

Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

Jan. 1978 Vol 7 No. 1
(Coleman Press)

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MRS. MARY WENT, LIBRARIAN
59 LAKE STREET
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

THE "HOJACK" (Part 3) A train schedule for the R.W.& O. in 1889 reveals some of the activities at the Wilson Depot that year. At 9:15 AM there was a through-train with mail and express; at 1:00 PM one left for New York City; at 4:37 PM a train, with sleeping cars attached, left Wilson for New York via Oswego; and two local trains operated daily to and from Rochester, N.Y.

Fred Faery, a veteran stage coach driver, moved to Wilson from Johnson's Creek in 1893. He made regular runs to and from the depot and village hotels, and soon became known as "Jocky Faery". His wagon and sleigh had two long seats running lengthwise with an aisle down the middle. A Mr. King also operated a horsedrawn bus between the depot and the Ontario Hotel. Ed Moore drove a small truck with freight and mail, as did Adelbert Mudge and his son after him. Youngsters liked to ride on the wagons to the depot where, on cold days, they could warm themselves by the pot belly stove at the northwest corner of the old station's waiting room.

On July 30, 1896, Lt. Gov. Saxton came to Wilson by train where he dined at the Sutherland Hotel and later spoke at a Farmer's Picnic being held at Lake Island Park. One year later, the Standard Oil Co. erected a 500 gal. tank by the depot where wholesale purchases of oil could be made.

Special fruit trains were run in season to Boston and other eastern cities. The trains were made up with express cars containing ice compartments so that fruit would arrive the following day in good condition. Fruit shipments became very heavy and thousands of barrels left Wilson each week. The Dailey Bros. alone on East Lake Rd. had over 200 acres of fruit. On Nov. 8, 1900 the largest train to ever enter Niagara Falls from Wilson contained 57 cars of farm produce. Not only were thousands of tons of cabbage loaded at Wilson, but also thousands of barrels of apples. In the fall of 1899 over 70 carloads of cabbage and 30 carloads of apples were shipped by M. S. Vosburg alone.

Extensive poultry shipping operations were conducted by the Stevens Bros. who in one year made over 100 shipments to 20 different States and Canada. It is also interesting to note that on several occasions, J.J. Miller received consignments of bedsteads for Maple Grove Park and a piano for the "Grand Opera House".

Lumber products were also shipped from the depot and the largest log ever transported over the rails was cut on the A.D. Pease farm. It measured 75' long and 32" in diameter, and was purchased by the Ransomville Basket Factory who made 3,500 baskets from it.

In February, 1900, State Fishing and Game Authorities sent steam heated cars to Wilson filled with 4" fingerlings to stock Lake Ontario. The fish included black bass, white fish, and trout. Three million white fish fingerlings were also shipped from Hemlock and Canandaigua Lakes to Wilson.

When the R.W.& O. was first built, the crossing at the Lockport-Olcott Rd. was called Newfane. After the International Railway Co. built a trolley line from Lockport to Olcott in 1900, the line passed under the "Hojack" and the intersection was re-named Burt. In exchange, the trolley line took the name Newfane for its Charlotteville station. According to pioneer William Olmstead, to whom these statements are credited, the intersection of the two lines at Burt had a lasting effect on the growth of that community. "Since the two railroads were always striving how not to make connections, passengers concluded that it was easier to settle there than wait for a train or trolley." In spite of this "tongue in cheek" reference to the efficiency of the two railroads, shoppers from Wilson could take a train to Burt where they were able to "catch" the electric car to Lockport.

In 1901, a person could take a train from Wilson at 7:49 AM and arrive at 42nd Street in New York at 8:58 PM. George Wadsworth resigned as ticket agent that same year and was succeeded by Richard Patterson who served longer than any other ticket agent at Wilson.

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BON MOT: Another thing so simple even a child can operate is a grandparent.

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CELEBRATION: Thanks to all our "specialists" the Christmas party was a social success, and we're sure that Melanie Barnum will agree that the taffy was delicious; the pop corn balls simply "scrumptious"; and the cookies she and Aaron Goodman iced (and ate), just "out of this world." Tables were set up to allow everyone to try their skill at making clothespin dolls, wise men figurines, and painted wood and colored glass ornaments. Background caroling with Wirt Wakeman leading the singing and Berne Kent "tickling" the ivories added to the joyful occasion.

A "Pinata", used at Christmas celebrations, was made by Marianna Yannini of Mexico City and Jesus Navarro of Monterrey, Mex. It resembles a star with six brightly colored cone-shaped arms protruding from a paper mache' ball built around an inflated balloon. Small gifts and other delicacies are hidden inside it. Both young people are exchange students. Marianna lives with Mr. & Mrs. George Waters, and Jesus lives with Mr. & Mrs. Adorno Johnson.

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MUSEUM NOTES: Ed Hastings helped Art Schnoor install new crash bars on the main entrance and rear exit last month. A new heavy display case was also donated by Ed and will be excellent for displays once a new glass top is put on it.....Betty Stimson, Lois Jennings, Lois Barnum, and Dianne Albright have been selected by the trustees to get estimates and recommend the type of floor most suitable for the Patterson Room....Anna Mae Nevins is compiling a list of utensils needed to furnish the kitchenette. When ready, members will be given an opportunity to help out..... Water was running into the basement so fast another sump pump had to be installed to keep water below the floor. The year 1977 with its Blizzard and floods will be long remembered, but it wont stop the Publications Comm. from wishing everyone a Happy New Year-1978.

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GENEALOGICAL: Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Smith plan to give a 6 week course on genealogical research starting Tues. evening, Jan 3rd at the Town Hall from 7:30 to 9 PM. Research procedures, compiling of records, and the great source of family information available from the Mormon Church will be stressed.

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NEW MEMBER: The Society is happy to welcome Mrs. Robert Wrede of Granada Hills, California, as our most recent new member. Mrs. Wrede is a niece of Mrs. Edith Diez of Wilson.

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CLEAN UP day is Wed., Jan. 11th, starting at 9 AM. The Christmas tree will be "de-trimmed" at this time and it is hoped some of our gals will be present to help wrap and put away the fine assortment of ornaments acquired to date.

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SPECIAL EXHIBIT: The month of January will feature "Child's and miniature China Dishes" under the supervision of Betty Stimson. The monthly exhibits have been outstanding, and help from the members make it so. Please identify any items you loan. The museum will be closed New Years Day, but hostesses for Jan. 8th will be Bessie and Fenton Cole; Jan. 15th, Eleanor and John Myers; Jan. 22nd, Elwin and Garnet Upton; and Jan. 29th, Jan Sporleder and Nancy Kent.

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MEETINGS: The trustees will meet Wed. Jan. 11th, 8PM at museum. Charles Boyer of Lockport will be our special guest speaker at the regular meeting on Jan. 16th, 7:30 PM at museum. Mr. Boyer will speak on "Lockport and other Historical Glass." Hostesses for the evening will be: Bessie Cole, Chrm., Jean Hayes, and Maxine Jones.

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LIFE MEMBER: Mrs. Edward (Dorothy) Lort, a charter member of the Society, has become its most recent new Life Member. Dorothy is also a trustee and chairman of the Genealogical Committee.

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QUILTERS ALERT! Florence Schultz has announced that work on a new cross-stitch quilt will begin at the museum Tues., Jan. 17th at 9 AM. It is also planned to quilt Sunday afternoons when the museum is open to the public. Florence hopes all her "regular" quilters will turn out, but says arrangements will be made to show any beginners who'd like to learn how. The cross-stitch top is said to be especially beautiful and was donated by Miss Doris Channing of Niagara Falls. This quilt will be the 5th priceless creation of the Society's "Twinkling Thimblers".

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MYSTERY: The mystery of the glass pipe with "souvenir of Wilson" on it has been partly resolved. Carol Smith has learned that the pipes were made in the 1880's & "90's by the Wheaton Glass Works of Millville, N.J. We have yet to hear from anyone who can say when these souvenirs were sold in Wilson.

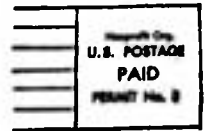
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WINNER: Debbie Cruickshank won 2nd place in a Fire Safety contest sponsored by the Wilson Fire Co. Winner's essays will be entered in the Western N.Y. Vol. Fireman's Assoc. for further judging.

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POSTSCRIPTS: We're sure everyone has noticed the beautiful evergreen Xmas wreath on the depot each year--thanks to our thoughtful Vice-Pres., Joe Higgins. Also Mrs. Ruth Kerr was selected winner of the musical Christmas tree.

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Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

Feb. 1978 Vol. 7 No. 2
(Coleman Press)

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MRS NANCY KENT, LIBRARIAN
58 LAKE STREET
WILSON, NEWYORK 14172

THE "HOJACK (Conclusion): In 1903 it took one hour and 30 minutes to reach Buffalo by rail from Wilson. A round trip to Niagara Falls cost 90¢, and a round trip ticket to Charlotte was \$1.15. Autumn excursions were run to New York City with four "day and night" special trains equipped with vestibule coaches, parlor cars, and sleeping pullmans. The round trip fare was \$7.00; parlor car seats were \$1.50 extra; double berths in sleeping cars sold for \$2.00; and state rooms were \$7.00 each.

Some "old timers" may remember when the "Hojack" was the main means of transportation in and out of Wilson. Students at the old Wilson High School used to ride the train regularly from Barker, Newfane, Elberta, Ransomville, and Lewiston. Up until the 1920's, automobiles and highways, as we know them today, were unheard of, so the railroad played a big role in Wilson's economy.

When Helen Borngraeber was a little girl, the "Hojack" passed near her home in Lyndonville. Her uncle lived in Charlotte and was a conductor on the line, so many times she was placed on the train alone under another conductor's care. While only three years old, she recalls having once been put on the train but was quite upset when she arrived in Charlotte without her favorite "teddy bear". Her tears changed to smiles, however, when "teddy" was rushed to her via the next train.

Conductors usually were assigned to regular runs and naturally became well acquainted with their passengers. Mrs. Marion Horton of Gulfport, Fla., remembers taking her sons Charles and Robert to Rochester quite often by train. The conductor, a Mr. Hurlbut, would always tell the boys to "hold onto their seats" when the train passed through Greece--a remark that always kept them giggling until they reached Rochester.

Norm Thilk and Harold Albright tell an interesting story about an attempted train robbery at Wilson. It seems the robbers planned to steal silk from one of the cars when the train stopped. Word had leaked out, however, and a couple of railroad detectives were concealed in the car before the train left Niagara Falls. The train's first stop was Wilson, and sure enough, when the would-be robbers pried the door open on the silk car they were immediately apprehended. Norm and Harold were "kids" in high school at the time, and just happened to be near the depot when the incident occurred.

Improved highways and competition from the trucking industry forced the New York Central to curtail operations, and by 1924, passenger train service had been cut from six to two trains daily. Later the Pennsylvania and New York Central merged, and the "Hojack" was operated as the Penn-Central. In 1934 passenger service was discontinued but the freight office remained open until June, 1959. The late Harold Fink of Sanborn was the last official agent.

The Wilson Canning Co. bought the depot in October, 1961, and re-sold it to Dr. John F. Argue in July, 1965. He used the freight room for storage, and the building was listed on railroad records as the Argue Warehouse. When the Wilson Historical Society was founded in April, 1972, Dr. Argue gave the property to the town of Wilson for use as a museum and meeting place for the Society. The town accepted the property in October, 1972. The Society has since renovated and maintained the building, but the outside appearance of the depot will be kept as it was when re-built in 1912-13.

The giant Penn-Central went bankrupt in 1970, but continued to run one small freight each week over the "Hojack's" deteriorated rails. Under Government re-organization the road continued this schedule as "Conrail", however, in September, 1977, the Department of Transportation (DOT) announced plans to abandon the line March 31, 1978. Some opposition by local industry and the Niagara County Legislature was generated by this decision, however, as this series is concluded, there is no indication that the "Hojack" will stay open.

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SPECIAL EXHIBIT: The February exhibit will feature "Heating" under the direction of Joe Higgins. Contact Joe if you can help him. Sunday Hostesses will be Feb. 5th, Grace Singer and Helen French; Feb. 12th, George and Dorothy Linnabery; Feb. 19th, Don and Millie Croop; Feb. 26th, Faye Pisello and Marlene Schotz.

JANUARY MEETING: Charles Boyer, retired Curator of the Niag. Co. Hist. Soc. gave a very informative talk on American glass factories including the Lockport Glass Works which started in 1840 and continued producing until 1942. Mr. Boyer stated that the first industry in America was a glass factory started in Jamestown in 1608, and he displayed an old glass bead which was acquired from the original site. He also showed samples of various types of glass and slides of some of the rare pieces on display at the Lockport Museum.

Lynn Sherrie, Pres. of the Wilson Volunteer Fire Co, and Donald Luff, Fire Chief, presented the Society with a beautifully framed collection of badges that were obtained by the late Bill Scheffler as a delegate to Western New York Fireman Assoc. Conventions from 1929 to 1956.

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MUSEUM COMMITTEE: Eleanor Myers, Dorothy Thilk, Jean Argue, and Helen Borngraeber are working on the care and storage of the valuable dresses and articles of clothing donated to the Society. Anna Mae Nevins and Lois Barnum are co-ordinating efforts to collect and purchase necessary items needed for the annual fair and to equip the kitchenette. Nettie Stimson is doing a great job of mounting all the old photographs and postcards in albums that were purchased for that purpose. The job of being museum chairman is not an easy one, but there is every indication that Lois Jennings is getting the museum well organized.

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CHARTER: Application for a permanent charter to replace the three year provisional charter which expires February 20th, has been sent to the Board of Regents of the State Education Dep't. at Albany. A resume' of the Society's activities over the past 5 years was prepared by Millie Croop and forwarded to town attorney, Richard Southard, who drew up the legal application. Officers and Trustees signed the papers at the January meeting of the Board.

