



Established 1984

www.nktelco.net/historicalsociety

Our Focus and Goal Is to PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

Spring 2011

Society to celebrate NK's 175th at open houses

This year marks New Knoxville's 175th anniversary. The village has plans to note the anniversary at the annual July 4 celebration. Meanwhile, the New Knoxville Historical Society will look back at the past during its monthly open houses, held the last Sunday of the month from May through October.

At each open house the Historical Society will focus on a different segment of the community. Come join us as we pay tribute to those people and places that have helped shape the community during the past 175 years.

At each open house you can tour any or all of the five buildings at the Heritage Center, located at the corner of German and Mill streets, between 1:00 and 5:00 P.M.

May 29 - On this Memorial Day weekend, we honor those who serve and have served in the military. New Knoxville

and Washington Township's military heritage dates back to the Civil War.

June 26 - Farming has always been an integral part of the community. At our second open house we will feature agriculture and related occupations.

July 31 - In 1888 Herman Henry Holtkamp was issued a patent for an attachment to a bicycle. Since then, several residents have been awarded patents as either individuals or through the companies for which they work. At the July open house you can learn more about these patents and even see some local inventions as inventors and entrepreneurs will be the focus of this open house.

August 28 - Our focus on local businesses will continue for this open house.

September 25 - By this open house school is in full swing, so we will focus on our school in September. An entire room



Carol Meckstroth and Roberta Fledderjohann were two junior attendants on the New Knoxville centennial village float in 1936. The dresses were made of white crepe paper with yellow trim.



On July 4, 1986, at the sesquicentennial celebration, Lloyd Kuck pulls an antique combine as he harvests wheat in a field located between Hoge

Lumber Company and New Knoxville School. The combine was owned by Ralph Kuck, who stands on the combine.

in the house is devoted to our local school. You can browse old yearbook and peruse old photos. In addition, Mike Neuman will be serving his famous chili, which will be accompanied by cider and donuts.

October 30 - Our celebration will conclude with recognition of all those who serve the community. Churches, civic groups and our village government as well as those who work in service professions will be honored.

We hope you will help us celebrate our past and in doing so look forward to a prosperous future.

MEMBERSHIP: Single - \$10/Year \$50/Lifetime
 Couple - \$18/Year \$100/Lifetime
 Student - \$1/Year

Checks may be mailed to Vernon Feldwisch, 09350 Bay Rd.
 New Knoxville, OH 45871

Attention, NKHS members!
 Would you be interested in serving as a society officer or board member? Contact Kirk Stienecker at 419-753-2059.

Young entrepreneur's business, begun over a century ago, remains in operation today

By Larry Niemeyer with information taken from the New Knoxville Centennial book

One of the longest continuously operating businesses in New Knoxville is known today as Lageman Garage. The company was begun by Louis Herman Meckstroth, a mechanically minded genius, who began repairing bicycles on his father's farm two miles south of town in 1897. (The farm is now owned by Roger and Sandy Hoel-scher.)

In 1898 he brought his business to the village west of the Mill and German streets intersection and spent several years building, repairing and selling various bicycles



Louis Meckstroth at his business beside a Ford Model A



Meckstroth Garage at its present location in 1950's.

then on the market.

The automobile, which began making its debut around this time, interested Meckstroth quite a bit. In 1901 he hand-built one himself, making all the parts except the motor. This was the first motorized vehicle to pass over the village streets and commanded quite a bit of attention when "Meck" came puttering by.

In 1909 with the growing popularity and affordability of the Ford Model T, Mr. Meckstroth purchased one and introduced it to the local citizens. This was the beginning of a very successful partnership with the Ford Motor Company.

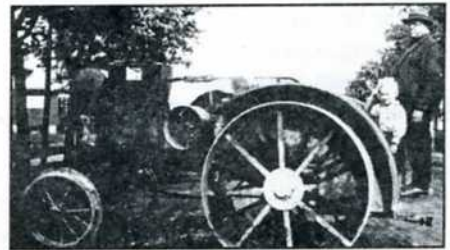
With business booming, in 1915

"Meck" erected his 50 x 90 foot garage, which was state of the art at the time for servicing Ford automobiles. With this facility he was able to introduce the Ford Fordson tractor to the area farmers.

Records from that era also showed he offered for sale the REO Motor Car, Willys Knight, and Whippet Motor Cars.

His career ended suddenly in 1933 with his passing at age 55. The business continued under the Meckstroth name with his wife Amanda as owner.

In 1959 the Ford agency was dropped, and James Lageman purchased the inventory and rented the building, thus starting Lageman Garage. In 1962 Mr. Lageman purchased the building from Mrs. Meckstroth. The garage is still serving the community under the management of Bernie Roessner.



Louis Meckstroth stands on the Fordson tractor with his son, Louis Jr.

Extensive information about NK's Youth Center given to society

Thanks to Pat Hinze Grimes, the Historical Society is now in possession of pictures, newspaper articles and a copy of the original charter.

The Youth Center, located in a building on North Main Street in a building formerly used by the Kuhlman grocery and the Miller restaurant, was backed by English teacher Mrs. Martha Haberkamp and business teacher Mr. Owen Hoover.

The youth center committee was comprised of student representatives and adults in the school district. According to an article from the *Sidney Daily News*, "90 high school students spent more than 700 hours in remodeling and decorating three large ground-floor rooms" in preparation for a February 28, 1958, opening.

The students also held a fund-raising drive and a variety show to help finance the center. Local organizations and community volunteers made the project a total community effort.

