



MUSEUM MESSAGE

Ohio's Oldest Museum May 2016
www.firelandsmuseum.com

Firelands Historical Society Reservations for May 18 Annual Dinner Meeting

The meeting will be held at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church hall on Settlement Road, a short distance from Route 61 South at 6:30 p.m. The home cooked meal will consist of swiss steak, mashed potatoes, string beans, tossed salad, rolls, homemade pie and cake, coffee and lemonade. The price is \$15 per person.

The program will be presented Carol Starre-Kmiecik who will portray Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis. Ms. Kmiecik a well-known actress lives in Lakewood, Ohio. She has been performing on stage for over 35 years.

Payment must accompany reservations. Reservations may be made by using the form printed below. Reservations and the check are to be sent to the Firelands Historical Society, P.O. Box 572, Norwalk, Ohio 44857. The reservation deadline is **Wednesday, May 11**. If you are unable to come for the dinner, members may come for the annual meeting which includes the election and voting of officers and three trustees, followed by the program.

Please make _____ reservations for the Firelands Historical Society dinner meeting on Wednesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. Dinner cost - \$15.00. Enclosed is a check in the amount of _____.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

Garden Tour

Our annual garden tour is being planned for *July 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.* with the help of the Huron County Master Gardeners. Tickets will be \$10 to benefit the Firelands Historical Society. Watch for more details closer to the event.

Please remember to send us your change of mailing address and E-mail. Also, if you would like to have your newsletter sent by E-mail, please let us know.
Send information of change to curator@firelandsmuseum.com.

President's Message

As our new season begins we look forward to continuing our many projects and events as we welcome our guests.

A five year plan for our organization was put into effect by our board members at the January meeting. Our financial stability continues to be of utmost importance for our long term sustainability. We currently have no paid employees, relying on all volunteer help from our board members, membership and friends. With this in mind, we have asked one of our recent board members, Chris Harlan, to work closely with Mary Carabin on the day to day operation of our work office, building maintenance, and outreach programs.

Matt Burr is one of our long term board members and co-curator. It is his vast knowledge of the Native American artifacts and our gun collection that has enabled us to continue to enlarge that area of interest. He is also a vital member of our building and maintenance committee.

We have assembled a working team and along with our board members hope to continue to operate on an all volunteer basis.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you for the time, energy and expertise of our board members who make our society what it is today.

Pat Mak

Charitable Donations

A donation was recently received from the Kenneth and Janet Conway "Fund for Huron County" and from members, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jacobs, of Sandusky, Ohio.

Norwalk Business and Home Show

In February, the Firelands Historical Society participated in the Norwalk Business and Home Show which was held in Norwalk's Middle School Auditorium. Our display table featured posters showing our museum artifacts. Native American artifacts were also on display. This event helps us make contact with the community and promote our museum and organization. Thanks to John Schumm, Matt Burr, Pat Mak, Chris Harlan and Mary Carabin for helping.



Museum Library

A beautiful new poplar 3' x 11' foot table has replaced the two older tables that were used for many years in our museum library. The table was specially made for us by **T&R Hardwoods (Timothy Bragg)**. This trestle style table is a better fit for our board meetings and other activities that take place in the library area.



Museum Complex Happenings

Native American Addition

The Native American Room addition in our Laning-Young Building is completely finished. The new room addition was constructed by Chris Barman of Barman Construction. The flooring was laid by four of our board members, which saved us a considerable amount of money. Those being: Bill Knadler, Matt Burr, Chris Harlan, and Roger Dickman. This project was funded by the Richard and Marjorie Black endowment fund.



Museum Building

The Museum's main floor has received a new spruce up this winter. The dining room is now much brighter in appearance with the new fresh coat of a lighter color paint which was done by Kathleen Sigsworth and Jerri Dow. The parlor has received an uplift as well. Some of the furniture has been re-arranged and two new area rugs have been added to give the room a more homely appearance. The new stair carpet was recently installed by Hill's Floor Covering. These renovations have all been made possible from money received from a grant.



Wire Recorder Display



In 1960 KYW-Radio did an 'on the road program' from Norwalk. Carl Stern was the host of the program. Ken Conway and his wife Janet wrote a letter to the station inviting Carl Stern to come and visit. Ken and the staff of PM Program, visited many local city and business officials. Ken is seen in the display holding a wire from the microphone to the Magnetic Wire Recorder that he used to tape the program as it was aired. A brief portion of the broadcast can be heard while viewing the exhibit. We wish to thank Chris Harlan for spearheading

this display, along with the help from Pat Mak, Chris Hipp and Mary Carabin.



