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News from
The Bellevue Historical Society
Spring/Summer 2010

Mission Statement

Our mission is to preserve the history of Bellevue, Ohio, for future generations through the preservation of historic buildings and artifacts pertaining to the growth and development of Bellevue.

In Memory

The link below is a virtual wall of those who lost their lives during the Vietnam War with their names, bio's and other information. Please pass this on to veterans, friends and family of those who served.

First click on a state... then, when it opens... click on a name... then, it should show you a picture of the person or at least his bio and medals.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

Annual Meeting of Members

The Bellevue Historical Society's Annual Meeting was held at The Willows Clubhouse on March 25, with President Bill Oddo presiding. Election of Directors was the primary business of the meeting. Elected to two-year terms were: Elizabeth Kile, Mary Mitchell, and Judy Miller. Elected to one-year terms were Peggy Missler, John Miller, and Rev. Ralph Flynn. Pastor Flynn served as a Director in the past, and has re-joined the Board after a hiatus of several years. Bill Oddo, the last founding member of the Society to remain active in the organization, is Director Emeritus.

Mary Magyar, House & Garden Tour Chairman, announced that this year's Tour will be on Sunday, July 18.

Bill Oddo gave a talk about his inspiration for his latest book, *Chapman and Harkness versus the Mad River Railroad*. The book is currently available at The Golden Acorn, 108 South West Street.

Elizabeth Kile displayed a "signature quilt" from the Museum's collection (see related article). Mary

Mitchell read several excerpts from a Bellevue "Wallpaper Project" an oral history completed in 2003.

Historical Society Officers were elected at the next regular Board meeting of the organization. They are: Elizabeth Kile, President; Ralph Flynn, Vice President; Peggy Missler, Secretary; and Mary Mitchell, Treasurer.

House and Garden Tour

The annual Bellevue Historical Society's House and Garden tour will be held on July 18, 2010. Tickets for the tour, which are still only \$10.00, will be presold at The Golden Acorn in July and at the five sites on the day of the tour. Look for additional events scheduled with the tour this year. Members of the House and Garden Tour committee are Liz Kile, Mary Magyar, Kerry Fenn, Connie Penwell, George and Sandy Keller.

Around Town

Downtown Bellevue Buildings, Part 2

Last month, we showcased the Stahl block. We continue this month, with the theater housed in the Stahl block, as excerpted from Bill Oddo's books:



Photo by Dylan Sachs, Bellevue High School Art student

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Donations Appreciated

The Historical Society is a repository of articles and artifacts that illustrate Bellevue's rich history. If you have items that reflect Bellevue's past, please consider a donation. Original photos can be loaned, scanned and returned if needed.



This white quilt with red lettering and a red border was made in 1930 by the Methodist Episcopal Church. There are 30 signature blocks, each designed by a different group. The signatures were printed or autographed in pencil and then embroidered in red floss. Some squares were washed with homemade soap which did not completely wash out and have turned dark. The quilt was discovered at an auction and bought by someone who knew what a treasure it was. It was then donated to the Bellevue Historical Society. The history of the quilt will be researched further. If any group wants to see the quilt, we will come to their meeting and show it to them. Contact Elizabeth Kile at 419-483-7376.

Recent Acquisitions

Items recently donated to the museum's collection include:

- Navy uniforms, photograph, and discharge papers of Walter T. Jones - donated by Marge Jones
- Trophies from the Bellevue Music Center and Cherry Festival souvenirs - donated by Mrs. Emerson Keller

- The Bellevue items listed below were donated by Jim and Carolyn Specht

A white plastic comb which holds black bobby pins from Famulare's Restaurant, Monroe Street, Bellevue, Ohio

A white jewelry box from D.C. Jones Jewelers

A small gift box from Anne's located at 118 East Main Street

Two small gift boxes from the Ruffing Store, Bellevue, Ohio since 1865

A paper shoe bag from Kibby's Fine shoes

- Mr. and Mrs. Brent Gardner of Strayer's Agency donated a wonderful old safe and a large display cabinet (from the former Downs Jewelers) that were in the Strayer's offices for more than 50 years. They also provided for the expenses of moving them to 102 North West Street, a very difficult project due to the size and weight of both pieces.

Memorials and Donations

Memorial contributions were received from William and Marguerite Morgan in memory of Eunice Foster, from Carl Santoro in memory of C. Lorraine Johnson and from Jean Zimmerman in memory of John L. Zimmerman. Member donations were received from members Gloria Horner, Paul Anthony and N. Violet Herner.

A generous donation came from the Bellevue United Selective Fund and the final distribution from the estate of Thelma Lee.

Lynette Barclay of Willard gave us a computer monitor which will make publication of the newsletter easier.

Thank you to all who remembered The Bellevue Historical Society so generously.

An Interesting Web Site

Look up many old schools in all 88 Ohio counties.

<http://www.oldohioschools.com/>

In October 1914, H. C. Stahl opened the doors of the new Lion Theatre. The building, as we know it now, is the former State Theatre, located at 204 East Main Street.

For many years after Stahl built the building, the main entrance was on South Sandusky Street, not on East Main. The building, 39x70 in dimension, had a seating capacity of 300. Bellevue's newest theatre boasted such features as a "special curtain" (screen), the only one of its kind in the country that was used for the showing of pictures.

Though little wood was used in the construction, fireproofing material was used throughout. The operator's booth was constructed without use of a single piece of wood.

Most of us never gave a thought about the building – just the double feature on Saturday afternoon and the serials that left you hanging from week to week. Note: Resident Historian Bill Oddo said that the name was changed from Lion to State when the entrance was relocated to East Main St.

Also, Bellevueans had a wide variety of entertainment to choose from in the teens (1913-onward). First and foremost were the stage plays and vaudeville acts at the Coliseum at 203 W. Center St.

For thrilling moving pictures, they went to the Mystic (now Jenny's Amsden House) at 116 E. Main St., and the Royal at 210 W. Main St. (The Royal later became the Ohio; and is now the home of a karate studio, and the Coliseum is now Seamon's Garage.)

Historical Happenings

This article came from book IV of *Old Stories of Bellevue*, by Bill Oddo.

Here is a Bellevue first as noted in The Bellevue Gazette files of September 30, 1909.

"Charles Lamm and William Pfeiffer went to Sandusky Tuesday (Sept. 28) afternoon and brought back the new Brush auto-delivery truck for Burgess & Pfeiffer grocery store (then located at 119 West Main St). They made the trip from Sandusky to Bellevue in one hour and five minutes. The new vehicle was put in commission the following day and the owners are much pleased with it. This is the first auto-delivery service inaugurated in Bellevue".

ReDIAL

The Dial was the Bellevue High School newspaper. These articles are from the November 8, 1963 edition.

THE DIAL

Jeff "Beaver" Crosby demonstrated the strength of his teeth for an audience of awed classmates by biting a pencil in two.

Cassie Lippert was playing with her spiral notebook when she got the wire caught between her teeth. Cassie sat there with the notebook dangling out of her mouth while Mr. Stonestreet rushed for aid.

Wonder if it's a trait or just a coincidence. Every member of the Redmen's starting backfield – LH Marc McClain, RH Gary Sams, FD Tom Lopeman, and QB Mark Hoffman - all have blue eyes.

In boys' intramural football, which drew 92 boys, the Redskins (8-3) defeated the Browns (7-3), 12-0. Members of the winning team were: Coach Doug Smith, Dave Schaefer, Dick Nottke, Terry Norman, Bob Van Fleet, Bill Norman, Ron Miller, Bob Skiles, and Charlie Baum.

The Bellevue Historical Society

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