

Munster Historical Society

Moving Forward to Preserve the Past



Did you know - WHO IS “The Mickey Burger” NAMED AFTER? “Talking Tombstones” was a success this summer! The research by Cindy Badten and Ken Schoon shared some interesting facts about Munster’s honored residents.

One of the families I talked about at the Talking Tombstones Cemetery Walk was the well known Herman DeMik family. Herman built a home at 1006 Ridge Road, three doors west of today’s Center for Visual and Performing Arts. He and his wife raised eight children in this home. Two of their sons stand out as well known men who worked hard for the Town of Munster. Son Julie was born in 1908 in the home and at the age of ninety- five was the oldest living native born in Munster. He was also a fifty year member of the Munster Volunteer Fire Department. One other son named Jake took on many jobs for the Town. One of which was single handedly installing 375 water meters in Munster homes between 1938 and 1940. He too was a life long volunteer Munster Fireman. Jake died in 1964 but before his death he became a big fan of Schoop’s Hamburgers on Ridge Road. He was such a big fan that they named a hamburger after him. The Micky Burger. It is still on their menu in many of their locations. - Cindy Badten

2024 Board of Directors

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 Secretary - Andrea Miller
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 Director - Ken Schoon
 Director - Cindy Badten
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Member’s Spotlight -

Volunteers have been busy at the Museum this summer. So, how did a bison head end up at the Museum?



Find out who donated it and the story behind it in JoAnne Shafer’s “**Munster History Museum on the Move**” article. See below for some fascinating history of the museum evolution and the interesting stories behind some of the artifacts!

DEC 7 - OPEN HOUSE!

7

HOLIDAY
 OPEN HOUSE
 1-4 PM

JANUARY MEETING

22

MEMBERS INVITED!
 @ MUSEUM
 6PM

APRIL - WORK DAY

26

HERITAGE PARK
 WEED WRANGLE
 9-12 PM

President's Corner

by Carole Cornelison

Hello Everyone! It's been an eventful year!

This past month, we hosted two Munster High School History classes requested by History teacher Mr. Larry Dye. All attendees enjoyed a historical presentation and docent led tour of the museum and heritage park.



Mark Your calendars! Our annual Holiday Open House will be held on December 7th, 2024 from 1-4pm at the Munster History Museum. It's a complimentary event with treats, hot chocolate and marshmallows plus docent provided tours of the Historic 1910 Kaske House.

P.S. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there! See flyer below. If you are a MHS member and interested in helping out at the open house - please contact Carole at 219-836-6530.

Best regards,
Carole Cornelison

Munster Junior Historical Society - invites students to join!

The **Munster Junior Historical Society** (MJHS) is looking for dependable fifth-grade students in all Munster Schools, public or private, to become members of this organization - which was established in 2007.

This student organization is headed by its founder, Dr. Louise Chickie-Wolfe, a retired Munster teacher. Students should have an interest in our town's history, be willing to volunteer service to their community through organized service projects, and be trustworthy and hard workers. Students can participate in grades 5-8 after which they can join the MJHS High School Ambassador Leadership Program where experienced students help younger students and supervise service projects. The goals of the MJHS are to Preserve History, Provide Service, and Build Character. Also, ALL students from kindergarten through college are invited to join in the **DOC 200 Project**, (Demonstrating Outstanding Citizenship) created by Dr. Chickie-Wolfe. Students self-monitor their efforts at demonstrating 200 acts of good deeds as outlined in the DOC 200 curriculum, available at no cost to participants. Those who achieve this noteworthy goal receive an outstanding citizenship pin (kindergarten through grade 2), a medal and ribbon (grades 3-8), and a medal, ribbon and leadership pin (high school through college). The areas that the DOC 200 Project strengthens include Integrity, Acceptance of Others, Service, Patriotism and Leadership. Anyone interested in either joining the Munster Junior Historical Society or participating in the DOC 200 Outstanding Citizenship Project should contact Dr. Chickie-Wolfe at www.drchickiewolfe@munsterhistory.org or by calling 219-743-7466.

For more information - Like us on Facebook - Munster Historical Society
Become a member of the Munster Historical Society by sending in your membership form
found on our website - "About Us" / Membership Form.



