CONNECTIONS

Alverta Green Museum
Mason
Historical Society
ESTABLISHED 1979

April 2018

207 W. Church Street Mason, Ohio www.masonhistoricalsociety.org 513.398.6750

Open 1 to 4pm Thursday and Friday; First Saturday of Each Month 10 –1pm, and by appointment

EVENT CALENDAR 2018

APRIL 7– Sat., Mason Empty Bowls Benefit Luncheon at the Mason Grange 11– 2pm

APRIL 7– Museum open 10-1pm

APRIL 17—Tues., 7pm Program at Museum

APRIL 18—Eat at LaRosa's

MAY 5—Sat., Museum Open 10—1pm

May 15—Tues., 7pm Program at Museum "Growing up on Main St."

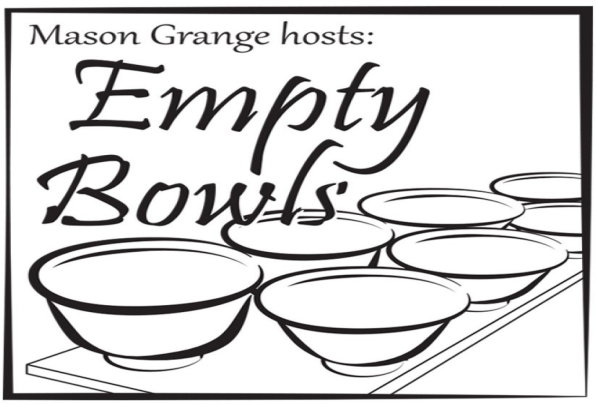
MAY 16—Eat at LaRosa's

JUNE 19– Ice Cream Social / Baked Goods Auction on museum grounds

APRIL'S PROGRAM

We are very excited to announce that The Cincinnati Art Museum will be doing our program in April at the museum! Tuesday, April 17th at 7pm they will do a program called "The Art of Cincinnati". "Celebrate Cincinnati's rich cultural heritage with this presentation of art from Cincinnati, including works by artists such as John Henry Twachtman, Frank Duveneck, Edward Potthast, Robert Duncanson, Rookwood potters, and more!"

A MASON COMMUNITY GRANGE EVENT



A luncheon benefitting The Lebanon Food Pantry & Little Miami Food Service

Help fight food insecurity in our area. Fill your bowl with soup and someone else's kitchen with food.

ONLY 400 TICKETS AVAILABLE!

SAT. APRIL 7, 2018 • 11:00AM -2:00PM

MASON GRANGE HALL

209 N. MASON-MONTGOMERY RD • MASON, OH

Free parking in the city's lot across from Mason Grange Hall. Hall is not wheelchair accessible.

★ Featuring contributions from area chefs & artists ★

Select a handcrafted ceramic bowl to take home from hundreds of pieces created by local potters, artisans and students, then dine on your choice of soups, bread and desserts.

A Month at the Museum April

By *Gay McCurley*

Reminder-April 30th is the deadline for brick orders so if you are interested get your order in now for the install of May.

The Mason High School art show was a great event, if you missed it maybe catch it next time. This month we also had a tour group from the Greenbrier Women's Club. Their guide for the evening was Perry Denehy who also volunteers on most Thursdays and serves as a trustee on the board. The ladies met for dinner before their tour. Thank you for visiting us.

THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW……

We will be celebrating our 40th year as the Mason Historical Society soon. The society was formed in 1979 and to quote Grace Campbell the president in 1980, "Our main goal for this year is to find a home for the historical society." Mrs. Campbell also said, "To implement this we will have a fund-raising campaign." She asked David Batsche to head it up and he accepted. Mrs. Campbell noted that having a place would provide a focal point for activities and provide a location for displays of historical items that had been donated to the society.

President Grace Campbell and David Batsche indicated that if the society can get a home donated that increases the likelihood that Mason-area residents will donate historical items knowing there will be a permanent place to display them.

To quote the Western Star Sept.30,1980, "The society being less than two years old has limited finances and obviously would appreciate having a building donated." Ask yourself, could Alverta Green have seen these articles in 1980 and got her idea for the donation of 207 W. Church St., her home, to the Mason Historical Society to become the Alverta Green Museum?

