



WESTPHALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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EXHIBIT: The Sports display is still up! Many people have said they forget when we are open so we are making a sandwich board to set up at the four corners as a reminder of our Sunday and hours. People who have visited the museum to see the sports display thoroughly enjoyed the variety of exhibits, and number of exhibits.

LIBRARY: Thanks to the work of Judy Thelen, we have a library of genealogy that many Museums would be envious of. You can often find Judy the first Sunday of the month at the museum, ready to help!

BUS TRIP: OCTOBER 11, 2023

Chris Piggott has again put together a fun trip this year. This is not a fundraiser so she has tried to keep costs down. The bus will leave Westphalia at 7:45 AM and make a quick 2 hour trip to Firekeepers, noon lunch at Cornwell's, Turkeyville, and an afternoon show - Forever Plaid. Then we head back home around 4:00.

Ticket cost is \$90.00 (includes bus transportation, lunch, show tickets and bus driver tip) For reservations call Chris Piggott at 989.587.6558.

THE 2023 CEMETERY WALK

Mark your calendars for September 17th at 2:00. This year our featured people are:

- Ted Schafer...WWII fatality
- Anne Lehman Miller.....First Woman Westphalia Township Supervisor
- Theresa Knoop Pohl..... Early resident of The St. Mary boarding house
- August Bierstetel.....Music lover and Jack of all trades
- Bob Thelen...Vietnam fatality

As in other years we are in need of golf carts. If you can help us out please let Margie Wirth know; her number is 989.587.6984.

SOME COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WALK:

WILL I SEE ALL THE PRESENTATIONS?

YES! After a brief "hello" to all at 2:00 PM, everyone splits into groups – one group per grave site. At the end of the presentation, the group will move TOGETHER to the next site, then to the next and so on until each group has heard all the presentations.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT TO AT EACH GRAVE SITE?

At the site, a person (often a relative) will be dressed in period clothing and tell the story of the deceased. Typically props and pictures are also included in each presentation. We also make a few chairs available or you are free to bring your own.

HOW LONG IS THE EVENT?

With five speakers speaking for approximately 10-15 minutes each (along with socializing and brief instructions), this event typically lasts around 2 hours.

WHAT ELSE?

- This is a FREE event; although, we will accept donations from those who wish to do so.
- We have light refreshments available at the conclusion.

SCHAFERS TO MRS. SCHAFERS

What do you remember most about Schafer's Tavern? Was it the juicy hamburgers and American fries prepared by either Don or Steve?

For me and many others it was the large beer-bottle shaped cooler. I remember my dad getting me an orange Nehi pop from that cooler in the late 40s or early 50s. The cooler has a very interesting history. Don remembers his dad getting the cooler around 1931-32. Prohibition ended in 1933, so it was probably about that time. The Jewett Refrigerator company made two sizes: the Beerador, which held 22 cases and the Bevador, which held 11 cases. Schafer's has the Beerador. The price in 1939 was \$595.00 for the Beerador, which at that time was a good chunk of money.

Jewett Refrigerator company started in 1849 as a maker of ice boxes. By the 1910s and 20s it was an early pioneer of premium electric refrigeration and stayed in business until the 1960s. In the later years it was known as a maker of blood bank storage refrigeration units. It is a fun company to look up on Google.

Teresa Murray, the current owner of the now Ms. Schafer's, has taken great pride in getting it up and going again after it sitting in the back not working for many years. Through some generous donations and the handiwork of Pete Nurenberg, it is now functioning again as in its heyday. One of the interesting things is that the refrigerator compressor unit is in the basement and refrigeration lines are piped up through the floor to the cooler. Compressor units were much larger back then compared to the much smaller compact units today. The glass in the door was replaced, the bottom was replaced. The rollers, on which the rotating shelves sit, were soaked in Coca Cola to remove the rust and now work as they did when new. The one remaining thing she still would like to do is fix the original neon lights if she can get the parts and find somebody that knows how to fix them. It now has LED lights in it. As far as the outside, she fully intends to keep it in its original color. It was never painted the color of a beer bottle. Thanks Teresa for keeping some of our local history alive.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING!

The Historical Society will have a Christmas Tree Lighting on December 2nd at 6:00 PM. There has been no word yet on if anyone outside the Historical Society is willing to take over the parade, so as of now, there is no parade.

Even though we will not host the parade, we feel the tree lighting is still a nice addition to the village during the Christmas season. Having a Christmas tree on Main Street adds a lot of spirit to the season. There will again be a raffle drawing for a handmade quilt donated by the Peace by Piece quilt group, a toy barn and doll house donated by Andy Hengesbach along with the Department of Corrections of Bellamy in Ionia.

WHS: NEWS & UPDATES

IN MEMORIAM

Two members recently passed away. Gerry Thelen, age 93, was a regular monthly meeting attendee. Bernadette Thelen, age 97, was the first secretary when the Historical Society was formed in 1985. Both possessed vast amounts of information about our historical past.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Marcella (Thelen) Rademacher will be 100 on September 20. Happy birthday, Marcella!

