

Society Acquires Baldo's Shoe Shop!

Many of us can remember those distinctive smells of leather, glue and shoe polish that hit you as walked into Mr. Baldo's Shoe Shop.

We are fortunate that Mr. Baldo's shop is still intact with all of the equipment just as he left it years ago. The current owners of the shop, the Aversa's wish to use the building and have approached the Historical Society and asked if we would be interested in the contents. The Board jumped at the opportunity to acquire this local landmark.

Plans are in the works to move the contents into storage for now. Discussions are underway to decide what type of building we need to house the Shoe Shop for display. There are several men in the area who know how to use the equipment and in the future, there may be demonstrations of the almost lost art of shoe repair.

Genealogy Club Notes-

The last two meetings of the Genealogy Club have been well attended with over 20 people at each meeting.

Guest speaker in February was Cameron County Prothonotary, Dave Reed. Dave gave an excellent talk about the historic records available from his office. His information has helped several people find out some important information on their families and has helped solve some riddles perplexing some researchers.

The speaker for the March meeting was our own Genealogist, Sandra Hornung. Sandra brought in some 1869 Emporium Independent newspapers that everyone enjoyed looking at and shared some of her experiences in doing research. She had some interesting stories of unexplainable coincidences in her research.

There is no charge for Club other than being a member of the Society. The idea of the Club is to help people research their genealogy in Cameron County. The Club maintains a website with meeting notes and researcher lists. At this writing the Club website will be moving to the new Museum website and details are not finalized. You can reach the Club website, where ever it is, from the Cameron County Genealogy Project Website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~pacamero>. There are now some 460 pages of Cameron County information on the Project Website.

Museum to Open Memorial Day Weekend

The Little Museum will officially open on Saturday May 29th and will be open both Saturday and Sunday that weekend from 1- 4. The Board is looking into additional hours for the Museum to be open and that will depend on the response from the Membership and the availability of people to volunteer a few hours this summer.

There are plans for a volunteer orientation with some training on how to talk about some of the items on display. There are also plans for write-ups on key items that can be handed out to the visitors.

With the volume of people expected to visit this year, the Board feels that volunteering this season will be a rewarding experience for those who wish to participate. Details will be discussed at the General Meeting.

If you already know that you wish to participate, please contact Marilyn Brown at 814-486-0567.

Available At The Library!

Emporium in 1940!

A one hour tour of Emporium Filmed in 1940! See yourself, your parents and/or Grandparents as they are seen around town coming out of schools, churches or Sylvania. Check out the latest fashions, the new cars, and what's on sale at the local merchants. See what life was like in a CCC Camp and much more!!

DVD or VHS **\$19.95** DVD or VHS

Includes a free pass to the Little Museum and a one year membership to the Cameron County Historical Society!

Also available by mail. Checks made out to the Cameron County Historical Society can be sent to Mike Wennin; 30 Wennin Road, Emporium, PA 15834. Add \$3.85 for Priority Mail or \$2.75 for Regular Mail. Specify VHS or DVD.

The Voice!

Cameron County Historical Society, Inc.

Serving Cameron County Since 1921

Spring 2004

1940 Video A Huge Hit!

Last summer, while cleaning out one of the store rooms at the Little Museum, the 1940 tour of Emporium film was rediscovered. The original film had been transferred to video by the Society in 1989. It was proposed to the Board of Directors to reproduce the video and make it available to the Community. A company was found to reproduce the video in VHS and DVD formats. An order was placed and word was sent out to a couple of select groups who lined up for them. The first shipment was gone in two weeks. A second batch was ordered and over half of them were claimed before they even arrived. That batch only lasted a week! The third batch was ordered and most of it is gone as well. Another order will be placed and they will be available at the General Meeting and the Spring Dinner. They are also available at the Library.

General Meeting - March 25

Society President John Kautz has called for a General Meeting of the Historical Society. The meeting will be held Thursday evening, on March 25th at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in our historic County Court House in the main court room.

