

MORGAN COUNTY

HISTORY CENTER & MUSEUM



Vol. 2, No. 2

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

Third Annual Morgan County Museum Banquet

The banquet at River Valley Church was a huge success. Steve Reeder, Monrovia teacher and historian, interviewed “The Voice of the 500” Mark Jaynes. Mark shared his incredible journey in broadcasting with an enthralled audience of over 225.

The Silent Auction brought in over \$2600 to support the museum. An office chair, paintings, china, venue and restaurant tickets, books, cheese, and a flying pig were among the numerous items offered. Suzi Horan and Sandy Cox are to be commended for the excellent variety of items that were available.

A huge thanks goes out to Vickie Kivett for coordinating the banquet, sending out invitations and soliciting sponsors. She and Darrell French prepared the program. Behind the scenes Raeann Gadd and Barb Boys stuffed goody bags for sponsors. We are indebted to the Community Corrections workers and County Sheriff’s department for setting up and taking down tables and chairs. River Valley Church prepared a meal that never disappoints. We thank them for their hospitality. Thank you to all donors and sponsors.



Stroll Back Through History—Meet Arthur Newby

Bill Buckley as **Arthur Newby**

Tuesday **June 4th at 6:30 p.m**

Mooresville Public Library , 220 West Harrison St. in Mooresville

(December 29, 1865—September 11, 1933) was an American businessman and pioneer of the bicycle and automotive industries in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was best known as one of the founders of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway!

Reeder Program at Monrovia

Over 200 people attended the History of Monrovia program with Steve Reeder on March 5th. Steve shared some new information with a slide show and unveiled an old “Main Street” video. The Monrovia Alumni Association helped greet guests.

Our Contact Information

Address: 127 S. Main St. Martinsville, IN 46151

Telephone: 765-315-6982

Facebook page: Morgan County History Center and Museum

Email: morgancountyhistorymuseum@gmail.com

Web page: morgancountyhistorymuseum.org

Open Hours:

Mondays 10:00AM-2:00PM

Thursdays 4:00PM-7:00PM

Saturdays 10:00AM-3:00PM

Private viewings may be booked

Third Grade Visits

The Metropolitan School District of Martinsville third grade classes visited the museum in March and April. Children were bussed from Centerton, Poston Road, Brooklyn, Paragon, South, Green Township, and Charles L. Smith schools to enjoy guided tours of the museum. An after school John R. Wooden and YMCA group also toured.

Popular with all was the manual typewriter in our Communications room. A few students were proud to see that their families were included in pictures of the Hoosier Homesteads in the Farm room. Familiar faces were seen in the sports exhibits in the Hamilton room. One teacher saw her great grandfather's WWI uniform in the Pitkin room. All the students learned about the importance of the sanitariums to the economy of Martinsville. Many were surprised to find out the Indianapolis 500 and Diamond Chain have Morgan County connections. Students saw an original Old Hickory child's chair.

Barb Boys and Marcia Hodges worked with Suzi Lipps of the MSD to coordinate the program. Besides Barb and Marcia, tour guides were Vickie Kivett, Sandy Cox, Darrell French, Patty Dow, Randy Marsh, Judy Brusseau, Lori Chivington, and Suzi Horan. The children enjoyed petting Brutus the Buffalo and ringing the Grace Church bell on the porch of the museum.



Clothing Exhibit

Judy Brusseau and Lori Chivington coordinated our newest exhibit of period clothing. It can be found in the west end of our meeting room.



The display is accompanied by a case of complimentary items.

Schedule your club or organizational meeting with us. The room will comfortably hold 30. There are tables and chairs which you may arrange to suit your needs. After your meeting enjoy a tour of the museum.

Call us to schedule.

New Displays

We recently received this adorable 1930s Schoenhut dollhouse. The interior rooms have wallpaper. The windows are glass. The front door opens onto a porch. The side wall opens to allow placement of furniture and dolls. Numerous dolls and doll clothes are on display nearby.



Out and About

Vickie Kivett presented a program for the Morgan County Homemakers. The 4-H Jr. Leader Club will hold their meeting and tour the museum May 13. The First Christian Church Block Party will be held June 22 on our lawn in lieu of their Vacation Bible School.

What is it?

The display of dated railroad nails placed on a plaque in the shape of a railroad tie was the “what is it” last issue. Can you identify this issue’s what is it?



Membership

Would you like to become a member of the museum? Memberships are available for individuals at \$20 or families at \$30. All correspondence, dues collection, and business is now centrally located at 127 S. Main St., Martinsville, IN. Send us an email and we will forward an application, morgancountyhistorymuseum@gmail.com

We are always looking for volunteers who would like to help with accessioning artifacts, greeting museum visitors, arranging displays, and helping with outreach. Call or come by for a volunteer application.

We Need Your Help

A request came in from Colorado for a picture of the Wilbur fire tower. Do you have a picture you would be willing to share? Indiana Fire Towers (by Mark A) is a website in progress. When he travels our state he identifies, photographs, and locates fire towers that have existed here. The Indiana Department of Forestry was unable to help him.

A visitor to the Morgan County Library was searching for information on the Martinsville Mini-Track Tractor Co. We were able to find that Guy A. Dunn of Martinsville invented the small tractor and had borrowed money to get the company started in the 1969-1973 time frame. Does anyone have any additional information on this firm?

We have numerous early Martinsville school pictures which need identified. If you have an hour or so when we are open and would like to help. Let us know.