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HOUSEKEEPING: The trustees approved a motion to hire someone to clean the museum each week, and Betty Stimson, Housekeeping Chrm., has engaged the services of Maryanne Sharpe who lives near the museum. The Christmas tree was taken down, ornaments carefully packed away for next year, thanks to Betty Stimson, Lois Jennings, Maryanne Sharpe, Tom Sharpe III, Flossie Lortz, Cindy Wilson, and Millie Croop.

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"DO GOODERS": During the past 20 years, the Ladies Auxiliary of Martin Jennings American Legion Post 836 of Wilson, has made thousands of cancer dressings for the Cancer Society of Niagara Falls. The dressings are made from used white sheets with fillings provided by the Cancer Society. They are distributed to area cancer patients living at home. This is just another example of a concerned local group performing a valuable public service.

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VISITORS: In spite of wintry blasts, 16 hostesses greeted 84 visitors at the museum from Nov. 6th through Jan. 15th. Guests attended from San Jose, Cal, and Clyde, Texas, while others came from Tonawanda, Lockport, Williamsville, Ransomville, Barker, Gettsville, Medina, Newfane, Olcott, Middleport, Youngstown, and Wilson. It appears that the changing monthly exhibits and excellent publicity in the Union Sun & Journal, Niagara Gazette, etc., by Dorothy Linnabery, Publicity Chrm., has generated an interest in the museum that everyone should support. We hope your answer will be "yes" when Verna Caufield, Hostess Chrm., asks you to serve on a Sunday afternoon. The museum is open to the public because of the support of our members. Thanks for your co-operation.

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THUMBNAIL SKETCH: Mrs. Helen Singer Idle was born August 9, 1905 at Wilson. She is a homemaker and wife of Dr. Dunning Idle III of Gaithersburg, Md. She graduated from Wilson High School and attended Eastern Michigan University, Syracuse University, University of Illinois, Dickinson College, and Miami University of Ohio. She is a member of the Rockville United Methodist Church and Wilson Historical Society. Mrs. Idle's father, Roland Singer, married Emma Berch of Wilson. He managed the Wilson Cold Storage and served as Chairman of the Niagara County Board of Supervisors for many years. Helen's grandfather, Thomas M. Singer, served in Battery M during the Civil War.

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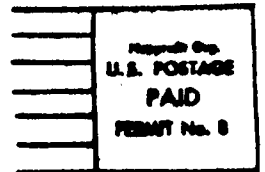
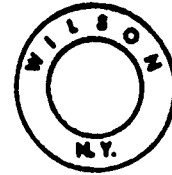
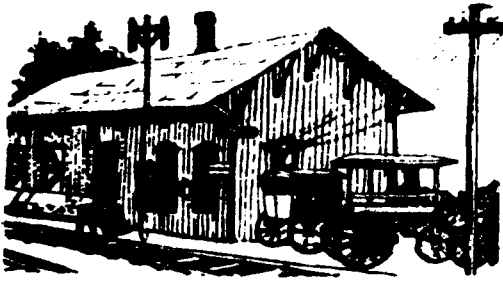
CHANGING TIMES: One of our "Roving Reporters" writes that 57 years ago, Mrs. Gladys Beutel was able to buy enough honey at the Henry Munch farm in East Wilson to last her family all season. She was impressed by the fact that the Munches had a black hired man who used to sleep behind their cookstove. When a young boy, the late Oscar Munch used to drive cattle from the Henry Munch farm to other property owned by them near the south Grand Island Bridge. After summer grazing, he would drive the cattle back to East Wilson for the winter.

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MEETINGS: The trustees will meet Wednesday evening, Feb. 15th at 8:00 PM. The regular meeting will be Monday evening, Feb. 20th, at 7:30 PM. Rev. R. Carlton Fausett of Newfane will present a slide program with illustrations of historical museums, restoration, and urban reconstruction.

Hostesses for the evening will be Christine Goodman, Chrm., Marietta Goodman and Betty Hausman.

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Wilson Historical Society

Wilson, N. Y.

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

March 1978 Vol. 7 No. 3
(Coleman Press)

THE SOUTH WILSON FIRE CO. celebrated its 25th anniversary Jan. 15, 1978. It was organized in 1952 when a group of interested men met at the East Wilson Methodist Church where operational procedures were outlined by Whitney Barnum and Earl Dobbs. An election of officers was held and Marshall Cramer was elected Pres; Leonard Daunce, Sec'y; Elmer Zolyome, Treas; Merritt Thilk, Chief; and Leonard Schultz, Ass't. Chief. A place to meet was acquired when schoolhouse Dist. #6 was auctioned off in Aug. 1953, and bid in by Chief Thilk for \$3500 dollars. Initial funds were raised by holding card parties, baked goods, vegetable, and fancy-work sales. The company was incorporated Aug. 3rd, 1953, and incorporation papers were presented to the firemen by Supervisor Barnum.

The volunteers held their first field day at the Cambria grounds on July, 1954. They also continued to hold card parties and the first turkey raffle was held Nov. 1954. On Feb. 21, 1955, the company purchased 12 acres of land from Glen Rohring for \$2500 dollars, and a combination truck room and recreation hall was built for \$12,000 dollars. The Schuman Bros. laid the cement blocks, and though only 25 men answered roll call at the time, they spent many hours erecting the building.

The Ladies Auxiliary was organized Feb. 28, 1955. The first officers were Janeta Fredericks, Pres; Pearl Dixon, Vice-Pres; Rosemary Thilk, Sec'y; and Hazel Thilk, Treas.

The volunteers moved into their new fire hall Oct. 20, 1955, and an Open House was held in May, 1956. Assistance for fire protection was first obtained from the town of Wilson on January, 1956. The first field day on the South Wilson grounds was held in September, and in 1958, \$1653 dollars was realized from participation in the Wilson Centennial. Bingo was started at the hall in Oct. 1959 and continues to the present time. On July 7, 1964, a new recreation hall was added to the original building and "set-up" for Bingo was made easier. The last field day was held July 26, 1965. During 1966 a new oil burner was installed and a parking lot with mercury lighting was completed. In Feb. 1970, 45 monitors were purchased and distributed to firemen. Fire phones were disconnected and all calls went directly to the Fire Control Center in Lockport. It was also decided to build a new addition for an equipment truck and meeting room, and in June three aluminum doors with electric strike were installed to operate when siren sounded. In 1973 the auxiliary bought new tables and chairs for the meeting room.

The first South Wilson volunteer fireman to lose his life in the line of duty was Herbert Allgeier who was fatally hurt Nov. 14, 1973 while fighting a roof fire at the Karsten store in East Wilson.

The largest sit-down dinner ever served in the hall was a testimonial banquet sponsored by the Wilson Historical Society for Dr. John F. Argue, Pres. The South Wilson Ladies Auxiliary, assisted by 30 firemen, served 405 persons, and some of the waiters (dressed as orderlies) brought smiles to the faces of the assembled guests.

The Fire Co. made 496 fire calls during the past 25 years including 66 mutual aid calls. In Jan. 1978, there were 50 active firemen and 36 active auxiliary members. Charter members still active are Merritt Thilk, Chief; Allan Scultz, Ass't. Chief; James Schotz, Lieut; Raymond Thilk, Sgt.-at-Arms; Herbert Dixon, and John Gurski, Sr. Other officers are Paul Karsten, Pres; Albert Kinsley, Vice-Pres; David Koepcke, Capt; Gary Walker, Sec'y; Ralph Austin, Treas; Joe Schotz, Ass't. Treas; and Directors Steve La Rock; Lloyd Albright, Howard Kruger, and David Wilson.

Equipment now owned by the company includes the first Ward LaFrance pumper bought Dec. 6, 1955; a used Ford tank-truck purchased in 1959 from Miller Hose at Newfane; a Ward LaFrance pumper bought in April, 1968; and an equipment truck purchased in 1972.

The South Wilson Fire Co. started with nothing, but the entire community can be proud of their accomplishments. No price can be placed on the hundreds of hours of work contributed by the volunteers, but the modern hall and equipment is a monument to their dedication.

MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS: The latest acquisitions reported by the library comm. are as follows: Francis Goldthorpe, framed print of Erie Canal from N.Y.S. museum; Dorothy Tracey, 9 post cards of Wilson; Dr. Argue, padlock and keys from first Wilson Jail, 7 old maps of N.Y. and Ontario, and N.Y.S. Education Dep't. History "76-77; Melvin Shippy, 48 star silk flag; Joe Higgins, variety of infant wear and womens intimate apparel; Charles Boyer, Red and White pieced spread; Estate of John Parker, Cabria Bicentennial Calendar, pictures, postcards, Niagara Co. Directory (1869), biography of Belva Lockwood, 1880 Reader, and copy of Greenwood Cemetery Records; Ethel Cundiff (John Parker's sister) collection of Ceramics to be used as a memorial to him; Dorothy Linnabery, 3 snapshots of Hist. Soc. activities; Ed Schuman, newspaper clippings and other Wilson memorabilia; Estate of Mildred Middleton, genealogy of Jonathan Pollard; Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Getman, black silk fringed scarf, 2 white laced childrens dresses, and two white crocheted collars; Norman Luff, framed picture of Olcott-Wilson Bus; Helen Borngraeber, brown plush cape, 1932 copies Wilson Star, Misc. lingere and old valentines; Mrs. Charles McGahan, Christening Bonnet; Dorothy Thilk, 2 white aprons; Florence Schultz, World War I uniform and medals belonging to Arnold Hale; and Verna Caufield, N.Y.S.Redbook.

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QUILT: Donation tickets for the Memorial Day drawing of the Society's cross stitch hand-sewn quilt are now available from Nettie Stimson. A doll house will also be given this year for 2nd prize. The quilt raffle has become an important feature of the annual fair thanks to the efforts of the Society's "pricked finger brigade". This group of expert sewers, headed up by Florence Schultz, includes Betty Stimson, Anna Mae Nevins, Verna Caufield, Betty Tovell, and Joe Higgins--others who wish to learn and help are always welcome.

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BRAINTEASER: Can you identify the States with only four letters in their names? Answer will be in the next newsletter.

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PUBLICATIONS: The addressograph and graphotype machines, which were purchased recently by Mrs. Jane Fiedler from the John Parker estate, have been acquired by the Wilson Society. The machines will be used to address the monthly newsletter. A special note of thanks to Karl Wright, Douglas Smith and Darrell Smith, who helped to move the extremely heavy equipment.

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HISTORICAL SITES: Dorothy Thilk, Chrm. of the historical sites comm., has informed the trustees that a marker for the Reuben Wilson landing site has been ordered and is expected to be in place in April, 168 years from the date Reuben and his family arrived here. At that time, all of present Niagara Co. was known as the Town of Cambria. His first cabin was built near the corner where Maple Rd. and Route 18 now join.

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MONTHLY EXHIBITS: The heating exhibit will remain on display March 5th and March 12th. Old Bibles, Hymnals, and other religious books will be featured March 19th through April 30th. Please call Lois Jennings if you have special religious books you can loan for the display.

Hosts and hostesses for Sunday afternoons from 2-4 are as follows: March 5 Ken and Dorothy Tracey; March 12, Harold and Clara Marcks; March 19, Cindy Wilson and Marie Getman; March 26, (Easter) Rae and Hildred Brothers.

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LIFE MEMBER: It is generally acknowledged that the future success and continuity of any organization depends on the involvement of younger members, so it is a pleasure to welcome Terence Upton as the 19th new Life Member of the Wilson Hist. Soc. Terry joined as a charter member in 1972.

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NEW TABLES: The Wilson Soc. has acquired 8 new tables from the George H. Courter Co. of Lockport & Niagara Falls. Six are 8' long and two are 6' in length. This will help eliminate borrowing tables for activities such as the Annual Fair, Christmas Party, and Annual Picnic.

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LOOKING AHEAD: The Society will hold the annual picnic for elderly residents on August 6, 1978. This year's annual tour will be scheduled sometime during the month of July. The Old Fashioned Fair will be held on Memorial Day, Tuesday, May 30th. (According to N.Y.S. Law)

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ATTENDANCE REPORT: Based on an estimated count, the N.Y.S. Dep't. of Commerce has been notified that approximately 2475 persons visited the Wilson Museum during the year 1977.

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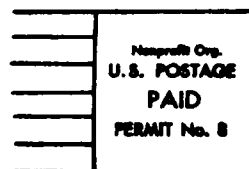
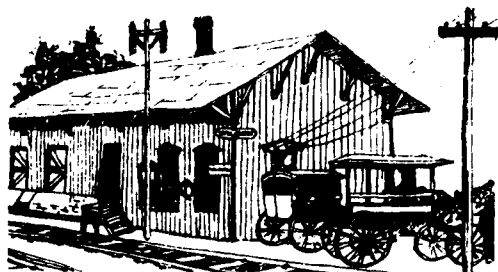
MEETINGS: A nostalgic evening of slides and reminiscing was presented by Dr. Argue at the February meeting with many scenes shown of Society activities covering the past six years. Trustees will meet Wed. evening, March 15th.

Mrs. Vernetta Genter, Town of Cambria Historian, will be guest speaker at the regular meeting on March 20th. Her program will be a slide presentation on the town of Cambria. Refreshment hostesses will be Clara Marcks, Chrm., Verna Caufield and Donna Fritton.

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BON MOT: If you want to recapture your youth, just cut off his allowance.

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Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

April 1978 Vol. 7 No. 4
(Coleman Press)

THE B. & P.W. CLUB: Many organizations have come and gone since Wilson became a town 160 years ago. Few of them, possibly, had an impact on the community as did the former Wilsonian Business and Professional Womens Club.

