

Akron Area Museum



The Time Capsule

Volume 1, Number 1

December 2010

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-The Time Capsule-

Quarterly publication of the
Akron Area Museum
601 Main Street - P.O. Box 252
Akron, Plymouth County, Iowa 51001-0252

Akron Area Museum meets on the
1st Monday each month at 7:00 p.m. in the
Museum Community Room

Akron Area Museum Board of Directors

Officers

Brenda Groon ~ President
Rodney Anderson ~ Vice President
Denise Loutsch ~ Treasurer
Christina Lewison ~ Secretary

Board Members

Amy Adix
Dee Hilliker

Museum Hours

Special Events
Available upon appointment
Contact: Brenda Groon ~ 712-568-2400

The Time Capsule Editor

Rodney Anderson

Comments or Suggestions Contact:

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Akron, Iowa 51001
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Letter from the Editor and VP

This is the first letter for the Akron Area Museum. I don't know where the name "The Time Capsule" came from? More or less, I just grabbed it out of the air! I feel it signifies, the contents, in which a person would have to dig up, to make a Museum.

Contributions to the Akron Area Museum are accompanied by fond and wonderful memories. Through this letter I hope to share some of the memories with all of you.

John and Mary Lucken donated their former home for the Akron Area Museum. Construction of this impressive house began in 1904 and was completed in 1906. The architect, a man named Joseph Schwarz, was also the architect for the Washington High School in Sioux Falls, SD. That building is now known as the Washington Pavilion.

In 1930 the home was converted into apartments. In 1998 the home was sold to John and Kim Mook, who converted the house back to a single family dwelling. John and Mary Lucken purchased the home in 1999 and added the garage and workshop area. In 2006 they donated the property to the Akron Area Historical Society.

The Akron Area Museum moved from its former location at 100 N 4th street (the former Masonic Temple) to its current home at 601 Main Street in 2007.

The Museum now houses many historical artifacts, which have been donated and collected from many of Akron's former residents and businesses.

If you are interested in taking a trip down memory lane through Akron's history, this is the place to visit.

Plan to Visit the Akron Area Museum!

Editor & Vice President ~ Rodney Anderson

Museum Tours available upon request.

**Please contact a board member
to schedule a tour.**

Museum Grant Approved

The Akron Area Museum has had a grant approved from the Community Foundation of Greater Plymouth County for \$6,709.53. The grant money was approved for work towards the replacement of the Period Victorian Porch, which needs to be replaced.

Brenda Groom and Rodney Anderson attended an acceptance breakfast December 7th at 7:30 a.m. at the Le Mars Convention Center.

Plans are underway for completion of this much needed project.

Tour of Homes

The Tour of Homes this past summer was a great success. Thank you to everyone who opened their homes to the public for this great museum fundraiser. Your kind hospitality helps us to provide an institution of history for our community.

Homes on the tour were: Corey and Nicolle DeRocher; Roger and Angela Price (Baker Mansion); Gayland and Selma Small; the former home of Dr. Joseph and Sonna Trotzic (donated to the City by John and Mary Lucken to help fund the new Akron Care Center); and Steve and LeNay Welch Many Thanks!

Tea Parties

The Museum hosts Tea Parties and other local community events. Many of them are held in coordination with other area local Societies. If interested, please contact Brenda Groom at 712-568-2400.

Senior Moments

Brenda Groom and Amy Adix visit the Akron Care Center on a regular basis and bring items for the residents to view from years ago. Together they dress up in period attire from years gone by. This has proven to be a highlight for the people who reside there, and they talk about it afterwards for days.

Can Bank

The helping hands Can Bank Barrel across, from the Lion's paper barn and City Recycling bins, is collected by the Akron Area Museum. Your Iowa Refund cans as a donation are much appreciated as this helps us pay our utilities.

Please only deposit clean cans or plastic bottles. No glass bottles, or garbage, please. We are not able to redeem Hy-Vee or Sam's items. If Maynard's doesn't take it, we can't take it!

Santa Claus Visits

On Sunday, December 5th Santa and Mrs. Claus made a visit to the Akron Area Museum. The event was sponsored in conjunction with the Akron Area Chamber of Commerce.

We had many children who came with their lists of Christmas wishes. Santa and Mrs. Claus handed out candy canes and cookies were served courtesy of Akron Area Chamber of Commerce from ABC Bakery along with juice.



Top Left: Hunter Henrich recites his list. Bottom Left: The Martinson sisters, Grace, Faith and Ellie are happy when they hear that they will get their presents. Above: Laytin Koch.

Trick-or-Treating with Wanda

This Halloween I (Rodney Anderson) received an email from the Akron Area Museums president Brenda Groon to help pass out Treats at the Museum, as she had other family obligations to attend to. I was kind of thinking I should bow out of this commitment. However, Brenda must not have been getting any other volunteers as the emails prevailed. So I thought, oh okay, I will do it.

