

Between the Lakes

A Newsletter of the
Interlaken Historical Society

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www.InterlakenHistory.org



Trustees, volunteers and friends of the Historical Society gathered to witness the ribbon cutting for the new museum on June 14th.

IHS July Program OLD FASHIONED FAMILY SOCIAL Sunday August 3, 2008 4:00 — 6:30 p.m. The Community is Invited!

The trustees of the Interlaken Historical Society would like to invite you to join us on Sunday, August 3rd, between 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. for our second old fashioned social dish-to-pass get-together on the lawn of the Interlaken Public Library.

We, and other community organizations, will supply grilled hot dogs with rolls and fixings, lemonade and ice tea, as well as ice cream for dessert. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

If you haven't seen the new museum or visited the Farmers' Museum in a while both will be open, so plan to stop by.

Please drop by to eat, relax, and visit. In case of rain we will gather at the Interlaken Baptist Church.

For more information contact Allan Buddle at orchardland@zoom-dsl.com or 532-4213.

Plowing Day 2008

The Interlaken Historical Society would like to invite and encourage any individual or organization to participate in agricultural history for a day, by bringing oxen, horses, pre-1975 tractors, plows and/or fitting equipment to prepare a field for planting.

We also hope to have individuals and organizations exhibit whatever they have that is in keeping with an old fashioned country fair. We envision a pen of sheep accompanied by spinning, knitting and other fiber related arts & crafts, 4-H Clubs exhibiting both farm and home items, fresh produce and canned goods, model farm

Continued on page 4

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| Second Annual Social | Page 1 |
| Plowing Day 2008 | Page 1 & 4 |
| President's Message | Page 2 |
| Opening Remarks from June 14th | Page 2-3 |
| Society News | Page 4 |
| News of our Neighbors | Page 5 |
| Library News | Page 5 |
| Opening the Telephone Company Building | Page 6-7 |
| McCormick Day in Farmer, 1900 | Page 8-9 |
| Earthquake Affects Interlaken opening | Page 9 |
| More Olde Home Day 2008 | Page 10-11 |

President's Message

Here we are in July, your new museum in the Telephone Building is completed and open for visitors and we are gradually recovering. Recovering, you ask?

We passed through stages of: elation, that we finally, after years of looking, had found a new home; excitement, as we put pencil to paper visualizing what the new museum might look like; reality, when we started tearing out walls, ceilings, floors, wiring, plumbing and shrubs; thankfulness, as all the volunteers began appearing to do pieces of the project; pleasure, as the rooms began to take shape; panic, when we realized how much more had to be done and how little time was left; exhaustion, during the last days leading up to Olde Home Day; relief, when the ribbon was cut and the doors opened, and now, finally, recovery.

I am overwhelmed with the cheerful outpouring of volunteer help and want to personally thank each and every person for their time and talent. The old saying- "we couldn't have done it without you" has taken on a whole new level of meaning.

Life goes on and now we can get back to helping you enjoy your visits to the museum and presenting interesting programs. Because of the great response to the "Social" last summer in Covert, the trustees approached the Library Board, the Interlaken Community Action Group and the Village about another this summer in Interlaken. The response has been very positive and the "Social" will on the Library lawn. Both museums and the Memorial Garden

will be open for guided tours. We hope you can all come and enjoy our downtown, or uptown, depending on your perspective.

The following are Allan Buddle's remarks on June 14th when the museum opened. The list of volunteers is shown on pages 6 and 7 along with pictures from that special day.

Welcome everyone to this historic day for the Interlaken Historical Society.

Those who came before us have done a wonderful job of collecting and preserving the important papers and artifacts that tell the story of life in the Town of Covert and the Village of Interlaken. First they provided a great museum above the Library and filled it with those documents and artifacts such as personal and farm diaries and photographs numbering in the thousands. There are family heirlooms such as furniture, spinning wheels, guns, special clothing and quilts. The list is nearly endless and soon the museum was bursting at the seams.

Then in 1988 after the Goodman Hotel was torn down, clever negotiations by Maurice "Pat" Patterson resulted in an opportunity to exhibit larger items that tell the story of 19th century farming here. The Hunt Family donated the Nivison Grain Cradle Factory which became our own Farmers' Museum. How appropriate for the community called Farmer or Farmerville until 1904 to have a Farmers' Museum. A call went out for donations and before you knew it, that museum was full and had to be enlarged to contain them all.

