



Making Kelleys Island History Everybody's Business

Kelleys Island Historical Association

Volume 3, Issue 4

Fall, 2006

Happy Holidays!



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Board Members

President
Mike Feyedelem

Vice President
Jacquie Kranyak

Recording Secretary
Sharon Brunell McIntire

Corresponding Secretary
Claudia Brown

Acting Treasurer
Mike Feyedelem

Newsletter
Claudia Brown (text) &
Jacquie Kranyak (design)

Ways and Means
Mike Feyedelem

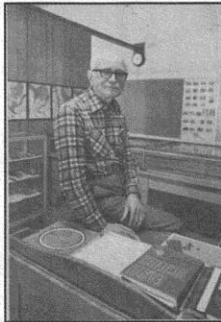
Acquisitions and Display
Ila Dick & Mike Feyedelem

Education
Claudia Brown & Mike Feyedelem

Sept., 2006 was a terrible month Island mourns loss of Kurt Boker and Russ Matso

It is hard to describe the impact that one person's life can make on a community, except to say that it was great or it was little. In Sept., Kelleys Island mourned the loss of two men whose lives independently, each, made a truly great impact on the community.

Kurt Ewald Boker, brother to **Dr. Heinz Boker**, passed from life on his beloved Kelleys Island on Sept. 11, 2006. Kurt Boker had lived on Kelleys from the time his family moved here from Germany when he was four years old. He went to **Estes School**, graduating in 1938, and returned to teach there for many years.



Kurt Boker

Kurt was a U.S. Army veteran of WW II. During his military service he worked on the Alcan Highway and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. After his return from military service, he studied art, geology and then teaching at Ohio State University. He taught at Estes School for twenty-five years, retiring in 1982.

Many generations of students will remember his classes and field trips to study nature and Kelleys Island history. He spent his life living, studying, and collecting Kelleys Island. He probably walked every inch of the island several times over. A scholar, he made trips to the **Sandusky Library** to do research. Kurt Boker has left the island a legacy of journals and papers on subjects especially dear to his heart: native American mounds and remains on the island, natural history, reptiles, and genealogies.

Before his death, he had given most of his personal research material to the Sandusky Library, along with some of his artifacts and fossil collection. Kurt was a gentle man who always had time for students **(Continued on page 3)**

Gift shop closed for the season

The gift shop is closed for the season. The last event was the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Boutique at the Town Hall during Thanksgiving week-end. The gift shop's profit for this year was **\$6,911**. Donations at the door were **\$1,582**.

The Board wishes to thank the volunteers who have made the gift shop possible during the 2006 season: **Stu Humphrey, Ed Frindt, Madeleine Williams, Fran Minshall** (who truly went above and beyond for the association all summer), **Mary Ann Pileski, Don Gilles,**

Dee Mack, Shirley Crabill, Anne Eddowes, Fred Walcott, Jacquie Kranyak, Cindy Merkel, Marlana Mielke, Lori Arnold, Joan Quillin, Jan Ransom, and Pat Seeholzer.

A very special thank you goes to Board Member **Sharon McIntire**, who coordinated the volunteers for the gift shop, and then worked whenever no one else could, giving up much of her summer for KIHA.

Sharon also organizes the KIHA participation at the Christmas Boutique. The gift shop has been run completely

by volunteer help for the past several years. Without such dedication by individuals, this organization would not be possible. So to our faithful volunteers, we thank you - thank you - thank you.

We hope to see everyone back for the 2007 season! If your not helping out, please consider it.