The purpose of the meeting is many fold. The main thing will be to let you know what the Board has been up to for the past few months; what ideas the Board is working on; to listen to any ideas you have for growing and promoting the Historical Society and the Little Museum; and to identify those of you who wish to participate in what is happening. The Board will need your help in carrying out many of the plans they have been working on. They trust that many of you will want to participate. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Everyone Invite One!

It has been proven that there is a great interest from both the local Community and from outside the Community in the history of Cameron County. The Cameron County Genealogy Project on the Internet has been visited some 47,000 times since 2000! That is over 1100 visits a month by people who are looking for information about Cameron County. Interest will become more evident as we promote The Little Museum this year and visitors are attracted in numbers not seen since it opened 33 years ago. We will need more members to facilitate the interest that will be generated. You can help by inviting just one person to join the Society, collect their dues and send them in to Suzie Murray. IF everyone does this when they receive this newsletter, we will have over 400 members by the end of the month! Share the excitement with someone today!

Society Adopts Genealogy Club

Back in November the Board voted to "adopt" the Cameron County Genealogy Club at the request of the Club membership. As of January 1, the Club is now a part of the Historical Society. The Board named Club Co-founder Mike Wennin as Club Director.

The Club voted at it's January meeting to be called The Genealogy Club of the Cameron County Historical Society. It meets the first Saturday of each month at the Library. This move will bring about 70 new members to the Society. Many of those are reflected in the 90 new members reported elsewhere.

The March speaker was County Genealogist, Sandra Hornung. She brought a number of 1869 Emporium Independent Newspapers and shared many of her stories about her almost twenty years of doing genealogy research. Everyone enjoyed her presentation.

The April meeting will be held on Saturday, April 3rd, at 1 PM at the Library. Guest speaker will be Glenn Gutsell, who will share a collection of newspapers that he has.

You are invited to come check out this new feature of the Society!

New Museum Website!
<http://www.thelittlemuseum.org>

Notes from the Editor

As you may have read in the local papers, your Board of Directors has been meeting monthly, making plans and carrying out ideas to promote and grow the Historical Society. A lot has happened since the Fall dinner meeting!

In November, the Board voted to reproduce the 1940 tour of Emporium video and interest has surpassed expectations. The first two shipments were gone with in a week or two of their arrival and the last shipment is 2/3's gone.

As of January 1st, the Cameron County Genealogy Club became the Genealogy Club of the Cameron County Historical Society and participation at the monthly meetings is growing.

More than ninety new members have been added to the roster and we have not yet started our membership drive! Our goal is 500 members for the 2004 season. We are now at 225 members with more coming in every week.

The Museum brochure has been professionally redone and has been printed in color. This tool will be used to promote the Museum in the surrounding area. A goal of 1000 visitors for the 2004 season has been set. Board Members already hosted fifteen visiting IU9 Band Directors at the Museum on March 8th, beginning working towards that goal!

The Museum will soon have a website! This is another tool we are using to help promote the Museum. There will also be a new display case at the Court House with a revolving display from the Museum.

By the time of the general meeting, we hope to have the contents of Baldo's Shoe Shop in our possession. There are plans in the works to provide an out building to display the contents. We have also received several new donations to the Museum collection.

We have been approached by the American Legion to help put on a community celebration of our WWII veterans and their sacrifices to assure our Freedom during that fateful time in our history. The event is to coincide with the dedication of the WWII Memorial in Washington.

We have also been approached by the MSN Cameron County Internet group who wish to have their annual Community Day on the Museum grounds this summer. Last year they had 45 people and this year they expect 100. There are plans to involve the Boy Scouts in providing food and use the Sterling Run Park/Playground.

The organizers of the Annual Bucktail Memorial Service have asked for our participation and we are looking forward to being involved with any 200th Anniversary celebration in Driftwood this summer.

We have been doing our best to keep the Historical Society in the forefront of people's minds. There have been many articles in the local papers and announcements on Channel 9. You may have also seen our historical trivia on TV.

We are excited! Can you tell?

