

Historical Society Newsletter

Janet Jones, Editor

P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833

OFFICERS: President: Ron Feulner; Vice President: Louise Okoniewski;

Secretary: Patty Schwartzbeck; Treasurer: Alice Feulner;

Trustees: Coral Crosman, Ron Deutsch, Robert Roeckle, JoAnn Rowland, and Vince Walsh

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Calendar

November 18: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program will be Mike Hare, readings/poetry from his book "Saratoga Lives."

December 13: Saturday, **Holiday Open House** (in place of December meeting) will be held at the IOOF Hall in Middle Grove, 1 to 4 p.m. The theme will be "Christmas Stockings." Contact JoAnn Rowland for more details (893-7786). Please bring cookies to share and we'll have a cookie sale at the end of the Open House.

January 20, 2009: Tuesday, meeting at 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Greenfield Center.
Program will be Jim Smith, continuing the story of his life in Greenfield.

Reminder that our year of meetings begins in September so everyone's membership renewal is due (unless you have recently paid). We have made it easy to renew your membership (or become a new member) by filling out our membership application contained in this newsletter and mailing it with your dues (if you prefer to keep your newsletter intact, you may copy the necessary information on another sheet and send it). We will also accept memberships at our meetings. The only requirement to become a member is an interest in local history (residency in the town is not required). We hope to have another good year, and we need you as a member to help it happen.

THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US

Alice Feulner (Treasurer) tells me that many of you are doing it again this year. Instead of sending your \$10 for membership renewal, you are sending multiples of that number as donations. This makes us feel good and will certainly help us with our many projects during the upcoming year. As you know, we want to keep the membership dues low so that no one will be denied the ability to join the society because of money.

Ron's Ramblings

Our October meeting was well attended with 26 members turning out. I think that we would have had more had not a senior trip been planned for the same day. The seniors left the parking lot at 6:30 that morning, and the bus rolled back in during our brief break between the business meeting and our program, around 8 p.m. A few brave souls came in for the program, but most went home, and I can't blame them. During our business meeting, it was suggested that our secretary write a letter suggesting that trips be planned on days other than the third Tuesday of each month which has been our meeting date for many years. This simple solution would most likely improve both our attendance and the participation on the trips.

I asked Louise Okoniewski, our vice-president, to open the meeting and conduct it through all the committee reporting. Louise has been my right-hand this year, and I wanted her to have some experience conducting meetings in case I have to be absent for some reason. She did a superb job.

Harold Jones, Building and Grounds Chairman gave a well-organized report concerning the sill work that is now in progress on the IOOF hall in Middle Grove. When they opened up the floor and sill area they found more damage than expected including dry rot and what appeared to be powder post beetle damage. The floor joist which were slung lower than the sill (I had never seen this type of construction before) were no longer making any contact with

the sill, so the floor had to be supported by pouring concrete piers and adding another support beam. The net result was that they used up the \$7,500 state grant money, and as we had expected, needed more if we want them to finish the entire side. They have agreed to finish the side for \$3,900 more, which our board of trustees has already approved.

The board also decided to finish repairs on the carriage shed slate roof. The \$2,300 state grant went further than we expected, so we decided that it would be cheaper in the long run to have the contractor finish the other repairs needed on the roof rather than try to get them to come back some time in the future. By the time you read this, the carriage-shed roof should be in good repair. Much of the remaining work on the shed can be accomplished on our volunteer workdays.

Following Harold's report, Joyce thanked Harold for his involvement in the project. At times he has crawled down under the floor to solve problems, and, at other times, has been supervising the work or running for materials, all of which has saved us money on the project. He was given a hearty round of applause for his contributions.

The high-spot of the meeting, however, came later after I brought up the topic of the historical society

perhaps purchasing a digital sound recorder that we could loan to members who wished to interview old-timers in the town. We had a lively discussion, and then I asked if anyone would like to make a motion that we purchase the recorder (prices start at \$65). Audrey Crandall raised her hand. I asked her if she would like to make the motion, and she said, "No!" Then she went on to say, "I want to donate \$100 toward the purchase of the recorder," and by that time she had her pen and checkbook in her hand. We accepted, and another hearty round of applause took place.

The other significant piece of business that we completed was the organization of a committee to prepare an updated map of historic sites in the town. Matt Cinadr, Karen Lyons, Louise Okoniewski, and Jim Smith volunteered to be on the committee. Later, Dan Chertok also volunteered. We decided to have our first meeting at my house on Tuesday, October 28th. That meeting was cancelled due to bad weather, but Matt Cinadr was able to provide us with a terrific base map to start our project with. If anyone else would like to join the committee, you can do so by calling me at 518-893-0620 or let us know at the November meeting. This project will take a while to complete.

Ron Feulner, President

The Ormsbee Road to the Mountains

By Fran Lambert

I gaze down the road and notice the unevenness of the sand with the many stones popping their heads up to alert the traveller as to their presence. Often have I looked for the unusual brightly colored or striated stone as I walked this road in its' sandy state.

