

Newsletter of the MASON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Mason, Ohio

and Alverta Green Museum

September 2022

CHEERS TO 60 YEARS!

Mason Football Celebrates a Milestone

Gina Burton Arens, Editor

My sincere thanks to Mike O'Bryant, Dennis Bogan and Ken Case for sharing their memories of Mason football's inaugural year!

It was 60 years ago this month that Mason fielded their first high school football team. It wasn't a particularly successful season, but to the optimistic mind, wins and losses can be measured in a variety of ways.

At the time, televised football was in its infancy. Most boys had seen few if any televised games. They were, as one former player said, "football ignorant." Only a couple of players had ever played organized football and they had transferred to Mason from other schools. Freshman quarterback Tim Lichtenberg, brother of the soon-to-be head coach, had played at Lockland. Freshman Mike Reynolds had moved to Mason from Alaska of all places and played guard. Fellow freshman Mike O'Bryant recalls, "He was tough, and no one wanted to go up against him."

Fresh out of college, 22-year-old Tom Lichtenberg, was hired as a physical education teacher and head coach of Mason's new team. Tom had played fullback for the University of Louisville and had been an All-City player for Lockland High School. Still, he was green and so were almost all of his players. Math teacher, George "Buck" Rogers was Lichtenberg's assistant coach and Lee Carey, the history teacher, was an unpaid assistant. Several parents helped as well.



"Football Field – In future years you will see a lot of action taking place on this field."

– caption from 1962 yearbook.

According to Mike, although most guys on the team were athletic and successful in other sports like baseball, basketball, and track, many had never played football before except pick-up games organized in backyards or at the Meadows Park. Mike went on to say "rules, equipment and other finer points of the game were new to everyone."

Junior tackle Dennis Bogan, said even the uniforms were a puzzle. One player, having worn hip pads backwards, had rubbed his skin raw by the end of practice. The same player thought the tailbone protector was to protect something entirely different and wore it in the front, also suffering chafed skin as a result.

story continues on next page



Front row (l-r): Richard Fox, John Naylor, Ken Case, Don Allen, Cliff Barnwell, Dennis Bogan, Rick Dotson, Bill Sawyer, Jim Hines, Charles Simons

Second row: Hub Wilburn, Leonard McKinney, Guy Popplewell, Tim Lichtenberg, Dave Jayne, John McCurley, Ron Steinhauer, Bob Clinger, Mike Reynolds

Third row: George Rogers, Bill Ferrell, Duane Miller, Barry Case, Glen Lane, Dennis Gill, Steve Hale, Bill Girton, John Hackman, Keith Carter, Jim Lane, Tim Baysore, Steve Migut, Eric Peters, Ken Bauman, Mike Chipman, Mike O'Bryant, Fred Cross, Raymond Williams, Tom Lichtenberg.

Not pictured: Ed Hammock, Robert Fox, Bob Helton, Tom Peters, Tom Steinhauer, Charles Fowler, Bob Grau

The Mason Historical Society and Alverta Green Museum are located in the heart of downtown Mason, Ohio. Established over 40 years ago, the Society's aim is to promote and preserve the history and heritage of Mason.

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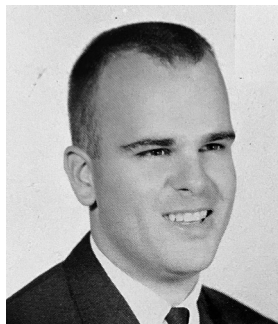
MUSEUM HOURS

The Museum is open from
2-5 pm every Thursday,
and by appointment.

60 Years of Mason Football, cont.

The team, then as today, had “two-a-day” practices; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Apparently, August in 1962 was hotter than ever and the practices were miserable. According to Mike, “the practice jerseys were heavy cotton and unbearably hot.” Helmets couldn’t be removed during practice. And if you needed water... well, you just weren’t tough enough. (Sheesh, anyone hear of dehydration?!)

