



Educators Exhibit

"Who's Who In Education" continues at the History Center through mid-November. Visitors are welcome from 1-4:00 on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays. We also welcome new information, photos and related donations to this exhibit.

Overheard at the History Center

During his military service in First Battalion, 30th Infantry stationed at Ft. Benning, GA, retired Eastern teacher Wayne Frakes earned the honor of "Soldier of the Week" in May 1954. His commanding officer, Major John S. D. Eisenhower, sent a letter, on display at the History Center, to Wayne's mother back home in Greentown. Later that same year, Wayne was selected as "Soldier of the Month" by the new commanding officer, Lt. Col. Henry S. McDonald, Jr. Having an Eisenhower as the commanding officer meant having full military parades when visiting dignitaries came to Ft. Benning. The soldiers' shoes would get so hot in the full summer sun that the shoe polish

melted and ran off as they stood in parade! His battalion was so overjoyed when Maj. Eisenhower's father, Dwight Eisenhower, was elected President because John went to Washington to become his aide.

During his visit to the History Center, Randy Hainlen related the fact that retired Eastern Latin and math teacher Doris Waymire is the last living teacher of actor James Dean. She has a "James Dean Room" in her home in Marion. When Randy asked why she doesn't also have a "Randy Hainlen Room", she replied, "I have a "Randy Hainlen Drawer."

Memory Board Notes

Rita Kingseed's note posted on the Memory Board tells how Eastern Elementary teacher Paul Nicholson liked to tease: "One of my classmates, Shawn Benedict, brought in suckers to give out for her birthday treat. Mr. Nicholson took them and hid them at recess in his podium drawer. We saw him hide them, so we moved them at lunch to his closet. When

Shawn went to pass them out and couldn't find them, Mr. Nicholson went to get them out of his podium drawer but couldn't find them either. That was a great surprise!"

Charlotte Nulf's note on the Memory Board tells of the highlights of her school years in this area: "My 1-2-3 grade teacher was Marguerite Roach. She instilled in me the love of reading and a desire to learn. When she was helping the other class, she often had me have students in my class to read. She is the main person who inspired me to be a teacher. I loved teaching. I taught at Eastern for 8 years before going to Taylor where I retired after 26 years there. Mrs. Hudson was the librarian at Eastern. I worked in the (continued on page 2)

GHS Calendar

- **Sept 20 Junior History Walk**
- **Educators Exhibit open through mid-November**
- **Oct 19 "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?"**
- **Nov 6 Annual meeting/ dinner**
- **Dec 7 Christmas Home Tour**

library for her. She would have a new book for me to read each week. Our library at Union was a very small one, but when I was in 6-7-8 grades Francis Echelbarger encouraged us to read the books there. Many teachers have influenced my life. Eastern Howard Schools is to be commended on having so many excellent teachers.”

Exhibit Highlights

Opal (Lamb) Davis 1895-1982 (information provided by her niece, Helen Hickman)

Opal and her brother Harry attended Greentown High School. They rode a horse to their Grandma Lamb's house on West Main Street, put the horse in the barn, and walked on to school. She received her teaching certificate from Ball State and then moved to



Washington, D.C., to work in the War Department during W.W.I. After the war she taught school in Ohio for two years in a one-room school with eight grades. She returned to Greentown and taught fourth and fifth grades. In all, Opal taught for forty years.

Omen Schaaf (teacher from 1910 to 1952)

Omen Schaaf graduated from 8th grade when he was 12 years old. In April 1910 he received his 12-month teaching license. He taught at Liberty Township School for \$2.83 per day in 1912.



Margaret Melford Beeler started teaching at Greentown around 1922. She was told that women teachers could not cut their hair. The only way she could have short hair was to wear a switch, a hairpiece

pinned in place to look like a bun. So that is what she did. She had to stop teaching when she got married, but after her children went to college, she returned to teaching. She taught at Union School from 1951-1962.



The exhibit committee encourages the submission of information about all teachers who worked in the schools of eastern Howard County to the current exhibit and later to our archives and genealogical collection. Contact the History Center at 628-3800 and leave a message. We will contact you about a convenient time for an appointment. Also, we have a Teacher Memory Wall to post your favorite memories and anecdotes from your school days. If you are unable to come in, mail your memory to us and we will add it to the wall.

Fair Parking Report

Chairman Ron Simpson conveys a big thank-you to all who volunteered to work during fair week at Greentown Equipment and Kokomo Grain parking lots. We grossed \$1,016.60 which includes a \$5.00 donation from Gerald Cheek, a \$1.00 tip from one of our patrons, and some change found by workers Max Kingseed and Lisa Stout.

