



Allegany Area Historical Association

November 2010

www.aaha.bfn.org

Issue XXIX Vol. 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We held our brief annual meeting at our October meeting. The following officers were elected for a two year term: President- Francie Potter; Vice-President - Marge Geise; Secretary - Shirley Russell; Corresponding Secretary - Marion Elling; Treasurer - Alice Altenburg. Two Trustees were elected to three year terms - Marilyn Frisina and Margaret Parker. Thanks to all for serving and helping to make our historical association so successful.

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we had copies made of several of our pictures for the Absolut Nursing Home to use as hall decorations. They had asked for more so we combed our files and came up with seventeen more. We received a very nice thank-you note from them. I know from visits there that these pictures awaken many memories for the residents, several of whom are from Allegany.

We lost another long time member recently, Francis Hirt. As long as he was able, Francis always attended our talks. The Hirt family is one of long standing in the Allegany area, and intermarried with Carls, Gerringers and Bockmiers, among others. A typical Allegany family - related to half of the township.

Did you remember to pay your dues? Of course, **YOU** did - I'm asking those others who forgot to do so. A single membership is \$10, family is \$15 and a patron membership is \$20 or more. Make your check to AAHA and mail it to PO Box 162, Allegany, New York 14706. You still have time to renew before we remove you from our mailing list.

There was a very interesting article in the Wall Street Journal on September 7th entitled "Whatever Happened to Walking to School?" It mentioned that nowadays, not only do parents drive their children to school, they also drive their children from the garage to the sidewalk to catch the bus! My favorite quote is, "Those of us who remember using our own legs for transit now run the risk of sounding Abe Lincolnesque". "How did we get to this point? How did we forget that it's just a walk to school? Simple. We bought the line that good parenting is the same as over-parenting. That the more we could do for our children, the better. We forgot the joy of scuffing down the street when we were young, crunching leaves, picking up seeds, and decided we'd do it all for our kids, independence be damned!". The article goes on to note that educators can see the difference in kids who walk or bike to school - they're bright, chatty and ready to go. I lived one block from my school in Ann Arbor, and walked, of course, to school and also went home for lunch every day. If I timed it just right, I arrived at school seconds before the bell rang for the first class. I think that's how I developed a life-long habit of sleeping in the morning.

After a brief hiatus, Santa Claus is returning to Allegany. A committee, spearheaded by the Village officials, has solicited donations for a Santa Claus House to be placed by the Village Hall at the back of St. Bonaventure's parking lot. Home Depot is donating the wood, and a faux fireplace, Duggan & Duggan will do the building, Giardini Brothers the gravel, Kinley Corporation the concrete, Greg Stayer will do the electric work, BOCES students will make ornaments and Potter Lumber Company will donate the wood for the ornaments - a real community effort. The committee is also asking for donations for light post decorations. You can have a Zig Zag Tree or a Candy Cane for \$220 or a Candle for \$205. You can also make smaller donations of \$50, \$100 or \$150 or whatever by sending a check made out to Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation, with a notation of "Allegany Community Beautification Fund" on the check, and sending it to 120 N. Union St., Olean, NY 14760. Donors will be publicly thanked for their generosity. It's always nice to see what happens in a small town when everyone works together. For local residents, you can pick up an information sheet at the Village Hall. I can hardly wait to see the results come the holiday season.

Lois and Dick Siggelkow spoke at our last meeting about the 40 year effort to restore an abandoned cemetery they found on some vacation property they purchased on Bryant Hill in Ellicottville. What a story!! Lois had pictures showing the results, including a re-dedication of the cemetery where they had over 250 descendents of the people buried there. The cemetery is now listed on the National Register of Historic Sites. Most of the work was done by volunteers from the Ellicottville area. Again, it shows what can be done with people get together for the same cause.

FRANCIE POTTER, PRESIDENT

WE GET MAIL



We received a nice note from Joe Stayer, renewing his membership and also that of his daughter, as he wants her to know something of the history of Allegany. What a great idea - it's an easy way for family members to learn of Allegany's past. A membership would make a good birthday present for some of your children or siblings. Joe said he met his wife on a blind date and has been happily married ever since. Does anyone go on blind dates any more?