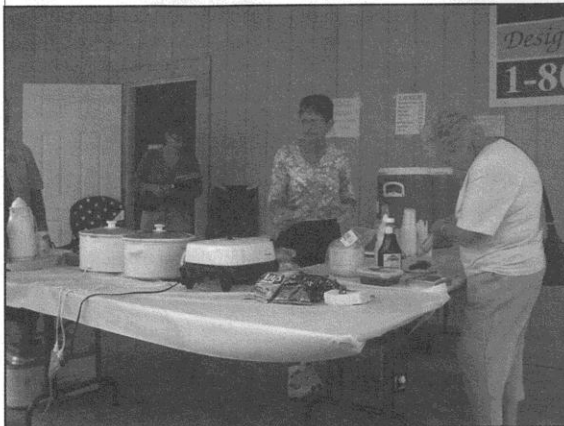


2006 Butterfly Festival flutters by

The **Butterfly Festival** was once again a success. We even had some **Monarch butterflies** attend the festivities. **Pat and Lori Hayes** returned and Pat gave a talk on the life cycle and the migration of the Monarch butterfly from Ohio to Mexico. They also explained a new program offered by **Kelleys Island**



Audubon wherein a Monarch butterfly can be adopted. The adoptive parent gets a certificate with the number of the tag that was placed on their butterfly. If everything works right and the butterfly with the tag is found, the location is sent to a website. The proud parent can then know how far their adopted Monarch went.



There were two drawings held during the Butterfly Festival: the annual quilt drawing and a bird model drawing. **Teri Betzenheimer Behrens** once again gave the Historical Association a quilt to raffle in the spring and tickets were sold all summer. Teri's quilt donation generated **\$2,363** for the **building fund**.

During the festival **Serenity Crowley** drew the winning quilt ticket of **Rebecca Bolen**, from **Hayesville, Ohio**.



Member **Byron Crabill** began carving birds in wood after he retired from his successful career as an architect. This year he offered the Historical Board one of his carvings as a raffle item. One hundred ten dollar raffle tickets were sold, making a **\$1,000** donation to KIHA. The drawing for the carved Wood-



cock occurred during the festival when **Olivia Bias** drew the winning ticket of **David Walker**, from **Prospect, Illinois**. Byron said that he remembered talking to Mr. Walker when he bought his ticket.

Delicious food was available throughout the day, via the hard work of **Jan Ransom**.

The food booth, bake sale, and rummage sale combined raised **\$829.24** for KIHA. Thank you to all the members who participated by manning the various booths and tables during festival day. Very special thank you's go to Teri Betzenheimer who has made and donated a spectacular quilt each year for over ten consecutive years, and thank you, too, to Byron Crabill for donating his beautiful bird wood carving.

Sept. 2006 terrible month

(cont. from pg. 1)

and adults with questions. He was, in fact, the historian that the historians sought when they needed answers. Kurt was seen every year but this last summer, on his bicycle on Kelleys Island roads, usually when he went downtown or to VFW Post 9908 for an afternoon beer.

Kurt Boker's remains were laid to rest on Sept. 15, 2006 at the **Kelleys Island Cemetery**, next to the rest of his family, his brothers Heinz and **Helmut**, his mother, and sister-in-law **Kate**.

More loss...

As if one great loss were not enough, the island reeled a second time with the passing of **Russell Matso** on Sept. 27, 2006. His remains were laid in the Kelleys Island Cemetery, on Oct. 2, 2006. Russell was the second generation in his family to operate the bar and restaurant "**Matso's Place**" on the corner of **Division St.** and **West Lakeshore Drive**.

When he retired, the business and historic building



Russ Matso

were sold. Russell graduated from **Estes School** and left Kelleys Island to serve in the Korean War. He returned home and married **Bea McKillips**, with whom he raised a family.

Russ served many years on the **Village Council** and he was the living memory for village road and drainage projects. He seemed to remember everything he had ever seen or heard on Kelleys Island. Russ had an avid interest in Kelleys Island history and families. He collected any kind of photo or item that had a Kelleys Island affiliation. In addition, he diligently collected obituaries of Kelleys Islanders.

