

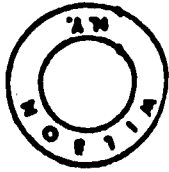
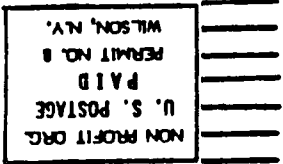
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January 2001 Vol. 30 No. 1

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

Wilson Historical Society
Wilson, New York 14172-9763



Jan. 2001

OLD LANDMARK:

Residents of the Niagara Frontier have long been intrigued by the old Stone Chimney that stands along the upper Niagara River near the Falls. Our interest in the old chimney dates back to the late 1920's when we took a ride through the river gorge on the former Gorge R.R.

The chimney was constructed around 1750 by Daniel de Joncaire, an interpreter and representative of the French Government to the Seneca Indian Nation. After supervising construction of "Fort Little Niagara" on the upper landing of the Niagara Portage, he built a 2-story log barracks with large stone chimney and a fireplace on each floor.

In 1759, as British troops advanced from Lake Ontario, de Joncaire burned the barracks and fled to Fort Niagara leaving only the stone chimney to show where he had been.

In 1760, the British built Fort Schlosser near the site of Fort Little Niagara, also a two story house attached to the French Stone Chimney. John Stedman moved into the house in 1761 and cleared land for a large apple orchard. He also cleared land at the upper end of Goat Island which he named after one of his goats that survived a bad winter there.

In the Fall of 1763, the Seneca Indians ambushed one of John Stedman's wagon trains at Devil's Hole. Most of the party were killed and thrown into the gorge but John Stedman was able to escape.

Fort Schlosser and Stedman's house were burned by the British in 1813 in retaliation for the burning of Newark, (Niagara-on-the-Lake) by American troops, and once again the old French Chimney was left intact.

The chimney has been moved twice to preserve it, and today it stands beside the Robert Moses Highway. Many of history's great leaders have, at one time or another, visited the buildings attached to the chimney, and many today believe the chimney should be preserved as a historic relic of one of the oldest masonry structures in New York State west of the Hudson River.

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NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

We are pleased to welcome Glenn and Leanne Haley-Brown, who have joined the Wilson Historical Society as Life Members.

Glenn David Brown was born in Niagara Falls on 12/8/62, the son of David Richard Brown and Mary Kay (Jeffords) Brown. He attended Thomas Marks Elementary School, Wilson High School, and Niagara County Community College.

He married Leanne Elizabeth Haley, and they had a son, Joseph David Brown. He attends St. John's Episcopal Church, and is a member of the Lions Club.

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Leanne Elizabeth Haley-Brown was born in Lockport, NY on July 6, 1966, the daughter of Joseph Michael Haley and Sandra Lee (Corcenman) Haley.

Leanne attended Washington Hunt Elementary School; Newfane High School, and SUNY at Buffalo. She also attends St. John's Episcopal Church; is a member of "Watch Wilson Grow"; and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Wilson Free Library, and numerous other activities.

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ANOTHER TUGWELL "TID-BIT":

The late Henry Perry of Wilson once told us that during the early years of World War I, Rex Tugwell recruited a group of his classmates at the University of Pennsylvania, to come to Wilson and work in the surrounding farms and orchards. He said that the group of young college men were supervised by Ashley Gale of Wilson.

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A SMALL WORLD:

Henry Perry traveled a lot during his lifetime, and was constantly reminded of what a Small World We Live In. One time, when he was in Saigon, he went to a local dentist to have a tooth treated. He told the dentist he was from Wilson, NY, and he was amazed when the dentist replied, "Is the Townline Pier still there?"

The dentist then told Perry his wife had graduated from the University of Rochester, and that he had completed his internship at Rosswell Park in Buffalo. During that time he said his wife and he used to swim off the Townline Pier in Wilson.

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Bon mot;

He who has health has hope. He who has hope has everything.

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THE 1960's IN WILSON:

Looking back, we believe the 1960's were especially good years in Wilson. The village had recently completed celebration of its Centennial Year, and a spirit of good fellowship and friendly cooperation seemed to generate a spark that lit up the entire town. Wilson was on a roll, and even threatening war clouds couldn't hold Wilson back.

Little League Park had just been organized by the Lions Club, and the feeling of progress that permeated the air continues to the present day. Consider, for instance, the beautification efforts throughout the village; the influx of new businesses; Harbor improvements in the Bay area; including a well-maintained Greenwood Cemetery; and Veterans' Memorials--all contributing factors in making Wilson one of the better places to live in Niagara County.

Some of the businesses that helped Wilson grow are no longer with us, but some of the slogans they used in their ads will bring a smile to your face. Stan Borngraeber, for instance, better known as the "King of Spuds", advertised his business as "The Only legitimate Skin Game in the County," while Truesdale's Richfield Service at Lake & Young maintained "There's no fuel like an old fuel." Willard Nevins grocery pleaded, "Don't go by...Come Buy." and Walkers Apparel Shop pointed out, "Everyone wears shoes...why not Walkers?" and do you remember Goldies Market and their slogan, "Pleased to Meat You."

We were especially impressed by the ad run by Don's Grocery and Delicatessen on Young St., "Credit to anyone over 90 accompanied by their parents.", also the B & S Cleaners on Young St. with their play on words ad, "Let us do your dirty work."

Jack Perry's Barber Shop put it bluntly, "Why go elsewhere to get clipped", and Doolittle and Co. stated, "We specialize in Stocks and Blonds." But the one we liked best was Welker and Brown's "A tisket a tasket, let us fill your little basket."

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NIGHT:

Now that the clocks have all been turned back again, it seems that night is here before the day begins. Speaking of night, here is a little poem that was written by one of our members when she was in the 10th grade:

Softly comes the night on tiptoe,
Softly, safely comes the night,
She spreads her blanket of black
Then one by one, the stars come twinkling into view.
A bright shining moon gleams in the darkness
The night is standing her quiet guard
Over the tired world.

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WILSON GOT LIT UP:

An item in the April 12, 1894 edition of the Wilson "Star" states that "The Village Fathers have given George B. Brooks permission to establish an electric plant in the village, and having our homes and streets lighted by electricity is among the possibilities in the future."

Mr. Brooks estimated the cost at one cent for each light in a home and \$2.50 per light for each light on a wall. The offer was good for thirty days after which the cost would increase.

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MORE REMINISCING:

Speaking of lights, did you know that lighting was installed at the Walter Hutchison Football Field through the efforts of local residents at no cost to the school district? Just another gentle reminder that many of the accomplishments realized in Wilson have been through the efforts of many community minded people.

You don't have to look too far to find them. They are in our Churches; United Way; Food Pantrys; Soup Kitchens; Wilson Volunteer Fire Co. #1; South Wilson Fire Co; Conservation Club; Hospital Auxiliary; Wilson Free Library; Mothers Clubs; Garden Club; Veteran's organizations; and Wilson Historical Society. as well as the Wilson Lions Club.

Can you picture a Wilson without its many dedicated volunteers?

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FIRST TREE PLANTINGS:

The first trees planted on the museum grounds were supplied by the town of Wilson and consisted of Crimson Maples; Buttonwoods; Silver Maples; and Mountain Ash. They were carefully planted by Ron Schearer of Schearer's Nursery, Wilson-Burt Road. The Town's Water District Crew dug the holes with a backhoe with most of the trees being planted West of the Barnum Bldg.

The first tree plantings made near the Depot were made in 1974 when the Society purchased six Little Leaf Lindens which Ron planted along the brick walk east of the Depot.

In 1776, as a Bicentennial Project, the Wilson Conservation Club donated a large Maple and planted it North of the Caboose. Recently, a large Cottonwood that was crowding out the Maple was removed by the Mohawk Tree Service on Rt. 425

Since those first early plantings, many Memorial Trees to loved ones have been planted on the Museum Grounds under the supervision of Elton Kropp, Grounds Chairman.

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NOTHING SACRED:

A number of years ago we visited the National Park at Gettysburg to see if we could locate the impressive Battery M Monument on Powers Hill. When we talked to the Park Rangers for directions we were told that not even the National Park is safe anymore from vandalism and needless desecration. They said that the bolts that held the two cannon on top of the Battery M Marker had been removed, and the cannon dragged to a nearby highway.

Fortunately, before the would-be thieves came back for the cannon, they were found by the Park Rangers and removed to a safe place. The cannon were eventually returned to their rightful place on top of the Battery M Monument.

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SOUNDINGS: People decide their habits, and their habits decide their future.

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IN MEMORIAM:

Harold N. Swanson, 79, died Dec. 4, 2000 at the Newfane Health Care Facility after a long illness. He was a printer for the Niagara Gazette and retired in 1983. He was Sec.-Treas. of the Niagara Typo Union, and a Past Master and 40 year member of Wilson's Ontario Lodge and 50 year member of the Masons and "79" Masters. He was a member of Exley United Methodist Church in Wilson; the Newfane Golden Age Club; and member of the Wilson Historical Society since 1974.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanne Ecelbarger Swanson of Newfane= two daughters,, Marianne Evans of Ransomville; and Charlene Swanson of Clifton Park; also 3 grandchildren, Andy, Laura, and Michelle Evans; 2 sisters, Mary Lou (Donald) Pierce of Endwell; and Barbara (Gerald) Williamson of Boncaire, Ga.

Services were held at the Rutland-Corwin Funeral Home, Newfane, NY, and burial was in Sunset Hill Cemetery at Jamestown, NY.

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Polly Moot Hart of Rochester, NY passed away several months ago. Polly was a member of the Wilson Hist. Soc. since 1993, and a former well-known resident and coach in the Wilson School. The Society extends its condolences to the members of her family.

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Howard L. Lederhouse, 91, died Dec. 12, 2000, at Inter-Community Hospital, Newfane, NY after a lengthy illness. He married Virginia Crossley in Ransomville in 1930 and she died in 1968. He later married Freda Stanton Leech in 1969 and she died in 1991.

Howard worked for Hooker Chemical in the 1940's, then worked as a mechanic for the Ransomville Bus Lines for 38 years until he retired in 1989. He was also a part time fruit grower on his Wilson-Youngstown Rd. farm. Mr. Lederhouse was also Past Master of the Ransomville Masonic Lodge.

He is survived by a son, Bruce (Sue) Lederhouse of Orleans, Mass.; a daughter, Mrs. Linda (Gary) Harrod of Wilson; 6 grandchildren and 4 g-grandchildren. He also leaves 2 brothers, Stanley (Rose) Lederhouse of Saanborn; and Norman Lederhouse of Ransomville. He was the brother of the late George, and brother-in-law of the late Marjorie Lederhouse.

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Elsie Burrows Fitch, 86, died Dec. 13, 2000 at Inter-Community Hospital at Newfane after a brief illness. She was a member of Exley United Methodist Church in Wilson, and a community ambassador for Wilson. She was also a former 4-H cooking class leader for the Elberta Hustlers; Girl Scout Leader; Pres. of the Gnostic Guild Study Club of Wilson; officer of the Eastern Star in Wilson; and Honorary Member of the Wilson Hist. Soc. which she joined in 1972.

She enjoyed playing bridge and reading, and was an active member of the Newfane Golden Age Club

She was pre-deceased by her husband, the late Dudley R. Fitch who died in 1988, and is survived by 5 children; Mrs. Joyce Penninngroth of Englewood, Fl; Gary (Patricia) Fitch of Olcott, NY; Ray (Linda) Fitch of Barker, NY; Joel (Nancy) Smith of Barker; and John (Michele) Fitch of Wilson, NY. also, 13 grandchildren; 20 g-grandchildren's several nieces, nephews, and good friends.

Services were held at Exley United Methodist Church with Rev. Kenneth Balcock officiating. Interment was in Greenwood Cemetery in Wilson, NY.

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FROM THE MAILBAG:

Mary W. Brown of Washington, DC, the widow of the late Philip Brown, (who grew up in Wilson) writes that her late husband was a great admirer of Rex Tugwell and bought most of the books Rex wrote--about 15 in number. She plans to donate them to the Historical Society, some time after the Holidays. Since Rex did most of his writing in his Cabin, it would be quite appropriate for some of his works to return there.

Mary also stated that Dessie Tugwell, Rex's mother, lived in the house next to Sam Brown, Phil's father,. Sam was co-owner of the former Miller and Brown store in Wilson.

It was through this relationship with the Tugwell family that Philip Brown, (after graduating from Niagara University) got his first job with the Resettlement Administration.

We thank Mrs. Brown for planning to give the books to the Historical Society, and we hope our Cabin Committee will see to it that the books are properly displayed. In case we didn't mention the Cabin Comm. before, they are Mary Clark, Chrm., Eleanor Myers, and Marlene Schotz.

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MEMBER IN THE NEWS:

Walter E. Moxham, Jr., a partner in the law firm of Miskell & Moxham in Lockport, was recently awarded the Eastern Niagara Citizen of the Year by the Eastern Niagara Co. Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Moxham, Wilson Town Atty., was one of the principle organizers of the Wilson Harbor Fest which attracted a great many boaters from Toronto last August as well as many visitors from Western New York. Walter has worked with Wilson Developer, Pat Brady, to upgrade the water front and recreational enterprises in the lakeside community. He is highly regarded by the Chamber of Commerce for his many contributions to the Community without seeking notoriety or personal gain. Mr. Moxham joined the Wilson Hist. Soc. in 1975, and became a Life Member in 1985.

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NEW MEMBERS:

Please welcome the following new members: Glen & Leanne Haley-Brown, Wilson; James K. Lynch of Ransomville; Brad L. & Judith N. Clark, Wilson; Gerrit & Linda Moot, Wilson; Margaret Boling, Wilson; Dale Wilson, Wilson; Carol Hand, Dade City, Fl; Beth Neutze, Orlando Fl; Tower Wilson, Jr., Crowley, Tx. also, Junior member, Joseph Haley-Brown, age 5.

Memberships upgraded: Miss Helen Stevens, Hon. Charter Life Member; Mary Reese, Honorary; and Celeste Crawford, Life Member., all from Wilson.

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QUIPS: Don't wait for your ship to come in...Swim out and meet it.

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BOARD MEETING:

Past Pres., Don Burrows, called the Dec.13, 2000 Board of Director meeting to order with 15 members present: Pam Groff; Judy King,; Lois Barnum; Bruce Muck; Floyd Clark; Kyle Andrews; Miles Linnabery; Don Croop; Jerry Dean, Eleanor Myers; Celeste Crawford; Marlene Schotz; Sally Smith; and Dorothy Maxfield.

Judy Rose,treas., reported a checking balance of \$3,240.41and expenses of \$1,323,78. Ad- ditional bills for L&B Cleaning, \$600; P.O.Box rental, \$44; 1959 Cadillac, \$23; Motion made byMiles Linnabery, seconded by Lois Barnum to pay bills. Carried.

Guest Margaret Stein, Wilson Free Librarian, spoke about a projectshe is working on to put more micro film copies of the Wilson "Star" on CD'~ The cost is \$250 per rolland the library has 17 rolls She said any help the Society could give toward the project would be appreciated.

Judy King reported that the new electrified sign will be dark red to match the caboose. When south line lot is determined, sign will be erected.

Mary Clark will chair Tugwell Cabin Comm. "Red" Clark reminded Board that the purpose of the committee is to inform the public about Rex Tugwell and his place in U.S. History.

Don Burrows gave a Planning Board report. Several ideas are being considered for the Bar- num Vuilding: Location of handi-cap restrooms; New Roof; and painting depot

Lois BaRNUM, Bruce Muck, and Bill Rose have agreed to serve another 3 yr..term as trustees. Gordon Strablow has agreed to serve again as 2nd Vice PresidentSunday Hostess and Ways & Means Chrm. are to be nominated.

Society policy requires that officers or chairmen not wishing to serve again must give 3 month notice to President or Chrm. of Nominating Comm. If no notice is given, it will be assumed member will remain in office another year.

Ways & Means Chrm., Sally Smith brought in items the Society is donating as prizes for the Caring and Sharing Poster Contest conducted at Thomas MarksSchool. The program was sponsored by the "Watch Wilson: Grow" Committee.(submitted by Pam Groff, Sec'y.)

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES:

Just a reminder: All officers and committee chairmen must have their dues paid to hold office in the Society.

Correction: Marjorie Batt lives in N. Tonawanda,NY, not Niagara Falls.Sorry, Kay.

Building Fund Donations: A generous donation of \$50 was received from Richard & Jan Zipp, of Wilson. Other generous donations of up to \$25 have been received from Miss Helen Stevens, Wilson,NY; Helen Salisbury Covey, New Mexico; Paul Holden, Wilson; Ron & Kathy Butterworth, Canada; Ralph & Nellen Seefeldt, Glens Falls,NY; John & Katherine Stone, Sarasota, FL; George Cruickshank III, Newfane,NY; Thomas Sharpe III, Sanborn,NY; Janeta Fredericks, Wilson,NY; Howard & Dorothy Parker, Newfane,NY; Tom & Gail PettiJeacock, Fort Erie, Canada; Gary Gath & Judith Gerlock, Wilson,NY; Ruth Lampman, Olcott,NY; Tom & Gail Walder, Wilson; William & Pearl- ine Burdette, Marbelton, Ga; Elizabeth Stevens, Lowell,MI;

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SENIOR BREAKFAST:

The annual Senior Citizen breakfast at Wilson Central School was held on Dec. 15,2000 at 8:30in the school cafeteria.Seniors registered at 8AM, then assembled in the Auditorium where they were greeted by Mary Moley-Palacios, Pres. of the Wilson Teachers Association. After a Christmas selection by the High School Band directed by Keith Schesel, the Senios went to the school cafeteria where they were treated to A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST.

They returned to the auditorium after breakfast where they were entertained by a Blues Band composed of Sue Stanko; Keith Schesel; Bob Frost; Julia Jeffords; Harry Schlyer; and John Chippona.

The Womens Concert Chrus made up of 9th & 10th grade girlsthen took the stage directed by Lynda Williams. Beautiful Christmas music included a solo by the accomplished Stephanie Simard. A variety of entertainment was then presented by Thomas Marks second graders under Mrs. Lash; Miss Kuhn; Ms. Watt and Mr. Shorten.

Basketball cheerleaders were next on the stage, and proved that cheerleading now included many dance routines unheard of 60 years ago.

The program ended with selections by the 3rd grade chorus from Stevensof School directed by Michelle Haseley.

Helping to make the day a success were: Mr. Daniel Connor & the Board of Education; Donna Kurial and the cafeteria staff; Elaine Moon & Michael Carr, elementary Principals;Dianna Garlitz; Shiley Linnenbank; Dale DeGee; Dave Seefeldt; Jeff Monroe and Sharon Monroe. Also Becky Foster, Events Coordinator; Mary Moley-Palacios and the IGA Lakeside Market.

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MORE REMINISCING:

In 1784, when the Lake Ontario Shore Railroad was surveyed through Wilson, the route passed through the center of a 2 acre cemetery located on the Nathaniel Davis farm across from the present Wilson Depot and Museum. Bodies had to be removed, and while doing so, it was dis- covered that the body of Eunice Wilson, who had died 12 years earlier, had become petrified and weighed over 400 pounds.

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During the booming years of the "Hojack" railroad in Wilson, a salesman bought a train ticket for Somerset. He asked the ticket agent how late the train would be and was surprised when the ticket agent said the train was on time--because that was seldom the case!"How come?" asked the astonished drummer. "Oh this is vesterday's train" replied the Agent--"she's just 24 hrs. late.

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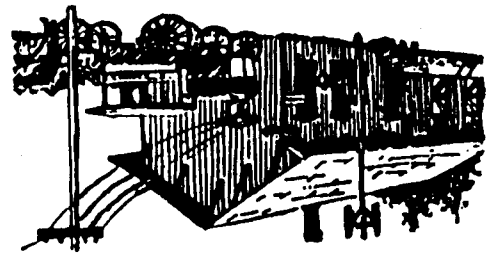
SOUNDINGS:

One of the difficulties in our world today is that our Knowledge has increased much more than our wisdom

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QUIPS: People with coughs don't always go to a doctor---they go to Church.

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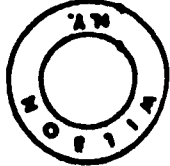
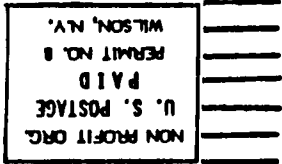
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February 2001 Vol. 30 No. 2

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763
Wilson Historical Society



Feb, 2001

THOSE RUGGED 1930's:

When we think back to those "rugged" days of the 1930's, it seems, by comparison, that persons today should be very happy to be living in the Millennium Year of 2001.

Can you imagine, for instance, a time when many people jacked up their cars on blocks for winter, and relied on "Old Dobbin" to get them around. And gas was only about 15 cents a gallon. In fact, if you could afford it, you might buy a brand new car for a little over \$500.

Since horse and carriages were still a common sight in the 30's, no doubt many "old timers" remember when sheds were built beside churches so members would have a place to tie their horses during services.

There have been many improvements in Wilson since those horse and buggy days, and some old landmarks like Middleton's Hall are no longer with us. Middletons was where some of the first old movies were shown, and Wilson High played its first basketball games there.

Perhaps, however, the early 1930's are best remembered for the Great Depression that engulfed our Country with 25% of our Nation's work force unemployed. And those who had jobs worked for "peanuts", compared to today's wages. School teachers, for instance averaged about \$1200 a year; a waitress might make about \$500 a year, and a farm worker, if lucky, could make about \$200 a year.

1934 was the year that this writer and his bride moved to Wilson. The year is easy to recall because it was during the period that great dust storms were laying bare large areas of western farmlands.

Another big news item that year was the Lindberg baby kidnapping, the crime that finally resulted in a law being passed to invoke the death penalty for any kidnappings across State lines. As we recall, it seemed that law enforcement officers had less restrictions, and were able to cope with criminals like Dillinger and Bonnie and Clyde.

Showing immoral movies was also an issue of that day causing the Catholic Legion of Decency to challenge Hollywood to censor its movies. If movies in the thirties were considered immoral, we wonder what the ones being shown today are called.

During our high school years, we had a friend named Billy Orr. Billy was a Boy Scout, and he wrote us later that he had been chosen to represent the Boy Scouts of America on Admiral Byrd's second expedition to the South Pole. Unfortunately, Billy only got as far as New Zealand where he slipped on the ship's gangplank and broke his leg. Needless to say, that ended his historic trip to the South Pole.