In the last newsletter I mentioned hearing from Eileen Shannon about the girl's Drum and Bugle Corps of 1936-38. Afterwards I happened to remember that we had stories and pictures of the group in an old newsletter, so I dug the information out and sent it to her. Here's her reply. "What a kick I got from the report you sent about the Girl's Drum Corps from the March 2004 newsletter! Of all the musical groups I was in, Glee Club, Choir, High School Orchestra, etc., that was the most fun. A marching band still sets my feet marching and brings back great memories. I was away for the month of September visiting 3 of my daughters up north. Have you ever stopped your mail for a month, then on your return faced a mountain of bills, mail and junk to sort through? I'm still sorting but found the large envelope of newsletters you

sent. I'm saving it for "dessert" - forcing myself to take care of bills, etc. first. The newsletter of Oct. 2010 was—fun. I told my family, "I'm published! I'm published!". I enjoyed the story about the Allegany Nennos. One of my best friends in high school, and also in the marching band, was Genevieve Nenno who married Jake Farrell".

A note from Christine Bailey says she especially enjoys the pictures of Main Street and the old buildings in the late 1800's, and the history behind them.

Mary Nicklas Petro wrote to say she "looks forward to each issue with eager anticipation. In some way I'm related to many in the area - something I never knew (realized) until way into adulthood and looking into my genealogy! My people were Bockmiers and Wartens families".

Shirley Toohey from California says, "Hi! Really enjoyed the October issue which arrived today. Early Attic and More by William Bonhoff really hit home as I moved about a year ago after 48 years in one home. We were collectors as we might need "it" some day, and many times we did. Also my Geise great-grandmother was related to the Nennos and Gallats".

Memorials



*For: Genevieve (Gene) Geise
From: John and Jillian Walsh*

*For: Jean Trowbridge
From: Margaret Mazon
David and Beth Deitz
Rosemary Ryan*

*For: Marion Haggerty
From: Bob and Francie Potter
Catherine Geise*

*For: Francis Hirt
From: Bob and Francie Potter
Carol and Betsy Livingston
Marcia Karl
Alice Altenburg
Dick and Mary Anne Murphy
Rosemary Ryan
Harold and Marge Geise*

Margaret Parker found the following article in the January 4, 1950 issue of the Allegany Citizen. It makes for very interesting reading. Do any of our older members remember this phone system?

Many Allegany friends will be saddened to learn of the passing of another native of this village, Victor B. Malby, aged 71 years, who succumbed at St. Francis Hospital last Friday of injuries received when he was struck by a truck on Friday, November 18.

Vic, as we knew him, was the founder of an unique home telephone system in Allegany which boasted subscribers in most of the village and a large part of the township. We can still see him coming over the hill on his bicycle to repair broken wires on the farm or to replace the dry cells in the phone box.

After operating the system for about 30 years, the village line was sold to the New York Telephone Company on February 26, 1924, Mr. Malby retaining the rural lines although the phone company central served the Malby line through the local office.

Mr. Malby's line did not have the conventional light system now used by the central office. Instead he invented a series of bells, all with a different tone, so that he could answer any line simply by the tone of the bell. In order to have so many different sounds, he employed cow bells, sleigh bells, bottles partly filled with water, and every other conceivable contrivance to set up an exchange without a parallel.

After disposing of the village line, he continued the operation of the rural system until he sold out to Daniel F. Reedy of North Fifth Street in 1939. The Reedys operated the system until January of this year [1950] when they sold to Robert C. Mills of West Main Street who has continued the company.

Mr. Malby was born in Allegany, February 16, 1878 and has always resided here until about eight years ago when he rented the homestead at 41 North Second Street and left to spend the winter in Florida. Following another trip to Mexico and California, he took his residence in Farmers Valley [Pa.] about seven years ago.

Pallbearers, all members of Allegany Lodge No. 794, IOOF, were Archie Phillips, Robert Chapin, Carl Stady, William Putt, Fred Lemon, Warren Hitchcock and John Bingerman.

There was a list of his survivors, and details about the funeral service. He was buried in Allegany Cemetery.

