothers. They supported the community giving benefit shows for various projects such as when money was needed for the Arcanum Fire Company to buy new equipment. Free kiddies movies at Christmas time was an annual event with Santa handing out treats. During the Centennial Celebration of 1950 they showed movies taken during the early period around 1914.

Although not in business long there was a theatre at 123 W. George St. (the present historical society building). Between Feb. '07 and March '07 it was called Casino Theatre. From March '07 until Feb. '08 the name was Electric Theatre. The proprietor was W. S. Zimmerman and Stanley Jones was the manager.

Many AWTHS members have fond memories of the Ritz Theatre, whether it was seeing a movie on Saturday night while their parents did the weekly shopping or sitting in the last row with their sweetie.

"My sisters and I often walked downtown on the weekends to see the latest movie. I remember the black stove down front which was used to keep the theater warm. Local advertisements shown on the screen looked like they had been written on a chalk board", Joe Bailey recalls. "When I walked inside it was so dark I wasn't sure who was there. I thought a part of Arcanum's past ended when the theater closed".

The advertisements were actually written on glass plates, approximately 3x3 inches, and shown from a special projector. "I bought the glass plates at Roland Gilbert's auction", said Gene Rench, "and he had purchased them from Harry Chancellor's sale. I bought as many as I could. A movie I remember seeing at the Ritz was *Gone With The Wind*."

Knowing that Harry (J.R.) V. Sarver Jr. wanted the historical society to have the movie projector his children, Connie Loxley, Vickie Sarver, Terry Sarver and Tracy Sarver, donated this piece of history to AWTHS. Some of you may remember seeing it on display during Arcanum's sesquicentennial celebration. "I don't know how my dad got the projector" said Connie. "He began working at the theater when he was in high school and also ran the projector at school. My grandfather Harry V. Sarver Sr. and my uncle Cleo "Cy" Sarver both worked at the theater running the projector. Dad worked as an projectionist during his tour of duty in WWII. When dad went into the service both Harry Chancellor and Clayton Starr, High School principal, wrote to the captain of Dad's unit recommending him for the job based on his experience. I still have the letter Dad's captain sent him commending him for his service as projectionist in the war department theaters".

More may be learned about the Chancellor brothers and the history of the theatre in the book *Arcanum, Ohio -Business History(1852 thru 1968)* written by Anita Short from which much of this information was taken.

### **Religious Heritage**

Religious Heritage of Arcanum and the surrounding area continues with the histories of the churches in Castine.

#### ***Church of the Living God***

US 127, Castine

The white frame church sitting on this location has been a spiritual home to many. The church was formed by United Brethren, the first building being of logs. Over the years changes within denominations took place. The United Brethren joined the Evangelical Association, forming the Evangelical United Brethren Church later it merged with the Methodist becoming the United Methodist Church. The structure was in continuous use until 2000.

2007 was a year of rebirth for the building which had serviced the community for so many years. The Church of the Living God, a Pentecostal church, continues the religious heritage of this historical building. The congregation was formed when the Pentecostal Church in Union City discontinued. Some members went elsewhere but a group stayed together meeting in a basement space south of Gratis until purchasing this building in Castine. After renovations they now have the house of worship they have prayed for.

#### ***Bridgeview Baptist Church***

4811 St. Rt. 722, Castine

First started as a mission church of the First Baptist Church of New Paris, service was held in a town hall in Eldorado. In the early 1990's they began looking for a physical home for their church. Faith brought them to the former location of the Castine Church of the Brethren which had relocated on US 127. In 1994 Bridgeview Baptist constituted as a church and is part of the Southern Baptist Convention.

#### ***Castine Church of the Brethren***

624 U.S. 127 S, Castine

Castine Church of the Brethren, like other Churches of Brethren, can trace its roots back to Schwarzenau, Germany and Alexander & Margareta Mack and six others (George Grebi, Lucas Vetter, Andy & Johanna Bony, and John & Johanna Kipping) who were all baptized in the Eder River in 1708.

Castine Church began as a branch of the Price's Creek Church in the mid 1800's. The first official meeting house was built in 1850 in Castine on St. Rt. 722 west of US 127. Prior to that meetings were held in private homes. The second meeting house was built in 1867 on St. Rt. 722 east of US 127, but it was not until 1922 that the church became officially known as Castine Church of the Brethren and no longer a part of the Price's Creek Church. Due to the growth of the congregation and no way to expand at this location, a new facility was built north of the Village of Castine on US 127 in 1992/93. The church continued to grow and once again had to expand, this time building a Life Center behind the Worship Center in 2004/05.