On a more pleasant note, we remember when Benny Goodman organized his first "swing band" and soon became known as the "King of Swing".

The Great Depression created enormous hardship from one end of the country to the other, but things gradually got better under Pres. Roosevelt's New Deal and "Alphabet Soup" in which Wilson's own, Rex Tugwell, contributed as part of the President's "Brain Trust."

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NEW LIFE MEMBER:

Celeste Crawford, a member of the historical society since 1973, has upgraded her status to Life Member. Celeste was born in Jefferson County, PA; the daughter of Walter and Adeline (Moore) Crawford.

She attended the 1st and second grades in a one-room schoolhouse, then continued her education in the Tonawanda Public Schools. She received her B.A Degree at the University of Buffalo, and her MLS Degree at the SUNY at Geneseo.

She is a member of the Methodist Church and a variety of Clubs including Delta Kappa Gamma; the Gnostic Guild; Wilson Garden Club; Friends of the Wilson Free Library; and the Eastern Niagara County Retirees Teachers Association.

Celeste was elected Chrm. of the Genealogical Comm. in 1978, and in 1985 she was elected Chrm. of the Library Comm.. She has been nominated to head up the Acquisitions Comm. in 2001.

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GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN:

We sadly note the passing of some of our loyal members during the past year: Donn Wagner; Mabel B. Burrows; George "Duke" Lederhouse; Marilyn De Neau Conti; Jonathon P. Zauner; Albert Johnson; Betty Stimson; Marie Lauer Getman; James Waldron; Sidney W. Pettit; James M. William; Elizabeth R. Cole; Edith M. Wilson; Frances J. Cake; Elsie Fitch; Harold Swanson; Howard Lederhouse; Polly Moot Hart; and John L. Cable.

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BON MOT: Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend

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INTERESTING LEGEND:

A story handed down about the War of 1812 in Wilson may or may not be true, but legend has it that the British made a raid along the Wilson Lake shore. Three American soldiers who had their troops payroll decided to bury it so it wouldn't fall in British hands.

They supposedly buried the payroll in an area marked by a large triangle. One point of the triangle was a large rock, a second was an oak tree with a blaze mark on it, and the third point of the triangle was an oak tree on Indian Hill, also with a blaze mark on it.

The three soldiers were said to have been killed before returning for the payroll and, as the legend goes, the payroll may still be buried in the area.

It was established many years ago that there were two large oaks with blaze marks on them, also a large rock. One of the trees, however, was on Indian Hill, and that hill was levelled for dirt when the bridge on Route 18 was constructed.

It is said that many have looked for the payroll, but it has never been reported found.

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IN MEMORIAM:

We are sorry to learn that John L. Cable passed away at Dunnellon, FL, on Dec. 10, 2000. He was diagnosed with incurable cancer during the past year.

He was the son of the late Laurence and Edith Wilson Cable, and during his early years spent most of his free time around Wilson. He attended Kensington High School in Buffalo, also the University of Buffalo. He taught in the Wilson High School from 1956 through 1967. He was also a Professor of Mathematics at the Dade-Miami Community College in Florida. He later owned the Hallmark store at Fort Lauderdale, and was an author for Allyn and Bacon, Publishers. He became a member of the Wilson Hist. Soc. in 1981, and upgraded his membership to "Life" in 1984.

John Cable spent his last days under the care of Hospice and his sister, Elizabeth Cable Kay at her home in Dunnellon, Florida.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

Congratulations to Miles and Ann Marie Linnabery who now have a new baby girl living with them at 2308 Maple Road, Wilson, NY. Erin Mary was born December 30, 2000 and weighed in at nine pounds.

Correction: Without realizing it we promoted Judy Rose to treasurer in the Jan. Newsletter. Sorry about that. Judy King is too good a treasurer to get "fired" without a hearing.

Memorial Fund: The society is grateful for the following donations that were made in Memory of loved ones:

Gary Pettit made a \$250 donation in loving memory to his father, Sidney W. Pettit.

A \$100 dollar donation was made by the late John L. Cable in memory of his mother, Edith Wilson Cable.

A \$50 dollar donation was received from Mary Lou Hurlburt in memory of Polly Moot Hart.

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Building Fund: Generous donations of up to \$25 dollars have been received from Mary Barden; Wes and Nan Johnson; Philip Goodrich and Pauline Kurtz.

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NEW MEMBER:

We welcome our latest new member, Carolyn Witter of North Carolina, courtesy of Shirley Hollister of Lewiston. James Witter died in 1994 and Ann and Henry Garlock died in 1987. They are buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Carolyn Witter's maiden name was Garlock, and her mother's maiden name was Clark.

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WIN THE PORSCHE:

Wally Goodman and Bill Rose are doing a great job organizing the Porsche Raffle. New Porsche advertising posters are now being distributed, and an easy way to get your raffle tickets is to mail a check or money order to:

Wilson Historical Society Car Raffle
P.O. Box 830, Wilson, N.Y. 14172

Tickets are selling for \$2 each/3 for \$5/7 for \$10/10 for \$14/15 for \$20/40 for \$50 or 100 for \$100. Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Wilson Historical Society Car Collection.

The drawing for the car will be held May 28, 2001, 3 P.M., at the Memorial Day Fair. The lucky winner will receive a 1985 Porsche 928, with 76,662 miles on it--and in "As is" condition.

If insufficient tickets are sold, a 50/50 drawing will be held. Winner will be responsible tax, title, and delivery..... you need not be present to win--void where prohibited.

Order your tickets soon... Memorial Day is only about 3 months away. For further information call (716) 751-9886.

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RECENT ACQUISITION:

Durwood Bendt of South Wilson has donated an excellent photo of a Class at the former Dist. #6 Schoolhouse, Willow & Rt. #425. Listed in the picture are: Mrs. Southard; Ronald Rohring; Gloria Dean; Marie Kelly; Norma Jurgens; Laura Mae World; Joanne Clare; Norman Seeloff; Bob Clare; Delbert Rohring; Dolores Daunce Floyd Rohring; Chester Schultz; Patricia Buschner; Donald Clare; Durwood Rohring; Durwood Bendt; Robert Daunce; Lorraine Daunce; Donlyn Rohring; Billy Rohring; and Veldren Clare..

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REMINDER:

There's a lot of history in Sketchbook I & II. They always make a good gift for the History Buff in your family.

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QUIPS: A thought ful teen ager is one who leaves enough gas in the tank to get you to the next filling station.

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4TH GRADE PROJECT:

Miss Johanna Andritz's 4th grade class at Thomas Marks School have released a publication by them titled, "Wilson's Past and its People."

The interesting booklet has special significance because it exemplifies Miss Andritz's special talent for motivating her students to learn more about the place they call home.

Each student chose a resident to interview and the variety of answers received indicates that everyone loves their town and the people in it. We compliment the following 4th graders who conducted the interviews and wrote them up for their publication:

Olivia Carman; Paul Canfield; Lucas Stenkel; Andy Stewart; Matt Ward; Collins; Shayne Diez; Shayla Mc Spadden; Erinne Salvatore; Ashley Hayes; Leah Truesdell; Michael Mcinerney; Matt Ward; Justin Cano; Johnny Moran; James Longin; Kenny Neadow; Veronica Anderson; Mat Smith; Justice Snickles; Brad Pease; Megan Denny, and Dale Denny.

All persons interviewed appear to have high regard for Wilson and we think Mrs. Katherine Stewart said it best: "I like Wilson because it is quiet, safe, and the people are friendly. I love Wilson because it's part of my family's life."

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MEMORIAL SIGN:

A great many Memorial contributions have been made to the Wilson Historical Society by persons in honor of loved ones. These have accumulated over the years and recently, the Board of Directors voted to use most of these funds to purchase an electrified Memorial Sign. The sign will be placed near the road so that members and the general public can be informed about up-coming events at the Museum.

The Memorial funds used were contributed in memory of following loved ones: Edith Wilson Cable; Betty Stimson; Mabel Burrows; Waldo Beutel; Blanche Wilson; Laura Eick; Jean Argue; Sue Ann Myers; John Goodrich; Gertrude Schnoor; Judith Gale Sweeney; Hazel Salisbury; Dr. George Badger; Marietta Goodman; Winifred Fischer; Florence Mudge Donner; Esther Albright; John Myers; Harold Mosher; Elwin Upton; Laura Clark; Ida Wilson; Anne C. Wiepert; Evelyn Croop; Murrell & Ethel Clark; Corliss Armstrong; W. Harley Wilson; Bessie Crawford; Barbara Wilson; Marion Mudge; Roger E. Clark; Milburn Campbell; Russell Hurlburt; Whitney Barnum; Joseph Higgins; and Mildred E. Croop.

\$3,125.00 used from Memorial Fund to purchase sign. Balance in Fund, \$350.00.

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BOARD ACTION & REPORTS:

The Jan. 10th Board of Director meeting was called to order by Gary Fitch, Pres., with the following in attendance: Gordon Strablow; Pam Groff; Diane Muscoreil; Judy King; Lois Barnum Bruce Muck; Bill Rose; "Ollie" Clark; Kyle Andrews; Miles Linnabery; Art Schnoor; Wally Goodman; Don Croop; Don Burrows; Eleanor Myers; Celeste Crawford; Marlene Schotz; Kara Holden; "Sandy" Holden; Elton Kropp; and Judy Rose.

Treasurer's report by Judy King: Bills outstanding, \$2,480.99; Income \$1,265.85. Motion made by Lois Barnum, seconded by Don Croop, to pay bills. Carried. Bill received from Niagara for \$618.72 for moving Tugwell Cabin. Motion made by Gordon Strablow, seconded by Miles Linnabery to pay Niagara Erection. Carried:

Don Burrows announced that placement of the new Memorial Sign is on hold because of heavy snows, and the fact that Doyle Phillip's has not made a decision yet on South Boundary Line.

Dianne Muscoreil, Rec. Sec'y, has written a letter of thanks to Mohawk Tree Service for removing large Cottonwood Tree near caboose at no charge to the Society.

A letter was read from the Lockport Rotary Club requesting help in selling their 2001 calendar. Ann Rohring's painting of the Depot is featured on the January page. It was decided not to commit ourselves to selling calendars at this late date.

Painting of the depot was discussed and it was decided that several bids should be sought, in the hopes of having the job completed before the Memorial Day Fair.

A tentative date in April has been set for cleaning up the Fittro Barn

Motion was made by Bill Rose, seconded by Bruce Muck, to accept the Nominating Comm. report of slate of officers, trustees, chairpersons and fair committee members submitted by Jdy Rose.

The following slate was voted on at the Jan. 22nd meeting and approved:

Officers: Gary Fitch, Pres; Darrell Smith, 1st Vice-Pres.; Gordon Strablow, 2nd Vice-Pres; Pam Groff, Rec. Secretary; Diane Muscoreil, Cor. Sec; and Judy King, Treasurer.

Trustees to Dec., 2003: Lois Barnum; Bruce Muck; and Bill Rose.

Chairpersons selected by Nominating Comm: Acquisitions, Celeste Crawford; Sun. Hostesses, Gail Walder; By-Laws, Judy King; Ways & Means, Kara & "Sandy" Holden; Refreshments, Ann Marie Linnabery; Memorials, Lois Jennings; Publicity, Carole Schnoor; Publications/Newsletter, Don Croop; Tours, Marlene Schotz; Genealogy/Library, Celeste Crawford Historical Sites, Janet Sporleder; Membership, Kara & "Sandy" Holden, and Programs, Miles Linnabery.

2001 Fair Committee: Co-Chairmen; Lois Barnum & Judy Rose; Nettie Stimson; Darrell Smith; Don Croop; Kyle Andrews; Pam Groff; and Don Burrows. (Others may be added)

The Barnum Bldg. roof needs replacing, and the addition of new rest rooms and storage area are also being considered. The latest plan is to extend the west wall of the Barnum Bldg. 10 or 12 feet to accommodate these additions. A roof over the Breezeway is also thought feasible.

Correspondence: Celeste Crawford answered a 4th grader's request at Thomas Marksto send information about Wilson's history., and Suzanne Scott, a descendant of Luther Wilson, sent genealogy information on her family.

Obtaining grant money is a very important means for funding projects. Marlene Schots has volunteered to attend NCCC for a credit-free grant course. Miles Linnabery stated that he checks monthly grant letters from the State to see if any might apply to the Society.

(Excerpts from minutes submitted by Pam Groff, Sec'y)

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SOUNDINGS: History repeats itself, which is good, because most people don't listen the first time.

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A "MILLENNIUM STAR":

One thing the Wilson Historical Society has always been able to do is have a Quilt-Draw- ing at its annual Memorial Day Fairs. This year will be no rxception.

This year's beautiful hand-made quilt was pieced together by some of Wilson's most capable seamstresses, namely, Julie Godfrey; Barbara Mosher; Winnie Terry; Pauline Alvers; Ann Rohring; Lois Barnum; Norma Ward; and Shirley Evans.

Julie Godfrey has supervized the project during the past year and also cut out the pieces for the blocks. The "Millennium Star", composed of alternating "Star" blocks, was then pieced together--not appliqued.

Tickets for the quilt-raffle will be available in the March Newsletter, and if you will kindly read on further, you will see why your help in the raffle could be crucial.

As you may have read or heard, the Historical Society plans to paint the old 1912 Depot, which prompts us to note, this is not just another building. Instead, it's a link to Wilson's past. In addition, the 100 year old depot is one of the last examples of railroad architecture in the area. It should be preserved.

The history of the Wilson Depot dates back to 1870 when the Lake Ontario Shore Railroad was organized, but it was in the Spring of 1876 before the first tracks were laid through Wilson., and the first train rolled over them.

In a report written by the Secretary of the Womens' Aid Society of the Exley Methodist-Epis- copal Church, it was recorded: "Public Schools were recessed; stores were closed;, and every- one turned out, (Ministers, laymen, rich, poor, big and little) in wagons, on horseback, on "posey back", and afoot to see the first train cross the Townline Road on the newly organized Lakeshore Division of the Rome, Watertown, and Lake Ontario Shore railroad."

The first passenger train rolled through Wilson on June 12, 1876, and the first Mail Train followed on August 10, 1876.

In the early 1900's, the village line was nearly a mile from where the "Hojack" railroad crossed route 425, and the area around the old depot was known as "Wilson Station". The first station was built ca. 1876, but later burned and was torn down. The 1897 depot, which was used for the Society's letterheads and Newsletter, was sketched by Mr. Berne Kent of the Wilson Central School Staff.

In 1912-13, the station was completely renovated and enlarged, and a slate abestos roof was placed over the entire complex. The unique brick walks were also laid around the depot at the same time.

Passenger Service on the "Hojack" was discontinued in 1934, but freight service was available until June, 1959.

The Wilson Historical Society acquired the Depot from Dr. John F. Argue in 1972, and the Society has tried to preserve the old, historic building with few alterations except for rest rooms and meeting room facilities.

Since 1972, the depot has been painted twice, but is now badly in need of another coat. Which brings us back to the "Quilt Raffle", If it is successful, it will help make a big dent in the next painting bill, so if you are so inclined, we hope you will take part in the 2001 quilt raffle at the Memorial Day Fair.

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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:

During the booming days of the old "Hojack" many interesting and humerous tales were told., and to refresh your memories and inform some of our more recent new members we'll mention some.

Pearl (Clark) Spears once recalled that when a girl, she used to "hang out" a lot around the depot. She said some of the engineers liked to drink, so she used to get a jug of hard cider across the road at the Hinchliffe Vinegar Works. She'd leave it at the crossing for them, and when she came back for the jug she'd always find a quarter beneath it.

Also, when Eleanor Myers was a little girl, her father, Allen Hinchliffe, used to bring her to the depot when he was transacting business. She always like to drink water from the "magic fountain" in the waiting room, and it was "magic" to her because water never came until her father waved his hands over it. How was a little girl to know that he also pressed his foot on a pedal at the same time. Even after the little girl, who is now Wilson's Town Historian, discovered the secret, she fondly remembers the "Magic Fountain".

We also liked the story that Mrs. Marion Horton used to tell about her sons, Charles and Robert, when she took them to Rochester with her on the train. When they approached the village of Greece, the conductor said to the youngsters, "Hang on to your seats, boys, we're going through "grease", and according to Marion, that remark kept the boys giggling all the way into Rochester.

Everyone has always been interested in how the "Hojack" got its name. The story we liked best concerned a farmer, Jack Welch, who became one of the first engineers on the railroad. Jack couldn't forget his horse-driving days, however, and whenever he would slow down for a station he'd holler "Whoa" at the engine. As people often do, they "picked it up" and began to jokingly refer to the railroad as the "Whoa-Jack" line. As time passed, the name was shortened to "Hojack".

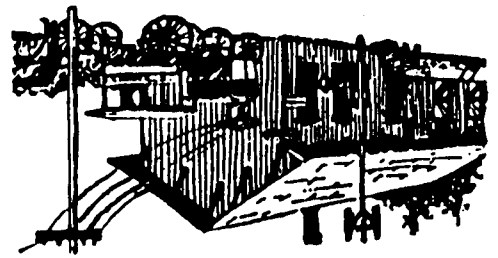
Mrs. Patterson, wife of Wilson's long time ticket agent, Richard Patterson, recalled the time just before Christmas when she gott her daughters a couple dolls and hid them in the depot safe so they wouldn't see them. Tramps, who used to spend their nights in the Stevens woods, would sometimes break into the depot looking for money, and they did so the same night Mrs. Patterson left the dolls in the safe. She said later that she would have loved to see the looks on their faces when all they found for their trouble were two dolls and a pink pettycoat.

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QUIPS:

When a man says, "I run things at my house", he probably means the washing machine and the furnace.

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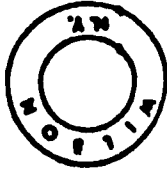
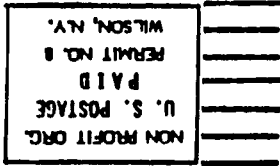


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DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763



March 2001

NOW IT'S OFFICIAL:

The list of nominees for the historical society selected by the Nominating Comm., Eleanor Myers, Chrm., year 2001, were voted on at the Jan. 22nd meeting and approved as follows:

OFFICERS: Gary Fitch, Pres., Darrell Smith, Vice.-Pres., Gordon Strablow, 2nd Vice-Pres., Pam Groff, Recording Secretary; Diane Muscoreil, Corresponding Secretary; & Judy King, Treas.

TRUSTEES: (To December 2003) Lois Barnum, Bruce Muck, and Bill Rose.

CHAIRPERSONS: Celeste Crawford, Acquisitions/Library/Genealogy; Gail Walder, Sunday Hostess; Ann Marie Linnabery, Refreshments; Lois Jennings, Memorial; Carol Schnoor, Publi-city; Don Croop, Publications/Newsletter; Marlene Schotz, Tours; Janet Sporleder, Historical Sites; Sandy & Kara Holden, Membership/Ways & Means; Miles Linnabery, Programs; and Judy King, By-Laws.

2001 FAIR COMMITTEE: Judy Rose & Lois Barnum, Co-Chairpersons; Don Burrows; Nettie Stimson; Darrell Smith; Kyle Andrews; Pam Groff; and Don Croop.

The first meeting of the Fair Committee was held on Jan. 25th at the home of Judy Rose.

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NEW QUILT ON DISPLAY:

The Millennium "Star" Quilt is being displayed at various locations around town so that everyone will have a chance to see it.

From Feb. 10th to March 3rd, it was displayed at the Wilson Community Pharmacy at 272 Pettit Street.

From March 5th to the 26th, it may be seen at the Garden Gate Florist Shop, Young St.

From April 2nd to the 23rd, the quilt will be shown at the Wilson Free Public Library.

From May 3rd to the 29th, the beautiful spread will be at the Wilson Town Hall.

Judy Rose has announced that tickets for the drawing on Memorial Day will be available where the quilt is displayed. Also, a sheet of tickets is attached to this Newsletter. Good Luck!

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP NOTES:

Name plates have been engraved and placed on the Life Membership plaque in the museum for Leanne Elizabeth Haley-Brown; Glenn David Brown; and Celeste Crawford.

A donation for the Building Fund was received from Earl and Barbara Albright of Sagaponack, Long Island.

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BOARD OF DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS:

A list of chairpersons appointed by the Board of Directors was approved at the Feb. 14, 2001 meeting as follows:

Curator: Dorothy Maxfield; Barnum Bldg. Chrm., Kyle Andrews; Construction, Gary Fitch; Planning Board Chrm., Arthur Schnoor; Caboose, Donald Burrows; Breezeway/Shelter, "Micky" Hunter; Storage Barn, Bruce Muck; School House, Wanda Burrows; Finance Chrm., Dan King; Fittro Shop, Ed Allgeier; Railroad Depot, Dorothy Maxfield; Argue Car Building, Wally Goodman and Bill Rose. Grounds, Elton Kropp; Federation Representative, Norm MacAskil.

Eleanor Myers has had to turn down Nominating Chrm., because of personal reasons, but we wish to thank her for her enthusiasm and interest over the past years. A Charter/Life Member of the Society, Eleanor has served in many capacities including: Town Historian; Honorary Trustee; Tours Chairman; Barnum Building Chairman; Publicity Chairman; and 4-Year Chairman of the Old Fashioned Country Fair (Now Known as the Memorial Day Fair).

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A POLITICIAN'S DILEMMA:

One of the most interesting "taped" conversations I ever had was with the late Jenny Bigalow of Wilson. She had been a Matron at the Niagara County jail for nearly ten years, and she said that she always got a "kick" out of seeing the shocked expressions on people's faces when she told them she had served ten years in the County Jail.

She also liked to tell about a city Councilman who walked through the jail one time checking on conditions. A lady of "ill-repute" in one of the cells spotted him and yelled, "Hey, haven't I seen you before?". Then, according to Jenny, the Councilman's face turned beet red, and he lost no time beating a hasty retreat out of there.

Jenny, who had a very engaging personality, was the wife of the late Niagara County Sheriff, Fred Bigalow, who was shot and killed when he cornered a fugitive.

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BON MOT: A little oil may save a lot of friction.

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THE BROWN/TUGWELL CONNECTION:

Phil Brown was born in Wilson, NY on July 10, 1914. His parents were Sam Brown and Kate Ronan Brown. Sam Brown was co-owner of the general store, Miller & Brown on Young Street.

The Tugwell family and the Browns lived next to each other, and it was through this relationship that Phil later received his chance to go to Washington.

