The Rochester Era

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER-AVON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH/APRIL 2020 ROCHESTERAVONHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

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Memories of Hayride Lodge

As shared by Sharon Potere

Hayride Lodge began in the 1930s at the intersections of Mt. Vernon, Dequinder, and Washington Roads when Clyde Blanchard was "let go" from the farm at the Parke Davis Company in Rochester. He had been a horse handler at the farm. Blanchard played softball for the Parke Davis team and once, when he slid into a base which was attached to a stake to hold it down, he displaced the bones in his foot. An improperly fitted cast left Blanchard with a limp. Parke Davis felt he could no longer do his job walking the horses. So, necessity being the mother of invention, Blanchard and his wife, Dorothy, started Hayride Lodge.

The lodge began as a clubhouse which the Blanchard's built on land next to their house. The clubhouse was small with restrooms. A few years later, the couple added onto the clubhouse and built a large room where people could have dinner on trays to sit and eat on benches around the outside of a large dance floor. The walls were painted with caricatures of farm animal scenes. In the basement, there were shuffleboard courts, pool tables, and ping-pong tables.

The Hayride Lodge flourished with as many as three parties per day during the fall and spring. In the summer months, the Blanchard's grew hay on a 126-acre farm owned by Dorothy's parents. In 1966, Clyde Blanchard passed away. Dorothy continued to manage the Hayride Lodge with a family friend, Chuck Frederick. A few years later, the lodge was sold to the Jablinsky family who also owned a hayride business on 26 Mile Road.

The Hayride Lodge remained opened for a few more years until the local area could no longer accommodate slow-moving horse-drawn wagons on the roads. The land was then sold to a developer who tore down the lodge to build new housing.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is almost here and with it comes spring cleaning. It is a nice feeling when spring cleaning is done – it feels like a fresh start. But spring cleaning can mean more than sweeping floors and washing windows. It can also keep us on track with personal goals and hopes of what we will accomplish.

We often hear, "There's no time like the present." For a historical society, the past and the present are forever entwined. We cannot focus on one without the other. For example, when we seek to educate the community about local history, we are mindful of how that will impact the present (and the future). The same can be said for when we lose physical historic resources.

The Rochester area has lost many historic treasures. Beautiful houses, architecturally significant storefronts, and sites where schools or farms once stood have been replaced with parking lots, new facades, or subdivisions. It is easy to feel sad by the loss of such unique resources. But this is the cycle of modern society. Years ago, the now razed homes and farms took the place of open land and gorgeous views.

A community is forever changing. RAHS as a historical agency is also changing. RAHS, at various times, has attempted to preserve or rehabilitate historic structures. Two major projects come to mind: The Rochester Elevator and a theater in downtown Rochester. Both projects were worthwhile endeavors. They just could not get off the ground. We acknowledge our successes (World War II monument, Marvin Beerbohm mural, and historical markers, publications, to name a few) and our failures with "spring-cleaning" in mind and choose new goals.

In keeping with the present, I am pleased to announce that RAHS's mission to educate the community about local history has taken a giant leap forward. RAHS has joined Smart Towns, a lifelong learning initiative that aims to bring quality lectures, workshops, and classes to the public. We are honored to be a part of Smart Towns along with the Rochester Hills Museum, Meadow Brook Hall, Oakland University, Rochester University, and Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital. Smart Towns, and RAHS' participation in Michigan History Day, is part of the society's mission -- to foster an appreciation of local history -- and continues the organization's goal to educate. While RAHS will always be mindful of ways to preserve the community's remaining historic resources, its primary focus is education. RAHS is positioned better than ever to provide resources for research, teaching, and learning to students, teachers, members, and the public. We have many exciting partnerships and news to come, so please stay tuned and Happy Spring.

Kindly,

Tiffany Dziurman
RAHS President

27th Annual Antique Appraisal Day

March 8, 2020 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Rochester Community House
816 Ludlow, Rochester MI

Specialists will be available to appraise the following items:

Records, sports memorabilia, pop-culture, comic books, Indian artifacts, cast-iron toys, coins, clocks, glass, pottery, china, collectibles, books, manuscripts, first editions, lighting, furniture, military items, antique weapons, dolls, teddy bears, fine & costume jewelry, Eastern art, engravings, oil paintings, prints, stained glass, stringed instruments and accessories, and more!

Bring your items or photos of larger items and have your treasures appraised. All items will be appraised at fair market value. Buying and selling will not be permitted.

Verbal Appraisals Only. Admission is free. Appraisals are $5 per item – cash only. We will not accept credit card or checks. **Limit 5 items per person**

Antique Appraisal Day 2020 Sponsors

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

BROWN BAG LUNCHTIME PROGRAMS RETURN

RAHS's Brown Bag Lunch Series is the first Tuesday in September, October, November, March, April, and May. Bring your lunch and the Historical Society provides dessert and coffee.
Admission is free. Please register at rochesterhills.org/museum.

Mothers, Daughters, and Leaders of Rochester
Tuesday, March 3, 12-1 p.m.
Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, Calf Barn

In this month's talk, learn the inspiring stories of outstanding women from Rochester presented by Samantha Lawrence, Archivist at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm.

History of the Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal
Tuesday, April 7, 12-1 p.m.
Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, Calf Barn

Guest speaker Deborah Remer will discuss the history of the failed Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal project.

