



Manchester Area
Historical Society



PO Box 56
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2003-2004 Officers

Don Limpert, President

Jim Wilson,
First Vice-President

Howard Parr,
Second Vice-President

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M A N C H E S T E R

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The February 12th meeting will feature Marja Warner, a Manchester resident who has worked with the American Red Cross organizing local blood drives. She'll speak on the history of Red Cross.

On March 11th we will hear about The Civil War and recent reenactments. George Till, a Chelsea resident and active reenactor will share his adventures with us. George is a member of the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment that performed in the movie "Gods and Generals", which starred another Chelsea resident, Jeff Daniels.

On April 8th our Treasurer, Carl Curtis, will display and discuss Stereo Viewing Scopes. If I know Carl, we can count on a very interesting evening.

We are always looking for people with interesting hobbies or careers who would be willing to share them with us. If you know someone like this, get their name and number to me and I will get them on our schedule. If you have an idea for a program, tell me about it and maybe we can find a speaker.

All meetings are in the Village Room in the lower level of the Village Hall. The meetings are open to all, close to home, and we have refreshments afterwards! Come join us!

—Jim Wilson

From the President

Welcome to the new year.

We have several programs already for the new year but Jim Wilson is always looking ahead for volunteers for future programs.

One of the things that the board will be discussing this year is the possibility of a separate building to house the many artifacts that we now have, many of which are in storage. One idea would be to build a building on the back portion of the present Blacksmith Shop lot that we now own. This could be a two level building with access from the existing village park. What other ideas do members have?

We always welcome input from members and the general public.

—*Don Limpert*



Meetings At A Glance

February 17, 7:30. Village Room
Marja Warner, American Red
Cross

March 11, 7:30. Village Room
George Till, Civil War reenact-
ments

April 8, 7:30. Village Room
Carl Curtis, Stereo Viewing
Scopes

NEW MEMBERSHIP DUES STRUCTURE

The Administrative Board felt the membership dues should minimally support the production and mailing of the quarterly newsletter and voted at the October, 2003, meeting to establish the following dues categories, starting with the 2004 dues.

Individual Membership	\$5.00
Family Membership	\$10.00
Individual Life Membership	\$150.00

*Not a member? Join and support the Historical Society!
Complete the dues payment form on the back page.*



LUMINARIA AFTERGLOW

Each January our Luminaria Committee evaluates the results of the season just past. From sales records we can determine how many candles were picked up at the Blacksmith Shop and identify street addresses participating. Various members also drive around town on Christmas Eve to look over the finished product.

This year's weather was kinder to candles than has been the case at other times. However, there were a lot of voids to be seen around the town. It was great to have the Village participate to cover our parks and the public square. Much of Main Street was lighted. Some streets were near perfect, while others left dark gaps. Our hope is to do a better job of "telling the story" next year and return to earlier times when block captains took extra time and effort to remind neighbors about candles and in some cases to help some property owners set up and light candles. Perhaps we can again lead other organizations to help that night. Scouts and other youth groups can help by setting up and lighting candles for residents unable to do their own; neighbors can help each other. Organizations—especially those with property- can be sure their candles are up. Wouldn't a band of candles look spectacular around Alumni Memorial Field and wouldn't that round out the efforts of surrounding property holders?

WHY DO WE DO THIS, ANYWAY?

Karen Hinkley started this Christian tradition in Manchester in 1977. Her thought was that if one street—Ann Arbor Hill was hers—could be lighted, others would follow. Within a few years they did and virtually the whole town was involved to make the display outstanding. Our *Enterprise* editor then used to dream of getting movies of it from an airplane to document the spectacular, but he never did as far as we know. Karen's individual efforts were soon helped by the Manchester Art Guild and when the job outgrew them in 1983, it was taken over by the Historical Society. The organization is in place, but perhaps the story of this tradition has not been repeated often enough for newcomers to join in.