Phil grew up in Wilson and completed his college education at Niagara University. After graduation, he was offered a job by Rex Tugwell who then was in charge of the Resettlement Administration in Washington, D.C.

Phil went to Washington where he spent the next 30 years working for the government, first in the Resettlement Administration, then the Farm Security Administration, then the Farmer's Home Administration.

Before Phil died in 1987, he began working on his Memoirs to share with his children. His daughter, Deborah Brown of Atlanta, Ga., sent us some excerpts from them, and we learn that Phil went to Washington in 1936 where he was able to see and talk to Rex Tugwell. A few months later, he was offered a job in the Resettlement Administration.

In his memoirs, Phil tells about one time when Rex Tugwell came to Wilson and stopped at Miller & Browns to see Sam Brown. Sam, in a letter to Phil some time later, had this to say about Rex Tugwell.

"Dessie" stopped by and said Rex was out in the car, so I went out and shook hands. He had some front teeth missing, and a slouch hat pulled down over his eyes that made you think of Dick Tracy. But I like him just the same and he is a fine man from a fine family. Rex said that he sees you (Phil) once in awhile and that you are doing a fine job. I told him how much you like the work and how you enjoyed "Greenbelt". Rex said he was proud of "Greenbelt."

Now Greenbelt was a Model Town outside of Washington, DC. that was being built by the Resettlement Administration, and following is a letter that Phil Brown wrote to Dessie Tugwell of Wilson in which he described it:

"March is half over and Spring and the cherry blossoms and the warm sunshine will soon be here, and Greenbelt, the model town with its co-operative grocery store, Co-op Drug Store, co-op gas station, co-op theater, with its swimming pool, and its citizens association, democratic Newspaper, and its credit union, with its health association and its progressive schools, its tennis courts and summer garden, its play grounds and rifle range, its lakes and woodlots, its modern, well-designed, and well-lighted, warm-in-the-winter, cool in-the-summer homes, where you can have a baby for \$25 and your grocery store gives back part of your money to you---Greenbelt, lovely Greenbelt--welcomes you."

The Brown and Tugwell families kept in touch over the years, and Phil Brown collected most of Tugwell's books---many of which were written in the Tugwell Cabin.

Phil's wife, Mary Brown, and his daughter, Deborah Brown of Atlanta, Ga., recently sent Phil's Collection of Tugwell Books to the Wilson Museum. It is their wish that the books will eventually be placed in the Tugwell Cabin and Deborah observed:

"Phil admired Rex and collected most of his writings. He would be happy to know we are donating his collection to the Wilson Historical Society."

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MORE HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS:

The Wilson Harbor pier will soon be renovated and made more accessible to persons in wheel-chairs, through a grant received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is another phase in the on-going development of the harbor by town and village officials who recently received a \$350,000 check from Rep. John J. LaFalce for the improvements.

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MEMBER IN THE NEWS:

The Society extends its congratulations to David Godfrey, the new President of Wilson Fire Co. #1. Mr. Godfrey was recognized at the Fire Company's 76th annual installation dinner, along with Daniel "Boomer" Kerwin, fire chief, and Tanis Strassburg, pres. of the womens' Aux.

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IN MEMORIAM:

Marjory Frances Ganshaw, 84, passed away at the Cape Cod Hospital, Hyannis, MA., on Jan. 28, 2001. She was born in Flint, MI, the daughter of Lawrence and Julia (nee Cederson) Lawler.

Marge graduated from Sacred Heart Academy at Buffalo, and attended Mt. St. Mary's at Buffalo. She enjoyed knitting, playing bridge, bowling, and was a member of Our Lady of the Rosary, RC Church, the Alter and Rosary Society, the Gnostic Guild, and Girl Scout Leader and Cub Scout Den Mother. She was also a member of Sigma Mu Gamma Society, and a long time member of the Wilson Historical Society.

She is survived by her husband, William E. Ganshaw, a former Town of Wilson Judge; a son, David W. Ganshaw of Yarmouth port, MA; and late son, Terry F. Ganshaw. She also had 5 grandchildren, and 4 g-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of the Rosary R.C. Church, and burial was in Greenwood Cemetery, Wilson, with Father John Leising officiating.

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CAN YOU HELP?:

Gail Walder, the society's new Sunday Hostess Chrm., is making up a picture album of old Wilson homes. If you have a picture of an old house, Gail would like to scan it and make a copy for the album, which will eventually be added to the museum collection. If you would like to cooperate with Gail you may reach her at 751-9679.

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QUIPS:

We knew an old codger in Wilson who lived in the same house for about sixty five years. One day he surprised everyone by moving into another place nearby. When asked why he moved, he said, "I guess it's just the gypsy in me."

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

Estate of Peter & Dorothy Saggese, via Janice Sievert: Ca. Forty historical items including books, maps, paintings school supplies, and early cemetery records. Complete listing of items on file with transmittal slips.

Estate of Dorothy Thilk,(Janice Sievert): Books, cameras, slides, scrapbooks, Civil War Record of Russell Ferris; historical publications etc. Over 35 items. Complete listing of items on file with tra nsmittal slips.

Brad Clark: Photographs of the rebuilding of the bridge at the end of Young Street, 5/2000 to 6/2000. Mr. Clark salvaged original plaque from old bridge and cleaned it up for the Wilson Museum.

Donald Wiltse: Pictures taken of the moving of the Tugwell Cabin to the Museum grounds.

Deborah Brown, Atlantic City; Letter to Don Croop containing excerpts from the Memoirs of former Wilson Native, Philip Brown. Also, two boxes of books written by Rex Tugwell, with request that the Tugwell book collection be preserved in the Tugwell Cabin.

Arthur Schnoor: Locomotive Commemorative Plate which he put together in memory of James Waldron.

Josephine Fuller: Picture painted by the late Joseph Higgins.

Estate of Winnie Fischer, via Shirley F. Novak: Zither; Coca Cola Bottles; and assortment of kitcheb utensils from home of the late Winnie Fischer.

Sara Berry: Castoria Bottle in good condition.

Jay Tooker: Wilson Sports Sweater; Sports Letter; 1943 & 1947 Wilson "Crests"; and "Pep Club" Badge--all items in good condition.

Virginia Strablow: Four Girl Scout Uniforms.

* * * * *

BABY BEAUTY CONTEST:

Who has the most beautiful baby in Wilson? This year, at the Memorial Day Fair, the Wilson Historical Society will try to find out.

You may enter your baby providing he or she is 12 month old or less on the day of the Fair, May 28, 2001. Parents who wish to enter their infants in the contest should please submit a 5x7 snapshot with the following information on the back: Date of birth; Name of Baby; Parent's Name; Phone Number; and parent's address,(if you want picture returned.)

Please note: The contest will be limited to the first 25 babies entered. (Any ties will be determined by a flip of a coin.). Please mail your baby's picture to the following address:

Sally Smith, Chair.
Wilson Historical Society
P.O.Box 839---645 Lake Street
Wilson, New York 14172

Having a baby contest in Wilson is nothing new. In 1889, at the Grand Opening of Lake Island Park, a number of events were held including a baby beauty contest. That was when the late Bessie Crawford was chosen the most beautiful baby in the Park.

Bessie grew up to become a life-long resident of "Sunset Island" and, to many people, she was looked upon as the "unofficial historian" of the Island.

Anyone may vote in today's beauty contest. Each baby's picture will be attached to a container, and each penny put in the container will count as one vote. The winner will be the baby who attracts the largest number of pennies in his container.

So come to the 2001 Memorial Day Fair, and vote for the baby of your choice.

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BOARD NOTES:

A meeting of the Board was held on February 14, 2001, with former President, Don Burrows presiding. A qorum of the Boards membership were present.

Guest, Jill Rohing, requested use of the museum facilities again this year for an Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 14, 2001 from 9AM to 1:00PM. She stated that approximately 150 to 200 youngsters attended with their parents last year. Permission to use the museum facilities at that time was granted by the Board.

Judy Rose reported that another Fair Meeting would be held at her home on February 22nd at 7:00 PM.

Celeste Crawford said that a large number of acquisitions from the estates of Peter Saggese and Norman Thilk have been received; also two boxes of books written by Rex Tugwell.

Don Burrows reported that the Memorial Sign Committee has agreed on the location for the new electrified Memorial Sign.

The list of chairpersons appointed by the Board was approved, and Don Burrows said the caboose windows are installed and the renovation is about completed. He said that painting the Depot should be our next priority. It is also essential that a stone fill should be used to eliminate the step at the front entrance, and the area between the flagpole and the depot should be graded with topsoil--thus eliminating a dangerous safety hazaed.

It was reported that Pres. Gary Fitch has had several long discussions with Ed Hastings regarding the proposed new rest rooms and storage area. Ed will submit some plans for the Board's consideration.

Bids are open to paint the Depot which has not been painted in 14 years. The Board decided that the Society should purchase its own paint for the job.

* * * * *

SOUNDINGS:

Coming to think about it, Adam and Eve,(in the Garden of Eden) could't complain how much better things were in the 'good old days'.

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QUIPS: Everything gets easier with practise--except getting up in the morning.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIAM:

Helen L. Ward, 77, passed away at the Medina Memorial Health Facility on Feb. 5, 2001. She was born in Newfane in 1924, the daughter of Elwyn and Rose (Smith) Flagler. A former resident of Wilson, she lived in Middleport since 1984.

She was a member of the Middleport United Methodist Church, and a Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society. She also was a member of the Camera Club of Lockport, and enjoyed knitting, gardening, and taking her grandson fishing.

Mrs. Ward was predeceased by a son, Stuart Ward; and a sister, Dorothy Urtel; and she is survived by two daughters, Suzanne Ward of California, and Judith Jacabec of Middleport; Also a brother, Donald (Dee) Flagler of Texas; 6 grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

A Memorial Service was held on February 10th at the Bates, Wallace and Health Funeral Home in Middleport with Rev. Andrew Pollock officiating.

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MEMBER IN THE NEWS:

Ora "Buzz" Pettit has been honored by Ontario Lodge No. 376, F&AM of Wilson at an Apron Presentation Dinner held at the Wilson House Restaurant on February 24th. Ora was appointed Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Tocantins, Brazil. In 1983 he received the Dedicated Service Award from the Grand Lodge of New York.

Ora once owned and operated the Pettit Appliance & G.E. Sales & Service in Wilson from 1935 to 1979. He and his wife, Marion, have two children, Paul of Austin, Texas, and Gail who lives in Fort Erie, Ontario. They also have three grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

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Leanne Haley-Brown, an organizer for the Wilson Harbor Fest, 2001, has outlined some of the activities to be featured in Wilson's 2nd annual Harborfest scheduled for the weekend of August 3rd through August 5th.

The tall ship schooner, "The Challenge" will be here as well as a U.S. Coast Guard Vessel, that will give tours of the ship. The popular Coast Guard helicopter, "Dolphin" will also be back to perform water rescue demonstrations.

It is expected that the Festival will attract more than the 35,000 spectators who attended last year, and a variety of events are planned. It is hoped, for instance, that Ontario Street may be closed to traffic and turned into an outdoor art gallery. Also, a big fireworks demonstration set for Saturday evening will be set to music.

Three big events are planned for Wilson this year so mark your calendars. The Wilson Historical Society Memorial Day Fair on May 28, 2001; The Harbor Fest 2001, Aug. 3-5 and the Exley United Methodist "Flea Market" on Labor Day, September 3, 2001, on museum grounds.

AREA FAIR CHAIRMEN ANNOUNCED:

Judy Rose & Lois Barnum have selected most of this year's Fair Chairmen for the Memorial Day Fair on May 28, 2001 as follows:

Announcers, Bruce Muck and Dan Johnson; Antique Cars, Bill Rose and Wally Goodman; Bottled Water, Kevin King; Busses, Don Burrows; Chicken Bar-B-Que; Shirley Hunter & Shirley Linnenbank. Classic Cars, David Branch; Clean-up, Randy Ward; Coffee & Donuts, Judy Zauner; Coffee, Bonuts; Coffee, (Barnum Bldg) Winnie Terry; Cotton Candy, Jack & Melinda Hutchison; Dealers, Nettie Stimson; Funnel Cakes, Sally Smith; Hot Dogs, Dale Schlyer; Large Equipment, Darrell Smith; Membership/Ways & Means, Sandy & Kara Holden; Newsletter, Don Croop; Parking, Harold Benedict; Pepsi, Kyle Andrews; Pies, Pam Groff; Popcorn, Dick & Sue Schultz; Publicity, Marge Williams; Quilt Raffle/Lost and Found, Judy Rose; Sno Cones, Joe & Linda Moran; Pepsi by Sno Cones, Jenna Andrews & Jesse Buzzard; Sanitation, Ray Groff.

Special: Supplies, Lois Barnum; Ticket Booths, Gary Fitch; Treasurer, Judy King; Ways and Means, Sandy & Kara Holden; Workers, Gale Walders; Kids Games, Julie Smith; and new Baby Contest, Sally Smith.

It is hoped to have the next essential chairpersons selected in time for the April Newsletter: Dealer Parking; Entertainment; Roast Beef on Weck. Want to be involved in the Fair? Now's the time to step forward and join in the fun. Call Lois Barnum, 751-6665, or Judy Rose, 751-3771.

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FROM THE MAILBAG:

We recently received an interesting note from Lloyd Merton Evans, who mentioned an experience he once had along the old "Hojack" railroad.

The year was around 1948 when Lloyd's father, Merton Evans, bought him a pony from Merton's cousin, Allen Grauer of Colonial Village.

Mert Evans's farm backed up to the :Hojack" line between the Randall and Daniels Roads, so Lloyd would ride his pony back and forth to the railroad tracks where he'd sometimes have lunch with the Ho-Bo's who'd share their food with him.

When Lloyd's mother found out, he was "grounded" for over a week. We thank Lloyd "For the Memries". This is the first time we ever heard about a Wilson resident eating lunch provided by the Ho-Bo.s who used to camp along the old "Hojack" railroad during the 1930's and 1940's.

* * * * *

DON'T FORGET:

Make plans to spend Memorial Day in Wilson, May 28, 2001, and be sure to enter that new born baby in the Society's "Most Beautiful Baby in Wilson" contest.

* * * * *

QUIPS:

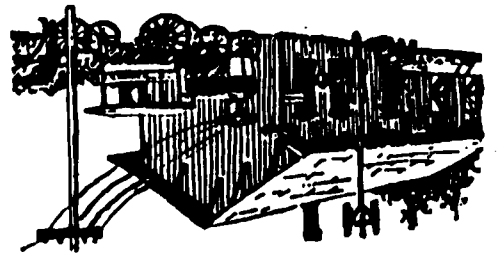
We heard about a 14 year old boy who was expelled from school because he was incapable of telling the truth. He'll probably end up working for the Weather Bureau.

* * * * *

An optimist is a guy who expects the Buffalo Bills to win every game.

* * * * *

April 2001

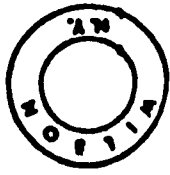
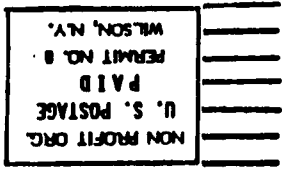


April 2001 VOL. 30 NO. 4
(Coleman Printing)

DONALD W. GROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763



KNOW YOUR LIBRARY:

The Delphic Circle was possibly the first group in Wilson to promote the idea of having a Public Library in the village. In 1909, Miss Belle Brown, President of Delphic, met with several local ladies including Jeanette Parsons, and it was decided to hold an open meeting at which two representatives of every organization in town might attend.

The meeting was held in the Albright Opera House where steps were taken to form a new Library. C. Herbert Swick was chosen as chairman and, ten days later, a permanent Library Association was organized and the following officers elected: Charles Tugwell, President; C. Herbert Swick, Vice-President; Millicent Crowie, Secretary; Dr. G.N. Smith, Treasurer; and Jeanette Parsons, fifth member.

Mr. Arthur Dobbs was chosen as Librarian, and organizations like the Delphic Circle; Monday Club; W.C.T.U., and others, began acquiring books for the new library. The books were arranged on shelves in Mr. Dobbs's home which was located at 279 Pettit Street, and he held the position of Librarian until 1919 when it was decided to move the library to the second floor of the Blake Block on Young Street.

Arthur Pease was then appointed Librarian, and he held the position until 1935. During this time, in 1929, the Charles Haner Grocery store was purchased for \$4,500, and became the permanent site for the library. In 1935, Mrs. Ray Blake was appointed Librarian, and she was followed by Mrs. Lewis Smith.

Which reminds us that several of our present historical society members, at one time or another, once worked for the library or served as members of the Library Board. At the risk of overlooking some, we believe these would include: Judith Berry Jennejohn; Pricilla Berry Smiley; Sara Berry; Rebecca Baker Hill; Jill Stimson Wells; Sandra Schmidle Holden; Ashley Gale; Richard Schmidle; Eleanor Myers; Kay Ness; Nancy Kent; Mrs. Charles Gamble; Mrs. Dora Wakeman; Mrs. Zilpha Petty; and Mrs. Mary Clark.

The Library received its Absolute Charter from the State of New York on April 16, 1915, and the Library Association operated successfully under its Board of Trustees. Substantial support was also received from the village of Wilson and local organizations such as the Delphic Circle, Gnostic Guild, and various Mothers' Clubs. General community support, however, became more pronounced when in November, 1949, the 'Friends of the Library' was organized and headed-up by Richard Schmidle and Mrs. Leslie Beukema. The 'Friends' grew rapidly to about 350 persons, and was very supportive of future library improvements and expansion.

In 1990 and 1991, the Library Board, with Mrs. Margaret Fritton, Pres., conducted a Country wide drive to raise funds for a newly renovated library. After a very generous and supportive response, an "open house" and Dedication of the "new" Library was held on April 5, 1992.

Now, the newly renovated facilities on Young Street gives Wilson perhaps one of the most outstanding rural libraries in New York State.

The present Library Director, Margaret "Maggie" Stein, was appointed in April, 2000. She came to Wilson following 12 years experience in Public Libraries, including Branch Manager of the Lasalle Branch of the Niagara Falls Public Library.

"Maggie", as she likes to be called, was guest speaker at the February meeting of the Wilson Historical Society where she gave a very interesting talk about the facilities available at "Your Free Public Library." She is currently working on a project to transfer micro film copies of the Wilson "Star" on computer discs so that information from the "Stars" will be accessible more quickly.

A recent improvement at the library is the 'materials return drop' which was installed near the front entrance by Randy Ward. The "drop" was made possible because of a generous donation from the current "Friends of the Wilson Free Library." Incidentally, the "Friends" meet on the 1st Thursday each month at 7:30 PM in the library's Community Room. Officers are: Rena Rohring, Pres., Nina Gagnon, Vice-Pres., Betty Hoag, Rec. Sec., Kay Ness, Cor. sec., and Jamie Moxham, treasurer.

* * * * *

EASTER EGG HUNT:

During the Easter Egg hunt on April 14th, the museum will be open to persons who'd like to see the exhibits. It is also planned to have a place where youngsters can have their pictures taken sitting with the Easter Bunny. Jill Rohring is coordinating the event for the Wilson's Lions Club, sponsors of the annual affair.

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QUIPS:

The keynote in any political campaign is the first one on the scale. "Dough".

* * * * *

MEMBER IN THE NEWS:

Marlene Schotz, a member of the Wilson Historical Society since 1983, was recently hired as Wilson Correspondent for the Lockport Journal. She has contributed some interesting Letters to the Editor over the past years, and it now appears that news of the local area may be getting a "fair shake." in the future.

Marlene, a retired school teacher and dairy farmer, is active in the Wilson Historical Society where she serves on the committee for restoration of the Tugwell Cabin; and Chairman of the Society's "Tours" Committee. Mrs. Schotz may be reached at 751-9883.

* * * * *

NEW MEMBERS:

Thanks to a proud great grandmother, Sara Berry, the Wilson Historical Society is happy to announce four new junior members: John Paul Jennejahn, Phoenix, AZ; Alexander Mathew Jennejahn, Phoenix, AZ; Daniel John Berry, Alexander, VA; and Hannah Christine Luchinski of Champaign, IL. (Who said the society isn't getting any new, younger members?)

* * * * *

RECENT ACQUISITION:

Lester Clark of Hayward, CA, recently sent the Wilson Historical Society a copy of the History Channel Video on the Planning and Building of the old Erie Canal. The video is of such excellent quality and local interest that Miles Linnabery, Program Chairman, decided to show it at the Regular Meeting on March 26th.

* * * * *

FROM THE MAILBAG:

Robert L. Eastman of Des Moines, Washington, wrote that he moved from Southern California to Washington in June, 2000. He recently realized he was no longer getting the Society's Newsletter because he forgot to let our Membership Chairman know his new address.

Mr. Eastman is the g-g-grandson of John Eastman who came to Wilson with Reuben Wilson in 1810. His great grandfather, Henry Eastman, was born in Wilson in the Eastman Cabin in 1815.

(Please note: Our membership chairmen, Sandy & Kara Holden, try very hard to keep mailing addresses up to date. so please be sure to contact them if you plan to move. The P.O. Dept will not forward 3rd class mail.)

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MUSEUM NOTES:

Accumulation of acquisitions in the depot library is becoming a problem because area chairmen fail to remove them. As a result, the room fills up quickly making it difficult for people to use the library for research, etc.

Don Burrows has suggested that we might use a corner of the Storage Barn for acquisitions until they can be sorted out, identified, and removed to the proper location for exhibiting. No action on problem has yet been taken.

Don also announced that all windows in the caboose have been replaced, and the job will be completed after the NYC Insignias have been painted on the side of the caboose.

Ed Hastings has submitted some plans for installing new restrooms in the Barnum Building. Several large projects are facing the society. First, it is almost imperative that the roof on the Barnum Building be replaced and raised; Paint the Depot which hasn't been touched in 20 years; Renovate Tugwell Cabin; Install rest-rooms. Top soil and stone are needed for grading the entranceway and area between the flagpole and the depot. A safety hazard.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP NOTES:

Our congratulations to Kara Holden who recently made the Dean's List at Niagara Co. C.C. Kara also finds time to help out on our Membership and Ways & Means Committees.

We also wish to welcome Ellen C. Colangelo of Casewood Drive, Wilson, who has become a member of the Wilson Historical Society.

