



C o l u m n s

6495 Clarkston Road Clarkston, MI 48346 248.922.0270

News about the
Clarkston Community
Historical Society &
activities, exhibitions,
people & plans for
CCHS members.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Clarkston Community Historical Society has been created in order to bring together those people interested in the history of our community and area; and, as far as is possible, to collect and preserve such things that are of historic interest, and may collect, care for, and make these items available for scholars, students and the public to use in researching the history of our area.

BOARD MEMBERS

Jennifer Arkwright

President
248.922.3757

Debbie DeVault

Vice-President
248.625.0153

Jonathan Smith

Treasurer
248.625.8624

James Schultz

Secretary
248.625.3122

Laura Covintree

Grants
248.922.0406

Kim Huttenlocher

Education Co-Chairperson
248.625.2499

Ann Mizusawa

Education Co-Chairperson
248.625.1505

Glenida Olafson

248.394.1180

Lydia Strnad

Newsletter
248.922.0019

Toni Smith

Museum Director
248.625.8624

BOARD MEETINGS

are held the 4th Tuesday of each month from 7 until 9 PM at the *Heritage Museum* in the Independence Township Library.

From The President's Desk

Jennifer Arkwright

Please enjoy this newsletter cover to cover as it will detail all of the society's upcoming events. You will not want to miss the fall line up! Highlights include ...

... the Clarkston Heritage Museum's latest exhibit, **Clarkston Throws A Party; Friends, Fellowship & Function**. This display focuses on the many different ways that early Clarkston residents gathered — from parties to quilting bees. Included is a display tributing **Dick Morgan** and Clarkston parades... the 32nd **ART IN THE VILLAGE** on September 16th & 17th. There will be many *more* antique selections this year and *new* merchandise options along with almost 100 quality artists! **Ann Mizusawa** will be calling soon looking for society members to work a short shift in the cider tent, silent auction tent or merchandise tent. Consider gathering a group of friends, colleagues or neighbors to work a shift *all together*. Give Ann a call, 248-625-1505.

... **Historic Barns of Clarkston**, a barn tour, to be held October 22nd. We are very excited about this brand new event! Ten barns located in the city and the township will be featured on this self-guided tour. Each barn will be manned with knowledgeable docents and complemented with antique tractors and craftspeople at work.



... another benefit performance by the Clarkston Village Players. **A Talent for Murder** promises to be an entertaining and fun murder/comedy you won't want to miss. Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 11.

... a **Fashion Show Tea** to be held sometime after the first of the year. Look for details in your next newsletter about this event that will highlight gowns from yesteryear.

We still have a board member seat available or many one-time, short-term jobs that need filling if any of you are interested. Please give us a call! Thank you to our devoted board, museum director, members and volunteers who help fulfill the CCHS mission of preserving Clarkston's artifacts and educating the community about our rich history.

Back to School with CCHS

Now that the kids are back in school, if your youngster needs a class field trip or a scout troop outing, keep the Historical Society in mind. You can have a guided tour of our Heritage Museum exhibit or a hands-on history lesson. Both programs are age-appropriate and focus on what it was like to live in Clarkston 100 years ago. If you're interested, contact board members **Ann Mizusawa** or **Kim Huttenlocher**.

ART IN THE VILLAGE Is Still Number One!

Toni Smith

Once again it is time for our biggest event and main fund-raiser, **ART IN THE VILLAGE**. With September just around the corner, we have been busy planning and improving as best we can. We are thrilled to bring you as many new artists as possible, as well as the usual tasty foods and great entertainment.

We are especially excited about our Antique Tent Sale. We have acquired so many great items for the sale that we had to order a bigger tent!! This year you will find furniture of exceptional quality as well as a huge selection of smalls, beautiful glassware, quilts, paintings and lots more. We have been very fortunate and there have been several wonderful donations to this event throughout the past year. A special thanks to **Ann & Mike Misuzawa** who graciously allowed us to use their sturdy barn as a storage facility. It made all the difference.

Speaking of barns, we have a new merchandise item in connection with our first Barn Tour to be held this October (see related article). We have printed a beautiful full-color calendar of the ten wonderful Clarkston barns that will be included on the tour. Thanks to local photographer **Ken Lemieux**, the photos are exceptional and this high quality calendar will surely be a popular item this year. Be sure to stop by the CCHS Merchandise Tent to purchase one for yourself and all those "hard to buy" friends. Quantities are limited, so don't forget!!

