



Royal Oak Historical Society Fall 2016

www.royaloakhistoricalsociety.org

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OCTOBER 31, 2018

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*Newsletter Editor: Trish Oliver
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In Memoriam
Thomas Frank Wurdock
April 3, 1931-May 31,
2015

Save the Date!

Royal Oak Historical Society

77th Annual Dinner:

Friday, Oct. 7

See Page 3 for Details



Photo by Mike Frenz

**Our Fifth Annual Car Show, chaired by
Randy Burean (pictured above, at right, as his alter
ego Rocko T. Carnutti) was a great success! Check out
the Curator's Column on Page 6 to find out more!**

Paranormal Investigations at the Museum

By Brian Danhausen,
Paranormal Investigator

Hello, my name is Brian Danhausen, artist, author, lecturer and the founder of Into the AfterLife Paranormal, a local paranormal team located in Southeast Michigan. Although we do a lot of private homes, we also are called in to investigate public buildings, including two historic buildings in Royal Oak.

I was contacted by another local team that was going in to investigate the Orson Starr House located on Main Street in Royal Oak. It had a history of paranormal happenings. There was even an article shown to me in a local newspaper of a prior investigation there. I was intrigued and agreed to tag along.

The night would not disappoint. That night, I saw a form in the basement along with some shadowy movement and E.V.P.'s to back it up. E.V.P. is short for Electronic Voice Phenomenon. It is an unknown voice or noise caught on an audio recorder that was not heard at the time of the investigation. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we left fairly early that night, but I had caught enough to satisfy my curiosity.

I later went back and took my team along with me (and have been back many times since). We had more experiences and caught more evidence. So, knowing that sometimes historical locations need help to maintain themselves, I approached them about a possible public tour/investigation to help raise money for the house. They agreed, and the city approved. The tours go very well and get a lot of attention — such as a front-page story in a local newspaper.

As one thing leads to another, we were next contacted by the Royal Oak Historical Society to investigate the ROHS Museum, formerly a

firehouse on Webster.

When we go into a location, we expect nothing and try to debunk any claims of possible activity. Then, if we cannot debunk the claims, we begin to look at the possibilities of the paranormal. To my surprise, there was a lot of activity at the former firehouse/now Museum. Again, full forms were seen, weird noises heard, E.V.P.'s caught and even a rock thrown toward us in the basement. We went to the Museum a few more times to make sure that it wasn't just a one-time deal, and it was not.

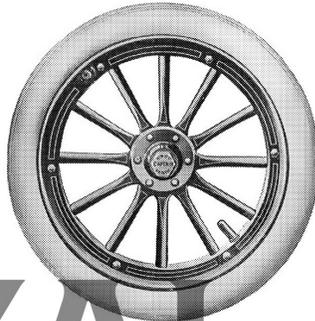
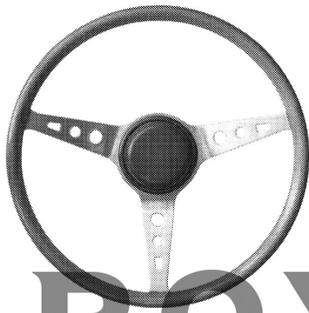
Each time, we caught more evidence. So with that, I offered the Royal Oak Historical Society the same public tour/investigation opportunity as I had the Orson Starr House to help raise money to maintain the historic building. Many who have been on these tours have shared their experiences with us as well.

Both historic sites now offer public tours/investigations hosted by myself and my team, Into the AfterLife Paranormal. We even sometimes have local paranormal authors and speakers come out before the tours to answer questions. Also, a few of these experiences can be read about in some of my books “Into the Afterlife: Paranormal World” and “Into the Afterlife: A Guide Into Paranormal Investigating.”

You can also see and listen to evidence at www.intotheafterlifeparanormal.com. If you are interested in attending a tour, you can contact me on Facebook for available dates, check the website or email me at intotheafterlifeparanormal@hotmail.com.

Note from ROHS President Deb Anderson: We know many are skeptical about the paranormal; there are also many who find the topic fascinating. Either way, the tours at the Museum have been very successful and we appreciate the support from Brian and his group.

ANSWERS TO BOB MULLER'S PHOTO GAME (See Page 5): Photo A — The hood ornament is from a Plymouth. Photo B — The car with flames is a GTO. Photo C — This is a Pontiac.



