



Royal Oak Historical Society Spring 2015

www.royaloakhistoricalsociety.com

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Production: Deb Anderson
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Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast

Monday, May 25, 7 a.m.-noon

At Farmers Market

More Details on Page 3

Classic Car Show

Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Museum

Rev up for Michigan Automobile Heritage Month!

More Details on Page 5

Volunteer Spotlight shines on Randy Burean! See Pages 6-7!



Parade Marchers Wanted!

Marchers of all ages are invited to join us for a walk in the Royal Oak Memorial Day parade, Monday, May 25 at 9 A.M.! The parade theme this year, as in the past, is “Honor our Country, Honor our Flag.” Period outfits are encouraged. This is a fun way to start the Memorial Day weekend. For more details, contact Bill Sullivan 248-765-2136 or bsullivan@dosmanos.com.

See You There!
Town Hall Talk

**Presented by Bob Muller,
Royal Oak Historical Society Board Member
May 6th, 7:30 p.m.
Royal Oak Middle School
Auditorium**

*The history of the river system that ran through
Royal Oak and is now gone....
where it ran, what happened to it and what can still be seen.*

Come Visit Us!
The Lumber Barons of Royal Oak Exhibit
Now Through July 18, 2015, at the Museum

***This exhibit tells the story of the families who helped “build” Royal Oak
and the surrounding communities.***

*What You Will Discover:
Some of the early family members’ photos
Family genealogies
And so much more ...*

*All at the Royal Oak Historical Society Museum
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays 1-4 p.m.*

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.

As always, admission is free (though donations are also welcome).

Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast

brought to you by the

Royal Oak Historical Society

Monday, May 25th from 7AM until Noon

at the Royal Oak Farmers Market



*** ALL YOU CAN EAT ***

Adults \$6 Children 10 and Under \$3

Come Join Us Before Or After The Parade

Rain Or Shine!!



HOLIDAY
MARKET



Sponsored by

The Holiday Market Royal Oak and The Hollywood Markets

Royal Oak History Books for Sale **All proceeds go to the Museum**

By David G. Penney, PhD

“My Royal Oak: Images From The 20th Century” (2008), the book on Royal Oak history that is heavy on historic images of our town, is a must for anyone who loves Royal Oak. Printed on glossy white paper, it contains 227 photographs on 128 pages and is 7x10 inches. The text consists of more than 17,000 words about the “old” town most of us remember in fragments. This is a very personal book, with many of my memories of growing up in Royal Oak in the 20th century. The cost is only \$25.

Everyone should have “Twigs and Acorns, Plus” (2007), the new edition of the much-loved scrapbook style presentation about our town since its founding more than 180 years ago. It contains newspaper articles, previously unpublished letters, essays, etc. and photos of early Royal Oak. At \$40, the book is 425 pages, hardbound and fully indexed.

If you are going to explore historic Royal Oak or St. Mary Cemeteries, you must have the 12-page edition of “Cemeteries Walking Tour” (2007), containing photographs and the

locations of thousands of people interred in the two cemeteries arranged in a surname index, available for \$5.

“To Walk That Old Indian Trail” has been a very popular booklet through the years, originally prepared for the 75th anniversary of our city in 1996. In 2007, the 12-page edition contains far more information on Native American traces in Royal Oak and features a Chief on the cover. At \$5, it is a bargain.

All the books are available at the Historical Society Museum as well as at Frenz’s Hardware. As with all of my other books, all proceeds go to the Museum. Purchasing these books is simply a GIFT to the Museum.

Coming up is a small book to be published soon on Northwood Subdivision (tentatively – “Northwood Subdivision and The Clawsons”), which will include the No. 2 Fire Station (site of the Historical Museum), the old and new Northwood Schools, the Clawson family, GTW Railroad, the First Congregational Church and the Shrine of the Little Flower Church, etc. Contained inside will be essays on each subject and a number of rare historic photographs. Watch for it!

Attention Members!!!

If you do not receive any e-mail from the Royal Oak Historical Society, please send your e-mail address to Curator Muriel Versagi at curator@royaloakhistoricalociety.org. We like to keep our members informed about Historical Society events and related news. Thank you.

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!



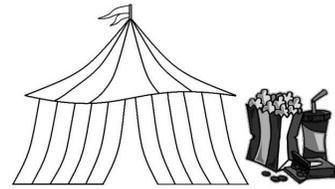
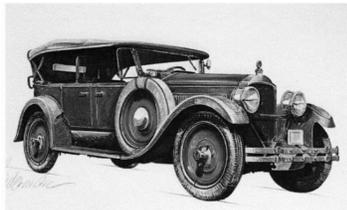
Royal Oak Historical Society Museum and The First Congregational Church

PRESENTS:

4th Annual Car Show and Commencement of Michigan's Automotive Heritage Month

Saturday August 1, 2015, 11AM to 5PM

The Royal Oak Historical Museum will have on display views of Woodward Avenue as it appeared in the 1900's to its present day image.



