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WYANDOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 1



WATKINS HAMBURGERS
OPENED IN 1937 AS WATKINS AND SMITH
Wyandotte's Premier Hamburg Stop

Dear members of the Historical Society,

Happy New Year to all of our members. To many of us the New Year makes us want to start over and try new things or improve a new lifestyle. Hopefully, you are enjoying this new phase in your life. Our society board in January also renews our ways with new goals and projects we would like to see take place this year. We are working on new projects and programs for your enjoyment.

Our society would like to thank Robert Rudowski and Sandy Noble for their many years of service to our society board. All of their time and support will be greatly missed by us. Thank you.

On the other hand, I would like to introduce Keith Steffke and Karen Adkins to our 2020 board of directors. I am looking forward to getting to know them. I know they both have the enthusiasm that is needed to carry on our society's direction. Being a board member is never easy. Our board wants to make goals and projects to please you. Always feel free to contact me or any board members for tips or ideas. It is a pleasure to serve you.

Chris Stieler

DEDICATION - SOUTH BEDROOM - MACNICHOL HOME MUSEUM

The room previously exhibited the bedroom furniture donated by Eleanor Torrey West, great granddaughter of John Baptiste Ford.

It was the dream of Shirley Prygoski to have this room become a hands on room for children where they could actually see and touch the toys from earlier years. After the concept was accepted, work began. However, due to the sudden and unexpected death of Shirley's husband Ken, who was her helper in many ways on the project, completion was held in abeyance. The Cultural and Historical Commission decided to complete the room and dedicate it in Shirley's honor.

The floors were refinished, walls and ceiling were repainted and a beautiful area rug was donated by Jane Rasmussen, a descendent of the Drennen Family. Toys of yesteryears and a toy exhibit of All Metal (The Toy Factory] toys are on exhibit with many other objects for the children to look at and to touch.

With the date and time set and with Shirley and her family here for a small reception, the dedication began.

After few words from Jesse Rose, Director and also from Sue Pilon, Commissioner, all proceeded to the 2nd floor where Shirley performed the ribbon cutting and all entered to see the beautiful new room.

Also on exhibit is a lead glass plaque in Shirley's honor presented by the Wyandotte Cultural and Historical Commission. The engraving reads; "In appreciation and gratitude on this occasion of the dedication of a Childrens' Hands On Room of the Wyandotte Museum. Refurbished in loving tribute to children of yesterday and today."

Thank you Shirley and to all who helped complete this exhibit, the room and dedication.



Shirley Prygoski at the dedication in her honor of the new childrens' hands on room @ MacNichol Museum



Our Santa program was a huge success and a lot of fun this year. One hundred sixty-one children and their families visited Santa and Mrs. Claus and had the opportunity to purchase gifts for their families and friends. Each year there are more families that enjoy this event.

Many volunteers donate their time to make this event a success. Volunteers welcome our families, direct them on each level, run the elevator, make name tags for the children, assist Santa and Mrs. Claus, help the children make ornaments in the Makers Room, assist visitors in the gift shop, cashier and wrap gifts. A HUGE THANK YOU to all of you. This event would not happen without you.

A very large thank you also to the Library Board for opening the library to us and the staff for opening the Makers Room for us, the beautiful decorations, helping us with the set up and being there for us.

The Society is very grateful to all of you. Thank you.

Beth Labadie

The 2020s are here!
By Wallace Hayden

Happy New Year! We are about to uncork another decade.

In 1968, I spotted a high school student wearing an athletic jacket displaying the year 70 on the upper sleeve. It was a shock--the future had arrived! It seemed possible that by the end of the 1970s we would be flying around with jet packs on our backs, vacationing on the moon and waited-upon by devoted robots.

In 2018, I spotted a jacket displaying the year 20 on the sleeve. The future had arrived once again. By now, we should all be vacationing on Mars, be blissfully connected to the universal mind, or at the very least, be able to surf the web free of advertisements.

The future is like that proverbial carrot the donkey chases but never catches. It dangles tantalizingly just out of reach. Of course, by definition, we never reach the future. It's always the present.

As history enthusiasts, we know that the human collective makes progress. Yet, with all the amazing achievements of the past centuries, our essential aspirations are the same in the year 2020 as they were in the year 2020 B.C.: provide for ourselves and our family, avoid being eaten by wild beast or slaughtered by barbarians, appreciate and be appreciated by those around us, and find some kind of connection and purpose.

Let's hope we all achieve these things in the coming decade, and by the close of this new decade, as icing on the cake, get that vacation on the moon.