* * * * *

CORRECTION:

In the Memorial notice for Marjory Frances Ganshaw in the March Newsletter, we failed to mention that in addition to her son, David W. Ganshaw and late son, Terry F. Ganshaw, Mrs. Ganshaw is also survived by a daughter, Mary Ellen Ganshaw of Wilson. We apologize for the oversight.

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MUSEUM REOPENS APRIL 1ST:

Visitation at the Wilson Museum will be resumed on April 1, 2001 with visiting hours scheduled for Sunday afternoons from 2-4PM. We thank our new hostess chairman, Gail Walder, for arranging to have the following members greet you in April:

- April 1st: George & Pauline Alvers; Sara Berry; Lois Barnum OPEN: Lois Barnum
- April 8th: Ollie and Helen Clark; Donna and Bill Fritton OPEN: Ollie Clark
- April 22nd: Dick and Verna Adams; Kyle & Jenna Andrews OPEN: Kyle Andrews
- April 28th: Harold & Neva Benedict; Marg Boling; Julie Dulkiewics OPEN: Ollie Clark

Please Note: Museum will also be open during the Easter Egg Hunt, April 14th, 9:30-1:00 PM. There will be no visiting hours on Easter Sunday, April 15th.

The guest speaker at the April 23rd meeting will be Edward Feigenbaum, who fought with the U.S. Army Rangers during World War II. He was captured and spent time in a German Prison of War Camp. The Public is always invited to attend regular monthly meetings.

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QUIPS:

It takes about 1500 nuts to hold an automobile together, but it only takes one to scatter it all over the landscape.

* * * * *

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2001:

The Board of Directors is composed of six officers; nine elected trustees; two honorary trustees; and two ex-officio members. The following list of officers and chairpersons was compiled by Gary Fitch, President. It is being put in the Newsletter so that every member of the Wilson Historical Society will have a copy.

* * * * *

2001

645 Lake Street P.O. Box 830 (Ph: 751-9886)

2001

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS: Gary Fitch, President Pam Groff, Recording Secretary
Darrell Smith, 1st Vice President Diane Muscoreil, Corresponding Secretary
Gordon Strablow, 2nd Vice President Judy King, Treasurer

TRUSTEES: To December 2001 To December 2002 To December 2003
Ollie Clark Miles Linnabery Lois Barnum
Floyd Clark Art Schnoor Bruce Muck
Kyle Andrews Wally Goodman Bill Rose

HONORARY TRUSTEES: Past Presidents: Don Croop & Don Burrows
EX OFFICIO Jerry Dean, Town Supervisor Eleanor Myers, Town Historian

CHAIRPERSONS SELECTED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Acquisitions: Celeste Crawford Genealogy/Library: Celeste Crawford
Sunday Hostess: Gail Walder Historical Sites: Janet Sporleder
Refreshments: Ann Marie Linnabery Memberships: Kara & Sandy Holden
Memorial: Lois Jennings Programs: Miles Linnabery
Publicity: Carol Schnoor By-Laws: Judy King
Publications/Newsletters: Don Croop Ways & Means: Kara & Sandy Holden
Tours: Marlene Schotz

CHAIRPERSONS APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Curator: Dorothy Maxfield Finance Chairman: Dan King
Barnum Bldg Chairman: Kyle Andrews Fittro Shop: Ed Allgeier
Construction: Gary Fitch Railroad Depot: Dorothy Maxfield
Planning Brd Comm: Lois Barnum Argue Car Bldg: Wally Goodman, Bill Rose
Caboose: Don Burrows Nominating Committee: Diane Muscoriel
Breezeway/Shelter: Micky Hunter Grounds: Elton Kropp
Storage Barn: Bruce Muck Federation Representative: Norm MacAskill
School House: Wanda Burrows Tugwell Cabin Mary Clark

2001 FAIR COMMITTEE

Co-Chairpersons: Judy Rose Don Burrows~~ Nettie Stimson~~ Darrell Smith
Lois Barnum Don Croop~~ Kyle Andrews~~ Pam Groff

* * * * *

DID YOU KNOW.....

Wilson's on the "Web"---thanks to Jerry Dean, Town Supervisor, who also included a nice description of the Wilson Historical Society. So, if any of you computer experts aren't aware of it, You can lock onto the Wilson Web Site at WWW.wilsonnewyork.com

We congratulate Jerry for doing such a fine job of putting Wilson "on the map".(In more ways than one)

* * * * *

PORSCHE RAFFLE:

Tickets are still available for the Porsche Drawing which will be held at the Memorial Day Fair, May 28th, at 3:00 PM. Wally Goodman says that he'll be glad to get tickets to you--to either sell or buy, if you'll just get in touch with him.

Individual tickets sell for \$2 each, but your best bet would be to buy a book of ten for \$14. Here's your chance to win a 1985 Porsche 928 in "as is" condition, and it only has 76,662 miles on it. The reason the Historical Society is raffling off the Porsche is because it's an 1985 model, and our antique car collection only consists of cars 25 years or older.

You may contact either Wally Goodman or Bob Rose for tickets or mail in your requests to "The Wilson Historical Society Car Raffle", P.O. Box 830, Wilson, NY 14172.

Proceeds from the raffle may be used to recondition cars in the Museum Collection.

While we're on the subject, please don't forget to turn in your tickets for the Quilt.

* * * * *

QUIPS:

Many a man loses his balance when his wife goes shopping.

* * * * *

BOARD ACTION & REPORTS:

The Wilson Historical Society Board of Director Meeting was called to order by President Gary Fitch with 18 Society Members present. Those attending were: Gary Fitch; Darrell Smith; Pam Groff; Diane Muscoreil; Miles Linnabery; Arthur Schnoor; Wally Goodman; Lois Barnum; Bruce Muck; Don Croop; Don Burrows; Jerry Dean; Eleanor Myers; Celeste Crawford; Dan King; Marlene Schotz; Judy Rose; and Sally Smith.

There was no treasurer's Report because Judy Rose was sick.

Judy Rose announced that the third Fair Committee would be held at her home on March 22nd. She also announced that the Society's "Millennium Star Quilt was being displayed at the Garden Gate Floral and Gift Shop on Young Street.

Celeste said that she is sorting out acquisitions,, and they are put in the Newsletter each month after being recorded.

The new Historical Society sign is now in place and lit up for night display. Darrell Smith said that he has heard many positive comments about the sign.

Wally Goodman, Co-Chrm. of the Antige Cars, reported that early returns show an income of \$1,192 while advertising and mailings are \$597 to date.

The Tugwell Cabin Chairperson, Mary Clark, has had her name added to the list of Chairman appointees made by the Board of Directors. In a communication from Mary she said that the Tugwell Cabin restoration project will get quickly underway when she returns from Florida. It is expected that the "Cabin" will eventually become an attraction as popular as the old Randall Road Schoolhouse.

There seems to be some confusion over which Directors have keys to the Depot. Miles Linnabery suggested that it be put in the Newsletter that people who have keys should please notify either Marlene Schotz or Don Croop.

It would be nice to have the Depot painted before the Memorial Day Fair, but it is dubious if bids and arrangements can be made in time. Those submitting bids to paint the depot should include a high pressure wash, scrape, and paint --one coat to cover.

The original color of the depot is thought to have been gray with green trim. In order to keep costs down, it is planned to repaint it red. The last time the depot was painted its was done by Darrell Smith, in 1981 cr 1982 Since that was over 20 years ago, he must have done a pretty good job.

It is believed the society could reduce costs by buying its own paint. In a related project, Randy Ward will replace the skirting around the Depot.

On March 3rd, Gary Fitch met with Walter Moxham and Doyle Phillips regarding the south boundary line. A draft of a letter sent to Town Supervisor, Jerry Dean and Town Board members was read with society reccomendations After a long discussion the matter was brought to a close when Don Burrows made a motion, seconded by Darrell Smith, to allow Doyle to leave his building, which is on Town property, as it is providing he maintains it. If it is removed he is not to rebuild on Society property, which actually belongs to the Town of Wilson. Motion carried.

Spring will soon be here, and two bids have been received to mow the Society's grounds. It was decided to have all the grounds mowed up to Memorial Day on a regular basis, then continue to have professional mowing around the buildings and south property. After the Fair, Dan King and Don Burrows have agreed to mow the north field less frequently.

An all day seminar--Building strength in your non-profit organization will be held Thurs. March 22nd at the Dale Center in Lockport. Motion made by Miles Linnabery, seconded by Wally Goodman, to send Gary Fitch and Marlene Schotz at a cost of \$40 each. Motion carried.

The Planning Board will be meeting in the near future with its new chairman, Lois Barnum. Art Schnoor is to be complimented for the fine job he has done as chairman in past years.

Eleanor Myers, town historian, asked if the Society could help the Wilson Library with its special propject of putting copies of the old Wilson "Star" om CD's from microfilm. After some discussion it was decided to wait until after Fair Day to make a decision. The Society is also interested in putting the past 30 years of the Historical Society Newsletters on CD's also.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on April 11,2001.

(Respectfully submitted by Pam Groff, Secretary.

* * * * *

REMEMBERING APRIL 1942:

Just about everyone in the Country was affected by the War Effort in 1942, and strict rationing governed the sale of sugar, coffee, tires, and gasoline.

A great many persons had "Victory Gardens and, Nationwide, the program accounted for two thirds of all the vegetables consumed in the United States.

That was also the year that the Womens' Auxiliary Corps were formed in the Army, Air Force; Navy, and Marines.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra was also very popular, and over a million copies of "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" were sold, and RCA decided to issue the very first "Gold Record" to commemorate the achievement.

It was a dangerous time, but the entire country was united in the effort to show the leaders of Japan that they made a big mistake when they attacked Pearl Harbor.

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QUIPS

When some women shop, it looks like they're taking inventory of the store.

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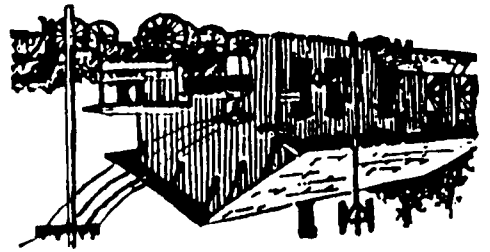
The old songs are best, because nobody sings them anymore.

* * * * *

BON MOT: A woman, generally speaking, is generally speaking.

* * * * *

1002 May

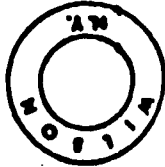
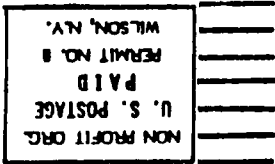


May 2001 Vol. 30 No. 5
(Coleman Printing)

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763
Wilson Historical Society



SCHOOLHOUSE MEMORIES:

Judy Rose recently submitted an old letter written by her father, Tower Wilson, which reveals some interesting experiences he had when he attended the old Dist. #8 schoolhouse on Randall Road. Following are some excerpts from his letter:

"When I first started school at District #8, Miss Hazel Demmin was my teacher. Later, she married and became Mrs. Floyd Salisbury. At the time, we were living in the tenant house on Grandpa Wilson's farm which was at the northwest corner of Randall and New Roads.

We had Christmas plays and skits each year, and everyone had a part to learn and act out. When on stage, (whether good or bad) we were always praised for our 'good work'.

One yearsome of the older boys took a hay wagon apart, then hauled it up on top of the schoolhouse roof where they reassembled it. It was real funny until the next day when the boys had to take it down and put it together on the ground. The boys also liked to remove the bell from its cradle so it couldn't be rung for school the next day.

Every ones "Out House" was also fair game around Holloween, and one time they tipped old Hank Schultz's out house over on its door---with him still in it. Fortunately, Hank was small and his wife large, so he was able to crawl out through the large hole made for his wife.

There was a big round oak stove near the back of the schoolhouse, and you "cooked" if you sat within ten feet of it--but it must have hard for Mrs. Salisbury to keep warm with her desk at the front of the room.

In the Spring, when the wild flowers were in bloom, she would take us to the woods where we learned about the different flowers and trees. It is a little hard to imagine how classes today, with 30 or more youngsters, could walk through the woods.

Near the school were a row of cherry trees along the ditch, and we all used to walk under them on the way to and from school. We doubt if Mr. and Mrs. Durphy were able to pick many cherries from the lower limbs after we passed through them in the Spring.

At the south end of Randall Rd. there were two grocery stores, Doeblers and Lafflers, and they both had delivery trucks that travelled through out the area. Whenever they stopped in front of the schoolhouse, the teacher would let those of us who had a penny or two, go out and buy some candy off the truck.

In those days there wasn't too much money around, so most of the farmers would swap bacon, eggs, and other produce in exchange for flour, sugar, spices and other staples they needed. My father, for instance, worked six & one half days a week as a Ford mechanic for \$15 a week.

Mrs. Gazelle Hoffman was our Dist. Supt., and she seemed real nice and never "Threw her weight around". I stayed at the Randall Rd. school until I reached 7th grade. About that time they hired a new teacher right out of college, and she had no control over the children. They would jump in and out of windows and run out the door when she was trying to teach other classes. So, in October, Dad and Mom sent me to stay at grandma Towers while I finished seventh grade. I took my Regents Exam at the Ransomville School.

Now, when I walk over to the Randall Rd. School and see the size of the Black Cherry tree that we used to use for first base, I realize what a difference 62 years can make.

* * * * *

Update: The Dist. #8 Schoolhouse was built in 1861. It stood on the Randall Rd. until Aug. 6, 1996 when, through the efforts of a community steering Comm., it was moved to the Wilson Museum grounds by Farley Riggers of Lockport, NY. Renovation was then undertaken by a Comm. of Historical Society members chaired by Wanda Burrows. When completed, about 250 persons attended a re-dedication ceremony held Sunday, May 18, 1997.

The original Steering Comm. was composed of Jean Figura, Chrm., Wanda Burrows, Sec'y; Janet Sporleder, Cor. Sec'y; and Ed & Marilyn Allgeir, Ways and Means. Other members included Hazel Salisbury; Nina Mowell; Ellen Hibbard; Don Burrows; Don Croop; Patricia Rice; Denise Orzell; Martin Miller; Carol Fenn; and Richard Schmidle.

Wilson teachers who helped were: Marty Miller; Ken Voltz; Kathy Kraatz; Mary Palacios; Dave Stewart; Diane Wilding; Johanna Andritz; Rebecca Foster; Linda Mahl; Susan Cruickshank; Mindy Schultz; Ed Goodnight; Bonnie Muck; and Karen Raccuia:

Others who did outstanding work to complete the school project were: Gary Fitch; Hoyt Desso; Ed Hastings; Don Burrows; Darrell Smith; Dan King; Don K. Burrows; and Ed Allgeier. Members of Boy Scout Troop #67 finished the school desks; and work crews from the Niagara County Sheriff Dept. replaced the old flooring and scraped the building for painting.

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QUIPS: We are living in days of change: My grandfather had a farm; My father had a garden; but I've got a can opener.

* * * * *

FAIR NOTES:

The Fair Committee has arranged for some great entertainment this year at the Memorial Day Fair, and the following schedule of events may make it easier for you to see and hear everything that's going on. A new group, "The Hot Country Liners" will perform first at the Shelter from 10:15AM to 10:45AM.

From 11:00AM to 11:45AM, the Wilson High School Band will entertain, followed by a tribute to the Servicemen & Women who gave their lives for our Country.

At 12:15 to 1:00PM, the popular "Niagara Experience Players" will perform, and from 1:30 to 2:15PM, the "Buffalo & Brandy Magic Show" will be on stage.

Wilson's own, Bob Hull, will present a piano recital from 2:15 to 3:00PM, and the "Buffalo and Brandy" show will perform again from 3:15 to 4:00PM.

Another interesting event will feature Mr. Clark, who will wander around the grounds in Scottish attire playing on the Bagpipes--at times to be determined by him.

* * * * *

Pam Groff, Chairperson for the Pie Concession, hopes that our members will be very generous this year when they furnish Home Made Pies. Pam plans to be in the Barnum Building Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00PM to accept them. It is easier to bring things and enter the grounds on Sunday than to try and deliver things on the day of the Fair.

Pies are a big favorite each year and, why wouldn't they be--it's pretty hard to find home-made pies anywhere that can equal those made by historical society members. So please bring as many of your "special creations" that you can. If past years are any indication, we will need all the pies you can furnish.

* * * * *

The Fair Comm. announced recently that Elaine Moon, has volunteered to take charge of the "Beef on Weck" concession, and that is great news because the Beef concession is almost as popular as the Chicken Bar-B-Que. However, we would also like to thank Althea Montgomery for the fine job she did for the past several years.

In addition to the Beef and Bar-B-Que, there will be an ample supply of Hot Dogs, Funnel Cakes, Popcorn, Pepsi Drinks & Water, Coffee & Donuts, and possibly Sweet Corn to whet your appetites.

* * * * *

OMISSIONS:

Harold and Neva Benedict were somehow left off the Membership Roll in last month's Newsletter.

You can rectify the oversight by adding their names and phone number to your copies. They have been members of the Society since 1986 and their phone no. is: 751-6742.

It was also reported that we had the wrong phone no. for Nancy & Elwin Simmons. We believe the correct number is 751-6484.

We did not put all the librarians in last months/ item about the Wilson Free Library, but it was suggested that we should have mentioned Marie Reynolds who became Librarian in 1961. We believe Nancy Millard became Librarian in 1985 and she was succeeded by Jean Siddall who started in 1988.

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Gary Fitch, Pres., has announced that he would like Committee Chairmen to make reports to Board meetings so that there will be a record of what committees are doing and what they have planned.

At the meeting on May 9th he hopes the following committee chairpersons will attend and report to the Board: Kyle Andrews, Barnum Building; Wanda Burrows, Schoolhouse; Dan King, Storage Barn; Norman MacAskill, Federation Representative; Ed Allgeier, Fittro Shop; and Mary Clark, Tugwell Cabin. He would appreciate a phone call if you are unable to attend the meeting. (751-9331)

He also wishes to remind all chairpersons that their Annual Reports will be due at the Annual Meeting which will be held in the Barnum Building on June 25, 2001, at 6:00PM.

* * * * *

HISTORY IN THE MAKING:

You don't have to go back 100 years to realize that history is being made in Wilson every day. In fact, we believe it's quite remarkable that Mrs. Joe Connors of Lake St., Wilson, has been hosting and overseeing a "Feast Day at St. Joseph's Table" in her home 37 yrs. We understand a Feast at St. Joseph's Table is a popular Italian custom, which is held, primarily to honor St. Joseph, the patron Saint of the Catholic Church.

Vegetable dishes such as "garduni" and "spinge" are prepared several days before the Feast and served by Mrs. Connors and friends, Grace Monteleone, Bridget Moley, Chris DeLuca, and Mary Cipolla. Everyone is welcome at the "Feast", and though there is no charge, any donations received are given to Charity.

Mrs. Connors, widow of the late Clifford Connor, is a very active member of "Our Lady of the Rosary R.C. Church" in Wilson. For many years she was Head Nurse at Mt. St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston, and Inter Community Memorial Hospital at Newfane.

* * * * *

Wilson residents can be proud of their Wilson Central School system which topped the list of Niagara County Schools listed in Business First Magazine's 2001 public district rankings. Statistics used are compiled by the State Education Dept.

According to Daniel Connor, Wilson Supt. of Schools, Wilson will try to make the Honor Roll next year-- one of the top 18 Districts.

* * * * *

QUIPS: The only person who can succeed by letting things slide, is the trombone player.

* * * * *

TUGWELL TID-BITS:

Now, with an effort being made to restore the Tugwell Cabin, any items you might have about the Tugwell family could possibly be worth keeping in the Cabin archives. If you have anything you feel would be relevant, contact Mary Clark, Chrm.

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In 1988, Dick Adams of Tonawanda sent us an interesting letter. He wrote that about the time he received his Historical Society Newsletter, he was reading a book written by the late War Correspondent, Ernie Pyle. He said that Pyle's book took on new meaning when he read a chapter in it that told how Pyle once met and interviewed Rex Tugwell at Miles City, MN.

As Pyle put it, Rex was the "Big Works" in the Resettlement Administration in Washington, DC, and he described how Rex worked with the 'hard up' ranchers in Montana to help them solve their many problems brought on by a prolonged drought.

* * * * *

In another letter which we received from Robert Salisbury of South Lake Tahoe, CA., he wrote that his mother, Gertrude Patterson, grew up at 400 Lake Street--just opposite the Tugwell residence. He said that when his mother was young, she used to play with Rex's little sister, Pauline Tugwell. (400 Lake Street is where the late Dr. John F. Argue had his office.)

* * * * *

YOUR SUPPORT APPRECIATED:

If you haven't turned in your tickets yet for the Quilt Drawing on Memorial Day, you may still do so on the day of the Fair. As you know, there are other prizes in addition to the quilt including a Wood Carving made by Robert Schearer of Texas, and a Table Cloth and Napkin set made by Elma McGrath of Lockport. Robert continues to send us a wood carving each year, and we thank him for his continued interest and support.

Elma (Cowan) McGrath of Lockport has been an active member of the Society since 1985. We believe a few persons may not have realized that the beautiful Table Cloth & Napkin set being used in the quilt raffle this year were made by her.

Elma has furnished these sets for the past several years and we have heard reports that the people who have won her Handi-work are extremely pleased to receive them.

* * * * *

A GLIMPSE AT THE PAST:

We wonder how many people still remember Bill Slocum's Barbershop? If you do, then you'll also remember how the coons and coon dogs used to make his place "stink".

Bill had an old coon dog named "Cliff", and the mutt used to lay around the Shop most of the day. However, when little Marty Woodcock came into the Shop, old Cliff would let her climb on his back and ride him around like he was a pony.

It was said that Cliff was also a very intelligent dog. Bill could attach a note to his collar, and the dog would race home and come right back with an answer. As old Bill Slocum used to say, "Cliff is one smart coon dog."

* * * * *

Anyone who has lived in Wilson for a long time will agree that life always has its "Ups and Downs." Les Clark, who grew up in Wilson but now lives in California, wrote about a few "Ups & Downs" he had when he used to work near the old "Hojack" station in Wilson.

He was Manager of a gas station owned by the late John Myers, who owned the old Frontier Oil and Kerosene Company. The business was located in a small house with 6 gas pumps in front of it--just across the street from the former Rex Stacy Feed Mill and Fredonia Canning Co.

Les recalled that life at the gas station wasn't always easy. One day, for instance, he was standing by the pumps when an automobile was driven into one of them.

