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# THE CURATOR

The Newsletter of the Brunswick Area Historical Society

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## **It's Harvest Pumpkin Festival Time**

**10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday Oct. 6 and 7**

This year's Pumpkin Festival plans include, of course, lots of pumpkins at family friendly prices, as always. With **free** admission, **free** parking, **free** hayrides, **free** kids' rock and tiny pumpkin painting, **free** tours of the museum, **free** entertainment and a wide variety of vendors it's sure to be a great way to spend the weekend. There will even be free toothbrushes and other dental care products from DentalWorks of Brunswick; raffles; baskets and fun. Handicapped parking is in the east lot; everyone else can park in the west field and across the street thanks to our good neighbors. Ken Uram has lined up entertainment (see page 2). There's plenty of food vendors with food to eat on site at a picnic table, or to take home.

## ***Here's the entertainment schedule for Oct. 6,7***

**Saturday:** 11 a.m. to noon, Ken Uram-Acoustic Rock, Modern Country.  
Noon to 1 p.m. Recreation Center's Line Dancing Group will perform.  
1-2 p.m., Scott Yeager-Acoustic Rock and Folk.  
2 p.m. Ken Uram rounds out the day.

**Sunday:** 11 a.m. to noon, Scott Yeager.  
Noon-1 p.m. Canine Costume Contest  
1-2 p.m. Belly Dancing, "Third Tent from the Nile"  
2-3 p.m. Ken Uram  
3 p.m. Clyde Hensley-Acoustic Classic Rock.

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Thanks so much to all of members and to those who not only paid their dues but added funds as sponsors and patrons.

They include: Darlene and Richard Beeching Ann M. Benninger, Ken Chamers, Ernie and Cathryn Daiber, Jody Hunter, Sally and Bill Hunter, Homestead Insurance, Rick and Barb John, Carol Jordan, Rosalie Kappeler, Dave LeHotan, Bernice Miller, Roy and Cindy Montonaro, Jane Garson Reed and Kevin M. Reed, Nancy Sprowls, Todd Jay Photography and Tom Rounds.

Dues are just \$10 a year for students and seniors; \$20 for adults or \$25 for families. Patron donations start at \$50.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support us in so many ways: Rick Scheutzow, the Wood Wizard, for keeping things updated and running at the farm; Ken Chamers for being our Web Wizard; Eli Hobe for helping organize the Pumpkin Festival; Katie Georgekopoulos for social media publicity; Dennis Wunn, Betty Taller, Cindy Scarpino, Debbie Potochnik, Kaylee Hearn, other students and the Webers for clearing around the hand dug well. It takes a village!

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This is the plan: We want to build a 40x40, two story pole barn at the farm starting this spring. We will move our offices to a portion of the building to make them accessible to all. When Edwards Middle School is demolished in 2020, the oldest portion of the front façade will become our façade – those are the brick, arched doors you see if you stand at the Plaza and look across Pearl Road. We want to recreate a classroom across the other side of the building. That leaves room for a handicapped restroom and a small display area for other items. A loft will be used for either storage or display and the two bedrooms in the farmhouse now housing the office and storage will be turned back into display areas.

We are working to write our Ohio Facilities grant (\$70,000), and putting together our matching funds.

We are lucky to have Engelke Construction Services acting as our project manager, coordinating the timeline and budget and seeking donations from local contractors. We will also be putting out a call for bids this winter once we meet all the requirements of the city for the project.

We are hoping the community will rally around the project to save a portion of our oldest community school – and we will also try to save something from Visintainer Middle School – the second oldest in the community.

If you are interested in helping us raise funds or would like to donate, please contact us through our Web site, [Brunswickhistory.com](http://Brunswickhistory.com) or call and leave a message, 330-441-0292 and we'll get back to you

Our committee includes: Greg Crane, Carl Bilski, Joyce Petchler, Dave Goodyear, Dennis Wunn and 'Sam' Boyer.

By 'Sam' Boyer

I received an email request from the Medina County District Library that turned into one of the best goose-bump stories I've ever experienced. It was a question from a researcher named Terry Hirsch in Indianapolis that came to the Library and then to us.

It was a quest for a photograph of a Brunswick High School student "from the late 1930s." The library's Kathy Petras said they didn't have any yearbooks from that period, so they asked the historical society about it. Over the winter, I had put all the yearbooks in plastic bins and some of our Junior National Honor Society volunteers helped me sort them.

In one of those bins – almost overlooked -- we found a softbound yearbook called "The Aurora" dated 1940.

