



Westphalia Historical Society Newsletter

August 2016

Volume 26

Upcoming Events

Cemetery Walk

Join us September 18th at 2:00 pm. The program will feature:

- 1) John R. Lehman, one of our early founders
- 2) Esther Pung, area historian & 4-H leader
- 3) Joseph and William (Tinner) Bohr, early businessmen and area builders
- 4) Martin Rademacher, WWII B-24 bomber tail-gunner who lost his life during the war
- 5) Professor Franz Loehner, the person who brought music to Westphalia.

Oktoberfest 2016 is Saturday October 1st!

Raffle tickets for a blanket, chest, handmade quilt, porch swing, and 10 yards of gravel will be made available soon.

At Oktoberfest you will also have a chance to sharpen your guessing skills. There will be a separate 50/50 weight guessing contest to determine the weight of Gary Arens' Civil War sculpture seen outside our building. Gary and Don Pung had it weighed at the Mill and both are sworn to secrecy until the night of Oktoberfest. Please don't hassle either of them!

2016 Light Parade

It will be held on Saturday, December 3rd. Start planning your lighted entry. Food will be available at many of our local businesses. Please support them. Let's hope the weather is as good as last year and the crowd, too.

Veterans Display

If you have not seen it yet.....make a point to do so. You will not be disappointed. We had wonderful turnouts on Memorial Day and the 4th of July, with more than 100 people on each day. The comments were very positive, as many attendees did not know how many of our citizens fought in the Civil War, WWI and II, Vietnam, and Afghanistan. It's a great display, thanks to Walt & Bernie Thelen and Phil Hengesbach.

And, thank you to the Leonard Platte family for donating several pens with the Phillips 66 logo. Leonard owned the historical society building when it was a Phillips 66 gas station.

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As you can see, the historical society has a full fall agenda for our community. We hope to see many of you at the events.

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Recent Donor: Richard Baker



If you would like to make a donation, please send it to Westphalia Historical Society P.O. Box 163, Westphalia, Michigan 48894-0163

Do you use any of the following?

Our website: www.westphaliahistory.weebly.com
Our email address: westphalia1836@gmail.com
Facebook link: www.facebook.com/westphalia1836

Sign seen on the back of an Amish carriage:

**Energy efficient vehicle: Runs off oats and grass.
Caution: Do not step in exhaust.**

The owner obviously had a sense of humor☺☺

Rademacher-Arens-Pohl-Schieberl-Smith-Nurenberg Building

As most here are aware, some major changes are taking place at the brick building on the southwest corner of Main and Heyer Streets in Westphalia. Over the years it has had several owners/occupants.

Plus, you may recognize some of the names from those featured in our upcoming Cemetery Walk.

The first owners were William and Caspar Rademacher in circ. 1867. The bricks for the building came from Westphalia's brickyard (which was directly west of the building). Joseph Bohr was most likely the builder. Caspar conducted a general store in the east part, and William had a shoemaker's shop in the west part (this is according to the 1936 historians). Since Rademachers built it, it is sometimes referred to as the Rademacher building.

Joseph Arens and Peter Thome were the next owners. They also operated a general store. Peter Thome later sold his interest to Arens. Joseph Arens remained in business for many years with his partners, John P. Arens and Joseph Bohr. They conducted an extensive creamery and later a cold storage facility in the basement.

William Arens, son of Joseph, William (Tinner) Bohr and John Fink followed, and they continued the business until 1932, which meant people at that time still referred to it as the Arens building.

In 1933, Michael Pohl opened a Red and White grocery store in the building. He later moved his stock to the current Westphalia Electric Building, but in 1940 he returned to the Arens building and remained there until 1947.

1948 brought new owners, Andrew and Phyllis Schieberl. They conducted a hardware business in the east side of the building, selling General Electric appliances, and a grocery business on the west side of the building. The Schieberls lived upstairs.

In 1954 Edward and Roseanne Bengel, along with Greg Thelen, leased the building from the Schieberls. Ed and Roseanne bought the grocery business from the Schieberls and it became Bengel Grocery. Greg Thelen had the east side of the building for his hardware business. The Bengels sold the business back to the Schieberls in 1960. It was about this time that Greg left the Schieberls' building and bought the old William (Tinner) Bohr building down the street to the east (Greg tore that down and built a new building for his hardware store in what we now know as Ox's).

In the late 1960s to early 1970s, the Schieberls sold the building to Buddy Miller, John Lehman, and Al Smith senior. Their intent was to have an electrical business on one side and a plumbing business on the other. They jointly converted the upstairs into apartments. Buddy Miller then became ill and he and John Lehman sold their interest to Al Smith senior in 1972. Al Smith and Son Plumbing moved into the building in 1973.

Fast forward to 2016, and now Bill and Mary Nurenberg are doing extensive restoration for their new restaurant. Much of the work will bring the building back to most of its historic appearance. The restoration is looking great, and we are looking forward to welcoming our new neighbors across the street from the Historical Society building.

*If all our troubles were hung on a line,
You would take yours
And I would take mine.*