

PORT CLINTON AREA HERITAGE SOCIETY
June, 1997

Dear Members,

As I worked in the yard this spring filling the fountain with flowers and adding bulbs to the front of the building, I thought of how much I appreciate the gifts and labors of so many people - those who donated the boulders set in front of the building, the gift of the fountain and of the men who refurbished it, put it together, poured the base and set it up, to the alumni of Port Clinton High School who donated the flagpole and first flag, to the board members who gave so much time and effort to buy Museum building and helped Elizabeth Denney through two moves of the entire collection, and to the hundreds of people who donated artifacts and funds to establish and support the Ottawa County Historical Museum over the last 66 years. These feelings were reinforced as Snip Snider walked off down the street after the May board meeting carrying the flagpole to Lock and Jane Zeis' house where Lock and Jane cleaned and repainted it. I especially want to thank Jane, Lock, Snip, and the rest of the board members, Jim Rusincovitch (president), Sharon Snider (treasurer), Natalie Bredbeck and Gary Greunke for sharing their time, talents and support so tirelessly.

Major contributions during the past year have been the Fred Grimm Camera Collection, which has been set up on shelves in what was the Maintenance Room, and a zerox machine donated by Attorney Lowell Petersen. Plat Record Book 1 (1860-1873) and Book 3 (1888-1901) and Port Clinton Original Deed Book Vol. 1 Lakeview, were donated by the Ottawa County Recorder's Office.

The landscaping at the entrance to the Museum became a major embarrassment, impossible to keep weeded, and was pulled out. We will concentrate on the Ottawa County boulders already located there and any others we can accumulate. They have a history and beauty of their own, and are relatively care-free. As soon as the weather turns hot and dry the doors will be sanded and repainted and have new hardware put on.

The IBM electric typewriter in the office quit completely and has been replaced by the board. They are looking into a replacement of the computer printer since the present one does not print well enough to make copies.

Current projects under way are the listing and gathering of records of all the churches in the county, and listing and locations of all early Ottawa County schools including locating them on the map and photographing all those still standing.

Copying pictures of early Ottawa County buildings has been our biggest expense this year. The photography has been donated by Martha Grindstaff, but the film and developing mount up. We feel this is a very important item in holding onto the history of the County. The first memorial dedicated to this project is that given by the Port Clinton High School Class of 1949 in memory of classmate Jewel Kubasek.

The Museum collection has been in great demand by the TV reporters and newspaper reporters when the high water and the Matthews Company fire put the area at the forefront. The inclement weather has put a real damper on the vacation industry and cut back on our volume of visitors. We would really like to

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see some of our members and other local people. We work hard to up-date the collection and displays. We often hear, "You're never open when I come by." We'd like to be open all the time, but it is not financially possible. We are open Monday through Friday from 1:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. For those who cannot come in at those times, we offer special visits if you will contact us. We are also happy to have groups come to the museum or we will come out to meetings to tell about this very special county of ours.

We would also welcome volunteers, especially from our membership. This is quite a valuable collection, and we have to be sure of those to whom it is entrusted. A volunteer can choose work in the Museum that appeals to them, or simply be here to greet visitors.

Finally, thanks to all of you who make this museum possible. Preservation of the Past is indeed a Gift to the Future. We could not keep the Museum open without you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bailey, Curator

Clarabelle Bothe, Assistant

PS THE HERITAGE OF PORT CLINTON, OHIO is still available at the Museum or at the Riverside Book Store for \$15.00. It has almost earned enough for the Museum to hire the architect for the addition to our building so desperately needed!