CONNECTIONS

June 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

JUNE 1-Music In Mason. (We will have a booth there.)

June 2– Sat., Museum Open 10-1pm

JUNE 4, 11, 18 & 25-Yoga 7pm

JUNE 19- Annual Ice Cream Social/Baked Goods Auction 6pm On Museum Grounds

JUNE 20-Eat at LaRosa's; Take a Flyer

EVENT CALENDAR 2018

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30-YOGA

July 7-Sat., Museum Open 10-1pm

July 17-Program-Amusement Parks, Presented by Cincinnati Museum Center

July 18-Eat at LaRosa's; Take a Flyer

August 4-Sat., Museum Open 10-1pm

August 6, 13, 21-YOGA

August 15-Eat at LaRosa's; Take a Flyer

Annual Traditional
Ice Cream Social & Baked Goods Auction
Featuring Local Auctioneer, Mr. Gene Steiner
Join Us Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 6pm
207 West Church Street, On The Museum Grounds
Please donate Baked Goods To Eat & Auction
Baked Goods Can Be Dropped Off At The Museum
Starting at Noon
If You're Unable To Bring Your Baked Goods To The Museum
Call Us And We Will Pick Them Up
Please email us or leave a phone message to donate any Baked Goods
www.masonhistoricalsociety.org /513-398-6750

A MONTH AT THE MUSEUM

By Gay McCurley

May has had a variety of activities going from scouts to seniors. In case you didn't know Perry Denehy, Ken Thompson and Dave Anderson go out into the community and represent the Mason Historical Society with a number of programs. Dave has spoken on the Sears homes in Mason. You would be surprised as to the number that had been built. Perry did a slide presentation for the residents at Artis Senior Living of Mason. Twenty residents enjoyed the program "All about Mason" even though most were transplants from other communities. Ken spoke at the Bridge in the Community Center to a hand full of members on the topic "All about Mason". Two different men, two different views of the same subject. How funny.

Perry hosted Cub Scout Pack #323 with 9 boys and 4 adults who toured the museum with much interest in the "old stuff". We do enjoy when young people come to our house. So not to be left out Ken had a group of girl scouts come for a visit. They also had 9 girls 3 adults and 1 leader they were very interested in many items on display with our William Mason in uniform being one of their favorites.

A new acquisition just arrived to the museum from Noble Johnston. Anyone who remembers the Dream Theater building may notice that on the very top of the building there were cement balls (5 to be exact). Since the building was raised in 1974 only photographs remain showing the decorations atop of the roof. We now have one of these in our museum alongside our Dream Theater exhibit.

We are working very hard to pull together all the strings it takes for our "Annual Ice Cream Social" here on the Museum grounds June 19th at 6:00P.M. We sure are looking forward to seeing as many members and friends under the tent eating Culvers Custard listening to music and bidding on as many baked goods as you can carry home. Last year we even remembered our pets with homemade dog biscuits for the first time. Don't forget to donate, spend , eat and have fun.

Members browsing items to be auctioned and selecting their bids.

For the 1st time even our pets were thought of! These home made dog biscuits FETCHED $75.00!!!

Growing Up On Main Street

By Dave Anderson

On Tuesday May 15th the Mason Historical Society program was given by Ken Thompson and Susan Thompson Jackson telling us about "Growing Up on Main Street". The 50's were amazing times to be a kid in Mason. Ken and Susan lived in a house next door to Thompson's Western Auto Hardware store on East Main Street in Mason. The program started with a picture of two little children standing on the sidewalk in front of their house and a statement that was a sign of the times. "We never thought about going in the street and no one even thought we would go into the street".

This was before Interstate 75 or 71 and Route 42 (Main Street) in Mason was one of the main routes from Cincinnati to Columbus. Big trucks came through town all day long and you could always tell when the Reds had a game as a solid stream of traffic before and after each game came through town. Ken and Susan talked about how with no air conditioning everyone in the summer had their windows open, but no one seemed to hear the traffic noise. Susan said someone missed the corner and ran their car into their porch at 3 in the morning and although her bedroom was in front, she slept through the fire engines, police and fixing of electric lines.