Russ served for many terms on the **Kelleys Island Historical Assn. Board**, with several terms as Vice President. This past year he asked to be removed from the board only when his wife became ill and he wanted time to take care of her. Russ was of a very genial character and he would welcome newcomers as friends. He always had time to tell a story, and he remembered everything, most of the time with a humorous twist.

Russ spent years helping people—he closed up their houses for the winter, he opened their houses in the spring, he fixed roofs, he installed kitchen cabinets and bathrooms, he built shelves, he was on call for any kind of problem. He loved working with wood and one year he made beautiful wood Christmas tree ornaments, with finely painted detail. He and Bea worked puzzles during the winter. Russ worked for years to realize the dream of the new museum building for KI Historical Assn. He will be missed by many for a long, long time.

Annual meeting

At the Annual Meeting in August, members present voted to increase the dues for an individual membership from ten to fifteen dollars starting January 1st, 2007. The membership categories of family (\$25), Patron (\$100), and Life (\$500) remain unchanged. When the next dues reminder is sent, it will show the increase for the individual level of membership.

50/50
Raffle Winners

June: **Bob Smith**
July: **Phyllis Humphrey**
August: **Jane Surmitis**
September: **Ila Dick**

Acting Treasurer
Mike Feyeдем's
Report

General Fund:
\$48,622.86
Checking Account:
6,429.87
Total : \$55,052.73

Board minutes

The website cost has been paid for another year and the bill for the property insurance. A final exterior inspection for the new museum building was discussed with the State Inspector and Adam Elfers of Adam & Assoc., the contractor for the building.

Mike Feyeдем is researching a boiler and the state permits for plumbing and electrical for the new building. The Board decided to keep the current officers except that the position of Vice President is now held by **Jacquie Kranyak**.

Memorials & Donations

Since the last newsletter the following memorial donations have been received from:

Lydia Bechtel for **Ron Bechtel**, and for **Russell Matso**
John & Barbara Ohlemacher for **Lee Rotsinger**
Anne Sennish for **Kurt Boker**, for **Jerry Alaburda**, and for **Russell Matso**
Frances Minshall for **Betsy Walcott**
Dan Ahner for **Kurt Boker**
Tom & Beth Voltz for **Jerry Alaburda**
Judy DuShane for **Kurt Boker**, and for **Russell Matso**
Lyle and Gerry Bickley for **Norma**

Jean Crawford, and for **Gerry Bickley**
Ila Dick for **Anne Stueber** and for **Russell Matso**
Shirley McKillips for **Russell Matso**
Barbara Behlen for **Russell Matso**, **Jerry Alaburda**, and **Kurt Boker**
Other financial donations:
Lydia Bechtel from the sale of her paintings at the Art Show
Non-monetary donations:
Stu Humphrey donated a cordless phone to the gift shop.
Lydia Dwellе Bechtel donated her post-card collection which spans from about 1900 to the 1950's.

**MAKING KELLEYS ISLAND HISTORY
EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**

Kelleys Island Historical Association
P.O. Box 328
Kelleys Island, OH 43438

A 501(C)3 organization.
All contributions are tax
deductible.

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Kelleys Island Historical Association

We're on the web!
kelleyslandhistorical.org

*All stories and photographs in this issue by
Claudia Brown.*

**Kelleys Island Historical Association
P. O. Box 328
Kelleys Island, Ohio 43438**

Membership Application

Name: _____

Summer address: (from / / to / /)
P.O. Box _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ - _____

Winter address: P. O. Box _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ - _____

**2007
Calendar**

Historical Home Tour
Saturday, July 7
Art Show
Saturday, Aug. 4
Butterfly Festival
Saturday, Sept. 8

E-mail: _____

- Individual Membership (annual) \$15.00
 also check here for 2 or more Individual memberships but just one newsletter sent to one address
 Family Membership (annual) \$25.00
 Patron Membership (annual) \$100.00
 Life Membership \$500.00
(office use only below this line -----)
Paid: \$ _____
Received by: _____