Mike recalls, one water break per practice was allowed. Before the advent of water bottles, two water buckets would be brought out. One had a tin cup that everyone used by dipping into the bucket. The other had a towel or two and was for wiping off sweat and cooling down. Problem was, before the break was over it often became confusing as to what bucket was for drinking and what bucket was for sweat towels. Guess there was no room to be picky.



Tom Lichtenberg, age 22, was Mason’s first football coach.

Lichtenberg served as offensive coach while Rogers took responsibility for training the defensive players. Junior tackle Ken Case said that was not an easy task. After many attempts to teach the defense plays and formations, Rogers got so frustrated he just threw his hands up and cried, “just go after the guy with the ball!”

Mike recounts, “There was only a small locker room with three showers and tiny lockers, so the

football equipment was kept in the boiler room next door. There was no air conditioning, and little ventilation so the equipment never got dry and seldom got washed.” (I can only imagine the stench!) To get dressed they would change into shorts and t-shirts, retrieve their football equipment from the boiler room and then take it outside to put it on.

Meanwhile, before the season started, the Mason Booster Club agreed to pay over \$2,000 for football uniforms. The Mason Activities Club donated \$632 to pay for helmets. The Booster Club spent the whole summer making a football field on the school grounds with a cindered track on the perimeter. By fall bleachers were built on the east side of the field with a concession stand behind it. According to Ken Case, Mr. Brown the principal, and many teachers, also helped with the physical work to get the field ready for the football season.

The very first varsity football game played was against the Seven Mile Spartans on their field. On Saturday, October 13 the first home game ever played in Mason was with the team from Lebanon. This was a day game with the reserve team as the field did not have lights that first year. Admission was 25¢. The members of the Booster Club served food and realized a total sale of \$700.

The following year, in an incredible display of booster support, 65 charter members co-signed a bank loan for

\$10,000 using their homes as collateral to cover the cost of lights being erected at the football field at William Mason High School. When the school board met in mid-August, they decided to offer \$565 toward the cost of the lights. A dedication for the installation was held on August 24 at the football field. The Booster Club requested that the field be named Dwire Field after long-time coach and athletic director, Walter “Bub” Dwire.

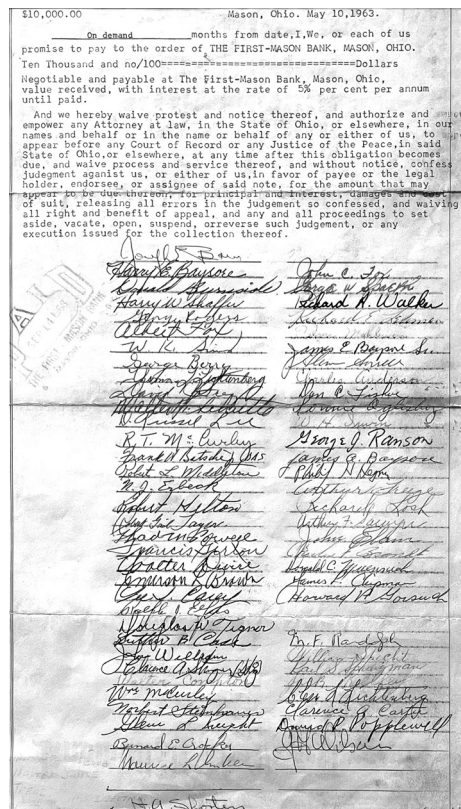
That first season we lost all six of our games. “Hub” Wilburn notably scored the first touchdown for Mason High School. He also scored the first passing touchdown of 75 yards. This remains the second longest touchdown pass in Mason football history. And who scored that third and last touchdown that season? You guessed it—Hub Wilburn.

O’Bryant reflects on the season saying, “When I look back at that year, I realized that we had learned the game and it was a building block for later success. I sometimes wonder how good this team could have been if the upper classmen had the four years of playing and coaching that we freshmen did. I’m confident that players like seniors, “Hub” Wilburn, John McCurley, Leonard McKinney, Dennis Bogan, Cliff Barnwell, Jim Lane, and Ron Steinhauer as well as the junior players would have fielded a formidable team.”

