

RELIVING

The Rochester Era

Nov./Dec.

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter

2014

Surrey is Fully Restored and Appearing in a Parade Near You!

The Surrey Is Back Home!

In September, the surrey was returned to RAHS after many weeks of careful restoration work. To say we are delighted with the restoration would be an understatement! The leather work is first-class. The tufted seats and matching interior top are splendid. The paint shines so intensely that it reflects like a mirror, and the lamps are the “fine jewelry” that make the surrey dazzle. Every inch has been restored, from the carpeting to the fringe on top.

Many thanks go out to Roger and Butch Knapp for driving to Nappanee, Indiana to bring the surrey home to Rochester. Additional thanks go out to Brian Dunphy and Bill Williams for their invaluable assistance in unloading it and to Leslie Mack who took many wonderful photographs for our archives.

So many RAHS members contributed donations and time to this project. Special thanks go to Debbie and Jerry Larsen for meticulously preparing and transporting the surrey to the restorer in Indiana last April. And, thanks also go out to Susan Wilson and Debbie Sharp for fabricating a custom dust cover to keep the surrey clean while in storage.

The beautifully restored RAHS surrey will debut in the Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade. It will be led down Main Street by a carriage driver and two horses beginning at 2



p.m. on Sunday, December 7th. In the spirit of this year's parade theme of “Christmas Movies,” many of our RAHS members will be portraying characters from Charles Dickens' book “A Christmas Carol.” Scrooge, Marley's Ghost, Bob and Mrs. Cratchit, Tiny Tim, and the Ghosts from Christmas Past, Present, and Yet To Come will all accompany the surrey along the parade route. We hope you'll join in the festivities at the Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade on December 7th and cheer on the inaugural return of our gorgeous surrey!

by Carol Tough, project manager

Important Reminder

Get your treasures ready – Antique Appraisal Day is just a few months away. Mark your calendars: March 1, 2015, Noon-4 pm, at the Rochester Community House.

Membership News by Carol Tough

Welcome to Connie Klix Mercer, a new RAHS member. Connie grew up in Rochester, attended Rochester Adams High School, graduated from Central Michigan University, and pursued insurance courses at Michigan State University. She and her family live in Rochester Hills. Connie and her husband also own an 1880 historic home in Saugatuck which they have lovingly restored. In addition, a family interest is collecting model trains. Welcome “aboard” Connie!

2014 Walking Tours Wrap Up; Tours Will Resume May 2015

Thank you to everyone for their support this year. We had another successful year and educated over 150 people on the history of downtown Rochester. Thank you to Bill Williams, Margaret Bartos, Penny Frank Reddish and Susan Wilson for their help with this year’s Walking Tours. 2015 Walking Tours begin next May.

Rod Wilson

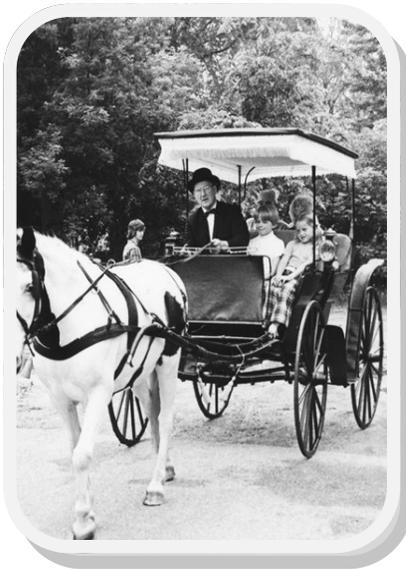


Photo Captions
L. 1961 photo of surrey with Red Knapp driving; Lynne & Jon Palmitier with g. grandparents the Wm. P. Dalrymples

R. Surrey lamp, carefully, and beautifully restored



Contact Information for RAHS Board & Committees

RAHS Board of Directors

Brian Dunphy, President	248-266-5624
Carol Tough, VP Operations	248-375-0084
Rod Wilson, VP Finance	248-651-6178
Janet Potton, VP Development	248-652-7296
June Hopaluk, Recording Secretary	248-652-9242
Mary Howarth, Treasurer	248-375-0206
Tiffany Stozicki, Dir. Communications.	248-650-0415
Leslie Mack, Dir. Membership	586-924-4961
Margaret Bartos, Dir. of Programs	248-759-4768
Cary Downer, Dir. Special Projects	248-652-1854
Gail Kemler, Dir. Historical Preservation	248-651-0907

Committee Chairpersons

Deborah Larsen, Research	248-375-2974
Beatrice V. Catherino, Editor, Rochester Era Newsletter	248-375-0808
David Gifford, Media.	248-941-7587

Volunteer Opportunities A-plenty!

Fellow members, we need your expertise.

