



Museum Muses

Highland County Historical Society, 151 E Main St, Hillsboro, OH 45133 937-393-3392
<http://www.highlandco.org/HCHS.html>

Remember!

- Shop Highland House for wonderful, unique Christmas gifts
- Check out our new windows!
- Be sure to view the changing exhibit area
- Stop by to see the lovely Christmas decorations!

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A Christmas To Remember

The Highland House Museum's annual Christmas Shop officially hosted its Open House on November 5 from 1-5 p.m. Visitors are able to purchase those special Christmas gifts every weekend in November and December until Christmas. Hours are: Friday 1-5 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m. We are excited to be featuring the work of local artisans in our specialty shop, so plan to attend during this special holiday event. The museum will also be festively decorated with the theme 'A Christmas to Remember'. For more information you may contact Brenda Bradds at 937-927-5321.



Windows Can Be A Pane

by Bob Lambert

Windows can be a "pane" some- was the winning bidder and they times! The windows on the south removed the old windows and side of the museum had been in frames, installed new wood and need of replacing for some time sills, insulated the spaces around and the board approved the re- the frames and installed new win- removal and replacement of four win- dows. The new windows now dow units. Tim Boler Construction *continued on page 3*

Director's Report

Margaret Van Frank

It's that time of year again!! Christmas decorating, gift shop preparations and the forthcoming annual Children's Tea Party. But first let's digress--the cabin cookout was well attended and profitable, the floor adjustment of the first floor, west side rooms continues and the replacement of four rear windows has been completed. Of course there will always be more needed restoration and, of course, more volunteers needed. Members, take pity on us and volunteer your services.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING:

1. CHRISTMAS CONSIGNMENT GIFT SHOP

Opening-Nov. 5th from 1-5 and will be open

every Friday 1-5, Saturday and Sunday 1-4 until Christmas!!

2. CHILDREN'S TEA PARTY December 4th

One seating at 2 PM \$6.00 each

Entertainment--Limited Seating

RESERVATIONS A MUST!

CALL 393-3392 OR 393-3263.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!!



Now On Display at Highland House:

WCTU Memories



Best wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year. Ron Gilliland, HCHS President

Our Assistant Director

I just wanted to take this opportunity to let each of you know how excited I am to be the new assistant director at the museum. Margaret is kindly teaching me the ropes and sharing her wealth of information. I am looking forward to working with each of you in the future.

Brenda Bradds

Windows Can Be a Pane

continued from page 1

match the correct time period windows on the main part of the house and are highly energy efficient and don't require storm windows. A fund raising effort will be announced soon to change the few windows on the east side of the museum to match. The board greatly appreciates the support of our membership as we work to maintain our beautiful museum building. In this photo Tim Boler eases the custom designed window into place in the "schoolhouse" room of the museum.



Christmas Memories

I guess I began to appreciate "disposable income" around the fourth grade when I was first entrusted with the weighty responsibility of transporting our local news in print to the many subscribers on my route. Yes, in other words, I got a paper route. Neither rain, nor snow, nor bleak of night would keep me from delivering this important missal of the latest local happenings. Important stuff it was too: things like who motored to whose home for Sunday dinner; the location of the ladies club meeting where, of course, they were met with a "prettily appointed table;" the complete list of traffic tickets given out during the week, not to mention the usual births, weddings and deaths, or in newspaper lingo, "hatch, match and dispatch."

Christmas was a great time to have a paper route. Nearly everyone was kind to a good paperboy at Christmas, especially when you put the paper exactly where they wanted it. Leah Rhude was very particular that her paper be in the wrought iron "basket" beside her

door and I was happy to comply. She, along with most others on my route, rewarded my great customer service with either a nice crisp dollar bill or perhaps a silver dollar. Some had a package of candy (my favorite was the Life Savers Book) or perhaps some homemade cookies.

Well, at any rate, my sizeable income was an impetus to begin a Christmas Club at Merchants National Bank and also gave me my own funds to contribute to the Sunday School offering. The rest was my "disposable income" which often found its way to the local "dime store," also know as the "10 Cent Store," the "Five and Dime" or even by its actual name, "The G. C. Murphy Co." This, my favorite emporium, became an even more magical place now that I was in charge of what I would purchase with my fortune. One major limitation was, of course, the number of weeks I was willing to save up before getting my reward—the psychological principle, as I would learn in my psychology classes at Ohio University, of delayed gratifica-

tion.

I should clarify a point regarding the singular form of "dime store," as we had two dime stores back then. In addition to G. C. Murphy, we had the Famous Store and these two competitors for my fortune were strategically located right next to each other with only an alley separating them. When Christmas approached, I loved Murphy's for the area at the rear of the store where they replaced their normal goods with all kinds of Christmas ornaments, lights and other Christmas merchandise. Included in the selection were individual figurines for the nativity scene. These were the object of much shopping and comparing and saving, as they cost anywhere from 29 to 39 cents each. Then, if you wanted a little pine tree to go along, they would set you back about 19 cents. They also had the little Santa, angel, reindeer and snowman figures made of candle wax. Who wanted to burn these though? I couldn't imagine reducing Santa to a little puddle of melted wax. *(continued page 4)*

Editor

Christmas
Memories
from the
1950s

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45133
Permit No. 11

Shop HIGHLAND
HOUSE MUSEUM
GIFT SHOP
Fridays: 1-5 pm
Saturdays: 1-4 pm
Sundays: 1-4 pm



Christmas Memories (continued from page 3)

When the Sears & Roebuck toy catalog arrived in the mail, I knew Christmas was on its way. Never mind that the autumn leaves hadn't fallen—my mind was already into December. I could spend hours looking through the catalog, but there was nothing like ogling over the actual toy. When Christmas neared, the Famous Store opened up their Toyland on the second floor of the store. What fun to climb those stairs and have a look and make mental notes of what to put on my Christmas list. The other toy land in town was on the second floor of Fairley's Hardware Store. Employees at both stores kept an eagle eye on kids when they climbed those steps—afraid, I guess, that one might try to hide a bicycle under his coat and sneak away without paying. Hillsboro really decorated up for Christmas back in those days. There were large colored lights stretched across the main streets, along with pine roping. In the center of each string was a big lighted

red "bell" made of Fiberglas with a white portion at the bottom designed to look like snow accumulated along the edge. The court house square always had a huge Christmas tree, lighted and decorated. Christmas was always special at my grandparents' or great uncle and aunt's house. Since I was the only "young'un" I received all of the attention. They always had a tree—a small, table-top cedar cut off the farm, with a couple strings of the series lights where, when one went out, the entire string wouldn't light. There weren't many presents, but they were always wrapped in tissue paper. To this day, when I see tissue paper, it takes me back all of those years to wood-fire heated homes where we may not have had much money nor expensive presents, but we had more than enough love to go around. My best friend, Joe Smith, and I began exchanging Christmas presents some-

time around the second or third grade. We started our first year with a strict spending limit of ten cents. I have always given him a bag of chocolate drops in addition to whatever else I get him. Yes, even to this day, there will be a bag of chocolate drops for Joe. Can't buy a nice size bag for five cents any longer though.

Preparations underway to decorate Highland House for the Christmas Season.