Tom Lichtenberg’s team went on to win the FAVC (Fort Ancient Valley Conference) championship in his 4th season, and two more times during the next four years. During the three titles in a five-year run his teams were 41-7-2. Lichtenberg stayed at Mason for a total of 9 years before launching a coaching career that would take him all over the country including stints at Morehead State, Iowa State, Notre Dame and Ohio State University.

His players at Mason never forgot him though. O’Bryant says he was like a father figure to many, despite his youth. Dennis Bogan said they all looked up to him. He would let you know if you did a good job and come down on you hard when you messed up. He says he never used one word of profanity with the team. His favorite expression was “Gee Whiz!” (with great emphasis I would imagine).

Bogan remembers Lichtenberg calling him when he was having some health issues. He said, “Hey big man, just



Original \$10,000 mortgage note signed by charter members of the Mason Boosters Club in 1963.

Mason Football, cont.

Mike O'Bryant, 1963. "What I remember about that first football team was that I was 14 and as a freshman it seemed like everyone was bigger than me."

remember, tough times don't last, but tough guys do!" Words of encouragement seemed to be his specialty. When being honored at the Mason Athletic Hall of Fame banquet some years ago, Bogan recalls his words, "If you don't like who you are, where you are or what you are, you are the only person who can change that."

When Lichtenberg passed away in



2013, a group of his former players attended his funeral. Lichtenberg had formed an incredible bond with his players for the short time they were together. Lichtenberg liked to win but Bogan said you knew he felt the kids were more important than the winning.

In his final days, those who visited, wrote or called him during his illness were Urban Meyer (Lichtenberg had hired him as a graduate assistant at OSU), Gerry Faust (Lichtenberg was the second coach he hired when he got the Notre Dame job), Steve Loney (former professional football coach, he was hired when Tom was coaching at Morehead State), and his best friend in coaching, former Ohio State coach Earle Bruce. "Lichty" as they called him, had coached, and befriended all these men during his years on the field.

The players, the boosters, and the coaches all deserve our appreciation in establishing the football program in Mason. After all, what would we do on those crisp fall Friday evenings without it?

A TOWER RIDERS FOLLOW UP

by Sally Sherman Caudill

Last month I wrote that all the members of the Tower Riders had passed on. Well, I am very happy to make a correction on that statement.

Ray McKinney, 93, is very much with us and I was able to visit with him a few weeks ago at Chesterwood, where he was recovering from a knee replacement. He's now ready to run a marathon... (no pressure, Ray). His memories of the Tower Rider days are as clear as if they happened last week. He recalls wistfully, "they were quite a group."

Ray grew up on a farm on Butler-Warren Rd. in Turtlecreek Twp. (where he still lives today) and attended Lebanon High School with Stuart Cowan. Stuart lived in Mason but attended Lebanon, and unbelievably, also drove the school bus, which picked up Ray and other area students. (*Don't think you'd see that happen today...*) Stuart would bring Ray to the "Cannery Meeting Place" in the evenings, and that's where he met the other Tower Riders. After the war you had to be on a (very long) list in order to purchase a Harley. Bob Chace had put his name on the list the year before, and when his name came up in 1946, he offered his place in line to Ray, who had no bike. Ray happily took him up on the offer and purchased his first motorcycle, a Harley "panhead" for \$843.

Ray's recalls one pretty unforgettable Tower Rider moment. They were on a ride up in Springfield, Ohio. Traffic was light as the group was riding through town. At one stoplight, everyone lined up. As soon as the light turned green, they all hit their throttles hard and roared ahead. When they got stopped at the next red light, they heard some very loud yelling. Apparently when Dale Tucker took off, his wife flew off the back of the bike and landed on the pavement, where she could still be found, cussing her head off.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Meg Honerlaw Adcock (Brandon, FL) – I want to say "thank you" to Sally Sherman Caudill for the fabulous story about the Tower Riders Motorcycle Club in this month's newsletter! My dad, Ted Honerlaw, was one of the members. I always knew he loved motorcycles, especially Harleys, but I didn't realize he was in a motorcycle club before he and Mom married! There was so much wonderful information in this article that brought joy to my heart. Dad, like Bob Chace, had a love of engines and a God-given gift to fix anything with a motor! He also got his private pilot license which brought him much joy. He had a love for adventure and anything fast, whether it was cars, motorcycles, airplanes, boats, thrilling roller coasters, you name it. Mom told us that back in high school when she told her mother that Ted Honerlaw had asked her out, Grandma (Dot Muennich) said, "I don't know... he's pretty wild!" But I'm so glad they got together!!!