Newsletter editor - Diane Kitchell @ kitchell@gmail.com

Munster Historical Society

Moving Forward to Preserve the Past

Our collectible cook book makes a great holiday gift - featuring Munster Historical Photos and great recipes.

Pick one up at the Holiday Open House!

All Munster Historical Society book sale proceeds are used to fund important history-related projects, activities, and community events.

Please note, we ship only to USPS addresses in the USA only. Shipping cost is for Media Mail. For expedited delivery at additional cost, please contact info@munsterhistory.org.



The Brass Tavern
Cookbook

\$20.00

PayPal
Click here to buy

The Brass Tavern Cookbook, Centennial Edition
Nostalgic Collection of Recipes
\$20.00 plus \$5.50 shipping & handling

Hardbound, Laminated Cover
Spine encased "lay-flat" coil
300 pages, approx. 400 recipes
12 dividers w/laminated tabs

Recipe Pocket

Includes:

Brass Tavern History
Brass Tavern Timeline
Munster Historical Photos

Munster Historical Society

Moving Forward to Preserve the Past

Native American Panel
held on September 11, 2024
Photo Recap V



Monarch Festival
held on September 8, 2024
Photo
Recap >



The South Suburban
Historical
Societies
Roundtable
Sept. 10 in
Thornton.
V



***Munster History Museum Free Holiday Event in
the 1910 Kaske House in Heritage Park***

Ridge Road and Columbia Ave

Saturday, December 7, 2024

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



***Bring a Camera to take a Free
Family Photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus
Dress for the weather and for walking around the park
Carolers are welcome!***

Wrapped treats will be available

***Free Parking at the Munster Schools' Administration Building south of
Ridge Road on the west side of Columbia Avenue (behind Bieker Woods).***

Heritage Park is just a short walk north on the east side of Columbia Avenue.

Handicapped Drop Off on driveway

Parking is strictly prohibited at Heritage Park during event hours.



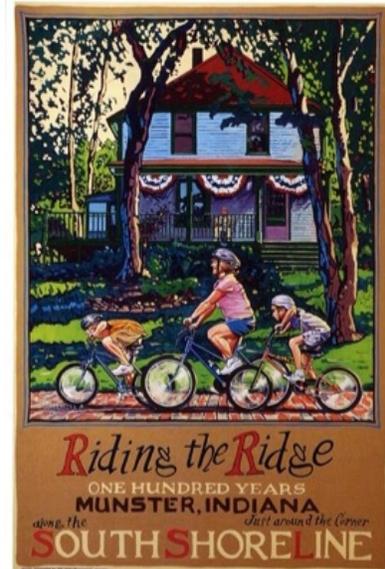
***Hosted by The Munster Historical Society in Cooperation with Munster Junior Historical
Society & Munster Parks***

Munster History Museum on the Move

Recognizing Our Generous Donors and Hard-Working Volunteers

By JoAnne Shafer

The Kaske House (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) was built in 1910 by the Kooy brothers for the Wilhelmina (Minnie) and Hugo Kaske family. Located on the site of the 1845 Brass Tavern and Inn, the Town of Munster bought the property from Helen Bieker in 1986. After Helen died in 1988, the Parks and Recreation Department renovated the house and barn. Munster Parks asked the Munster Historical Society (MHS) to turn the house into a museum. By 1995, Society members opened the museum, now called the Munster History Museum, with artifacts generously donated by the local community. In 2006, centennial celebration plans to honor the founding in 1907 of the Town of Munster renewed an interest in its history. The Munster Civic Foundation funded the Society's cookbook project: *"The Brass Tavern Cookbook"*. The Foundation also honored the historic 1910 Kaske House with a South Shore poster called *"Riding the Ridge"*. Many other citizens volunteered for a variety of centennial projects.



Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts volunteered Eagle Scout and Gold Award projects at Heritage Park and the Munster History Museum. Pictured left to right: Katie Palmer painted the blue shed barn red and developed a Girl Scout Trefoil Garden; Boy Scout Colin Henson built mulched

walking trails in the woodland; Jill Magsaysay constructed the original Girl Scout bridge; Melissa Rangel planned and set up a museum wildlife exhibit; Lindsey Kitchell designed and created artifact information signage throughout the museum; and Jessica Kitchell designed and constructed wildlife and plant outdoor informational signage.

