



CONNECTIONS



January 2020

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

Email — mason.oh.historical@gmail.com



Message from the Prez:

December was a very busy month here at the Mason Historical Society. On December 6th we had a luncheon for special guests including many VIP's from the City of Mason as well as some of our company sponsors. It was a great opportunity to meet, greet and thank our visitors for their support of MHS. They also had a chance to see the reconditioned player piano from the Dream Theatre that was delivered to MHS the day prior. On the evening of Dec. 6, we had our Christmas Open House and had a delicious buffet set up for numerous guests and members to enjoy. The museum was beautifully decorated for the season thanks to the great coordinating efforts of Sue Erbeck Rapp and the support of many members.

I want to pass on a special thanks to Gay McCurley, who has decided to step down as Curator, for all her hard work and effort in supporting MHS over the past 3 decades. To describe all that Gay has done in supporting MHS over those many years would take an entire newsletter to complete! We have big shoes to fill with Gay's departure and the board will work to cover the workload as best we can as we move into 2020. Please let us know if you would be interested in knowing more about the Curator position or even if you would just be interested in being at the museum for Thursday and/or Friday open hours, 1-4pm. We can certainly use your help.

2020 should be an exciting year and I wish all of you and your loved ones a Happy, Safe & Healthy New Year.

Jay Meibers

Holiday Luncheon & Open House

On December 6, MHS hosted two big events. The first being at noon when we provided a buffet lunch for 17 visitors including 16 from the City of Mason and Mike Geygan, the owner of Minuteman Press. This was a great opportunity to meet, greet and thank them for their continued strong support of MHS. Visitors from the City of Mason included Barb Berry Spaeth (Vice Mayor), Todd Carter (Chief of Police), Bryan Brumagen (Fire Chief), Eric Hansen (City manager) and many other VIP's. They were joined by six members of our board. Everyone enjoyed a delicious and relaxing lunch after Perry Denehey showed them our newly restored player piano from the Dream Theatre. After Perry spoke, Larry Jeffers had the player piano run a roll of Christmas music which was enjoyed by all. Make sure you take time to stop by the museum and check out the over 90-year-old player piano!

The second activity of the day was our Holiday Open House which started at 5:00 and went on until 8:30. The buffet line was once again set up and ready to go. We had many visitors stop in to enjoy the food, converse, check out the decorations and listen to the beautiful Christmas music being played by our high school helper Katie Maier and her friend Lisa Li. Katie played the violin while Lisa played the player piano. Very impressive!

I want to thank Sue Erbeck Rapp for planning and coordinating both events. I also want to thank the numerous members who brought food, set-up and helped clean up after the evening's activities. This was a big undertaking and was very well done.



Larry Jeffers showing off our reconditioned player piano



The 90-year-old Player Piano is Back... and it Plays!

Yes, but not without a very big thank you to many, it really plays piano rolls!

For those of you who may not know, the piano plays the rolls by vacuum. There is a small tube and a bellow for every key on the piano. There is more to it than that and if you stop by some Thursday or Friday you will be able to see the piano in action.

Not only that, any of you who play the piano can come in, sit down, and play a song or two, even more if you would like! The more daring with very strong leg muscles, can make it play the rolls by pumping the giant pedals. Those of you less daring can flip a switch to turn on the electric blower, sit back and relax while watching the keys do their thing.

The piano is named Otto Grau, built by M. Schulz Co. of Chicago. It was built around 1928, making it about 90 years old. It was used in the theater on Main Street, although we are unsure if it was used in the Princess Theater, the Grand Theater, the Dream Theater, or all three.

The piano was graciously donated to the Society in 2016 by Don and Pat Chesney Williams.

The theater itself has a rich history, especially to many of our members, past and present.

It was built by William Hendricks in 1916, as described in the following quote:

"In the fall William Hendricks was granted a permit to build a one story concrete building, 26' x 85', on Main Street, just one lot east of Section Road. This building was to be the movie house in Mason until it was destroyed by a tornado in 1974. At first it was called the Princess Theater. Later owners renamed it the Grand Theater and then the Dream Theater."
– Around Mason, Ohio, Page 178

The theater also supported charitable events in the Mason community, one of which is below.

"The Dream Theater allowed the firemen to hold a benefit movie on two nights in November in order to get funds for the community Christmas entertainment. The admissions were 10¢ and 25¢. The men, who had fought six fires during the year, bought 200 pounds of candy, three crates of oranges and 100 pounds of peanuts to distribute to the children of the area.

On December 23 the Christmas party was held in the Mason School auditorium. The high school orchestra furnished music. Two playlets, poetry readings and songs were presented, Santa visited with the fruit and candy treats for the children and, the secretary of the Mothers Club recorded '750 happy parents and children' enjoyed the celebration."

– Around Mason, Ohio, Page 233

A dedication ceremony will be planned as a small token to thank and give recognition to everyone contributing to the restoration. Thank you for your continuing support to the Society.

Contributed by Vedarsh Shah and Jerry Mullins



Memories For Those Born Between 1946—1964

From Connections January 2010

By Loretta Terry

Remember when...

As a child, roaming the town without your parents worrying about you because they knew if you got into trouble, some parent would scold you and send you home?

Going to the drug store to check out the new comic books and sitting on the floor to read a few before you bought just one? Or to Bogan's Variety Store to see all the great stuff he had?

Riding your bike on the sidewalk and playing ball in the street and no one caring if you did?