Another time, one of the storage tanks sprung a leak, and he soon discovered he was pumping gas and water from the same pump.

Then, to make matters worse, a rider on a horse stopped to talk to him, and while they were talking, the horse bit Les on the arm. He punched the horse on the nose which caused the animal to rise up on its hind legs--and Les made a hasty retreat into the gas station.

With all that excitement, it's no wonder Les decided to move to California.

Now all he has to worry about are earthquakes; floods; mud-slides; and brush fires.

* * * * *

LAST CHANCE:

Don't forget to enter your baby in this year's "Beautiful Baby" contest which is being held at the Museum grounds during the Memorial Day Fair, May 28, 2001.

All babies entered must be 12 months of age or younger. In order to enter, please submit a 5x7 picture with the following information on the back: Date of birth; Name of Baby; Parents' names and phone number. If you want picture back, please also put names of parents and address. You may mail or give entries to Sally Smith, P.O.Box 839, Wilson 14172.

Each baby entered will have his or her picture attached to a coffee can or container, and you may vote for a baby by placing pennies in the container of your choice. The one getting the greatest number of pennies will be declared "Wilson's Millennium Baby."

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES:

June Kropp's name was inadvertently left off the Membership Roll. June is a Charter Member of the Society having joined in 1972.

On a brighter note, we are very happy to welcome our latest new member, Lewis T. Bell of Lockport, New York.

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QUIPS:

If you can't afford golf, you can always throw an aspirin tablet on the lawn and spend the afternoon looking for it.

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MAY HOSTS & HOSTESSES:

Gail Walder, Chrm., has submitted the following list of museum greeters for May:
 May 6th: David and Jenifer Branch; Shirley Hollister & Celeste Crawford. Open, Celeste.
 May 13th: George & Sue Cruickshank; Jane & John Demmin. Open, Lois Barnum
 May 20th: Mike & Diane O'Rourke; Don & Wanda Burrows. Open, Don

* * * * *
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On Sunday afternoon, May 27th the Fair Comm. and helpers will be setting up for the Fair.

RECENT ACQUISITION:

Items relevant to the Wilson Central School have been received from the Ransomville Free Library. These include Diplomas; Pictures; and a Baseball "W" awarded to a member of Wilson's undefeated baseball team, Neil Armstrong, catcher.

* * * * *

REMINDER:

The 15th of each month is the deadline for getting any items printed in the following month's Newsletter. Thanks for your cooperation.

* * * * *

MORE MEMBERSHIP NOTES:

Emma Schrader, an Honorary/Life Member of the Wilson Hist. Soc., will be honored on her 99th birthday at a "Birthday Potluck" luncheon to be held at Exley United Methodist Church on May 26, 2001. If attending, please bring own table service and dish to pass.

* * * * *

Lois Jennings, a Charter/Life Member of the Wilson Hist. Soc., has been selected Lay Person of the year by members of Exley United Methodist Church.

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BOARD ACTION & REPORTS:

April 11, 2001: Pres. Gary Fitch called the meeting to order with the following members present: Diane Muscoreil; Judy King; Ollie Clark; Harold Benedict; Don Croop; Elton Kropp; Gordon Strablow; Jerry Dean; Wally Goodman; Art Schnoor; Miles Linnabery; Celeste Crawford; Janet Sporleder; Lois Jennings; Marlene Schotz; Eleanor Myers; and Lois Barnum.

Judy King, Treasurer, reported an income of \$1033.54 for the past month with expenses totaling \$1862.90. Ollie Clark made a motion, seconded by Gordon Strablow, to pay outstanding bills. Motion carried. Judy also asked permission to pay all Fair bills as they come in. Motion made by Wally Goodman, seconded by Lois Barnum, to grant her permission. Motion carried.

Miles Linnabery made motion, seconded by Celeste Crawford, to make \$100 available for cleaning Barnum Building for Fair. Lois Barnum, Dorothy Maxfield, and Kyle Anderson will decide what should be done.

In other action by the Board, it was decided to leave the old Historical Society Sign where it is. Gary will check with Don Burrows and Darrell Smith on getting new sign permanently wired. Gary said that he would contact Ed Allgeier about cleaning the "stuff" out of the Fittro Shop.

Miles Linnabery made a motion, seconded by Gordon Strablow, to make another \$600 available for crush stone to finish driveway. Motion carried.

Pres. Fitch reported that Harold Benedict has been rolling the grounds, and that three bids were put in for mowing lawns. Motion made by Miles Linnabery, seconded by Judy King, to accept Lee Smith's bid for another year at \$100 per mowing. Motion carried.

Wally Goodman reported sales for Porsche Raffle are slow. A decision will be made at the next Board meeting as to how many tickets should be sold to raffle vehicle off.

Gary reported that shingles are coming off the storage barn again on both sides. He has asked Bruce Muck to talk to Pete Rohring about having them replaced. He also reported that Randy Ward is working on the skirting on south side of the depot. He said that 2 bids have been submitted to paint Depot. Motion made by Lois Barnum, seconded by Miles Linnabery, to accept low bid from Dan Pearce. Motion carried.

Lois Jennings reported as of Dec., 2000, there was \$3175.00 in the Memorial Fund. In March, \$3125.00 went to help pay for new sign, leaving a balance of \$50 dollars. Since then, \$300 has been donated leaving a balance on April 11, 2001, of \$350.00 dollars.

Gary read a report from Carole Schnoor stating that she sends an article each month to the Union Sun & Journal about the Society's monthly program meetings.

Janet Sporleder reported that there are 17 historical markers in place in the town of Wilson. The newest one is for the Randall Rd. Schoolhouse on the museum grounds. She said this is ^{first} sign ever received that is painted and ready to erect. Nearly all the other signs were painted and repainted by Janet, and for that the society is deeply grateful.

Gar Fitch reported that he and Marlene Schotz attended a Conference at the Dale Association on grant-writing and obtaining funds for preserving historical documents. Classes were informative on grant monies available, but in order to get grants, you need someone knowledgeable who is willing to apply for them.

There was some discussion on collecting photographs of old homes, and it was decided that houses considered should be at least 125 years old. Marlene Schotz suggested that brass plates might be placed on homes selected.

Gary again raised the question on the Library's project to place old Wilson "Stars" on discs. He believes it would be a worthwhile project and in keeping with what the Society is really all about. He asked that members think about it for discussion at the next meeting.

(Excerpts from the April 11th Board Meeting, as submitted by Diane Muscoreil, Cor. Sec'y.)

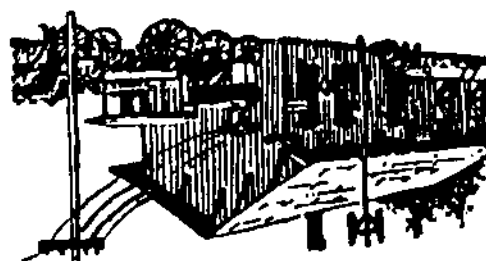
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QUIPS:

The little boy who hides behind his mother's skirt, has to get in his high chair to do it now days.

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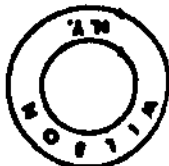
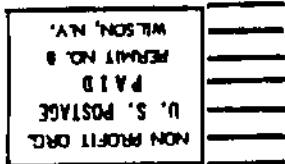
June 2001



DONALD W. KROPP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763
Wilson Historical Society



June - 2001

WILSON'S "ON A ROLL":

When you receive this Newsletter, the Memorial Day Fair will be history, so it will be impossible to give you any information about it until the July/August Newsletter comes out. However, as you may or may not be aware, Wilson is "On a Roll", and as the summer of 2001 gets under way, we can remind you that many activities are just ahead. In fact, the very popular "Cruise Nights" has already started and will continue each Friday night until September.

Other interesting events will include the annual 5K Salmon Run and Fun Run on June 9th; the invitational Soccer Tournament at the school on July 7th and 8th; and the outstanding Harbor Fest 2001, which will be held from August 2nd through August 6th.

Also, if you like Flea Markets or Yard Sales, you'll find plenty around town to keep you busy. A couple of the larger ones planned will be the Giant Labor Day flea market which will be sponsored by Exley United Methodist Church and held on the Museum Grounds. The other one to watch for is the Wilson Conservation Club Flea Market which will be held at the clubhouse on Route 425.

Fishing Derbies, Band Concerts at Clark's Park, Chowder Sales, Fish Frys, Gun and Ham Raffles, Chicken Bar-B-Ques and the Wilson Library Golf Tournament - they're all part of the Wilson scene. In fact, Wilson can supply you with just about everything you might need to enjoy your summer!

Things like getting your groceries at the local Lakeside IGA Market, or filling your prescriptions at the convenient Wilson Community Pharmacy, or picking up a beautiful flower arrangement at the Garden Gate Floral and Gift Shop on Young Street. And if that doesn't do it for you, you can always find a variety of items at the Farm and Garden Supply on Young Street.

Two of Wilson's biggest attractions will be held in August - the Harbor Fest on August 2nd - 6th, and the annual Vol. Fire Co. #1 Field Days scheduled for August 23rd through August 25th.

And when your thoughts turn to food, great dinners or snacks are always available at the Wilson House Restaurant or Jim's Family Restaurant - both on Young Street. And if you're in the Harbor area, be sure to pay a visit to the Wilson Boathouse Restaurant or Brownies on Route 18.

Boaters in particular may wish to visit Sunset Bay Marina at the western end of Wilson Harbor where visitor docking is open 7 days a week. The Crow's Nest Restaurant, overlooking Sunset Bay, is due to open in May through October and serves a full menu of fine foods.

These are just a few of the places and events that can make your life in Wilson more pleasant and exciting. If you wish to learn more about Wilson, log onto Wilson's Web Site, www.wilsonnewyork.com. Have a nice summer.

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JUNE GREETERS AT THE MUSEUM:

Gail Walder, Chairman, has announced that the following persons have agreed to be hosts and hostesses at the Museum on Sunday afternoons during June from 2 - 4 pm. She wishes to thank all those who helped out in May because even if there are Sundays when few visitors show up, it's nice to have someone there to greet visitors when they do come.

June 3 rd :	Frances Diez; Cheryl Brown; Chris & Wally Goodman	Open: Wally Goodman
June 10 th :	Brad & Judy Clark; Bob & Ann Botzer	Open: Don Burrows
June 17 th :	Jack & Melinda Hutchison; Jack & Dorothy Maxfield	Open: Jack Maxfield
June 24 th :	Mary Lenihan; Charles Messersmith; Elton & June Kropp	Open: Elton Kropp

JUNE CALENDAR:

- June 13th: The Board of Directors will meet at the Museum at 7:30 pm.
- June 25th: The Annual Meeting will be held in the Barnum Building at 6:00 pm.

IT'S A GOOD START:

A donation of \$50.00 was received recently from Mrs. Wilma McGrath of Lockport, who asked that the money be "earmarked" for the installation of new handicap restrooms.

Thank you, Wilma, we believe the project is in the planning stage and no doubt will be done once the funds are available. We agree, the restrooms are really needed.

* * * * *

SOUNDINGS:

A preacher once said, "Hell is 25,000 miles in circumference." We wonder if there is any significance in the fact that the earth is also 25,000 miles in circumference.

HOUSE OF MEMORIES:

Every now and then another of Wilson's old established landmarks gives way to the wrecker's ball, leaving behind only memories of an earlier day. The most recent house to "bite the dust" is the former home and office of the late Dr. John F. Argue, who practiced medicine in Wilson for nearly 50 years. Doc will be remembered by most Wilsonians as a fine doctor and a warm-hearted friend. He was also one of the founders of the Wilson Historical Society.

It was ca. 1938 that the young doctor established his practice in the old former home of Richard Patterson at 400 Lake Street. In addition to caring for the needs of his patients, he was very instrumental in getting the Inter-Community Hospital at Newfane organized. He later served there as Chief of Staff for many years.

In his spare time, Doc's hobby was acquiring and restoring old automobiles, but he also had a keen interest in the preservation of Wilson's history.

In 1965 he bought the old "Hojack" Railroad Depot, in which to store old cars and parts, but in 1972 he decided to give the Depot to the Town of Wilson with the understanding that it would be used as a Museum and meeting place for the Wilson Historical Society.

When the railroad was in it's "hay day", Richard Patterson was the Station Agent, and he held the job longer than any other person. In recognition of this, the historical society named the depot meeting room after him and placed his picture on the door into the room.

The story has been handed down how each night after work, Mr. Patterson would take the proceeds of the day's work home with him, walking from the depot to 400 Lake Street - a practice that one might have second thoughts about if living in today's uncertain environment.

But then, if you stop to think about it, up until the 1940's people weren't too concerned about crime, and many persons didn't even bother to keep their doors locked - not so today!

After the historical society was organized, Dr. Argue allowed the officers and trustees to hold their monthly meetings in his office during the winter months to save the expense of heating the depot.

After his untimely death in September of 1986, several doctors continued to use the house for medical purposes, but the place was finally closed. The Wilson Central School later purchased the property and in May, 2001, the house was demolished so the land could be put to other use.

Some persons feel that it was a shame to destroy the old "house of memories", but others apparently felt that progress is more essential than preserving old landmarks.

Which reminds us of a statement once made by Faith Baldwin: "Time is a dressmaker specializing in alterations."

* * * * *

POOR CONNECTIONS:

In 1876, when the "Hojack" railroad first crossed the Lockport-Olcott Road, the train stop was known as "Newfane". However, in 1900, when the trolley line was built from Lockport to Olcott, the place where the two rail lines intersected was named Burt, and the trolley stop, formerly know as "Charlotteville", was named Newfane.

The pioneer Historian, William Olmstead, once remarked that "The two rail lines never seemed to be able to make good connections for passengers and this had a permanent effect on the growth of the Hamlet called Burt." Olmstead smilingly observed, "People found it easier to settle in Burt rather than try to get a transfer to either the train or a trolley."

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS:

Celeste Crawford, a Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society, has been hired by the Niagara County Genealogical Society as the Head Librarian for the NCGS Research Library.

Celeste, a retired librarian at the Wilson Central School, is initiating a project to catalog the holdings of the NCGS and will enter the data into a software program, including such items as Directories of Niagara County Cities, published local and State histories, and Ancestral Charts for many local surnames.

Celeste has been librarian for the Wilson Historical Society for the past 5 years, and Genealogical Chairman of the Society for the past 25 years.

* * * * *

Bruce and Bonnie Muck's son, Andrew, has graduated from Colgate University, Summa Cum Laude, with honors in molecular biology. Andrew is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the National Honor Society, and graduated from Wilson Central School in 1995.

Bruce is a member of the Wilson Town Board, and both he and his wife, Bonnie, are members of the Wilson Historical Society.

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Joshua Smith and Jerry Winquist were victors in tennis doubles action, which helped Wilson edge out Newfane in N-O competition. Josh, a junior member of the Wilson Historical Society since 1986, is the son of Darrell and Sally Smith of Wilson.

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ANNUAL MEETING:

The annual meeting of the Wilson Historical Society will be held at 6 pm, June 25th, 2001, in the Barnum Building. A potluck dinner is planned similar to last years, with hot dogs and hamburgers being furnished by the Historical Society.

All Committee chairpersons, whether they attend the meeting or not, are asked to turn in written reports of their committee's activities during the past year, including any future plans.

Chairmen will be given an opportunity to give their reports orally following the dinner, and it is hoped that everyone will attend and have an enjoyable, social evening. If you have any questions, please ask Miles Linnabery, program chairman, or Bill Rose.

This will be the 30th annual Meeting held by the society, and we wish to thank the many volunteers who made past meetings such a success.

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BON MOT: Congress passes bills, The taxpayers pay them.

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BOARD MEETINGS AND REPORTS:

President Gary Fitch called the May 9th meeting of the Board together with the following in attendance: Darrel Smith, Gordon Strablow, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Floyd Clark, Kyle Andrews, Miles Linnabery, Lois Barnum, Bruce Muck, Bill rose, Don Croop, Don Burrows, Eleanor Myers, Marlene Schotz, Dorothy Maxfield, Mickey Hunter, Wanda Burrows, Elton Kropp, Norman MacAskill, Martha MacAskill, Mary Clark, Judy Rose, Harold Benedict and Sally Smith.

The treasurer's report showed an income of \$656.60 from 4/12 to 5/9, with expenses of \$585.20. Motion was made by Darrell Smith, seconded by Dorothy Maxfield, to pay the bills. Motion approved.

Judy Rose, co-chairman of the Fair Comm., reported that purchases were made of two small tarp tents, one roaster and 6 tables and tablecloths.

President Fitch reported that he has asked Judy Okoniewski to work with Celeste Crawford on the genealogical committee, and it was also reported that Dorothy Maxfield, curator, and Kyle Andrews, Chairman of the Barnum Building, said they would try to have a display set up featuring Doctor Argues Barber Chair. Doc used the chair when he was earning money to go to the University of Buffalo.

Harold Benedict reported that he sprayed the grounds with weed killer to get rid of all the dandelions. Bill Rose and Wally Goodman wished to thank all who cleaned up their "adopted" cars before the Fair. They also stated that the Porsche will definitely be raffled off and the plans to have a split club will be dropped.

Gary Fitch, construction Chrm., suggested that a 2nd coat of paint should be applied to the Depot and that the rest of the skirting be replaced. A motion was made by Miles Linnabery, seconded by Gordon Strablow, to complete the work as suggested. Motion carried.

Mary Clark, Chrm. of the Tugwell Cabin Comm., said that her committee would meet after the Fair and reported that the Wilson Masons would use the cabin at the Fair for their Child ID program. Red Clark suggested that a sign be placed near the Cabin identifying it as the Tugwell Cabin.

Kyle Andrews, Chrm. of the Barnum Building, and Lois Barnum, Co-chairman of the Fair Comm., cleaned the Barnum Bldg. Prior to the Fair and said that the new tables purchased by the fair committee were used there.

Wanda Burrows, Schoolhouse Chairman, said that the Wilson Garden Club has been doing a wonderful job cleaning up the flowerbeds around the schoolhouse. She also reported that a school desk was donated in memory of Leah M. Simmons, great-great granddaughter of Asa Randall, by Patricia Wilson Rice of Youngstown. She also announced that school children are already being scheduled to visit the restored schoolhouse before the end of the school year.

Norm MacAskill, Federation representative, reported there will be more room for displays at this year's Niagara County Fair, and that as many as 1200 persons have signed the guest register in past years.

Eleanor Myers, Town Historian, reported that she is trying to figure out ways to get young people interested in the Historical Society. She said Miss Andritz, 4th grade teacher at Thomas Marks, is most willing to work with children in regard to local history. President Fitch asked Eleanor to pursue the subject and see if there is any way the Society can cooperate wit Miss Andritz.

Sally Smith asked if the society could sponsor awards for the President's Student Service Challenge. Gold awards are given to students from kindergarten through college who complete at least 100 hours of service to their communities during a 12-month period. Silver awards are given to those completing 50 hours of service. The gold and silver pins with certificates are available for \$2.00 each and paid for by the Sponsor. This program is one way the Society could award many young people who help out at the Memorial Day Fair but do not otherwise receive any recognition. Motion made by Bill Rose, seconded by Miles Linnabery, to sponsor the awards. Motion carried.

The Finance Committee, Dan King, Chairman, reported that a budget for 2001 has been established. Treasurer Judy King was commended by the committee for her fine efforts and detailed reports provided in an internal audit, as well as reports for the Board of Trustees. The committee suggested that the society continue having an annual audit of its finances and that Judy should continue filing reports with the IRS. The committee also suggested that the Board accept the finance report, and a copy was submitted to both the President and the Secretary.

The above are excerpts from the minutes of the May 9th meeting submitted by Pam Groff. The next Board meeting will be held at the museum on June 13th at 7:30 pm. The annual meeting will be held in the Barnum Building, June 25th at 6:00 pm.

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WILSON PUPPETEERS:

A drive has been underway the past couple of months to encourage area residents to renew their memberships in the Wilson Branch of the ICMH Auxiliary at Newfane. One dollar of the \$2.00 dues is allotted to the Wilson Puppeteers, a group of ladies who have been meeting since 1964 to make and provide "puppets" for young patients at Inter-Community Hospital at Newfane.

It may come as a surprise that this dedicated group of women have created over 10,000 "puppets", which are distributed to youngsters in the pediatric, operating, emergency or x-ray rooms.

The "puppets" are hand-made, and the only ready made part is the head. Donations of material and money are always welcome, according to Lois Jennings, who is currently chairman of the group, along with Doris McBeth.

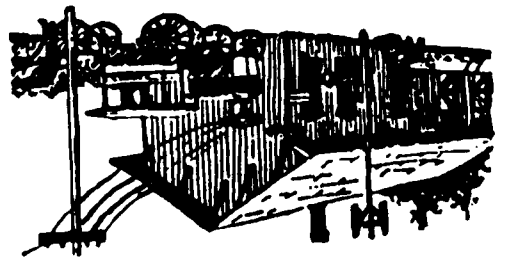
Mrs. Jennings, one of the founders of the group, has devoted nearly 40 years to the project and notes that in spite of higher costs, the project has been able to continue because of the generous support received from supporters.

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SOUNDINGS:

One thing that improves as long as you keep it is your temper.

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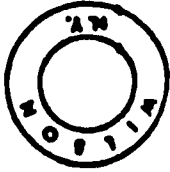
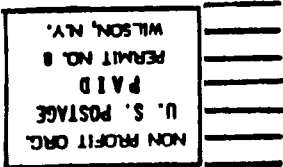
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JULY/AUGUST 2001 VOL. 30 NO. 7

DONALD W. GROFF, Editor

NEWSLETTER

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763
Wilson Historical Society



July/August 2001

A FAIR DAY IN WILSON

It was really a fair day in Wilson in spite of sporadic showers and cool, damp weather, and it didn't seem to faze the thousands of visitors who flocked to Wilson on Memorial Day.

The one nice thing about the Fair is that many local residents - even churches - are able to benefit from the crowds of people the Fair attracts, as evidenced by the dozens of yard sales scattered around the town.

The Society's own Flea Market was as popular as always, although the weather apparently scared away a few vendors who didn't show up.