The first organizational meeting of the group was held April 12, 1954 when it joined with the National Club that started by an Act of Congress in 1919. The first officers were Marguerite Langdon, Pres; Verna Caufield, Vice-Pres; Anna Mae Nevins, Secy; Alice Nelson, Treas; and Kay Steinhauser, Corres. Secy. The first official action was to sponsor Marion Nicholson as a delegate to the Foreign Policy Association's 6th annual conference at Colgate University.

Meetings were conducted in the old Wilson house with the express purpose of protecting the rights of women everywhere; to provide opportunity for self expression; leadership training; and involvement in the needs of the community. The club received its charter from N.Y. State President Margaret Barnard, September 9, 1954. Membership was open to any gainfully employed woman.

In following years the club became active in a variety of projects such as giving old books and calendars to Roswell Park, and Christmas gifts to area nursing homes. Flags were presented to Brownie Troop #44 of Wilson, and a state flag was given to Ransomville elementary school. Books were also purchased for the Wilson Free Library, and memorial trees were planted in Greenwood Cemetary. Golden ager picnics were sponsored each year at the lakeside home of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Nevins, and gifts were sent to the Boy's Home at Mt. View. Gifts of candy were also made each year at the school on Teachers Recognition Day. When the Wilson Historical Society was organized in 1972, paint was purchased by the B. & P.W. Club for the inside of the museum-depot.

A policy of granting business student loans was started in 1955, and the first "Woman of the Year" award was made in 1956 during Business Womens Week to Mrs. Lewis Smith, town historian. Mrs. Smith served 17 years as librarian of the Wilson Free Library, and she was presented with a signature book containing hundreds of names of Wilson citizens who had benefited by her unselfish service. Other women who were later honored were Eleanor Moot, Sally Pelton, Felice Dean, Margaret Walker, Hazel Salisbury, Doris Tarr, and Katherine Fenn.

The club accomplished many things through active participation at State Conventions with delegates chosen to attend each year. Monthly dinner meetings, with prominent area officials attending as guests, enabled members to keep informed and exert influence on many local issues. The B. & P. W. Club was also active supporters of the Community Ambassador program, and sponsored several scholarship awards in the schools.

There is probably no way to measure the impact of this small but effective group on Wilson since little fanfare or ballyhoo accompanied their many endeavors. They quietly lived up to their stated purpose "to involve themselves in the needs of their community", and it was a sad day when, by consensus, the club acted on a motion to withdraw from the State and National organization in April, 1975.

Those who served as Past Presidents of the B. & P. W.s Club were: Marguerite Langdon, Anna Mae Nevins, Esther Casselman, Alice Nelson, Verna Caufield, Melva Ryan, Mildred E. Croop, Jean Stapf, Flossie Lortz, and Myra Karsten.

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NEW EXHIBIT PLANNED: The museum committee would like to set-up an "Old Fashioned Kitchen" in the Patterson Room during July and August. Success of the project will depend on your co-operation. Please notify Lois Jennings if you can loan any of the following items: Dry sink, drop leaf table, hand pump, kitchen cupboard, kitchen utensils, or wood basket. Lois would like an early call so plans may be made accordingly.

The next regular meeting of the museum committee will be held at the museum Tuesday, April 4th at 10:00 AM.

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BON MOT: The nicest thing about growing old is finding your children crossing the generation gap to your side.

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MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS: Boyd Howell of Newfane, silver tea-serving set formerly owned by his mother, the late Mrs. Earl W. Howell of Wilson; Mr. & Mrs. George Wagner, engraved plaque about Hojack R.R.; Marion Sheeler, sewing machine used by Leo Sheeler's great grandmother in her dress making shop; Gerry Swann, 2 piece silk dress worn by Nettie Stoll's mother; Louis Tall, 2 framed pictures showing newspaper ads for early vintage autos; Barbara Carr, copy of Wilson "Oracle" (1917), and Fireman's Field Day Program (13th annual); Dorothy Thilk, post cards featuring various holidays, and 12" globe on iron standard; Mildred Schnoor, white petticoat with lace trim, 1917 copy of Watkin's Almanac, 1894 Annual Report of N.Y.S. Education Dep't., teacher's contract for 1920 with Wilson Dist. #4; Beatrice Salisbury, 3 photos of 3 Harrington sisters--- sisters of Elizabeth Harrington Patterson, 2nd wife of Richard Patterson, Wilson Station Agent, also a framed memorial card for Walter Martin, union soldier who died in Confederate prison. He was born and lived in Wilson and his mother was a sister of Bea Salisbury's grandmother.

* * * * *

DUES ARE DUE: With the price of everything going up, membership in the Wilson Hist. Soc. has just got to be the best bargain around. A renewal form is enclosed for your convenience. Won't you please renew promptly? It really helps.

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EXHIBIT: The religious display will continue through April 30th. Hosts and hostesses starting April 2nd will be Leona & Howard Hunter; April 9th, Beryl Tovell & Helen Smith; April 16th, Karl & Gwenn Wright; April 23rd, Dorothy & Norman Thilk; and April 30th, Miss Flossie Lortz.

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ANSWER: The March newsletter challenged readers to identify states of the Union which are spelled with only 4 letters. You probably got Ohio, Iowa, and Utah quickly, but how about the 7 others; Alaska, Alabama, Kansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Indiana, and Hawaii? Although some letters are repeated, each of these states is spelled with only four letters.

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YOU CAN HELP: The Society would like more pictures of old homes to mount in the museum albums. A picture of the old Albright Opera House or former theater would also be welcome. Please contact Nettie Stimson for more information.

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SPECIAL NOTICE: The trustees meet Wednesday evenings prior to regular meetings to decide matters relevant to running the Society. Their recommendations are then read by the Secretary at the general meeting for action by the membership. This helps to shorten business meetings and at the same time give every member an opportunity to have a voice in all policy decisions.

* * * * *

WAYS & MEANS: Plans are being made to compile a Hist. Soc. Cookbook as soon as recipes can be accumulated. The committee is anxious to have every family represented with at least one recipe in any of the following categories: Appetizers, Bread & Rolls, Cake & Cookies, Desserts, Jellies & Jams, Main Dishes, Soups & Salads, Vegetables, or Miscellaneous. Give your favorites to Lois Barnum, Carole Schnoor, Christine Goodman, or Nettie Stoll. Out-of-Towners may mail recipes to Nettie Stimson, 578 Lake St., Wilson, N.Y., 14172.

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FAIR TIME: Eleanor Myers, Gen. Chrm., has announced that this year's Fair will be held on Tuesday, May 30th, the traditional Memorial Day designated by N.Y.S. as a legal holiday. A general meeting of all Fair Chrm. will be held at 10 AM Wednesday, April 19th, at museum. Bring your ideas and suggestions.

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PUBLICATIONS: A new booklet, "Postal Service in the Town of Wilson", is now being published and will be available soon for 50¢ per copy. Much of the information in it was compiled from material submitted by Harold Albright, Wilson Postmaster for 21 years. This is the 6th publication sponsored by the Society in a continuing effort to record some of Wilson's unique history.

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MEETINGS: A very interesting slide program on old houses and cemeteries in Cambria was presented at the March meeting by Mrs. Vernetta Genter, Town of Cambria Historian. Organized in 1808, the town once encompassed all the area we know today as Niagara County.

Members of the Wilson Town Board will be guests at the April 17th meeting of the Society. Mr. Richard McCarthy of Lockport will be guest speaker and present a program on Archiological Diggings. A special birthday cake to celebrate Wilson's 160th anniversary as a town of Niag. Co. will be cut following the program.

Hostesses for the evening will be Dorothy Lort, Chrm., Hildred Brothers, Eleanor Myers, Lois Jennings, and Winnie Fischer.

Trustees will meet at the museum Wednesday, April 12th, at 8:00 PM.

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RESIGNATION: The Society regretfully accepts the resignation of Mr. Berne Kent, trustee, who finds it difficult to attend Board meetings because of conflicting meetings of the Village Board and Wilson Central School.

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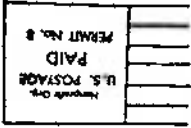
FLEA MARKET: The new quilt will be displayed at the Masonic flea market to be held at Lockport Sunday, April 9th from eleven to five PM.

HILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MRS MARY KENT, LIBRARIAN
59 LAKE STREET
HILSON, NEW YORK 14172

May 1977 Vol. 8 No. 5
DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NEWSLETTER
WILSON, NEW YORK 14172
Hilson Historical Society

May 1977



PEOPLE OF THE LONG HOUSE

In the October 1974 "Newsletter" we featured an item about an old map titled, HO-DE-NO-SAU-NEE-GA, or People of the Long House. It was originally drawn by Lewis Morgan and Ely S. Parker, Seneca Indian Sachem, in 1851 from old French maps dating back to 1720 or earlier. The map was redrawn in 1962 by Mr. Eber L. Russell, former Historian of Perrysburg, N.Y., who added over 150 translations based on 50 years of research as a Seneca Indian scholar. Included are ancient Indian trails, lakes, villages, springs and other places with their aboriginal names.

Mr. Russell was once awarded the Peter Doctor Citation for distinguished service as a "true advocate of Indian legend, Tradition, and History." School libraries and colleges in Western New York have been recipients of over 20 reels of his recordings on local Indian History. It took Mr. Russell six weeks to reproduce (in color) each master map by hand. Of the few copies made, one was purchased by the Buffalo Museum of Science, another by St. Bonaventure University, and one is on exhibit at the Holland Land Co. Museum at Batavia.

The Wilson Historical Society is the recipient of one of these rare maps through the generosity of Mrs. Penton (Bessie) Cole, daughter of Eber Russell. Unfortunately, the map was displayed in the sunniest room of the museum where it faded to the point where it was becoming difficult to read. Since it took Mr. Russell six weeks to draw the map and his many years of research might soon disappear, we felt an effort should be made to preserve it. We obtained permission from Bessie Cole to re-trace the 3x3 1/2 foot map, and the project was completed over a three week period entailing some 23 hours--much of it by use of a magnifying glass. We can really appreciate the work which was originally done by Mr. Russell, and would now respectfully suggest that our museum committee keep the map in the Patterson Room where bright sunlight will no longer be a problem.

The Mythology of the early Indian tribes is most colorfully described on the unusual map. For instance, one may learn that the "Stone Giants", or (Ken-Non-Squah) were greatly feared by the Indians because they were evil, and lived in stony places where they often came out to devour people. In contrast were the "Little People", or (Jun-Jyio) who were fairies about 10" high. There were three tribes of these "Little People" and they were always good and helpful. One tribe made the plants and trees grow, colored the berries and leaves, and put them to bed in the fall. Then there were the Medicine Men who cared for the sick and injured animals. The last and most numerous were the "Stone Throwers" who left boulders in the fields and made rock cities.

The Viking ship shown on Lake Ontario indicates the Indian awareness that Norsemen traveled through N.E. America before the time of Columbus--a legend which has lately been authenticated. The great horned serpent in the lake was probably inspired by the great whales who were once able to enter Ontario via the St. Lawrence River. The map also reveals that a party of Indians were once returning from Ohio (O-Hee-You), when they caught a great fish they had to lift into their canoe. It was still alive when they reached Lake Erie, and according to legend, accounts for the huge muscalonge now found in the lake.

The aboriginal name for Tonawanda Creek was (Ta-Na-Wun-Da). It was said that the Tonawanda-Senecas were tricked out of their land--some 70,000 acres--by fraud. They sold it for 20¢ an acre and were obliged to buy back a small portion at \$20 an acre. We also may learn from the map that our close friends, the Tuscaroras, were once called (Dus-Ga-O-Weh-O-No-Ga), or cloth shirt wearing people. They moved originally from the Carolinas, and prior to coming to Lewiston, lived along the Delaware River in S.E. New York State. The Mohawks were known as "Possessors of the Flint" and used the flint mine near the Hudson River called (Ah-Gook-Aki), an Algonkin flint mine for hundreds of years.

INDIAN PRAYER: "GREAT SPIRIT-- Grant that I may not criticize my neighbor until I have walked for a moon in his moccasins.

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IN MEMORIAM: The Society extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Mrs. Paul (Mildred) Middleton who passed away recently after a lingering illness. Mildred Diez Middleton graduated from Wilson High School, Deaconess School of Nursing, and retired as Supervising Nurse at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. She belonged to Exley United Methodist Church, Daughters of the American Revolution, Cambria, and Niag. Co. Historical Societies. Mildred was not only a charter member of the Wilson Historical Society, but also one of the ten founders who met to plan its organization, April 18, 1972, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Thilk. She was appointed Library Chairman, June 28, 1972, and served in that capacity until her demise. Her active committee spent uncounted hours compiling valuable records for the museum library. Her energy and vitality were an inspiration to all who knew and worked with her.

The Memorial Committee, with approval of the Board of Trustees, has decided to place a plaque over the door to the room she loved best which will henceforth be known as the "Mildred Middleton Library".

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ANCESTRY: The Genealogical Comm. is enclosing forms with this newsletter so that members or any one else interested may have a record of their ancestry on file in the museum library. These could be very valuable someday to a descendant trying to trace his or her ancestry. Please give completed forms (or mail) to Dorothy Thilk. Extra sheets will be available upon request.

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BARN BOARDS: Efforts to get barn boards to finish the Patterson Room were successful even though they are becoming a scarce commodity. We thought you might like to know that "Yankee Ingenuity" has devised a way to make one's own barn boards. First get boards from top of piles in lumber yards. Next paint them with "cheap beer", and while still wet, slap on rottenstone (about 90¢ a pound). When dry, wipe off excess. Now if your spouse doesn't approve having you paint beer on wood, there is a last resort. You can purchase 3/4 inch random width planks 8' tall in bundles that will cover 28 sq. ft. from the Vermont Barnboard Co.-for about \$30 a bundle. By our calculations, this might make the Patterson Room one of the most valuable in the town of Wilson.

