

RELIVING

The Rochester Era

September/October

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter

2013

2013 Mount Avon Cemetery Walk Features – “Music in the Stones”

Friends and Members: Since our cemetery walk last year was such a success, we hope our members will encourage their friends and neighbors to join us this year in this unique experience. Make sure you have your tickets in hand sooner rather than later!

Rochester's history comes to life on Saturday, September 28 when the Rochester Avon Historical Society presents its second annual Mount Avon Cemetery Walk from 1-4 pm. The event features re-enactors in period costume who portray characters from the community's past as tour guests are guided through the cemetery. This year's theme is "Music in the Stones," and tour guests will encounter several historical characters some of whom will include musical performances in their presentations. Audiences will also learn about the history of Mount Avon's recently-restored 1925 mausoleum and step inside the building to "meet" a couple who are entombed there.

Tours will depart by shuttle van from the municipal parking lot at Third and Walnut Streets and will be escorted by tour guides. Tickets (\$15 per person) will be issued for specific tour departure times.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce Office, 71 Walnut St., Suite 110, or online www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org (click on the online store link).

MUSIC IN



THE STONES

A Living History Walk Through Historic Mount Avon Cemetery

presented by the Rochester Avon Historical Society

Saturday, September 28, 2013

Guided tours depart by bus from Walnut & Third St. municipal parking lot at 20-minute intervals from 1-5 p.m. Tickets \$15 (on sale beginning July 15 at Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce, 71 Walnut St. Ste. 110, or from our online store at www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org)

Please visit our sponsors: Rochester Hills Chrysler Jeep Dodge / Potere-Modetz Funeral Home / Pixley Funeral Home

Any tickets not sold in advance will be available for walk-up sales at the shuttle stop at Third & Walnut on the day of the event.; advance purchase is highly recommended.

The Cemetery Walk is a fun and engaging way for families to learn about local history. The event is not scary and is enjoyable for both school-age children and adults. (The presentations, however, are not designed to be of interest to pre-school children). For further information, e-mail rahsupdates@gmail.com or phone 248-246-5440. The 2013 Mount Avon Cemetery Walk is made possible by generous support from Rochester Hills Chrysler Jeep Dodge, Pixley Funeral Home, and Potere-Modetz Funeral Home.



President's Message —

We've tried before, and now we will try once more — to reduce the cost of producing and mailing our newsletter to our membership.

If we have your email address, your November/December newsletter will arrive by email. Remember that with an online newsletter, you can enlarge the print, see photos in color, and use the live links to "go out to" various sites online.

You can also print out your newsletter at home. If you print double sided, it will cut your paper use in half.

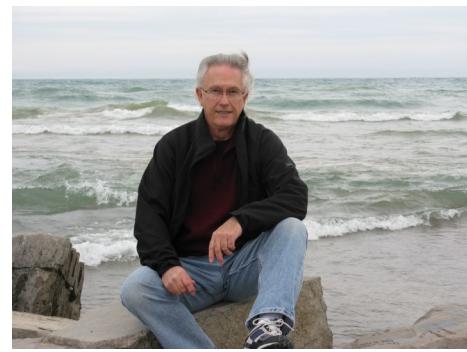
It really does not cost that much to print a copy from home, while it costs RAHS a great deal to professionally print and then mail copies.

Another benefit to receiving your newsletter online is that you can easily send a copy of it via email to friends and family.

Electronic newspapers and newsletter are the wave of the future — and we are going to give it another try.

However, if you prefer to have your newsletter mailed to you, please let the editor know before the end of October.

bvcather@gmail.com or phone: (248) 375-0808



Welcome back from summer folks — hope you are refreshed, rested, and ready for Rochester Historical Society's 2013-2014 season. Sincerely, James Hopkins, the Pres.

Contact Information for RAHS Board & Committees

RAHS Board of Directors

James Hopkins, President	248-254-2520
Brian Dunphy, Vice President	248-656-5968
Mary Howarth, Treasurer	248-375-0206
June Hopaluk, Recording Secretary	248-652-9242
Janet Potton, Corresponding Secretary	248-652-7296
Leslie Mack, Member at Large	586-924-4961
Carol Tough, Member at Large	248-375-0084
Rod Wilson, Past President	248-651-6178

Appointed Board of Director Positions

Gail Kemler, Historian	248-651-0907
Also Mary Howarth, Membership	248-375-0206

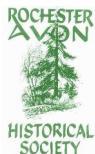
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Committee Chairpersons

Deborah Larsen, Research	248-375-2974
Janet Potton, Oral Histories	248-652-7296
Internet Genealogy Group, unfilled for the moment	
Rod Wilson, Rochester Heritage Days	248-651-6178
Jim Hopkins, Rochester Heritage Days	248-254-2520
Carol Tough, RAHS Appraisal day	248-375-0084
Jim Hopkins, Sidewalk Sales Booth,	248-254-2520
Jo Ann Bourez, Great Everything Sale	248-651-7526



**Tuesday, September 3rd, 2013
Rochester Community House -
Remembering the 1950s, with Jim, Bruce, Gerry, and Sharon**



Take a trip back to the 1950s when sock hops, drive-ins and rock-n-roll were cool and teenagers made the news for the way they dressed and for the music they listened to.