Of course, none of this can be accomplished without YOUR HELP. We need volunteers for two hour shifts throughout the weekend. Please give our volunteer coordinator, **Ann Misuzawa** a call at (248) 625-1505. We positively guarantee that she will be very happy to hear from you... so make her day and volunteer. It is always a fun time for everyone, so please step forward and support the museum and society.

ART IN THE VILLAGE is Saturday, September 16 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Sunday, September 17 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Hope for great weather and we'll see you there!!



You're Invited To A Party...

Toni Smith

The Clarkston Heritage Museum is excited to announce the opening of our newest exhibit. **Clarkston Throws A Party; Friends, Fellowship & Function** is the thirteenth exhibit since the museum first opened in 1999. This display focuses on the many different ways that early Clarkston residents gathered; from social occasions such as birthday parties and engagement suppers to events with a function like a quilting bee or barn raising.

Included throughout this display are many articles taken from the Clarkston News in the late 1930s. They cover everything from a child's birthday party ("Little Tommy Bullen Is Five Years Old") to penny suppers held at the Methodist church and a popular "telephone night" in the high school.

For several years, the town opera house provided a variety of traveling entertainments. In the early 1900s it cost \$3.00 for a ticket to a series of 5 performances that included monologues, music and plays. Three of these tickets are on display.

Of course, any exhibit on social events in Clarkston would have to give a nod to all the many parades that have traveled up and down Main Street over the years. Longtime resident Dick Morgan had the distinction of being a Grand Marshall in the 4th of July parade not once, but twice. His role in Clarkston is celebrated with the addition of a new display case recently purchased for the Heritage Museum. The case was funded with memorial money provided by friends and family to honor the memory of Mr. Morgan who first opened his Cities Service gas station in 1932.

Clarkston Throws A Party; Fun, Fellow & Function is a wonderful exhibit that covers a wide array of parties and events. Artifacts on display range from a beautiful satin evening gown circa 1906 to a handmade quilt that once belonged to the Clark family whom Clarkston is named for. This is a fascinating look at over 100 years of special occasions, social gatherings and family parties, and you're invited! So stop by the Clarkston Heritage Museum and visit the exhibit; you don't even have to RSVP.

For professional photographs we highly recommend **Ken Lemieux Photography**

'Photographer of the 2007 Barn Tour Calendar'

H. 248 922-9880 C. 248 765-2904

KLemieux66@comcast.net

Museum Collection Comes From Unusual Sources

Toni Smith

We have had some exciting items come into the Museum in the last few months. I find it really amazing how we acquire items from such different sources, from the world of high-tech internet to the bottom of Parke Lake; they have each yielded up a treasure.

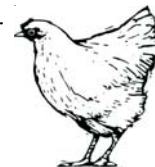
Let's start with the muddy bottom of Parke Lake. In years past, local businessman Burt Fangle spent many hours scuba diving and exploring in the lake. At one time, he found what seemed to be a real cache of old bottles. It's anyone's guess how they ended up there, most likely just a dump site. Burt recently donated some of the more interesting bottles to the museum and there is a real variety here. Included is a *Kling Beer* Bottle, this Detroit company went out of business in 1919. There is also a wonderful perfume bottle that dates to 1903, as well as a small bottle marked "Holy Water" that still has its lead stopper. I find this especially interesting since Clarkston did not have a very large Catholic community at the time. Each bottle certainly tells its own story, straight from the murky depths of our local lake.

Another great item has come to us via the internet. Although we have purchased many postcards, etc. on eBay, this was truly a *rare* find. A handwritten letter, signed, dated and sealed with wax (the seal was broken of course) written by *Nelson Clark*, one of the two brothers who are credited with the original founding of Clarkston. The letter is dated 1843 and is written to his brother in New York. He writes about a family land deal, as well as the prospective crop return for that fall season. I believe that the reason this letter was saved and collected was that it was sent using "free franking" privileges. From 1842 through 1846, Nelson Clark was the town postmaster, and one of the "perks" to this job was the ability to write "free" and sign his name in the corner, this way he did not have to pay the postage. These letters are valued by stamp collectors and this is likely why it was preserved. For us, it is an incredible find to have a letter written by one of Clarkston's first pioneers and we are thrilled to own it.