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QUILT DONE: The Society's beautiful "Calico Rose" quilt was finished in a record 21 days totaling about 225 hours of fine sewing. Florence Schultz, Betty Stimson, and Beryl Tovell, who initiated the project, were capably assisted by Joe Higgins, Anna Mae Nevins, Verna Caufield, Dorothy Lort, Faye Pisello, Janet Sporleder, and Millie Croop. (Note: We stopped at Fort Boonsborough, Ky., recently, where expert quilters were demonstrating their skill. We left that historic shrine feeling that our Wilson Society quilters don't have to take a back seat for anyone.)

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MAY MEETINGS: Trustees, May 11th, 8PM at museum: Regular Meeting, May 16th 7:30 PM at museum. Theresa Lascher, of the Niagara Falls Library, will show slides and discuss period architecture of area homes; Fair Committee, May 17th 10:00 AM at museum: "Old Fashioned Fair", Memorial Day, May 30th.

The museum committee is selecting monthly themes for future exhibits. A chart has been posted on bulletin board so members can sign names and phone numbers in areas where they can help or provide exhibits. MAY is "Wool Processing" with Eleanor Douglas; JUNE is "Candles" with Marty Harmless; JULY will be "Basketry" with Diane Albright; AUGUST is "Furniture Refinishing"; SEPTEMBER is "Getting the Most out of Antiques" with Nettie Stimson and Audrey Orr; OCTOBER is "Harvest Time"; and DECEMBER will be "Toys and Dolls", Peggy Ward.

Sunday afternoon hostesses for May 1st are Flossie Lortz and Cynthia Wilson; May 8th, Kay and Arthur Ness; May 15th, Kris Kellman; May 22nd, Zilpha and Archie Petty, and May 29th, Millie and Don Croop. (Note: We wish to again clarify a previous announcement that all persons who accept dates to serve as hostesses are themselves responsible to get replacements if they can't serve.)

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MUSEUM PROGRESS: You have to see it to believe it, and we won't repeat names of those who return day after day, but in order to update our volunteer workers we must include, Archie Petty, Walter Hutchison, Rodney Toennissen, Berne Kent, Elwin Upton, Joe Higgins, Charles McManus, Larry Halstead, Norman MacAskill, and Fred Berry.

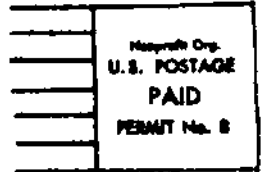
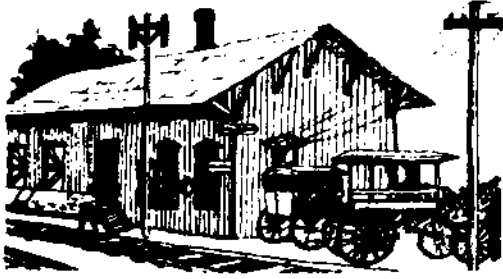
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FAIR: Bessie Cole has asked for cash donations or candy. Those delicious home-made candies are a real winner. With an early spring, prospects for a beautiful Memorial day grow brighter--if it is, we'll need all the salads, etc. we can get. Plans are being made to interest 4H and Girl Scout troops of Wilson as well as WCS students from 9 to 19 yrs. to enter pie baking contest. Every girl to enter a pie will receive a one year free membership in the Wilson Society, and a special award will be given for the best pie in the 9-14 group, and also one in the 15 through 19 group. Watch local papers for Fair news.

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MAY MEETING: Refreshment Hostess for the May 16th meeting will be Flossie Lortz, Christine Kellman and Cynthia Wilson.

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Wilson Historical Society
Wilson, N. Y.
NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

June 1978 Vol. 7 No. 6
 (Coleman Press)

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 WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: When the Wilson Historical Society was organized six years ago, there was an outpouring of enthusiasm that enabled the new group to accomplish many things. If we recall the way the old depot looked before it was scraped or painted, or the way the freight room looked before Doc's cars and trucks were moved out, we realize that the work accomplished was phenomenal. Volunteers donated many hours of their time to renovate the museum, with much credit going to Art Schnoor who had the "know how" and willingness to get the job done. However, we can not rest on our laurels. A contractor can frame up a house quickly, but it takes time and skill to finish it. The museum is at the finishing stage now so your ideas and help are needed.

Many Senior members who organized the Society are unable to contribute as much now as they did in the past. In view of this, there is a great need for younger members to accept and assume responsibility. The museum can be a great attraction in the community. With your help it will be.

If we read the sentiment in town correctly, we believe there is a genuine interest in the Society's accomplishments to date. Since we have all helped put Wilson "on the map", so's to speak, we should all share in the effort to maintain the museum so it will be a credit to the town.

Someday, your children or grandchildren will appreciate your foresight and be grateful that you helped to preserve their heritage.

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"SINGER'S SIDEWALK": Edith Diez tells an interesting story about a period in Wilson's history when the Youngstown Road was paved with cement on the south side only. Since Roland Singer was Town Supervisor at the time, the strip of highway was known as "Singer's Sidewalk". Cars traveling on the north side of the road didn't fare too well--especially when rains made the highway muddy. Edith remembers one time her boyfriend came to see her. He was dressed in white shirt and good clothes and wasn't aware his car windows were open. As he drove along the paved road, his mind in "cloud nine", he was quickly brought back to earth when another car passed him and splattered him with mud. According to Edith, when he arrived, he was a sight to see.

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PARKING LOT: The problem of loose stones on the parking lot will no longer be a hazard to elderly members of the Society. Thanks to Lee Farquharson the lot has been covered with fine stone and rolled down making the surface smooth and safe to walk on. If members will park on either the east or west side of the lot, the entranceway can be kept open allowing ample space for everyone.

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ONE FOR THE BIRDS: If anyone has been wondering why the museum sign hasn't been straightened up, there is a good reason. Each Spring a "mama killdeer" decides to have her nest right at the spot where the sign is mounted. Clark Stimson started to straighten it until he discovered the bird nesting there. It has been "nip and tuck" each year whether the historical killdeer would evacuate her home before the annual Fair. So far, she has timed her exodus just right.

* * * * *

BUILDING OFFER: One can realize how times have changed since the 30s when talking with friendly people like Mr. and Mrs. Paul Reid. Like many others who survived the Great Depression, the Reids learned the value of a dollar and knew what it meant to have to live on a budget or work long hard hours on a farm. The old building that was once used as a milk stop for the "hojack" at the Maple Rd. crossing, holds many memories for the Reids. It once served as their living quarters and the 2nd story, when used by the railroad, opened at the height of a freight car door. It was later refinished as a bedroom. The Reids have offered the building to the Society but as yet no way has been found to move it.

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THE OWL: "A wise old owl sat on an oak, the more he saw the less he spoke; The less he spoke the more he heard; Why aren't we like that wise old bird?"

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NEW MEMBERS: A hearty welcome to new Junior members, Mark Pfohl and Michael McCartan. Mark is the 1 yr. old son of Delbert and Joanne Pfohl of Pekin, and Michael is the grandson of Ed and Ella Mae Peters of Wilson. It is also a pleasure to welcome 3 new adult members, Clarence and Lucy Monroe of Wilson, and Mrs. Hazel Thilk of South Wilson.

* * * * *

NEW BOOKLET: The 6th publication, "Postal Service in the Town of Wilson", is now off the press. The booklet was made possible through research by Harold W. Albright, Wilson Postmaster for 21 years. Two sets of postcards are also now available. They feature the drawings of the R.W. & C and N. Y. Central stations which were done by Berne Kent.

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DEDICATION: In June, 163 yrs. ago, Reuben Wilson, founder of the town of Wilson, landed on the shores of Lake Ontario near the present intersection of Maple and East Lake Rds. There he erected his first cabin. The historical society will conduct a brief dedication of a marker at the site in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. M.H. White. The ceremony will begin at 7 PM, Monday evening, June 19th, prior to the regular meeting at the museum.

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NOMINEES: Burt Jennings, Chrm. of the Nominating Comm., has submitted the following slate of officers and trustees to be voted on at the regular meeting Monday evening, June 19th: Pres., Dr. John F. Argue; Vice-Pres., Don Croop; Recording Secy, Cynthia Wilson; Corresponding Secy., Miss Flossie Lortz, and Treasurer, Millie Croop. Trustees for 3 yrs.(1978-81), Whit Barnum, Ed Hastings, and Gwen Heidenfeldt. Trustee for 1 yr.(1978-79), Elwin Upton.

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JUNE EXHIBIT: The monthly exhibit will be "Colored Glass" under the direction of Lois Barnum. If you have pieces you can loan for display, please try to arrange with Lois to have them at the museum by Saturday, June 3rd.

Verna Caufield, Hostess Chrm., has announced that the following members have agreed to serve as hosts and hostesses Sunday afternoons: June 4th, Ed and Ella Mae Peters; June 11th, Winnie Fischer and Hazel Thilk; June 18th, Marion and "Chuck" Campbell; and June 25th, Norm and Martha MacAskill.

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MEETINGS: Trustees will meet at the museum June 14th at 8PM. The regular meeting will be at the museum June 19th at 7:30 PM. John Krahling, new Curator of the Niag. Co. Hist. Soc., will be guest speaker and discuss future plans and programs of the County group. Prior to the program, an election of officers and trustees will be held.

Refreshment hostesses for the meeting will be Zilpha Petty, Chrm., Clo Reid, and Mary Weiler.

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SEEDLINGS DONATED: The Wilson Conservation Club recently donated 200 Austrian Pine seedlings to the Society which were planted at the west end of the property north of the tracks. Officers and trustees who attended the May Board meeting pitched in to get the job done under the direction of Ron Schearer. Incidentally, have you noticed how nice the "Liberty Tree" is growing northeast of the caboose? It was also donated by the Conservation Club.

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"BATTERY M": On a recent trip through Gettysburg, Pa., we obtained directions from the National Park Service on how to locate the impressive Battery M marker on Power's Hill. The cornfield that grew around it when it was dedicated, is now a rock covered woods, and without the help of two obliging boys, Jeff and Craig Bowling, we might never have found it.

Rangers told us that not even the National Park at Gettysburg is safe today from desecration. Two cannon that had been bolted in cement on each side of the Battery M monument had been removed by thieves during the latter part of April, and dragged to a road some distance away. Fortunately, before the cannon could be loaded on a truck, they were found by the Rangers and removed to a place for safe keeping. Too bad they couldn't do the same for the thieves.

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QUESTION???: Did you ever wake up in the morning and say to yourself, "I wonder if there is something I could do at the museum." You haven't?? Well, to quote a certain "Chevy" dealer, "Shame on you!"

We checked with Lois Jennings, Museum Chrm., and she said there are a number of areas where help is needed. She'd be delighted to have you on her team. Taking care of the museum could be a challenge to our many talented members. So, if you'd really like to get involved, why not join the museum committee.

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OUT OF THE PAST: Another excerpt from the minutes of the Ladies Aid Soc: "Prof. Bixly commenced a singing class here last night. A run-away team, devoutly inclined, came dashing into the Presbyterian Church yard without driver or steersman, guided only by their own sweet will they thought to attend "teacher's meeting". They were received with open arms and gently driven to their homes again."

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RECIPES: Don't forget to send your favorite recipes to Nettie Stimson. A deadline for getting them in will probably be set after the fair so if you want yours in the Society Cookbook, it's time to get started.

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ACQUISITIONS: A slightly hilarious situation developed at the May meeting when Miss Mabel Wilson presented some exceptionally beautiful aprons, child's dress, and other items to the Society. Sharon Monroe, Edna Martin, and Millie Croop modeled the aprons which were given for use by the refreshment hostesses. They will be hung in the kitchen (the aprons, not the hostesses).

Doc looked especially appealing in a tight fitting nitecap, and a pair of bloomers, which he held in front of him, completed the picture. Lois Jennings and Betty Stimson also assisted in the "demonstration". We thank Miss Wilson for bringing some smiles and laughter to the meeting.

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VISITORS: It is always a pleasure to welcome former residents and long time members of the Society. We refer to Mrs. Frances Landy of Bellevue, Washington, who expects to be in the area until mid-June. She was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Harriet Nolan of N. Tonawanda, who became our most recent adult member.

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FLEA MARKET: A recommendation by the Board of Trustees was approved at the May meeting to allow members of the Society only to have tables in a flea market which will be held on the front lawn of the museum grounds in August. A nominal fee will be charged with date to be announced.

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ATTRACTION: Attendance at the museum continues to hold up well on Sundays, and more requests keep coming in for special visits. Sixteen members of Wilson Girl Scout Troop #116 came to the museum on May 3rd with their leader, Mae Quick. Nettie Stimson let the troop in and served as hostess for the group. On Saturday, May 13th, thirty one ladies from the Y.W.C.A. at Kenmore, N.Y., came by bus, and were extremely pleased with the quilt display and other exhibits. Dorothy Thilk, Sara Berry, Bessie Cole, and Millie Croop served coffee and homemade cookies to the guests who were delighted by their welcome.

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COUNTRY FAIR: Monday, May 29th, is the day selected to hold the annual Wilson Historical Society Fair. The first fair was held in 1973 when it was proposed by the Ways and Means Comm. that the Society should have at least one major fund raising event. The idea took hold, and thanks to everyone's co-operation, the event has grown bigger and better each year.

Being a historical society, Fair Committees repeatedly stressed the importance of encouraging dealers of fine antiques to come and display their wares. The ever increasing number of dealers requesting space has justified the logic of such a policy. Also, each year, blending right in with this theme, has been the great showing of antique cars. And too, weather permitting, the ladies have been encouraged to wear their old fashioned dresses.

