



# ***Allegany Area Historical Association***

October 2005

Issue XXIV Vol. 3

## ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

As you will be able to see from the photos elsewhere in this newsletter, Heritage Days was a huge success. The weather was perfect, and moving all the events to our Heritage Center on Second Street seemed to work out just fine. The main display this year was "100 years of Allegany History", since it is 100 years since the village was incorporated. Marge Geise and Marilyn Frisina searched very diligently through the 1905 edition of the *Allegany Citizen* and put up some extremely interesting articles for all to enjoy. We also had pictures of Allegany through the years, including some aerial shots taken in 1960 that show just how much we have grown since then. Marion Elling and her daughter, Tina Elling Smith, made several displays using the clothing that has been donated to us. We have never been able to have this clothing out very much, and the displays they made were striking, and appreciated by all. Since I was out of the country, Marge Geise, Alice Altenburg and Margaret Parker took charge and made sure everything ran smoothly. My thanks to all who covered for me, and to everyone who worked so hard.

To advertise Heritage Days, we put together a 10-page flyer containing our schedule of events, pictures from the main display, and items of interest from the *Allegany Citizen* of fifty years ago, in this case from 1955. This is mailed to all the households in the town of Allegany. If any of our out-of-town members would like a copy, free of charge, please contact us at AAHA, PO Box 162, Allegany, NY 14706, and we will be glad to mail one to you.

We had a major donation made to the association from Carolyn Wing, so we used the money to purchase a fine conference table to replace our two old ones that were in danger of collapsing. There is a plaque on the table which reads: "In memory of Forrest and Orlena Wing and Catherine Hornung from Carolyn A. Wing". Thank you very much, Carolyn, for your generosity.

To go with the table, we purchased 10 chairs that were paid for from the many donations we received in memory of Vernon Field. We put a plaque on the back of each chair that reads: "In memory of Vernon Field". I think Vernon would be very pleased as he was always looking for a comfortable chair in our library room, and these chairs are quite comfortable. We sold our old chairs to an antique dealer who was going to reglue and refinish them. He had a lot of work ahead of him.

One of our members, Bill Bonhoff, has given us over 100 pictures of Allegany, its Main Street and its businesses. We have put these into a book which is available in our library room. These pictures will serve as a historical record of Allegany in 2005. It has been interesting to compare these pictures with ones from the past in our collection. Thanks, Bill, for your thoughtfulness.

The photo accompanying this President's Report was taken by Bill and shows one of the banners the village has hung to celebrate its centennial. There are also two other designs and they were all designed by Dan Wintermantle of Studio Four East. They decorate the lamp posts on Main Street.

We have other photographers in the group also. Shirley Russell took Heritage Days pictures and Marion Elling took pictures of the interior displays. We'll try to get some of these in the next newsletter. It's nice to have such a good record of our events.

From time to time, as space permits, we will include some of the items of interest we culled from the 1905 edition of the *Allegany Citizen*. I'm sure you will find them quite amusing.

A note to our Snowbird members - Please send us your winter address. We have to pay for each newsletter that is returned to us, and then we have to pay to remail it to the proper address. It's not much, but it all adds up. Thank you.



**Photo by Bill Bonhoff**

Francie Potter, President

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# BURGLAR ALARMS AND OTHER RAMBLINGS

by William Bonhoff

Has anyone ever noticed the huge burglar alarm on the wall outside of the Allegany Public Library? It's been there for more than 50 years. Does anyone know how long? It is maybe the largest burglar alarm system at any library in the country. I assume it still works, although I haven't heard of it going "off" in the fifty years I've lived here. Anyway, it's certainly impressive in the way we protect our books in the library. To my knowledge, no one has ever broken into the library to return a book or to borrow one. After all, anyone can walk in the front door and borrow a book most anytime. Oh yes, years ago the First National Bank was located there which explains the huge burglar alarm. Even then, I don't think the alarm ever went "off" in this safe little village of Allegany.

Farther down the street, (Main Street) is the Mason Jar Restaurant where a group of "locals", including the fire chief, Francis Pezzimenti, gather for morning coffee and to solve world problems. Topics of discussion cover everything from last night's card game, who married who, and bashing taxes and the federal government for some of the latest fiascos in politics. Yes, if our government needs any advice, this is the place to come.