We had 18 volunteers who served a total of 143.5 hours: Rodney Padfield, Nella Mae Padfield, Steve Myers, Wayne Frakes, Melody Sumpter, Carolyn Smith, Rita Kingseed, Dwight Schaaf, Ronda Eldridge, Lisa Stout, Jean Simpson, Nancy Echelbarger, Charlie Swisher, Betty Swisher, Joyce Lantz, Sally Imbler, Max Kingseed, and Ron Simpson.

Gift Ideas

Need a gift for someone who has everything? For anniversary, birthday or Christmas, give a gift of membership in the Greentown Historical Society. The cost is \$15.00 per year. Applications can be picked up at the History Center or call 628-3800 or 628-7674, and an application will be mailed to you. Gift certificates for the gift shop are also available.

New G.H.S. Members

We welcome the following new members who joined/rejoined G.H.S. in the 3rd

quarter of 2008: Jim Echelbarger, Brian Imbler, Stephanie Imbler, Carol Petro, Mary Shrock, Robert and Susann Sumpter, Katie Regan and Nadine Kelley.

2009 Exhibit

An exhibit on Indians of eastern Howard County is being planned for next year. If you have any documented artifacts, family history or information that could be loaned for this exhibit please call Lisa at 628-7674. We plan to have items on loan from the Miami Nation and the Miami County Historical Society, among other interesting and informative displays and programs.

Fresh Look

Have you noticed the freshly painted, new look on the front of the History Center? Thank you to Paul Nicholson for painting the gold stars and leaves on the front of the building.

G. H. S. Wish List

Besides monetary donations, our patrons may wish to donate to a specific need here at the History Center. Some of our immediate needs are the following in the Bank Annex: Purchase and construction of shelving and storage for the exhibition staging area, purchase and labor to install floor covering, replace doors, purchase folding tables, and

purchase and installation of wall insulation. Call 628-3800 to donate and volunteer.

Our Volunteers

The G.H.S. thanks our volunteers who worked tirelessly in a variety of needed areas to fulfill the mission of our organization during the past quarter: Sally Imbler, Rita Kingseed, Charlotte Agness, Lisa Stout, John Stout, Cathy Johnson, Rachel Jenkins, LeAnn Donson, Karen Swan, Carol Ratliff, Susan Coghill, Bob Coghill, Sue Clouser, Nancy Echelbarger, Ron Simpson, Dwight Schaaf, Barb Middleton, Max Kingseed, Wayne Frakes, Joyce Lantz, Mike Lantz, Melody Sumpter, Charlie Swisher, Betty Swisher, Ronda Eldridge, Carol Smith, Steve Myers, Rodney Padfield, Nella Mae Padfield, Harry Sparks, Angie Sparks, Jim Ratliff, Rachel Echelbarger, Jim Echelbarger, Darwin Freeman, Debbie King, Charlotte Nulf, Debra Bagley, Jean Simpson, Connie Voorhis, Martha Lou Zirkle, Dave Turner, Bonnie Turner.

2nd Annual Tree Decorating Contest

Fill the History Center at 103 E. Main St. with Christmas trees! Anyone may decorate a tree; bring your own or use one of ours. Use traditional, unusual, recycled, handmade ornaments or (continued on page 4)

show off your collection of something. Any kind, any size of tree can be used.

There will be voting for favorites at 1 cent per vote. (Money goes to the Historical Society) A \$25 gift certificate redeemable at the History Center gift shop will go to the one with the most votes. A \$10 gift certificate will be awarded to the 2nd place winner.

Dates and hours when the History Center will be open for you to decorate are:
Fri., Nov. 28 from 5 to 8 p.m. ;
Sat., Nov. 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. ;
Sun., Nov. 30 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Annual Meeting and Dinner

The Historical Society annual meeting, dinner and silent auction will be held on Thursday, November 6 at the Jerome Christian Church. Plan to attend the catered buffet, a short business meeting with the election of Trustees and a fun program that is being planned. Be prepared to bid on items donated from the community to help pay current expenses and pay on the mortgage. Fill out the enclosed insert and get your reservations in today.