Sharon Fifield, Gerry Lothrey, Jim Kemler and Bruce Bordine will reminisce and tell stories about their high school days in Rochester in the 1950s. Find out where the cool hangouts were in those days and where everybody bought their latest Elvis records, watched their favorite matinee idol on the big screen, and enjoyed burgers and milkshakes with pals and sweethearts.

Attendees may bring a lunch. Coffee and cookies will be provided. Admission is free.
The public is welcomed.

When: Tuesday, Sept. 3, 12 p.m. to 1:30

Where: Rochester Community House, 816 Ludlow, Rochester
Be There or Be Square!

Photo Notes: Red Knapp's Dairy Bar opened on Main Street on July 8, 1950. This photo is from the files of the old Rochester Era Newspaper. The Dairy Bar, as it is affectionately known, has been in the same place, looking pretty much the same for 53 years. When folks return to Rochester for a visit, this is one of the places they make a point of visiting. Photo courtesy Swords Family Archive, rights reserved.

Membership Alert!

If you haven't sent in your membership renewal for the year beginning July 1, 2013, please do so soon. Dues are \$18 for an individual, \$25 for a family, and \$35 as a contributing member. Checks made out to Rochester Avon Historical Society (or R.A.H.S.) should be sent to the Society mailbox at P.O. Box 80783, Rochester, 48308-0873. Memberships can also be paid via Paypal on our website, www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org. If you can't remember if you have paid or not, contact Mary Howarth at rahsmary@gmail.com or at [248-375-0206](tel:248-375-0206).

Oral History Needs You!

Working with Oral History is something we likely do anyway when others tell us their stories and share memories. Our Oral History Group interviews various people for their stories, which are videotaped by RAHS member, Leslie Mack. You need do no more than interview, and it is a nice way to spend a few volunteer hours. Contact Janet Potton jjppost@hotmail.com For more information.

1959-1961 Woodward, Ted's, WWJ, and North Oakland County Girls



She was my baby from the moment I bought her: a lightly used 1957 Ford Fairlane 500, Cream and Sand/Coral, eight cylinders.

I was 19 working as a typist in an office. On Saturday night my friends and I went to Ted's Drive In at Woodward and Square Lake. We went where other young people were, many of them more daring than we were.

I never raced the car; it was the only adult thing I owned. My friends and I ordered fries and Cokes; we listened to WXYZ as we watched cars flow by, noisy and gleaming with polish for their big night out on Woodward.

At midnight, WXYZ went off the air. DJ, Lee Alan's sign off song was Frank Sinatra's "I Just Can't Get Started With You."

The song sort of summed up our lives at the time and our non-relationships with guys we admired, who never looked our way. My friends and I lived at home, and we had curfews.

After midnight, we drifted back toward the quiet dark of North Oakland's country towns: The big three were Lake Orion, Oxford, and Rochester. We slow-drove, drifting into North Oakland County, on quiet two lane roads.

In retrospect, I think we were lucky about not being terribly cool. Many wonderful things have happened since. But wherever I am, when I hear the song, "I Just Can't Get Started With You", I am 19 years old again, shy and as pretty as I would ever be — back when we were nervous and anxious to get started on big life. It was a beautiful time for us all.



These farm house photos were taken at Port Oneida, MI near Sleeping Bear Dunes. The Oneida farm community has been set aside as a National Park; its out buildings houses, fields and natural beauty have been preserved. It is will take you several hours to drive the self-guided tour. Pack a picnic lunch and bring the cameras — The Olsen house at the start of the self-tour provides maps and information. Olsen House is authentically furnished. Various demonstrations and historic events occur regularly. Check the online site for additional information



and inspiration. Or Google Search Oneida Rural Historic District

[Port Oneida Rural Historic District - Sleeping Bear Dunes National ...](#)

Speaker Line Up for the RAHS Library Lecture Series - First Thursdays

This General Meeting of RAHS is at Rochester Hills Public Library Auditorium — 7 to 8:45 p.m. — the public is invited to attend and it is free of charge. You may wish to join us after, at the Rochester Mills Beer Company for continued fellowship and lively discussion.

September 5th Scott Burnstein - The Detroit True Crime Chronicles.

October 3rd
Dan Williams - Growing Up on the Great Oak Farm.

November 7th
Radford Jones - The Kennedy Detail

December 5th
Pat McKay - Rochester's Connection to the Civil War

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society (RAHS) was founded in 1969 to help preserve, collect and interpret the history of the greater Rochester area for present and future generations. For more information, including a list of upcoming events, visit online at

www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org/

Note

The 2013 RAHS Public Meetings are as Follows:

Brown Bag Luncheon: First Tues. of the month: Talks by long-time area residents: Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June, Sept, Oct., Dec. Noon to 1 p.m. Rochester Community House,

Evening Program: First Thurs. in Month: Guest Presenters: Various History Topics Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec. 7-8:45 p.m. Rochester Hills Public Library Auditorium. .