Some entertainment has been provided at all fairs, but not so much as to distract from the dealers. Also, knowing that Mom or Pop would like a chance to prowl around or visit by themselves, provisions have been made each year to show free sound movies for the children. A special effort has been made to show quality films through the co-operation & courtesy of our local Wilson Free Library.

Eleanor Myers, General Chrm., has proposed that starting this year a greater emphasis be placed on the "Homecoming theme". Many can recall the "Old Home Weeks" of the 20's that always were so popular. She feels there could be no better time than at the Society's "Country Fair" for old friends and former residents to "Re-unite with Wilsonites". A special display of scrapbooks and old photograph albums under the direction of Dorothy Thilk might well be a focal point for old friends to gather and reminisce. The exhibit will be along the depot's south platform.

The Society also tries to provide an adequate selection of tasty foods featuring those delicious hot dogs, chili, salads, pies, lemonade, fruit drink, coffee and donuts. And then too there is always an ample supply of popcorn, cheese, and Bessie's delicious home made candies.

A flea market tent, souvenir stand, and quilt raffle are also sponsored by the Society as well as balloons and fish pond for the children.

In view of the large number of visitors at the Fair each year, parking would be a problem if it weren't for the special courtesy extended by these following businesses: The Farm and Garden Supply, Pfeiffer's Foods, Ontario Orchards, and Jack Perry.

If the fair is a social success, it's bound to be a financial success, so Come to the Fair--Bring your friends--You'll be glad you did.

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WILSON BUSINESSMEN: Generous support from town of Wilson Businesses has saved the Society hundreds of dollars in advertising costs since the first fair in 1973. This year is no exception. Would you believe that 73 business men and women responded to this year's appeal? Millie Croop personally contacted each of them but is a little concerned that she may have overlooked someone. If such is the case, she offers her apologies.

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WANT TO HELP? Please refer to back of this page for suggestions.

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BON MOT: If it wasn't for the optimist, the pessimist would never know how happy he wasn't.

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MAKE YOUR FAIR A WINNER!

This is how you can help -

FOOD: LOIS BARNUM & GWEN HEIDENFELDT:
PLEASE BRING SALADS; PIES;
SHEET CAKES; BAKED BEANS & COOKIES.

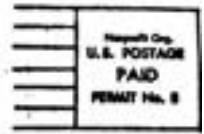
ALBUMS: DOROTHY THILK: OLD SCRAPBOOKS OR
PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS NEEDED.

PLANTS: KAY NESS & JANE MOXHAM: COULD USE
HOUSE PLANTS - POTTED OR HANGING.

CANDY: BESSIE COLE: HOME MADE CANDIES -
BRING YOUR FAVORITE CONFECTION.

FLEA MARKET: LOIS JENNINGS: LEAVE YOUR
FLEAS BEHIND PIANO IN MUSEUM OR CALL
LOIS FOR PICK-UP.

QUILT: NETTIE STIMSON: TRY TO SELL YOUR
BOOKS OF TICKETS BEFORE FAIR.



Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

JULY-AUG. 1978 Vol 7 No. 7
(Coleman Press)

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MRS NANCY KENT, LIBRARIAN
58 LAKE STREET
WILSON, NEWYORK 14172

ABSOLUTE CHARTER: Mr. Richard C. Southard, Attorney, has informed the Wilson Historical Society that the Society's application for an Absolute Charter was approved by the New York State Board of Regents, June 23, 1978. The charter certificate will be prepared and forwarded to Mr. Southard in a few months. The resolution adopted by the Board of Regents is as follows:

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY: An application having been made by and on behalf of the trustees of the Wilson Historical Society, Wilson, that its provisional charter be made absolute, and it appearing that the conditions for an absolute charter have been met, it was

Voted, that the provisional charter of the Wilson Historical Society, located in the town and village of Wilson, county of Niagara, State of New York, which was granted by the Board of Rengents on February 20, 1975, be and the same hereby is made absolute.

The Society appreciates the work done by Mr. Southard in handling this very important step in the growth of the Wilson Historical Society.

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NEW MEMBERS: The Wilson Historical Society warmly welcomes the following new members: Miss Mildred Mudge of Ohio; Dr. and Mrs. Willard Bernhoft of Eggertsville; Harry Rohring of Lockport; Herbert Khaler and Rev. R. Carlton Fausett of Newfane; and Mrs. Florence Gath, Leah and Alanson Bigelow, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Stevens, Raymond Geiser, and Kimberly Hunter--all from Wilson.

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ELECTION RESULTS: At the regular meeting on June 19th, officers and trustees were elected as follows;

President, Dr. John F. Argue; Vice-President, Don Croop; Rec. Secy., Cynthia Wilson; Cor. Secy. Miss Flossie Lortz; and Treasurer, Millie Croop.

Trustees for 3 yrs.(1978-81), Whitney Barnum, Ed Hastings, and Gwen Heidenfeldt. Trustee for 1 yr.(1978-79), Elwin Upton.

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DEDICATION: The Historical Sites Comm, with Dorothy Thilk, Chrm., dedicated a marker at the Reuben Wilson landing site near Maple and Lake Rd., June 19th at 7:00 PM. Nearly 30 persons attended the ceremony which was held in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. White. Whitney Barnum, town supervisor, took charge of the program and introduced Virginia Fittro, direct descendent of Reben Wilson, who spoke briefly. Other prominent guests were Richard Reed, Niag. Co. Historian, and John Krahling, Curator of the Niag. Co. Hist. Society.

The Society is indebted to Joe Higgins who painted the marker and post, and to Lee Farquarson who erected it in the beautiful setting of the White yard.

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THUMBNAIL SKETCH: Daniel W. Carter was born in Wilson in 1882 and lived in the community until the time of his demise, June 17, 1956. Mr. Carter was a well known Maple Rd. farmer for many years. He later moved to the village where he sold baskets and spray materials. He married Alice Bull of East Wilson and they had three children, Janet (Mrs. Roger Jerge), Marjorie, (Mrs. John Williams), and Maxine (Mrs. Donald Tolsma). Daniel sang in the Exley Methodist Church choir for many years and was active in the Masons, Odd Fellows, Woodmen of America, and Wilson School Board.

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FAIR WINNERS: Bob Hartz of Wilson was the winner of the cross stitch quilt raffled off at this year's Fair. Gene Sobolik of Lincoln, Neb., was winner of the 2nd prize, a hand crafted doll house by Art Schnoor.

Lori Myers was this year's winner in the Sr. division of the home made pie contest. Three prizes were awarded in the Junior Div. to Sharon Schotz (1st); Robert Steblein (2nd), and Cathy Steblein (3rd). All contestants can not be winners, but it is agreed that all the pies entered were.

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BON MOT: Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

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NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE TOUR: The bus will leave the depot at 12 Noon for the annual historic tour. Reservations should be made with Lois Barnum right away if you wish to be included. As of this Newsletter, there were still 24 seats available on the bus. Lunch is optional. You may either bring a basket lunch or make reservations with Lois to eat at our destination. As a reminder, bus fare is \$2.00 per person which includes bridge fees. Date--July 16th.

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ANNUAL PICNIC: The annual picnic for families of the Society will be held Sunday, August 6th at 1:00 PM on the museum grounds. Elderly members of the community will again be invited as special guests, so we suggest that everyone bring an extra large dish to pass so that they may be accommodated. Millie Croop, assisted by Dorothy Thilk, will arrange for this year's picnic and notes that everyone should bring their own table service. (chairs optional)

No formal program is planned for our guests since it is felt they welcome this opportunity to visit with old friends, however, Dr. Argue will present a short slide program of Society activities for any who would like to see them.

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FLEA MARKET: A flea market for members of the Wilson Historical Society will be held on Sunday, August 13th, from 11:00 to 5:00 PM. Betty Stimson and Norm MacAskill are in charge of advertising and arrangements, and wish to emphasize that space will be allotted to members of the Society in good standing only. The Board of Trustees approved the idea of having the flea market as a way of saying "thank you" to dealers within our Society who give of their time to make the annual fair a resounding success. Give your name to Betty or Norm if you plan to have a table for this event.

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WESTERN TRIP: Millie and I recently returned home from a four week trip in the "Wild West". Highlights of our journey included a visit to Fort Robinson in Nebraska, a trek over the Big Horn Mts. and visit to Yellowstone Park in Wyoming, a look at the battleground on the Little Big Horn River in Montana where Custer made his last stand, and a visit with our son Howard and family in Rapid City, South Dakota. In view of our extended stay and the summer season, we have decided to have one Newsletter for July and August.

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ACQUISITION: A windmill has been donated to the Wilson Historical Society by Jim Reynolds of Roosevelt Beach. It is dismantled and ready for assembly. Jim will help erect it sometime during August providing we can get a few men to give him a hand.

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NEW RUG: After weeks of searching and comparing, a carpet has been installed in the Patterson Room by Jack Naslund, Hamilton & Clark, Wilson. The rug is a mottled green, and blends well with the walls and furnishings. The rug comm., appointed by the Board of Trustees, was made up of Betty Stimson, Chrm., Lois Barnum, and Lois Jennings.

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COOKBOOK: We believe that many of the best cooks in our area are members of the Wilson Historical Society. That is why we urge you to take a few minutes off to write down your favorite recipes and turn them in to either Nettie Stimson, Lois Barnum, Carole Schnoor, or Christine Goodman. A deadline has been set for August 15th so please hurry.

The committee is also interested in hearing from out-of-State members. It is planned to put the names and addresses of all persons submitting recipes in the book and it would be especially nice to have out-of-towners included. Our away from home members seldom have an opportunity to participate in Society activities, but this is one way you can. Don't delay any longer--put your favorite recipes in an envelope and mail to Nettie Stimson, Lake St., Wilson.

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COUNTRY FAIR: It goes without saying that this year's Country Fair was the most successful to date. Eleanor Myers, General Chrm., wishes to convey her warmest appreciation to all Committee Chrm., and everyone else who helped to bring the Fair to a happy conclusion.

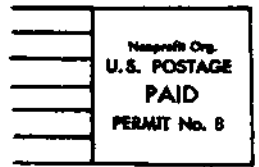
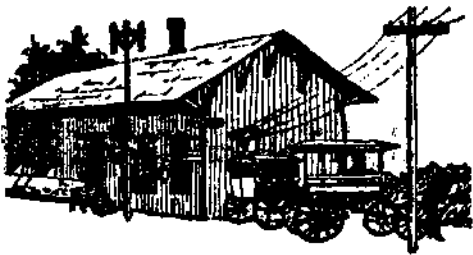
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MUSEUM EXHIBIT: The colored glass exhibit, which started in June, is being held over through July and August. It is probably one of the prettiest displays to date, and everyone is urged to see it. The Society thanks all who loaned pieces for it and Lois Barnum and Lois Jennings are to be congratulated for the tasteful way the glassware was arranged.

There has been some serious discussion about extending the time for monthly exhibits. There is a considerable amount of work involved and it is felt that more people could have an opportunity to enjoy them if they were maintained for a longer period of time.

Eleanor Myers is in charge of preparing two exhibits for the Patterson room. One will be a "primitive" kitchen, and the other an early 1900 model. It is expected to have one completed in July, and possibly both by August 1st.

Hostesses for July and August starting July 9th are: Gwen Heidenfeldt and Betty Stimson; July 16th, Helen Borngraeber; July 23rd, Cynthia Wilson and Marie Getman; July 30th, Margaret and Mabel Wilson. Aug. 6th (Picnic); Aug. 13th, (Flea Market); Aug. 20th Marietta Goodman and Edna Martin; and Aug. 27th, Don and Millie Croop.....HAVE A NICE SUMMER.....



Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

SEPT. Vol 7 No. 8
(Coleman Press)

WILSON PLOW: Many a furrow was turned over on Niagara and Erie Co. farms by a plow that gained fame years ago as the "Wilson Plow". It was produced at the Barnum, Wilson & Co. Foundry in the village where agricultural implements and castings were also made. The foundry was established by David L. Barnum and associates George E. Wilson and Jno. S. Wilson.

Lester Wagner of Sanborn, a cousin of the late Stanley Borngraeber, donated one of these plows to the Wilson museum and it is in fairly good condition. The name, D. L. Barnum, 1856, and Wilson, N.Y. are plainly legible in raised letters.

David L. Barnum was born July 30, 1825 on the family homestead known as "Barnum's Terrace" in the town of Brighton, Monroe Co. His father, Richard Barnum, was born ac. 1789 at Danbury, Conn., and his wife, Electa Lloyd, bore him 5 sons. Her father, David Lloyd, was killed in the War of 1812 and is entombed at Lewiston, N.Y.

David L. Barnum purchased and operated a farm in Wilson for 2 years prior to moving to the village where he opened an iron foundry. He married Elizabeth Dycert, June 16, 1851, and they had 3 sons, David C., who studied law; Charles, who became a book-keeper for the Buffalo Carriage Co.; and John E., who became a ticket agent for the R.W.& C. at the State St. office in Rochester, N.Y.

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SUMMER ACTIVITIES: A special "author's day" was held in June to circulate the Society's latest publication, "Postal Service in the Town of Wilson." Over 40 visitors had the opportunity to purchase booklets personally autographed by Harold Albright, Wilson Postmaster for 21 years. Also present was Wilson's current Postmaster, Mr. Dean Stoberl. Carol Hastings, Cheryl Brown, Helen French, Dorothy Thilk, and Dorothy Linnabery graciously served as hostesses. Cookies and tea were served with Esther Albright and Mrs. Dean Stoberl pouring.

In July, 44 members boarded a bus at the Wilson museum to visit Niagara-on-the-Lake in Canada. A walking tour of the village and visit to the town of Niagara museum was climaxed by a delicious lunch served at Mooradian's Coat of Arms, Lewiston, N.Y.