Chuck Beatty is now president in Sept. 1981 and to quote Mr. Beatty "the purchase of a building is a major decision which will affect the operations of the Mason Historical Society many years ." Mr. Beatty pointed out the board will not proceed unless a majority of the membership favors a go ahead.

In his written report, Beatty suggested that the society should be able to raise the money required to buy the old Anderson Hardware building on Main St. downtown. Mr. Beatty announced a slow economy and the fact that the society is less than three years old may be a negative for a purchase. Sad news comes in Oct. 1981 when the society has voted against the purchase. Of 89 members submitting ballots 61 expressed a preference for making no purchase at this time. There were 24 ballots favoring the purchase of the old hardware building and four in favor of buying the old hotel.

The need for a space was a full time thought for the society they had no home, some meetings were held in Mason's courtroom, Mason Public Library, and Mason Presbyterian Church on Forest Ave. So in 2018 we can breathe easy with our beautiful donated Alverta Green Museum. Our State Grant gave us the great room we enjoy today as you can see it took seven years until the house was deeded to the Mason Historical Society by Alverta Green and we will be forever grateful. Stop in for a visit at Mason's best kept secret.

IN

2019

My Boyhood Shopping Memories Of Mason, Ohio, By *Perry Denehy*

I had the distinct pleasure of growing up in the Village of Mason in the mid 60's. I can remember coming down State Route 42 (Main Street) and seeing men with beards and tall hats and women in pioneer dresses. We were moving in to town during the 1965 Mason Sesquicentennial celebration. I was a little worried because there was a jail and stockade uptown and horse and buggies everywhere. Where had my parents moved us?

Fortunately, my father had earlier accepted a job offer to be the guidance counselor at William Mason High School in 1964. My mother was an elementary school teacher and began at Mason Central and later at Morrow Elementary throughout her career. So the Denehy family, Joe, Betty, Pat, Perry and later Kyle began our time living in such a great community. I had a lot to prepare for as I would be entering morning kindergarten with Mrs. Palmer at Mason Central in the fall. Mason schools were feeling the effects of the baby boomer generation as a new elementary school was being built known as Mason Heights. I along with other first grade members of the class of 1979 opened up the new building. This would be easy walking distance from our new home on Monte Drive. Diane Ransom was my morning babysitter at her home until the Heights building opened in the morning.

So, what exactly is high on the priority list for a seven-year-old growing up in a small town? I believe my brother and I had negotiated with our parents to receive one dollar as a weekly allowance. This was usually transacted on Saturdays after our cleaning chores had been completed. Other than some birthday money, the only other source of income was returning glass pop bottles for the 5-cent deposit. A simple walk up Kings Mills Rd. to the Mason Heights Superette would usually land us enough bottles to buy some candy and maybe a balsam wood airplane kit. This store would also carry some smoke bombs and sparklers around the fourth of July. A trip to the Pine Hill swimming pool might also include picking up some snacks if you didn't like the selection at the pool concession stand. Boston Baked Beans or Chick-o-Sticks were my favorite. Wearing some wax lips or nose might also get some looks while hanging out poolside. I recall a first-grade field trip when I guess the whole school walked to Conover's Dairy Whip uptown. For some reason I wore a white collared shirt that day. My mother wasn't too happy to see me after school as I had a nose bleed earlier in the day and chocolate soft serve ice cream has a way of melting quickly in the May sun. I was probably a walking commercial for Tide or Biz detergent.