On a side note, the Chaces and the Bowens were also our neighbors on Mason-Montgomery Rd (formerly S. Section) while I lived there growing up. Our home was built in 1957 and our family lived there until we moved to Florida in 1977. The property where the Intermediate School is currently located was the Honerlaw Farm.

The story about Mrs Landen was news to me: I wonder which home she lived in that she could take her baby carriage through the cemetery to Short St, and also had the Westerkamms' field in her backyard? Maybe the one the Chappelle's lived in further south? (*Ed. note: It was the Chappelle's, who bought from the Cammetts in the '60s*)

Another note: in the photo on the bottom of page 4, the last rider furthest away is Dad, there's an empty bike between him and Bob Chace whose rider likely took the picture, Mom told me. She also said Dad worked at the Cannery while in high school!

I look forward to receiving my newsletter each month. Keep up the great work! I learned so much from this story about my Dad's life before he and Mom married. I can't thank you enough!

MASON ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Celebrating 40 Years

Gina Burton Arens, Editor

It was 1980 and the group of Mason alums fondly known as “old Mason” had lost interest in the high school sports programs. In fact, at that time there was a general decline in program support throughout the community. It was a conversation with Mason Athletic Director Bill Apke that prompted Mike Pugh to come up with an idea that would turn things around.

Not long after that conversation Mike attended a “stag” event with his brother-in-law at St. Rita’s Catholic High School in Chicago. It happened to be an Athletic Hall of Fame (HOF) induction. Mike could feel the energy of the room, the camaraderie, the tradition, the excitement that enveloped the crowd and he began to wonder, could this be done in Mason?

Returning to Mason he organized a meeting of a variety of people of all ages who he thought could help him organize such an event. He invited Joe Barr, Tom Barr, Fats Barr, Mickey Barr, Bill Gilbert, George & Dave Ranson, OD Popplewell, Francis Girton, Jack Flaherty, Jim Baysore, Greg Elfers, Jim Fox and oh yeah, his dad, Jack Pugh. He pitched the idea to the group, and they LOVED it!

It took nine months planning before the first annual Mason High Alumni – Boosters Stag Banquet was held on Saturday, April 12th at the Western Row Golf Course clubhouse. Jim Baysore was the manager there and he allowed them to use it for free. Tickets were \$25 and included dinner, a guest speaker, and the induction ceremony. All proceeds benefited the Mason Boosters.

At the first event Bill Apke was the Master of Ceremonies, Tom Lichtenberg, Mason’s first football coach was guest speaker and Walter “Bub” Dwire was the only inductee (posthumously). At the time, Lichtenburg was head coach at Morehead State University. His Uncle, Joe Lichtenberg, had cofounded the Hamilton County Sports Hall of Fame.

Great emphasis was placed on making this a first-class event. With the invaluable assistance of an enthusiastic committee the men would do just that. Mickey Barr served as treasurer and Tom Barr was historian. Others on the committee sold tickets and did whatever they were asked to help make the banquet a success.

During the first years the committee brought in some impressive speakers. They included sports notables such as Joe Nuxall, Oscar Roberson, Bob Huggins, Weeb Eubank and Jerry Faust. Later they relaxed this element, wanting to keep the focus on the inductees and attendees.

The gathering included a “social hour”, followed by a fine steak dinner.

The Ransons owned meat markets and provided the steaks at cost. Yearly attendance averaged around 160. Jim Baysore and Mike Pugh grilled all 160 steaks and two fish. (Jim Fox and Bill ‘Fud’ Fuller didn’t eat meat.) At the end of the evening, they were reported to have been covered with about a quarter inch of grease!

