

- EST. 1958 -

# WYANDOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

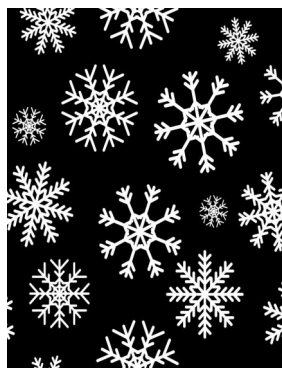
MARCH 2023

VOLUME 3

## A WYANDOTTE WINTER WONDERLAND



*Photo taken Jan 22, 2023  
by Josh Halasy*



*Photo taken Jan 25, 2023  
by Josh Halasy*



## Message from the Prez~

One of my favorite ways to keep the history alive is by sharing stories of the past. Over the years I have had the privilege of listening to stories about businesses that are no longer there, people reminiscing about the good ole days, stories about different families and a variety of traditions that they used to celebrate. One of the reasons that I love writing Wandering Oakwood, is because I get to share a story with all of you about someone who has been gone for many years. Sometimes these people have headstones and family members who come to visit them but often many of them have been forgotten and their headstones have been lost in time. Every year we are finding new headstones, new burial records or learning that some of the people we thought were buried in there are actually buried at a different Oakwood Cemetery. If anyone would like to share stories or pictures of their relatives that are buried in Oakwood please email me at [mmwein@umich.edu](mailto:mmwein@umich.edu)

PREZ

*Mary-Johna Wein*

### The 2023 Heritage Events Calendar

- ~May 6-7 --- Local Artists Guild Art Show
- ~May 12-14 --- Spring City-Wide Garage Sale
- ~May 21 --- Pie & Ice Cream Social
- ~August 26 --- Wyandotte Stars Annual Home Classic
- ~September 8-10 --- Fall City-Wide Garage Sale
- ~October 13-14 --- Historic Cemetery Walk (tickets on sale 9/11/23)
- ~October 20 --- Hallowe'en Open House
- ~December 1, 8 & 15 --- Festive Friday Open Houses

## Wandering....



Christian B. Krieger (1839-1873) was born around 1839. On June 20, 1861, he enlisted in Company I of the 4th Michigan Infantry. He was 22 years old when he mustered in on June 20, 1861. On July 2, 1863, went into battle in Gettysburg. The regiment received orders to advance straight across the Wheatfield towards the enemy, unfortunately during the engagement Christian suffered major injuries. The injuries in Christians right arm would cause him to lose his arm and on July 30, 1863 Christian's right arm was amputated. Christian would be discharged from the military on January 1, 1864, and by 1865 his stump was completely healed. After his service, Christian returned to Wyandotte and in May 1873 he passed away.

Marty Bertera & Mary-Johna Wein



# The History of All Metal Products Company Wyandotte Toys

## Wyandotte, Michigan 1920-1956



When George Stallings and William F. Schmidt joined to form a company, they originally planned to produce parts for automobiles. Instead, they decided there was a market for toy guns and rifles and embarked on toy production by fall of 1921. Toy guns would dominate Wyandotte output from 1921-1929. Other toys, such as pressed steel airplanes, mini automobiles, racers, mechanical toys, games, targets, pistol holster sets, and musical tops were also produced. Toys for girls included pressed steel dustpans, baskets, and trays as well as other playhouse toys.

