

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER OF THE ATTICA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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the atmosphere. We will continue to

New Board members

At the Annual Meeting on October 8th we had three new additions to the Board of Trustees. Brian Fugle, Mike Manusia, Nancy Burns and David VanderLinden were elected.

Trick or treat

It's hard to believe that the Fall has already come and gone, and Thanksgiving too. Halloween trick or treat was a big success for us as far as numbers were concerned. We had over 140 costumed little folks, and that included many parents...some costumed as well. It was a very cold and rainy night, and the parents loved the fact that we had hot coffee for them as well as much candy, cider, and doughnuts for the youngsters. Arnie did a great job inviting them all in out of the rain, and Mr. Caryl spooked a few with that deep voice..."**PULL ON THE DOOR!**"

End of the caboose

On November 4th, Max and Sherry with Szemplenski Productions presented a very interesting program on the History of the Caboose. Max shared stories and video clips from some of the trips on the railroad, and Jeff Fischer from the Holland Land Office provided railroad music. Near the end prizes were awarded for winners of trivia questions from the program. Afterward, everyone of the nearly fifty attendees enjoyed refreshments and personal stories of the railroads.

Winterfest

The Christmas season is upon us, and it's time for the Gingerbread houses, sponsored by the Landmark Preservation Society, to make their appearance at the museum. The museum will be open on the 13th from

sell raffle tickets for the beautiful quilt donated by Linda Hall Peterson.....only \$2.00 per ticket, up until the drawing at 4:00 P.M.

**“The Attica Historical Society through the eyes of a First Grader
Submitted by Grace Cole**

According to the Learning Standards for first grade: **“Students will be exposed to various historical sources, including artifacts, letters, maps, photographs, and newspapers.”**

The First Graders from Prospect Elementary School walked over to visit, perhaps for the first time, the Historical Society. This visit was at the end of last school year. They were pleasantly surprised to see the size of the museum, since it appeared so small from the front entrance. They, now as Second Graders, were asked what they remembered from their visit. Their wonderful and enthusiastic responses were: “ All the glass was very pretty”, I thought the kitchen was very cool”. The wedding cake, the living room, and the babies that were in it were mentioned by many, but added, “I thought the doll’s eyes were creepy!” “The thing with the wool on it (he spinning wheel),” the bathtub, the dentist’s chair and the mailbox were noted. They appreciated how they “sewed” the rugs on the loom, the saddle, the shelves and the riding suit. The tandem bike, which they referred to as the two-seated bike and the best for the museum in this regard.

10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. so stop in to enjoy

stuffed, taxidermied animals, birds and the “mouse” (squirrel) in the hole, all, including the tarantula are fine memories.

Interestingly, the First Graders enjoyed seeing the typewriter, calculator (the adding machine), the Indian artifacts, which they referred to as “stuff”, the Dressmaker’s shop, the sewing machine, and the baby’s bed (the cradle).

In the hall, they also enjoyed the rocks in the window, seashells, the jewelry and the boxes. Many were impressed with the cast iron George Washington, the “cake” of the presidents, and the huge ole-fashioned piano. Also listening to the old record player (the 78 RPM phonograph) really was a great interest.

The binoculars (the stereopticon), the old camera, guns, chairs, teapot, the “old” TV, the play center, the big house in the back, and one student conveyed that his house was in one of the pictures.

Many recounted the giant circus drum, again the guns, Army things, old books, old tables, and the High School pictures. Also the railroad tracks and the pictures of the trains were of great interest.

All of the children’s responses were expressed with eagerness and enthusiasm. Their memories were vivid and easily seen in their wonderful reflections.

We would like to thank Mrs. Cole and Mrs. DeQuaine for making this trip special for the First Graders.

Displays

We hope to make some major changes after the holidays by moving some of our larger displays. Part of this is to with traffic patterns and movement through the museum, but also hopefully this will free up some space. We continue to take in artifacts, and we are running out of room for storage, as well as for more displays. With this in mind we are exploring all options to expand our storage as well as perhaps the facility itself. We have formed a

Happy birthday, Arnie...”Our Chief Historian and Main Guide”

On November 1st, a few of the board members and others, gave a very nice birthday card to Arnie as we celebrated his 85th birthday. Unbeknownst to him we had planned a larger celebration for his actual birthday, November 4th, on the Wednesday after his birthday, November 5th. Sally June provided a very nice brown bread with dill dip, Barb Durfee brought in a beautiful tray of fresh fruit, and Camilla VanderLinden brought in a nice “Happy Birthday, Arnie” cake. He was very pleased we think, and all those in attendance enjoyed the afternoon in Arnie’s company.

Constitution

All of our board meetings are open to all members, and specifically all members are invited to the meeting on December 11th to discuss and ratify the revised Constitution. The committee has been working on this since last spring, and after the ratification your board will continue to discuss the revised Bylaws as recommended by that committee.

Emails

We are continuing to ask members to send us their emails. Each time we send out newsletters or other information to over 160 members, the postage takes a toll on our budget.

Building/Expansion committee to help determine what is



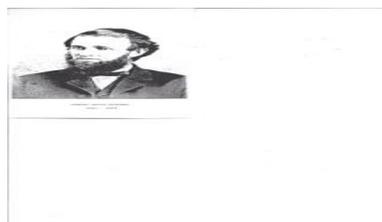
Visits

We continue to have several requests for information either by phone or actual visits so once again we are asking that if anyone can spare just a few hours a month to volunteer we would greatly appreciate it. At this point we have been lucky to have some volunteers from GCC helping us out. Morgan Batog, Chelsey Rujeski, and Chris Krauss have been very helpful.

Museums should never be finished, but boundless and always in motion. Museum are treasuries of the past.

----Johann Wolfgang Goethe. 1749 – 1832

Arnie’s trivia corner...In the election of 1856 James Buchanan from Pennsylvania was elected President. His main supporter and backer was Robert S. Stevens (1824- 1893). As a “reward” Buchanan appointed Stevens Director of Indian Affairs. Stevens then used his influence to purchase land for railroads heading west.



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