(Information submitted by Sharon Fellers)

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#### **More on the history of Castine - The Underground Railroad Station**

This is an excerpt from an article Anita Short wrote for the Greenville Advocate, Saturday, April 19, 1975.

"James Hanway was the friend of the slave at the station at Castine in Darke County. Born in London, England in 1810, Mr. Hanway came to this country in 1821 and to Darke County a few years later. In 1841 he was naturalized as a citizen in the Darke County court. A stone cutter by trade, he made his home in Castine, along with his wife, Rebecca and children John, Samuel and William. His home also served as his place of business, which was inscribing, selling and placing tombstones in the local cemeteries. His name can still be found cut in a number of area tombstones as the inscriber. Although he left Darke County in the latter part of the 1850's, and migrated to Kansas, where he became active politically, he seems to have served the slave in his bid for freedom at the Castine station for a period of about fifteen years."

+++++++ *IT HAPPENED 100 YEARS AGO* ++++++

Arcanum Times 10-3-1907      Compulsory School Law. All children between ages of 8 and 16 must enter school at beginning of school term in district where they reside and attend school regularly for full school term unless ill. By order of the Board of Education of Twin Township. Charles Fry, Truant Officer.

Arcanum Weekly Times 4-25-1907      Council Meeting.      Home Telephone is not to use the town electric poles for their wires. However, town must also remove their electric wires from the Home Telephone poles.

Arcanum Times 5-23-1907      Big Store News. We wish to announce to our Brethren friends, that we have bought a line of ready made Brethren clothing for fall and will display about Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, something new in Post Cards, we have received a new line of "Greetings from Arcanum".

Isn't it strange how some people appreciate an accommodation? Only last week a man got awful sore at us because we wanted him to pay for a pair of shoes he had purchased over a year ago.

Arcanum Times 10-10-1907      An Ordinance. To amend Section 3 of an ordinance to regulate the Fire Department of Arcanum, Ohio. Be it ordained by Council of the village of Arcanum, Darke County, Ohio that Section 3 of an ordinance to regulate the fire department of Arcanum, Darke County, Ohio be amended to read as follows: The salary of the chief shall be 65 cents per hour while engaged in actual service at fires and 35 cents per hour when fire department is called out for practice only. The salary of engineer shall be fifty dollars (\$50) per year, payable quarterly. The salaries of all other members of the Fire Department shall be 50 cents per hour when fire department is called out for practice only. I.E. Cline, Mayor; C.C. Taylor, Clerk.

Arcanum Times 8-1-1907      Dreamland Theatre is to have the Life of Christ Passion Plays on moving pictures. They will run for a week, with each evening covering a different period of events in his life.

**Membership Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check: New member \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership Fees:

_____	\$15.00	Single
_____	\$25.00	Family
_____	\$50.00	Sponsorship
_____	\$150.00	Corporate
_____	\$1,000.00	Lifetime

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to AWTHS  
Mail to: Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society  
P.O. Box 4  
Arcanum Ohio 45304

### Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society Calendar of Events

October 3, 2007	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
October 11, 2007	Membership Meeting & Program	7:00 p.m.
	Bob Menker - Social History Of The Bicycle Since 1818	
October 5 & 19, 2007	Euchre Party	1:00- 3:30 p.m.
November 7, 2007	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
November 2 & 16, 2007	Euchre Party	1:00-3:30 p.m.
November 8, 2007	Membership Meeting & Program	7:00 p.m.
	Program: Ryan Buckingham - Fort Nesbit	
November 24, 2007	Christmas Bazaar	10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
December 5, 2007	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
December 7 & 21, 2007	Euchre Party	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
January 2, 2008	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
January 10, 2008	Annual Membership Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	Committee Reports & Election of Officers	
	Program: Scott Phillips, Host of American Woodshop	

#### On Going Projects

Euchre Parties - First and Third Friday of each month Sept. through May

Hall Rental - Carolyn Furlong, 548-6556

For Sale - Historic Arcanum Note Cards

Aluminum cans and Computer inkjet cartridges recycling - leave on back porch

Donation of Appreciated Stock (s)-Richard Troutwine, 692-5128 or Todd Durham, 2<sup>nd</sup> National Bank, 548-2206

**WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES OF OUR COMMUNITY**

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 4  
 123 W. George Street  
 Arcanum Ohio 45304