It takes a lot of work to sponsor the Memorial Day Fair and, at the risk of leaving someone out, it should be emphasized that the Fair might not have been possible without the hard work and support of the following members: Judy Rose, Lois Barnum, Nettie Stimson, Darrell and Sally Smith, Don and Wanda Burrows, Gary Fitch, Judy and Dan King, Micky and Shirley Hunter, Gail Walder, Sandy and Kara Holden, Harold Benedict, Ray and Pam Groff, Carl and Judy Jennejahn, Elton Kropp, Elaine Moon, Julie Smith, Jack and Winnie Terry and a fine group of Junior Members.

A couple of new attractions caught the eye of Fair goers this year, and Don Burrows and Bruce Muck couldn't seem to hand out their "Corn-on-the-Cob" fast enough! Don had a great idea - something to look forward to next year.

The Beautiful Baby contest also attracted considerable attention from proud relatives and friends. In our opinion, all the babies were "winners", but Henry Clark received the largest number of votes. Henry was the cute baby in the Yankees baseball cap, and he is the son of John and Nora Clark of Wilson, New York. As winner of the Beautiful Millennium Baby contest, Henry will receive a \$50.00 savings bond and a Junior Membership in the Wilson Historical Society.

Another special attraction held at the Dr. Argue Memorial Car Building was the Porsche Raffle conducted by Wally Goodman and Bill Rose. The winning ticket was drawn at 4:30 pm and the car was awarded to Michael Horn of Ransomville, NY.

In addition to the society's antique car display, there were also a large number of "Classic and Antique" cars exhibited on the grounds under the supervision of David Branch.

The annual quilt drawing did very well, and tickets were purchased right up to the 4 pm drawing. The popular quilt raffle dates back to the first fair held in 1973, and it seems that each year the quilts are prettier than the year before.

A local sewing group, "The Needlers", made this year's beautiful "Millenium Star" quilt, and they were: Pauline Alvers, Lois Barnum, Shirley Evans, Julie Godfrey, Barbara Mosher, Ann Rohring and Winnie Terry.

Bernard and Rena Israel won the quilt; Pauline Alvers won the Linen Tablecloth and Napkin Set; Sue Cruickshank won the Wood Carving; Sara Berry won a copy of the "Wilson Sketchbook", and Wanda Burrows received a copy of the Society's Cookbook.

A special word of thanks to Judy Rose and Sandy Holden who kept track of the raffle tickets, and made sure that the tickets were thoroughly mixed so that everyone had an equal chance in the drawing. The Society thanks everyone who helped out or participated.

A special thank you to Radio Station WLVL, Lockport, for the fine publicity given before and during the Fair. WLVL's up-to-the-minute comments each year have been a contributing factor to the yearly success of the Memorial Day Fair.

The Society also appreciates the cooperation received from Wilson Volunteer Fire Co. #1. In the interests of safety, they have had a crew on the grounds for 29 years. Incidentally, the Volunteer Firemen Field Days will be held August 23rd through August 25th. Please try to attend, they deserve your support.

So, another Memorial Day Fair is history, and many thanks to all those people who came from near and far to spend their Memorial Day in Wilson.

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DID YOU KNOW.....

In 1891 there were three plank roads in Niagara County taxed by New York State? The Lockport/Cambria Plank Road, \$9.00; the Lockport-Warrens Corners Plank Road, \$21.00; and the Lockport-Wrights Corners Plank Road, \$8.10 per year.

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SOUNDINGS: The Antique Collector's Chorus: "Oh you take the highboy and I'll take the lowboy, and I'll get to Wilson before you."

* * * * *

BON MOT: Happiness is contagious.....be a Carrier. (Submitted by Sara Berry)

SCHOOLHOUSE RECOLLECTIONS:

When the Randall Road Schoolhouse was placed on the Museum grounds, it practically guaranteed that future generations of the Wilson area would always be able to see what an old one-room schoolhouse looked like. But as old as it is, the 1861 Randall Road School is not the first or the oldest school in Wilson.

Records show that the first schoolhouse was built from logs in 1819, and was located on the Lake Road about two miles east of the present village. Dr. Warner was the first teacher, and it is reported that he had an average of about 12 students a year.

The first schoolhouse in the village was erected about a year later on the site of the present Wilson House Restaurant. By 1821, Wilson was divided into 5 separate school districts, with each operating independently with a Trustee responsible for hiring teachers and disbursing funds.

Teachers were very poorly paid by today's standards, and records from the former District No. 7 School on Chestnut Road show that the teacher only received \$340.00 a year. In 1942, when residents of District 7 voted to join the Wilson Central School, the teacher's salary had only increased to \$912.00 per year.

Although poorly paid, the rural schoolteachers were very dedicated to the needs of their students, and some of those teachers are now members of the Wilson Historical Society. These include Miss Helen Stevens, Mrs. Dorothy Lort, Mrs. Dora Wakeman, and Mrs. Dorothy Halstead.

In 1955, all rural districts had joined the Wilson Central School district with the exception of the Randall Road Schoolhouse, which was converted for use as a Community Center. In 1996, it was decided to move the old schoolhouse to the grounds of the Wilson Historical Society so it could be preserved for posterity.

One might say that moving the schoolhouse was comparatively easy, because the difficult job of restoration began under the supervision of Wanda Burrows, Chrm. The first big job was to put the floors back to their original condition, and for this the society is grateful for the work crews supplied by the Niagara County Sheriff's Department.

Thousands of small nails had to be pried loose to reveal the original hard wood flooring which was then beautifully refinished. The building was then scraped and painted, inside and out; new windows installed; new wiring and heating elements put in; and a new handicap entrance constructed. Dozens of pictures and original fixtures were accumulated and recorded by Wanda, including enough school desks to fill the room.

In addition to the Sheriff Department work crews, arrangements were made with the Wilson Boy Scouts to refinish the school desks, local schoolteachers pitched in to help equip the school and the Wilson Garden Club did a super job of landscaping and beautifying the grounds.

Renovation of the schoolhouse was accomplished through the efforts on many persons, but the credit for organizing and keeping the project on track goes to our schoolhouse chairman, Wanda Burrows.

We might add, incidentally, that the Board of Directors voted to give Wanda a Life Membership in the Wilson Historical Society in appreciation for all the work she did to bring the Rand Road Schoolhouse project to a happy conclusion.

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FLORAL PLANTINGS:

We mentioned before how nice the floral landscaping looks that the Wilson Garden Club did around the Randall Road Schoolhouse. Also, a word of thanks to Ollie and Helen Clark for the pretty flowers placed around the Clark Family Veterans' Memorial. Perhaps you may have noticed the beautiful floral plantings around the new Historical Society sign that were planted by Sally Smith and Marianne Evans. The plantings around the original Historical Sign are maintained by the Beutel Nurseries on Chestnut Road in Wilson.

* * * * *

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS:

Our venerable Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society, Mrs. Emma Schrader, celebrated her 99th Birthday at Exley United Methodist Church on May 26, 2001. Emma has that remarkable quality of never looking as old as she is. As one friend put it recently, "If I could look as young as Emma, I'd be happy to celebrate my 99th birthday also." Congratulations, Emma, and thanks for all the information you have contributed to this Newsletter over the past years.

* * * * *

Ella Mae Peters, former Wilson resident and medical secretary to the late Dr. John F. Argue, was cited recently in the "Seniors on the Go" edition of the Advertiser-Tribune. Now a resident of Tiffin, Ohio, near her daughter Rebecca Baker Hill, she is a good example of a person who has lived a happy life and continues to grow and develop new interests. Ella Mae has been painting seriously for 30 years.

She was one year old when her mother died, and her father, a part time minister, taught her to follow the "Golden Rule." Ella Mae was a member of the Methodist church all her life, and really tries to "Do unto others as you want them to do unto you." She believes sincerely that age makes no difference - "you can always learn something new and share it with others."

* * * * *

I AM A SENIOR TOO:

I'm the life of the party - even when it lasts until 8:00 pm.
I'm ready to go home before I get to where I am going.
I'm always the first to find a bathroom when I go on a bus trip.
I'm good at telling stories, over . . . and over . . .and over . . . and over . . .and over . . .again.
I'm sure other people's grandchildren aren't as smart as mine.
I'm not grouchy, I just don't like traffic, waiting, crowds and smart alecs.
I'm anti-everything; anti-fat, anti-smoke, anti-noise, and anti-inflammatory.
I have trouble remembering words like
I am a Senior too, and having the time of my life I think!

* * * * *

BABIES STEAL SHOW:

There was a lot of interest shown at this year's "Beautiful Baby" contest, and a good deal of credit goes to Sally Smith who organized the event. All the babies were so beautiful it was pretty hard to pick a winner, but little "Yankee Fan" Henry Clark polled the greatest number of votes and thereby was declared Wilson's Millennium Baby. Henry was awarded a \$50.00 Savings Bond and a Junior Membership in the Wilson Historical Society.

It was an exciting contest, but we also would like to congratulate the other ten babies who gave Henry a close run for the title:

Steven Drew Frerichs, son of Steven and Valerie Frerichs.

Trinity Leslie Ann Barr, daughter of William and Jennifer Barr, granddaughter of William and Judy Rose.

Erin Mary Linnabery, daughter of Miles and Ann Marie Linnabery.

Hannah Christine Luchinski, daughter of Dan and Amy Luchinski, great-granddaughter of Sara Berry.

Sarah Grace Yousett, daughter of Kyle and Kris Yousett.

Cameron Dabill, son of Jeff and Joy Dabill.

Georgia Mock, daughter of Ron and Rachael Mock, granddaughter of Bill and Mary Jane Ziehm.

Alexis Mae Erway, daughter of David and Deanna Erway.

Madison Rae Goodnight, daughter of Thomas and Julie Goodnight.

Hannah Leann Day, daughter of Frank and Tami Day, granddaughter of Donna Desso.

All babies entered were given Junior Memberships in the Wilson Historical Society.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIUM:

Christine L. Kelman, 95, and Honorary Member of the Wilson Historical Society, died on June 1st, 2001, at Greta, Virginia. She was born in Buffalo on December 19th, 1905, the daughter of William A. Leggett and Mary Nichol. She attended Lafayette High School and Buffalo State Normal School, (SUNY at Buffalo), where she earned her Master's Degree in teaching.

She married Leslie T. Kelman in 1939, and they had a daughter, Mary. Chris taught 1st grade for 25 years, then retired and moved to Wilson, New York. For many years, she was the Secretary of the Retirees Bowling League at Towline Bowl, Wilson, and also served as Chaplain of the Newfane Golden Age Club. She was also a member of the Delphic Circle and weekly Bridge Club in Wilson. She was a Charter Member of the Wilson Historical Society, and served as Membership Chairman from 1977 until 1991. During her tenure in office, the historical society grew to a total of 750 members.

Chris is survived by her daughter, Mary (David) Weiler; two grandchildren, Jennifer W. (Greg) Allen and Beth L. (Chip) Humphrey and four great-grandchildren.

A Memorial Service was conducted at the Exley United Methodist church on Tuesday, June 5th, by Rev. Donald Foley and burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo.

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NEW MEMBERS:

Please welcome Anne Anstead and David Anstead Jr. of Newfane, New York - our latest new members courtesy of Wanda Burrows. Also, Joyce Roszmann of Middleport, New York, courtesy of Lester Clark, and Charles W. and Gail E. Pettit Jr. of Lockport, New York.

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SUMMER ATTRACTIONS:

A few of the summer attractions in Wilson you may not want to miss include the Friday night Classic Car "Cruise Nights", which are held on Young Street from 6 to 10 pm.

The Invitational Soccer Tournament at Wilson Central School on July 7th through the 8th.

The Wilson Harbor Fest 2001 on August 3rd through the 5th with fireworks on Saturday night.

Wilson Volunteer Fire Co. #1 Field Days on August 23rd through the 25th.

Also check out the Town website calendar of events at www.wilsonnewyork.com.

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Walter E. Moxham, Jr. was cited at the Award Program of Seaway Trail, Inc., for the vital roll he played in developing Wilson's harbor front and for helping organize the Wilson Harbor Fest, which will be held on August 3rd through 5th.

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IN MEMORIUM:

Janet Sproleder, 75, died June 8th, 2001, at Buffalo General Hospital. Janet graduated from Amherst Central School in 1943 and received a BS and MS from Buffalo State Teachers College. She was a Home Economics teacher at the Moravia N.Y. Central School, and then taught at the Wilson Central School.

Janet was exceptionally active in the Wilson community, where she belonged to St. John's Episcopal Church, the Wilson Historical Society, Friends of the Wilson Free Library, Wilson Republican Committee, Intercommunity Hospital Auxiliary at Newfane, the Delphic Circle and the Wilson Mothers Club. She was also a member of the Wilson Board of Education, the Lockport Concert Association, organizer of the Wilson Girl Scouts, Phi Upsilon Omicron, and Delta Sigma.

During her busy career she received a Life membership in the Wilson PTA and also the Earl Brydges Award for Republican of the Year in 1997. She had been a dialysis patient at Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital since 1987.

Janet, a Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society, was Historical Sites Chairman for 22 years, and most of the historical markers standing in the Town of Wilson were erected through her efforts.

She was predeceased by her husband, Andrea B. Sporleder, in January, 1996, and is survived by one daughter, Lisa (James) Stephens, one son, Jeffrey (Louise) Sporleder, and one grandson, Sean Andrea Sporleder, all of Wilson. She also is survived by brothers Thomas (Lucy) Miller of Williamsville, NY and Dale Devlon Miller.

A Memorial Service was held at St. John's Episcopal Church with burial in Greenwood Cemetery.

* * * * *

QUIPS:

"Teddy" Roosevelt once said, "Ninety percent of the work done in this country is done by people who don't feel well."

JULY/AUGUST HOSTESSES:

July/August 2001 (Page 4)

We wish to thank Gail Walder for her prompt release of museum hostesses for the two summer months. This is also a special reminder that there will be no regular meetings of the society during this period - only the Board of Directors will continue meeting as usual on the 2nd Wednesday night.

July 1 st :	Bill & Maxine Jones; Jean Hayes & Helen Stevens	Open: Wally Goodman
July 8 th :	Don & Yvonne Smithson; Bruce & Bonnie Muck	Open: Bill Rose
July 15 th :	Jack & Winifred Terry; Gordon & Virginia Strablow	Open: Gordon Strablow
July 22 nd :	Jim & Marlene Schotz; Gary Gath & Judy Gerlock	Open: Jim Schotz
July 29 th :	Marion Campbell; Richard Schmidle; Tom & Gail Walder	Open: Richard Schmidle
August 5 th :	Anne Anstead; Julie Smith; Lois Jennings; Eleanor Myers	Open: Don Burrows
August 12 th :	Greg & Dena Mandaville; Micky & Shirley Hunter	Open: Celeste Crawford
August 19 th :	Ted & Melva Bull; Walter Ganshaw & Rachel Flagler	Open: Don Croop
August 26 th :	Miles & Anne Linnabery; Jim & Diane Muscoreil	Open: Miles Linnabery

SIGN OF THE TIMES:

When Bruce Muck helped Don Burrows put the Caboose in shape, he put the "Hojack" sign in the back of his truck to take home and repair before Fair Day. On the way home, he stopped at the Simmons residence, where Elvin, Nancy and Kirsten spotted it in his truck and offered to help.

Elvin took the sign to the shop students at Williamsville High School who decided they would like to do the work on it. As a result, they became curious about the name "Hojack" and did some research to learn more about it. We believe that the interest shown by Kirsten and the students is a strong indication that young people really are interested in history when they get the chance to become involved. Incidentally, the students restored the sign and Kirsten, 6, repainted the black portion.

As the story goes, Jack Welch, an early engineer for the Lakeshore R.R. had previously been a farmer, and when he would slow down for a station he'd holler "whoa" at the engine. Local residents took it up and began jokingly calling the R.R. the "Whoa Jack" line. As time went on, the name was shortened to "Hojack", and remains so to this day!

The railroad is now extinct, but the name lives on. When Dr. and Mrs. George Badger donated nearly ten acres of land to the Historical Society, it was named "Hojack Park" in their honor.

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BOARD MEETING: JUNE 13, 2001:

The Directors Meeting was called to order by Gary Fitch, President, with 19 members and one guest attending: Darrell Smith; Pam Groff; Diane Muscoreil; Judy King; Kyle Andrews; Wally Goodman; Miles Linnabery; Lois Barnum; Bruce Muck; Don Croop; Don Burrows; Eleanor Myers; Marlene Schotz; Celeste Crawford; Dorothy Maxfield; "Micky" Hunter; Judy Rose; Sally Smith and guest, Victoria Voison. The May Board minutes were corrected to read "Celeste Crawford was appointed Genealogical Chairman of the Niagara County Genealogical Society - not hired. Corrections approved.

A treasurer's report was given by Judy King with all bills paid as read. Diane Muscoreil made the motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Kyle Andrews; motion carried.

Judy reported that income from the Fair was \$11,000.00 less that last year - probably due to the wet cool weather. A profit of \$3,650.63 was realized from the Porsche Raffle, and the Board recognized Harold Benedict, who sold raffle tickets at the Apple Fest in Newfane.

Marlene Schotz reported that 4th grade classes have been visiting the schoolhouse. She said that classes planning to visit the Randall Road School receive a Video and Information packet and suggested that teachers should go over this material with their students before they visit the school.

Chairman Elton Kropp reported his grounds committee, Harold Benedict and Gordon Strablow, have been filling ruts and holes left in the ground after the Fair. He said another truckload of dirt would be needed to complete the work. They also helped Paul and Kara Holden and Gary Fitch clean old lumber out from beneath the depot.

Wally Goodman reported that he has registered the Pierce Arrow. The Pierce Arrow Museum in Buffalo is celebrating the car's 100th Anniversary.

Eleanor Myers, Town Historian, talked with Johanna Andritz about organizing a Junior Historical Society in the fall. Darrell and Sally Smith have offered to help Miss Andritz.

Bruce Muck made a motion, seconded by Miles Linnabery, that Neva Benedict and Ollie Clark chair a committee to display a list of Wilson Servicemen on the wall of the Barnum Building breezeway. Members suggested to work on the committee were Merritt Thilk, John Thilk, John Demmin, Jim Muscoreil, Micky Hunter and Howard Hunter.

A plaque listing veterans who served in World War II that used to hang in the Wilson Central School is now at the Museum. John Thilk has offered to restore it in honor of his father. Lester Clark, of Haywood, California, has offered to donate \$1,000 toward completion of this project.

Wally Goodman reported that on Class Night, June 7th, the Wilson Historical Society presented two outstanding students, Emily Isler and Brian Schult, with cash awards of \$200.00 each.

A request from Harbor Fest for funds was discussed, and since the Society is not a Foundation but a tax-exempt corporation, a motion was made by Miles Linnabery, seconded by Dorothy Maxfield, to deny the request. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Board will be held in the Depot at 7:30 pm on July 11th.

(Excerpts from June meeting submitted by Pam Groff, Secretary.)

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NEW LIFE MEMBER:

Michele Singer Ross is the latest Life Member of the Wilson Historical Society, courtesy of her father, Tom Singer of Appleton, New York.

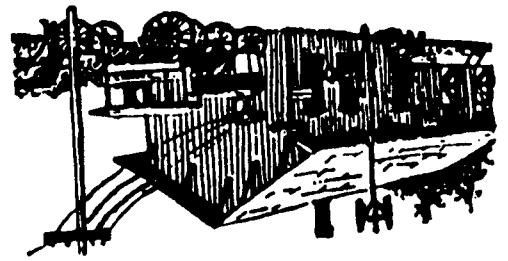
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QUIPS:

Everything moves so fast today that the man who says it can't be done is sometimes interrupted by someone doing it.

* * * * *

1002 Sept



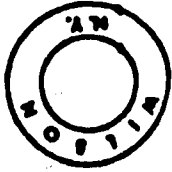
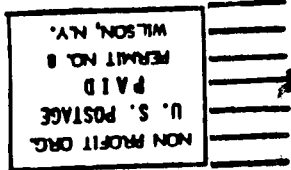
(Coleman Printing)

September 2001 Vol. 30 No. 8

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

Wilson Historical Society
Wilson, New York 14172-9763



Sept 2001

THE WAR HORSE, "BILLY SHERMAN"

The month of September reminds us that on September 1, 1973, the Wilson Historical Society dedicated a Marker on the outskirts of the village in memory of "Billy Sherman", a Confederate War horse that was captured by Pvt. Lorenzo Pratt in the battle of Chattanooga, TN.

Wilson received considerable publicity when it became generally known that the Wilson Historical Society was memorializing a Confederate War horse.

Following are excerpts from an item in the Chattanooga Free Press that was run in the paper in 1974 by Lee Anderson, a recipient of many "Freedom Foundation" awards—and we quote: "Private Pratt and his horse, Billy Sherman, returned to Wilson after being mustered out at Rochester, New York in June, 1865. For many years after, Pratt and Old Billy took part in Memorial Day services, parades and encampments where the horse was always a center of attraction.

'Billy never lost his wartime training and it was said that at the sound of his master's bugle, he would prance about and toss his head as though in anticipation of battle.

'Children especially loved Old Billy and liked to climb on his back and proudly pose for pictures. When Billy reached the thirty-year mark, he was still able to do many light chores and, just three days before he died, Pratt's daughter, Jennie, drove him on a buggy.

'A grave was dug for the horse in a corner of the Pratt orchard, and friends and members of Battery M and Peter Porter Post G.A.R. gathered together in farewell as Billy was lowered into his last resting place with an army blanket placed over his body.

'Later, as Wilson's Civil War Veterans passed on, the horse's gravesite was nearly forgotten. However, the Wilson Historical Society decided that the horse captured in Chattanooga should be remembered . . . and that is how the gravesite of Old Billy became the first Historical Site dedicated in the Town of Wilson, N.Y."

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In 1973, at the urging of Dorothy Thilk, Town Historian, Billy's grave was located and the Society placed a boulder and plaque at the site to identify it. Thanks to Frank Ramming and the Zauner family who live on the former Pratt farm, the gravesite has been mowed and kept up beautifully.

* * * * *

THE LAUGH WAS ON "DOC":

The late Dr. John Argue had a great sense of humor, and while President of the Wilson Historical Society, he took a trip out West to see his nephew, Steve, who was interning at the Logansburg Hospital in Indiana.

While visiting with Steve in the hospital waiting room, Doc "puffed" on his ever-present pipe, and set off the smoke alarm. Soon the hospital was swarming with firemen, and Doc was a little embarrassed when they found out how the alarm had been triggered.

He admitted his face turned a little red, but as many will recall, that never stopped him from lighting up when you saw him at his office!