Have You Considered Becoming a RAHS Board Member?

We have two positions available: Membership Chairman and Program Chairman; these are important positions. We thank Mary Howarth for temporarily filling the membership vacancy, and we thank Cary Downer for his years as program chair, finding speakers for our evening library lecture program

If you are interested — please inquire to our President, James Hopkins at 248-254-2520 or our Vice President, Brian Dumphy at 248-656-5968

Retro Read: Future Shock, 1970

By 1972, Shock had been reprinted eight times. In 2013, it still dazzles. Toffler's projections on population, economy, environment, lifestyle, consumerism, health, and welfare are often spot on. He predicted with accuracy the effects to come for computer science and the internet. Much of what he predicted 43 years ago is emerging today: new urbanism and walkable, bikeable communities, preserved open spaces, new economies.

He was an Associate Editor of Fortune Magazine. Future Shock, by Alvin Toffler, Random House, 1970, Available at libraries or online through Amazon, etc.

Join the Rochester Avon Historical Society Today!

Bi-monthly newsletters-monthly meetings with guest speakers-downtown Rochester historical walking tours-monthly lunchtime talks by long-time area residents-oral history projects-book projects-research projects-and much more!

Rochester Avon Historical Society Membership Application

New Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

\$10 Student \$18.00 Individual \$25.00 Family \$35.00 Contributing

\$75.00 Institution \$250.00 Patron

Areas of Interest – How would you like to participate?

Historic Research Genealogy Research Special Project Volunteer

Antique Appraisal Day Annual Picnic Oral History Historic Walking Tour Guide

Fundraising Heritage Days Sidewalk Sales Refreshments at Meetings
 Publications Other _____

Mail to: Rochester-Avon Historical Society, P.O. Box 80783, Rochester, MI 48308-0783
RAHS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization



By Tiffany
Dziurman Stozicki

Announcing the Last Two Walking Tours for the Year 2013

Take a stroll through time and join members of the Rochester-Avon Historical Society for a downtown Rochester walking tour. The tours are perfect for new residents and long-time residents alike! Participants will visit historic sites and listen to stories about historic downtown Rochester.

Saturday, September 21 at 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 6 at 1 p.m.

All tours begin at the Western Knitting Mill/Rochester Mills Beer Company on Water Street (northeast corner of the building) and last approximately two hours. Tours are held once a month from May through October. Reservations are not required.

Rain or shine

Look for the man in the top hat!

\$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors (age 55+) and students; children under 12 and Rochester-Avon Historical Society members are free.

For more information, including a list of upcoming events, visit online at
www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org/

Brown Bag for October 1st Exploring the Importance of “Place”

Beautiful Places of the world sustain their heritage and manage to integrate modernity. Where can you go that there isn't internet connection and cell phone use? Would you be surprised that the Detroit Red Wings games are enjoyed in a hillside village in Portugal? How did a four star hotel in Assisi incorporate the Roman baths into its spa?

Let Bea take you on an adventure ranging through the UK, France, Portugal and Italy. We will stop by Coimbra, one of the world's universities and where J. K. Rowling once lived. Does beauty inspire genius?

Not to promise too much — but we will talk: dooryard gardens, vest pocket parks, umbrella tables at sidewalk cafes — how to heat the outdoors in winter? Traffic? Parking? And Pedestrians? Rochester and Rochester Hills are like these beautiful historic places. What to keep and what to let go? Let's have the conversation.





Welcome Home from Vacation:

Rochester-Avon Historical Society welcomes everyone as we begin the 2013-2014 year. Membership information, friendship, lectures, projects, research and fellowship await you.

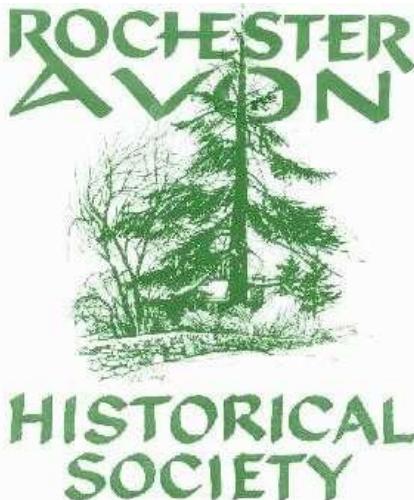
From the Editor to Members

If you are not receiving your newsletter online and would like to — please contact the editor by email.

Beatrice Catherino, Editor
bvcather@gmail.com
(248) 375-0808

Write or phone editor if you have something you want us to cover. Time and place photos are welcome. May accept memoir from readership. Payment is a mailed copy of the newsletter and your byline. History related pieces, please.

The online newsletter is, of course, in full color, enlargeable, printable, downloadable, electronically sent.. We will continue to surface mail your edition if you prefer.



Pride in
Preserving
the Past