And there he was: Eugene Bosnavits, Jr. He was one of 27 graduates, many with more familiar Brunswick names like Brainard, Dennison, Keller, Joreski, Brainard, Morlock, Benjamin, Hemeyer and Shepherd.

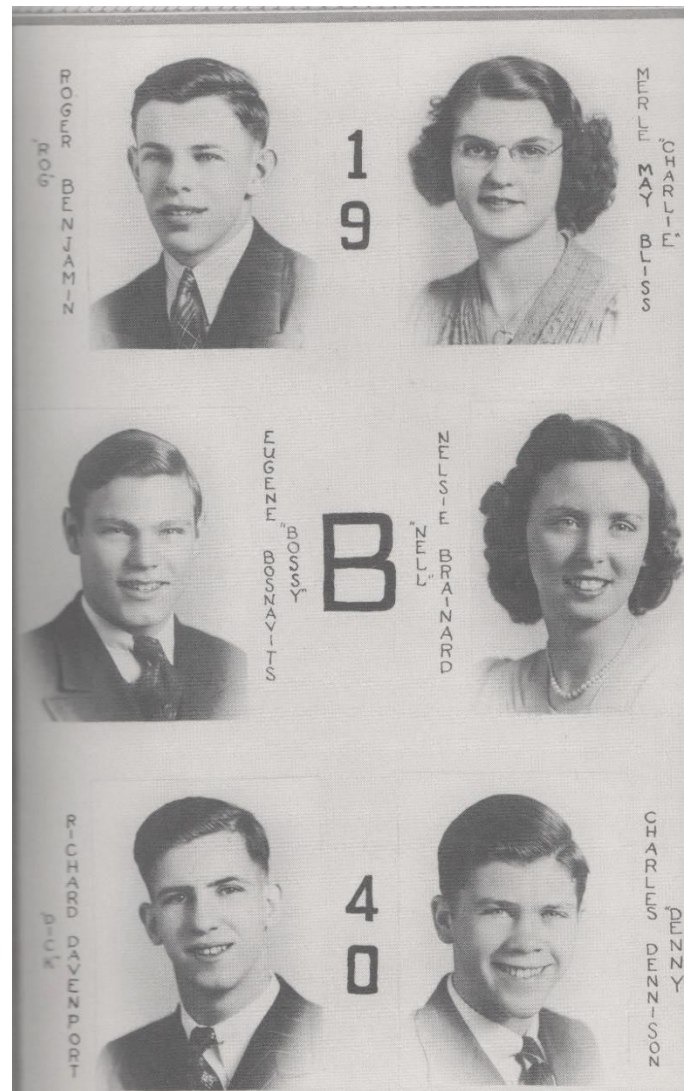
Why would someone from Indianapolis want a photo of a boy from Brunswick?

"I read a blog that mentioned the first Faces of Margraten in 2015 which mentioned looking for a particular soldier. I tried to find him (and did not succeed) but started to look for others," Hirsch said. "Today that simple task has turned into a volunteer effort where I've found 300+ for Margraten and about 2000 for the same tribute in Cambridge England."

"I also work with adopters who try to find family in the US. Every soldier is adopted at this cemetery and has been since 1945 or 1946. Some are new to adopting and some are the 3rd or 4th generation in the family. Those are really amazing to work on."

Hirsch said she was born in CLE on the west side but her folks were originally from the East

side at 94th and Ansel Road. "My dad went to



East HS and my mom went to Notre Dame. I get extra focused on the CLE Margraten people because they could have been friends of my folks or friends of friends"

The Stichting Verenigde Adoptanten Amerikaanse Oorlogsgraven (Foundation United Adopters American War Graves) hopes to make a unique tribute to the men and women buried there by trying to give as many names of the soldiers buried in or memorialized at the Margraten Cemetery as possible a face, by decorating their graves or names on the Walls of the Missing with a personal photo.

The American cemetery in the municipality of Eijsden-Margraten is one of the largest cemeteries in the world and the only American



cemetery in the Netherlands. No fewer than 8,301 American liberators are buried there.

With the support of the graves' adopters, the soldiers' relatives, and many others, the foundation had been able to collect the photos of approximately 3,300 American soldiers who have been buried or memorialized at the American War Cemetery and Memorial Netherlands for the first edition of The Faces of Margraten tribute in 2015. A year later, in 2016, about 4,100 photos had been found and were displayed during the 2016 tribute. In 2018, more than 5,800 photos were on display. The next ceremony will be in 2020.

Sebastian Vonk, an American Studies student at Groningen University conceptualized the "Faces of Margraten" initiative in 2014 to give the young liberators of this country a face. For more than 70 years, the residents of the area have kept watch over Margraten's Cemetery and have "adopted" those buried there with one thought in mind: "Lest we forget."