Where else was our meager contribution to the local economy spent? No trip to the IGA Foodliner was complete without visiting the Ben Franklin variety store next door. With a large toy section, comic books and an abundant candy aisle, this was my favorite store in town. Yost Pharmacy was much smaller than what we now have today. I do recall the Matchbox car oval display case. After seeing what your selection's number was, you hoped that the clerk could find it in the back-storage room. Yost also had a good supply of models and balsam wood airplanes. Summer needs of squirt guns, bubble soap, and kites also made a shopping trip worthwhile. One of the most unusual stores in town was Railroad Salvage. At the time, I believed that freight cars from the nearby tracks actually stopped and unloaded their wares into to the jam-packed business. The shelves and aisles were always bulging with merchandise of all types. I remember that it had everything from hardware to toys and food. I don't think that my mom did her grocery shopping there on a regular basis. It was probably an early version of Dollar General. The candy variety was plentiful at RR Salvage and available for bulk purchase. Some packages did appear damaged to confirm my belief that some railroad attendant had dropped the case somewhere along the delivery route. I probably wasn't that worried about price shopping at that time. Whatever looked like the tastiest affordable assortment was the objective of the visit. Dad didn't seem to mind where we shopped for candy or toys, but he held firm on ice cream. A United Dairy Farmer's chocolate malt or hot fudge sundae was non-negotiable. Back then, there were no gas pumps at the UDFs. You bought dairy products, bread and ice cream. By the time that I reached high school and had the chance to get a driver's license and a part time job, expenses had also increased. The simpler days of youth were being replaced with responsibilities and bills. Unavoidable I guess for everyone growing up in a small town. Although my savings account at the First Mason Bank never reached four figures, I did contribute to the local economy what I could. Maybe in a future article I can review the Mason restaurants that I recall similar to Drive-ins, Dives and Diners. I believe that Mason had all three.

Competition (2018 Style)

By Dave Anderson

The true method of winning any competition is to create a balanced team. It doesn't matter if it is sports, business, auto racing or TRIVIA. The Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) is an organization of historical societies, museums and libraries in Warren and Clinton counties and had challenged its members to a Trivia contest.

Our president Jerry, put together one heck of a team to meet this challenge at the Valley Vineyards in Morrow on Sunday afternoon, February 25. Like any good manager Jerry picked his team and then sat on the sidelines and watched us work. For those of you who do not play Trivia the trick is to get a wide range of expertise. Jerry chose an all male team as we men seem to have a lot of useless facts cluttering up our brains or maybe that was all he could find to play on a Sunday afternoon.

First you need a couple of "old" guys to cover the olden days (that was Lee and I). Then a couple of "middle age" that would be Kenny, Boyd and Dean and then you round it out with a "Kid" (that would be Carter). The real ringer was Carter as he is an honor student (Junior) at Mason High.

The competition varied with seven teams and the team sizes were from four to eight members. We were the "Mason Jars" and another Mason team was the "Mason VEBB". There was the usual "trash" talking among teams prior to settling down for the competition.

The game was simple with six rounds of three questions each with four bonus questions. There was a half time question and then a final question at the end. You could assign points to your answer (higher as you felt more confident). It sounds more complicated than it actually was. Categories ranged from animals to fashion, jewelry, games, cartoon characters and high tech. Sometimes there was great debates and other times we only had one answer at the table.

For the first half we answered every question correctly and had the closest answer to the bonus questions. We got the halftime question and only missed two in the second half and correctly got the final question. We smoked the competition with 91 points out of a possible 100. The second place team had 74 or 75 points and we will not name the last place team. The first prize of $75.00 we won went to the Mason Historical Society.

Maybe we didn't indulge in as much wine as the other teams, but I really think we just had a good team for the questions that were asked.

The "Mason Jars"; Dave Anderson, Lee Hamilton, Carter Patton, Boyd Patton Dean Mullins & Ken Thompson.

Previously Printed In Connections

Tuesday, February 05, 2013 By *Chuck York*

Part One

At the nagging of our dearly loved and much appreciated Connections editor, I decided to put a few words on paper which might give our readers a snippet of my life in Mason. From my early years of 1943 to 1951 spent primarily down in "The East End", and then my later years of 1951 to 1964 following our move "Uptown" to our home behind the body shop. Also, possibly adding a few anecdotes to the many things written about the school years of 1948 to 1961 at good ole Mason School and William Mason High School which hold so many memories and afforded so many relationships and opportunities, some taken, some missed, but most remembered.

Actually, I have thought many times of putting down some thoughts, experiences, observations, or just tell some tales, but I didn't want to be a "Rat Fink". Every time I would think of something that would make me grin (or shudder) I would reconsider, thinking maybe that was a situation "where you would have had to been there" to appreciate it, or perhaps it would have involved someone else who would have preferred I not share it.

The thought and realization that brought me to this point of sitting down in front of the old typewriter, (excuse me, I mean my HP multi-cored processor powered, giga memoried, terabyte storing, cloud bursting word processor), is that the people of our generation have been so very blessed with living in the most incredible and perfect timeframe in the history of this country and the world.