It took a little detective work to acquire the next item. While looking through a 1937 Clarkston Newspaper, I happened to see a small reference to an article on the Clarkston bank robbery of 1932. The article was to appear in the magazine "*Real Detective*" and sounded intriguing. I searched the internet and found a book dealer who had a copy for sale. What a great find! The article is **10 pages** long and full of photos, including pictures of the "poor" mother and moll (girlfriend) of the lead gangster. It is full of details and a real resource for us. The book dealer said it was unusual that it had survived, since most magazines were "reused" for other things during the depression years.

My final item of interest is in the museum on a long term loan. It comes from the living estate of Clarkston resident *Virginia Walter* and boy is it heavy! I am referring to the large combination safe that once resided in the general store of Frank Walter, Virginia's father-in-law. The safe stands about 3 feet tall and is made of cast iron several inches thick. It has the Walter name painted on it in gold as well as a pastoral scene on the outside and a full view of the safe company on the inside. Forget the motion sensors and alarms; no one could get past this safe without a large quantity of dynamite!!

All of these items have now become a part of our museum collection and it continues to grow every month. Don't forget that the funding to purchase these items comes directly from our Antique Sale during Art In The Village, so please give us your support. If you have something to donate, that's great. If not, stop by the Antique Tent and make a purchase... we'll see you there.



If it's old and dusty we'll take it!!

Toni Smith

We need your donations in order to make our Antique Tent Sale just as successful as it has been in the past two years. We have set aside 3 different times for you to drop off your items. Please understand that your donated item is to sell and should NOT be a Clarkston artifact (*we'll take those for the museum anytime!*). And remember, CCHS is a 501 C-3 nonprofit organization, so your donation should be eligible as a tax write-off. We will be accepting donations during the days/times below, please mark your calendar!

- Wednesday, September 6 from 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm at the Heritage Museum office located in the Independence Township Library **and**
- Thursday, September 14 from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm at the City of the Village of Clarkston DPW garage on Depot Road (CCHS members will be there to accept your donation) **and**
- Friday, September 15 from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 pm, again at the DPW garage on Depot Road.

This is a great opportunity for you to clear out some of those antiques/collectibles that are no longer used in your home (or perhaps your mother's home or even her mother's home!). All the money raised in this sale tent will go into our budget for purchasing Clarkston artifacts and supporting the Heritage Museum. If you have any questions, or would like to arrange a drop-off on another day, please call the CCHS office at (248) 922-0270. We look forward to hearing from you!

Official Vengeance!!

Toni Smith

Excerpts from Real Detective Magazine, March, 1937. Originally written by Sergeant J. H. Curran of Pontiac, Michigan.

“The Clarkston Bank robbery! How well I remembered it”. The bank had been robbed on a Saturday night, July 16, 1932, while the little village of Clarkston was thronged with farmers and their families. Two youths had stuck up David Taggerdine, president; George King, cashier; Ray Ainsley, assistant cashier; Miss Isabelle King, a teller and four customers.

They were herded into a rear room by one bandit, while his companion leaped the grating and piled about \$5,000 in cash into a small satchel. Then they had run out to a coupe parked at the front door.”

The article goes on to describe the many long hours of detective work that went in to the case. Then the local bankers went to the police with a tip on the robber’s location. Following is the account of one of the officers of the shoot out that later occurred.

“We pulled up. A couple of fellows were chopping wood. One of the bankers yelled “that’s them”. A young chap – that was Ben Dillion – streaked towards the kitchen door. The other was his brother Scott – he lit out for the woodshed over yonder.

Police officers Greenan and Tedder were out of the car and fired as they ran, but their shots were wild. Ben leaped onto the steps and disappeared into the kitchen with Greenan on his tail and Teddder right behind.

That house seemed to wobble a second after Ben got inside, he must have grabbed a pump gun in the bedroom. The bark of shots rumbled out of the door and roared away in the distance. It was hellish.

