



Dubois County Museum News



Volume 11, Issue 1

January 2024

Present Logo was introduced at the 20th Anniversary.

Designed by Courtney (Knies) Foster, formerly of Celestine.

25
YEARS
Anniversary



Celebrating Our 25th Year!

In 2024 the Dubois County Museum will celebrate its 25th year.

Let us take a look back at our history with an article written for our 20th Anniversary.

"Can it possibly be over twenty years ago that an enthusiastic group of people from the county gathered and wished for a place to display items from the rich past of Dubois County? An idea was expressed and by July 9, 1997 this group, made up of people from the Dubois County Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and Dubois County Historical Society, got the idea for a county museum off the ground. As an appetizer of things to come, they offered to the public a rich display of WW II Military "Militaria" Memorabilia collected by avid and extensive collector Marty Vaught at Trinity Church of Christ parish hall.

Then, they met each month, established a Planning Committee, formed a Mission Statement, by-laws, tax ex-

empt and not-for-profit status, and what we know today as Dubois County Museum, Inc. was established.

A call went out for county residents to support the museum by purchasing a Charter Membership. By January 1999 about 320 Members had purchased a membership for \$10 a person, or \$20 a couple. A Board of Directors was elected and the first Membership Dinner was held on March 11, 1999. The fifteen members of the Board of Directors were Hugo C. Songer, President, Mary Ann Hayes, Vice President, Darla Blazey, Secretary, Lowell Glendening, Treasurer, Dennis Heeke, Melvin Meyer, Joyce Jackle, John Fierst, Fred Hollinden, Janet Kluemper, Tom Kellams, Ida Joe Temple, Mary Lou Schnell, Arthur Nordhoff, Jr., and Karen Wallem.

Other people who made up the Planning Committee included: Hilary Blessinger, Nancy Eckerle, Joe Fleck, Joseph Gogel, Barbara Mathies, Eileen Schaber, Rosemary Stewart, Mike Temple, and Tom Thacker. Committees

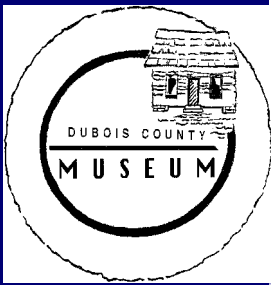
were formed: Finance, Membership, Program, Collections, and Budget. Additional people added to these committees were Jack Newton, Darren Patterson, Doris Hildenbrand, Debra Smith, Geriann Luken, Michael Kluemper, Sally Boyles, Shane Flynn, Stanley Jochem, Joe Rohleder, Tom Schum, and W. Jean Hoffman.

The Museum was ready to open its doors at the Vincennes University Jasper Downtown Campus in the historic Gramelspacher-Gutzweiler Building at the end of January in 1999. Items relating to Dubois County history were soon collected.

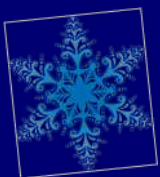
As with anything that is supported and loved by many, it soon outgrew its building. The present location at 2704 N. Newton Street became home to the museum in 2004 and has become a showplace around the state as the home of Dubois County's rich heritage and history.

Continued on the next page.

Celebrating 25 years continued



Early logo used by the museum.



In 2016 the German Immigration Exhibit was awarded a Legacy Award winner by the Indiana Bicentennial Committee. In 2013, museum Board member and exhibit volunteer Cheryl Sermersheim, received the Frank and Judy O'Bannon Heritage Enrichment Award from Historical Southern Indiana for creating Main Street Dubois County and the Little Pioneer Children's Interactive Area at the museum. In 2010 the museum was presented the Outstanding Historical organization Award by the Indiana Historical Society, and the 2005 the museum was awarded the Certificate of Commendation for General Excellence by the American Association for State and Local History."

Today (2024) the present location has 50,000 square feet of exhibit space, and the collection now has reached almost 63,000 pieces with more items added weekly. More exhibits opened including the Wildlife Adventure

Room, ATHENA Recipients, Wava's Wonderlab, Junior Achievement and the Business Hall of Fame, as well as popular programs such as Breakfast with Santa, Storytime, Strings performing, Dairy Day, Museum Car Show, Heritage Days with 4th Graders, Teddy Bear Tea, Archaeology Day, Harvest Day, Veterans Day, Spooky Streets and the Festival of Trees.

The DCM staff continues to consist mainly of volunteers.

Recent improvements have seen roofs replaced on the buildings, a gleaming new coat of paint, new exit doors and a community gathering to paint an outside mural. Coming in 2024, a new exhibit on our long history of woodworking in the county will be having its grand opening in April. All these improvements were made possible through your donations to our fundraising requests, with the Woodworking exhibit being made possible by community business donations.