The years on East Main were all fluff; what could be better than having that little part of the village raising a child (Hillary must have been watching). The reality was, that this little area of the village raised all of us kids, we only went home for dinner and to sleep at night, the rest of the time we were being exposed to, and molded by, the best of all cultures, family values, family strengths, family struggles, family and individual talents and so on. We had a mom within shouting distance of anywhere we were and it didn't matter much who's it was because they were all tuned into our safety and happiness.

Life was a little different uptown, still safe and protected, yet different in the pace of things. Although it was just a couple of blocks away from our earlier home in the "East End", this was the business center of the village and an area where neighbors were more transient. My hangouts in the East End were "Dead Man's Cliff", the fishing pond where me and one of my best buds spent so much time, the Walkers' huge side yard and the "Trestle" (part of the Interurban Railway by the way). "Uptown", the focus changed to the creek behind the old hotel, the railroad trestle and the track between the Mason Dump, where another best bud and I would shoot rats and crows for entertainment, and Mason School. Also, a tavern because a playmate lived in an attached residence, a variety store because a playmate lived in an attached residence, a grocery store because a playmates family lived in the other end of town, yet both parents spent long hours there serving their community.

I lived across the street from one of Mason's youngest entrepreneurs and the founder of the first local newspaper to my knowledge, "The Mason Tribune", the first and only local circus to my knowledge, and the first mobile hot dog stand to grace our streets and corners. This person could throw a rock further than anyone I knew, which usually landed on the metal roof of the variety store.

As a result, one my best buddies' mom would expose me to new words, expletives that I could add to my vocabulary. He could run faster than anyone on our track team although he had no interest in organized sports, could type at speeds that would challenge the design of the typewriter and play the piano beautifully having never had a lesson. He amazed this young lad in so many ways.

I did have a link between my two stomping grounds, my first childhood girlfriend's dad owned the Dream Theater. They lived down on East Main and the theater was next door to York Body Shop and our home behind it. She was cute and adorable, plus she had access to the key to the popcorn machine. Does anyone remember that amazing machine located on the right side of the lobby? You would insert a dime and it would come to life whirring and heat a bag of popcorn just for you. I miss them both.

Crosley Field Remembered, By *Dave Anderson*

Tuesday night the Mason Historical Society hosted Mr. Bill Frank, a docent at the Cincinnati Museum Center, who presented "Crosley Field Remembered". As you would expect we had a mainly male audience.

Bill started with a history of baseball, baseball's first professional ball team (the Reds) and the long-standing rivalry between the Reds and the Dodgers. The first games were played on a field where the fountain is today in front of Union Terminal. In 1909 the Reds averaged 5,515 fans per game in a ball-park that held only 6,000. The Reds had clearly outgrown the Palace of the Fans. Immediately after the 1911 season ended, construction crews tore down the wooden Palace of the Fans, and cleared the site in only 15 days. Five months and $400,000 later, Redland Field greeted the fans. The crowds some-times got quite rowdy. Somehow beer was involved and at times the game would pause to watch the fights in the stands. The owner of the team had lost his fortune in the Depression and Powel Crosley bought the team and the stadium for $500,000.

Crosley spent $50,000 installing more than six hundred 1,500-watt bulbs atop eight light towers scat-tered around Crosley Field. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a telegraph key in the White House on the evening of May 24, 1935, the lights lit up Crosley Field like a heavenly host of angels. The Reds won the game. In spite of its obvious success in Cincinnati, it took more than a decade for the other teams to follow suit. The Chicago Cubs held out until 1988.

In January 1937 the flood-prone Mill Creek once again spread its liquid bounty throughout Cincinnati's West End neighborhood. The water level over the field eventually reached 21 feet. Matty Schwab (grounds keeper) and two Reds pitchers rowed a boat onto the field right over the center-field wall.

The Cincinnati Tigers of the Negro American League shared Crosley Field with the Reds in 1936 and 1937. They also used the discarded uniforms worn by the Reds in prior seasons.