ALLEGANY TEACHERS VENTURE WEST! by Gertrude H. Schnell

After school was out in 1939, four Allegany Central School teachers set out by car to see the U.S.A. and the Pacific Ocean. Geraldine McLaughlin, Lucille Pollina, Josephine Castilone and Irene Schnell set upon this adventure on July 19, 1939.

They traveled with only service station maps, no air conditioning or many of the other conveniences we use in cars today. The four took turns driving and their ultimate destination was the Golden Gate Exposition and visiting friends in Los Angeles. The miles they traveled each day varied between 525 and 585, but some days they only made 300 miles. There was very little traffic except around Cleveland and other major cities.

Letters home from Irene Schnell tell of the many places they visited or observed along the way. They marveled at the harvesting of oats, wheat and corn in fields larger than the eye could see, soy beans, orchards of walnut and filbert trees, and cactus. Yellowstone National Park; Cheyenne, Wyoming; Salt Lake City; Seattle; Lincoln, Nebraska; Estes Park; Rocky Mountain National Park and many other scenic places were observed on the trip.

Delia Schnell received letters almost every day, and some included several adventures. Irene, while riding in the front seat on a very hot day, took off her shoes and put her feet out the window. A car passed them and the occupants enjoyed the "unusual spectacle." Later that day the teachers met the same car of people at a restaurant! [Ed. note - *Anyone who had Irene Schnell as a teacher would have been astounded to know their teacher had done something like this!*]

On the second day of travel they visited the home of an Army Captain at the Army Post in Des Moines. He was Chief Surgeon in the Army Hospital there and a brother of one of the teachers. After going out to dinner and to a band concert, they stayed in his home with real Chinese rugs on the floor. In the morning they were served breakfast by the Leone's before leaving.

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Upon arriving in Salt Lake City, they were anxious to get to the Great Salt Lake to get into the water to float. They found a tourist home for less than \$1 each, which was the usual price. They got unpacked, donned bathing suits and drove out to the lake, a distance of 25 miles, but forgot to note the address of the house. After floating and showering, Irene took off her suit and put on just her green striped skirt and jacket. Upon returning to town they couldn't find the tourist home and drove around the entire city in their light apparel until about 10 p.m., when someone directed them to the right place. It took so long and everyone was so tired they went right to bed instead of going out to eat.

Later they did get to see the Pacific Ocean and drove along it for 100 miles. Letters home indicate they had driven over 4,000 miles at this time, but do not tell when they saw the Golden Gate Exposition, or when they arrived in Los Angeles, or about the trip home. It would seem the trip lasted three or four weeks.

SENIOR BIKING by William Bonhoff

"There's a disturbance in aisle six in sporting goods. Would a member of management please respond". So went the announcement over the PA system at K-Mart. I think it was my wife (now almost 78) test driving a two wheel bicycle up and down the aisles. Just then the manager came. *"You can't ride a bike in the aisles here. You might hurt someone". But I was only testing it to see if everything was OK". "I'm sorry but you still can't ride the bike in the aisles. Besides, you are making skid marks on the floor". "But I was testing the brakes".* I didn't want to get involved, so I stayed away. Well, she decided to get the bike after a "backroom" employee spent 15 minutes trying to lower the seat. I kept telling him to go and get a screw driver. He thought he could force the part off faster than taking the time to look for a screw driver. Well, he finally did go to get one.

We went to the checkout counter, but we found that the handle bars were too wide to fit through the narrow aisle. We went to the 'Service Counter'. Of course, we couldn't get the bike up on the counter for the clerk to scan the zip code.....I mean the bar code. She wasn't quite sure how to handle the problem so she laid flat across the counter, feet dangling high up in the air, and reached over as far as she could to scan. Another Kodak moment! On the way to the parking lot I told my wife that if it didn't fit in the trunk, she would have to ride it home, a distance of about four miles. Well, guess what! It didn't fit. She left the parking lot and I followed in the car. Did you ever try to cross six lanes of traffic on foot at a very busy intersection with cars speeding all around you? Don't ever try it! Well, she made it and proceeded down the sidewalk toward the safety of the mobile home park four miles away.