They talked about the Dream Theater being across the street and how they could watch the kids line up waiting to get in. Ken said once while watching a scary 50's horror movie he said he thought he could just run out, cross the street, go up to his room and hide under the covers. A big laugh was had when they mentioned Clyde Humphrey and his daughter keeping discipline in the theater by walking the aisle with a flashlight.

Susan talked about the Mason bike park (better known as Rose Hill) where you could ride your bike or walk your dog on South Mason Montgomery Rd (better known as Cemetery Rd). Susan liked to show her friends her grave stone in the cemetery as she found a relative with her exact name in Rose Hill.

Times were different back then as their parents would give them a note for groceries and they would walk to McClung's Market where the grocer would gather the items and then deliver them to the house. The children never handled any money. Not that the children couldn't handle money as they often walked up to the bank and brought home $50-$100 dollars in change for the store. Who today would give an 8-year-old money or trust them to walk down Main Street with a bank bag full of money?

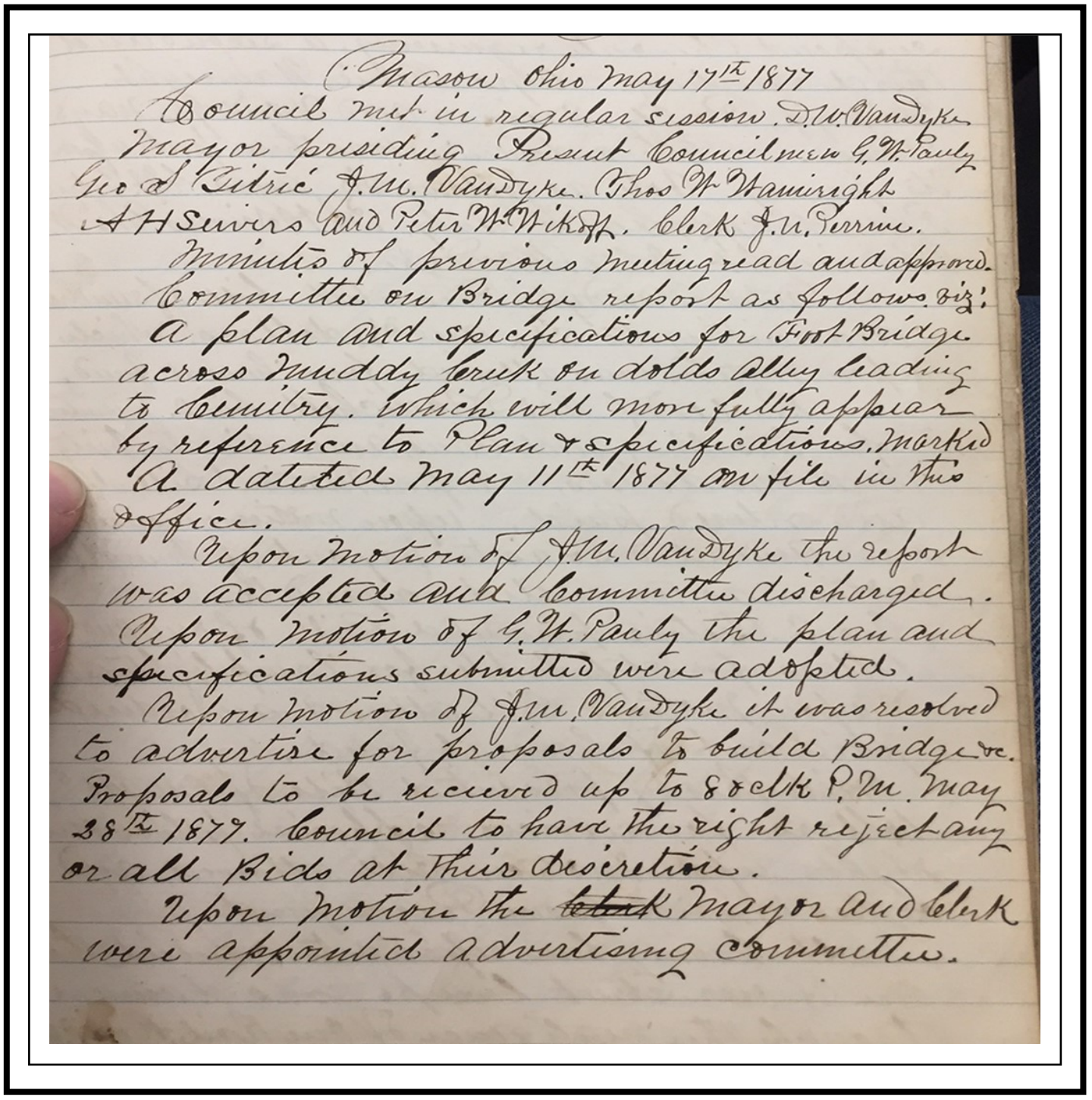
Another story that brought many laughs was the fact that just south of Main Street on Mason-Montgomery was the town dump which caught fire 2 or 3 times a month. That was a call for the volunteer fire department to be called out. Other times the dump was a place where the locals could get target practice shooting rats.

