

R E L I V I N G
The Rochester Era.

March/April

The Rochester Avon Historical Society Newsletter

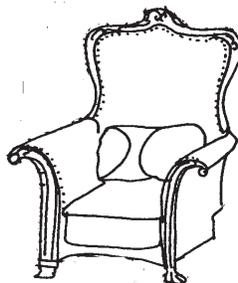
2006

Treasure or just Stuff?

**Find out at Appraisal
Day March 5, 2006**

March 5, 2006 is fast approaching. Do you have an attic that holds hidden treasures? Perhaps that basement needs scouting out for a special item that you wondered if it really was worth saving. The Rochester – Avon Historical Society may have answers to all your questions. Join the crowd on Sunday, March 5, from 12noon to 4:00p.m. at the Rochester Community House at 816 Ludlow Street. You may be amazed to learn the value of your keepsakes. We will have approximately 10 appraisers who are donating their time and expertise to examine your items and your mysteries may be solved. Appraisals are \$5.00 for oral and some will give written appraisals for \$20.00. These experts will be covering

areas that include jewelry, lighting, furniture, pottery, lamps, clocks, china, porcelain, collectibles, crystal, stained glass, Victorian glass, dolls and doll items, textiles, samplers, brass and woodwinds and stringed instruments, and many others.



This event will be great fun for all and for the Society this is an opportunity to give back any proceeds to our communities to further our mission for adaptive reuse and historical preservation.

For more information call Greg Doyle (248) 651 – 6076.

Appraisers

LaVere Webster
Fine art, samplers, pre-depression glass

Bill Pietrzch
Lighting & furniture

Fed Fleming
Pottery, lamps, clocks, china, porcelain, collectibles

John Wanat
Victorian glass & china

Sharon Napier
Dolls

Eric Olbrich
Toys

Martha Rice
Dolls

Joe Kuechle
Clocks

Dan McCourt
Brass & woodwinds, stringed instruments

Paul Haig Associates
Asian art, jewelry

Elevator update page 2 and 3

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Hold the Elevator! Move Date Set For June 11th 2006!

OFFICERS:

- President.....Greg Doyle
248-651-3468
- Vice President.....Maria-Teresa
Cozzolino..... 248-608-1162
- Treasurer.....Mary Howarth
248-375-0205
- Rec. Sec.....Janet Potton
248-652-7296
- Corr. Sec.....Harold Golding
248-656-1125
- Member at Large.....LaVere Webster
248-853-9426
- Member at Large.....Arlene Wilkins
248-652-0021
- Museum.....Pat Mckay
248-656-4663
- Immediate Past PresidentRod
Wilson 248-651-6178

COMMITTEE CHAIRMPERSONS:

- Historian.....Gail Kemler
248-651-0907
- Membership.....Carole Fischer
248-853-0118
- Era.....Barbara Butterworth
248-652-2116
- Program.....Marylin Brooks
248-651-6624
- Publicity.....Liz Golding
248-656-1125
- Volunteers.....Sue Conley
248-652-0364