Firstly, if you are interested in interviewing, recording, digitizing, transcribing, or are just love talking to people - we need you. We are looking for interested people to revive the oral history project that was initiated by RAHS many years ago. We need a new perspective and new personnel to take the lead on digitizing the audio tapes and utilizing this resource, planning new interviews and undertaking them.

Secondly, we are looking for a chairperson and sales person to revive interest in the web site that we sponsor: Oakland Regional Historic Sites. A database of historic properties, it is an invaluable source of information. We are seeking to get more historical societies and commissions to join and input information. We need to have an active membership to help defray our costs in operating this website and have been fortunate in the immediate area but are looking to expand our horizons. The person or persons we are looking for would contact historical societies and organizations in the area, providing information about the project and possibly make a presentation to them at one of their meetings.

If you are interested in either of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Vice President of Development, Janet Potton at 248-652-7296 or jjpost@hotmail.com

A Horse is a Horse is a Halloween Mask, Funnels & a Lot of Creative Fun

Look for the RAHS scarecrow at Main and 4th Streets, SW corner — you only have until November 8th before it is “alas” taken away for deconstruction down to its wooden frame. Next year — the project begins anew.

This year, volunteers Jan Potton and June Hopaluk, chose to highlight the surrey restoration with a horse scarecrow showing before and after photos of the surrey restoration. Recipe: as follows:

1. One horse mask from Party City
2. Hair added before attaching to the wooden frame
3. Black plastic funnels for the hooves
4. Sweatshirt top and matching pants; stuff with straw

Says Jan, “It is always a fun project and June and I had it down to a science this year.” Visit him before it’s over.



Opening Night: Another Step!! A Theatre in Downtown Rochester — A Dream in Progress!

A THEATRE IN DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER...

The committee is completing its work on interviewing for a Professional Fund Raiser. It has interviewed four individuals. One person reported that it would be a conflict of interest because of their other work in the Greater Rochester Area and another person stated that his company does not work with start up projects. The remaining two have been presented to the entire committee and hopefully sometime in November the TGRC, THE THEATRE GROUP OF ROCHESTER COMPANY, will be able to have a Fund Raiser with an official contract to advise on the task of raising monies for the theatre.

YES, our official title as an organization is: THE THEATRE GROUP OF ROCHESTER COMPANY, or frequently referred to as the TGRC. This is the name that will appear on all of the official documents, i.e., The Incorporation Papers, the 501c3, the By-Laws, and any other future legal documents.

There has been an anonymous donation of \$5,000.00 to begin to raise monies for activities as well as to pay for a Fund Raiser. Thus arrangements have been instituted with the COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER ROCHESTER which is in downtown Rochester as the place where all future funds raised will be placed. The documents are currently being drawn up to be signed.

Unfortunately the sub-committee on Events did not have sufficient time to plan for the Halloween Surprise Event. However, watch for another Holiday Event to celebrate the Holiday Season coming in the near future!

By Katharine J. Burns



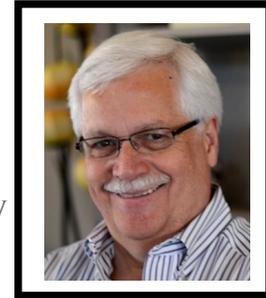
Long time resident, Gail Kemler celebrated a milestone birthday and turned 97 years young on October 28. Happy belated birthday Gail! Gail will be the first to ride in the front seat of our newly restored surrey in this year's Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade, 2 pm, December 7th.

President's Message — By Brian Dunphy, *RAHS President*

Join us for Our Programs and Projects

Brian Dunphy, President

The weather may be getting colder, but the historical society has plenty of programs and projects to warm the coming months – and plenty of ways for you to get involved.



Be sure to attend the two evening programs coming up in November and December at the Rochester Hills Public Library. On Nov. 6, Joel Stone, senior curator for the Detroit Historical Society, will present “Boom Town: Detroit in the Roaring Twenties.” Our Dec. 4 meeting will feature “Main Street Make-Over” with Eric Bothwell, photographer and local resident. For details, please view our online calendar at www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org/calendar.

(Please keep in mind that there will be no Evening Program Meeting or Brown Bag Luncheon meeting in January.)

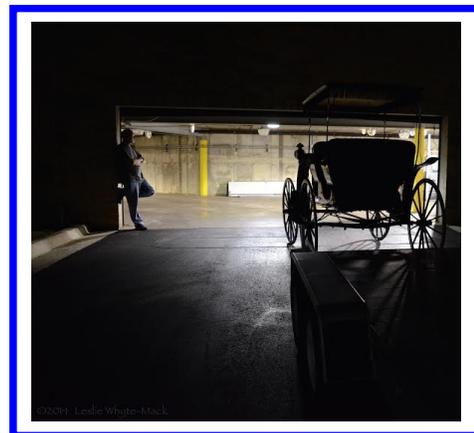
Helping to build the holiday spirit, RAHS will once again have a booth at the Kris Kringle Market in downtown Rochester, Friday and Saturday, Dec. 5 and 6. We'll need several volunteers to help staff the booth. To sign up, please call 248-266-5440, or email rahsupdates@gmail.com.