Yes, this quiet village of Allegany is a "laid back" community of friendly people not in any hurry to get some place. Well, it's 10:30 a.m., so let's go home and take a nap before lunchtime. There's not too much excitement in this peaceful, quiet village unless you make it yourself, and that's good.



Photos by Bill Bonhoff

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# Heritage Days Report

by Alice Altenburg and Margaret Parker

Heritage Days was a huge success. Our chicken BBQ on Friday sold out by 6 p.m. That's 300 chicken dinners! We plan to up the number of dinners just a bit next year.

The weather was perfect on Saturday, and Dave Swatt (Mel Duggan's man) had the lawn looking great. We had worried, but having all the activities concentrated on Second Street worked just fine. The crowd certainly enjoyed the Allegany Alumni and Friends Band, the Allegheny Mountain Dulcimer Players and the wagon rides offered by Chuck Straub. The children especially enjoyed the clown who circulated among the crowd. And the craft displays were well attended.

Special interest was shown in our displays in the Heritage Center with mannequins dressed in our period clothing, the 1960 aerial shots of Allegany (my, how we've grown!), the class pictures, the family history books, and the Allegany advertising displays. There was a near sell-out at the country Cupboard. We had our usual good attendance at the Ice Cream Social, with all enjoying the great weather and sitting under the trees eating ice cream and cake and getting caught up with each others lives.

## DUES ARE DUE

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**October** is the month to **pay** your **dues**. A single membership is \$10, family \$15, and patron is \$20 or more. Make your check to AAHA, and mail to PO Box 162, Allegany, New York 14706. Don't forget - do it **TODAY!** If your membership isn't renewed, we will take you off the mailing list, and where else will you be able to find out the always interesting Allegany news.

# Memorials



For: Mrs. Dorothy Butchello  
From: Ray and Joyce Jonak

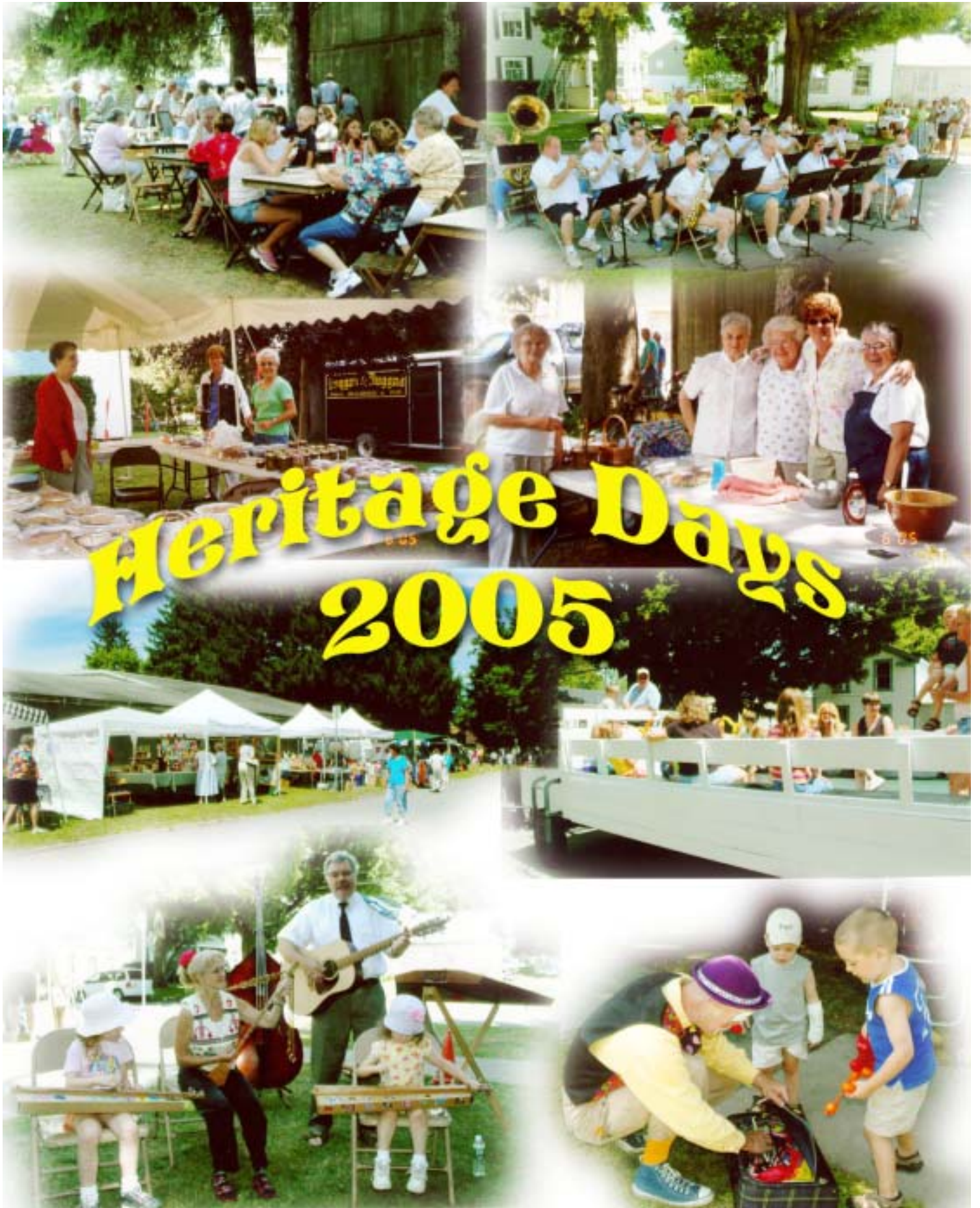
For: Geraldine McLaughlin  
From: Kathleen Karl