"I think it's absolutely wonderful," said Carl Bilski, president of the Brunswick Area Historical Society. "It gives much more texture to the stories of the soldiers – and it's a wonderful thing for the people of the Netherlands to do."

Dennis Wunn, historian of the society said "I think it will attract a lot of people who will want to visit to see it. Both Bilski and Wunn are veterans.

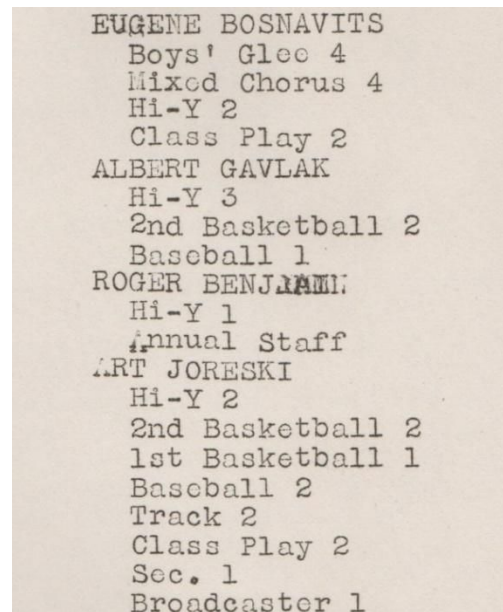
Petras was also at work finding more about Eugene Bosnavits Jr. and posted all the information about him in her blog <http://mcdlgenealogyspot.blogspot.com/2018/08/honoring-past.html>

She found that he enlisted in 1943 and was assigned to the United States Army Air Force - the precursor to today's U.S. Air Force. And he was trained as a tail gunner for the B-17, going over to England in August of 1944. D-day had

passed and Allied forces were slowly winning the war. But they still had to push the German armies back from the occupied territories.

Then-Sgt. Bosnavits was first declared missing on Sept. 12, 1944 over Magdeburg, Germany and then his family received notice he had been killed in action.

That, said Brunswick Historical Society member, Greg Crane, "Is a tribute not only for those who died for us, but to libraries and historical societies who keep resources like that for purposes no one knows about."



EUGENE BOSNAVITS  
Boys' Glee 4  
Mixed Chorus 4  
Hi-Y 2  
Class Play 2  
ALBERT GAVLAK  
Hi-Y 3  
2nd Basketball 2  
Baseball 1  
ROGER BENJAMI  
Hi-Y 1  
Annual Staff  
ART JORESKI  
Hi-Y 2  
2nd Basketball 2  
1st Basketball 1  
Baseball 2  
Track 2  
Class Play 2  
Sec. 1  
Broadcaster 1

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This photo of cheerleaders, Eileen Davenport and Ethel Hemeyer were also part of that 1940 yearbook, which was very obviously typed on a manual typewriter, and mimeographed as you can see by the senior activities segment.

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It was a birthday trip.

Caroline Kinton's daughter, Carrie Foster, contacted the Historical Society about bringing her mother to see the farm in August. "She always talks about when she lived there as a youngster," Carrie said. She moved away in the 1960s and she had never been to Heritage Farm.

On Aug. 12, Caroline, Carrie, her daughter, Rylie and Carrie's husband, Tom arrived from Michigan. They visited the farm and spent an afternoon enjoying the farmers market, taking a tour of the farmhouse museum with Carol Foote, and enjoying some of the musical entertainment in the barn.

Caroline is the daughter of Esther Gibbs and Russell Kinton who lived most of their lives in Brunswick. One of the Historical Society's first and most active members was Ellen Gibbs – Esther's aunt, whose photo is on display in the west bedroom attached to the dress she was wearing for a historical fashion show.

The Gibbs family was among the early residents of Brunswick and Caroline was able to see many of the artifacts donated by the family to the historical society, including the picture of Farnum, born in 1835, who is first mentioned in Brunswick history as the minister of the Disciple Church and head of the Ladies Aid in 1873. She also recognized the photo of the family home which, unfortunately, is no longer standing.

"We were so happy to have them visit," Carol Foote said, "and they were particularly glad to see how well the farmers market fits into the farm setting."

Before they left, Caroline became a member and patron of the historical society and we

certainly appreciate that and hope she'll come back soon.



Carolyn Kinton poses near the mannequin on which the dress of her aunt, Ellen Gibbs, is displayed. Ellen's photo is also displayed.



Carolyn's family includes her son-in-law, Tom Foster, daughter, Carrie, and granddaughter Rylie.