There was a very good turnout for this program and I am sure that quite a few could tell their own stories about growing up on Main Street and they all would be different in their own way. This was a fun way to reminisce and bring nostalgia into our lives. Thank you, Ken and Susan.

Mason, Ohio Council Minutes May 17th 1877

The son of a Society member is working on his Eagle Scout project. We are going to keep what his project is, under our hats for the time being. The project requires a large amount of his time collecting information. While doing so these minutes caught our eyes so we decided to share with you this piece of history recorded by Clerk of Council J.N. Perrine. Early in 1877 Mr. Perrine took the place of Adolphus W. Dodds who resigned from council. Just one month later Mr. Perrine also resigned. Just a few months later though, April, J.N. Perrine who had a good handwriting was elected the recorder.

So far we have not found a map which shows "Dodds Alley" but we are fairly certain we know where it was and actually still is.



Mason Ohio May 17th 1877

Council met in regular session. D.W. Vandyke Mayor presiding Present Councilmen G.W. Pauly Geo S Titric J.M. Vandyke. Thos W Wainright A H Sievers and Peter W Wikoff. Clerk J.N. Perrine.

Minutes of previous meting read and approved.

Committee on Bridge report as follows. viz:

A plan and specifications for Foot Bridge across Muddy Creek on dolds Alley leading to Cemitry. which will more fully appear by reference to Plan & specifications. Marked A. dated May 11th 1877 on file in this office.

Upon Motion of J.M. Vandyke the report was accepted and committee discharged.

Upon Motion of G.W. Pauly the plan and specifications submitted were adopted.

Upon Motion of J.M. Vandyke it was resolved to advertise for proposals to build Bridge &c. Proposals to be recieved up to 8 oclk P.M. May 28th 1877. Council to have the right reject any or all Bids at their discretion.

Upon Motion the ~~Clerk~~ Mayor and Clerk were apponted advertising Committee.

An Interview With Lifetime Mason Resident Mr. Al Voorhis, Mason High School Class of 1944

By Denise Brown

Nails weren't needed to construct the Lustron Home Vivian Voorhis purchased in the mid 1940's. At the time, she didn't realize the garage of her unique metal house would become a successful Mason architect office. There her son Al would spend hours creating building designs that would change the lives of a growing community for future generations.

Al Voorhis sat in his favorite art deco Eames lounge chair reminiscing over the accomplishments of his ninety plus years. His family farm was on Tylersville Road and he attended school at the Grange. As a young boy, he spent a quarter at the Dream Theater on a Saturday afternoon. Then, he would head over to Morse's for pool, cards, and local gossip from folks sitting on the Liar's Bench. In those good ol' days, he recalls his brother bought a Model T for $5.00. A walk around town would lead him to the Mason Canning Factory. Over on Main Street, he would pick up groceries at the Kroger Store since his mom didn't drive. As a young man, Al served in the Navy during WWII and later graduated from Ohio State. He married Helen, a second-grade teacher, and raised three children.