ROYAL OAK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL **7TH** **DINNER**
FRIDAY OCTOBER 7TH AT THE ELKS LODGE

CRUISING THROUGH HISTORY

PROGRAMMING

6-7PM

Social Hour (Cash Bar) - Meet & Greet - Silent Auction

Entertainment by CJ the DJ's

7PM

Buffet Dinner

7:30PM

Induction of ROHS Officers and New Board Members

Presentation of Morrison, Bowman and Spirit of Royal Oak Awards

Special Trivia Quiz (includes Bob Muller's Then and Now Quiz)

TICKETS

\$35 IN ADVANCE

\$45 AT THE DOOR

AVAILABLE HERE:

Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home

The Royal Oak Historical Museum

Frentz and Sons Hardware

Paypal on the Royal Oak Historical Society website

→→ royaloakhistoricalsociety.org

FRIDAY **OCT. 7**

THE ELKS LODGE ←
2401 E. FOURTH STREET
ROYAL OAK

Donations, sponsorships needed for 77th Annual Dinner

The Royal Oak Historical Society needs help from the community to ensure our 77th Annual Dinner is a big success! As you know, we are a nonprofit organization that relies on support from our community to maintain our historical Museum and fulfill our mission of ensuring Royal Oak's history is preserved and protected. We hope that you are able to be a dinner sponsor or a donor for our auction this year. Your support will help us preserve and protect Royal Oak's history for the coming generations.

The dinner will be held on Oct. 7, 2016, at the Elks Lodge (details on Page 3). While our annual dinner attracts a wonderful crowd, we depend on the added support of our friends in the community who help us with dinner sponsorships and items for our silent auction. We hope you are able to help.

For the silent auction, we would appreciate gift cards or the donation of merchandise and items that will appeal to our dinner attendees. Please be sure to include business cards/brochures or signs that we can display along with your auction donation.

There are different levels of sponsorship for our dinner program: \$25 for business card or quarter-page ads; \$50 for a half-page ad; \$100 for a full-page ad. These affordable ads will showcase your support for the Historical Society.

Our sponsors and donors will be recognized in our program book that will be distributed to dinner attendees. Supporters will also be recognized on our website and Facebook page during the coming months.

Our ability to continue to operate and expand is due in large part to the generous support of individual donors who believe in our mission, as well as gifts from businesses and corporations. It is our hope that you will aid in our mission. We look forward to working with you!

If you have silent auction items, call Bob and Kelly Muller at 248-398-0195 or Deb Anderson at 248-542-2846, and we'll be more than happy to come pick them up.

If you would like to be a dinner sponsor, email me at president@royaloakhistoricalsociety.org or Curator Muriel Versagi at curator@royaloakhistoricalsociety.org. Thank you!

— ROHS President Deb Anderson

What's Going on at the Orson Starr House?

The Orson Starr House is a Michigan farmhouse that was originally constructed about 1845. Located at 3123 N. Main St, Royal Oak, it is one block south of 13 Mile Road. The house is owned by the City of Royal Oak and is open to the public on the second Sunday of each month, from 1 – 4 p.m. or by prior arrangement. Additional parking is available two doors to the south at the Salvation Army Citadel.

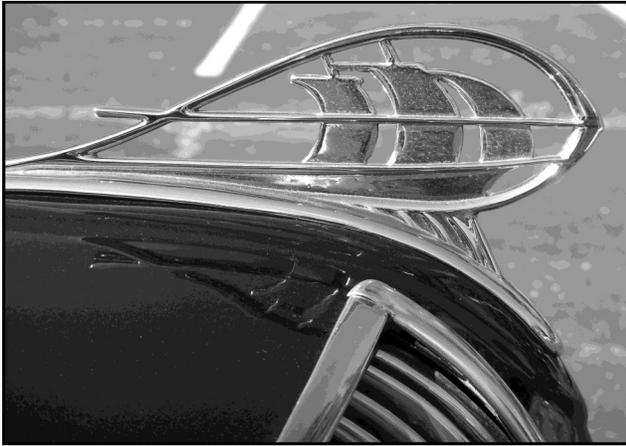
This house was occupied by the Starr Family for almost 100 years and was home to one of Royal Oak's pioneering families. Open houses and tours are provided by the members of the Orson Starr House Guild, a volunteer committee that organizes special events at the monthly sessions.

Donations to the Royal Oak Historical Society are gratefully accepted

Send checks payable to: The Royal Oak Historical Society
1411 West Webster Road, Royal Oak, Michigan 48073

Donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you in advance.



A



B



C

Play the Photo Game

Play Bob Muller's "Photo Game." Can you identify the makes of these cars that were displayed at the Royal Oak Historical Society's Fifth Annual Car Show in August? (Answers on Page 2)

Congrats Dondero High School Class of 1956!

Congratulations! 60 years! Royal Oak Dondero High School Class of 1956 celebrated "Blue and White Night" September 9 at the Museum, reliving past memories of Royal Oak with 50 classmates – refreshments, hugs, laughter and tears with everyone wearing their old school colors. Followed the next night with dinner and continued fun and sharing at Red Run Country Club. Planning an event? Make sure it includes some time spent at our wonderful Museum!

* *Gloria Moran Harper, ROHS Board Member*

News and Notes from the Museum

Chrome Fins & Style Preview Party (Friday, Aug. 5, 2016) was truly a hit! On what I believe was one of the hottest evenings of the summer, we had more than 200 people inside and outside admiring the exhibit and the beautiful cars that several of the designers drove to the Museum.