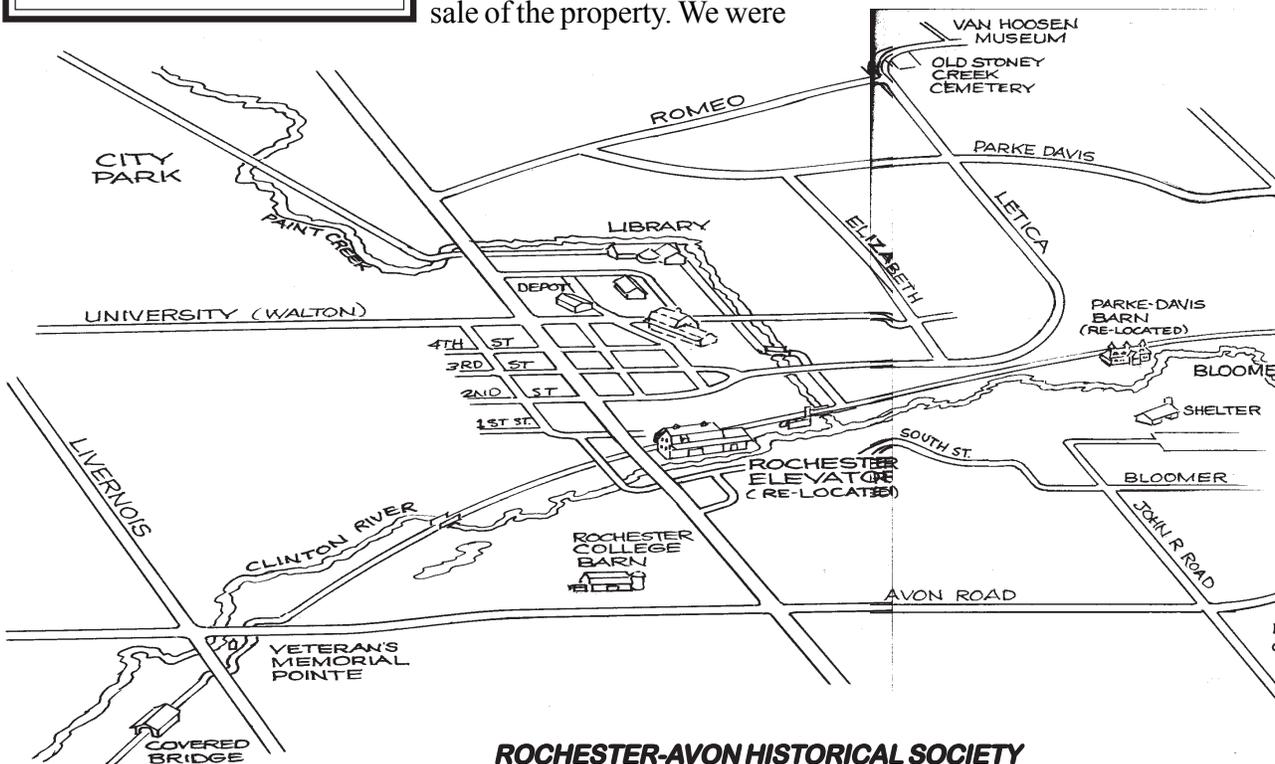
I'm sure you all have been following the Elevator story in our local papers. I thought it would be good to recap the latest and tell you a bit more about the activity going on behind the scenes.

After the first of the year Rod Wilson and I met with Roy Rewold and Jeff Coheo of Frank Rewold and Son, Lawrence Smith owner of the Rochester Elevator, and Dan Deitz owner of Deitz moving our contractor for moving the Elevator.

At the meeting we were told of the April 29th closing day for the sale of the property. We were



able to settle on a timeline for all the activity that needs to happen



**ROCHESTER-AVON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CLINTON RIVER VALLEY HERITAGE AREA**

prior to the building move and an approximate moving date.

Roy Rewold agreed to bring the new timeline to Sunrise Assisted Living who will be the new owners of the property.

Shortly after, I met with Sunrise Assisted Living V.P. Laura Hester. Laura and I had a good discussion and agreed upon a mid-June 2006 move date for the Elevator. Laura expressed that Sunrise cares about the community and is truly interested in seeing that the Elevator is moved and preserved. We agreed to stay in contact as the project moves closer.

Since that time, the "Hold the Elevator" committee has re-engaged and is back into full swing.

Our fundraising committee chaired by Lynn Anderson has commissioned artist Gerry Post to create 500 signed and

numbered prints of the Rochester Elevator. We began sales of the print during the holidays. Sales have come in through our web site, through the coverage in the press, as well as by word of mouth. You will be seeing more of the prints displayed throughout the community for purchase. The print represents a major source of funds for our project. If you haven't already done so, please consider purchasing one for yourself or as a gift for some one you know.

Bob Lytle is helping out our Fundraising Committee in seeking support for the project from local merchants. The Fundraising Committee is also working on several other projects that will be rolled out soon.

Our Public Relations committee chaired by Brian Dunphy continues to keep our story in the news. The committee has also developed several P.R. pieces to help spread the word and generate donations. We will soon have a sign posted at the new location of the Elevator that will be used to educate trail users and gain support for the project.

The Site Prep and Move Committee chaired by Rod Wilson is really building steam. Site plans have been submitted to the City Planning Department. Site surveys and soil borings will be completed in the next couple of weeks. Utility companies have been contacted for line moves. The committee has established June 11th as the move date for the Elevator.

The Community Outreach committee chaired by Tammy

Byers continues to pull together the manpower for the project.