With a smile on his face, Al proudly spoke of his mother, Vivian. She attended Antioch College and instilled the love of learning to her children and future grandchildren. They have or will graduate with higher education degrees. She was an active member of Qui Vive, a lady's organization who have monthly meetings to stay alert on current topics. After 117years, the organization is still active today and is the longest organization still in existence in Mason. It was after the war, she moved to the Lustron Home and later sold it to Al.

The Lustron Home was a high-tech factory pressed-out 2-bedroom cottage home built out of 16 gauge steel. This metal marvel had a permanent porcelain enamel finish including the roof. The quilt-like pattern panels were held in place with bolts. It was easy to maintain because it came with built in metal cabinets. Several external colors were offered to customers, but Vivian chose maize yellow. The interior walls came in neutral shades selected by the company's expert designers. This small modest home is located on 209 S. West Street next to Mason Public Library, which the Voorhis Architects helped to design. The Lustron Home was promoted to stay cool in the summer and stay warm in the winter due to the fully protected fireproof insulation.

Carl G. Strandlund, a Swedish born American entrepreneur is credited with the invention of the Lustron Home. In 1947, he invested $15 million dollars in the old Curtiss Wright plant, an old war plane factory in Columbus, Ohio. He installed high automated manufacturing equipment and furnaces which could stamp out 1,000 bathtubs a day. At the end of the assembly line, 3,300 individual parts for each house were loaded onto trucks in reverse order so they could be assembled easier once on site. It is reported nearly 300 Lustron Homes were erected in Ohio according to the Columbus Historical Resource Commission. There are still several in the Columbus area. They landed in over 33 states and even 5 were exported. Due to a post war government scandal the company went bankrupt. It appears his business idea was probably 30 years ahead of the times.

In 1952, Al set up an office for AC Voorhis Architect Firm on the acquired Lustron Home property. A couple of his early projects included the "Old" Methodist Church addition and the expansion of Mason Central School at 211 Northeast Street. As Mason's population of 700 continued to grow, he worked on other church and school projects. In recent years, he worked on the Otterbein Retirement Community.

Al now enjoys watching his son run the business. Jim has expanded the business and also helped design our new addition at the Alverta Green Museum. Architecture is essentially the art we live in. It will continue to play a big part in our community. Our buildings will influence the way we live together. Take a drive around Mason - experience it for yourself!

209 S. West Street

Picture of the Lustron Home as it looks today.

Boy Scout's Tour Of The Museum

Thursday May 5 8members of Mason Cub Scouts Troop 323, toured the museum. Perry Deenhy served as their Docent discussing life in Mason beginning in 1815. Our Victorian Kitchen and children's bedroom seemed to create the most discussion.

Similar tours can be scheduled by calling the museum (513)398-6750.

Girl Scout's Tour Of The Museum

Saturday April 28 nine Girl Scouts (5th graders) belonging to Troop 45152, toured the museum. They were accompanied by three adults and Scout Leader Heather Leni. Docent for the event was life long Mason Resident and Society Historian, Ken Thompson. In the photograph, the girls are seen enjoying an ice cream treat from United Dairy Farmers.

Artis Senior Living Of Mason

On Monday April 30th, Perry Denehy traveled to Artis Senior Living of Mason to present a program of "Old Mason". The program Perry presented included a slide presentation of pictures of an early Mason. The slides of the WLW Tower along with slides of an older and smaller Mason generated much interest. The residents and staff said they enjoyed the slides of old Mason as well as the history of Mason. The staff was very impressed with the way Perry kept the residents interested and engaged and how well he was able to answer their questions.

Bringing these presentations to residents of extended care facilities who can not come and tour the museum for various reasons are very rewarding to our docents and are always well received by the residents of these facilities.