Upon his move to a new medical office in 2007, Munster orthopedic surgeon Dr. Lorin Brown donated to the Society his beloved wildlife collection that had been displayed for many years in the showcase window of his original 45th Avenue medical office. His intention was to educate children about wildlife and give his young patients a distraction while awaiting treatment.



After the animals moved to the museum, Munster Mint Girl Scouts prepped and painted the walls and MHS purchased and hung the same “forest” wallpaper that served as Dr. Brown’s original backdrop. Melissa Rangel received the Girl Scout Gold award for designing, organizing, and setting up the museum’s wildlife exhibit that surprised and delighted visitors from 2007 to 2021.

Over the years, taxidermy-conservation of the animals became a concern. In 2021, with the permission of Dr. Lorin Brown, the wildlife exhibit was donated to the Wildlife Educational Exhibit of Northwest Indiana. There, the animals not only receive expert care and conservation by American Wildlife Resources in Griffith, but the exhibit travels all over Indiana and Illinois, accessible to museums, schools, churches, and various organizations upon request. Recently, with the permission of former Munster Town Councilman Joe Simonetto, his previously donated American Bison skull (pictured left) was also donated by MHS to the Wildlife Educational Exhibit of Northwest Indiana. In the early 1990s, Joe



Simonetto spent three days in South Dakota on the Lower Brule Indian Reservation “Still Hunting” (hunting on foot) with a Sioux guide. Although Joe encountered many, only a specific bison approved by his guide could be harvested according to his permit allowed by the predetermined herd management policy. On behalf of the Wildlife Educational Exhibit of Northwest Indiana, Timothy Ferguson received the bison skull at the Munster History Museum.

After losing its storage facility upon the Town’s demolition of the building behind Wonder Bread on Calumet Avenue, the Society had only two weeks to move seasonal and other stored items. Although the wildlife exhibit room was now empty, other rooms in the museum, the Society’s town hall office, and their half of Munster Park’s outdoor shed soon became overcrowded. Undeterred, MHS board members organized summer and fall markets to sell seasonal and other items donated specifically for



fundraising purposes. In 2022, using part of the money from sales of *“The Brass Tavern Cookbook”*, the Society contracted with Lowes to build a new shed (pictured on the left). With the permission of Munster Parks and Recreation, it was constructed at Heritage Park next to Munster Park’s original shed. Offering twice the storage space, the new shed also freed up space for

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Munster Park’s much-needed onsite storage. Shown on the right are both sheds decorated to welcome visitors to the Lake County Master Gardeners Garden Walk in 2023.





With the now empty wildlife room, the MHS Museum Committee decided to design a new room called the “*Munster Family Sitting Room*”. Volunteers removed wallpaper, washed walls, patched cracks, painted walls, and refinished hardwood flooring. The Munster family’s lace fabric was used to make window curtains.

A previously donated loveseat and chair set from Joann Munster Jelenik and recent Munster family furniture and artifact donations by Joyce Werkman (both are great-granddaughters of Jacob Munster) are priceless pieces of Munster

history. The new room, with portraits of the Munster family, a carpet donated by volunteers, and a room divider purchased by the Society, now depicts a nostalgic sitting room in the late 1800s/early 1900s. Volunteers were also able to renovate the adjacent room called the “*Library*” and its small bathroom.



Special thanks to September and Tom Alexander, Carole Cornelison, Beth Palmer, JoAnne Shafer, and Zachary Smith for their volunteer efforts during the shed building and reorganization project, wildlife exhibit transition, and the upstairs three-room museum renovation.

Donations from the Susan Driscoll Elder and Thomas A. Elder Fund continue to make these and other museum renovations possible. In 2024, volunteers washed and painted the remaining upstairs rooms and hallway, cleaned/polished flooring, decluttered, and redesigned the children's room pictured on the right. The master bedroom (pictured below) was more challenging due to the stubborn plaster damage on the wall above the dresser. The Society hired a skilled, local



painter recommended by Ken Schoon. Roy Vanden Molen successfully repaired the plaster and painted the master bedroom and stairwell. Over the winter, Roy will come back to repair peeling millwork trim; then he will repaint it. Special thanks to our volunteers September and Tom Alexander, Cindy Badten, Kelly Benoit, Carole Cornelison, Diane Kitchell, Andrea Miller, and Zachary Smith for renovating these two rooms and painting the hallway.