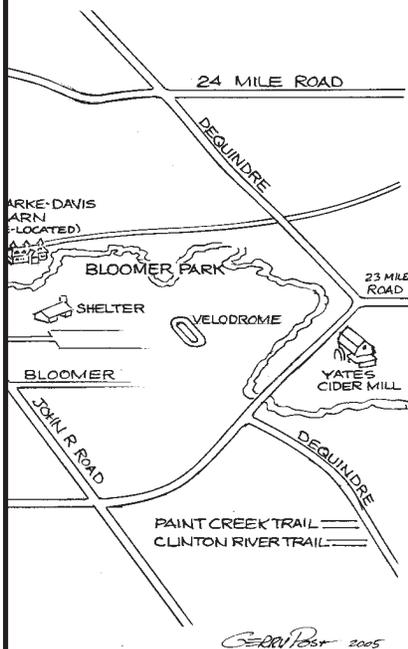
The committee chairs and their committee members are doing a fabulous job.

But we still need help!

We still have a long way to go! If you have an interest in helping



out, contact Tammy Byers at 248-670-1963 or you can contact me at 248-651-3468.



Making Elevator donations easier

We have set up an Elevator Fund with the Greater Rochester Community Foundation. This means that our donations to 'Hold the Elevator!' project will be processed through the Foundation and allows for donations by Visa and Master Card.

Keep in touch

A quick way to reach our members with the latest news is with e-mail. Send your e-mail address to membership chair Carole Fischer at momfischer@comcast.net and be in the know.



Great Everything Sale

This year's sale was the best ever. It set a sales record of over \$10,000. The items sold are donated by the community. RAHS helps supply manpower for this event and in return we receive the use of the Community House for our Appraisal Day and the Brown Bag lunch meetings. Marilee and Phil Townsend, RAHS members, are members of the Friends of the Community House and were overall chairpersons of the Sale. Thank you to Joann Bourez, Geroge Comps, Carolyn Dulin, Harold and Liz Golding, Mary Howarth, Gail Kemler, Kay Kemler, Janet Potton, Wilma Ralph, Edith Salerno, Rod and Sue Wilson for helping with the Community House annual 'Great Everything Sale'.

Why are we saving the elevator?

A short history...

The Rochester Grain Elevator has seen the railroad that once roared through Rochester, the urbanization, the turbulence of the '46 flood that caved in the tracks next to the building, different owner, different supply demands, and yet. It still stands – a contributing source of good and knowledge for Rochester

.A description of the building, taken from a history book, evokes the memories of the vibrant farm community of old Rochester. It is a “two and one half story framed structure. The main building is a barn with a gambrel roof. On the north west side, there is an outside end chimney with double-hung sash windows periodically spaced. There is also a bulkhead or cellar entrance visible on the façade. The south west façade displays one shed dormer, and just under the gambrel roof there is a long

shed roof. Attached to this barn building is another barn, however, the roof is only gabled. All windows are outlined in white against the red of the building.”

The history book further states “ the Rochester Elevator was built around 1880 by C.K. Griggs.” Mr. Griggs built two elevators. Before 1880 he had been in the grain business in Metamora and Thomas, Michigan. By 1912, Griggs sold both elevators. In Rochester, by W.S. Fox in 1907, Rochester's opinion of Mr. Griggs was, “Mr. Griggs is a grain and produce buyer operating largely and is always ready to pay the best prices.”

In my research it is unclear about the ownership from 1912 to the 1930s. It was not until I spoke with Mrs. Keith (Mary) Crissman that I had a clearer picture. She told me that she thought elevator was incorporated by farmers until the 1930s when Mr. Lewis Crissman purchased it through a tax fault and hired people to run it. In 1936, as Mrs. Crissman stated, “Father Crissman” presented it to Mrs. Crissman and her husband Keith, as a gift. She said it was during the Depression and they were out of college, newly married and needed a job. She said, “Neither one of us know anything about the grain business although I was a farm girl from Romeo. We learned together. Mrs. Crissman went on to tell me that in 1950, Doyle Wilson, who had worked from them bought the elevator. She said it was about this time that homes were replacing many of the farms and dog food and other products were added to the inventory.

In 1956 the elevator was sold again to Wes and Lawrence Smith.

Mr. Smith stated, “The older people in the town know what this place means – the younger people see other places to go and don't realize all there is to offer here.”

Wide floor boards and weathered walls, an odd angled building called the Rochester Grain Elevator has many stories to tell and is a big chapter in Rochester's history.