School Tours

On March 10-11, about 50 Monroeville 5th graders toured our Native American collection. They were instructed by board members Matt Burr, Chris Harlan, and John Schumm prior to their tour of the room. This is the first time we have done this type of tour. It was very successful and we hope to do more

tours of this type in the future. On April 4, the teacher invited us to view the children's posters and homemade items to show what they had learned about the Native American tribe they had chosen. This summer, we plan to have a few of the children's projects displayed in our Native American room.

On March 16, about 40 Norwalk High School history students toured the museum. They were assigned a scavenger hunt by their teacher, Derrick Pigman, and divided into three groups. Again this first time visit from Norwalk High School went very well. Thank you to Chris Harlan and Laurel Rehnberg, Mary Carabin for assisting.



In May, Norwalk's 185 second graders will tour. This is a week-long event.

Photos Of July 16, 1919 Airplane Crash In Norwalk Discovered By Matt Burr



7-16-1919



Norwalk, Ohio

7-16-1919

Recently, a friend of mine in Southern Ohio found the following two photos of an airplane crash that occurred in Norwalk on July 16, 1919. Researching the photos, I came across an article in the July 17, 1919 edition of the "Norwalk Reflector-Herald" describing the incident.

The pilot, Lieut. Alex Lendrum, had flown his Curtiss Oriole biplane from New York City to the Curtiss airplane factory in Buffalo, NY. After spending about a week there, he and Mr. I. D. Humphries, president of the Humphries-Curtiss Airplane Co. of Denver, CO, started out for that place. About 7:15 P.M., after a three hour flight, mostly following the tracks of the New York Central Railroad, they arrived over Norwalk. They were to land the airplane in a nearby field where they would be met by Mr. John Cox, Lieut. Lundrum's uncle, who had a supply of gasoline.

As Lieut. Lundrum flew low over the city, the engine began to misfire and sputter then finally stopped. The airplane dropped quickly and the pilot steered it for the near-

est landing spot – Grand Avenue.

Watching events unfold was Cletus Sellers, who was standing in the middle of Grand Avenue with his bicycle. To his surprise, the airplane started coming straight for him. He wasn't able to get out of the way soon enough and was struck by the wing and dragged along on his back, finally falling into a ditch, destroying his bicycle.

The airplane continued on, striking a telephone pole with one wing which prevented the machine from crashing into the cottage of Mrs. M. Billstein. Lieut. Lundrum was shaken up a bit by the crash landing, and Mr. Sellers spent the next several weeks in bed with a bruised back. No other injuries were reported.

Over the next several days, the damaged airplane was disassembled and shipped back to the Curtiss factory in Buffalo for repairs. Once repairs were completed, Lieut. Lundrum planned to try his flight to Denver again.

When the reporter arrived on the scene to write his story, he stopped at a nearby house to ask the name of the street. "Why, this is Grand Avenue," the housewife said, "and this is the first grand thing that ever happened on the street."

Firelands Historical Society
4 Case Ave.
P.O. Box 572
Norwalk, OH 44857-0572

Firelands Historical Society Officers:

Pat Mak, President
Dan Rood, Huron Co. Vice President
Sue McCreery, Erie Co. Vice President
Mary Carabin, Secretary
John Elmlinger, Treasurer

The Firelands Historical is proud to be a member
of these fine organizations:

Firelands Council of Historical Societies
Huron County Chamber of Commerce
Lake Erie Firelands Tourist Council
Norwalk Economic Development Corporation
Ohio Association of Historical Societies & Museums
Ohio Genealogical Society
Ohio Historical Society

Annual Membership dues:

Individual - \$20
Husband and Wife - \$35
Business - \$100

Life Membership dues:

Individual - \$500 (or \$50 annually for 10 years)
Business - \$1000 (or \$100 annually for 10 years)

Send Correspondence to:

The Firelands Historical Society
P.O. Box 572
Norwalk, OH 44857-0572
Museum phone: 419.668.6038

Research Center phone: 419.663.0392

E-mail: curator@firelandsmuseum.com

Museum Hours

May, September and October - Saturday 10-3 and Sunday 12-4.

June thru August - Tuesday thru Saturday 10-3 and Sunday 12-4.

Closed on Monday's.

For group tours and other special arrangements call 419-668-6038

or E-mail: curator@firelandsmuseum.com.