About 5 years ago it became evident that the museum above the library could hold no

more and climbing the stairs to the second floor discouraged many visitors. So we set out to see what might be available. After considering the pros and cons of at least ten properties, we learned that the Trumansburg Telephone Company was interested in exploring options with us. This discussion continued from July 2005 until June 2007 when an agreement was signed leasing about a third of the Telephone Building to the Historical Society with the understanding that the space would be renovated for a new museum. The lease agreement further provides the Historical Society with first refusal to purchase the building if and when the Telephone Company no longer needs the space.

Shortly after the agreement was signed, the Society received a very generous donation for the purchase of materials and in January 2008, the work began. On Tuesday and Thursday evenings through the winter and into the spring, the space was cleared and put back together again with framing, new wiring, new piping for the heating system, insulation, sheet rock, new floors and ceilings, paint and more paint and then we moved in.

This has truly been a community building its own museum as you can see from all the names on the program. We sincerely appreciate the turnout of so many individuals each doing their share. There are a few who I want to single out though, who have gone over and above 3

what anyone could expect. These are: John and Sally Hubbard and their helpers; Harold, Barbara and Tim Stewart; John, Gary and Kate Hunt; Dare Daniels who put down those pavers you're standing on; and, Diane Bassette Nelson, Ann Buddle, LouAnn Wurst and Christine Ridarsky who have spent weeks designing and creating the wonderful exhibits that you will see inside.

I would like to introduce Mike Reynolds, our Town supervisor who has been very supportive of this project from beginning to end, and Ray Langlois, the Village Public Works Superintendent, who has been Johnny on the spot with his helpers, his backhoe, his tractor, his truck, his mulch and the bank's big stone.

Now with the help of these fine gentlemen, I would like to cut this ribbon as I proclaim this museum, your museum, **open for visitors!**



Donations to the Society

Post Card of the Dining Room at Cronk's Dairy given by Wanda Ruh, Ovid, NY

Reproduction colonial dress and cap sewn and donated by Irene Stephens, Trumansburg

New Members

Phylis B. Marvin, Jasper, FL
Marsha Brocoa, Pine City, NY
Bobbie & Dave Beckhorn, Valois, NY

RED DOT ALERT

July 1st begins the new fiscal year for the Society. Dues for 2008-2009 should be paid at this time. If a RED DOT is on your address label, that means you owe dues. Please see the insert to the newsletter for specifics. Thank you!

Pictures Needed

Do you have pictures from Olde Home Day 2008, or the All Alumni Reunion when 300 members of the classes of 1930 to 1969 and their guests gathered to recall their school days?

We would like to add more pictures from these and any community celebration to our collections. We can scan your photographs, old and new, or send a photo electronically to museum@interlakenhistory.org. Please include your name and information about the event. See also the insert for more about sending in old photos.

Plowing Day 2008

Continued from page 1

equipment, poultry, rabbits, goats, calves, old books and magazines, the Seneca County Dairy Princess, Grange exhibits, hit & miss engines, school exhibits. The list is only limited by your imagination.

The Interlaken Historical Society is fortunate to have access to the historic Wells Barn and fields of the adjacent Persoon dairy farm in Interlaken for special events. These facilities will be the site of our second Plowing Day and an Old Fashioned Country Fair featuring an address about the early history of fairs that were organized by the New York State Agricultural Society and the County Agricultural Societies.

To participate, please contact Allan Buddle at orchardland@zoom-dsl.com or 532-4213.

More information and registration forms will be posted at

[www.interlakenhistory.org/
plowingday2008.html](http://www.interlakenhistory.org/plowingday2008.html)

Historical Society Calendar 2009

We will be working on the 2009 calendar soon and are always needing new ideas and more photographs to use in the calendar.

We still have 2006, 2007 and 2008 calendars available if you didn't get a copy or need another to share with a friend or relative.

Library News

by Pat Moore

We would like to thank all of you at Olde Home Day for buying so many books. We hope you have fun reading.

Our library has a display of World War II books for your enjoyment. They are our small part in conjunction with the Interlaken Historical society summer theme. The new building is great, I surely enjoyed it. Do visit it this summer, you will be glad you did.

Our summer reading program will be on Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11:30 am and all youngsters are invited. *Catch a Bug at the Library* is the theme and we will have stories and crafts. I'm sure all the children will love the "buggy things" we will be doing. We are hoping to have puppets on August 5th with Mrs. Carroll. Come in and enjoy.

Looking for a something to read this summer, we have new books coming in so stop by to see if your favorites are here. If you don't see your favorite author, we can request items through Interlibrary Loan, or you can request them through the Finger Lakes Library System website (www.flls.org) and have them delivered to Interlaken for pick up.

Have a great summer and we will see you on August 3rd for the Community Social on the front lawn of the Library.