The collection of Robert Edwards original automotive concept art will be on exhibit, along with the automobile tempura paintings of Jerome Biederman.

Music by Chris Wietzke and Jaime Burean.

Food, popcorn, fun and games provided by, the Museum and
The First Congregational Church of Royal Oak.

Car Show Registration Fee: \$20.00

Pre-register at the Royal Oak Historical Society Museum at
Webster and Crooks.

1411 Webster, Royal Oak, MI 48073

Or online at royaloakhistoricalsociety.com

For more information call: 248-439-1501

Dash plaques given to first 100 entries.

All proceeds to the Royal Oak Historical Society Museum and
The First Congregational Church of Royal Oak.

1411 Webster
Royal Oak, MI 48073



Volunteer Spotlight: Randy Burean

For this issue's Volunteer Spotlight, we sought an interview with dedicated but "publicity-shy" volunteer Randy Burean.

Retired after 30 years with Ford at Utica Trim, Randy and his wife Pat were inspired by a chance meeting at the Royal Oak Library's Historical Room in 2011 with another ROHS volunteer, Joanna Becker, to give some of their time to the Historical Society. Randy has lived in Royal Oak since 1957 and attended Oakridge, then Emerson, then Mary Lyons and graduated from Kimball High School. Randy and Pat are the inspiration behind Royal Oak Historical Society's very successful August Classic Car Shows.

Pat and Randy celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Saturday, April 11, 2015; they have a daughter, Jaime. They met on a wonderful day in May 1973 at McPeck's Mobil on the corner of 13 Mile and Crooks. Pat pulled up in her clementine orange VW, and Randy was a full-service attendant at that time. What a lucky guy!

Although we were unable to get an interview with Randy, we did have fun speaking with his more talkative alter ego "Rocko Carnutti" (pronounced "CAR-NUT-TEE") ...



Rocko Carnutti and one of his favorite cars — better known as "most of 'em"

Photo by Mike Frentz

ROHS Newsletter Editor: Tell us what we should know about Rocko Carnutti.

Rocko Carnutti: Nothing. None of your business.

ROHS: Where are you from?

Rocko: I'm not talking.

ROHS: Where do you work?

Rocko: I'm a freelancer.

ROHS: What is your field?

Rocko: Car parts. I work at Midnight Auto. You want it. I can get it.

ROHS: How did you meet "Patty Ann"?

Rocko: She was a car hop, and I liked her burger and fries.

ROHS: What's the first thing you said to her?

Rocko: Hey, baby.....

ROHS: How long have you and Patty Ann been going steady?

Rocko: All the time.

ROHS: What's your favorite car?

Rocko: Most of 'em.

ROHS: Where can you be found on Saturday night?

Rocko: Cruisin' Woodward.

ROHS: What's your favorite kind of music?

Rocko: If it ain't rock 'n' roll, I don't like it!

And now a word from Museum Curator Muriel Versagi:

"When Randy started at the Museum, he said he wasn't creative, but he was handy — and he was. He did a lot of painting and patching of holes in walls, and then he was asked by Susan Wolfrum and Glenn Klosterhaus to help hang an exhibit. Randy now helps glue up display panels and is very creative when it comes to hanging the panels and arranging display cases. Randy is also an excellent docent; he enjoys talking to visitors and will explain much of whatever is in the current exhibit. Randy is the reason we have a car show. It was his idea and we thought "Okay, let's see what happens ..."

(Continued on Page 7)



Rocko Carnutti and his “steady” Patty Ann

Photo by Jaime Burean

Volunteer Spotlight:

Randy Burean

(Continued from Page 6)

The major sponsor of the first Classic Car Show was Larry Burr, Matthews Hargreaves Chevrolet Dealership. Randy had worked for the dealership as a teenager, and so Randy and I went to visit Larry. Larry and his dealership became our prime sponsor, and the money was enough for banners, display materials, signs, and of course we gave Matthews Hargreaves a lot of

PR and a huge exhibit of his dealership from the beginning to the present.

This is the fourth year for the Classic Car Show - opening Saturday, August 1, and we have a lot of additional fun "stuff" added. That info will be upcoming.

In the meantime, come and have fun with us – and Rocko Carnutti! - at the Museum.”

The Royal Oak Historical Society thanks all Royal Oak Historical Society volunteers for the valuable gift of their time and talent..... and to Randy and Pat for the fun and inspiration!



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.com.

*Click on the membership link. You can pay your membership dues
or subscribe to have your dues automatically collected annually.*

Thank you in advance!