A fountain and grill, operated by the students, occupied the middle room of the center. This room was open to the public

"on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons when it [did] not conflict with other community activities," according to one news article. Pizza was served on Tuesday nights.

During the summer of 1958, the Youth Center opened its doors every day except Sunday from 9 to 4. A lunch menu from June 13, 1958, offered hamburgers for a quarter and milk shakes for the same. Malts were a nickle more.

During that summer Mr. Hoover traveled through Europe, so four Ohio State students—Jim Henschen, Bob McClure, Dean Deerhake and Juli Hoge—managed the Youth Center.

The other two rooms of the Youth Center were open only to dues-paying members. According to a 1958 letter

from Fred McCabe, president of the adult committee, 90 percent of students in 7-12 were members.

One room was for dancing, complete with juke box. The recreation room contained a ping-pong table and a variety of games.

The center also showed movies to youngsters on Saturday and sold doughnuts community-wide one day a month.

When Mr. Hoover and Mrs. Haberkamp left New Knoxville School in 1962, the Youth Center soon closed its doors. It remains as a template of what can be accomplished through a total community effort.

You can learn more about the Youth Center during our open houses.



Alberta Wierwille and Diane Shuster stand in front of the entrance to the Youth Center. Ninety-eight students served on eight different committees. Wierwille was on the donut committee and Shuster on the pizza committee.

Memorial Plaque honors those who died during past year

The following names will appear on our Memorial Plaque in our Heritage Museum. We are grateful for your memorials honoring your loved ones.

Lorin R. Lammers	May 7, 2010
Virgil H. Gruebmeier	May 14, 2010
Arnold W. Meckstroth	June 3, 2010
Ruth L. Henschen	June 14, 2010
Robert J. Poppe	August 2, 2010
Henry Schroerluke	August 18, 2010
Kenneth K. Cordonnier	December 22, 2010

Willkommen

New Lifetime Members

Arthur Bode, Greenville, North Carolina
 Linda Everest, Grand Blanc, Michigan
 Lee & Margaret Fledderjohann, Worthington, Ohio
 Rev. Dennis Gaertner, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Janet Hall, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Dr. Owen A. Hoover, Lulu, Florida
 Keith & Susan Leffel, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Revs. Armin & Evelyn Kroehler, Honolulu, Hawaii
 Jack D. Kuck, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Michael & Susan Rohrig, Canton, Ohio
 Lois Chaffin Sarver, Long Beach, California
 Annette Schrolucke, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Lola Shopp, Botkins, Ohio
 Lisa Thobe, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Wanda Wellman Young, Ferguson, Missouri

Yearly Members

Jeff Eversman, Oregon, Ohio
 Ruth Kettler, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Darrell Kuck, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Denise Testa, Leroy, New York
 Ned & Barb Wibbeler, Wapakoneta, Ohio
 Rev. David A. Williams, New Knoxville, Ohio

Student Members

Lana Bizet, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Dana Miles, New Knoxville, Ohio
 Donald Ivy Rohrig, Canton, Ohio

Our Historical Society is proud to have 23 states and Canada represented in our membership. All of you are helping to preserve our heritage.

A special thank you for all donations and anonymous gifts.

We also welcome any pictures or articles or content ideas for our newsletter. Contact Janean Oberlander at 419-753-2077 or joberlander@nktelco.net.

SLATE OF OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President - Kirk Stienecker

Vice President - Allen Schroer

Secretary - Diane Fledderjohann

Treasurer - Vernon Feldwisch

Trustees

2011-2014 - Myron Fledderjohann and
 Janean Oberlander

2010-2013 - Edythe Henschen and Ali Carpenter

2009-2012 - Mike Neuman and Lloyd Kuck

Display Curator & Cataloging - Rusty Elsass

Farm Items - Myron Fledderjohann

Membership, Web Site, and Historical Records Larry and
 Karen Niemeyer

Historians & Memorial Plaque

Myron Fledderjohann, Kirk Stienecker, Roberta Tanzini

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Myron Fledderjohann - Genealogy and History

Glenna Meckstroth - Author of *Tales from Great Grandpa's Trunk*, *Surviving World War II*, and *Giggles and Grins*

Tours available upon request.

Contact any board member.

Attendees at 2010 annual meeting learn about researching from area historian



Mary Ann Olding (left) gave an informative presentation, "Searching for Your Genealogy." Ms. Olding, a Ft. Recovery native, described the extensive research she has done to discover more about the founders of Cincinnati's Verdin Company, manufacturer of bells, carillons and clocks.

Below, Betty Henschen and Phyllis Fraga view the many ancestral pictures on display at the annual meeting.



New Knoxville Historical Society

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Editor of Historian
Janean Oberlander
Photography
Larry Niemeyer

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 P.M. New Knoxville American Legion

**Join us as we kick off a celebration of New Knoxville's 175th anniversary
and view *Small Town, American*, filmed in 1985 for the 1986 Sesquicentennial**

AVAILABLE FROM THE NEW KNOXVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COMMEMORATIVE AND MEMORIAL BRICKS

This is our means of financial and visual support from the many families and friends that desire to preserve our heritage. Contact Betty Henschen at 419-753-2142 or 101 Hanover Ct., New Knoxville, OH 45871.

BOOKS AND GIFTS

Books and gift items are available from our society and also at the community library. See our web site for available items.

www.nktelco.net/historical_society

ADDRESS CHANGE

Notify Karen Niemeyer of a change of address in one of the following ways:
P.O. Box 301, New Knoxville, OH 45871 or phone at 419-753-2215 or e-mail at niemeyer@nktelco.net.

Member of the Southwestern Auglaize County Chamber of Commerce