News of Our Neighbors

Interlaken Grange

On April 12, 2008 State Grange Master Oliver Orton presented a 75-year membership certificate to Florence Vargason of Ovid Center. Since the beginning of Grange in 187__ only 2000 certificates for 75 years of membership have been given. Interlaken Grange celebrated their 134th anniversary.



Save the Date: On Thursday October 2nd, Interlaken Grange and the Interlaken Historical Society will host an Archives Month Celebration with an encore showing of the slides of Old Interlaken taken from the collections of John Kellogg, Eva Clapp and others from the community. The program will be at the Grange Hall on West Covert Road in the Hamlet of Covert. If you missed this program several years ago, or at the All Class Reunion on June 14th, or just want to see more of these slides, please join us at 7:00 pm on October 2nd. Refreshments will be served and the program is open to the public.

Ovid Historical Society

The Museum is open Thursdays and Saturdays in their museum on Main Street in Ovid.

Grand Opening of the Telephone Company Building Museum. The Museum is open Saturdays in July and August 10 am to 2 pm and other times by appointment. Come see what's new!

Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Wesley Ahouse
Harold "Fuzz" Ball
Doug Barkee
Howard Barrows
Charles Batty
Blanche Belliveau
Lee Braden
Sharon Braden
Allan Buddle
Ann Buddle
Toby Cameron
Chris Carroll
Dare Daniels
Bill Dorn
Chad Haviland
Chad Hubbard
John Hubbard
Sally Hubbard
Gary Hunt
John Hunt
Kate Hunt
Frank Kempf Jr.
Karen King
Ray Langlois

Allan Buddle and Ray Langlois hang the open sign after cutting the ribbon to open the new Museum.



The Civil War artifacts display, a perennial favorite, gets a face lift at the new museum.



On
hor
fro



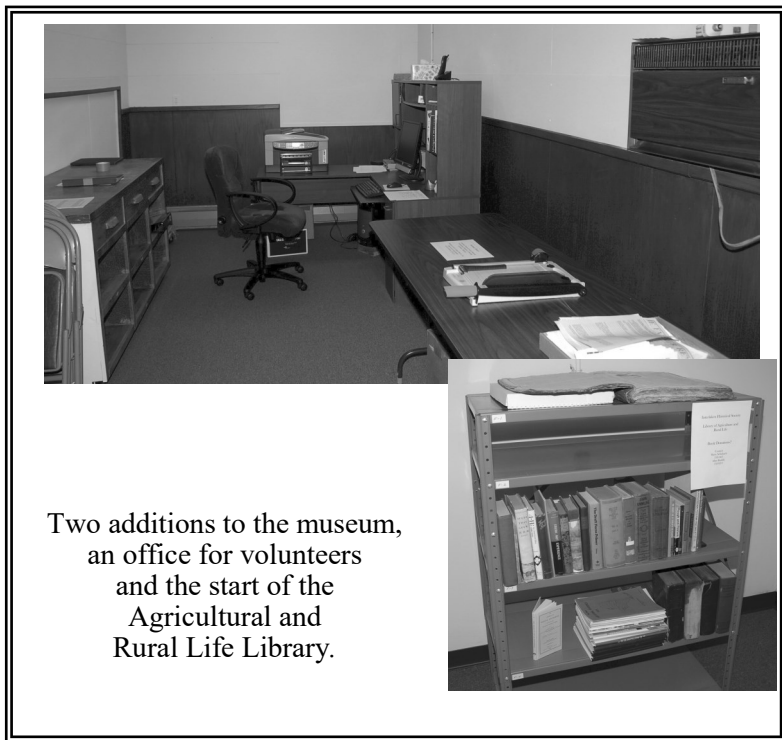
One of the new displays recalls World War II on the home front. There is even a Victory Garden by the front entrance and canned goods in the window.



Oh what you find when you dig in a well!!
Items from the Backbone Ridge project and tools used in the dig are on display.

