

## We're Looking for:

Cat's Meow buildings of the county

Lectern or Podium

Anything Erie Gardens

Local or national political campaign buttons, bumper stickers, flyers, signs, etc.

Book—Lonz of Middle Bass Island by Henry M. Barr and Michael Gora

Always need for photos to scan

# OTTAWA COUNTY MUSEUM

126 W. Third St., Port Clinton, OH 43452 419-732-2237 ochm@cros.net

Labor Day until Memorial Day, Open Wed. Noon to 3 pm;

Summer Tues/Wed/Thurs, Noon to 3pm; anytime by appt. (Call Peggy at 419-732-1039)

## NEWSLETTER

## WINTER (January) 2012



Fremont Road/Erie Gardens circa 1942

Recent activities to improve the West End of Port Clinton brought back many memories of living in Erie Gardens. My parents bought the house at 703/707 Bataan Lane in the mid-1950s. During the summer before we moved in, my mother sanded the wood floors, painted the plywood walls, and put up that sticky Contact paper in the bathroom.

We lived in the larger part of the long duplex and expanded into the small part (called "the other end") when the renters moved out. As a result, we had a pretty large house—four bedrooms and two bathrooms, one for the "boys" and one for the "girls," plus a family room.

It was always cold in that uninsulated house, and my father used to roll me up in a blanket to keep warm at night. Also to keep warm, we kids sat on the living room floor register and charred many a blanket before our parents smelled the burning wool and chased us off. With four back yards grouped together, we had large play areas, and I used to lead little parades on our dead end street. My brother and I had a paper route through the neighborhood, and I remember composing poetry in my head for a school assignment while delivering papers in the snow! We used to sit on the weedy lawn (no fertilizing!) to make clover flower bracelets; my brother satisfied any pyromaniac urges by burning the trash in the old oil drum near the street.

I never felt the least bit unsafe in any part of Erie Gardens, even though it has never had the best reputation. Most of us did not have a lot of money, and whenever we asked why we had to live in Erie Gardens, our parents simply said they couldn't afford a new house AND college educations for four children. Elbert Gill told me that at one time, he and all the other PC city councilmen had earlier lived in Erie Gardens.

The museum has a plaque from the original dedication of Erie Gardens as public housing, but only one photo of the houses. If you have photos of life in "the Gardens," we would love to scan them so that we can document how the neighborhood looked over the years. The Historical Society is also looking for stories of living there, and with my personal experience, I find anything about Erie Gardens fascinating. Call me!

*Happy New Year!*

*Peggy Debien*

### Memorials

Lois Svehla in memory of Joann Englebeck

Mrs. Richard Bell (Denise) in memory of Richard Bell

Mr. & Mrs. Lockwood Zeis in memory of Jan Meyer Huston, Earl Holz, Ron Tewers, Andy Zekany, Elva Fritz, Jim Baker, Paul Riehl, Fred Kollman, Robert (Bob) Gilleland, Kelly Hymore, Ken McAtee

Joyce E. Murphy in memory of Rae Ellen Dale, Ruth Meier, Fred Kollman, Anna Rose Larson, Louis Ken McAtee

### Thank You!

- Port Clinton Women's Club for donating half of the proceeds from their annual home tour.
- QuikStir Team for making custom cradles for our Matthews boat and a rib from Commodore Perry's flagship.
- Neidecker, LeVeck & Crosser for loan of tables/chairs, and for moving items to storage.
- Tom Oberle of Seaway Services for storing museum artifacts.
- Cathy Allen of Creative Option C, LLC, for wrapping gifts for the 2011 holiday season and donating the money she collected.

### OUR BOARD MEMBERS:

President Jim Rusincovitch

Secretary Dianne Rozak

Treasurer Janie Zeis

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Natalie Bredbeck

Susan Hany

T. Park McRitchie

Tom Priesman

Lock Zeis

**We need you! Please renew your membership or join up!**

**Application inside. Thank you!**

**FLASH!** Volume V of Historical Society's oral histories, The People of Ottawa County, now available for \$15 in the museum; libraries in PC, Elmore and Genoa; Oak Harbor Hardware and Community Market; Ex Libris; and Green's Pharmacy.