An *Enterprise* article in 2000 stated the history and it is worth repeating here: "The luminaria is said to have its origins in sixteenth century Mexico. The tradition began as the Mexican Indians set bonfires on the patios of their churches and on the flat roofs of their adobe homes on Christmas Eve, to light the way for the holy family. In the larger cities of Mexico, the bonfires came to be replaced by paper bags weighted with sand and a small candle was placed inside. The American version began in the southwestern United States and its popularity has spread across the country.



Today we very probably do this in a spirit of community pride more than on a religious basis. But each of us here observes Christmas one way or another so we still hope the simple candle tradition of Christmas Eve can make our community proud of a job well done and in some small way remind each of us of the meaning and benefits Christmas should have for all.

October 2004 has been set as the Society's deadline to revisit Luminaria in this community.

Show And Tell



The November program was an antique show-and-tell, moderated by Program Chair Jim Wilson.

Members and guests brought a wide variety of antiques of all sizes and shapes. Some antiques had been in the family for generations and some were purchased more recently. Stories were told about some of the items and a few were brought in hopes that someone would be able to identify them.

The antiques included a beer tap dating to 1873 that was found in the basement of the Black Sheep Tavern. It was driven into a wooden keg and the beer was drawn.



Del Ludwick proudly showed his merit badges which he earned to become an Eagle Scout.

Other items were a small book with a title that took up a full page, a knife from World War I and a coin dated 1781. Clemens' Silent Teacher was a wooden puzzle map of Michigan made prior to 1890; a punched tinware candle box, a hickory nut cracker and a horse anchor were also among the items shown.



A 100-to 150-year old cylinder music box played a tune for us. A coal shovel was identified by its straight handle to allow a per-



son to shovel coal at waist height.

Also displayed were piano stools with glass ball feet and cast iron feet, a big wooden sugar bucket over 100 years old, a soap scoop, a soap shaver, a washboard and a tub.



Ford Village Industries

Leo Landis, Curator of Agriculture and Rural Life, at The Henry Ford (formerly Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village), presented a program on Ford Village Industries when the Manchester Area Historical Society met Jan. 8 in the Village Room on the lower level of Manchester's former Ford plant.

According to Landis, Henry Ford never forgot rural people. He wanted to mechanize farm work so it was not so much drudgery, believing that rural people should have the same quality of life as people in the cities, but be able to stay on the land.

Ford believed that industry and agriculture are natural partners. He wanted to find a way to use crops in manufacturing cars – to "grow a car."

Looking at what crops were available in the entire country, southeastern Michigan's major crop was soybeans. Until about 1930, soybeans were regarded mainly as a food commodity. Ford developed a way of removing the oil and used it to paint cars. He also used the meal to make a composite material.

Ford did not think the government should try to solve the problem of the Great Depression. Individuals and businessmen should solve the problems. If people had jobs, they would buy the goods and services and that would help the country.

Ford thought that if America had one foot in industry and one foot in agriculture, the country would be self-sufficient. His solution to helping rural people and overcoming the depression was to create small village industries, of which there were 18 in southeastern Michigan.

Nankin Mills was the first village industry, developed in 1918. Ford liked waterpower and usually selected mills. He used some existing structures and built others. He also was partial to Greek Revival Architecture. He painted and fixed up the mills he bought.

Sharon Mills used hydroelectric power with a V8 engine as back up. Ford removed the original foundation and put in a good, stone foundation. It opened in 1939 and employed 17, making cigar lighters. The Manchester plant was finished in 1941 and made instrument panels and instruments.

The Saline plant, now Weller's, employed 19 and processed soybeans. The Brooklyn plant made horns. The Rouge plant made dashboards and knobs, horn buttons, and tractor seats made of a soybean composite.

The Hayden Mill in Tecumseh processed soybeans, as did many of the other plants in Michigan.