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HUNTING IN THE 1800'S:

The late Burt Jennings once said that his great uncle, Chris Jennings, shot the last jackrabbit in the Town of Wilson in 1845. He added that it might not have been a "true" jackrabbit, but it was the last of its kind seen around here in Wilson.

Hunting still flourished some forty years later when in February 1889, about forty of Wilson's "sports" and their dogs took part in an organized Fox Hunt. The reports were not all that great: After the hunt it was determined that several young hunters had been wounded by stray shots, one calf had been killed, and a young colt was wounded. No fox were shot.

At that time, Fox Hounds were a drug on the market and sold for \$.25 each, and an ordinary gun could be purchased for \$1.50.

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HEALTHY HINT:

There is a reason for the old saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away". With comparatively few calories, apples are a good source of natural fruit sugar. We suggest that area Wilson residents are lucky because Niagara County has long been known as the home of the tastiest apples grown anywhere. Why not keep that in mind when you purchase your next bag of apples.

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QUIPS: If a man owns a car, it doesn't prove he has money - it only proves that he had money.

FAIR IN RETROSPECT:

Fair profits for the Memorial Day Fair were mostly reduced this year because of the inclement weather, but the Society did reasonably well under the circumstances, and it has been projected that enough may have been cleared to meet next year's operating budget. Capital improvements, however, may have to be put on "hold".

Some concessions did real well and these included "Coffee and Doughnuts"; "Funnel Cakes"; "Hot Dogs"; "Roast Beef", "Corn-on-the-Cob"; "Chicken Bar-B-Q"; "Dealers", "Quilt Raffle" and "Baby Contest".

On the deficit side were, "Pepsi and Water", "Kids Games"; "Miscellaneous Supplies"; "Buses"; "WNY Septic"; "Advertising"; "Entertainment"; and "Rentals".

Total income amounted to \$24,907.64. Total expenses were \$14,346.05, leaving a Total Profit of \$10,561.59.

All members of the Fair Committee and all Area Chairmen are to be complimented for a job well done under difficult working conditions.

* * * * *

TID BITS:

We saw Elton Kropp at the Museum one day with a bandage on his arm. He told us he had cut his arm while helping Gordon Strablow pull lumber out from beneath the old Depot.

Now we have a number of members who contribute a great deal to the progress of the Museum, but we especially wish to acknowledge the contributions made by Elton Kropp and "Gordie" Strablow, because neither of them have been feeling all that great lately.

The quotation by "Teddy" Roosevelt that "Ninety percent of the work done in this country is done by people who don't feel well" is pretty well illustrated by Elton and "Gordie".

* * * * *

WILSON CENTENNARIAN:

Howard F. Schotz, 100, of Wilson died on June 24th, 2001, at Inter-Community Hospital at Newfane. He was born in Niagara Falls, New York on June 17th, 1901, the son of the late Franklin and Ann Louise Robinson Schotz.

He was a founding member of the Niagara County Rose Society and was a retired Supervisor at Olin Matheson Corporation for 44 years.

He is survived by two children, Mrs. Pauline (George) Alvers, and James (Marlene) Schotz, both of Wilson. He had 13 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the Hamilton and Clark Funeral Home, Young Street, Wilson, and burial was at North Ridge Cemetery with Rev. Kenneth Babcock officiating.

Prior to Mr. Schotz' death, about 100 family members and friends attended a special celebration at the South Wilson Fire Hall to honor Howard on his 100th Birthday.-

Mr. Schotz was born the year of the Pan American Exhibition, and at the age of 20 he joined the U.S. Navy and toured the world as an engineer aboard the Battleship Arkansas. He then became a supervisor at Olin Mathieson.

Howard's son, Jim (Marlene) Schotz of Wilson and his daughter Pauline (George) Alvers of Wilson are both members of the Wilson Historical Society. A son, Kenny Schotz, pre-deceased him.

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We were recently notified that Arthur Bolman of Lorraine, Ohio, passed away on December 20th, 2000. His wife, Georgia, survives him. The Society extends its condolences.

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CORRECTION:

In the May 2001 Newsletter we mistakenly listed Neil Armstrong instead of Neil Arnold as the catcher on Wilson's 1944 Championship Baseball team. Our apologies go out to Mr. Arnold.

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HISTORIAN NEEDS HELP:

Dave Dickinson of 215 Niagara Street, Lockport, NY 14094, is doing some research on the contributions made by Irish-Americans up to the late 1900's. He is mainly interested in those persons who were prominent in business, social, political or religious activities. First hand accounts from diaries or letters prior to 1925 would be especially valuable to him. He would appreciate hearing from you if you have material available. You may contact him at the above address.

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GENEOLOGY EXPERT:

Glen Wilson of Summerdale, Alabama, and his wife, Lois, visited Wilson in early July and renewed old acquaintances throughout the area. Glen's computerized records of the Wilson family are probably the best compiled anywhere.

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CAR EXHIBIT:

Bill Rose made up an interesting videotape of the nearly 100 Pierce Arrow cars that visited the Wilson Museum recently. The celebration was held to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of one of the best motor vehicles ever produced in America.

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CANDIDATES FILE:

It is interesting to note that some of the candidates who have filed petitions for various offices are members of the Wilson Historical Society.

In the Niagara County Legislature, two members will be running in the 14th District: Shirley E. Gregory-Urtel, incumbent, and Kyle R. Andrews, who is entering the political ring for the first time. Kyle is the grandson of the late Whitney Barnum, Wilson Town Supervisor and Clerk of the Niagara County Legislature.

Brad L. Clark, Sr. and Bruce G. Muck are running for Town Councilmen and Jerry L. Dean will be running for a 2nd term as Town Supervisor.

* * * * *

QUIPS: There is no such thing as a non-working mother!

FLAMING YOUTH:

We received a copy of an English paper written by Michele Evans on May 2, 2001. It gives some of her impressions about the Memorial Day Fair, and is so well written we think it deserves a place in the Wilson Historical Society Newsletter --- and we quote:

“Have you ever walked into a Fair and just worried about yourself, throwing trash on the ground, using ticket after ticket and not really caring what it got you? Well, what if you were the one picking up trash after all the happy fair-goers had gone home? What if you had to cook, pick up other peoples gross, disgusting trash, and make everything look presentable -- only to have it all ruined in less than 24 hours? Well, I'll tell you how it feels.

My name is Michelle Evans. I am a member of the Wilson Historical Society and have been for a long time. We (me, my sister Laura, my brother Andy and my Mom) work there every Memorial Day. We don't do it alone (duh), we have friends that come and help. They are also members. Even some non-members come to help set up the fairgrounds.

Not only do we put up booths, clean the schoolhouse, and for the first time an old cabin, we also make funnel cakes. So while the guys bring in plywood that forms booths and ticket-seller stands, later us women slave away in the Barnum Building making batter in preparation for the huge celebration on Memorial Day.

There are many jobs to be done in the making of funnel cakes. First, you need to remember the recipe. This would be Sally's job; she has the notebook where someone wrote it down before we were ever born. It is Sally and Darrell's job to buy the ingredients.

We aren't talking a pound of flour here. No, here we're talking the heavy duty all purpose fifty pound bags of sugar and flour, the mega egg boxes: 24 of them filled to the top with row after row of eggs, the zillion gallons of milk, the salt, the baking powder, we're talking the whole enchilada. On top of that there are sifters, bowls, mixers, etc. Most people are pretty nice about helping out so we usually have enough mixers.

Then on Friday (sometimes Saturday) before Memorial Day we gals get together in the Barnum Building and set up the equipment, three tables pushed together forming a square with one side taken off, at least four mixers equipped with four operators (people), the supplies: eggs, milk, sugar, etc. Then Sally and my Mom put garbage bags over all the tables to make for easier clean up.

Next we separate and get to work. I have the milk and egg job. Basically I mix three eggs into two cups of milk and hand it to the people with the mixers to add their butter. Recently my sister has been promoted to a mixer person, that's how I took over her job. Personally, I'd rather go back to sifting flour and sugar.

We usually work late into the afternoon and evening hours. We take time out to eat Pizza and drink pop, etc. We usually work until we run out of stuff. By the time we get to that point, someone usually shouts "This is the last time, guys" and that's usually followed by a loud cheer.

The next day we take care of the stuff the guys couldn't do without us. Around midnight we get home and get to bed, only to wake up at five the next morning to go heat oil. Sometimes a storm will ruin someone's shelter and we'll rush around trying to fix it before the Fair starts.

Somehow, everything is ready on time and people start coming to our tent to see if the funnel cakes are ready. Usually they come way too early, and we say, "Come back at around ten or eleven--and they usually do. By the time the oil has heated enough, my sister and me have already checked out the "flea market" and met up with our friends. But when they leave to come back later, we return to the tent to see if we can help. And we usually can, by getting another thing of batter or cinnamon or powdered sugar to sprinkle on the funnel cakes.

Although being behind the scenes of the Fair makes me feel important, it also makes me feel rejected. Sometimes friends will ask us to come to their house for a while, and we'll have to say no, or we'll want a chicken dinner but somehow end up serving them instead of eating them. Bur that's only one downside. The other is having to clean up. After the last of the crowd has gone and only us members remain, we set to work helping the flea market shops clean up, or direct them out. When the last of the shops are gone, my sister and me are sent in to the field to pick up their trash. Some of it isn't trash and we get to keep it, but the stuff that is trash is disgusting. There are partially eaten candy apples, tissues and just plain trash. On top of that, we don't even get to wear gloves, talk about disgusting!

So helping at the Fair isn't all great and free, (I forgot to mention the free food part) but most of it is. So the next time you're at the Fair, it doesn't matter when or why, think about me and the people behind the scenes who will have to pick up your mess, and instead of throwing it on the ground, throw it in a garbage can.

(Note: Michelle is one of our hard-working junior members that make the Memorial Day Fair possible.)

* * * * *

BULLS CELEBRATE 60TH:

Edward and Melva Bull recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary at a dinner in the Willowbrook Golf Course Restaurant, hosted by their children, Bruce (Irene) Bull of Wilson, Barbara (Bruce) Branch of Wilson and Diane Bull of Ontario, California.

Edward and the former Melva Carrigan of Wilson were married on June 28, 1941. They have six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

"Ted" retired from the Harrison Radiator Division of GMC after serving 45 years as millwright. The Bulls have been members of the Wilson Historical society since 1987.

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BON MOT: The best tranquilizer is a clear conscience.

* * * * *

DIRECTOR MEETING:

Gary Fitch, President, called meeting to order on July 11, 2001. Members in attendance were Gary Fitch, Darrell Smith, Gordon Strablow, Pam Groff, Don Croop, Don Burrows, Eleanor Myers, Celeste Crawford, Marlene Schotz, Elton Kropp, Norm MacAskill, Martha MacAskill, Howard Hunter, Harold Benedict, Sally Smith and Johanna Andritz.

The treasurer's report by Judy King was read by Don Burrows, and stated that from June 14th to July 11th, expenses were: #2610.06 and income was \$741.04. Bills were submitted by Dan Pearce for paint, \$87.65, and housekeeping expenses of \$5.69, \$16.98, and \$2.14 were submitted by Gordon Strablow; also \$665.00 for steps and sidewalk for the Tugwell Cabin. Red Clark paid ½ the bill (\$332.50). Ollie Clark, seconded by Gordon Strablow, made a motion to pay all bills. Carried.

Darrell Smith, 1st Vice President, conducted the annual meeting on June 25th and Sally Smith recorded the minutes for Pam Groff who was absent. The Vice-President received 15 written reports from the 29 Committee Chairpersons. One complaint was noted: the vendors at the Memorial Day Fair did not use one lane in leaving the grounds.

It was reported that Ellen Colangelo is willing to help persons work on their genealogies. Other reports were given by Sandra Holden, Newsletters & Ways & Means; Marlene Schotz, Tourism; Lois Jennings, Memorials; Dorothy Maxfield, Depot; Wanda Burrows, Schoolhouse; Celeste Crawford, Library; Bill Rose, Car Raffle; and Don Burrows; Caboose.

Anne Marie Linnabery thanked all who helped with refreshments during the past year. Bill Rose and Miles Linnabery were in charge of hot dogs and hamburgs at the annual meeting, which was attended by about 37 persons.

Celeste Crawford noted that no one should leave acquisitions at the museum without first filling out a transmission slip which are usually in the waiting room desk.

Elton Kropp reported that Gordon Strablow filled in all the ruts left on the grounds after the Fair, and Harold Benedict has been mowing the grass on the north side. Jim Schotz offered to mow the north field.

A water line to the schoolhouse is needed, and a line will be run from the breezeway to the north end of the Argue Car Building. It was also noted that one of the doors on the Argue Building is rusting away and that an underground line to the new sign should be installed.

Schoolhouse Chairman Wanda Burrows reported that Dan Pearce will power wash, prepare and scrape the picket fence and ramp at the schoolhouse for \$200.00 plus the cost of materials. Motion by Bill Rose, seconded by Miles Linnabery, to accept the proposal. Carried.

A Planning Board meeting was held with Tom Schlosser who was asked to draw up plans for a new roof on the Barnum Building.

Eleanor Myers has been talking to Johanna Andritz about getting youth involved with a Junior Society. Sally Smith suggested kids could help change displays, or work within the guidelines of the 100-hour Service Award program, which the society sponsors.

(Excerpts from July 11th minutes recorded by Sally Smith and respectfully submitted by Pam Groff, recording secretary.)

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SUCCESSFUL HARBORFEST:

Wilson's Second Annual Harborfest was successfully held starting on August 2nd, and featured a variety of events sponsored by the Wilson Community Enhancement Charity. The weekend of family events began with a sailboat race sponsored by the Harbor Yacht Club and a public concert at Clark's Park by the Lockport Community Band.

On Friday evening, August 3rd, the Village Cruise Night was held with cars from all over Western New York on display. The Children's' Fishing Derby was held on Saturday morning, and from ten until two pm a Petting Zoo and Pony Rides were available at Brownie's Custard Stand on Harbor Street. At 11 AM the harbor Art Show opened on Ontario Street. Concerts continued at Clark's Park including "Ha, Ha Magic", "Niagara Experience Players", "In Jest Juggling", and concluding with "Barbara St. Clare and the Shadows" at 7PM. The busy day ended with a terrific Fireworks Display off of Wilson-Tuscarora State Park.

Sunday began with a "Concert of Joy" at Clark's Park, a continuation of the Art Show and Petting Zoo and a Marine Auction at the Wilson Yacht club. Gap Mangione with the Big Band appeared at 2 PM. A demonstration of Rescue Operations by the U.S. Coast Guard Helicopter, "The Dolphin", commandeered by Wilson resident Joe Kelly also took place. Helping to direct this years Harborfest was Leanne Haley-Brown of Wilson's Community Pharmacy.

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IN MEMORIUM:

Lydia B. Southard, a retired Principal of the Ransomville School, died on August 1, 2001, following a long illness. She was born in Wilson on September 21, 1903, the daughter of Victor and Edith (Hamblin) Berlin.

Lydia married Donald G. Southard, an engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on July 2, 1927, and they lived in Wilson for fifty years.

Mrs. Southard was an educator with the Wilson Central School district for 43 years until she retired in 1970. She was also a member of the State Retired Teachers Association; St. John's Episcopal Church in Wilson; and Past Matron of the Wilson Chapter of the Eastern Star. She was also an accomplished pianist and was Musician of the Wilson Chapter of the Easter Star. She was also an Honorary Member of the Wilson Historical Society.

She is survived by one son, Richard C. (Joanna) Southard of Lockport, 5 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Private funeral services were held with interment in Greenwood Cemetery. A public memorial service was held at St. John's in Wilson on August 15th.

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MUSEUM HOSTING:

Gail Walder has submitted the following list of museum attendants for September:

9/2	Gerry Swann, Howard and Dorothy Parker, Mildred Neville	Open: Gordon Strablow
9/9	Dan and Judy King, Gary and Donna Pettit	Open: Dan King
9/16	Robert & Judy Cramer, Robert & Bobbie Hull	Open: Kyle Andrews
9/23	Pauline Kurtz, Barb Mosher, Pam Groff, Edna Robinson	Open: Bill Rose
9/30	Richard and Jan Zipp, Gordon & Virginia Strablow	Open: Gordon Strablow

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

Ted and Melva Bull: Niagara Falls Beaded Bag that belonged to Ted's mother, Nina Bull; Also an autograph book that belonged to Melva's grandmother, J. Emma Biggens.
 John Argue Estate: First "Daily Journal" in Wilson (1939)
 Dorothy Maxfield: Video cassette of Wilson High reunion, June 1998; Also a little girl's coat, bonnet and purse.

Kenneth Sprenger, North Tonawanda: New Students' Reference Works. Complete set - 7 volumes and two dictionaries.

Patricia Wilson-Rice, Youngstown: One school desk for the Schoolhouse; donated in memory of Leah M. Simmons, great great granddaughter of Asa Randall.

Edward Allgeier: Pictures of District #13 School, Wilson-Cambria Road; 3 class pictures; 1930 Wilson "Wise Owl" Publications.

Norman & Martha MacAskill: Wall Map of Niagara County
 Jean Hayes, Newfane: Assorted newspapers and clippings
 Terry Upton, Barker: School books
 Bill Hendersen, Newfane: Two postcards of Newfane.
 Suzanne Scott of Ohio: Photo of Sara Stephens Wilson

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES:

Good News: Marilynn Allgeier has volunteered to be the new Historical Sites Chairperson. She will replace the late Janet Sporleder. Marilynn is a Life Member of the Society and has been a faithful member since 1973.

Bad News: We regretfully announce that Lois Jennings, a Charter/Life Member of the Society, has been forced to resign her position as Memorial Chairperson due to illness. Lois kept an accurate record of the Memorial Funds since 1972.

The Grounds Committee certainly goes "all out" to keep the Museum looking nice. We notice that Gordon Strablow recently removed all the grass growing between the brick walk around the Museum. That's no easy job, but then, you can't keep a good man down.

Please welcome our latest new members: B. Joyce Rignal Brohnstadt of Orlando, Florida, and Sharon Berry of Fairfax, Virginia.

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DIRECTOR MEETING - AUGUST 8TH:

The meeting was called to order by Gary Fitch, President, with the following persons attending: Gordon Strablow, Pam Groff, Ollie Clark, Kyle Andrews, Wally Goodman, Lois Barnum, Bill Rose, Don Croop, Eleanor Myers, Gail Walder, Marlene Schotz, Marilynn Allgeier, Dorothy Maxfield, Elton Kropp and Tom Scholsser.

The treasurer reported bills of \$932.07 from July 12th to August 8th, and an income of \$462.08 during the same period. Motion made by Lois Barnum, seconded by Dorothy Maxfield, to pay all the bills. Carried.

Gail Walder, Chairman of Sunday Hostesses, reported that she arranges for 4 persons to host each Sunday. They should report at the Museum at 1:45 PM. The Museum will not be open during the Labor Day Flea Market sponsored by the Methodist Church.

Elton Kropp, Ground Chairman, reported that the Schoolhouse flowerbeds are in need of weeding; several trees need trimming; Car Building gutters need clearing; railings and ramp are needed for the Tugwell Cabin; and curbing on the walkway around the Depot is breaking up. Gordon Strablow has been mowing around the Tugwell Cabin.

A thank you note was read from Emily Isler, and mention was also made that a new Chairman is needed to replace Lois Jennings, Memorial Chairman.

Tom Schlosser explained the steps planned to renovate the Barnum Building and presented a "design concept" submitted by the Planning Board. Bill Rose made a motion, seconded by Wally Goodman, to accept the "design concept" for renovation of the Barnum/Argue Building. Motion carried.

Ollie Clark reported that a meeting of the War Veterans Committee would be held to lay out plans for a Memorial Plaque.

-Excerpts from the Minutes of the Board Meeting respectfully submitted by Pam Groff, Recording Secretary

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SEPTEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sept. 3 rd :	Methodist Church Flea Market -Museum Grounds
Sept. 11 th :	Primary (12-9 PM)
Sept. 12 th :	Historical Society Board of Director Meeting - 7:30 PM
Sept. 17 th :	Town Board Meeting - 7:30 PM
Sept. 24 th :	Historical Society Meeting - 7:30 PM at Museum

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CAR ACTIVITY:

Wally Goodman and Bill Rose announced that the Genesee Car Club would visit the Museum on September 9th. They also hope to have 1-4 cars in the Wilson Fire Company #1 parade on August 25th. The number entered will depend on the number of drivers available.

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QUIPS: The secret of success in writing is hitting the right keys on the typewriter.



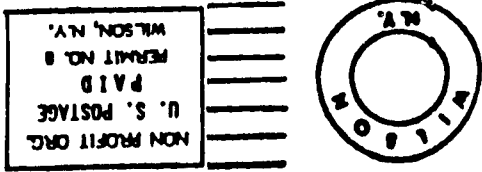
(Coleman Printing)

October 2001 Vol. 30 No. 9

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER

Wilson Historical Society
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172-9763



A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST;

Some elderly residents of Wilson have been able to recall early conditions in the Town that would suggest things weren't too easy in the early 1800's.

According to some early residents, the entire Town was more or less a wilderness in those days, and it wasn't unusual to see wolves or bears in the area. Sometimes wolves were said to even enter enclosed pens, and run off with chickens and small pigs.

The few rural schoolhouses served a double purpose, and were used for both education and church services. It was also recalled that many children used to attend school barefoot. Studies were primarily centered around "Reading, Writing and Arithmetic".

All church denominations were welcome at Sunday services, and whatever finances could be raised were used to compensate those who volunteered to preach. People really enjoyed singing, and they usually did so with very little musical accompaniment.

One hundred year old Phoebe Campbell, who died in 1932, recalled the first time she saw the Wilson Settlement. All that it consisted of was a tavern, shoemaker shop, grocery store and post office. She claimed a good hired girl would work for a dollar a week, while the best farm hands could be hired for \$13.00 a month.

She claimed it was a hard time to raise children because there were practically no doctors in the vicinity. If one got sick they had to "doctor" themselves or rely on the neighbors for help.

Some entertainment was enjoyed in the form of square dances, which were held at various farm houses. Women always tried to look their best, however, powder and lipstick were not heard of then. Sometimes a little rice flour was used on the face. Curling irons were also not invented yet, so if your hair was straight, you were out of luck!

Everyone worked hard, including the children, and there wasn't a lot of long distance travel because most people walked more than they rode. In the early 1900's, after electricity and the "horseless carriage" made their appearance, life became a little easier for the pioneers.