I finally called Brenda and told her that I would fill the spot. She had already lined up Wanda Philips (Mrs. Philips in my younger years) to assist in the duties of passing out Treats. Through our conversation I said I would call Wanda and set up the time to get ready for the event. As I also have the keys to the Museum being the Vice President.

A little history about Wanda and me. She was my typing teacher in Junior and High School. This was in the 70's so the *typewriters* we used were not the ones that we call a *keyboard* of today. These were manual typewriters and not powered by electricity. The keys on these machines took some muscle to push each and every key down. We also had typewriters so that there was absolutely no cheating and the teacher did not have to watch. Some of the typewriters had no letters or numbers on the keys. Gee, did she have it easy. We were taught the home row of keys. There were books with scripts that we would type off of and the goal was to hand in a perfect paper, pretty hard with the keyboard (typewriter) with no letters. Looking back, it seems she had an easy job since whether I did it right was in black and white.

Then we had the speed tests. Kids today think they have it rough! Try typing off a script with no letters on the keys and have the paper end up looking like the script you typed off of. Today we type things in a word document and auto correction fixes your spelling.

I remember when we got two new electronic typewriters and the first two people to class on time got to use them.

Anyway back to the Manor. I told Wanda that we would meet at 5 p.m., which would give us plenty of time before the parade at 5:30.

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I arrived promptly at 5 p.m., but she wasn't there yet. It wasn't long before I started worrying that something had happened to her. Then I remembered: kids had to be seated when the bell rang, but teachers could arrive at the last minute. They were always busy preparing lessons – at least that's what we were told.

Mary Lucken had donated all sorts of items for Treats that were non-sweet items. (Thank you Mrs. Lucken.) I was at a loss as to how we should distribute all of these wonderful gifts to our neighborhood children. I really needed my old teacher to help me in making this big decision. We finally decided on what and how to distribute everything and then the Trick or Treaters came. And boy did they come.

At first they showed up in the dining room just outside of the kitchen where we were opening up the treats. We quickly got ourselves set up out on the front porch as we didn't want to lose any of the children in that big house.

I had asked Wanda to dress in Black, as I had a Witches' hat that I felt would be an easy costume for her to wear. She was a natural and it was so cute to watch all of the junior Witches and goblins eyes grow when they saw her.

After a couple of hours, we ran out of the hundreds of treats that we had to pass out, so we quickly decided to shut off the lights and head for home and hope for the Manor's best. Upon locking up I noticed a broom on the outside of the door. Umm? It made me wonder, did I spend the evening with my former teacher Wanda or the real thing? Naw! It had to be Wanda.



Pictured: Wanda Philips
Torja, Tanner & Tess Frerichs.

The Akron Area Museum is available for Tea parties, Club meetings & Private parties. Contact Brenda Groon at 712-568-2400 or any other board member for details.

*Excerpts from the Akron Register Tribune
During the Construction of the Boyson Ross Home*

May 12, 1904; Page 1

Boyson Ross went to Yankton on business Tuesday.

May 19, 1904; Page 1

Robt. and Boyson Ross returned yesterday from Le Mars, where they were called by the damage suit of the book agent, Shippard, vs. Robt. Ross, for alleged malicious prosecution. Mr. Ross had Shippard arrested here last fall, charged with attempt to defraud on an order for Congressional Records. When last heard from the jury had been unable to agree on a verdict.

C. G. Brady has started work on the foundation of a fine residence he has had in contemplation the past year or more. Its location is on the site of his boyhood home at Second and Main streets, In dimension it will be 37x60 feet over all, two stories and basement, with a 12x12 observatory over the southwest corner, also a roomy attic to be used as the children's playhouse. The mason work will be done by Frank Nordeen, but the carpentering is to be day work and Mr. Brady will do his own purchasing of material. It is expected to be ready for occupancy before cold weather begins. This will be the equal, if not the poor, of any residence in Akron and constitute a pleasing addition to the city's attractiveness and value.

May 26, 1904; Page 1

Boyson Ross and C. G. Brady went to Sioux City on business this afternoon. Mr. Brady is having plans drawn for a fine residence to be erected here this year and work on Mr. Brady's new home is now under way.

June 9, 1904; Page 1

C. G. Brady and Boyson Ross were Beresford business visitors the latter part of last week.

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June 30, 1904; Page 1

Boyson Ross has decided upon the plans for the first floor of a fine new residence, the ground dimensions to be 39x55 feet. He expects to begin construction this summer.

July 7, 1904; Page 1

Excavation is completed for the cellar of the new residence to be erected by Boyson Ross. Its location is at the southwest corner of his block, and makes a pretty site.