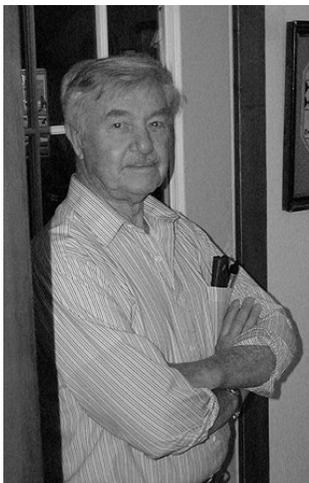
In 2004, tours of the Rouge Plant will be offered by The Henry Ford. A quilt exhibit will open on Feb. 12, a temporary exhibit on disco will be featured this summer and an exhibit on flight will open in December.



Christmas Cookie Exchange

About 30 people gathered at Don Limpert's home and museum on December 11th for the Society's annual Cookie Exchange and Carol Sing. As a special treat, this year's sing was lead by Luther Schiable as he accompanied the voices on his accordion.

A wonderful time was had by all, especially as we sang the Twelve Days of Christmas in parts. Those five golden rings may still be ringing!



As the gracious host, Don served coffee and punch as

we chose our cookies — both to eat and take home.

Approximately \$133 was collected and sent to Manchester Family Services.

Don's home is filled with historical artifacts and his private museum behind his home was open for us, as well. He has a wonderful collection of local and military civil war history—too much to see all at once!

Thanks, Don, for hosting this annual event.



HAPPENINGS ELSEWHERE

February 14th and 15th, 1:30 and 3:30 - **Valentine's Day Tea**
Kempf House Museum, 312 S. Division St., Ann Arbor

Sunday, February 15th, 2pm - **Ypsilanti's Historic Buildings**
Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti

February 21st. **Michigan Historical Museum Workshop**
Learn the correct techniques to preserve your cherished keepsakes.
Lansing. \$35 which includes supplies. Pre-registration required - 517-373-1905.

Sunday, March 21st, 2pm - **Historic Saline: Settlement to 1950**
Saline District Library, 555 Maple Street, Saline

Sunday, April 18th, 2pm - **Downtown (Ann Arbor) Street Exhibit Program**

The Street Exhibit Program features 16 sites in downtown Ann Arbor where pedestrians look through transparent photos of vanished buildings to view the current downtown streets and structures.

6 Courthouse Square Community Bldg., 100 S. 4th St., Ann Arbor

Farming in the Early 1900s

Editor's Note: What follows is excerpted from the writings of Howard Parr entitled "Mom and Dad's Farm- 1915-1965. It relates to growing up on a farm - in a world of simple economy powered by man and his horses.

He starts in March, ... " when the farmer's year begins. Farms were rented from March 1st to the next March 1st because it made sense to begin and end at that relatively inactive time of year for farmers. When farmers intended to move from one farm to another, their auction was usually at the same time. Everything they didn't care to take with them was disposed of and they took only what they wanted/needed in their next loca-

Hauling Manure

Before plowing could start all manure needed to be hauled and spread on the fields. Some manure was hauled almost daily from the stables as it accumulated. The largest amount came from the sheep basement which by spring would have two or two and a half feet of solidly packed manure and hay scraps. We used a manure spreader and a manure boat, which was more or less a sled with a rack on it using a split log for runners. This was used in winter and when mud kept us from using the spreader. The spreader needed solid ground for traction to operate the feeder apron and the spinning spreader. As the team pulled the spreader in operation, the apron fed the load into the spinning drums at the rear, which threw a coat of manure onto the ground behind. Adjustments could be made with the control levers to spread the manure thinly or thickly. When we used the manure boat, spreading was done by hand with manure forks. It wasn't unusual during the manure hauling season for blisters or calluses to appear on our hands. The prying and tugging needed to loosen the sheep manure was demanding on our winter-soft bare hands.