At first only one or two nominees were selected but this eventually grew to seven. Candidates were researched to determine sports achievements and then voted on by the committee. Early on OD Popplewell asked the selection committee to “honor the living”. The quote is important because it drove the early HOF nominations. Currently there are 216 individuals in Mason’s HOF with seven being inducted this year.

Then something unexpected happened. While going about his normal day job, Mike was blind-sided by a group of ladies on a Mason sidewalk, wanting to know why women weren’t included in the HOF banquet. Early on there was an interest in including women’s sports but aside from a brief foray into basketball in the 20’s there were no women’s sports. It wasn’t until 1970 that photos of girls’ sports started to appear in the high school yearbook. After that sidewalk meeting, women began to be included in the event. One of the ladies, Gail Spaeth, said “What you are doing is good for Mason. So, push on as you have.”

Ultimately, what made the banquet so special was the level of pure enjoyment observed amongst the men, especially the “old Mason”. For some of these men, this was the only time all year that they were out socializing and reminiscing with old friends. Some had been through WWII or the Korean War and had much more to discuss beyond high school sports. Yet each year was a reminder of the great guys who were the product of Mason’s athletic program.

Buddy LaRosa's SPORTS By Hank Zureick

WALTER "BUB" DWIRE
NOV. 1917 - MARCH, 1972
WILL BE THE 1ST INDUCTEE INTO MASON HIGH HALL OF FAME (POSTHUMOUSLY)

THE LATE, BELOVED, TALENTED "BUB" DWIRE WILL BE ENSHRINED AT THE FIRST ANNUAL MASON HIGH ALUMNI-BOOSTERS STAG BANQUET, SAT. APRIL 12, 7 P.M. AT WESTERN RUN G.C. CLUBHOUSE - DWIRE WAS OUTSTANDING ATHLETE AT MASON HIGH 1931-35 & WITTENBERG U. GRAD 1940 - HE COACHED HOLLOWAY, OHIO, HI, 1941-43 - THEN IN NAVY 1943-47 - CAME TO MASON HIGH 1948 TO 1972 AS COACH, TEACHER AND A.D.

THE MASON FIELD WAS NAMED "DWIRE FIELD" - BUB'S SONS, DON & JIM WILL ACCEPT PLAQUE & SCHOOL WILL GET ONE ALSO - PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT MASON BOOSTERS - FOR INFO MIKE PUGH 398-3085 - MIKE BARR, 398-8491

TOM LICHTENBERG
MASON HIGH'S FIRST FOOTBALL COACH (1962-70) WILL BE THE MAIN SPEAKER - TOM IS NOW HEAD COACH AT MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

BILL APKE, MASON HIGH A.D. WILL BE M.C.

HANK ZUREICK 1980

Hall of Fame, cont.

The whole affair spurred a renewed interest in Mason Athletics and raised money for the Boosters at the same time. In other words, achieving exactly what Bill Apke had intended for Mike to accomplish in the first place.

At one point during this journey Mike was ready to throw in the towel. It was a demanding task, especially for a young married man with four small children working a full-time job. He wasn't sure how much longer he could carry the torch.

Yet in the midst of his discouragement the voice of reason entered. Jack Flaherty, a huge supporter of the event, said to him, "You have to keep this going. The Mason you see today will not be the Mason you see tomorrow, cause it's going to change."

Mike recently admitted "That was so prophetic because boy did it change!" After a decade or so Pugh passed the baton to Jack Flaherty who had already been a key player in organizing the event. Jack went on to head the HOF committee for a period of time when it was eventually turned over to the Mason High School Athletic Department.

Besides the satisfaction of seeing how much joy the event brought to others, it was moving to see how much induction meant to people. Men have come to tears when offering acceptance speeches. And the fact that people will include this bit of information in their obituaries, demonstrates how important HOF membership was to these individuals.

To me this represents a testament to the everlasting pride of the people who have experienced the honor of Hall of Fame induction. And the eternal personal legacy of being a part of this esteemed group. We congratulate them on 40 years of carrying on this special Mason tradition.