Just then, officer Greenan ran out the door and jumped to the ground. I could see that his right hand was red with gore. It would have made an ordinary man give up, but he jumped to the window and raised his rod in his left hand. There was a deafening explosion, and the gun flew from his fingers in a blast of red fire. We ran up and carried him to the car. We told the bankers to drive like Hades to the hospital. They were only too glad for a chance to get out of that yard, I guess. Hubbell and I turned back to the house, we had heard another blast from that gun inside.”



The story goes on to tell how the remaining policemen head into the house to find out the fate of their partner and the last of the robbers. They find officer Tedder laying face down on the floor, two guns near his outstretched hands. Then they cautiously approach the bedroom where the robber is. Here is the description of what they find.

“Ben Dillion was slouched on the floor against his bed, his face torn away, a pump gun at his side. He had shot himself accidentally while reloading the gun for another shot at us. Every shell in Tedders gun was spent.

The dirty curs, Latchaw growled, his fists clenching and unclenching. We knew now how Tedder had met his death, and how the bandit got his. We went on into the house, looked the scene over. Blood seemed everywhere. The wall was littered with bullet holes.”

The story goes on and follows the detectives while they trail the second suspect in the robbery. He gives up without a fight. They also arrest the mother, brother and girlfriend of Ben Dillion, the dead bandit. The second suspect is convicted, while the brother and mother of Ben Dillion are set free. Ben’s girlfriend is deported back to Canada.

If you are interested in reading all nine pages of this story, contact the CCHS office and ask for a copy. It is a fascinating article and sounds just like a Dick Tracy novel!

BORN IN A BARN

A Clarkston Barn Tour



Jennifer Arkwright

CCHS is extremely excited to present a brand new program this fall, **Born in a Barn!** A *Clarkston Barn Tour*. This self-guided barn tour will be held Sunday, October 22nd from 12:30-5 p.m. and will feature ten barns located in the city and the township. Each barn will be manned with knowledgeable docents and complemented with antique tractors and craftspeople at work. Complementary refreshments will also be available along the route.



Allen Road

Photograph by Ken Lemieux

The ten barns featured on the tour include the Frayer barn (Main St.), the Mizusawa barn (Holcomb St.), the Miller barn (Bridge Lake Rd.), the Moulthrop barn (Holcomb Rd.), the Knapper, Schleusener, McGowan/Hamilton, Smith and Bond barns (all Allen Rd. locations) and the Simpson barn (Reese Rd.).

Tickets are \$10 for adults and children 5 and under are free. You can purchase tickets by calling the CCHS office, 248-922-0270, or, at the *Clarkston Country Store* or the *Clarkston Chamber of Commerce*. Tickets can also be purchased the day of the event up until 3 p.m. Patrons will meet at the Washington and Main St. parking lot to receive their detailed tour program and map between 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Many thanks to these owners for allowing the community to learn about the history of their barns and farms! We think this will be a wonderful way to spend a Sunday fall afternoon! We hope you agree!



Bridge Lake Road

Photograph by Ken Lemieux



October 22, 2006 ⌘ 12:30 TO 5 PM
 \$10 PER PERSON 5 AND UNDER FREE



THE CLARKSTON VILLAGE PLAYERS presents

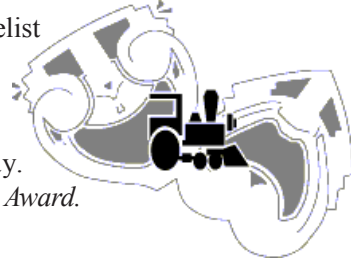
A Talent for Murder



By Jerome Chodorov & Norman Panama

An aging internationally successful mystery novelist discovers her relatives wouldn't mind killing her to get their hands on her art collection. The result is intrigue, suspense, drama and murder with a healthy dose of laughter along the way.

Mystery lovers will enjoy this *Winner of the Edgar Award*.



Thursday, January 11, 2007 ♦ 7 PM ♦ \$18 per ticket ♦ Depot Theater
Includes Wine/Beer/Refreshments and Hors d' Oeuvres
Hors d' Oeuvres at 7 PM ♦ Curtain at 7:30 PM

Call the CCHS office for tickets and info (248) 922-0270

CLARKSTON
COMMUNITY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

& HERITAGE
MUSEUM



DATES TO REMEMBER

ART IN THE VILLAGE September 16 & 17

Clarkston Barn Tour October 22

A Talent for Murder January 11, 2007

Fashion Show Tea 2007