Fitting the Ground

Plowing started early on our sandy, gravel soil and sometimes to get an even earlier start, we plowed ground for oats in the fall. We normally dragged the plowed ground two or three times with a spring tooth drag. These came in sections that one horse could pull and we usually connected three of them together and used a three horse team for this heavy work. The teeth could be adjusted for various depths depending on the ground and the purpose for dragging. If ground was lumpy (clay, usually) we used a disc to break up the lumps. If the ground was very loose it had to be packed down with a roller. We also had a spike tooth drag which

was used to create a very smooth surface on the field—usually just before it was seeded so the hayfield would be smoother. At times this drag could also be used to gently cover alfalfa or clover seeds broadcast on a field. All of this work was hard and dirty. The operator was close to the ground and usually walking in the dust which always clouded around the disturbed, dry sandy soil. Wet soil didn't work up well and tended to become lumpy so we had to put with the dust. One of the advantages of working near to the ground was that one could easily spot an Indian arrowhead or tool. These artifacts were more plentiful then, and probably would be missed from the seat of today's tractor. Horses were quiet, and one could hear the birds, train and fire whistles and the church bells which might be tolling out the announcement of someone's death. We knew when to quit for the noon meal because the fire siren was tested each day at that time. Even the horses realized it was time to go to the barn when it blew.

Sowing

Oats, wheat, rye and barley were sowed with a grain drill pulled by two horses. One could also sow alfalfa or clover seed or spread fertilizer with the attachments that came with our drill. Most of our alfalfa or clover seed was spread by hand with a fiddle. As a man walked steadily across a field when there was no wind, seeds fell onto a spinning disc which spread them evenly across his path. When Dad picked the right still morning to fiddle seed, the rest of us were called earlier to do chores and milk. Corn and sometimes soy beans were planted with a two-row planter which could either drill the seed in rows or put them in a checkerboard pattern for two-way cultivation later. We "check rowed" corn only in the weediest fields since we could keep drilled rows clean in the other fields.

2003 Year End Financial Report

Income:

Calendar Ads	\$4,700.00
Calendar Sales	\$2,238.50
Donations - Memorials	483.00
Donations - Unspecified	\$383.90
Interest	\$226.10
Luminaria Sales	\$1,441.10
Membership Dues	\$397.00
Sale of Shelving	\$500.00
50/50 Drawings	\$73.00
TOTAL Income	\$10,442.60

Recurring Expenses:

Advertising	\$105.00
Donations & Dues	\$268.00
House Expense	\$82.62
Insurance	\$384.00
Luminaria Supplies	\$471.66
Maint./Grounds	\$746.00
Miscellaneous	\$212.75
Newsletter Production	\$333.31
Printing	\$2,665.79
Postage & Box Rental	\$194.25
Utilities	\$1,263.76
TOTAL Recurring Expenses	\$6,727.14

Asset Transfer from Income:

Endowment & Interest Acct. Credits	\$909.10
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Other Expenses:

Memorial Plaque Balance	\$868.00
Plaque Mounting	\$720.00
Computer Printer	\$391.04

TOTAL Expenses **\$8,706.18**

Account Balances for 2003

	1 January 2003	31 December 2003
Checking Account	\$9,045.98	\$9,873.30
Short Term Investment Account	\$18,199.32	\$18,320.42

Endowment Accounts

Emily Cummings Memorial Account	\$20.00	\$108.00
Mary Walton Memorial Account	\$835.00	\$835.00
Helen M. Ziegler Memorial Account	\$0	\$500.00
Life Membership Account	\$2,700.00	\$2,900.00
New Site Account	\$25.00	\$25.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl D. Curtis



The Washtenaw County Historical Consortium is planning an open house tour May 15-16, 2004. A number of historical attractions in Ann Arbor, Dexter, Milan, Saline, Ypsilanti and our own Blacksmith Shop will be offering special exhibits and events. Celebrate Spring by exploring historical Washtenaw County. More information to follow in the next newsletter.

The Consortium is made up of the various historical societies/sites in Washtenaw County.