And a special thanks to Mike Pugh who, with the help of many others, brought the Hall of Fame idea to fruition and to Bill Apke who inspired him to do so.

This year's Hall of Fame Induction is held at the Manor House and is scheduled for Thursday, September 1st. The seven inductees include Bill Bothwell '89, Kevin Tymitz '95, Mike Strait '97, James Chilcote '04, Travis Brown '06, Kelsey Flaherty '06, Chase Conn '07. Anyone may attend and should contact Mason High School Athletics for tickets at 513-398-2513.

Editor's note: The Hall of Fame banquet missed two years, one during Covid and one during the transition from the Mason Alumni/Boosters to the Mason High School Athletic Dept, accounting for the extra two years between 1980 and 2022.



Comet Club activities from the 1962 MHS yearbook.

THE TEEN CANTEEN

Mason's Comet Club

Sally Sherman Caudill, Editor

During the war, many cities had "canteens" for soldiers and sailors – a place to dance, eat and forget about the war. Mason in the 1950s, offered very little in the way of recreational facilities for teenagers. Enter the 'teen canteen,' a place where teenagers could feel like grownups.

A student at Mason High School, Ron Melampy, along with his friends, approached Ron's mother about starting a canteen in Mason. Lucille Cox Melampy, a long-time Mason teacher thought it was a wonderful idea, and she and husband, Francis, agreed to see what they could do.

The teens were looking for a place to use on Friday or Saturday night following a basketball game. All agreed that the logical place would be the second floor gymnasium in the Town Hall at Main and N. East Streets (now Two Cities Pizza). They approached village council in the spring of 1954, and were approved to use the space.

The Melampy's knew there needed to be adult supervision, but not so much that it appeared they were controlling. They agreed to be chaperones and enlisted the help of other parents. They called a meeting of interested teenagers to form a council and establish some rules, and the Comet Club was born.



To attend the events, the cost was 25¢ and you needed to be age 14-19, an MHS student, or you had to live in Mason. Alcohol and smoking were strictly prohibited, and once you left you couldn't reenter. As a rule, the students were expected to be well behaved, without any funny business.

The Comet Club would first start with a business meeting. Each year, they would elect officers and the students would discuss matters of interest happening in the school and the community. This was a wonderful indoctrination for students to later join civic service organizations as adults, such as Kiwanis.

Comet Club, cont.

After the business meeting was adjourned, the entertainment began. Some of the kids got a record player, wired it to some speakers, and they would take turns being the DJ. The teens finally had

a place to swing, bop, twist, drink Coca-Cola and stay out of trouble. Nancy Girton Knight recalled, “we would jitterbug our butts off!”

By the mid-1960s, as more students poured into Mason, and cruisin’ and drive-in theaters entered the picture, the Comet Club faded away. It was the right thing at the right time though. Ask any “young-at-heart” student what it was like, and you’ll get a big nostalgic smile, and a lot of great stories.

COMET CLUB
DANCING
RECREATION
REFRESHMENTS
TOWN HALL
2nd and 4th Fridays of each Month

“TALKING TOMBSTONES” CEMETERY WALK TUE. OCTOBER 11TH @ 7 PM

Make plans to attend our annual Rose Hill Cemetery Walk on Tuesday, October 11 at 7 pm. As always, this year’s event will feature fascinating characters from Mason’s history. From our first telephone operator to a Silver Star Mom and her WWII flying ace, we will share the seldom heard stories from our past. The Mason Community Players will return this year, bringing our characters to life.

Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Purchase online: visit masonhistoricalsociety.org
Click the “UPCOMING EVENTS” tab at the top of our home page.

Or in person at the Museum during our open hours on Thursdays from 2-5 pm.

A group for those with mobility issues is available. No pets or costumes. Call or email the Mason Historical Society with any questions. Rain date is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12.
513-398-6750 – mason.oh.historical@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1962 REUNION – 60 YEARS! SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

We are proud to announce that the William Mason High School Class of 1962 will celebrate our 60th Reunion at Warren County Armco Park from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday September 10, 2022. Food and beverages will be provided by the class free of charge. See you there!