The upcoming general meeting will facilitate several goals - communicating new ideas, listening for your ideas and identifying those of you who want to participate in the upcoming excitement. This will be an important meeting and we would like the input of everyone who can attend. There is a lot going on! Don't miss out! Looking forward to seeing you there!

Come Visit Your Heritage! We Saved It For You!

The Voice!

Cameron County Historical Society

*Published by the Cameron County
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Cameron County since 1921*

To be issued quarterly. The members of the Society receive subscriptions as part of their membership (one issue per household). Membership to the Society is \$5.00 per year and may be sent to Suzie Murray at 311 Howard Circle, Emporium, PA 15834.

Officers

President	John Kautz
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Mike Wennin and others yet to
step forward - 814-486-6355

Ira Collin's Royally Rugged
Cameron County are available
at the Library for \$10!

The Gift of History

What History Organizations Give Us

History organizations help preserve and tell the stories of the past. All accounts of the past, all history derive from memory and from the traditions, documents, images, artifacts, buildings, monuments, landscapes, and ruins that have survived. Since memory is fallible, and because all things eventually perish, preserving these traces of the past is vital to our ability to enjoy history's gifts.

History institutions, in partnership with their communities, are leaders in preserving, researching, and interpreting these traces of the past. By helping to save and keep history's sources, and by joining with others to study the evidence and engagingly tell history's stories, history institutions connect the people, thoughts, and events of yesterday with the active memories and abiding concerns of people and communities today, and with the broad sweep of national and, indeed, world history.

By preserving and presenting the evidence of the past, and by actively connecting past, present, and future through public programming, history organizations pass *The Gift of History* on to future generations. They guarantee that each generation can search for its own answers, and forge its own meanings.

Finally, by preserving, presenting, and actively connecting people and communities with the past, history organizations make the communities in which they are located more attractive places in which to live, work, and visit. And they are themselves travel destinations, employers, purchasers of goods and services, and recipients of gifts and grants. Sometimes on a small scale,

sometimes with much greater impact, history organizations are economic engines in their towns, cities, and regions.

History organizations, in these ways, make the gift of history a living presence in the lives of Americans and American communities. They expand our understanding of who we are and what, in our diversity, we may become. And they add to the economic well being of America's communities.

Exemplary Practices of History Organizations

There is strong evidence that Americans' engagement with the past, particularly at the personal and family levels, is tenacious and lively, and that America's history organizations are highly regarded partners in that engagement.

Educators, curators, librarians, volunteers, and others who have regular contact with the public can relate countless stories of how their history organizations have connected individuals and groups of almost every description with the past. This ongoing success story, in fact, has been one of the great unrecorded events of American life. Until recently, that is.

In 1999, Roy Rosenzweig and David Thelen published *The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life*. In it, they report the good news that the great majority of their large sample of Americans engage regularly in activities that connect them with the past. They attend family reunions, take photographs and videos to preserve memory, read books, watch movies and television programs about the past, practice hobbies, and work on collections dealing with the past. And they visit museums and historic sites (57% did so in the year

preceding the survey).

The authors asked the people surveyed when they feel most connected with the Past. After gathering with their families, they cited visits to museums and historic sites as the situation that makes them feel most in touch with history. And when asked which sources of their knowledge of the past they most trusted, they put museums and historic sites first ahead of grandparents, eyewitnesses, college professors, and far ahead of high school teachers, history books, movies and television programs.

What is it about history organizations that has earned them this credibility and impact with Americans? It has to do, the two scholars report, with the sense visitors to museums and historic sites have that they are able to come into direct contact with the past through the objects, the traces of the past, these institutions have in their collections.

There the objects are. In period settings, on the wall, in display cases. They were part of the lives of people now gone. But they have been handed down to us. Now they are ours to look at, to reflect upon, and to draw our own conclusions from. The artifacts have been selected and interpreted by the museum. Americans know that. But they believe that the research done by museums is as unbiased as any source they know of. This is how Americans actually talk about and judge the history organizations they know.

Along with this immediacy, those surveyed also said that their visit to museums and historic sites produced, for the group they were visiting with, a feeling of intimacy and meaningfulness very much like a family gathering.