The annual picnic was held in August with Millie Croop and Dorothy Thilk in charge of arrangements. A committee composed of Lois and Burt Jennings, Carole Schnoor, Garnette and Elwin Upton, and Arthur and Gertrude Schnoor took care of seating, serving, and clean-up. They thank all who pitched in to help out. Sixty two persons attended the picnic including 25 guests. Following a bountiful buffet lunch, Dr. Argue showed slides in the Patterson Room taken at this year's Country Fair. A surprise added attraction was an excellent presentation on Williamsburg, Va. Guests enjoyed renewing old acquaintances and viewing the "Early Settler's" kitchen set up in the museum by Eleanor Myers, Lois Barnum, and Nettie Stimson. Joe Higgins helped out as consultant.

A "first" for the Society was a Flea Market held on the grounds August 13th. The idea originated with the Board of Trustees who felt that since many members had given of their time and talents to make the Country Fair a success they should be recognized with a special day of their own. Only members of the Society were eligible to put up tables with a nominal fee of \$1.00 charged to cover advertising in the Retailer, Pennysaver, and Union Sun and Journal.

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"HANG UP": The fine food and service at Mooradian's Coat of Arms in Lewiston prompted the Argue family to play a return engagement a week later. Glancing about the room, Doc's eyes were drawn to a picture on the wall that looked very much like the Wilson museum. Upon closer examination he was pleased to discover that it was a letter written on Hist. Soc. stationary by Lois Farnum, tour chairman, thanking Mooradian's for their excellent service. The letter had been framed and hung on the wall of the restaurant.

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NOTICE: A "star" by the address label on this newsletter indicates no more copies can be sent to you until your dues are paid.

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POW NCT: Faith is knowing there is an ocean because you have seen a brook.

LAND ACQUIRED: George W. Badger, D.V.M., of Lockport, has donated approximately 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of land west of the museum to the Town of Wilson. The land will greatly expand the area now available for Hist. Soc. activities, and it will be designated as Badger Park.

Dr. Badger, a graduate of Wilson High School and Veterinarian school at Cornell University, married Rosemary Gafney, home economics teacher at the Wilson school. They made their home on Lake St. where the Clark Stimsons now reside. Dr. Badger started practicing his profession at Wilson in 1935 and remained in the village for ten years. They moved to Lockport in 1946 to their present home on Locust Street Extension.

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LIFE MEMBERS: The Society gratefully welcomes the enrollment of John Myers and Eleanor Hinchliffe Myers as the 20th and 21st Life members in the Wilson Hist. Soc. It is also a real pleasure to welcome Laurie Albright, Shadigee Rd., as the newest Junior Member.

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GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: The following persons, for various reasons, have relinquished their offices in the Society. Hopefully, their decision will be temporary and they'll once again join in the responsibility of serving: Rex Stacy, Dorothy Lort, and Berne Kent, trustees; Joe Higgins, Vice-Pres.; Martha MacAskill, Secy.; and Nettie Stimson, Cor. Secy.; also, Dorothy Lort, Genealogical; Winifred Fischer, Refreshments; Ed Peters, Grounds; Nancy Kent, Library; Verna Caufield, Sunday hostesses; and Ernestine Walpole, Ways and Means.

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NEW CHAIRMEN: One of the most important jobs in the Society is the selection of committee chairmen. This responsibility falls on the President. There are presently 19 work areas where it is felt a committee can best function in the interest of the Society. They are as follows: By-Laws, Karl Wright; Caboose, Bob Rose; Fair, Eleanor Myers; Genealogical, Celeste Crawford; Grounds, Elwin Upton; Historic Sites, Dorothy Thilk; Housekeeping, Betty Stimson; Library, Helen French; Membership, Christine Kelman; Museum, Lois Jennings; Planning, Whit Barnum; Program, Norm MacAskill; Publications, Don Croop; Publicity, Dorothy Linnabery; Quilt, Florence Schultz; Refreshments, Marietta Goodman; Sunday Hostesses, Edna Rose (assisted by Lucy Monroe); and Ways and Means, Lois Barnum. Two comm. heads are mandated: Memorial, Treasurer, (Millie Croop); and Acquisitions, Museum Chrm., (Lois Jennings).

If you wish to join a committee, contact any of the above persons. If you have ideas or suggestions that could help the Society--speak up.

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NEW BUILDING??: During the past year there has been some discussion regarding the erection of a steel and concrete building suitable for housing antique cars and other large museum acquisitions. Whit Barnum stated at the August trustee meeting that the Planning Board can not make proposals for erecting a building unless the membership first gives its approval. Consequently it was decided to take a ballot vote at the September 18th regular meeting. If the proposition is passed, the Planning Board will study possible procedures and, as is customary, make its proposals to the Board of Trustees.

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MUSEUM ATTRACTIONS: The special "Early Settler's" kitchen in the Patterson Room will be continued through the months of September and October. The colored glass display will be replaced in September by artifacts donated to the museum in the past. Sunday hostesses announced by Edna Rose are as follows: Sept. 3rd, Bob and Edna Rose; Sept. 10th, Fenton and Bessie Cole; Sept. 17th, Jim and Sharon Monroe; and Sept 24, Art and Gertrude Schnoor.

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FIREMEN RESPOND: The Society got a helping hand from Wilson Volunteer Firemen who moved the extremely heavy train equipment from the museum to the home of Norm Grundhoeffler, Beebe Rd. The job was difficult as one engine alone was 1,000 lbs. The trains were a big attraction for several years, but when the Patterson Room was remodeled, two large engines had to be stored in an area where they could neither be seen nor appreciated. In response to a request by Pres. Argue, Mike Kress enlisted the aid of about 10 husky firemen who donated an evening of their time to move the trains and tracks.

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MEETINGS: Trustees will meet in museum, 8 PM, Wed. evening, September 13th. The regular meeting will convene at 7:30 PM sharp, Monday evening, September 18. Program will be a slide talk on Covered Bridges by Mr. Eugene Sulecki of Rochester. The meeting will follow his presentation since he has to be back in Rochester at 10:30 PM. Refreshment hostesses, according to Marietta Goodman, will be: Edith Diez, Chrm., Helen Borngraeber, and Helen Sayer.

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LOST & FOUND: One stainless steel serving spoon used at picnic. If anyone picked it up by mistake, please call Garnette Upton...also, Florence Schultz has an aluminum pie plate left at the Fair. You may have it by calling her.

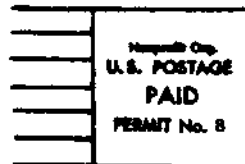
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VISITORS: Ladies of the Niagara Falls Chapter, D.A.R., visited the museum after a picnic at the Thilk cottage. Eleanor Myers hosted the group.

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ACHIEVEMENT: The man who rows the boat generally doesn't have time to rock it.

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Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

OCT. Vol 7 No.9
(Coleman Press)

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

THE 19th INDEPENDENT BATTERY: It has been stated that, per capita, Wilson had more soldiers in the Civil War than any other community in New York. The intriguing story of "Billy Sherman" has focused much of our attention on the 100 men of Battery M, 1st N.Y. Light Artillery. Now, from time to time, we would like to mention some of the 284 men who enlisted from Wilson in other units during the war. One such unit was the 19th Independent Battery, Light Artillery, of the New York Volunteers.

The 19th was recruited from Lockport, Alabama, Porter, and Wilson. It served 3 years from October 27, 1862 until June 13th, 1865, and engaged in some of the severest action of the war. The Battery fought gallantly in the Battle of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House where General Grant succeeded in destroying Lee's offensive power. The 19th also took part in the Siege of Petersburg, Battle of the Crater, and Fall of Petersburg. A member of the 19th, Pvt. W.C. Peck, attributed the Battery with having a superior group of men and exceptionally fine horses. He said the horses were in "tip top" shape because they were cared for by country boys who had "grown up" with horses. Since such was the case they would rather miss their own dinners than allow their horses to suffer hunger.

Twenty men volunteered from Wilson to serve with the 19th including George P. Austin, Charles W. Peebe, Ransom E. Figalow, William Coan, David Frink, John A. Hamblin, Theodore Hayne, James A. Hill, James H. Hotchkin, William H. Hotchkin, Thomas Kelley, Henry Kent, Daniel Lehn, John McCoy, Mark McKenzie, James S. Morrison, William F. Parsons, 2nd Lieut. Gideon Ritchmeyer, Judson Van Marter, and Nimrod White.

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NEW MEMBERS: A word of welcome to former Wilsonite, Mrs. Max (Veronica) Ransom of Los Angeles, California. Veronica joined the Society while visiting the museum recently. It is also a pleasure to welcome our most recent new member, Mrs. Lucille Goodman Schmitt of Marietta, Ohio.

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RAINBOW COUNTRY: From September 30th to October 8th, the first annual "Rainbow Country" trout and salmon derby will be held in Niagara County---and when one talks about fishing, one's thoughts turn to Wilson, N.Y. Big Chinook Salmon, Brown, and Rainbow Trout are moving in now in preparation for fall spawning runs. Salmon up to 32 lbs. have been caught along the Lakeshores, and 10 to 14 pound trout are not uncommon. In 1976, when Wilson's Bicentennial Committee had 8,000 brochures printed describing Wilson as the "Boating and Fishing Paradise" of Niagara County, it wasn't an idle boast but rather a well calculated projection.

Eight new launch ramps have been completed in the area and more are expected. Parking facilities are being readied. It is estimated that 12 million persons are visiting "Rainbow Country" annually. An influx of fishermen in the spring and fall will add to these figures--not only in Niagara County, but in Wilson as well. Many touring and camping families who follow the Niagara Trail like information on local points of interest. This is where our local museum, with its many fine exhibits, can prove to be an added attraction.

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INDIAN ICHE: We recently visited the old G.A.R. museum at Little Valley, N.Y. to see the lifetime collection of Indian relics assembled by the late Eber L. Russell, former historian at Perrysburg, N.Y., and Seneca Indian scholar. His old Indian map, identical to the one in the Patterson Room, is also prominently displayed. There are only a few of these rare maps in existence, but thanks to Bessie Cole, Mr. Russell's daughter, the Wilson museum has one.

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HARVEST FESTIVAL: The Newfane Hist. Soc. will hold a "Harvest Festival", Sunday, Oct 8th from 12 to 5 PM. A variety of activities are planned. Dealers are welcome. Call 778-8286 or 778-9618 for more information.

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BCN MCT: I wondered why somebody didn't do something---then I realized that I am somebody.

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BUILDING CK'D: Following an interesting slide program on the architecture and construction of covered wooden bridges, presented by Mr. Eugene Sulecki of Rochester, the Society took a positive stand on a construction program of its own. With only one negative vote cast, the proposition to erect a new steel and concrete building was approved. It is felt that this will provide much needed space to display antique cars or other items too large for exhibiting in the depot. The matter is now in the hands of the Planning Board and Trustees for implementation.

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REUNION: The 1928 graduation class from Wilson High School recently held their 50th reunion starting with a Punch Party at the home of their advisor, Miss Mabel Wilson. The afternoon was spent reminiscing and looking at old pictures, and the group was treated to a pleasant surprise when friends and neighbors paraded to the scene accompanied by the strains of a tin pan band. A fine dinner followed for members and their spouses at Harding's Restaurant.

Of the 17 graduates, 15 are still living. All class officers attended including Maxine Fitch Gnage, Pres; Mayor Kenneth Welker, Vice-Pres; Carrie Stacy, Secy; and James Gnage, Treasurer. Helen Borngraeber was class Valedictorian, and Betty Jacques was Salutatorian. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Donner of Ithaca, N.Y., and Mr. and Mrs. Harold (Wilma Dunkley) Turner of Muskoka Lake Canada, came the farthest distance. Others attended from Niagara Falls, Youngstown, and Ransomville. Mayor Welker and Helen Borngraeber are the only class members still living in Wilson.

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MUSEUM EXHIBIT: Lois Jennings, Chrm., has announced that the special museum display for October and November will be "Trivets, Teapots, and Tureens." Edna Rose, Sun. Hostess Chrm., has obtained the services of the following members to greet visitors starting October 1st with Edgar and Eloise Culverwell; Oct. 8th, Wirt and Dora Wakeman; Oct. 15th, Harold and Esther Albright; Oct. 22nd, Ted and Mildred Lonsbery; and Oct. 29th, Fred and Sarah Berry.

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PATCH SPREADS WORD: The sale of Hist. Soc. patches prompted a recent letter from Louis K. Wilson of Albany, Ga., who is trying to trace his great grandfather, Jacob Wilson. It seems a friend of Mr. Wilson collects patches and someway acquired a Wilson Hist. Soc. patch. When Mr. Wilson saw Wilson, N.Y. on the patch, he wrote here for information. His letter was referred to Dorothy Thilk, Town Historian, but whether or not Mr. Wilson is successful in his search, it is interesting how he found out about Wilson.

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MEETINGS: The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for 8 PM, Wednesday evening, October 11th at the museum.

The general meeting of the Society promises to be very interesting when Mr. Wendell D. Stratton of Youngstown will be our guest speaker on the subject of "Antique clocks and their care". He is especially interested in clocks with wooden works and will have several for display. Time: Oct. 16th-7:30PM; museum.

Refreshment hostesses for the October meeting will be Dora Wakeman, Esther Albright, and Gerry Swann.

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OPEN HOUSE: The Cambria Hist. Soc. is holding its 7th annual "Pioneer Day" Open House at the Cambria Fire Co. Community Hall, Sunday, October 15th, from 12 Noon to 7PM. Admission is free. A "Country Store" will feature baked goods, sweet cider, fruit, and vegetables. Homeade donuts and candies will also be available. Let's help our friendly southern neighbors.

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WELCOME BACK: Dr. and Mrs. Norman Eick have been spending a few weeks in Wilson. Laura served as the first Secretary of the Wilson Hist. Soc.