A Taste of Chautauqua

by Rachel Jenkins

A new word has entered the vocabulary of some of us during 2007—"Chautauqua" pronounced \shə-'tō-kwə\ — and was mentioned as a part of the

G.H.S. exhibit on the Seegar Sisters. Dorothy Seegar traveled extensively with the Redpath Chautauqua Company. Miriam also made some appearances. Older sister, Helen, started it all by introducing Dorothy to the president of the company.

Chautauqua draws its name from Lake Chautauqua, New York, where the movement originated. The New York Chautauqua was an educational summer campground, bringing entertainment and culture to the campers. Tent Chautauquas were an itinerant manifestation. As a traveling program, it "brought culture to the rural areas." There are just a few Chautauqua campgrounds today. The traveling programs were popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The newspapers reported Chautauquas in Kokomo and Greentown. We know the site of a Greentown Chautauqua was on property at the NW corner of Walnut and Howard Streets, owned by Dr. Henry C. Miller.

For this year's Annual Meeting we will be bringing a sampling of the kind of program one might have heard and seen at an early Chautauqua. The three-part program will consist of music, magic and lecture. Leah Davis, vocal student of Susan Brooks, and her brother Parker will present a program of Irish music. Owen Oldaker will perform his slight-of-hand magic. Dr. Herbert Miller, retired professor of International Business, will give

his popular lecture, "Differences", which will both entertain and stimulate thought and discussion.

A Little Chautauqua History by Rachel Jenkins

Chautauqua in Kokomo

In an August 1908 issue of the Kokomo Daily Tribune, an article entitled "Chevrolet's Transport Redpath Chautauqua" states that the Kokomo Chautauqua was founded about 1905. Income was from ticket sales. Purchasers were referred to as "subscribers." At the close of the 1908 Chautauqua, 1,000 tickets had been sold for the 1909 event. "The attendance Sunday afternoon and night at the Chautauqua tested the capacity of the auditorium." On the program were Lecture by Ralph Parlette "Weighed in the Balance" on educational and religious topics and brimful of humor. He argued in favor of an industrial college where a student can earn his own way. Also were the Ladies Lyceum Quartet and a lecture by Rev. Father P. J. McCorrey, introduced by Father Francis Lordeman. The topic was a plea against intellectual prejudices.

There were classes in arts and crafts during the Chautauqua. Classes were held in water color, china painting, basket weaving, copper work, and leather tooling. There was an Arts and Crafts Guild in existence for 2 years, and the Chau-

Chautauqua gave it a shot in the arm. Membership grew and demand was raised for a permanent shop where members might go any day of the week and work and supplies might be ordered.

Kokomo Daily Tribune July 16, 1915

"A committee of boosters from the enterprising village of Windfall, headed by a brass band and a couple of clowns, was in (Green)town Tuesday advertising in the Chautauqua that is to be held there week after next. The party traveled in automobiles."

Chautauqua in Greentown

An article in the Sept. 3, 1915, Kokomo Daily Tribune indicates that the first Chautauqua in Greentown was in 1914. Attendance at every session in 1915 was reported very good: "The big tent was crowded each afternoon and evening." On the program was a band with the youngest bandmaster in the world and a lecture.

Kokomo Daily Tribune August 11, 1916

"Never did Greentown look more beautiful than it did last night when fully five thousand interested spectators were here to attend the band carnival. The event was the first of the kind ever inaugurated in Greentown and it proved a splendid success, in which the local band boys expended every effort for success. The four bands, con-

sisting of Kokomo, Windfall and Rigdon, with the home band gave a splendid musical entertainment for the evening, in which the visiting band boys were heartily received. The pleasure found by the home band is attested by the fact that they have already entered upon discussion of plans for another carnival next year. The weather conditions for the night were ideal."

Sept. 14, 1929 The Kokomo Tribune

Summarized from the newspaper article: For the first time in its 16 years existence, Redpath Chautauqua is this year employing passenger cars to transport members of its Deluxe circuit. The cars are Chevrolet six cylinder sedans. Buses and trains have been used in the past. The itinerary of the 40 member company trails jaggedly from Florida to northern Wisconsin.

Unless one has traveled with a Chautauqua troupe it is almost impossible to realize the rigors entailed by travel of this sort. In the first place, the troupers in the strictest sense are not really troupers at all. They are persons who, because of an outstanding reputation, are drafted to traverse the smaller cities, many experiencing the life of the road for the first time. Among those in this year's troupe are Nellie Ross, the former governor of Wyoming, a celebrated newspaper poet, and the holder of the longest solo flight, a trip from London to India. For six months

the troupers make one night appearances and then hop on to the next showing place. The average jump between show points is 100 miles. The total appearances of the season will be 140 towns.