Volunteers continued

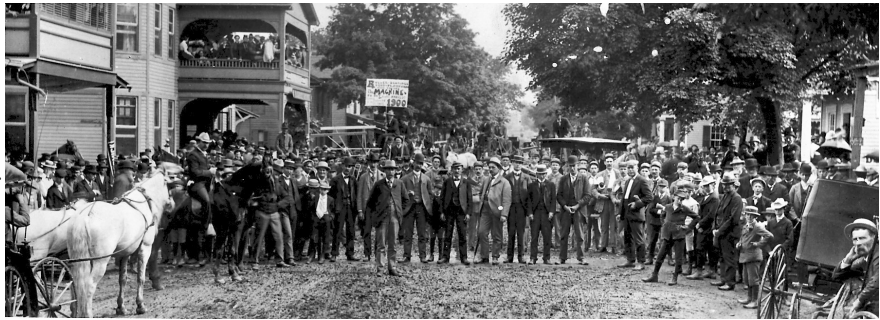
- Kevin Mannella
- Michele Mannella
- Butch Manzarri
- Louise Meddaugh
- Millspaugh Brothers
- Pat Moore
- Christopher Nelson
- Diane Bassette Nelson
- Todd Porter
- Mike Potts
- Mike Provo
- Christine Ridarsky
- Seymour Rourke
- William Schaffner
- Marty Schlabach
- Dick Schrader
- Jerry Schrader
- Philip Stannard
- Barb Stewart
- Harold Stewart
- Tim Stewart
- Jayne Thompson
- Betsey VanBenschoten
- Doug VanBenschoten
- Mary Jean Welser
- Mary Willers
- LouAnn Wurst



Two additions to the museum, an office for volunteers and the start of the Agricultural and Rural Life Library.

From the Collections

The collection of photographs on the wall of the new museum includes the familiar photograph of people on Main Street in 1900 for what was described as a Fourth of July parade featuring the new McCormick Reaper/Binder.



June 1900, when the McCormick Equipment Company came to Farmer.

We went looking for the newspaper article to tell us more about that photo and day, only to find that, all was quiet on the Fourth of July. The excitement in town had been earlier in June for the laying of the Cornerstone for the new school.

So when was the picture taken and what was the story behind it? We found two article earlier in June 1900 when the McCormick Equipment **Company**, not just one machine, came to town.

McCormick Day at Farmer

A unique exhibition is being arranged for Thursday next at Farmer. The McCormick Harvester Machine Company will, that day, deliver the machines sold in this section during the winter and spring. There will be 100 self-binders in a procession thru the principal street. Two brass bands have been engaged to furnish music. Prof. O. N. DuEsler, of Romulus, will deliver an address in the afternoon. Every farmer taking home a machine, will get his dinner and horses fed free. A big crowd is expected. A dance will be held in the evening. A series of sports during the day will consist of bicycle races, foot races, and a game of base ball, for which suitable prizes will be offered.

Article reprinted from the
Farmer Review Saturday June 2nd 1900.

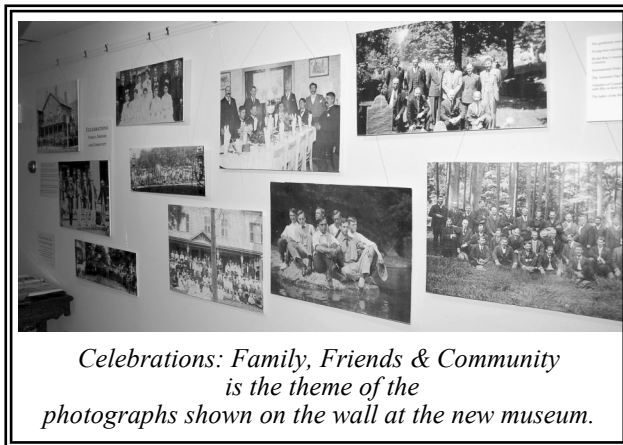
Unique Parade

Agents of several harvesting machine companies have made a lively canvas around here for some months past, and the McCormick agents gave a unique show last Thursday, that will long be remembered. Local agents Oscar B. Yarnell of Hayts Corners, John C. Townsend of Lodi and Arthur Rappleye of this place had all their sales of machinery shipped to Farmer where purchasers were to call for it June 7th. With the assistance of district agent G. B. Roudebush, of Rochester, and I.B. Weager, of Cato, traveling agent, the plans were perfected whereby a good crowd was brought to town and kept all day, the purchasers being entertained by the agents: The Lodi band of 12 pieces, Miller band of Farmer, 18 pieces, and a drum corps from Trumansburg kept the air full of

music. In the afternoon the machinery, consisting of binders, mowers, corn harvesters and rakes were loaded in wagons and paraded thru the principal streets, disbanding at the Gambee House where an address was given by Prof. DuEsler. Rain greatly interfered with the parade and made necessary the abandonment of the ball game.