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ACQUISITIONS: A late 1800 Rosewood and Mahogany piano (Now setting in the front of the Patterson Room) was donated by Herbert Kahler of Newfane. The piano was once owned by the Elton Haynes family so Herb thought it would be appropriate for it to return to Wilson. The 800 lb. "square grand" piano was made by the F. Pirsson Co. of New York. He also donated a piano roll, Lockport Fibre vase and pail, 1910 twinplex razor blade sharpener, old southern Manru coffee cans sold at Fred Wilson's store; old plane, dusting brush made in China, 1892 candy cutter, early electric flash bulb, 1919 Gillette razor and case, level, two spikes from west pier at Clcott, and a Townsend Banner.

Mr. William Geberli of Rochester has presented the museum with an oil painting of a caboose which he did. Fill has been writing a series on the "Hojack" for the Brockport Post called "Requiem for a Railroad" It features the recollections of 88 yr. old Arthur Schwartz who spent his entire working years on the "Hojack". He worked one time with Mr. Patterson for about 6 months. The articles are being kept in a scrapbook by Millie Croop for the Society.

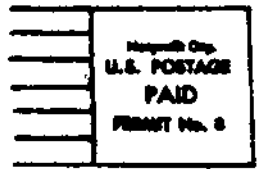
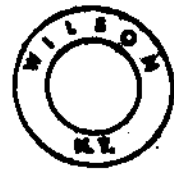
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Branch: Two glass inkwells found in the walls of the old Daniel's Road Schoolhouse.

Miss Mabel Wilson: An 1895 photo of the cobblestone school in the village, also a photo of the old Honeymoon Bridge taken 5 minutes after its collapse.

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LOCKING AHEAD: Eleanor Myers suggests, while doing your fall canning is a good time to "Put one jar aside for the Fair". Jams, jellies, & pickles needed.

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Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

NOV. 1978 Vol 7 No.10
(Coleman Press)

WILSON CENTRAL SCHOOL: The new Wilson High School was built on Lake Street opposite the old Union School with a ground breaking ceremony held in April, 1935. It was built at a cost of approximately \$220,000, and dedication ceremonies were held in the new auditorium about a year later. Prominent guests who participated in the dedication were Miss Gazelle Hoffman, Dist. Supt.; Thomas Marks, Pres. of the School Board; Arthur Blemaster, Principal; Robert Burch, Pres. of the Senior Class; Ora Pettit, representing the Alumni Association; G. Herbert Swick, who read the school history; Mrs. Helen Pettit Swallow, one of the 1st graduates of the Union School; L.H. Bley, Architect; and Dr. Russel Carter, principal speaker.

The school had a combined gymnasium and auditorium, homemaking, agricultural, and commercial departments. Also a library, cafeteria, and inter-com speaking system. Busing of high school students started immediately from rural districts, and in the next few years additions were made to the faculty such as a physical education instructor for girls, industrial arts department, 2nd music teacher for grades and rural schools, full time librarian, and a part time dental hygienist. When the school was centralized in 1941 there was a total enrollment of 770 students, and of this number, 50 were graduated.

The Wilson Central Rural School District was organized June 25, 1941 under Arthur W. Blemaster, Principal. He was the 1st Principal of the centralized district which operated in the Third Supervisory District of Niagara County under M. Gazelle Hoffman, Dist. Supt. of Schools.

As a result of the organization of the central school system, all rural districts in the town of Wilson became part of the new larger district, however, it wasn't until 1955 that all had voted to close. District #2 was later ceded to Newfane and joined the Newfane Rural School system. District #9 of Cambria joined Wilson Central in 1946 and districts #1 and #10 of Cambria joined about the same time.

Districts #5, #6, and #9 of the town of Porter (who had previously joined together to form the Ransomville Union School District), also voted to join Wilson Central in April, 1954. The Ransomville School was built in 1939 and consisted of a modern 6 room brick building used for kindergarten and the 1st eight grades. After joining Wilson, only kindergarten and the first six grades were taught there.

The 1943-44 Wilson Central School Directory of the 3rd Supervisory Dist., listed the following personnel: Miss M. Gazelle Hoffman, Dist. Supt.; Arthur W. Blemaster, Principal; Gloria Shuman, Secy; Wesley Churchill, Vice-Principal; Mrs. Marion E. Schermerhorn; Dorothy Dehn; Mrs. Grace Singer; Mrs. June Casler; Mrs. Maxine Gnage; Mrs. Jean Hill; Mrs. Helen Himley; Mrs. Phyllis Gray; Jerome Klatwitter; Albert Waite; Betty Thom; Edith Swann; Mary Schweitzer; Anthony Barone; Bernard Connors, and Sybil Murdock.

Junior High teachers were Catherine McLellan; Ethel Dikeman; Evelyn Friendly; Mrs. Marion Campbell; and Helen Bolton.

Grade teachers were Lotta E. Coombs, 6th; Anna Hamilton, 5th; Grace Evans, 4th; Almira Burch, 3rd; Ruth Hamblin, 2nd; Mrs. Ernestine Walpole, 1st; and Dorothy Allgeier, 1st. Mrs. Margaret Walker was Cafeteria Director.

Rural schools still operating under the centralized district were taught by Mrs. Mary Callahan, Dist. #2; Mrs. Florence Swick, Dist. #4; Mrs. Marion MacMillian, Dist. #5; Eloise J. Smith, Dist. #6; Helen Stevens, Dist. #8; Louise B. Smith, Dist. #9; Heler Juzwiak, Dist. #10; and E. May Stacy, Dist. #12.

The Wilson Central Rural School Board consisted of Thomas A. Marks, Pres., Earl Brydges, Vice-Pres., Ray Fitch, Oscar Munch, Wirt Wakeman, and James Cornell, Clerk.

In 1945 Mr. L. Ernest Tarr was appointed Principal and during the 20 years that he headed the Wilson School system, facilities were greatly expanded and the population more than tripled. (to be continued)

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IN MEMORIAM: The Society regretfully acknowledges the passing of Richard D. Rutt, 70, a member of the Wilson Society since 1972. The members express their sympathy to his wife Catherine and daughters Amy, Julie, and Mary.

BAKE SALE: Lois Barnum, Chrm. of Ways and Means, has announced that a Bake Sale will be held on Election Day, Nov. 7th, at the Town Hall in Wilson only. It will start at 10:00 AM and members are asked to please furnish pies, cookies, or home-made breads. Anyone in the South Wilson area who would like to bake and have their "goodies" taken to Wilson may do so by bringing them to either the home of Millie Croop or Lois Barnum prior to 10:00 AM, Nov. 7th.

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PIANO NEWS: After Herb Kahler donated the square piano to the museum we discovered that the first square piano was created in 1760 in England by a man named Zumpe. The first piano built in America was made in Philadelphia by John Behrent in 1775. Knee pedals were replaced with foot pedals by Stein in 1789, and the first upright piano was built in Philadelphia by John Hawkins in 1800. We wrote Bob Pierce, "Mr. Piano", of Long Beach, Cal., and enclosed a picture of the museum's square grand. Mr. Pierce replied that he could give us no further information other than A. Pirrson & Co. made pianos on Church St. in New York City in 1829. Apparently we have a rare instrument.

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SHOULD WE DO IT? Karl Wright recently revealed that there is a movement under way in Niagara Co. to pass "Landmark Ordinances" in local communities. Such ordinances have been placed on the books in the Village of Lewiston, Town of Lewiston, and City of Niagara Falls. Directors of the Niagara Hist. Soc. are also pushing for the ordinance to be passed by their town Board.

Briefly, a Landmark Ordinance is a local law passed in a community which seeks to protect historic structures from being demolished or inappropriately altered. After a building is designated as a historic structure by a duly appointed Town Review Board, any demolition or exterior alteration must first be reviewed by that Board before a permit may be issued. In addition to preserving historic landmarks there could be advantages to the owners of such designated structures in the form of possible funding for restoration.

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OTHER SOCIETIES: The Town of Porter Hist. museum is now open Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 at the Village Center in Youngstown. Admission is free.

The 5th annual Harvest Dinner of the Hist. Soc. of North German Settlements of W.N.Y. will be held Sat., Nov. 4th, at St. Peter's Lutheran School, Walmore Rd., from 5 to 6 PM. Dinner will feature fresh pork, turkey, and German desserts. Das ist Gut!

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NICE GOING: The museum grounds have looked real nice this summer thanks to Elwin Upton and his volunteers, and it sure was thoughtful of Tom Sharpe to volunteer to place the rubbish out each Tuesday evening. Perhaps we sound like a broken record on the subject, but it must be emphasized that things are done because of people. Fortunately, people have been the Wilson Society's greatest asset. Our annual Fair has shown what can be accomplished when everyone pitches in, but it is the continual efforts of many people thruout the year that makes the Society a "winner". Florence Schultz and her dedicated quilters have set a record of achievement 2nd to none, and Art Schnoor conscientiously keeps working to improve the appearance of the museum whenever he is able. A few years ago Joe Higgins acquired a rare antique lamp for the old waiting room. Now, thanks to Burt Jennings, it has been beautifully refinished and hung in the main entranceway. Many persons loan items for exhibit and bring them to and from the museum. We are aware of the many hours put in by Lois Jennings, her museum committee and others who have been making the bi-monthly exhibits so worthwhile. But who would see those exhibits if it wasn't for the good publicity in the Union Sun & Journal through correspondent Dorothy Linnabery. And how about a pat on the back to the 100 persons who volunteer each year to keep the museum open Sunday afternoons? Then there are those charming refreshment hostesses who outperform eachother providing homemade delicacies for the monthly meetings. Doc Argue may have you on a diet, but we've noticed he generally isn't too far from the refreshment table. Yes, whether its a hard working library comm. keeping track of donations, or someone installing a sump pump, if we can call the museum a success it is because of the varied combined talents of all members.

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THEY LIKE US: Over 30 members of the Niagara Falls Chapter of the D.A.R. came back to Wilson in October to visit the museum and have lunch at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church. Joe Higgins guided the ladies through the newly improved church facilities, and Dorothy Thilk and Eleanor Myers acted as "bus guides" on a tour of the "Cobblestone Trail" which followed. The group was treated to an "open house" tour of the old William Wilson home, present residence of Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Barnum. The 1861 structure has an "English Cut" facing morticed with limestones.

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NEW MEMBERS: The Wilson Historical Society is very glad to welcome two new members in the Society, Mrs. Beatrice Singer of Texas, and Mr. Norman Pettit of Lockport.

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NOVEMBER MEETINGS: The Trustees will meet at the museum, Wednesday evening, November 15th at 8:00 PM. The regular meeting will be at the museum Monday evening, November 20th at 7:30 PM. The museum committee will meet at the museum Monday, November 27th.

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BON MOT: I never think of the future. It comes soon enough. (Einstein)

**BAIKIE
SAILIE**

ELECTION DAY

NOV. 7

AT

**TOWN HALL
ONLY**

~ PLEASE FURNISH ~

**PIES-CAKES-COOKIES-AND
HOME-MADE BREADS**

10:00 A.M.

10:00 A.M.

CASH DONATIONS FROM OUT-OF-TOWN MEMBERS APPRECIATED.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS: During the past two years some very unique and original hand-made ornaments have been created and presented to the museum by members and friends of the Society. Another contest is planned for this year with a "Do your own thing" theme. Ornaments may be started immediately and left at the museum any Sunday afternoon from two to four up to and including Dec. 10th. The December meeting will feature a "Show and Tell" program in keeping with the Holiday Season. Sounds like a fun night--start planning ahead.

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MUSEUM HOSTESSES: Museum hostesses for Sunday afternoons will be as follows: November 5th, Anna Mae Nevins and Verna Caufield; November 12th, Gerry and Earl Swann; November 19th, Lucy and "Bud" Monroe; and November 26th, Garnette and Elwin Upton.

The special bi-monthly exhibit of "Teapots, Trivets, and Tureens" will continue through November. Please bring cards, ornaments, ceramics, or anything compatible with the Holiday Season prior to the museum committee meeting on Monday, November 27th. If you have any question regarding the "Holiday Season" exhibit, please contact either Lois Jennings or Eleanor Myers.

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PROBLEMS: We understand Bob Rose is "mad as a hornet". Seems he wanted to take advantage of the nice weather and do some more patching on the caboose, however, he had a slight problem. An unfriendly swarm of hornets had set up housekeeping where Bob wanted to work. Apparently the hornets liked the caboose the way it is, and to prove their point, one of them stung Bob on the hand. He counter-attacked by spraying gasoline on the nest and returned the next day figuring the problem was licked. However, the hornets were ready for him, and stung him again on the same hand. Between Elwin's kildeers and Bob's hornets, work at the museum is becoming hazardous. Let's hope Art Schnoor doesn't encounter a family of skunks in the storage room.

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EXTRAVAGANCE: Anything you buy that is of no earthly use to your wife.

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ACQUISITIONS: Maude Hausman has donated a large beautifully framed picture of Lewis Hausman taken during World War I, also silk scarf, miscellaneous War medals and postcards. Of special interest is a brand new cigar and cigarette holder in case, made in Czechoslovakia prior to 1918.

