



Volume 24, No.4
November, 2008

MANCHESTER

Manchester Area Historical Society

PO Box 56
Manchester, Michigan 48158

Meetings: 7:30 pm
Second Thursday each Month,
September through June
Village Room, 912 City Rd.



2007-2008 Officers

Carl Curtis, President
Jim Wilson,
First Vice-President
Jerry Swartout
Second Vice-President

Betty Cummings, Secretary
Sharon Curtis, Treasurer
Don Limpert, Imm.Past Pres.
Reno Feldkamp, Trustee
Doug Howell, Trustee
Howard Parr, Trustee

November, 2008

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September, 2008 Meeting - MAHS Annual Meeting

On September 11, 2008 the Manchester Area Historical Society held its annual meeting at the Blacksmith Shop for the election of officers for the 2008-2009 year. All members of the current Board of Directors were nominated and unanimously elected to the 2008-2009 term. There being no other business to come before the membership, the evening's program about heirloom fruit trees and grafting procedures was presented by Mike Dority.

Mike's presentation concentrated on the history, development, and propagation of apples. He traced the sweet apple from the Tien Shan Mountains in Central Asia to Europe and then to the United States via European settlers who brought apple seeds when they emigrated to the United States. Historically, Alexander the Great used apples in mock battles to train his armies, apparently a plentiful "weapon" for practice. Because of the genetic variations from pollination, apples from seed do not grow "true" (maintain specific characteristics of the parent). To get "true" reproduction of apples, or any other fruits, trees must be grafted. The grafted branch maintains its genetic characters so all of the fruit subsequently grown will have the same characteristics, hence produce "true" fruits. The first documented grafting was done by the Chinese as early as 5000 BC. Aristotle wrote extensively about it and Mike described several different ways of grafting.

John Chapman, also known as Johnny Appleseed, obtained canoe loads of seeds from cider mills. He spread the seeds and he gave seeds to people but he did not believe in grafting. One requirement of proving a homestead claim was for the settler to have a certain size orchard in a specific number of years, a requirement that ensured the settler would stay on the land. It might take 15 years for an apple to bear fruit if the tree was grown from seed so people did not move on quickly.

New varieties of apples are patented and the names are trademarked. They are grown for storage capability and disease resistance. However, Heirloom apples continue in popularity because of their unique tastes and uses.

Karen Jenter Receives the 2008 *New Avenues Award*

The Manchester Area Historical Society was proud to recognize and nominate member, Karen Jenter, to the Community Resource Center's 2008 Volunteer Recognition Banquet which was held November 14th.

The New Avenues Award is given in recognition of a volunteer who has contributed to the Manchester area community in a new and different manner. Karen's volunteer work in the Historical Room of the Manchester District Library, her research of both print and internet materials, her transcription of old and fragile print publications, her compilation and colation of historical data on Manchester area cemeteries and her initiation of the project "Operation Tombstone, Every Veteran Deserves A Tombstone" was recognized as she received the 2008 *New Avenues Award*.

In addition to the aforementioned volunteer work, the MAHS also recognized Karen's genealogical research, her contributions to the Adrian Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, her willingness to share information with others and to assist them with genealogical researches, her updating of information on various historical internet sites and her contributions as a fifth generation member of Manchester's Emanuel United Church of Christ. Congratulations Karen.



Upcoming Meetings

December 11th, 2008: The annual *Cookie Exchange and Christmas Carol* sing will be held at Bob and Mary Anzalone's barn this year at 8720 Sharon Hollow Road. The barn houses the dog kennel and the antique car restoration facilities, both of which are immaculate and anything but barn like. You may recall that the MAHS met and toured the facilities a few years ago. The hospitality and fine setting will be available again on December 11th.

Plan to arrive at 7 PM for a tour of the facilities and bring a dish of cookies to share as well as your singing voice. Punch and coffee will be provided and, as usual, after the singing and snacking on cookies you should be ready to take a selection of cookies home after leaving a monetary donation in the basket. The donation is given to Manchester Family Services to support its work during the Holiday season.

Coming in 2009

January: Our annual Show and Tell. Bring something old to explain and/or demonstrate.

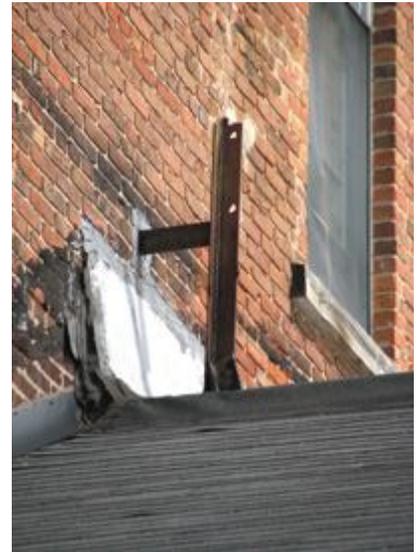
February: Howard Parr, "Collective Entrepreneurship to Grow Manchester"

March: Sharon United Methodist Church pastor, Pete Harris, speaking about "Early Michigan Methodists Of This Area"



Whatzit and Wherzit

Here are the five clue pictures from the previous newsletter's Whatzit & Wherzit and the building itself.