Our small window AC units could not keep up, so we opened the doors and found fans to keep the air moving no one left early because of the heat incredible. We had to "flicker the lights" to indicate to the last few, "The party's over."

A huge thanks to **Adair Calder** who baked 25 dozen cookies for the party ... only a few were left. All the punch, iced tea and lemonade were gone.

The 5th Annual Car Show (Saturday, Aug. 6) The next day, the Car Show exceeded our expectations! At 8:30 a.m., the "Guys," **Glenn Klosterhaus, Randy Burean, Mike Frentz, Rick Sage, Don Calder, Tom Gasser, Tim Shaffer and new volunteer John Maurice**, set up the tents for the music, registration, food, sales, face painting and others.

At 9:30 a.m., the "Gals," **Pat Burean, Deb Anderson and Maureen Sage**, had set up the sponsor signs, the registration table and the sale table for **Don Calder** who sold our T-shirts, food tickets and museum mugs.

Sixty-three beautiful vintage cars parked in the First Congregational Church's lot (huge thanks to FCC), and we had the most beautiful weather ever.

Volunteers **Rick & Maureen Sage** handled the burgers, hot dogs, chips and beverages. Inside the Museum, docents **Adair Calder, Rita Simonds, Johanna Schurrer, Susan Wolfrum and Sherry Toggweiler**, were ready for our visitors. 147 visitors signed our guest register. The "Gals" thought many others didn't sign and simply enjoyed the Woodward Memories exhibit.

Docent **Rita Simonds** was really pleased because most of the visitors read all the information on the labels of the exhibit. The exhibit "Woodward Memories/Chrome Fins & Style" runs through Saturday, Sept. 24.

The South Oakland Art Association (SOAA) Saturday, Oct. 8, 1-4 p.m. For the fourth year, SOAA is holding its juried **Art Show and Sale** at the Museum. Our Museum volunteer **Johanna Schurrer** is an artist, a member of SOAA and very involved in setting up this show. The Art Show opens on Saturday, Oct. 8, and the public is invited to a reception on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2-5 p.m., The exhibit runs through Saturday, Oct. 22. As in the past, the show will include art of all genres ...

paintings, sculpture, ceramics and pottery. The show hours are the same as the museum hours - Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Be sure to visit and see how great our local artists are. *Great Art makes Great Gifts!!*

Christmas Shopping Downtown Royal Oak, Through the Years....Preview Party, Friday, Nov. 4, 6-9 p.m. Refreshments. \$10 per person. Hope to see you there!

A Christmas Party with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 3, 1-6 p.m. Free for children, with a donation from adults. Cookies and punch.

Our Christmas exhibit "Christmas Shopping Downtown Royal Oak, Through the Years" will be extra-special this year. Some residents have donated a few more artificial trees to the Museum. So, we are going to be decorating each tree with ornaments from a specific era. The library will again be turned into the children's Christmas room with old games they can play and a tree decorated with children's favorite things.

We have many decorations from the '50s, '60s and '70s. But what we do not have enough of are ornaments from the '20s, '30s, and especially the '40s — the war years.

(Continued on Page 7)



Photo by Mike Frenz

More than 200 people visited the Museum for the Chrome Fins & Style Preview Party

Curator's Column: Busy times at the Museum

(Continued from Page 6)

In those eras, many ornaments were made in Europe and so...during the '40s war years, none were imported. If you have old ornaments from those years that you would be willing to donate, we would be most grateful. I would say "loan," but since they are fragile, we cannot guarantee they might not be accidentally broken. Call Muriel at the Museum at 248-439-1501 or email curator@royaloakhistoricalsociety.org to set up a time for you to deliver your donation of ornaments. Thank you.

"AUTHOR AUTHOR" — Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016, 7-10 p.m. Another wonderful evening at the Museum during our Christmas exhibit. Local journalist and author John Schultz is the chair of this evening event. We have several local authors we would like to introduce to you on Wednesday, Nov. 16 from 7-10 p.m. The authors will have books for sale and autograph them for you. Books make great Christmas and Hanukkah gifts. Adult refreshments will be served. \$5 per person to attend this fun evening.

— *Curator Muriel Versagi*



Royal Oak Historical Society
1411 W. Webster Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073
248-439-1501
www.royaloakhistoricalsociety.com

***Royal Oak Historical Society
Membership Application***

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____

Individual: \$10.00____ Family: \$18.00____ Donor: \$25.00____ Benefactor: \$50.00____
Seniors: 60+: \$8.00 _____

Mail with your check to:
Royal Oak Historical Society, 1411 W. Webster Road, Royal Oak MI 48073

*Dues are also payable online through our website www.royaloakhistoricalsociety.org.
Click on the membership link. You can pay your membership dues or subscribe to have
your dues automatically collected annually.
Thank you in advance!*