Membership Renewals

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2009. If you are not a life member please fill out the enclosed form and return it with your check. Also notice this year we have added a family one-year membership. This will include two adults and all children in the household. As we are growing to include Junior activities for our younger members, we hope this will encourage families to take advantage of what we have to offer.

Vote-Vote-Vote!

The 6th annual G.H.S. Volunteer of the Year will be announced at the annual meeting on Nov. 6. If you would like to nominate someone for this honor, send their name and the reason for selecting them to Lisa Stout at P.O. Box 121, Greentown, or call her at 765-610-8461. Past winners include Joyce Lantz, Madeline Deckard, Lisa Stout, Rachel Jenkins, Charlotte Agness, Jean Simpson, Ron Simpson, and Barbara Middleton.

Volunteer Opportunities

by Lisa Stout

Volunteers are welcome in each of the following committees to work with the committee chairman appointed by the President of the Board of Trustees at the beginning of each year:

Financial—*Audit*

Building & Grounds—*Basic Maintenance, Building repairs & improvements*

Collection Management—*Computer entry, Working with new acquisitions, Copying & filing paperwork*

Exhibits—*Planning new exhibits, Collection of loaned items, Displaying & labeling*

Fundraising—*Gift shop, Rummage Sale, Fair parking, Annual Meeting, Silent auction, Tributes and tales dinner, Christmas Home Tour, Annual appeal letter, Submitting and executing new ideas, Historic Home Tour & Café*

Long Range Planning—*5, 10, 15 year plan*

Marketing & Public Relations—*News releases, Update brochures annually, Signs and flyers - printed and delivered*
Publications—*Newsletter, Booklets*

Membership—*Recruiting, Jr. Membership, Dues card & address list kept current*

Nominating

Programs—*Annual dinner, Exhibit programs, Fair tent*

Research—*Gathering information for exhibits, Handling*

requests from the community, Oral Histories, Current news
Volunteer Coordinator—*Scheduling Docents, Training Docents*
Board of Trustees

Publications for Sale

Our most recent publication is of the biographies of medical personnel who have practiced in eastern Howard County, and has the title of Is There A Doctor In The House? In addition, The Tie That Binds gives the history of 25 churches of this area and is also available. From This Land: Writers of Eastern Howard County is a collection of reviews of books written by 13 authors who are living or have lived in eastern Howard County.

All three publications are available at the History Center gift shop for \$2.00 each. They may also be ordered by mail. Add \$5.00 for postage for up to 3 books. Send check or money order to P. O. Box 313, Greentown, 46936.

G. H. S. Monetary Donors for 3rd Qtr.

Our thanks to the following persons who have generously made monetary donations to G.H.S. for the third quarter of 2008: Carole Petro, Ron Simpson, Community Foundation, Gerald Cheek, Helen Hickman, and Barbara Middleton.

G.H.S. Material Donors for 3rd Qtr.

Our thanks to the following persons who generously donated various material items needed for building, programs, events and exhibits during the third quarter: Budget Blinds, Mary Miller, Lisa Stout, Barbara Middleton, Sally Imbler, Sue Clouser, Rachel Jenkins, Joyce Lantz, and Nancy Echelbarger.

Junior History Club

by Karen Swan

Students in grades 1-6 are invited to Junior Activity Day at Greentown Historical Society, 103 East Main Street, on Saturday, September 29, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Activities will include an exploration of the current exhibit on educators in eastern Howard County and a walking tour of Greentown. The event is free, but pre-registration is required before September 10.

To register your child or grandchild, call 628-3565 or send the form to P.O. Box 313, Greentown, or email the History Center with the requested information at greentownhistory@comcast.net with the information requested on the form on the following page of the newsletter.



Above: Greentown School, Omen Schaaf, teacher



Left: 1909 Greentown School, 5 & 6 grades, Guy Peters, teacher

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**Registration Form for Junior Activity Day, Sept. 29, 2008
Greentown History Center, 103 E. Main Street, Greentown**

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Name of parent or guardian _____

Phone number _____

I give permission for _____ (Name of child) to participate in Activity Day at Greentown Historical Society.

_____ (Parent Signature)

Greentown Historical Society
P.O. Box 313
Greentown, IN 46936

Our Mission

- *To promote public awareness and appreciation of the unique history of eastern Howard County, Indiana, and its citizens.*
- *To carry out historical research, preservation, and education.*
- *To provide the public with meaningful heritage experiences.*