Volunteer Award

The Manchester Area Historical Society participated in the banquet sponsored by the Community Resource Center, and recognized Nondus Buss for her work on the historical calendars.

Nondus originally volunteered to write "some captions" for the calendar on Centennial Farms. When the theme for the 2003 calendar was set as a history of Manchester Area Schools, she jumped in with both feet, helped to collect the photographs, contacted families and provided extensive research. She wrote all the captions and all historical information .

Actually, she did such a great job for the 2003 calendar, and she had so many photographs and so much information, there was enough material for the 2004 calendar.

And as work has already begun on the 2005 calendar, Nondus has once again agreed to help.

Thanks, Nondus!

The theme of the banquet was "A River Runs Through Us." and thanks also to Howard Parr who prepared an excellent display of historic artifacts for the banquet.



Nondus Buss gets a hug from Carl Curtis as the CRC banquet honoring volunteers.



Meeting Dates

When would you like to have the Historical Society meetings?

The meeting dates for the Historical Society were changed about two years ago from the third Tuesday of the month to the second Thursday. In so doing, we enabled some members to attend meetings, but unfortunately, introduced conflicts for others.

We would, of course, like to hold our meetings so everyone can come!

Is there a better night for meetings?

Please answer the few questions below and return with your dues, or send a note or an email.

Your input is important! Thanks

I'd love to come, but usually can't make it on the second Thursday.

The second Thursday is the best time for me.

The best day would be _____

Other comments:



Yesteryear's Housekeeper

from Early American Life, October 1973

The title pages of some 19th century cookbooks were as interesting as the books themselves and nearly as long. The following is excerpted from a book published in 1859. Its title:

THE AMERICAN PRACTICAL COOKERY BOOK or, Housekeeping Made Easy, Pleasant and Economical In All Its Departments. To which are added directions for setting out tables and giving entertainments; directions for jointing, trussing, and carving; and several hundred additional receipts. By a Practical Housekeeper.

And for good measure, there is a dedication:

TO THOSE HOUSEKEEPERS whose patience has been often tried, and their materials wasted, in attempts to follow the impractical directions, contained in cookery-books written with delicate fingers, and based upon French and other foreign writers, THIS VOLUME, (Expressly and painstakingly prepared for those who have good living without an exorbitant outlay of time and money, and free from the risks of mere "experimenting.") IS HUMBLY DEDICATED BY THE AUTHOR.

General Household Directions

If possible have the washing done on Monday, as there is no more sure sign of a poor housekeeper than to delay the washing till the latter part of the week, when it can be well done on Monday but for the lack of energy and decision.

It is good economy to purchase articles not liable to perish, by the large quantity, first ascertaining that they are of the best quality. Such articles should always be properly stored, and, if practicable, kept under lock and key, thereby lessening the temptation to any person to fraudulently dispose of them.

Hotch-Potch

Take lamb or mutton chops, pare off the fat; put a layer of meat at the bottom, covered with pieces of onion, carrots, turnips, peas, celery, and any other kind of vegetable you please. Repeat this, adding a little salt and pepper, till you have put in as much as you wish of the meat and vegetables. Fill up to the top of the layers with cold water, cover closely, and stew it very gently.

Not a Member? Join and support the Historical Society — help preserve Manchester's history.

DUES PAYMENT, 2004

Membership Year is 1 January through 31 December

MEMBERSHIPS

___ 1 Year Individual Membership @ \$5.00 each	\$ _____
___ 1 Year Family Membership @ \$10.00 each	\$ _____
___ Individual Life Membership @ \$150.00	\$ _____
___ Individual & Spouse Life Membership @ \$200.00	\$ _____
___ Additional donation	\$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make check payable to Manchester Area
Historical Society and bring to a meeting or mail to:

Carl Curtis, Treasurer, MAHS
PO Box 56, Manchester, MI 48158

Your name

Name

& address

Address