Liz Golding, *Rochester Era*, November 2001

Liz's Lines

Well, is everyone ready for the Great Race??!! We are so busy with activities that everyone should be able to find something to do. We have Appraisal Day 2006 coming on March 5. We NEED your help. Whether you can help an appraiser, direct people to appropriate tables, donate some snacks for appraisers and workers, greet our guests or just circulate, we need you. Please call Rod or Greg and volunteer. You don't have to stay all day. The times are 11:00 to 2:00 and 2:00 to 4:30; or you can volunteer for the whole time. You will have a lot of fun and it is great seeing the items that are brought, plus meeting some interesting people.

The Elevator now has a moving date!! (see pages 2 & 3) More help is needed here also. This is a mammoth project. Please give us your help.

Our March evening meeting will be one you will want to attend. Julia Cramer will be presenting “Across the Bloody Chasm: The Legacy of Lyman “George Willcox”. Major Wilcox's writings are those of a Northerner viewing the South during the Civil War. Ms. Cramer dresses in period costume and speaks as Major Wilcox's wife. The program includes original Civil War songs and poetry by Ms. Cramer.

The meeting will be held at the Rochester Community House.

Please find a spot and call. Let us know where you want to work. See you soon.





2006 Downtown Walking Tours Schedule

The following dates have been set for this year's RAHS walking tours:

- April 19 Wednesday**
7-9 p.m.
- May 16 Tuesday**
7-9 p.m.
- June 8 Thursday**
7-9 p.m.
- July 17 Monday**
7-9 p.m.
- Aug 26 Saturday**
1-3 p.m.
- Sep 8 Friday**
7-9 p.m.
- Oct 8 Sunday**
1-3 p.m.

All walks will begin in front of the Western Knitting Mill or Rochester Mills Beer Company on Water Street.

The June and August tours will be sponsored by the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm with RAHS participating. The September tour will begin from the World War II Memorial as part of the opening evening of the Arts and Apple Festival.

If you want to become a tour guide or help with the walks, contact Rod Wilson, 248-651-6178.

Need a Ride?

If you don't drive, don't drive at night or don't want to come alone you can still attend RAHS meetings, events and work on projects.

Call Rod at 248-651-6178 to arrange transportation.

Visioning...

Where is RAHS going? What do we want to do? What do we see as our place in the Rochester community?

We will explore these questions in a public visioning session on March 30th at the Community House starting at 7:30 PM.

This is an excellent opportunity to share your ideas and concerns. These sessions are a very valuable tool for charting our future, so come and add your input.

Brown Bag Luncheon Meeting

The Brown Bag Luncheon Meetings for 2005-2006 are held the first Tuesday of each month, beginning at noon at the Rochester Community House. A couple of Rochester residents will talk about their life growing up in Rochester. Tables will be available for attendees to sit to eat their lunch.



"Turning boys into men - the Civilian Conservation Corps"

Presentation and Book Signing.

March 18, 2006; 1:45 pm in the Dairy Barn.

Annick Hivart-Carthew will lead an audio-visual presentation based on her new book, "Proud to Work, a Pictorial History of Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps."

The presentation contains stories by those who served and contain never-before-published photos.

The CCC was very active in Michigan. There are also examples in Rochester of other Depression era programs.

Join RAHS Anytime

Individual \$18	Family \$25	Contributing \$35
Institutional \$75	Student \$10	Patron \$250

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Are you willing to volunteer your time or services once during the year? Yes No

Would you like to work on a committee or event? Yes No

If yes please list _____

Mail to: Rochester Avon Historical Society, PO Box 80783, Rochester MI 48308-0783



Miscellaneous News
and
Announcements

Don't
forget

Appraisal Day!

March 5, 2006
Noon to 4 pm
Rochester
Community
House

Mark Your Calendar

Public/Members Welcome at All Programs/Meetings

MARCH

- 2 **Board Meeting**
7:30 pm Rochester Hills City Hall
- 5 **Appraisal Day**
Noon to 4 pm, Rochester Community House
- 7 **Brown Bag Luncheon**
12 noon, Rochester Community House
- 16 **“Across the Bloody Chasm -
the Legacy of Lyman ‘George’ Wilcox”**
Speaker: Julia A. Cramer
7:30 pm, Rochester Community House

APRIL

- 4 **Brown Bag Luncheon**
12 noon, Rochester Community House
- 6 **Board Meeting**
7:30 pm, Rochester City Hall

NOTE: Society members should know that our meetings will not be held if school has been canceled because of inclement weather.

ROCHESTER AVON



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Pride in
Preserving
the Past*

Rochester Avon Historical Society
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Rochester, MI 48309-0783