Special Guests: Emerson Brown, Del Mahlerwein, Rosalie Brooks Quarry and Phyllis Brandenburg

IN MEMORIAM



The Mason Historical Society recently lost one of its most dedicated volunteers. **Alma M. Federle** (nee Cole), passed away on July 29, 2022 at the age of 91. Alma was born on March 18, 1931, in South Lebanon, Ohio.

Alma is survived by her husband, best friend and soulmate, Al. They were seldom apart throughout their 69 years together. Al was a homebuilder and Alma kept the books for his business. Her warmth and genuine interest in others drew everyone to her. She sparkled with delight and enthusiasm for all life had to offer, enjoying travel, music, pets, and friendship. She was that rare kind of person who could make a friend while waiting for a table at a restaurant... and who better than Alma to be “queen” of her Red Hat Group, the “Red Hot Chicks!”

Her true passion was her family. In addition to Al, she is also survived by her children: Nancy (Mark) Glorius, John (Sherry) Federle, Bill (Sherry) Federle and Mark (Nancy) Federle; 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. They were all very blessed to be touched not only by Alma’s love, but molded by it.

Alma served as president of the Historical Society in 1997 and was curator from 2002-2004. She was instrumental in many projects at the Museum over the years, including, but certainly not limited to: painting, wallpapering, and renovating the kitchen, bedrooms, and front porch. She also organized endless fundraisers, and recruited numerous volunteers.

No one ever saw Alma without her hair impeccably coiffed, a perfectly matched outfit, or lipstick. A few months before Alma died, she and daughter, Nancy were at home and standing in front of a mirror. Alma said, “Nan, I may not be able to do much any more, but at least I’m still cute!” Couldn’t have said it better myself.



We would also like to extend our condolences to the families and friends of the following:

Eileen Mount passed away July 5, 2022 at the age of 89. She was the daughter of the late Ernie and Paula Geckler, and is survived by her husband, Victor Mount. The Mason VFW is named for Eileen’s brother-in-law, WWII hero Robert N. Mount.

Margaret “Peggy” Osborne passed away July 6, 2022 at the age of 60. Peggy was a graduate of the Mason High class of 1980. She was the daughter of the late Earl and Ora Osborne, and is survived by long-time partner, Tom Taylor, and her brothers Bruce and Brent.

Florence “Flo” Kurtz passed away July 9, 2022 at the age of 80. Flo was the long time manager of Mason’s beloved Big Top restaurant.

The Board Report

Jay Meibers, President



ELECTIONS FOR MHS BOARD – NOVEMBER 8TH @ 7 PM

We are only three months away from our Mason Historical Society election in November. Jay Meibers has decided to step down this year, so we are looking for candidates for president. If you would like to discuss the position and all it entails, please leave a message at The Historical Society at 513-398-6750 and Jay will contact you personally. Jay has done an outstanding job as president these past 4 years and says he will continue to be involved in the Society.

For the Mason Historical Society to continue to thrive and survive it is vital that members stay involved in its continued success. Many who started the society in 1979 are no longer with us so it is up to a new generation to continue its mission. We hope you will consider committing to its success by serving on its board.

SHARE YOUR TORNADO STORIES

The Mason Historical Society in conjunction with Jeff Hill Video will be producing a 50th anniversary video about the tornado that hit Mason on April 3, 1974. As part of this activity, we will be setting up interviews with people who have stories to tell about their experiences on that terrifying day. In addition, we are looking for any pictures taken of the tornado and/or damage caused by the tornado. If you are interested in being interviewed or have pictures to share, then please call (513)-398-6750 at the Mason Historical Society and leave a message and we will get back with you to coordinate. Thank you.

Another school year has started as summer starts to fade to our rearview mirror. The colors of fall are already turning orange as the Bengals regular season begins on Sept. 11. Hopefully, they can make it back to the Super Bowl this year and win it all!

