

- EST. 1958 -

WYANDOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2020

VOLUME 5



A rare view of Wyandotte's beautiful waterfront
looking south from Eureka

Dear Members of the Wyandotte Historical Society;

Our World Wide Pandemic has now hit close to home. For so many of us it has affected you or a friend. Our community has become a ghost town. Wyandotte Hospital is overflowing with very sick people. Our local First Responders are working around the clock helping an unbelievable amount of people. Who would of thought, a very different Easter Holiday? No signs of an end at this time.

We are getting very antsy staying in our homes. It's been over a month since we have been told to stay home. I am sure we are missing our daily activities. Our museums and society still sits quite. We wanted to send you our newsletter, hopefully to cheer you up.

Our society's board is pleased to welcome Jane Rasmussen to the web site committee. Jane is a hard worker in our museums and is very interested in helping us to build our new website. Thanks to Jane during her stay at home she has been able to set up a rough draft of a new website. We are grateful and are moving very close to having a new site soon. We are getting closer to having the board's approval. WOW.

All of us on the Board of the Wyandotte Historical Society send all of our members Best Wishes!!! And stay safe.

Christopher T. Stieler

TIMELINE OF HISTORICAL PANDEMICS

| NAME | TIME | | DEATH |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | PERIOD | TYPE | TOLL |
| Antonine Plague | 165-180 | Smallpox/measles | 5M |
| Japanese Smallpox | 765-737 | Variola major virus | 1M |
| Plague of Justinian | 541-542 | Yersinia pestis/rats | 30-50 M |
| Black Death | 1347-1351 | Yersinia pestis/rats | 200M |
| New World Smallpox | 1520> | Variola major virus | 56M |
| Great Plague London | 1665 | Yersinia pestis/rats | 100,000 |
| Italian Plague | 1629-1631 | Yersinia pestis/rats | 1M |
| Cholera Pandemics | 1817-1923 | V. cholerae Bacteria | 1M+ |
| Third Plague | 1885 | Yersinia pestis/rats | 12M |
| | | | China-India |
| Yellow Fever | 1800 | Virus/Mosquitoes | 150,000 US |
| Russian Flu | 1889-1890 | H2N2? | 1M |
| Spanish Flu | 1918-1918 | H1N1 Virus/Pigs | 40-50M |
| Asian Flu | 1957-1958 | H2N2 Virus | 1.1M |
| Hong Kong Flu | 1968-1970 | H3N2 Virus | 1M |
| HIV/AIDS | 1981-present | Virus/chimpanzees | 25-35M |
| Swine Flu | 2009-2010 | H1N1 Virus/Pigs | 200,000 |
| SARS | 2002-2003 | Coronavirus/bats | 770 |
| Ebola | 2014-2016 | Ebolavirus/ wild animals | 11,000 |
| MERS | 2015-present | Coronavirus/ Bats/camels | 850 |
| COVID-19 | 2019-present | Coronavirus/ Unkown | 6400 as of 3-15-20 |

Chart published by Nicholas LePan. March 14, 2020

The decision to cancel these events was not made easily. Unfortunately, during these uncertain times, these were all needed outcomes, especially as the governor has extended the Stay at Home order through April 30, and we are all unsure of what may come thereafter.

The following have been canceled, unless otherwise noted:

April 25 & 26 - Monart Art Show. Will reschedule for 2021.

May 2 & 3 - Local Artists Guild Art Show. Will be rescheduled for 2021.

May 15-17 - City-Wide Garage Sale. The Fall City-wide Garage Sale is still scheduled.

June 28 - Pie & Ice Cream Social. We will look forward to the 2021 event.

From The Past - 1973

The early collections by the Historical Society to its museum were not always just artifacts preserving our local heritage. Although not an Art Museum, valuable paintings did become part of our collections. We are here presenting portions of a letter thanking the BASF, Wyandotte Corp.. for their gift of oil paintings to the Wyandotte Historical Society. The date of the letter is September 15, 1973, addressed to Mr. Robert Semple, Chairman of the Board and written by Edwina Dewindt, Museum Director. The edited portion reads as follows:

“The Board of Directors of the Wyandotte Historical Society wish to express its sincere appreciation of the gift, August 20, 1973, of eight oil paintings executed by Robert Riggs on the manufacturing processes conducted by the former Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation. The paintings are on display at our museum.

The color and depth of quality of the pictures add a touch of artistry to our historical presentation. Because the chemical industry, introduced into the community life by John B. Ford, has been so much a part of the growth and development of Wyandotte socially as well as economically this gift is an historically significant contribution to the museum’s efforts in preserving the heritage of the city.

This has been a most generous and thoughtful contribution on behalf of BASF, Wyandotte Corporation which will continue to give cultural pleasure to the citizens of Wyandotte.”

Editor Note: The eight Riggs oil paintings are now part of the Wyandotte Museums’ collection.



On The Lighter Side

THE SENILITY PRAYER: Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

It’s scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

See ya next month: *Ken Navarre*