IN MEMORIAM

In August of 2015 we held an event to honor the 281 Charter Members of our Society. Not too many days ago, May 10, another of those members passed away. Judge David K. Batsche served this Society as legal adviser, without fee, for 35 years. His law firm prepared and submitted to the IRS all of the paperwork required for this Society to be recognized as a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. The same was done for our organization to become a nonprofit corporation in the State of Ohio. Dave was much more than the legal adviser to our Society though. In 1998 he was president. He was a frequent visitor and a donor of items related to Mason, the surrounding area and Ohio. His last couple of visits to the museum, during construction of the addition, found two or three of us there working on different things. We visited a while, then he would look around to see what might be different. It would be time for lunch, so we would order from Angilo's, pick it up and eat in the museum. Soon after finishing lunch, he would check his watch and say, "I need to get home before Marilyn, (his wife of 53 years) does, I'm not supposed to be driving." He truly loved the Society. Having grown up at 208 East Main Street in Mason, Dave could have had his own one man show about "Growing Up On Main Street in Mason." He would have had no problem speaking up at the program on May 15th. Living in Mason his nearly 77 years of life he watched Mason grow from a small, rural farm community of about 1,000 to the city of over 30,000 it is today. Dave loved Mason just as much when it became the City it is today as he did when it was the town during the time everyone knew everyone and everyone knew what everyone was doing. We are making plans now to celebrate our Society's 40th year in 2019. We are especially saddened the Society Charter member who did so much to help get our organization off to a great start will not be here to be a part of the planning and celebration. Living just ten doors apart, he and I spent many, many hours together growing up on Main Street. He was a friend to many and to me, he was a very dear friend. Pleasant memories help us endure the pain and sadness of death. Dave will be missed by many but he will never be forgotten. On behalf of the Society, I express sincere condolences to his family. Jerry Mullins

Condolences

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Barbara Kuroff who passed away April 28. Barbara was a new member joining just three months ago.

Interesting Historical Facts

June 4– The Standard & Poor's 500 index closes above 100 for the first time, at 100.38.

Historical Facts Of Mason

On July 27, 1829 William N. Kirkwood officially became the first postmaster in Palmira.

In 1862 Mason's first newspaper which was to stay in business only two years, was started by James McCormick. He called it the Mason Democrat.

Local men voting in the 1874 spring elections put David W. VanDyke back into the mayor's seat for the tenth time.

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

Become a NEW member of the Mason Historical Society or RENEW you membership TODAY!
Please make your check payable to the Mason Historical Society and mail with this form to the address below.

Mason Historical Society
MEMBERSHIP
207 W. Church Street
Mason, OH 45040-1607
www.masonhistoricalsociety.org

NEW____ RENEWAL____

Types of Membership:

Non-Profit Org. $40_____

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Student	$ 10 ___	Regular -	$100 ____
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Birthday(s) … month & day
(to be published in our monthly newsletter)

MAY WE CALL ON YOU TO HELP PRESERVE MASON'S HISTORY BY VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME _____?

The Mason Historical Society is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, as defined under the Internal Revenue Code.
MEMBERSHIP DUES, DONATIONS AND MEMORIAL GIFTS IN ANY AMOUNT ARE APPRECIATED AND ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**.**

* * * *

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Thank You For Your Support

We love to help the neighborhoods we serve!

Alverta Green Museum Mason Historical Society ESTABLISHED 1979

Events Reminder

June 2 - Sat., Museum Open 10 – 1

June 4, 11, 18, 25 – YOGA

June 19 – Annual Ice Cream Social / Baked Goods Auction 6:00PM
On Museum Grounds

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July 17 – Program – Amusement Parks Presented By Cincinnati Museum Ctr.

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BUSINESS MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

LIFETIME MEMBERS

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Shorten & Ryan Funeral Home

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2018 CHURCHES

Grace Baptist Church

2018 MEMBERS

Artis Senior Living of Mason

Lt. Robert N. Mount V.F.W. Post 9622 Auxiliary

Marion's Piazza

Mason Bowl, Inc.

Mason City Schools

Mason Health Care Center

Minuteman Press of Lebanon

Terry's Lawn Care, Inc.—**GOLD**

Warren County Historical Society

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