Speaking of football, I remember as a kid watching the Mason annual alumni football games. Mason graduates of all ages would play against each other in full pads. There were many young men who had recently graduated and in great shape alongside numerous out of shape older grads looking back to their glory days. As expected, the games were entertaining. However, injuries were common along with heavy breathing and some colorful language!

Things have been busy at the museum. Our open hours attendance has been increasing through the summer with numerous first-time visitors. On Sept. 8, we will be hosting the monthly Kiwanis meeting in our addition. On Sept. 17, we are planning to have a booth for Mason Heritage Days. Our **Talking Tombstones** (Cemetery Walk) program will take place at Rose Hill Cemetery on Oct. 11. Fun times indeed!

Our Fabulous Fall Raffle is off to a great start! Numerous tickets have been purchased and the hopper is beginning to fill up with potential winners. The drawing is not until Nov. 8 so there is still plenty of time to send or bring in in your lucky stubs if you have not done so already. Stay safe & stay well.

THIS MONTH IN MASON HISTORY

Excerpts from *Around Mason, Ohio: A Story*, Rose Marie Springman

1876: Eliza Nixon recorded in her diary that she and Dr. Nixon, who was a councilman, and others from Mason started to the centennial celebration in Philadelphia on September 5 and returned home on September 21.

1883: Mary Jane Fear gave two lectures at Mason on September 6 on the second amendment.

1902: The Western Star newspaper reported on September 18 that “The heirs of W. B. Thompson, who was one of Mason’s most wealthy men, have signed the contract for what will probably be the most costly mausoleum in Warren County. It is located at Rose Hill Cemetery. The mausoleum is to be constructed entirely of Berry Granite and lined with white marble. It will have an appropriate setting, being placed in the center of 12 large lots. Work will begin on the structure in a very short time.”

1909: The Mason Grange membership grew during the year. Among the money raising projects were a winter social, a lawn fete and an oyster supper. Subjects for programs included the merits of the vacuum cleaner and the Easy washer, whether one could be honest and successful too and “Should a Farmer’s Wife Feed the Tramp?” Humor pervaded the meetings with such offerings as Maude Quimby’s September poem entitled “When the Frost Is on the Pumpkin and Your Overcoat’s in Soak.”

1927: The Ohio State Superintendent of High Schools gave a talk on September 23 to the Mason Mothers Club about the importance of motion pictures in the school and urged the women to buy the equipment necessary.

1963: In September the Booster Club members suggested that the new football field at William Mason High School be called Dwire Field.

1990: The College Football Hall of Fame in its last year in Mason before relocating to Memphis, Tennessee, reported an attendance increase over the previous year.

BUSINESS MEMBERS *and* PARTNERS

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Air Authority Heating and Air Conditioning
Al's Heating and Cooling
American Legion, Post 194
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 194
Brunk Excavating, Inc.
Chris Champ – State Farm agent
Jeff Hill Video
Mitsubishi Electric Automotive
People's First Savings Bank
R.E. Middleton Construction LLC
Senour-Flaherty Insurance
Shorten and Ryan Funeral Home
Voorhis, Slone, Welsh and Crossland, Architects
Walldogs – Mason Sign Company
Yost Pharmacy, Inc.

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Artis Senior Living of Mason
Heritage Awards
Lt. Robt. N. Mount V.F.W.
9622 Aux.
Mason Bowl, Inc.
Mason Health Care Center
Minuteman Press of Lebanon
Mueller Funeral Home
Terry's Lawn Care, Inc.
Warren County Historical Society
16 Lots Brewing Co.

PARTNERS

City of Mason
Culver's – Mason
LaRosa's – Mason
Mason City Schools
Mason Community Grange
No.1680
Mason-Deerfield Chamber
Mason Public Library

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to the Mason Historical Society

Greg Bittner

Sarah Frohmiller

Chris Hart

Lisa Niehaus

YOGA AT THE MUSEUM



Every Monday from 7–8 pm. All levels welcome. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat and water. No pre-registration is required, men and women are welcome to attend. Classes are donation-based; with half of all donations going back to the Historical Society. Call Missy Courts at 513-289-3086 with any questions.