Capping off that busy December weekend will be the Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade on Sunday, Dec. 7. This year's theme is “A Movie Time Christmas.” RAHS will reveal our newly renovated surrey as we highlight one of our favorite holiday films. Be sure to join us for the parade, which begins at 2 p.m.

The efforts of dedicated volunteers make possible these programs and projects, and the many others that we do throughout the year. We still have openings for two Board members: Director of Merchandising and Director of Fundraising.

We also have a need for volunteers for our many other projects, programs and events. To volunteer, call 248-266-5440, or email rahsupdates@gmail.com.

Delivery of Restored Surrey — with RAHS member and volunteer Bill Williams - Photo at left





New Products in Time for Christmas..... By Rod Wilson

Just in time for Christmas, your Society is publishing two new items: a 2015 Calendar and a new book by Penny Frank Reddish. The 2015 Calendar highlights Rochester Area Artifacts which was designed by Susan Wilson and Liz Golding with photographs taken by Leslie Mack. The new book titled "I Found My Thrill on Newberry Hill" was written by Penny Frank Reddish and tells the history and antidotes about the Ski Jump that was here in Rochester. This is the first book written about the internationally known Newberry Hill Ski Jump.

The Calendar will be available November 1st and "I Found My Thrill on Newberry Hill" will be available by Thanksgiving. They will be available at Lytle Pharmacy and through our website.

Also new this year is Deborah Larsen's new Remembering Rochester — Bygone Business, the third in this series. We are also going to be having a rock bottom priced clearance of the remaining Cat's Meow TM Buildings at only \$5.00 each, while the supply lasts.

Mark your calendar for December 5 and 6 for this year's Kris Kringle Market where we will once again have the RAHS booth to sell our items. We will need help (2 workers per shift) on Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on Saturday from noon to 10:00 p.m.. If you can work a two hour shift during one of those two days, please call me at 248-651-6178. Please call me so I do not have to call you to see what two hours you can work. Bill Williams will be helping me with this event. Hopefully we will have a more powerful heater this year or better yet maybe it will be warmer outside.

Join the Rochester Avon Historical Society Today!

Bi-monthly newsletters-monthly meetings with guest speakers-downtown Rochester historical walking tours-monthly lunchtime talks by long-time area residents-oral history projects-book projects-research projects-and much more.

Rochester Avon Historical Society Membership Application

_____ New _____ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

___ \$10 Student ___ \$18.00 Individual ___ \$25.00 Family ___ \$35.00 Contributing
___ \$75.00 Institution ___ \$250.00 Patron

Areas of Interest – How would you like to participate?

___ Historic Research ___ Genealogy Research ___ Special Project Volunteer

___ Antique Appraisal Day ___ Annual Picnic ___ Oral History ___

___ Historic Walking Tour Guide ___ Fundraising ___ Heritage Days ___ Sidewalk Sales

___ Refreshments at Meetings ___ Publications Other: _____

RAHS Library Lecture, Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**Rochester Hills Public Library By Margaret Bartos**

Long-time local resident Eric Bothwell will discuss Rochester's "Main Street Make-Over" with pictures he took before and after the award-winning 2012 reconstruction project. He took 1,500 pictures starting in April and continuing up to the opening in November 2012. His presentation will consist of the best of these photos plus some historic photos of the past. Bothwell has a long personal history in Rochester. He first moved to Rochester in 1942 to a dairy farm on Walton Boulevard, and started school in the one room Hubble School at the corner of Walton and Adams in 1943. He became interested in photography when he was only eight years old. When his family moved to another dairy farm in Lake Orion, he attended school there but worked at the A & P store in Rochester as his first job off the farm. Upon graduation from LOHS in 1957, he joined the US Army Reserve and served 6 months active duty and 7 years in reserve. He moved back to Rochester when he married Gail Hood in 1960, raised a family, and attended Oakland University with studies in Industrial and Product Design. After 36 years with the GM Design Staff at the GM Tech Center, Bothwell retired and pursued his hobbies of restoring classic cars, working with computers, and working with digital photography and photo programs.