EVENING LECTURES

RAHS' Evening lectures are typically on the first Thursday in September, October, November, February, March, April, and May in the multipurpose room of the Rochester Hills Public Library. Programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. For a complete list of programs, visit rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org.

Civil Rights Icon Viola Liuzzo
Thursday, March 5, 7-8:30 p.m.
Rochester Hills Public Library, Multipurpose Room

Michael Placco, professor of history at Macomb Community College, returns to RAHS to discuss the extraordinary life of his aunt and Civil Rights activist Viola Liuzzo, a young wife and mother who traveled from Detroit to Selma, AL, to participate in the successful Selma to Montgomery marches. While driving back from taking fellow activists to the Montgomery airport, Liuzzo was murdered by members of the Ku Klux Klan. She was thirty-nine years old.

Smart Towns: The Long War: America's Struggle for Equal Voting Rights
Friday, March 13, 7-9 p.m.
Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, Calf Barn

In this special presentation, co-hosted by the Rochester-Avon Historical Society and the Rochester Hills Museum, Oakland University professor Bruce Zellers will explore the arduous battles fought in the war for equal voting rights. Travel through history, from Abigail Adams's revolutionary era request to legislators to "remember the ladies," to joining forces with abolitionists, to finally achieving victory with the help of WWI.

This Smart Towns presentation is free for RH Museum members and $5 for non-members. Please register online at rochesterhills.org/museum.

The Golden Age of the Movie Palace & Theater Pipe Organs
April 2, 2020 at 7:00 PM.
Rochester Hills Public Library, Multipurpose Room

RAHS Membership Director Richard Dengate, a retired high school teacher and university lecturer, will present "The Golden Age of the Movie Palaces & Theater Pipe Organs" -- a historical look back at the theaters of long ago and the pipe organs that once entertained generations of moviegoers. Dengate's program will include photographs and film, recreating the thunderous sounds which reverberated throughout these cavernous temples of architectural wonder.

Dengate is a member of the American, Detroit, and Motor City Theater Organ Societies.

MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

UPCOMING DATES:

March 3: Brown Bag Meeting, 12 p.m.

March 5: Thursday Evening Lecture, 7 p.m.

March 8: 27th Annual Antique Appraisal Day

March 10: Executive Committee, 7 p.m.

March 13: Smart Towns Program, 7 p.m.

March 17: RAHS Board of Directors Meeting (RRC Office), 7 p.m.

April 1: Kroger Rewards Enrollment

April 2: Thursday Lecture, 7 p.m.

April 6: ERA article deadline

April 7: Brown Bag Meeting, 12 p.m.

April 21: RAHS Board of Directors Meeting (RRC Office), 7 p.m.

Kroger®

COMMUNITY REWARDS

https://www.kroger.com/o/store-services/community-rewards

RAHS could use a helping hand or two so if you have a creative side or love to connect to the community, contact us!

Annual Picnic
Antique Appraisal Day
Heritage Days
Walking Tour

Call 248-266-5440 or send an email to rahsupdates@gmail.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tiffany Dziurman, President

Sarah Helferich, First Vice President

Brian Dunphy, Second Vice President

Janet Potton, Corresponding Secretary

Ginger Ketelsen, Recording Secretary

Cary Downer, Treasurer

Katie Stozicki, Communications Director

Carla Gallusser, ERA Newsletter Director

Richard Dengate, Membership Director

Barb Bates, Historic Preservation Director

Programs, **open position**

Special Projects, **open position**

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Gail Kemler, Honorary Historian

Deborah Larson, Research

Media, **open position**

Join the Rochester-Avon Historical Society Today!

Membership Application

☐ $15 Student Open to person currently enrolled in a secondary or post-secondary educational institution.

☐ New

☐ Renewal

☐ $20 Individual Open to any person interested in local history.

☐ $35 Household Includes immediate family members living in the same household.

☐ $100 Business/Sponsor Designed for community businesses and individuals with a desire to promote the restoration and promotion of local history.

☐ $250 Lifetime Perpetual membership for those who wish to make a long-term commitment to the preservation of local history.

Rochester-Avon Historical Society
Est. 1969
RAHS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

☐ Annual Picnic
☐ Antique Appraisal Day
☐ Historic Research
☐ Fundraising
☐ Genealogy Research
☐ Heritage Days
☐ Oral History
☐ Publications
☐ Historic Walking Tout Guide/Assistant
☐ Photography/Videography
☐ Refreshments at Meetings
☐ Special Project Volunteer
☐ Website/Social Media
☐ Volunteer Interests/Other

Name:_____
Address:_____
_____
Phone: _____
Email:_____
_____
_____

Mail Completed Form with check payable to: RAHS P.O.Box 80783 Rochester, MI 48308-0783 http://rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org/

Rochester-Avon Historical Society

Est. 1969

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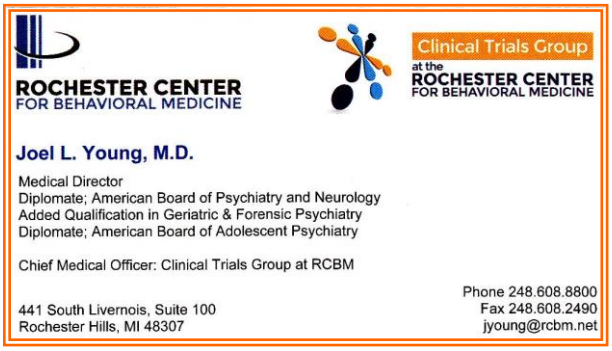

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