

# **Mayville Area Museum of History and Genealogy**

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P.O. Box 242

•Mayville, Michigan 48744

## Mayville Museum Annual Newsletter October 2011 - September 2012

Hello to Everyone-

This past year just seem to fly by. With our mild winter last year we glided right through the holidays, winter and skipped spring entirely to have a nice, long summer and a very busy season for the Museum. We lost quite a few members this past year. In November 2011 our dear friend Pat Baker passed away. We really miss her friendly reminder calls for the next meeting. Shortly after the first of the year we laid to rest long time Mayville residents Floyd & Lillian Ducker, followed by our dear friends Irene Fox, Grace Aumack, Kathryn Greene and Margaret Phelps. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families. We at the Museum miss them a lot.

The Mayville Chamber of Commerce hosted the Annual Buck Pole in November on the Museum grounds. Forty-three hunters and many more lookers came by to participate.

We were a little late with our "Appreciation Dinner" in 2011 and combined it with our December meeting and Christmas celebration.

The Museum did some major projects this past year. First off we installed another electrical meter to take advantage of our geothermal heating/cooling system. The lower rate will hopefully save us some money in the future. We installed a new thermostat and had some unexpected furnace repairs and installed a special GFI plug in the office area. Hopefully we won't trip the fuses during our pancake breakfasts any more. New driveway markers were added with solar powered lights for some illumination. Bill Rappuhn worked very hard on a storage lean too on the back of the schoolhouse. It will free up some needed space in the Founder's Building. All were costly projects but much needed and we know that they will be beneficial for many years.

Nathan Atkinson, son of members Val & Kevin Atkinson, completed his Eagle Scout project here at the museum. A big undertaking for a then fifteen year old lad, Nathan volunteered to refurbish the old outhouse, make a display for the large hog pot and hang the schoolhouse bell from the old high school. He first approached the Museum in September of 2010 and completed everything in time for the annual car show in 2012. He did a magnificent job and we are looking forward to his Court of Honor when he will be presented with his Eagle Scout Award.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, held the end of March, had over 600 kids come out to the Museum grounds. It has gotten bigger each year. Plans are already underway for the 2013 Community Easter Egg Hunt.

In April the Mayville Museum gathered with seven other museums from Tuscola County and planned an open house to be held this fall. We meet every other month at the different museums and find out what each is planning and get feedback from the others ideas. All have the same concern... get more people involved. Look for good things to come from the Tuscola County Historical Societies and Museum committee (Caro Roadhouse, Caro-Watrousville, Cass City, Kingston, Mayville, Millington, Octagon Barn. and Vassar).

This year the Museum hosted three summer concerts on the lawn of the museum. Our first concert in June featured the gospel music of our own local band, The Silverwood Bottom Boys. Everyone who attended enjoyed the evening. In July we went back to the days of "rock & roll" with The Viceroy's

There was plenty of toe tapping and singing along, a special serenade to Betty Petiprin and many requests for a return visit.. Our third and final concert had some weather issues and was moved to the Methodist Church. A very small turn out enjoyed, Guy Louis and his "Chataquaqua Express" musical show. A disappointment from the community response but Guy still put on a terrific and entertaining evening.

In June, the third grade class from Mayville Elementary visited the museum and schoolhouse. Divided into two groups, each got a firsthand look at attending a "one room schoolhouse " from former student, Carol Harmon and Frank Franzel. In the Museum they were greeted by Marilyn Patterson, Dodie Rappuhn and Fran Campbell. It's always a treat to have the kids come out.

Again the Museum members put their heads together and came up with great idea for the Sunflower Festival float. Borrowing an old satellite dish from Gary & Carol Harmon, Carol transformed it into a giant sunflower, with a theme, "Thanks to our Veterans, We can Enjoy a "Bright Sunny Day". Our float displayed the museum's collection of vintage military uniforms and took home a ribbon for "Best Themed Float" in the parade. The Museum also hosted the first annual Sunflower Recipe Contest during the festival. Any items which used a sunflower byproduct were eligible. We had several entrants and very different items. Karen Reece took home first place with her Sunflower Carrot Cookies and Pat Wingert took second place with her broccoli sunflower seed salad. We need more participants for next year so start testing those recipes.

Former resident, Tom Blair, published articles in the Mayville Monitor back in 1989, reminiscing about his childhood on the farm in Rich Township. Carol Harmon and Jo Fryers, compiled these clippings into a book form, "Remembering the 30's" and we are now into our second printing. The books have been a great fundraiser for the Museum. If you haven't gotten one, make sure you do. Some wonderful reading even if you didn't live on a farm growing up. They would make a great Christmas gift as well.

We are looking for some maintenance assistance around the museum. If you can or know someone who would like to donate a few hours a week to help with our lawn maintenance and up keep, please step forward. We have the lawnmower, we need an operator. Also, our flower beds need some attention. Come spring we sure could use some help.

Another successful, All Country School Reunion was held at the West Dayton Schoolhouse in August. Mark your calendars for the first Saturday in August 2013 for the next event. It's potluck, so bring a dish to pass, your lawn chairs and memories.

September came way to fast and before you knew it, we were having our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Museum Car Show. Once again, Julie Hollenbeck stepped up and did an amazing job. With the help of Birchel Smith they did a great job in promoting the show and we had 82 registered entrants and a few stragglers. The ladies of the museum put on a pancake breakfast, serving a record number of pancakes. The whole day was perfect. We thank God for the sunshine, nice weather and everyone who came out. This year we honored Dick Werner, who passed away in 2010. He always enjoyed our car shows and was a judge in the past. Next year's date is already set, September 14, 2013.

2013 is a critical year for the museum. Our last endowment from the Arlene Western Trust towards our mortgage will be in January 2013. We will have a remaining balance of about \$22,000 on our mortgage. Some serious fundraising needs to be planned in order for us to meet a monthly mortgage payment or pay in full. Thoughts have been to have an auction in the spring. If we do this, we need stuff to auction. Please look around... is there something you don't need, don't use or don't want.... Consider donating to the Museum. We are 501c which makes it tax deductible. We are collecting Spartan labels and pop can tabs.

Our fourth calendar featuring articles from the Mayville Monitor 1920- 1929 will be available in mid November, just in time for the holiday gift giving season. Calendars are \$8.00 each, a real bargin, you get new reading material every month. We still have a few Mayville Historical Videos for \$22 and don't forget the Tom Blair, "Remembering the 30's" book.

September we elected officers and board members for the coming year. Our new board is:

**OFFICERS**

Frank Franzel – President (2014)  
Ron Johnson – Vice President (2013)

Fran Campbell (Secretary/Treasury) 2014

**TRUSTEES**

2013  
Val Atkinson  
Dodie Rappuhn  
Liz Lambert

2014  
Marilyn Patterson  
Carol Harmon  
Bob Fritz

Future plans and aspirations for Mayville Area Museum of History and Genealogy: A barn and chapel to add to the Museum grounds. Any Ideas????

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To renew your membership or become a new member, please mail this form to:  
Mayville Area Museum, P.O. Box 242, Mayville, MI 48744

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime Membership \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Yearly Single \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Yearly Family \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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To order a copy of the **150 Year History of Mayville** video, complete this form or you can e-mail your request to [mayvillemuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:mayvillemuseum@hotmail.com)

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