Rushing to the cemetery at the sign of the first deep snow to take wild sled rides down "Nutcracker Hill" or heading to Wessel's pond to ice skate with friends? And in the summer, playing at Baysore's pond?

Hurrying to the Dream Theater to make sure you could get a front row seat?

Clyde stopping the movie, opening the window from the projection booth and yelling "YOU HAVE TO BEHAVE IN HERE LIKE YOU DO IN CHURCH!" When everyone got too loud he would pace up and down the aisles shining his flashlight to make sure no hanky-panky was going on?

When there was only one school with one class for each grade and the principal taught classes?

The girls always wearing dresses with matching ribbons in their hair and the boys wearing pants and shirts that fit? And the boys sporting "burr" haircuts?

Your mom, never realizing you had two left feet enrolling you in dancing classes? Muriel Hendricks teaching you to play the piano?

If you were punished in school, your parents always heard about it and you were punished again when you got home?

Walking home from school for lunch each day or when your mom would let you go up town to the Bus Station and later the Dinner Bell for lunch instead of eating at school?

Seeing the old men sitting on the Liars' Bench in front of the Bus Station as you walked home from school and Elmer always standing on the corner by Town Hall to help you cross the street?

Hanging out at the Bus Station on Friday nights after the basketball games?

Being taken to the school gym on Halloween to parade in your costume? How loud it was in the gym with a band member beating out the cadence on a bass drum as you walked around and around, forever hopeful you would win a prize?

Roaming the town on Halloween, tick-tacking and soaping windows or worse... throwing eggs and over turning outhouses?

Being in Billy Gilbert's Boy Scout troop? Girl Scouts, baking cookies at Christmas time to take to Wright's nursing home?

As a boy being chased down the street by the senior boys at the end of eighth grade? And those boys also taking your pants as an initiation into high school? What an embarrassment trying to get home without being seen in your underwear.

When everyone had to go to the post office to get their mail?

When there was only one traffic light in town?

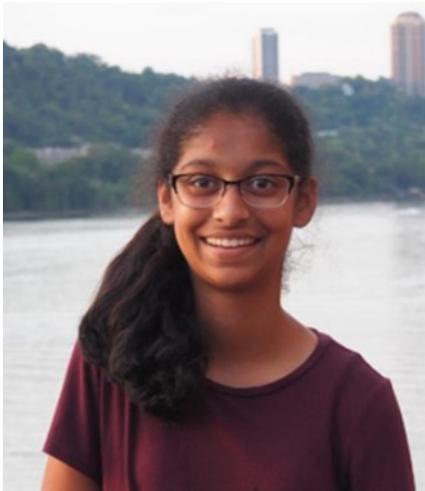
Everyone who had a telephone was on a party line? Did you ever listen in?

There were still many outhouses and cold winter trips had to be made to the outside "john"?

What Great Memories!!!

Meet Our Student Volunteer

Hi! My name is Avani Jagdale. I am a freshman at William Mason High School and I started volunteering at the Mason Historical Society this fall. I wanted to volunteer at the Historical Society because of my interest in history. Volunteering there gives me a chance to learn more about our town's past firsthand. Outside of volunteering, I like to read, write, and run. I am a member of the school's cross country team, and in middle school, I participated in Power of the Pen, a creative writing organization. I also enjoy playing the piano, and have been taking lessons since first grade.



Student Volunteer , Avani Jagdale

Historical Facts About New Year

Celebrating the new year dates back 4,000 years.

The first Times Square celebration had to do with the New York Times.

The 1st New Year's Eve party in Times Square was in 1904 and was a celebration of the New York Times's new headquarters.

The New Year's Eve Ball first dropped in 1907.

But the ball-dropping tradition existed outside of New Year's celebrations much earlier.

New Year's Eve traditions vary around the world.

www.newsweek.com



Thanks to all who helped decorate the museum.



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



2020 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.

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within 12 months)**

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.
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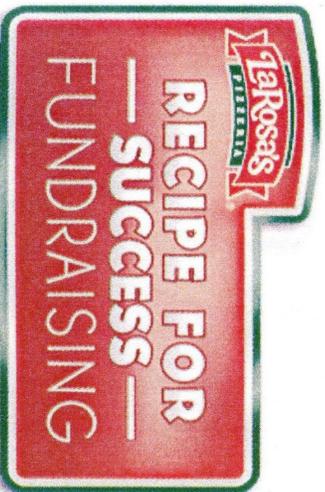
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Forms- Member/brick 2020



Piece of the Pie
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Mason Historical Society

2019 Fundraiser

3rd Wednesdays

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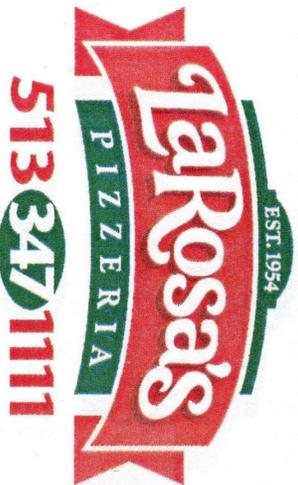
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Mason Historical Society

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2020

Events Reminder

If You Have Not Already Done So

Please Sign Up At Kroger Community Rewards

Mason Historical Society Number Rewards #HHE524

Yoga- @7pm: January 6, 13 & 20th

Happy Holidays

We love to help the neighborhoods we serve!

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