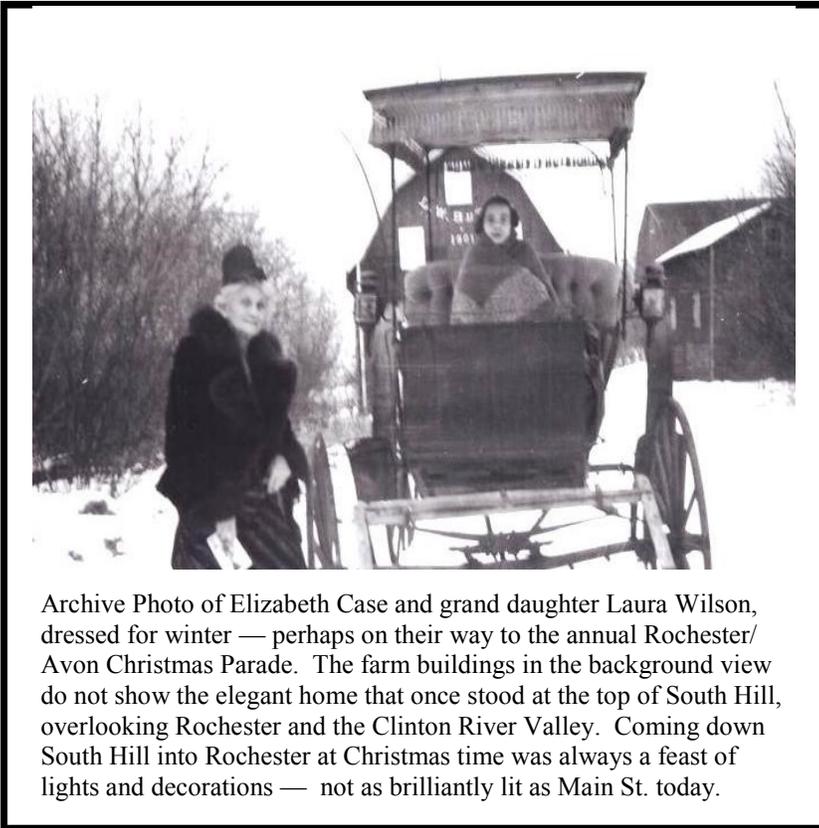
His past activities include creating the LOHS Class of 1957 Memories DVD for the 50th class reunion, serving as president of the Rochester class reunion, serving as president of Lions Club and the Bluewater Michigan Chapter of the National Historical Society. He is currently a member of Rochester's City Beautiful Commission, the Rochester Historical Commission and the Historical District Study Committee. Bothwell's photographic expertise and love of Rochester should provide a very interesting program.

RAHS Brown Bag Meeting, Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 12 noon**Rochester Community House, 816 Ludlow, Rochester**

Dr. Richard Stamps will talk about the "Beginnings and Early Days of Oakland University." Dr. Stamps taught at the university from 1974 to 2012, retiring after 37 years of teaching. He was an Associate Professor of Anthropology and Chair of The Ambassador Leonard Woodcock Legacy. He is an expert on archeology and cultural anthropology of Taiwan and China. His article "Tools Leave Marks: Material Analysis of the Scotford-Soper-Savage Michigan Relics deals with supposed ancient materials found in Michigan in 1894, called the Michigan relics. Dr. Stamps is often called in when ancient sites are uncovered in the area.

Stamps was born in Oakland, California and grew up in the San Francisco Bay area. He served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Taiwan from 1962 to 1965. He earned bachelors and masters degrees in archaeology from Brigham Young University and a Ph.D., in anthropology from Michigan State University. Dr. Stamps was a popular teacher with the students at OU and he is a very interesting speaker.

Bring your lunch if you wish. Admission is free and guests are invited.



Archive Photo of Elizabeth Case and grand daughter Laura Wilson, dressed for winter — perhaps on their way to the annual Rochester/ Avon Christmas Parade. The farm buildings in the background view do not show the elegant home that once stood at the top of South Hill, overlooking Rochester and the Clinton River Valley. Coming down South Hill into Rochester at Christmas time was always a feast of lights and decorations — not as brilliantly lit as Main St. today.

From the Editor to Members

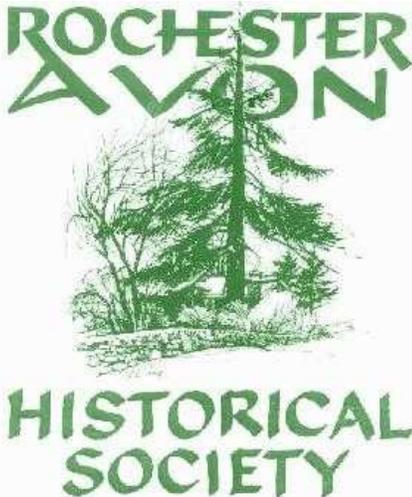
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Also, write or phone editor if you have something you want us to cover. Time and place photos are welcome.

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Pride in
Preserving
the Past