The backside of the building which was Arbeiter Hall. It now houses Mr. C's Pizza and the Village Laundry.

Know what this is? Send your answer to MAHS President (email, note, or call) to discover if we agree.

Whatzit and Wherzit continued

Here are five clue pictures for this month's Whatzit and Wherzit. The top three pictures are standard two dimensional photographs and the bottom two pictures are three dimensional anaglyphs. So get your anaglyph glasses and take a look at the clue pictures.



Anaglyph



Anaglyph

October Meeting - Bees And Bee Keeping

The Manchester Area Historical Society met on October 9, 2008, at the Village Room at Village Hall. Steve Day and Andy McLaughlin presented an entertaining program on beekeeping.

There are about 20,000 wild bee species in the world and beekeeping goes back 15,000 years. It is a good hobby because the hobbyist can spend as much time as he wishes on it. The first settlers in America brought bees with them for honey production. At that time, beekeepers had to kill the bees and destroy the hives to harvest the honey but things changed in 1841 when frames were invented and the hives did not have to be destroyed. Day and McLaughlin showed some frames and described how they are made and how the bees work in them. Bees could be ordered and delivered through the mail beginning in 1886. Today, a 3-lb box of bees costs \$55 and there are about 10,000 bees in the box. The queen and five or six attendants are packed separately. Bees have a 40-day lifespan.

In the 1980s mites brought devastation to wild bees. As a result, there are no feral bee populations left. The mites cause what is called Colony Collapse Disorder to hived bees. The hives look healthy one day and then the bees suddenly disappear without a trace. In 2006, 23 percent of large commercial operations were affected and by 2007, 50 to 90 percent were affected.

The first few times a bee comes out of its hive, it orients its internal GPS to the location of the hive so it can find its way back. The pheromones secreted by the queen also help to bring it back.



The white box in the foreground of the picture is a section of a bee hive and it contains frames for the honey comb. In his left hand, Steve Day is holding a frame which has remnants of a honey comb. The honey comb is scraped and the honey can then be drained from the comb. The frame is placed back in the hive and the bees construct and fill a new honey comb. Steve's right hand is resting on a new frame which does not have a honey comb. The frames have a wire mesh which the bees use as a foundation to build the honey comb.

Shop Talk by Howard Parr

The rafters in the Blacksmith Shop must have welcomed the activity during our meeting about heirloom apples earlier this year. It is too bad the house is not more user friendly so we could meet there more often. Our Board meetings and the Wednesday night practice sessions by the Community Band are about the only activities these days unless a call comes for a special visit.

Grace Shackman called and came by with her class of 14 at the end of their Manchester Walking Tour on September 16. Bob Miller was among the group and added a lot to the hour we spent looking over the shop and visiting. The old teacher in me is renewed when I tell the building's story, point out highlights among our exhibits, and answer questions.

On November 10th Kathy Christenson, a special education teacher, and her student, Maria, asked to visit. My tactics took an about face when I saw Maria probing for the door with her white cane. This remarkable jr. high gal, who is new to the area, had heard about the shop and wanted to visit it. She has a special interest in the Civil War period and earlier times in the 1800s. After some modified verbal attempts she "saw" the penny farthing bike with her fingers and also the vise and a few tools in front of the forge. Then it was one-on-one time to answer questions about early life here, what the shop had been used for, and other particulars about how this area developed. She is fortunate to have a teacher to take notes and do some skillful prompting. As they left an hour later I couldn't resist asking for a copy of the "report" she would have to write. I may not get it, but it was fun anyway. This visit served as a special reminder to be thankful for what most of us just take for granted.

The Board keeps looking for more ways to use our building and its museum collection to tell Manchester's history. Being open regularly, instead of by appointment, is a better way but it takes staff to meet the schedule. Docents are welcome and help is available to break them into this rewarding experience. Give me, or any Board member, a call if you are interested. It would only take a couple new faces to get us started. HEP

Editor's Note: On November 6, David Goodrich welcomed two people from Pinckney to the shop. The couple is interested in learning blacksmithing and had called for an appointment. David demonstrated and explained various things about the art of blacksmithing and passed on other information about the shop.

On the afternoon of November 22, while I was changing some bulbs in the holiday light display in the shop windows, a local family asked if they could come in and look around. They have passed by the shop on many occasions and finally took the opportunity to learn what happened there. They also saw many of our historical artifacts and got some explanations about tools used in the past.

And finally, although the Luminaria sponsorship has been passed from the MAHS to the Manchester Lions Club, the Blacksmith Shop will remain the distribution point for the Luminaria materials. The Lions will be selling Luminaria supplies on December 6th, 13th, 20th, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th.

The Blacksmith Shop does have appeal and people are interested in visiting and learning, not only about the shop and blacksmithing, but some Manchester history as well.

Annual Membership Renewal Notice

An envelope is included with your copy of this newsletter if you pay yearly dues. Put your 2009 dues in the envelope and give it to Treasurer, Sharon Curtis, at the December or January meeting or if you prefer, put your dues in the envelope and mail it. Please be sure to enter your name and other information as requested on the envelope.