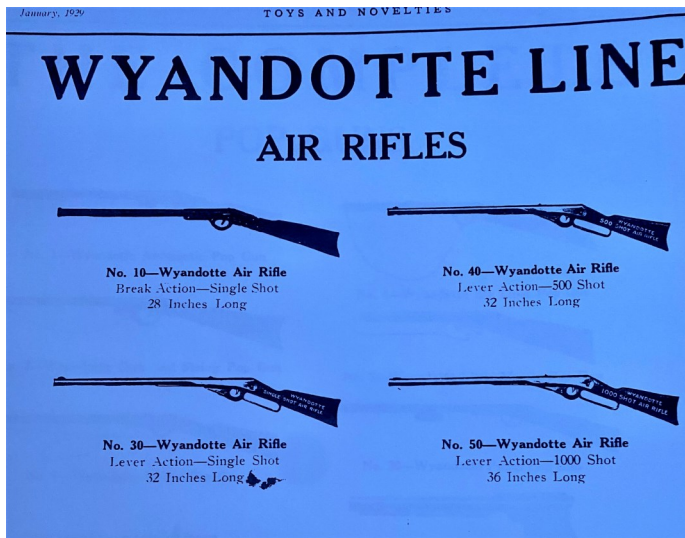
Arthur W. Edwards and Harry Tucker became interested in the corporation and after buying into it took an active role in running the company. Edwards became President and General Manager and ran the company until his death in August 1932. Tucker left the company in early 1925. Edwards was succeeded by his son C. Lee Edwards and Charles A. Brethen, who served as secretary.

In 1935, Wyandotte claimed to have sold over 5.5 million toy guns, which it shipped all over the world. Its large pressed steel automotive toys with baked enamel finish and battery operated lights were popular sellers during the 1930s. In April 1947, William A. Wenner, an employee of the company since 1927, was elected to presidency.

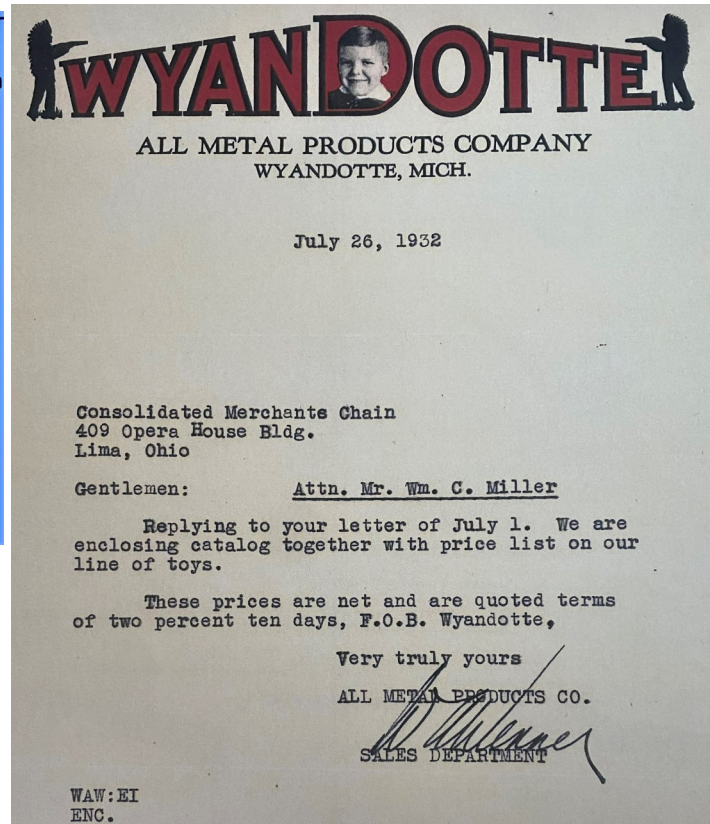
In 1950, Wyandotte bought the Hafner Manufacturing Company and continued to produce the Hafner line of trains. A year later, C. Lee Edwards, Mary Reberdyand and the estate of Arthur W. Edwards sold their interests to a new group of investors who reorganized the company. The new directors including Morris Birnbaum, Charles Block, Charles Haskill, Allen Morgan, John D. Scarborough and Jacob Shapiro.

Following the latest reorganization, one plant was moved to Martin's Ferry, Ohio, another to Pequa, Ohio, and another sold to the McCord Corporation for its gasket division. In 1955, C. Lee Edwards and William Wenner wished to retire and sold their remaining company stock, which they had accepted as part of the 1951 sale. The company was facing serious financial difficulty at that time.