World War II decimated major-league rosters and all teams were searching for replacement players wherever they could find them. The Reds found 15-year-old Joe Nuxhall in nearby Hamilton, Ohio. On June 10, 1944, Nuxhall became the youngest player to ever appear in a major-league game. His reac-tion: "I was pitching against seventh-, eighth-, and ninth-graders, kids 13 and 14 years old. ... All of a sudden, I look up and there's Musial and the likes. It was a very scary situation. … Holy smoke, I'm in trouble now." For most of the ballpark's history, the Superior Towel and Linen Service building formed the backdrop for left field. A huge advertising sign crowned the top of the building. Siebler Suits rented the right side of the sign, declaring, "Hit this sign – win a suit." Wally Post was the best-dressed ball-player in Cincinnati. He hit the sign 11 times. Willie Mays 9 times.

The Reds played their last game at Crosley Field against the San Francisco Giants on June 24, 1970. With his team behind 4-3 in the bottom of the eighth inning, Johnny Bench hit a game-tying home run and Lee May followed with a game-winning homer. The Reds won their first and last games at Crosley Field. In between, they lost a few.

Great News For A Student Volunteer!

Soumya Jaiswal a 16-year-old Mason High School student and one of our student volunteers earned a perfect score of 36 her first time taking the ACT exam. Soumya is now part of a small but impressive group of students. Less than 0.1% of students nationally achieve a perfect score on the exam.

At MHS she is active with the Spanish National Honor Society, National Honor Society Drama Club, Mason Inclusion Club, and is a reviewer for the Cappies. She also volunteers at the Alverta Green Museum and has been working on our website with other student volunteers.

We congratulate Soumya on this outstanding achievement!

Mason Through The Years

The Deerfield Township clerk noted on February 10,1900 that there was "no meeting this month because our President, W.H. Williamson, was just married and the other two members did not wish to call him away from his bride to attend to public business."

On September 26, 1908 a local option election was held in all of Warren County resulting in the county being voted dry by about 130 votes. In Deerfield Township the vote was 338 to 323 to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor. That was ~11% of the votes against by just one of the 11 townships in the county.

In 1934 after the Mason School auditorium (which was on the 2nd floor of the school building) was made into two classrooms, the school superintendent found some way to get his athletic students to Otterbein Home north of Mason for practice and games. The Otterbein Home Athletic Association was paid $26.00 by the local school board for each of the two years until Mason's new gymnasium was opened in 1936. By *Ken Thompson*
From*, Around Mason, Ohio:*
A Story by Rose Marie Springman

Fun Historical Facts

April 23, 1968
Surgeons at the Hôpital de la Pitié, Paris, perform Europe's first heart transplant. It was December 3, 1967, when Dr. Christiaan Barnard performed the world's first human to human heart transplant in Cape Town, South Africa.

Historical Walking Tour of Mason

We are hoping April's weather will cooperate with us and allow us to begin offering guided walking tours of Mason.
Because of previous commitments our Historian, Ken Thompson, will not be available for two Saturdays in April. There will be no guided tours April 7th or April 28th. Anyone can do the walking tour of Mason without a guide. A guide and map is available in front of the museum and at the Mason Library, 200 Reading Road.
Ken will be leading a tour April 14th. Call the museum at (513) 398-6750 or email us at mason.oh.historical@gmail.com if you would plan to attend. Rain date will be April 21.
Great opportunity to learn about Masons past.

Get Better Soon !

Our "Sunshine Lady", Freddie Grisham, is recuperating from a broken femur.

Janet Hamilton, another member and volunteer, is undergoing rehab after having a knee replacement.

We send both of you well wishes and more towards a complete recovery. Hang in there Freddie and Janet!

Note From the Editor

Remember this is your newsletter. If you have any contributions or suggestions for making the newsletter better I'm easy to reach. Contact me at

513-398-6750

www.mason.oh.historical@gmail.com

513-850-3780

deniselandise@yahoo.com

Remember the things that happen today, no matter how small, are tomorrow's history.

Thank you.
Denise

2018 MEMBERSHIP FORM … MASON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Please make your check payable to the Mason Historical Society and mail with this form to the address below.

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Mason, OH 45040-1607
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The Mason Historical Society is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, as defined under the Internal Revenue Code.
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* * * *

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June 2 – Museum Open 10 – 1

June 19 – Annual Ice Cream Social / Baked Goods Auction 6:00PM (Programs @ Museum Begin at 7PM)

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