Merrillville/Ross Twp. Historical Society
2019 Newsletter

www.merrillvillehistory.org

Preserving history for Merrillville and all of Ross Township

Join us in 2019! – Help make history!

2019 Meeting Schedule – Each date is a Sunday – Meetings begin at 1pm at the museum (13 W. 73rd Ave.) – Refreshments & Entertainment follow

March 10, 2019 – Business Meeting, Video – Post WWI America
April 7, 2019 – Business Meeting, Clean-up for opening day (Apr. 28)
May 5, 2019 – Business Meeting, Plan for Summer activities
June 2, 2019 – Annual Car Show, Please join us
July 7, 2019 – Business Meeting, Video – Henry Ford puts America on the road
August 4, 2019 – Business Meeting, Video – 1929 America
October 6, 2019 – Business Meeting, Election of Officers; Video – 1969

Inside this issue:

Up Coming Events	2
2018 Exhibits	3
News & Notes	4

Left: The 'One Shot' display presented the WW2 photography of NW Indiana native John Bushemi
Right: 'The Great War' display illustrated America a century ago during the WWI era (1917-1918)

Three wonderful displays from the Indiana State Historical Society visited us in 2018! Historical Society member Liz Bushemi never met her famous Uncle John. Tragically, he died doing his job as an Army photographer during WWII, long before Liz was born. WWI was to be 'the war that ends all wars', but, of course, it didn't work out that way. The third of the three special displays is illustrated on the next page. We are open by appointment year round and from April to October we are open on Sundays from 2pm to 4pm. Come and visit us!

HELP US PRESERVE HISTORY

PRESIDENT
Roy O. Foreman

VICE PRESIDENT
Martha Foreman

SECRETARY
Kathy Mitchell

TREASURER
Rosalie Pfister

SPECIAL EVENTS
Alice Smedstad

CHIEF GREETER
Ed Boer

The Merrillville/Ross Twp. Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization founded on July 1, 1967.

EMAIL:
merrillvillehistory.org

ADDRESS:
13 W. 73rd Ave., Merrillville, IN 46410

PHONE:
219-756-2042

MEEMBERSHIP DUES:
Individual - $10/yr
Couple/Family - $15/yr

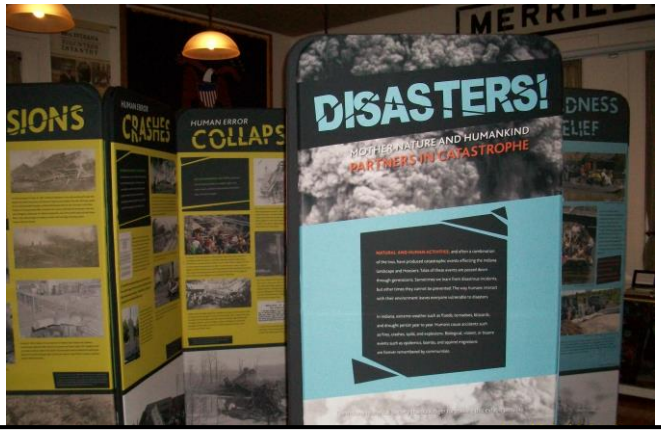
Your support as a member helps us continue! Please contact us if you would like to be a member. Thank you!

Have an item or photograph that you would like to donate? Please contact us!

LINCOLN L HIGHWAY

Our Plans for 2019

The 2018 Car Show was again a success. Please join us for the 2019 show on **June 2nd** at the museum from 1pm to 4pm. Do you have a show car? Please bring it out! There is no charge and refreshments are served.



The Indiana State Historical Society has many interesting traveling exhibits. Every year we try to line up these mobile displays with themes that we think would interest citizens of Merrillville and surrounding areas. These traveling exhibits are typically available June, July, and August.

After WWI ended America went through some dramatic changes and difficulties. From the final round of a worldwide flu epidemic to prohibition to Stock Market boom and bust. Our parents and grandparents endured these times.

While negotiating the end of World War I with other world leaders at the Versailles Peace Conference in April 1919, President Wilson collapsed. Some historians speculate he was weak from flu.

2018 Exhibits

Now gone, we all have fond memories of the Star Plaza Theater. For 40 years it was the place to go for major entertainment and graduation ceremonies. We are pleased to display many artifacts from that great venue.

The 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI was celebrated throughout 2018 by the Merrillville/Ross Twp. Historical Society.

WWII Veteran Ed Boer discusses WWI photos with member David Unger.

Ready for class? Our 2nd floor classroom is dedicated to teacher Bonnie Kaiser and celebrates Merrillville/Ross Twp. Schools with numerous artifacts and photos.

We mourn the loss of members Jim Flora and Wanita Beier. Jim grew up in Merrillville and his family donated the land on 73rd Avenue for the Veterans Memorial. Wanita was a long time member of the Historical Society and was a joy to visit with.

Left: Another Merrillville landmark has succumbed to age. The cost of refurbishing the Old Mill was just too much for the town to justify and, budget wise, the Historical Society is even more limited. The building dated from 1851 and was used for many different purposes through the years.

A large part of every community is its churches. Merrillville is no exception. Our Faith Room contains artifacts and mementos from numerous area churches. Shown here are items from the original Methodist Church on 73rd Avenue. The building is now used by the Merrillville Fire Department.

Left: Alice Smedstad, our special events coordinator, shows off a 1926 Merrillville High School yearbook.

Right: Our C&O Railway station collection is growing. Along with the original stove and signage, we now have original station chairs in the collection.