



# Dubois County Museum News

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February 2024

## Highlights of Membership Dinner-Capital Expenditures and Exhibits

Work has begun on our lobby remodeling project. Check our Facebook page on any closings due to new flooring being installed.

Welcome to new Board Members Elaine Hopf and Gene Welp. More to come on them in next month's newsletter.



The 2024 Edition of the Dubois County Museum Membership Dinner was held on Thursday, January 25. A total of 101 members and guests attended the evening. President Bruce Heeke called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the evening meeting and program. The theme paid tribute to our 25th Anniversary. Julia Flynn, Treasurer, reported an increase in income of almost \$200,000. Much of this increase was for specific capital expenditures and insurance settlement. In 2023 - Capital expenditures were: Room III-Dubois County Wood Furniture Industry exhibit; Painting the exterior of the building; computer and printer for collections; shelving for collections; replacement roof over two of our rental areas; New flooring was

budgeted for lobby for 2023, not spent.

Capital expenditures expected in 2024 are: Lobby and office updates with some construction, new flooring throughout, painting-sponsored, replacement roof over another section of rental area; replacement roof over lobby and office area (this will actually be paid for by insurance. Those funds were received in 2023, but the soonest we could get on the list for roof replacement was 2024; electronic key card locks; south side parking lot reseal; collection office area update.

Our Exhibits team of Cheryl Sermersheim, Rosie Stewart, Sandy Christianson and Joe Shelton (and others) had a busy 2023. They have put up

temporary exhibits, added to permanent exhibits and added brand new exhibits. There is always something new to see. Currently there are almost 9,000 items on exhibit. Here is a list of exhibits for 2023 (in not particular order): A Stitch in Time; Christmas Traditions; WWI display-A Military Christmas; Demuth Liberty Truck; Strasensfest Display; 1973 Band Reunion and exhibit; exhibit in Jasper High School entryway on Jasper and Ireland High School history; Pfaffenweiler exhibit moved and updated; updates in the school year in village; St. Paul's 175th Anniversary exhibit; Barnwood Builders came to the museum for stone carving; and additions made to Courthouse exhibit.

# Collections Totals



Alaskan animals displayed in Wildlife and Sportsman Room as part of Collection

It was announced at the Membership Dinner on January 25, that Collections saw an increase of over 4,000 items entered into the collections software to bring the total to 61,500 cataloged items. This includes:

- 21,000 objects of all sizes

- 28,500 photographs and negatives

- 7,000 archives (documents and papers)

- 5,000 library books, magazines and newspapers

The collection volunteers are Mary Ann Hayes, W. Jean Hoffman, Elaine Hopf, Joe Shelton, Jeff Schmitt,

Nicole Lechner, Eric Russ, Mary Ellen Backer, plus others who have helped along the way.

The February death of long time volunteer Fred Clark was a severe blow. His work in scanning negatives and his fun loving , giving personality is so greatly missed.

## Mary Ann Hayes Stepping down from DCM Board of Directors



Mary Ann Hayes may have retired from teaching high school history and archaeology, but she never retired from sharing her love of history of her adopted county's past. Mrs. Hayes was involved in the organization of the county museum from its beginning and continued her involvement as a DCM Board member and officer and Chair-

man of the Collection Department for over twenty-five years. In her role as President of Dubois County Historical Society she also supplied extra funding to the museum with yearly memberships and room rentals for meetings, books sold in Gift Shop, as well as extra support for exhibits.

It is her position as Collections Chair though that has been her most fulfilling endeavor. She educated herself in the computer system used by museums and over saw the endless updating and saving of materials, many times giving over 1,000 hours of volunteer work a year.. Thank you Mary Ann for your hard work and passion to the museum.

## Cheryl Sermersheim Stepping away from DCM Board of Directors, Remaining on Exhibit Committee



Cheryl Sermersheim is stepping down as a member of the Dubois County Museum Board of Directors so that she can concentrate more on the museum's exhibit program. She

has been with the Board for over 15 years. She was instrumental in putting together (along with her parents, Tom and Esther Kellams) the Main Street and Little Pioneer areas. She has worked tirelessly in setting up many exhibits and moving our museum forward as we display our past.

Thank you Cheryl for all your past work and for continuing to add your eye and expertise to our exhibits.

# Storytime with Carrie on February 10



Come check out Storytime on the second Saturday of the month with your preschoolers.

Carrie Holdsworth, local pre-school teacher and owner, will be on hand to read several short stories, based on a monthly theme, and then offering several age appropriate crafts for the youngsters to make and take home. In 2023 it was totaled that close to 600 people attended this program

and participated in the activities.

The February theme is centering on Valentines and love.

Storytime is held in the Little Pioneers area, beginning at 10:30 a.m., on February 10. Your admission (\$5 for adults and free to youngsters under 4, or \$2 to elementary students) will allow you to tour the museum and enjoy all what it has to offer.

## Walk the Museum for Your Health

Walk the Museum was an idea launched in January of 2021 as a way to invite people who seek a place to walk indoors during bad weather to come in and use our facility. People come in for free if they hold a yearly membership to the museum or pay \$1 if they are not a member. In 2023 the walkers came in 417 times and pur-

chased memberships that totaled \$510 a year. September and October were warm and we only saw 6 walkers. November and December saw 176 walkers alone due to the cold and wet weather. You are invited to join the group and walk during our open hours.



## Exhibits and Programs Continue in February

The Museum Exhibit team continues to display the **1918 Liberty truck**. The truck was restored by Robert and Shirley Demuth. Sadly Robert "Bob" has passed. We mourn his loss and the his love of making the

old new again.

The **Chess Night on Mondays** continues each Monday night from 5:30-8:00 p.m. under the direction of Bob Matthews. Small fee to play, free to members. They do not meet on holi-

days.

The Museum Marketing Team will have a table at the **Jasper Camber of Commerce HOME EXPO** on February 23-24. Come visit us and try your hand at winning prizes.



### **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](http://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.**



## **Tours and Rental of the Museum are Available**

The Dubois County Museum welcomes groups to come and enjoy a guided tour by our knowledgeable group of tour guides. Each tour can be personalized by the wishes of the group.

Which groups can set up a tour? In 2023 we saw groups come in for a grandparent's special birthday. We had Scouting troops come in to work on badges. We saw Purdue Extension offer a 4-H program on farming looking at the past, reflecting on today and predicting the

future. The drone was pretty cool. Coach buses have stopped and even set up a catered lunch at the museum before their tour. School groups looking for a spring -end of the year activity have made a scheduled stop, or have stopped to look at a special exhibit i.e. the German Club looking further into the county's German roots, FFA clubs learning about the history of farm equipment with farmers or a history class studying our place in the history of war. We welcome ser-

vice clubs to have meetings at the museum.

We can accommodate your group if you are wanting a birthday party or setting up a fun play date for youngsters, with or without a tour.

Call Kathy Bachman at 812-630-8696 to set up a tour. She also can coordinate renting our log house area for a larger crowd or our Room III for a more intimate group setting.