For: Irene Geringer Mullins  
From: Francis J. Hirt

For: Vernon Field  
From: Duane and Carolyn Clark

Francis J. Hirt  
Bob and Francie Potter  
Virginia M. Yehl  
Helen McCully

For: Douglas Shaffer  
From: Betty Smith



DOESN'T ICE CREAM AND CAKE  
TASTE GREAT ON A HOT DAY?

Photo by Bill Bonhoff

THE ALLEGANY ALUMNI AND  
FRIENDS BAND -  
RECOGNIZE ANYONE?

Photo by Bill Bonhoff

OF COURSE IT'S NOT  
FATTENING!!!  
THE COUNTRY CUPBOARD LADIES  
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Photo by Shirley Russell

ICE CREAM SOCIAL LADIES ARE  
READY TO DISH IT UP!!!

Photo by Shirley Russell

COME BUY MY CRAFTS

Photo by Bill Bonhoff

CHUCK STRAUB LOADING UP  
FOR ANOTHER TRIP  
AROUND THE BLOCK

Photo by Bill Bonhoff

YOU'RE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO  
LEARN - THE ALLEGHENY  
MOUNTAIN DULCIMER PLAYERS,  
CINDY DURKEE AND CLARK PARRY,  
AND HELPERS

Photo by Bill Bonhoff

CHECKING OUT THE CLOWN'S BAG  
OF TRICKS

Photo by Bill Bonhoff

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# OCTOBER MEETING

We will meet on **Sunday, October 16 at 2 p.m.** at the Heritage Center, 25 North Second Street. Our featured speaker will be Mr. Bill Robertson of Duke Center, Pennsylvania. Mr. Robertson worked for 17 years as an English teacher for the Otto-Eldred and Bradford Area school districts. Currently he runs a housepainting business and works as a freelance writer. Since 1978, his poetry, short stories, and articles have appeared in magazines around the world. He has also written over 20 books. Some of his most recent titles include his collection of local ghost stories, *LURKING IN PENNSYLVANIA*, and his book of collected early poetry, *GHOSTS OF A BROKEN HEART*.

His main interest, though, centers on the Bucktail Regiment that fought in every major battle in the Eastern Theater of the American Civil War. Together with David Rimer of Bradford, PA, Mr. Robertson has written seven historical fiction novels that cover the entire history of the 13th Pennsylvania Reserves. He will read from the first two books in the series, *HAYFOOT, STRAWFOOT: THE BUCKTAIL RECRUITS*, and *THE BUCKTAILS' SHENANDOAH MARCH*, and discuss writing books for young adults using Bucktail Regiment members as characters. He will also have books for sale.

As usual, refreshments will be served after the meeting, and you will have a chance to talk to Mr. Robertson about his books. Perhaps he will autograph your purchase for you. Hope to see you there.

**Allegheny Area Historical Association  
P.O. BOX 162  
Allegheny, NY 14706**

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Heritage Days 2005

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