Someday, I surmise, this will all be covered over with that blackness of tar, stone, and whatever other mixture composes today's macadam.

Surely I have thought many times of the much travelled road giving access to this glorious mountain that I live on. I almost hate to see this go in the name of progress, but the inevitable must take its turn in the strategy of life.

I hear the rumble of trucks coming and going, and I must be off to work! When I arrive home after a long day of hours at work, I am greeted by a sight of smooth black road ahead of me. It is a welcomed sight for now when the weather claims its' first wintry victim, the road will be much easier to travel.

Uh oh! Now it's a few years later and there seems to be trouble in Denmark! (An expression comically used!)

A decision is made, and voted upon, and upper Ormsbee Road gets a new face lift – a much needed in depth reparation of the existing road.

This time a bevy of dump trucks working feverishly in conjunction with a machine that tears into the existing tarred road with brute force ... and extreme finality completes the job by totally removing

the existing macadam in preparation for yet another "extreme makeover" for this road that leads to the beloved mountains. This machine also crumbles up the existing road, and shoots it into the awaiting dump trucks to be recycled again as a base for the new-coming road to be.

I hear the "thump, thump, thump," of yet another machine as it readies itself to do its task of road building. Now it's near quitting time and all is silent. I walk out my driveway, and inspect the job just done.

Yes!! There's my dirt road again !! ... and, look at all the stones that have access to the light of day again!! It's like the road has a second reprieve at breathing again in the order of things.

So, I aimlessly walk a portion of the road – kicking up the occasional stone that attracts my attention, and wonder what new, more improved action takes place next?

No longer going to work, I enjoy the process of observing what takes place in the construction of a road from (literally) the ground up.

Early in the morning I am awakened by the sound of trucks, and ready for the days' work! I observe a grader smoothing out the road, and then a machine that rolls it out into a very level state. The dump trucks return with the recycled base for the new road to be, and is graded out.

This continues with a tenacity and then a grader appears to smooth out the high spots. Also the shoulders of the road are given special attention to by a very well operated machine that scoops out a very

precise shoulder valley to capture the early spring water runoff, or summer torrential rains.

The “boomer-thumper” returns many times exacting out a near perfect level of the road. After all the prep work has been laboriously completed in very, very hot weather, then comes the day of finality when the brand new black top (macadam) is put down. This is swiftly done with unequalled workmanship! The trucks stand readied as soldiers in line, and leave with alacrity for a reload of new product! The most troubled spots are dealt with swiftly as to their place known to be a troubled spot when frost decides to “heave up” the road. I also noticed that before all this, new culverts were installed, old culverts were cleaned out in anticipation of yet another wintry test of “winter against human ingenuity.”

I stand amazed at the preciseness of each worker as they progress in their area of expertise! These workers are very professional, friendly, polite, and a credit to our community!!



I would like to thank our October refreshment volunteers: Patty Schwartzbeck, Alice Feulner and Maureen Cinadr. They brought brownies, peanut butter cookies, apricot bars, chocolate pie, pumpkin cookies and grapes. Also, a special “thank you” to Audrey Crandall for the donation she gave me for paper products, coffee, etc. It will come in handy.

November refreshment volunteers are: Katie Finnegan, Joyce Woodard and Nancy Homiak.

Janet Jones, Refreshment Chairperson

A Few Reminders From The Past ...

By WEEZIE

REMEMBER WHEN ...

A cigar box (Dutch Masters) was all you needed to hold your treasures?

You could learn to drive on a dirt back road or empty parking lot?

There was a neighborhood bakery you could afford?

You really knew your neighbor?

It cost 10 cents to use a public bathroom?

You could make cookies and cupcakes for your kids at school?

A person’s word and a hand shake was all you needed?

Membership Application/Renewal

Become a member of the Town of Greenfield Historical Society and receive our newsletter. Send \$10 along with your name and address to the address shown below. If you send more it will be considered a donation. Other types of memberships are also available (lifetime, corporate, etc.), just call and ask (518 893-0620). Our membership year begins in September, and dues are paid annually. You may also join at one of our meetings.

Send this application form and fee to Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Make checks payable to: Town of Greenfield Historical Society.

Please indicate how many persons 10-years-old or older are in your household). _____

Name (please print)_____

Address _____

Areas of interest to you_____

To sponsor a newsletter send \$50 along with your name and address and the wording describing whom you would like the newsletter dedicated to (please print):

If you know someone whom you think might want to become a member, send us their name and address, and we will send them a free copy of our newsletter along with information on how they can join.

Name (please print)_____

Address _____

We still need articles for the 2008-09 year. If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, send it to: Town of Greenfield Historical Society, P.O. Box 502, Greenfield Center, NY 12833 or if you type it using Microsoft Word, e-mail it to: aliron@localnet.com.

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