Alice Nelson of Criskany: A scrapbook from Karl Wright's grandmother.
Arlene Karsten: Photo of Peter and Rachel Smoyer in front of their home, also a photo of the old East Wilson Cornet Band.
Ronald Martin: Log hook and chain found in area woods.
John Goodrich: Aerial photo of Wilson shoreline,
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Beyer: Glass bottle marked D.S. McChesney, Wilson, N.Y.
Walter Ganshaw: Clerk's book, School Dist. #13, town of Wilson. Presented to Society on the 160th anniversary of the Town of Wilson.
Louis Tall: Boxed "Handy-Outing Stove".
Millie St.Cyr: Framed picture of old car.
Helen Borngraeber: Metal clothesrack.
Louis Marchetti: Copy of Wilson Star dated July 2, 1896.
Mrs. Arnold Hale: Woven Shawl belonging to Lillie Hale ca. 1900.
Richard Shaw: Bible and family records of the Cushing family of Wilson. Bible was purchased at an auction near Rapids, N.Y.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hurst: 1877 copy of the Holy Bible; 1882 book, "Memorable Events in History of U.S."; and 1905 Ames Dictionary.
Gloria Schneider: Newspaper clippings and copy of 1944 "Wilson World".
Madalyn Thompson: Wedding bonnet used in 1870.
Edith Diez: Doll Cradle made by her grandfather in 1862.
Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Upton: Miniature cranberry and clear urn and pitcher marked "Souvenir of Wilson".
William Rieger: Carpet stretcher.
Helen Borngraeber: One Middleton Drugstore bottle, and two sample bottles of E. Hinchliffe, Wilson.
Maple Rebecca Lodge: Card table covered with store ads.
Maurice Brown: Old framed 1904 railroad map.
C. Ossman: Charcoal drawing and Water color of the Wilson Harbor in 1948.
Verna Caufield: Old Fuller table-crummer and brush combination.
Phyllis McCarthy: Skirt, coat and spats and Quilt made by Anna Gifford, also autograph book that belonged to Nellie Pettit.
Sue McKnight: Two autograph books ca. 1893.
Perry Cuddeback: Mother's scrapbook and 1909 minutes of the P.A.
Thelma George: Books including "Lakes Country" by Arch Merrill.
Newfane Historical Society: Miscellaneous pictures of interest to Wilson.
George Spring, Jr.: Weed Catalogue issued to the Covert Car Co. in 1904.
Phyllis Hurst: Grandmother's cookbook dated 1886.

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MYSTERY SOLVED: In case anyone has been wondering what that large ball shape object is setting on the platform at the north side of the depot you have been looking at the ornamental top of Wilson's first water tower.

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MUSEUM PROGRESS: Recommendations of the Planning Board outlined at an October meeting at the home Of Whitney Barnum, Chrm., have been approved by the Board of Trustees setting into motion several vital construction programs to improve the town's museum facilities. Weather permitting, a 40x60 concrete block building with steel roof will most likely be started when this Newsletter reaches you. Top soil will be removed and the building staked out so that it will stand just west of the present parking lot. Ed Hastings will supervise the project and it is agreed that the finished product will be an attractive and useful addition to museum facilities and activities.

Other plans approved by the Board include removing the large overhead door and ramp at the west end of the depot and residing the door space to recapture the original appearance of the station. A heater in the storage room will tie into the heating ducts in the Patterson Room.

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HISTORICAL NOTE: In the mid 1880's, Wilson was noted for other plows besides those made at the Barnum Foundry. A September 30, 1859 copy of the Lockport Journal and Courier states that the third premium awarded for the plow at the County Fair was presented to Mr. Perrigo of Wilson.

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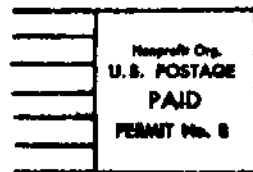
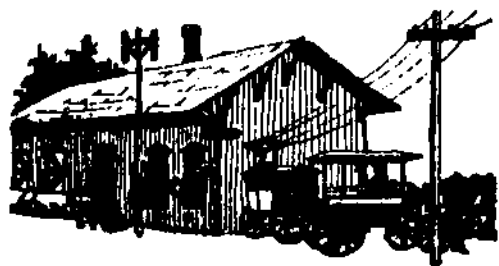
BIG BOOST: In 1973 a decision was made to open the museum to visitors on Sunday afternoons. Since "Chuck" Campbell, former Chrm of the Ways and Means Comm., initiated the idea of placing a glass jar by the entranceway for donations, \$150 per year has been averaged---not counting the many other itens sold such as ceramics, booklets, and other souvenirs.

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PROGRAM HOSTESSES: Marietta has announced that Edna Martin, Marie Luff, and Gertrude Schnoor will be refreshment hostesses for the November 20th meeting. Norm MacAskill, Program Chrm., has announced that Belva Straight of Pendleton will be our guest speaker at the regular meeting, Monday, November 20th. Belva operates the "Trash and Treasures Shop" and will present an interesting dis-course on Josiah Wedgwood and Pottery.

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"OLD TIMER": An "old timer" is a person who remembers when charity was a virtse, not an organization.



Wilson Historical Society

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

NEWSLETTER

DONALD W. CROOP, Editor

DEC. 1972 Vol 7 No.11
(Coleman Press)

THE 28th INFANTRY: Many Wilson men enlisted in the 28th N.Y. Vol. Infantry, and camped and trained at the old Niagara Co. Fair Grounds. When the regiment assembled at Albany, it was comprised of 10 companies from Niagara, Orleans, and Genesee Counties. It served during two critical years of the war and became known as the "hard luck" regiment. In 1862 at the Battle of Cedar Mt., Va., 46% of the men who engaged in combat were lost. At Antietam, another long list of casualties plagued the unit. Four companies were captured at Chancellorsville in 1863 when they refused to give ground to Stonewall Jackson's troops. Many attempts were made to relieve the badly mauled 28th from further battle but to no avail. Wherever they fought, freshly dug graves lined their route up and down the Shenandoah Valley. The regiment started out with 798 officers and men but when they returned to Lockport, May 20, 1863, only 418 remained.

Forty one of the following brave men volunteered from Wilson. How many came back, we do not know: William Adriance, Norman Allen, James Ames, James Baldwin, Charles Baker, Nelson Beebe, Henry Bollow, Benjamin Brown, Henry Cole, Daniel Davis, Samuel Davis, Volney Farley, Francis Flynn, William Gaskill, William Gillingham, Truman Goodenough, Francis Haner, Solander Hayes, James Hill, Jedidiah Hoag, Edward Houghton, John Kempton, Henry King, William Kruske, Joseph Leacount, Skyler MacKenzie, Franklin McKinney, Sylvanus Miner, William Parsons, James Phillips, Perry Putnam, William Ruetz, Edward Rumery, Orrin Salisbury, William Salisbury, Donald Smith, Joshua Smith, Edward St. John, George Swick, and George Young.

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THE 1904 COVERT: Most members of the Society are aware that our recent acquisition, the 1904 Covert Chainless Runabout, was once owned by opera star, James Melton, and that it was purchased from the Ford Museum at Dearborn, Mich. However, the importance of this acquisition was recently emphasized in the Nov/Dec issue of the AAA magazine, "The Motorist", with a two page spread on the car's history by Wally Soderholm, Editor.

The car is believed to be the only one of its kind left in the U.S., and is the first chainless car built in the nation. It was manufactured by Byron V. Covert at his Richmond Ave. plant in Lockport. Some "old timers" may have been acquainted with his son, Klare Covert, who became Director of Public Relations at Harrison Radiator Div. of GMC. The Covert is presently stored where it can not be on exhibit, but this should all change when the Society's new transportation building is completed next spring.

It is an interesting fact that when Covert was building his cars in Lockport, the "Niagara" automobile was being built in Wilson by Stanley Dwight and George Brooks. George and Joe Whiteside worked on the wooden bodies, and Mr. Brooks made the gears and clutches for the rear axle. The "Niagara" sold for about \$250, about \$200 more than the "Covert". Anyone interested in seeing what the "Niagara" looked like may refer to the 1958 Wilson Centennial booklet.

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MUSEUM HOSTESSES: Due to the proximity of Christmas and New Year's Eve, the Museum will be CLOSED Sunday, Dec. 24th, and Sunday, Dec. 31st. Hostesses for Dec. 3rd are Helen Stevens; Dec. 10th, Mrs. Sharpe and son, Tom Sharpe; and Dec. 17th, "Bud" and Lucy Monroe. (Gwenn Heidenfeldt took the Monroe's place on November 19th.).....Anna Mae Nevins and Verna Caufield set a record in Nov., when they greeted three young people from New Zealand. They visited the museum while guests of the Warren Harringtons.....The W.N.Y. Hiking Club once walked to the museum, but perhaps the most unusual visit came while Sara and Fred Berry were present Oct. 29th. Two young men from Rochester used an old Rail Handcar to travel between Somers and Model City. They stopped to look around and Sara fixed them a cup of hot coffee. That's what we call "warm hospitality".

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BAKE SALE: The bake sale on Election Day was a financial success, thanks to all who baked goods and made cash contributions. A special word of thanks to Jim Fleckenstein who donated potted plants, and to Lois Barnum and Nettie Stimson for the time they devoted to it.

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PCN MOT: Well done is better than well said. (Benjamin Franklin)

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MEMBERS HONORED: Dr. John F. Argue was awarded the "President's Citation" last month at the annual convention of the N.Y.S. Medical Society in New York. The award was made possible through the efforts of Mrs. Cheryl Brown who contacted leaders of local government, Church, Fire Companies, Fraternal organizations etc. They in turn wrote letters to the MSSNY who selected Dr. Argue from over 25 nominees throughout the State. Nearly 300 medical delegates gave him a standing ovation when he received the citation.

Gary Fitch, a member of the Society since 1974, was recently installed as President of the International Apple Growers Institute at New Orleans. His parents, Dudley and Elsie Fitch, attended the convention to see their son Honored. The Fitches are descendants of one of Wilson's oldest families.

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GENEALOGICAL CLASS: Elder and Sister Boyd of the Mormon Church are conducting genealogical classes at the Wilson Museum Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 PM. The sessions are free of charge and under the sponsorship of the Wilson Soc. Four meetings are scheduled for Nov. 22nd, and 29th; and Dec. 6th and 13th.

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ACQUISITIONS: Visitors may now see a beautiful roll arm rocker in the Patterson Room which was caned by Mabel Wilson and donated to the Society. The chair originally belonged to Emily Haynes, and is close to 200 years old. It was obtained in 1961 by Mabel from the late Clayton Carlton.

Lucille Schurr, Ransomville: 1 crocheted apron, 3 pair of stockings with back seams, and a felt hat.

De Maison Family: Antique money changer obtained from Suspension St. Station of the "Hojack" with New York Central engraved upon it.

Herbert Kahler, Newfane: "Arthur's Illustrated Home Magazine dated 1873, and 1902 "Proceedings of the Niagara County Board of Supervisors", also a cardboard fan from the Corwin Funeral Home.

Thelma George: Baby shoes believed to have belonged to her mother.

Norman Pettit, Lockport: 1879 picture of the Wilson Womens Christian Temperance Union, Record of Wyllys E. Pettit Regent's exam taken under Principal Hustleby of Wilson, and an 1897 Post Office Registry receipt by James Burgess.

Betty Thorsby Brandt, Newfane: Minutes of School Dist. #16 & #2 (Corner of Ide and Beebe Rds) January 16, 1841 and August 7, 1906.

Mrs. Kenneth Bush, Olcott: Ox Yoke from estate of Silas Noble, Olcott butcher.

Harley (Mabel) Wilson: Cradle Scythe, ca. 150 yrs. old.

Miss Ruby Coates: Water color picture by La Beaum N. Wilson, son of Luther.

Gladys Buckner: Small book of Proverbs dated 1861 Carl gaveto his g.g. grandfather, also small photo of Benjamin Weaver.

Diez Family; Assorted pictures, autograph book belonging to John Diez, and large family Bible incirbed "Mildred Middleton", also two 1883 Gospel Hymnals and 1875 copyrighted issue of book, "Two Paths".

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MEETINGS: Trustees will meet Wed. eve, Dec. 13th, 8:00 PM at museum.

A "Show and Tell" program will be presented at the regular meeting, Monday evening, Dec. 18th, with Norm and Martha in charge. All persons attending are asked to bring a special item in keeping with the Holiday Season. Refreshment hostesses will be Janice Sporleder, Chrm., Kay Ness, and Nancy Kent.

The Museum Comm. will meet Mon., Nov. 27th at 10 AM to dismantle old exhibit and set up new display for December and January. Please pick up your valuables at this time and bring items for "Holiday Season" exhibit. It is also planned to decorate the Christmas tree then with Miss Flossie Lortz in charge. Everyone is invited; and bring old ornaments if you can for a real old-fashioned tree.

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METZ ACQUIRED: Dr. Argue donated his 1907 Metz to the Wilson Hist. Soc. at the November meeting of the Board of Trustees. The gift was unanimously accepted by the Board following a motion by Ed Hastings, seconded by Elwin Upton. The car has been completely renovated and is in mint condition. A recent expert appraisal places a market value of \$27,500 on it.

The Metz was purchased new in 1907 by Dr. Murray Mudge of Hartland who bought it from Hull's of Gasport, distributor of the Metz car at that time. Dr. Mudge drove it until 1920 then sold it to Herbert Smart who kept it for approximately 30 years. Mr. Smart, Francis Brown's step-father, sold the car to Dr. Argue, May 24, 1965. This is the 2nd antique car given the Society by the doctor.

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PERSONALS: Nice hearing from John and Marion Goodrich who are spending a few months with their daughter, Jean, at Chula Vista, California.... Millie Croop, treas., wishes to thank everyone for the cheerful cards and friendly concern following an operation on her feet at Sheridan Park Hospital.

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RACEWAY CAVE: Possibly everyone knows that Lockport's Raceway Cave was invented by Tinsill Holly, the man who originated the idea of pumping water through a tap for domestic use. But we wonder if everyone realizes that the cave is now becoming a major tourist attraction? In addition to an annual Halloween "fright tour", visitors may now take an underground boatripe which is probably the longest in the U.S.

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DECEMBER: Shortly will another year, Pass away and disappear: "Set thine house in order, man," Life is but a fleeting span.

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