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WHS MUSEUM NEWS

MEMBERSHIP: Help!

The Historical Society is looking for Millennials, Gen X and Gen Y people. The Baby Boomers are now the largest portion of our membership and are looking for some new blood for ideas and to help to keep alive the memories of our village.

If you want to see the Cemetery Walk and Light Parade continue, please consider becoming a member. Our dues are only \$5.00 per year and we meet the third Tuesday of the month (except January and February and this year March) at 7:00 PM.

EXHIBIT: The Sports display will stay up for one more year. 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. **Look for our openings later this spring!**

LIBRARY: Thanks to the work of Judy Thelen, we have a library of genealogy that many Museums would be envious of.

FIND US:

120 W. Main Street Westphalia, MI 48894

WESTPHALIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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"When a Rüthinian founded Westphalia"

Last January the village received an email from Von Ulrike Dietz, an editor from the local newspaper in Rüthen, Germany. She was asking questions about Westphalia like... It seems Father Anton Kopp was from Rüthen. She asked if Father Kopp played an everyday role in our village. Do some of the descendants still live here? Has anyone ever traveled back to the Rüthen area? Does the German lifestyle still play a role in Westphalia? How do we keep the memory of Fr. Kopp alive?

I replied that there is a memorial to Fr. Kopp in front of our church rectory, which I sent her a picture of as well as the painting in back of church commemorating the first settlers.

As far as the first settlers: Salter moved back to Detroit shortly after arriving here, Cordes moved to the Alpine area by Grand Rapids and his descendants have multiplied. The Tillman name is no longer here, but their descendants (Bierstetel) are still here and the Hanses and Platte names have multiplied like rabbits and live in the area.

In terms of going back to Germany, many people have traveled to both the Westfalen and Eifel areas. In closing, I suggested she go to our web page that the new Mrs. Deb Nurenberg does for us to get additional information about Westphalia and to send us a copy of her article when published.

We received the article and needless to say could not read it since it was written in German. So we contacted one of our members, Daniela Richter, to translate for us.

We found out that the writer did a real good job of researching and had included the population of our town from the 2020 census. She has a picture of the PFCU float from our last light parade, refers to the Westphalia Cruise In, etc. She also included information about Sister Ardith Platte and Bishop Joseph Rademacher. The article is too large to print in the newsletter, however, if you would like to see it stop by the Museum when we reopen after Memorial Day. Special thanks to Evelyn Wieland, Daniela Richter, Deb Nurenberg and Dave Boswell from the Village for helping out.

You can see a picture of the newspaper on page 2.

Sidewalk Plowing

At the K of C breakfast a couple of weeks ago Junie Hanses said "I bet I know something you don't know." I told him that was not hard to do. He asked if I knew how the sidewalks used to be cleared of snow. He went on to explain that Normie Feneis had a scraper blade made of wood. The scraper was then pulled by one horse to clear the sidewalks in the village. Sure is different than how it is done now. Thanks, Junie, for the information before it is lost to history.

Garage Sales

This year the Westphalia area garage sales are May 19. We will again plan on having a bake sale at the Westphalia branch Portland Federal Credit Union. We always have a large variety of delicious baked goods available.

The bake sale is the best fundraiser we have. Please help by donating baked goods as you have done in past years, and by purchasing some, too.

43rd Annual Siem G'scheit (Seven Smart) Party Dance Daniella Richter sent a notification of the event that is held in Frankenmuth. This year it is April 18th It is held at the Bavarian Inn Restaurant Crest Room. The program consists of German songs, food, humor etc. It sounds like it could be a fun event for information contact danhauben@hotmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

Phyllis Myers

As many of you know, Phyllis passed away recently. She, along with her sister Elaine, were very instrumental for the Historical Society.

When we first discussed purchasing our museum, they organized several bus trips with all proceeds going towards the purchase. She and her smile will be missed.

Mai kalt und nass. Macht für eine grosse Fass.

Translation at bottom left

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RÜTHEN

LOKALES THEMA DES TAGES Als ein Rüthener Westfalen in Michigan gründete

Von Korea-Kriegern und militanten Nonnei



May cold and wet, will bring in a great harvest.





