



Westphalia Historical Society

Volume 34 | December 2017

Johann Fuchs Memorial Plaque

In our October newsletter, we made an appeal for donations to purchase a cemetery plaque honoring Johann Fuchs as the Father of Immigration from the Eifel area of the German Rhineland. We are pleased to announce the goal has been met due to generous donations.

Work will begin this winter to edit the verbiage. We are hoping for placement next spring at the grave site.

THANK YOU to our donors!

Norbert & Lilly Mae Fox

Dave & Vickie Fox

Kevin & Lori Fox

Tony & Mary Ann Thelen

THE BUILDING IS NOW CLOSED

UNTIL SPRING 2018

ORNAMENTS

We still have handmade ornaments available to purchase. You can find them at The Little Flower Market. What a great Christmas gift!

Bus Trip Success!

The Shiphewana bus trip was a huge success. We attended the Amish play, "Baseball" and had dinner at an Amish home after the play. We managed to make it home in a roundabout way, traveling through Charlotte and Sebewa Corners. Our bus driver may have gotten lost, but she had the help of 52 passengers giving helpful directions to get us all back to Westphalia. And the weather was perfect! Our coordinator, Chris Piggott, hit one out of the park (no pun intended).

The Germans have a saying, "Wenn die engele reisen, dann lacht der himmell." Which means..."When the angels travel..."(what's the rest?)

Building Hours & Upcoming Meetings

Next Meeting: December 19, 7:00 PM

We will hold voting for officers and board members who were nominated at the November 21st meeting. Incumbents have agreed to serve another two years.

Leo Pohl (President), Maggie Upson (Vice President), Margie Wirth (Secretary), Chris Piggott (Treasurer). Board of Directors: Karen Spitzely, Maggie Upson, Bernie Thelen, Phil Hengesbach, Debbie Hengesbach, and Theresea Quartermus.

2018 Meetings

There are no meetings in January or February, making our next meeting March 20, 2018. We are always looking for new members to carry us down the road; we hope to see you there!



Passing the Torch

From the moment we started our newsletter five years ago, Charlotte Hengesbach has head it up. We would like to thank Charlotte for the job she has done, the many corrections she has made, and the many cute little things she's added in to make the newsletter what it is. Her daughter, Debbie, has now agreed to take over for her mom. Debbie has been doing our website and Facebook page for some time, and Charlotte has groomed her to take over this new volunteering endeavor.

THANK YOU, Charlotte!

In Memory...

We recently lost one of our members, Jeanene Thelen. Jeanene and her husband, Gerald, have been active members for some time. Jeanene was known as being an accomplished artist.

Related to this, we have been mulling around the idea of having a display of works done by some of our local artists in the Historical Society building.

If any local artists are interested in working on this project, please let us know.

ATTENTION!!

A bracelet was found after the Light Parade! Call 587-6885 if it's yours!

The Seven Affholter Brothers

We now have a picture of the seven sons of John Affholter and Theresa Mauren. Their two daughters, Regina and Anna, are not in the picture.

3rd Annual Light Parade & Tree Lighting

"Our Lady of Westphalia" surely smiled on us this year, as the weather could not have been better for our parade.

Let's start with the tree. Our wonderful tree was donated by Glenn and Marie Smith, and placed by Leon Theis, Walt Thelen, Leo Pohl, Glenn Smith, and Nort Upson. We also gained the help of our village maintenance crew: Jim Bierstetel and Steve Miller.

We had 29 entries in our parade, each announced as it went down Main Street by Jim Thelen. Included in the 29 were several entries from PW: the marching band, led by Randy Voisinet, Pirate Pete, State Champion Football team, Girls' Varsity basketball team, and cheerleaders. All did their parents and school proud. Also, special thanks goes out to local businesses and citizens who were ingenious in their decorating skills of businesses, golf carts, floats, fire trucks, Jeeps, etc. Everyone was truly outstanding and creative this year!

Last but not least, our special guests! St. Nicholas made his annual appearance on the Hengesbach family float, which was a beautiful addition to our parade. St. Nick had chocolate gold coins for all! Our other special guests rode on the Historical Society float: Jayne Meyers, who lit the tree and led the community with her harmonica playing Happy Birthday to Evelyn Weiland. Thank you, Jayne! And Happy 92nd Birthday, Evelyn, our local historian.

I'm sure I've inadvertently left out a few thank you's to people who helped this year (and in the past), but it is everyone's participation that makes this a fun and memorable evening. Mark your calendars for December 1, 2018!

Have a Merry Christmas, Leo Pohl, President

94 Years

We would like to wish Mrs. Rosemarie Rademacher Happy Birthday! She is turning 94 on January 17th!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

This means she was born in 1924. What else was happening in 1924?

Republican Calvin Coolidge won the presidential election in November.

Gallon of gas: 11 cents

Loaf of bread: 9 cents

First class stamp: 2 cents

Victrola: \$150

Chevy Roadster: \$480.00

Just in Time for Christmas

Here's a little lied (*song*) from Tante (*aunt*) Otti who lives in the Eifel area in Germany:

*Christkind komm in unser Haus
Pack deine grosse Tasche aus.*

Setz das Schimmelehen unter den Tisch

Das es Heu und Hafer frisst.

Heu und Hafer frisst es nicht

Zuckerplatchen Kriegt es nicht.

-- von Tante Otti

(*Schimmelehen* = a little white horse)

Christ child come into our house

Your big pockets shake out.

Under the table your little white pony set

so that it can hay and oats eat.

Hay and oats it will not eat

sugar cookies it will not get.

-- by Aunt Ottie