The DCM continues to be a non-profit organization

committed to the collection, preservation and interpretation of historical artifacts and information important to the citizens of the county. Museum operations continue to be funded by annual memberships, admission fees, donations, fundraisers and gifts from visitors, area residents and businesses.

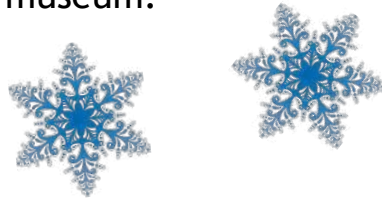
A recent October tour included a Navel Ship reunion featuring veterans from all over the country. In December we had several tours: a tour bus from Wisconsin, a community college group touring from Illinois (2 groups on separate days) and a Washington, IN church tour were all in awe of our museum and could not stop talking about their visit. They were especially surprised at the vastness of our size and the richness and depth of our displays.

We look forward to celebrating many more years to come at our museum.

Storytime on Saturday, January 13, 10:30 a.m.

Let your youngster enjoy the fun of Storytime at the museum on Saturday, January 13, at 10:30 a.m., in the Little Pioneers Children's Area. Miss Carrie Holdsworth will be reading her favorite stories about snow and animals and

then sharing a fun activity and several themed crafts with the participants. Come out and enjoy several hours with us at the museum.



The Model Train Club will meet on Monday, January 8, at 6:00pm. Those who enjoy working with trains are welcome.

Membership Dinner and Meeting Jan. 25

Make plans to attend the Membership Dinner and Meeting on Thursday, January 25. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m., with the meal being served at 6:30 p.m. Following dinner the membership will be updated to all that has

happened at the museum in 2023. New members of the Board will be presented and the membership is asked to affirm these nomination. Further plans for improvements and updates to the museum are planned for 2024.

Be sure to be present to hear these plans introduced. Your attendance is important to the museum.

Letters will be coming soon in the mail with details and reservation information.

Chess Night on Mondays at the museum welcomes those who love the game of chess and are seeking like players in order to enjoy the game. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., \$2 charge.

Thank You

Mary Ann Hayes and Cheryl Sermersheim

Two long time Board members have decided to step down at this time from the Museum Board of Directors.

Cheryl Sermersheim will stay on as a valuable member of the Exhibit team, but will step away from her responsibilities of the Board of Directors. Cheryl has been instrumental in bringing the

Little Pioneers area in existence and working with many programs at the museum, especially with Children's Programming.

Mary Ann Hayes has been a vital part of getting the museum going as a charter member and acted for many years as the Vice president and president of the Board.

She has chaired the Collections Department and has introduced that department into using modern museum techniques to manage that area.

Thank you seem like small words to express our appreciation to these two ladies for their devotion to the Dubois County Museum.



Dubois County Museum

2704 N. Newton Street, (US 231 N)
Jasper, IN 47546

Call 812-634-7733

Hours are 10 a.m.-2p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 10a.m.-4p.m. Saturday, 1-4p.m. on Sunday.
Closed Monday.

Admission is \$5 per adult, \$3 high school age, \$2 middle and elem. school, and under 4-free.

Members are admitted free.

The Dubois County Museum is a local non profit organization committed to the collection, preservation and interpretation of historical artifacts and information important to the citizens of the county. Museum operations are funded by annual memberships, admissions, donations and gifts from visitors, area residents and businesses. The DCM staffed entirely of volunteers. Visit the museum web site www.duboiscountymuseum.org. Like us on Facebook and Twitter at Dubois County Museum. *Funded in part by the Dubois County Visitors Center-www.visitduboiscounty.com .800-968-4578.*

Book a tour by calling Kathy at 812-630-8696.

Contact Kathy at 812-630-8696 if interested in volunteering.

For Room Rentals, contact Stacy at the museum at 812-634-7733.

Support the museum by making a Memorial Gift in memory of or in Honor of someone.



The Christmas Trees were a Hit!

The last days of the 2023 Holiday Season are winding down at the museum. The decorations and lovely Christmas trees will be on display for you to see till Sunday, January 7. The museum truly shown this year with bright and beautiful lights. Thanks to all our decorators for making it such a beautiful display.

On Monday, January 8, crews of volunteers will be taking down trees and storing decorations for another year. Work begins at 8:30 a.m. Please join us, if you can.

The Festival of Trees Christmas Tree Voting Contest drew a record number of visitors to the museum. The competition was very tight this year and only a small number of votes separated the winners. We are pleased to an-

nounce the winners.

First place went to The Snowman Tree from the town of Haysville. Decorators were Marlene Livingston and Arlene and Don Vonderheide.



2nd place was the Mardi Gras Tree decorated by Clara Fromme. Third place went to the Santa Tree from St. Anthony/St. Marks. It was decorated by the Jane Jenkins family .

