



# Westphalia Historical Society Newsletter

October 2016

Volume 27

## Recent Donors

Judith Thelen  
Monica Rademacher  
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Richard Baker  
Mike & Kathy Wood  
Portland Federal Credit Union

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



## Christmas Ornaments & Coasters

It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas shopping. A limited supply of the **2016 W.H.S. Christmas ornaments** are now available at The Little Flower Market as well as at our museum. The price of the ornament is \$15. Just like last year the ornaments are beautiful, with a picture of the old St. Mary Church that burned in 1959. If you have pre-ordered one, they can be picked up at our building during museum hours. Also available are **sets of 4 coasters** with stands for \$35. One set of coasters has pictures of old Westphalia buildings; the other set has pictures of past and present Westphalia churches. These would make great Christmas gifts.

**Correction to last Newsletter**...In our story about the building known as the Arens Store, we said William Arens, son of Joseph Arens, William (Tinner) Bohr and John Fink followed. **It was not William (Tinner) Bohr in business with John Fink.** This William Bohr was the husband of Eleanora Smith and their home was on the corner of Heyer and West Oak Street.

## Oktoberfest

Compared to last year, we were blessed with decent weather. Attendance was down a bit because of other local activities, but much fun was had, for all who attended.

*Quilt – Germaine Miller*

*Trunk – Clara Smith*

*Porch Swing – Jerry & Jan Nurenberg*

*10 yards of gravel or \$100 – Tom Nurenberg*

*Lap Throw – James Cook*

*And then....50/50 Gary Arens sculpture weight contest was won by Ted Platte with a guess of 869 lbs.!! The actual weight was 940 lbs. Ted very generously donated his winnings back to the Historical Society!*

## Light Parade December 3rd

Our second annual Light Parade will begin at 6:00 p.m. Many businesses will be open for our community support with food available, including the Ark. Also open will be the local flower and landscape shops which have some beautiful Christmas gifts available; take a look. St. Nick has agreed to bless us with his attendance again this year. Brian Theis will donate the community Christmas tree. It will be a beauty this year just like last year, and his Dad, Leon is willing to haul it to town. If you are planning on joining in the light parade, please call Leo Pohl at 989 587-3843 to register. This is a wonderful family activity and we received many great responses from young and old alike last year. So please consider joining us and mark your calendar for this fun night.

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Anyone remember? Friday, May 27, 1938 Cornelia Belen, Rosella Bohr & Catherine Pline were the 1<sup>st</sup> class of High School Seniors to graduate from Westphalia High School!

### Veterans Display

If you haven't seen it yet, better hurry because it will be dismantled at the end of the year. Remember, our building is open the first Sunday of every month 1-4pm and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 5-8 pm. These dates are: Sun., Nov 6, 1-4pm, Wed., Nov 16 5-8pm & Sun., Dec 4 1-4pm.

Email address: [westphalia1836@gmail.com](mailto:westphalia1836@gmail.com)

Website: [www.westphaliahistory.weebly.com](http://www.westphaliahistory.weebly.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/westphalia1836](http://www.facebook.com/westphalia1836)

### Available Publications

- 1). "Of Pilgrimage, Prayer, and Promise. The Story of St. Mary's Westphalia 1836-1986", \$23 each/2 or more \$20 each
- 2). "Quiet Heroism". This book remembers the 87 Westphalia area women who entered the convent, \$6.00.
- 3). "Westphalia High School Reunion 1938-1950, \$3.00
- 4). "Historical Film Footage 1936-1961", contains footage taken by Fr. Gutha of the 1936 Centennial & footage of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1961, \$15.00
- 5). "Sisters of Christian Charity", \$1.00 each.

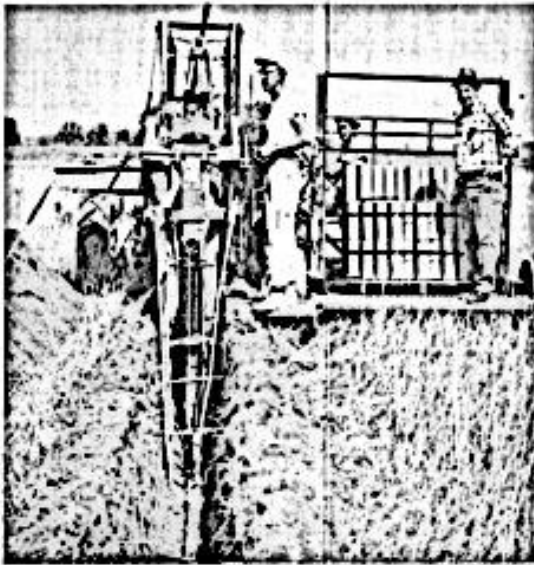
### Cemetery Walk

For the third year, our cemetery walk was very successful with an estimated 275 people in attendance. We are very thankful for the many volunteers who made the event possible, beginning with our presenters: nephew, Larry Thelen as Martin Rademacher; AJ Schneider as Professor Frank Loehner; great-granddaughter, Kyan Thelen as Ester Pung; great-grandson, John Lehman as Johann Lehmann; grandsons, Harry and Richard Baker as Joseph & William Bohr; cousin, Joannie Bohr Heckman as Kate Bohr. We then must thank our talented docents who directed people through the cemetery: Phil Hanes, Jerry Nurenberg, Jerry Thelen, Glenn Fink, and Joe Kolp. Thanks also go to the talented musicians: Gary Langdon, Andrew Wilson, and our own Eugenia Arens. We also thank Paul Smith and his mowing crews for our neat-first rate cemetery; for directing traffic: Stan Schafer and Phil Hengesbach; for set-up and take down, Leo Pohl and a multitude of members. We also recognize our golf cart drivers Randy Thelen, Dave Harrison, Heather Platte, Duane Hengesbach, Amy Cook, Jack Miller, and Nort & Maggie Upson, who also helped people get through the cemetery. This event could not have happened without our illustrious historian, Evelyn Weiland who did extensive research and wrote the stories, also the Esther Pung family for her personal history. Thank you to the members and nonmembers who baked the delicious cookies.

Many from out of town attended our Cemetery Walk and the Oktoberfest. Richard Baker came from Missouri and his brother, Harry Baker from Grand Ledge, a third brother, Dan Baker came from Lake City, while brother Steve came from Lansing. Julia Garrett drove in from South Carolina with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Doug Wilson. Another sister came from Georgia. Barb Armstrong was from East Lansing. Eric Armstrong flew in from Washington, D.C. and his daughter, Brittany came from Germany. Tom and Barb Manning came from Kentucky, and Peg & Tom Garikes came from Chesaning. We hope the crowd enjoyed the events and maybe learned a little more about Westphalia history. Finally, we thank God and Mother Pauline for our beautiful weather. **A \$15.00 DVD of this year's cemetery walk can be ordered until Nov 12<sup>th</sup> from Chris Piggott 587-6558.**

### The Platte Brothers – Gene and Marvin

They were in business for many years in Westphalia and the surrounding area with their tiling machine. They were highly recommended as the top-rate ditching contractors in the area since their father, Ferd Platte, first started the business in the late 1940s. In the picture, Gene & Marvin Platte & Ledge-Co's Corwin Smart.



## LEDG-CO Tile Tote

New and most modern way to transport and feed the drain tile from Grand Ledge Clay into the trench.

Platte Brothers, Marv and Gene, prominent Clinton County ditching contractors, demonstrate here the labor saving efficiency of these LEDG-CO carts with direct hydraulic lift. (Helping demonstrate the new Ledge-Co's is farmer-salesman Corwin Smart.)

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