Louis Marx reportedly purchased some of the Wyandotte product lines along with the Hafner dyes and sent them to his factory in Mexico, thereby eliminating the possibility of anyone else using the dyes in competition with Marx trains. All metal products filed for bankruptcy on November 6, 1956.



## Wyandotte Toys



COME  
JOIN US



## Wyandotte's Movie Houses

The Majestic, the Rialto, the Wyandotte Theater. Movies have captured the public's imagination since their beginnings at the turn of the 20th Century. Wyandotte's impressive downtown served as a meeting place for many filmgoers and it became a popular place to catch a movie. Join Wyandotte Museums Director, Jesse Rose as he discusses the city's movie houses and theaters, the stars the public flocked to see and remembrances from the past. Items from museum collections will be on hand for guests to view and talk about as well. Friday, April 14, 2023 at 7:00pm.



## MORE ON WYANDOTTE TOYS....

In 1904 an author by the name of Clearence E. Mulford wrote a series of short stories. These stories were centered around a cowboy by the name of Hopalong Cassidy. Mulford would write a total of 28 Hopalong Cassidy novels, finishing his last one in 1941. These novels would eventually be taken from paper and put on to the screen. On June 24, 1949, Hopalong Cassidy made its debut on the television. Hopalong was considered to be America's first television hero, he was adored by millions. There was a total of 66 movies, 52 TV episodes, 104 radio shows and 2,400 merchandise license. Even Wyandotte toys created its own line of Hopalong Cassidy merchandise. The Wyandotte Toys catalog featured more than fifty Hopalong Cassidy toys. This description was taken straight out of the Wyandotte Toys catalog.

*NO 9694 – HOPALONG CASSIDY NICKLE PLATED “SMOKER”CAP PISTOL WITH DIE CAST SPURS*

*Includes one No 96 – 9 Hopalong Cassidy nickel plated “smoker” cap pistol*

*Deluxe nickel-plated finish -ivory plastic grips, engraved with pictures of Hopalong Cassidy*

*Automatic opening device for easy loading – absolutely safe – cap chamber enclosed.*

*Includes one pair of die cast Hopalong Cassidy spurs -deluxe nickel plated finish – heel chain – antique bronze finished rowels with safe blunt ends.*

*Individually boxed in a special, very attractive, Hopalong Cassidy display box*



~Dan Galeski & Mary-Johna Wein



## REMINDER!!!!



Come join us Friday, March 10, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Marx Home and learn how to make your very own Pisanki (polish Easter eggs)! The cost is only \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Due to the limited seating please reserve a spot by emailing the Historical Society at [wyandottehistory@gmail.com](mailto:wyandottehistory@gmail.com) or leave a message at 734-324-7299.

Return Service Requested

**Wyandotte Historical Society**

Burns Home

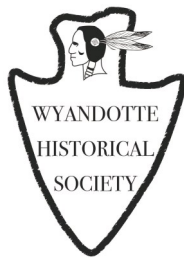
2624 Biddle Ave.

Wyandotte, MI 48192-5208

**Phone:** (734) 324-7299

**Email:** wyandottehistory@gmail.com

**Website:** wyandottehistory.org



Non-Profit Organization

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Permit #106

Wyandotte, MI 48192

Address Label



**March 10 at 7 p.m. Pisanki (Polish Easter eggs) Class**

**April 14 at 7 p.m. Wyandotte Movie Houses**

**\*The Museum is closed February and March\***

**Wyandotte Historical Society Board of Directors**

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- \* **Treasurer:** Karen Adkins
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  - ◇ Beth Labadie
  - ◇ Ken Navarre
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- \* **Office Consultant:** Beth Labadie

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  - ◇ Don Gutz
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  - ◇ Kenneth Munson
  - ◇ Sue Pilon
  - ◇ Jane Rasmussen
  - ◇ Anne Ronco
- \* **Museum Director:** Jesse Rose
- \* **Museum Assistant:** Audrey Wicklander