



# RELIVING The Rochester Era

Sept./Oct.

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter

2017

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## Step right up, folks, for a trip back in time!

By Gary Jaracz

RAHS is planning a trip to the [Stahls Automotive Museum & Collection](#), 56516 North Bay Dr., Chesterfield, Mich., on Saturday, Oct. 7.

The auto collection alone has cars you have never seen before, including some from Hollywood motion pictures. Throughout the museum you will see Route 66 Americana and art displays, Depression-era cars, racing vehicles, classic trucks and the Tucker attraction. In addition, there are several music machines. One of the main attractions is the 1926 Mortier Calliope, which is probably the largest music machine you will ever see.

We are offering the option to carpool from Rochester to the museum, which is approximately a 45-minute drive. If you prefer to drive yourself and meet up at the museum, we've included the address above for your convenience.

The plan is to arrive at Stahls at 10:45 a.m. and to make a grand entrance at 11:00 a.m. when they open.

If you plan to attend, please contact Gary at 313-407-9326. If you need a ride or have extra room for passengers, please advise that as well.

There is no admission fee; the museum depends on a donation box. After the tour of the museum, the plan is to have a late lunch (1:00 p.m.) at Dimitri's restaurant, 50875 Gratiot Avenue, New Baltimore (south of 23 Mile Road).

We look forward to a good turnout for this event, because we hope to organize more of these trips in the future.



Image credit:  
1932 Ford Speedster  
Terri Coppens  
[www.stahlsauto.com](http://www.stahlsauto.com)

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](http://www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org)



**Brian Dunphy, President**  
Rochester-Avon  
Historical Society

## President's Message

### We asked, no one responded – so no more Brown Bag

In late June, we put out an urgent call for a chairperson or a small group of members to work together to continue our monthly Brown Bag Luncheon meetings. We announced that unless one or more members volunteered for this leadership role, we would be unable to continue the Brown Bag Luncheon meetings.

Unfortunately, no one has stepped forward to take on this responsibility. As a result, RAHS will not be hosting the Brown Bag lunch program when our 2017-18 season of programming begins in September. While canceling the Brown Bag program for the season was a difficult decision, the lack of volunteers has given us no other choice.

The RAHS Thursday evening lecture series will continue and will begin Sept. 7.

*There's still time to bring back the Brown Bag Luncheon meetings for this coming season if one or more members step up.* Volunteers would be responsible for recruiting and scheduling speakers for the nine noontime meetings, held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Rochester Community House.

This would be a great opportunity to get more involved with the historical society and help support one of our important educational programs. If you're interested, contact RAHS at **248-266-5440** or [rahsupdates@gmail.com](mailto:rahsupdates@gmail.com).

## Don't miss these upcoming events

Be sure to mark your calendar now!

SEPTEMBER						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
					1	2
3	4	<del>5</del>	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

No Brown Bag Lunch

Evening Program  
@ Library  
Thursday, Sept. 7  
7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
1	2	<del>3</del>	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

No Brown Bag Lunch

Evening Program  
@ Library  
Thursday, Oct. 5  
7:00 p.m.

Oakland Township  
Historic Distric Commission  
Square Dance @ Cranberry Lake Farm  
Saturday, Sept. 9, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

OTHS Flumerfelt Flea Market @ Cranberry Lake Farm  
Saturday, Oct. 7, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, Oct. 8, Noon - 5:00 p.m.

RAHS Historic Downtown Walking Tour  
Saturday, Sept. 16, 1:00 p.m.  
Departs from WWII Memorial

Stahls Museum & Collection Tour  
Saturday, Oct. 7, 11:00 a.m.  
Carpools Available!  
(Or meet at the museum in Chesterfield at 10:45 a.m.)  
Lunch at Dimitri's restaurant follows at 1:00 p.m.

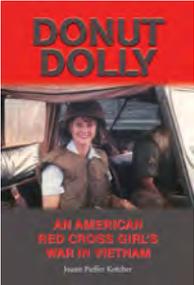
## Upcoming Library Programs

### Library Lecture

Thursday, Sept. 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Rochester Hills Public Library  
500 Olde Town Road

**FREE AND  
OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**



### “Donut Dolly”

In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Vietnam War, Joan Puffer Kotcher will discuss her experiences as an unarmed Red Cross civilian in combat zones during the Vietnam War. The original “Donut Dollies” ventured out to different operating areas in WWII and Korea. They passed out sundry items, played records, served hot coffee and fresh donuts and visited with the soldiers.

Between February 1962 and March 1973, the Vietnam Donut Dollies logged over 2,000,000 miles by Jeep, deuce-and-a-half and helicopters visiting combat troops at remote fire bases. And they didn’t pass out a single donut. They traveled in pairs and brought smiles, songs, games and a touch of “back home.”

Based on a diary she kept, her book “Donut Dolly, An American Red Cross Girl’s War in Vietnam” tells real stories of men at war and gives tribute to our military’s bravery. The only book about Vietnam written by a woman, it has received numerous awards; it was nominated for a Distinguished Writing Award of the Army Historical Foundation, given a national award for Women in American History by the Daughters of the American Revolution, and recommended for school and public libraries by the American Library Association. The Donut Dolly book will be in its second printing in the fall of 2017 and will be available for sale at this event.

Kotcher was born in Harbor Beach, Michigan. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in math and later earned an M.B.A.

She is one of only 100 Donut Dollies who remain out of over 600 girls, and she is the only one in Michigan. Kotcher lives in the Rochester area with her husband.

### Library Lecture

Thursday, Oct. 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Rochester Hills Public Library  
500 Olde Town Road

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### “Forgotten Tales of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula”

Alan Naldrett, author, historian and humorist, will discuss some of Michigan’s most noteworthy yarns and compelling characters which have been lost down the corridors of history. He will introduce us to the ghostly Nain Rouge, that Demon from the Strait, spotted everywhere from the Battle of Bloody Run in 1763 (the site of present-day Elmwood Cemetery) to the Detroit Riot in 1967. He will reveal details of the Toledo War with its ill-equipped militia and their armament that included a barrel of whiskey and broom handles from the local hardware store. This war is easily forgotten ... the Michigan and Ohio armies never engaged in battle because both got lost in the Great Black Swamp.



Naldrett collected these forgotten Michigan stories from research trips to Toledo, Monroe, Detroit and throughout southeast Michigan. He arrived at his career as an author after a variety of endeavors. While earning a bachelor’s degree at Michigan State University, he opened one of the first used vinyl student record stores. He was a blues and rock musician as well as a stock and insurance broker. After the age of 50, Naldrett earned master’s degrees in archival science and library and information science from Wayne State University. He worked as an academic research librarian at Baker College in Auburn Hills for 10 years while writing a number of books. His efforts include *Images of America: Chesterfield Township* and *Lost Towns of Eastern Michigan*.

You may recall that Mr. Naldrett discussed his book, *Lost Car Companies of Detroit*, during the September 2016 RAHS evening meeting.

## RAHS Enjoys a Grangers Vintage Base Ball Game



On Sunday, Aug. 20, the field at Van Hoosen Farm proved the perfect setting for Vintage Base Ball on a sunny summer day!



Invitations were mailed to RAHS members announcing this free event, and details were posted on the RAHS Facebook page.



Approximately 20 of our members braved the heat to attend! Temperatures soared as the base balls flew, and spectators took cover under hats and umbrellas.

Finally, all retreated to the air-conditioned comfort of the restored calf barn for a mouthwatering buffet and an enjoyable visit.



“Pride in Preserving the Past”



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