Pretty soon a police car pulled up beside her with the red and white lights flashing. I pulled up close and waited. I didn't want to get involved. *"Hey, Mam! You can't ride your bike on the sidewalk. It's against the law". "Well, you don't expect me to ride it on the road, do you?" "Sorry, you'll just have to walk then".* The cop left and so she got back on the bike again. About a mile down the road the flashing lights pulled up again. It was the same cop. *"Mam, where do you live?" "About two miles down the road". "Let me see if it will fit into the trunk and I'll run you home". "Can I sit up front and blow the siren?" "No, that's only for emergencies. You'll have to sit in the back where the prisoners ride". "But I do have a kind of an emergency".* Guess what - it didn't fit. *"I'll tell you what I can do for you. I'll ride your bike home for you and you drive my squad car".*

Apparently that met with my wife's approval, as she jumped into the cop car and took off down the road...the cop, at first, stunned, following quite far behind. Suddenly I could hear the siren blaring and saw that the lights were still flashing. I think she was having the time of her life flying through Weaver's Corners. Soon, two other police cars joined in.....seeing a civilian driving a police car with lights flashing, they entered into the pursuit. In the meantime, the patrolman on the bike was pedaling as fast as he could to catch up.

Several minutes later my wife swung the police car through the entrance of the mobile park...fifteen mile speed limit. *"No sense in causing any alarm, even though the red and white lights were still flashing",* as I read her mind. She pulled up in front of our house, parked the cop car, with lights still flashing, and ran into the house to take care of that emergency I guess she had...closely followed by the two other cop cars and the out of breath cop on the bike in hot pursuit. I wasn't too far behind. I worked my way past the police cars and drove to the end of the road. I didn't want to get involved.

In tonight's newspaper K-Mart was having a 25% off sale on bikes this weekend. Tomorrow, she's taking the bike back, and buying it all over again.

I refused to get involved!

**TREASURER'S REPORT
OCTOBER 1, 2009 - OCTOBER 1, 2010**

This report is presented to give you an understanding of our sources of income and our expenses.

AAHA RECEIVES NO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FROM VILLAGE, TOWN OR STATE.

INCOME

Membership dues	\$2,535.00
Memorials	3,155.00
Donations	1,053.00
Silent Auction	1,370.00
Christmas Cookie Sale	1,024.00
Heritage Days Profit	1,164.00
Copier Usage	14.00
Sales -	
Allegany Books	210.00
Misc. Sales	166.00
	TOTAL
	\$10,691.00

Water Heater Donations \$2,400.00

EXPENSES

NYSEG	\$2,146.00
National Grid	900.00
Insurance	1,003.00
Bulk Mailing Permit	185.00
Post Office Box Rental	60.00
Newsletters - Printing	358.00
Newsletters - Mailing	203.00
Programs	220.00
Service Contract	199.00
Annual Dues	100.00
Donations	25.00
Maintenance	954.00
Collections	107.00
Supplies	175.00
Street Sheet Expense	588.00
	TOTAL
	\$7,223.00

Water Heater Purchase \$2,148.00

**Allegany Area Historical Association
P.O. BOX 162
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Presidents Report

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NEXT MEETING - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7 - 2 P.M. - HERITAGE CENTER

Hugh Dunne, former Director of Allegany State Park, will talk to us about the history of the park. Allegany State Park is the largest in the New York State Parks System, comprising 65,000 acres. It was formally dedicated on July 30, 1921.

Mr. Dunne grew up in Salamanca, and attended the NYS Ranger School in the Adirondacks, which is part of Syracuse University. He was first employed by the NYS Dept. of Conservation, and then by Allegany State Park as a forester. He later became an engineer for the park, and currently holds the title of Regional Parks Director. As a condition of his employment as park director, he was required to live in the park for about 25 years. He serves as a Commissioner on the NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Commission.

I know most of us have visited the park at one time or another, and may have wondered how it came to be, the history of the lovely park building at Red House Lake, (which my children always called "Stately Wayne Manor" from the Batman series), and how the Ranger Tower figured into the park. Now is the chance to get all your questions answered. Come join us on **Sunday, November 7 at 2 p.m. to hear Hugh Dunne tell us the History of Allegany State Park.**