July 14, 1904; Page 8

The foundation for Boyson Ross' new house began this week

August 11, 1904; Page 1

Carpenter work was begun Monday on the handsome new residence to be built by Boyson Ross.

January 19, 1905

Mr. and Mrs. Hummel came up from Sioux City today to visit the families of her uncles, Boyson and Robt. Ross.

May 4, 1905

Many hundred feet of additional cement walk will be laid in Akron's residence section this season. Already two-thirds of a block has been completed in front of the H. P. Anderson and Gus Erickson residences on Mill street; the same amount across the street from the opera house is about finished; over a block will be put in around Boyson Ross' property; a block along the west side of the school yard I. Knudson has sand on the ground for one in front of his residence, and it will probably be extended two blocks north from his corner. This is only a portion of what will be added to the town's permanent improvement in the sidewalk line.

August 24, 1905

Mrs. Boyson Ross and sons, Fay and Donald, left today to visit her mother, Mrs. Hoist, and other relatives in the Black Hills, in and near Deadwood, S. D. Mr. Ross accompanied them to Sioux City.

[Continued on page 10]

November 23, 1905; Page 1

Members of the various Ross families and the Henry Smith family assembled at the commodious home of Mr. and Mrs. Boyson Ross last Thursday evening in honor of their sister and aunt, Mrs. C. P. Hardy, who has been visiting here several weeks. Her sister, Mrs. W. H. Massey, was also present from Jefferson, S. D. The occasion was a very pleasant one to all concerned. Mrs. Hardy and little daughter departed Saturday for their home in Ontario, California. Her brother, John Ross, accompanied her to Sioux City.

November 30, 1905; Page 1

Geo. Sinclair, of Beresford, visited Boyson Ross and the other grain men here Tuesday.

December 14, 1905

C. G. Brady and Boyson Boss were Hawarden business visitors Saturday for a few hours.

	R. D. GLARK, Pres. Geo Way, Vice-Pres.	C.G. BRADY, Cashier, E. H. YOUNGSTROM. Asst. Chr.
<h1>Akron Savings Bank</h1>		
<p>BOARD OF DIRECTORS:</p> <p>R. D. Clark. Geo. Way. Duncan Ross. Thomas Stinton. Boyson Ross.</p>	<p>CAPITAL, \$30,000 DEPOSITS, \$200,000.</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Buys and Sells Foreign Exchange. Steamship Tickets Sold to and from all Foreign Countries.</p> <p>Farm Loans at Lowest Rates.</p> <p>You should own a Safety Deposit in our Fire and Burglar- Proof Vault.</p> <p>Ample Funds and Facilities for transacting the banking Business in all its branches.</p>	

Become a Member or Donate Today!

We appreciate every donation and membership which we receive. Every dollar helps with the day to day expenses of the Museum. Your donations are also used for education of our communities past years.

Help preserve History and make your contribution today!
Become a member today and fill out the below donation form.

2011 Membership Form

- Single Membership \$25.00
- Couple Membership \$50.00
- Life Time Membership \$500.00
- Gift Membership for someone else
- Donation for Day to Day Expenses
- Memorial Donation

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

In Memory of/for _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Mail to:
Akron Area Museum
P.O. Box 252
Akron Iowa 51001
Tax ID# 20-1563299

Years Ago Items

The Akron Register Tribune
August 24, 1905

AKRON MARKET REPORT

(CORRECTED EVERY THURSDAY.)

Wheat, No. 1 new.....	.75c
Wheat, No. 2 ".....	.72c
Wheat, No. 3 ".....	.60@70c
Barley.....	.25c
Oats.....	17@20c
Corn.....	.40c
Hogs.....	\$5.30@\$5.60
Cows (butcher stock).....	\$3.50
Hides06c
Spring Chickens12c
Hens07c
Old roosters03c
Guineas05c
Butter	15@18c
Eggs13c
Potatoes (new)50c

For Sale Cheap
Fine family cow
Phone 94 or apply
to M. M. NESLER.
[The Akron Register Tribune 1905]

***The Akron Area
Museum
is available for
Tea parties
Club meetings
Private parties
Contact:
Brenda Groon
712-568-2400
Or a board member
for details.***

The following quote is from the Le Mars Sentinel, Tuesday, February 12, 1889

Post Offices

There is now a post office for every one thousand men, women and children in the United States. If the expenses of carrying the mails were paid direct from the pockets of the people, pro rata each citizen would pay an average of eighty-five cents a year for having his mail carried.

Postal Fact from USPS.com

In 1889 the post office delivered 3,860,200,000 pieces of mail, had 58,999 post offices with an income of \$56,175,611.00 and an expense of \$62,317,119.00. The number of Post Offices peaked in 1901 at 76,945. Today (2010) there are only 27,161.