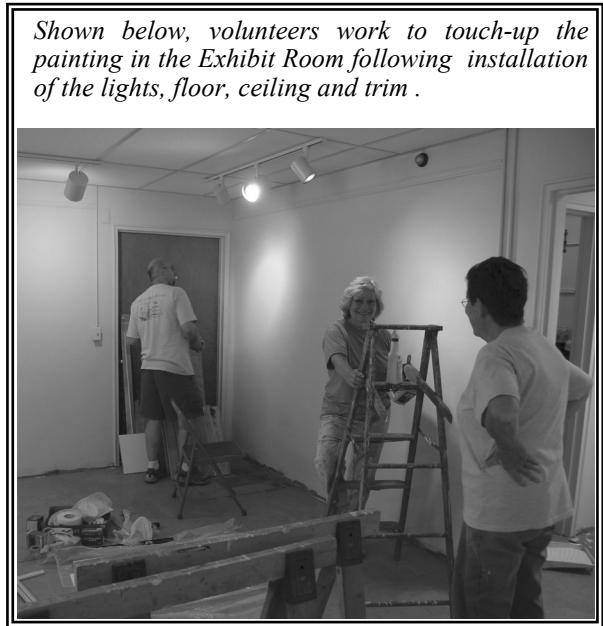
A series of sports were arranged and prizes won as follows: Open bicycle race, 5 miles, Geo. Depew, of Ovid, Novice race, same course, Art Brown, with Henry Minor second. Time 14 minutes. Slow race, Howard Peterson. Running race, Henry Minor. Standing broad jump, J. W. Hall, 9 ft. 11 in. Standing hop, skip and jump, J. W. Hall, 27 ft. 8 ½; run, hop, skip and jump, P. Farrell, 37 ft 2 in.; standing high jump, J. W. Hall 3 ft. 8 ½ in; run, high jump, Henry Minor 4.9; running jump, Henry Minor 16 & ½. With the exception of Depew, every winner is a member of the Kidders Y.M.C.A.

Article reprinted from the
Farmer Review Saturday June 9th 1900.



Earthquake in China Impacts Interlaken Historical Society

The horrendous disaster in China evokes sympathy and concern here in Covert. But how could it possibly actually impact us locally? As we struggled to complete the renovations on the Telephone Company Museum in time for Olde Home Day, an issue arose with the track lighting. The crew from Hubbard's Heating and Plumbing was installing the lighting when parts needed to be replaced. Where were those parts manufactured? You guessed it! In the region in China so devastated by the earthquake. Some juggling was done and we were properly lit on opening day. It makes the idea of a Global Economy take on a new meaning!



More Pictures from Olde Home



1

1: Finishing the ramp in the days before opening day



2

2: Remembering the old telephones in the window of the new museum

3: Thank you to Gary Hunt and Rist Trucking for pulling the Historical Society Float in the parade

4: Historical Society float, looking back at Plowing Day 2005 and ahead to Plowing Day II in September 2008

5: The ICS Alumni Band marching in the parade

6: Interlaken Fire Department demonstration, removing the car door so they can get to the person inside the car

7: Covert Baptist Church float

8: One of many cars in the fleet of cars

3

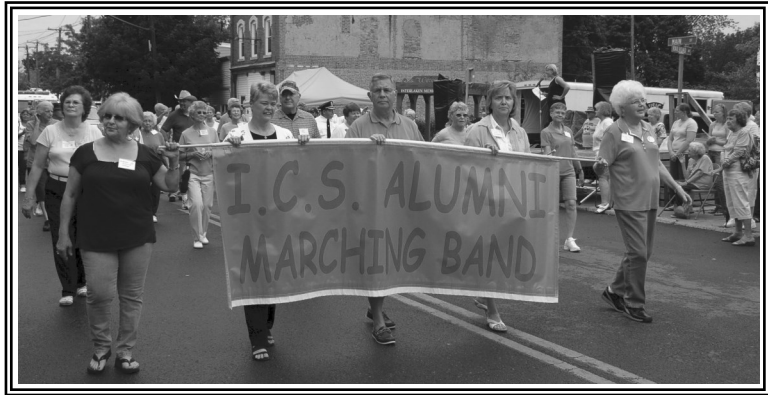


4

me Day 2008

9: Ovid Fire Department
open ladder fire truck.

5



6 7



8 9





June 14, 2008 was Grand Opening Day at the Interlaken Historical Society Museum. Shown here are Ray Langois, Allan Buddle and Mike Reynolds while Allan read about the days leading up to the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening. Moments later the ribbon was cut and the Museum officially opened. There are many more pictures from the special day throughout the newsletter.

The Historical Society Board of Trustees

Allan Buddle, President
Diane Bassette Nelson, Vice President
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Is there a Red Dot on your address label?

See page 4 for details.

Mark your calendar

August 3: Community Social 4:00 at the Library sponsored by the Interlaken Historical Society, ICAG and others.

September 20: Plowing Day 2008

October 2: Interlaken Grange presents NYS

Archives Month Celebration: Pictures from the Past, slides of Old Interlaken

October 27: Growing Corn