The first electricity was introduced on Sunset Island by Jake Miller. The first power plant on the Island was built by him and residents on the Island were provide with electricity before it was had in the Village. A little later, the Conant and Bryant Power Plant was built, around 1911, and it provided electricity for the Village. Jack Curry and Floyd Wilson were the engineers in charge of the Power Plant.

Wilson actually had the start of an automobile industry when Stanley Dwight built his first "Niagara" automobile in the Brook's Machine Shop, located at the West end of Young Street. Lack of financial backing caused the company to close down.

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IN MEMORIUM:

Emma D. Schrader, 99, an Honorary/Life member of the Wilson Historical Society, died on September 15th. A native of Wilson, she was born on May 26th, 1902, the daughter of John and Lottie Evans Duxbury.

She was a lifetime member of Exley United Methodist Church in Wilson, and a member of the Wilson Golden Age Club. When her husband, Lewis C. Schrader, was village clerk, Emma served as deputy clerk.

She was noted throughout the area for her delicious cookies, which she made and donated to her many friends, shut-ins and neighbors. Because of that, she was known as "Wilson's Cookie Lady". She also knew a great deal about the history of Wilson and contributed many items to the Wilson Historical Society "Newsletter".

In addition to her husband, she was pro-deceased by nine brothers and sisters. She is survived by one son, Robert C. Schrader of Lockport; and one daughter, Emma Lou Reppentine of Wilson, one daughter-in-law, Stella P. Dochstader of Baldwinsville, NY, five grandchildren, Kevin Reppentine, Kristin Tuttle, David Schrader, Daniel Schrader and Randy Schrader; also seven great-grandchildren and two good friends, Shirley Roberts, and Josephine Connor of Wilson.

Funeral services were held at Exley United Methodist church with Rev. Kenneth Babcock and Rev. Donald L. Foley officiating. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery, Wilson.

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NEW POSITION:

Ann Marie (Brogan) Linnabery, a Life Member of the Society, is the new Administrative Assistant for WNYAHA. She will do the newsletter, memberships and arrange for the annual meetings. Ann may be reached at 716-751-6409.

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SOUNDINGS: What a lot we lost when we stopped writing letters. You can't re-read phone calls.

* * * * *

TALL TALES:

Ethel Diez, who formerly taught English in the Wilson Central School, used to tell about an amusing incident that occurred when the old Youngstown Road was first being paved. The south side of the road was completed first, which left the other side muddy and rough, especially after hard rains.

She recalled the time her boyfriend came to call one day - neatly dressed in white shirt and suit. As he drove along the paved strip, he apparently was unaware that the unpaved section of the road was very muddy and full of puddles.

As he continued along, a car on the unpaved section passed him and splattered mud all over him and his car. According to Edith, "He was a sight to see when he arrived."

Edith recalled that Ronald Singer was Town Supervisor at the time, so the partially paved highway was jokingly referred to as "Singer's Sidewalk".

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HALLOWEEN PARTY PLANNED:

A Halloween Party will be held in the Barnum Building at the Wilson Museum on Sunday, October 28th, from 2:00 until 5:00 pm.

All ages are invited, and prizes will be given to those with the best costumes. Darrell and Sally Smith will be in charge of the event, which is being sponsored by the Wilson Historical Society.

Refreshments, decorations, supplies and prizes will be purchased with funds raised by Sally Smith's Funnel Cake Concession at the Labor Day Flea Market.

Come one and all - join in the fun!

* * * * *

PRESIDENT'S AWARD:

At the regular meeting on September 24th, three Juniors from Wilson Central School were presented with medals and certificates in recognition of having given 100 hours of service to Community projects during the past year.

Recipients of the awards were: Andy Evans, Joshua Smith and Jerry Winqvist, who each performed 100 hours of service to the Wilson Historical Society.

Any young people wishing to participate in the program should contact Sally Smith at 751-0102.

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CAR CLUB VISITS MUSEUM:

Wally Goodman and Bill Rose have been doing a good job attracting Automobile Clubs to the Wilson Museum.

The most recent group to visit was the Buick Club of America who came to the Museum on September 9th.

Various groups who have visited lately follow a program that is both beneficial to them and to the Wilson Society. Usually they meet at the Wilson House Restaurant for dinner, then spend a few hours visiting the Museum.

The gentleman in charge of the Buick Club is Ronald C. DeGroff Rochester, New York.

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SUNDAY MUSEUM HOSTESSES:

The following persons have volunteered to greet you at the Museum in October as submitted by Gail Walder, Sunday Hostess Chairman:

October 7 th :	Derek Masters, Charles & Ann Horton, Charles & Jessie Michel	Open: Lois Barnum
October 14 th :	Bill & Judy Rose, Alice Thomas, Norma Ward	Open: Bill Rose
October 21 st :	John & Sarah Carpenter, Kevin King	Open: Dan King
October 28 th :	Glenn & Leanne Brown, Jamie & Walter Moxham	Open: Sandy Holden

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THE REMARKABLE "COVERT":

There has been quite a bit of publicity about remodeling the buildings on Richmond Avenue in Lockport along the Canal.

Everyone is probably aware that the first Harrison Radiator plant was located there in the building formerly occupied by the Covert Motor Vehicle Company.

Byron V. Covert was the first to manufacture a "chainless" motor vehicle in this country, and his company operated on Richmond Avenue from 1901 to 1907.

When Herbert C. Harrison founded the Harrison Radiator Company in 1910, he took over the Covert Plant, and Byron Covert became his Vice-President and treasurer.

The late Dr. John F. Argue of Wilson was able to acquire the Society's "Covert Chainless" from the Ford Museum because the car had been built in Lockport. Once owned by James Melton, the opera singer who later gave it to the Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, the car was auctioned off to make room for other exhibits.

The car, the only one known to exist in the United States, is now considered to be one of the Society's special exhibits in the Car museum.

It is interesting to note that in 1904, Harold Hoag of Lockport drove his Runabout in a Buffalo-St. Louis endurance contest sponsored by the American Automobile Association. (According to a Covert Motor Vehicle brochure, "It was the only car in its class to complete the run.")

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DO YOU REMEMBER?:

Back in 1980 when Doc Argue, at a meeting, gave a history of the Barbering Profession while Jack Perry added some humor to the occasion by shaving off Gary Greenwald's full beard, while Doc talked?

Jack admitted later that Gary was his first customer that year, but it was apparent he hadn't lost his touch. Bur then Gary was pretty still.

Ah, yes, the good old days!

* * * * *

QUIPS:

If you thing you're too small to make a difference, you haven't been in bed with a MOSQUITO!

BOARD ACTIONS AND REPORTS:

The September 17th meeting was called to order by President Gary Fitch with the following members present: Darrell Smith, Gordon Strablow, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Ollie Clark, Gloyd Clark, Miles Linnabery, Wally Goodman, Lois Barnum, Bruce Muck, Don Croop, Celeste Crawford, Marlene Schotz, Dorothy Maxfield, Micky Hunter, Elton Kropp and Harold Benedict.

Wally Goodman announced that four drivers were available for the Fireman Field Day Parade. The cars are not licensed and the Cadillac is unreliable. He said the Car Committee could use some help in cleaning cars and maintaining the building. Money is also needed for making repairs and making cars drivable.

Miles Linnabery announced that the Apple Festival will be held on October 6th and 7th at the Niagara County Fair Grounds. Money raised goes to the Tourism Committee.

Elton Kropp, grounds chairman, reported that Keith Dixon picked up rubbish from the Tugwell Cabin Patio. Gordon Strablow has been using the demonstration mower which was returned to the seller. Elton has taken an inventory of tree Memorial Signs damaged by mowing. It is planned to hang new replacement signs in the trees. He also said that someone on the Schoolhouse Committee has volunteered to care for the flower beds around the schoolhouse.

Gary Fitch, President, announced that he arranged to meet with Phil McCray of Update Archival Consultants, who has agreed to guide the Society to enhance our collections and better qualify us to get grant money.

Darrell Smith reported that the new sign has been wired for a month. Lois Barnum suggested that a light might be displayed on the American Flag if flown at night. Gary Fitch suggested that if anyone is interested in lighting up the flagpole, they should take it up as a project.

Discussions were held on the continual problem and expense of mowing the museum grounds. Red Clark suggested that since the Town owns all the museum grounds, perhaps they should consider keeping it mower. Bruce Muck, Town Councilman, said he would discuss the matter with other Town officials.

Discussion was held regarding the illness of Sara Berry and Lois Jennings. Cards were signed by the members present.

Micky Hunter extended sincere thanks from the Exley United Methodist Church for use of the Museum grounds at the Labor Day Flea Market. He also thanked all members as well as non-members of the church who helped out. He reported that the Flea Market was very successful.

Marlene Schotz has agreed to become the new Chairman of the Tugwell Cabin Committee. She made a motion, seconded by Miles Linnabery, to establish a formal Tugwell Cabin Memorial Fund. Motion carried.

Repairs on the Security System are on hold pending the outcome of the renovations of the Barnum Building.

The next Board Meeting will be October 10th, 7:30 pm at the Depot.

The regular meeting on October 22nd will feature a Director of three museums in Canada who will give a talk about restoration.

Don't forget the Halloween Party on Sunday, October 28th. Refreshments and prizes for best costumes and all ages are welcome.

Minutes of the September Board meeting respectfully submitted by Pam Groff, recording secretary.

* * * * *

RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

From Wendy Hayes of Park Ridge, Illinois: Two corn planters, a vice, a carpet beater, two smoothing planes, one rasp, a wood-splitter, five iron hooks, a cement edger, two muskrat traps, a wood shaver, two pig scrapers, a hook for slaughtering and a 1929 photograph. Also an Original World War I stretcher invented by Edward Strubing, father of Lois Jennings, a cross cut saw, buck saw, plow, photo of the Business Club, High School diploma, anvil and tools, scalding kettle, plumb bob, sledge hammer, two ball peen hammers and forge tongs.

From Scott Perry of Sanborn, NY: Photo album with references to South Wilson residents.

From Esther Landy Leppich: Booklets from 1958, Class of 1919 diploma, wedding shoes worn by Harriet L. Francis Marks when she married Thomas Marks in 1898.

From Dorothy Wilkins Wolter: Tax expense book from 1920-'937 for District #2 Schoolhouse.

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RESIGNATION:

Lois Jennings has resigned as Chairman of the Memorial Committee - a position she has faithfully held for the past 30 years.

Gary Fitch, President, has appointed Marilyn Allgeier to replace her.

* * * * *

GONE FROM MY SIGHT:

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says, "There, she is gone!"

"Gone where?" Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to destined port.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says "There, she is gone!", there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout "Here she comes!"

And that is dying.

(Anonymous)

(In memory of our many departed Historical Society members)



(Coleman Printing)

December 2001 Vol. 30 No. 10

DONALD W. CROOK, Editor

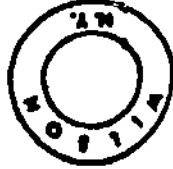
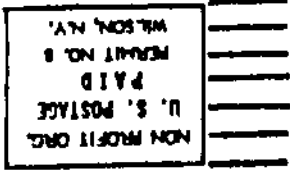
NEWSLETTER

Wilson Historical Society
Wilson, New York 14172-9763

Wilson, NY 14172

PO Box 98

Town Of Wilson Historian



'STAR' RECOLLECTIONS:

We recently received a letter from Lester Clark that reveals some interesting information about the old Wilson "Star". We quote:

"In the years 1941 and 1942, I was a helper working at the Wilson "Star" with Chuck Campbell, Harold Albright and Howard Hunter. We printed and put together the newspaper. The equipment used was a line-o-type which produced slugs or castings of lead. Each lead slug was a line of works. These slugs were produced from molten lead that flowed around brass molds. The brass molds were formed by a person operating a keyboard much like a typewriter keyboard. The lead slugs of print were then arranged in a press square and inserted in a flat press board, one press board for each side of the newspaper.

The printing press was comprised of the print bed, a flat ink plate and a roller, which inked the print. The paper fed from a roll of paper was threaded between the inked print and flat press board. A contact flat print was formed and then a new page was printed.

The interesting part of the press was the number of motions it went through. There were rollers three feet long and arms that moved to get the press and paper printed.. Of course, it was deadly and black and dirty, yet a clean, neat newsprint was made.

I used to fold the newspapers and get them ready to be sold. The other method to print posters or other job printings like wedding announcements, was typesetting. In this method individual numbers and paper-mache female molds were used, molds of wedding bells, swirls and line drawings.

My job after the use of these items was to replace the numbers, letters, etc. in their proper binds. There were uppercase and lowercase letters and different sizes for headlines and newspaper texts. Bur before the above, I had to clean the type! Here the type was cleaned with a petroleum solvent, carbon tetra chlorate or kerosene, I think.

Now the joke was "Printer's Lice". Yes, there is a "printer's lice" which came in great numbers and appeared on your face and shirt. What happens is that a new man looks closely at the lose slugs in the cleaning solution. The print man asks the helper if he wants to see some print lice. If yes is the answer, the earnest helper is told to look at the slugs. Then the cleaner of the print snaps the slugs together, sending small splatters of ink on the viewer's face. A mirror is then given to the the novice to look at. Sure enough, he can see the little "printer's lice" on his face."

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MUSEUM HOSTS & HOSTESSES:

Hosts and hostesses for the month of November are as follows:

Nov. 4 th	Bernie & Nancy Kent, Art & Carole Schnoor	Open:	Arthur Schnoor
Nov. 11 th	Ed & Marilyn Allgeier, Helen Sherrie	Open:	Kyle Andrews
Nov. 18 th	Richard Southard, Beverly Woolson, Bob & Lorraine Baxter	Open:	Gary Fitch
Nov. 25 th	Ron & Judy Zauner, Joe & Linda Moran	Open:	Marlene Schotz

Gail Walder wishes to extend her thanks to all who volunteered their time during the past year.

* * * * *

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Wednesday, December 12 th	Board of Directors	7:30 pm
Sunday, December 16 th	General Meeting and Election of Officers for 2002	2:00 pm
	Dorothy Maxfield will give a talk on "Antique Christmas Ornaments".	
Monday, December 17 th	Town Board Meeting	7:00 pm

* * * * *

QUIPS: The best way to keep one's word is not to give it!

HALLOWEEN PARTY NEWS

The annual Halloween party was planned by Darrell and Sally Smith. It was held on October 28th in the Barnum Building and was sponsored by the Wilson Historical Society. The attendees participated in many games such as Pin the Wart on the Witch, clothes pin drop, and musical pumpkins . This game was played by all age groups, and even the adults were not content to sit by and just watch!

A gypsy fortuneteller, courtesy of Ann Anstead, told fortunes for those daring enough to listen to them, while a Dracula DJ (David Anstead) provided scary music to party to. David did a wonderful job!

Nine children participated in the Halloween word scramble, but only two spelled Frankenstein correctly. Kyle Maulden and Heather Lehman qualified for prizes.

Sixty-eight people made a guess at how much candy was sealed in the pumpkin. No one knew what kind of candy it was, but Miles Linnabery won with his guess of 550. There were actually over 700 M & Ms in the pumpkin. The trick here was to pick a number without going over the actual number in the tin. The size of the pumpkin was deceiving, and no one could believe there were 700 of ANYTHING in that pumpkin. Miles won the pumpkin as well as the candy it contained.

Thirty-two children paraded in costume before Judges Lois Barnum, Stephanie Fracassi and Sue Sobiegray. They had a very difficult time selecting the winners, as all the costumes were terrific.

Thanks go to Don and Wanda Burrows for providing apples for the party, and to Dan and Judy King who provided pumpkins that people could take home with them. Judy also allowed us to use a few very special decorations that made the hall look more festive. Andy Evans did a great job on the special carvings he did on the pumpkins. Everyone enjoyed them during the party and then they were given out as door prizes.

Special thanks go to the following people for all the help given to Darrell and Sally in decorating, planning, set up and clean up: Andy Maacks, Tori Farwell, Andy Evans, Marianne Evans, Josh Smith, Joseph Higgens, Stephanie Fracassi, Scott Sobiegray, Sue Sobiegray, Ann and David Anstead, Laura and Michelle Evans, and all the others who helped make the Annual Halloween Party such a huge success.

Many door prizes were given out to the partygoers, and it seemed pretty clear that all that attended had a great time! Diane Muscoreil took some great pictures of the party and you can check them out on the Wilson website: www.wilsonnewyork.com!

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BOARD MEETING & REPORTS:

The October 10th meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by Gary Fitch, President, and 21 persons attended: Darrell Smith, Gordon Strablow, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Floyd Clark, Kyle Andrews, Miles Linnabery, Lois Barnum, Bruce Muck, Bill Rose, ~~David~~ Croop, Jerry Dean, Eleanor Myers, Celeste Crawford, Ann Marie Linnabery, Marilynn Allgeier, Marlene Schotz, Elton Kropp, Sally Smith and Harold Benedict.

The treasurer's report was submitted by Diane Muscoreil with bills from September 12th through October 10th totaling \$1022.64. Also submitted was a consultant fee of \$250.00 from Phil McCray of Upstate Archival Consultants and a medical bill from Joshua Newman for \$50.00. Bill Rose made a motion, seconded by Kyle Andrews, to pay the bills presented totaling \$1322.64. Carried.

Lois Barnum reviewed the report sent in by Phil McCray, the consultant. A bid of \$85,000.00 was received from Ed Hastings for the Barnum Building project. Lois asked that a committee be set up to write grants and get the project under way. Information on the project will be turned over to the Finance Committee. Kyle feels we should move forward with the grant process as soon as possible.

Bruce Muck reported that the Town of Wilson will not help mow the museum grounds. Gordon Strablow and Harold Benedict have been doing all the mowing. Bruce offered the use of his brush hog, and Jim Schotz also offered to help. Gordon asked Red Clark to demonstrate his pull behind mower.

A proposal from Doug Hastings of \$1500.00 to finish the chimney and foundations of the Tugwell Cabin was reviewed. This is for labor and materials, not including field stones and bricks. Miles made a motion to accept the proposal, seconded by Bill Rose and carried. Eleanor Myers suggested that Sunset Island and Harbor information be included in the Tugwell exhibit. Marlene thinks agriculture should also be included. Pam Groff was asked to join this committee.

On Saturday, Nov. 17th, the WNYAHA will host their annual fall conference for small historical societies from 9:00 - 3:00 pm. A \$30.00 fee included lunch and two sessions.

The Nominating Committee reported that a slate of officers will be presented at the November 14th Board meeting and the November 26th regular meeting. The Election will take place at the December general meeting, which will be held on Sunday, December 16th, at 2:00 pm.

Marilynn Allgeier announced that there is presently \$945.00 in the Memorial Fund, with \$175.00 earmarked for the Tugwell restoration project.

QUOTE: Eighty percent of success is showing up!

EXCERPTS FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES:

President Gary Fitch called the November 14th 2001 meeting to order. Twenty-one were in attendance. Gary Fitch, Darrell Smith, Gordon Strablow, Pam Groff, Diane Muscoreil, Judy King, Ollie Clark, Miles Linnabery, Wally Goodman, Bruce Muck, Don Croop, Don Burrows, Eleanor Myers, Celeste Crawford, Marlene Schotz, Sandy Holden, Dorothy Maxfield, Wanda Burrows, Dan King, Elton Kropp and Sally Smith.

Judy King submitted the Treasurer's Report for October 11th through November 14th 2001. Bills totaled \$773.21. Additional bills were submitted for L & B Cleaning service, \$600.00, and two conference registrations for November 17th for \$70.00. A motion was made by Diane Muscoreil, seconded by Dorothy Maxfield to pay the bills as presented, totaling \$1443.21. Carried

The following slate of candidates for the Board of Directors of the Wilson Historical Society was presented by the Nominating Committee. **The election will take place by ballot on Sunday, December 16th, 2001 at 2:00 pm at the General meeting. All members that are present will be allowed to vote.**

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| President | Gary Fitch
Sally Smith |
| 1 st Vice President | Darrell Smith |
| 2 nd Vice President | Gordon Strablow |
| Recording Secretary | Pam Groff |
| Corresponding Secretary | Diane Muscoreil |
| Treasurer | Judy King |
| Trustees until 12/2004 | Three to be elected:
Ollie Clark
Floyd Clark
Kyle Andrews
Harold Benedict |

The January, February and March regular meetings will also be held on the the third Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm.

A motion was made by Bruce Muck, seconded by Miles Linnabery, to have Diane write a letter of appreciation to Tom Schlosser for his many hours of work and expertixe in the planning of the Barnum Building Project. Carried.

Dan King gave the Insurance Report. A motion was made by Wally Goodman, seconded by Miles Linnabery, to increase the insurance coverage for Fine Arts to \$87,500.00. Carried.

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS: Congratulations go out to Trustee Kyle Andrews on his election to the Niagara County Legislatures 14th District. Nice work Kyle!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____
 ADDRESS _____
 BOX NO. _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PLEASE CHECK BOX IF YOUR ADDRESS/NAME HAS RECENTLY CHANGED
 PLEASE INDICATE PREVIOUS LAST NAME IF APPLICABLE _____

JUNIOR (UNDER 18)	\$1.00 EACH	COUPLES	\$ 8.00 _____
NAME _____	AGE _____	SINGLE	\$ 5.00 _____
NAME _____	AGE _____	LIFE	\$150.00 _____
NAME _____	AGE _____	LIFE COUPLES	\$250.00 _____

HONORARY MEMBERS (85 +) FREE
 BUILDING FUND DONATIONS _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

PLEASE TRY TO GET YOUR DUES IN BY JANUARY 1ST
 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 AND RETURN TO: SANDY HOLDEN, PO BOX 319, WILSON, NY 14172

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK:

Because there was no October newsletter, the **ONLY** application for renewal or new memberships will be included in this newsletter. You can get additional applications by contacting Sandy Holden at PO Box 319, Wilson, NY 14172.

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Lorraine Averill DeRise	WCS Class of 1954	Ransomville, NY
Mary Demeter DeLapa	WCS Class of 1954	Tonawanda, NY
William & Mary Rolland		Youngstown, NY
Mr. & Mrs. Wesley A. Churchill		West Valley, NY
Anton & Arlene Schwarzmuller		Wilson, NY

ON A PERSONAL NOTE: Our dear editor, Don Croop,, is having some health problems. We are all wishing him a speedy recovery!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

