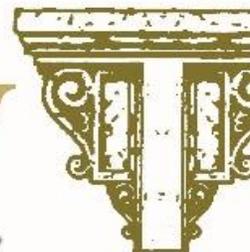


May 2014

Monroe County History Center

Where the past and present meet.



News from the Library Online Edition

Dear Hillary,

Welcome to the May 2014 edition of the Monroe County History Center's online version of News from the Library.

In the last two months the library has completed exciting grant projects, installed new computers, and begun making summer project plans.

Comments to the newsletter are welcome and may be emailed to mchclibrary@gmail.com. Thank you for your support of the Monroe County Historical Society.

Best Wishes,
Nicole Bieganski
Research Library Manager
Monroe County History Center

Technical note: If you are a Gmail user and have trouble viewing the images in this newsletter, try clicking the "Display images below" bar at the top of the email in which the newsletter arrived. You can also teach your email to move future newsletters to from the "Promotions" box to the main inbox -- just drag the email from the "Promotions" box over to the "Primary" tab.

In This Issue

[Complete! Deed Book Digitization Project](#)

[Welcome, Dr. Vanderstel!](#)

[AUTO INDIANA](#)

[Upcoming Events - Genealogy Group and Pass It On](#)

["Like" the Library on Facebook](#)

[Become a Member](#)

Upcoming Events

-- Genealogy Group Meeting:
Local Church History

TONIGHT (May 1)! 7 p.m.
Monroe County History Center

Library Assistant Lee Ehman will give a presentation about



Project Complete!

'SHRAB' Grant Deed Book Digitization

The state-funded project for re-indexing and digitizing the first 26 Monroe County deed books has been completed. The project was made possible by a grant from the Indiana State Historic Records Advisory Board and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Eventually the deed book indexes will be searchable on the Indiana Digital Archives web site, although it is expected that this will take several months. When on-line, images of deed pages describing individual land transactions will become available to researchers.

We will also publish, on-line and in print, the expanded deed book indexes. Useful research information has been added, especially names of all heirs in cases of estate settlements. Use of the electronic images of deed book pages for making copies for patrons will save wear and tear on the books, which are in fragile condition. The Research Library has gained an archive of these 26 earliest deed books. This helps achieve our preservation goal.

using the Research Library's Church History Archives and other types of local church history resources. This event is free and desserts will be provided.

-- Pass It On - Caring for Your Family Treasures

Saturday, May 3,
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monroe County
History Center

Join History Center staff and community members for an afternoon of preservation education and consultation.

Doug Sanders, Paper Conservator at Indiana University's Paper Conservation Lab, will begin the afternoon with a presentation.

After the talk, community members are invited to bring their family heirlooms to preservation consultation stations in the Education Room. Professional conservators from IU libraries and museums will offer free one-on-one consultations.

PLEASE RSVP to this event by sending an email to admin@monroehistory.org with your name and the number of people in

-- Lee Ehman, Volunteer Project Manager

Pictured above: The grant's final report and hard drive containing the project files being prepped for mailing to the State Digital Archives.

your party. It's not too late!

-- Classic Car & Hot Rod Show

Sunday, June 1, 12 p.m - 4:30 p.m.
6th and Lincoln lot behind Monroe County History Center

See "Auto Indiana" article in main section of this newsletter.

Welcome, Dr. David G. Vanderstel!

As many subscribers may know, the History Center welcomed a new executive director, David G. Vanderstel, Ph.D., at the end of March.

David has over twenty-five years of leadership experience in not-for-profits and higher education. He is the owner of David G. Vanderstel & Associates (a historical research consulting group) and is an adjunct Assistant Professor of History in the Department of History at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis where he has taught for over twenty-five years.

David's previous experience includes work with Martin University, Sagamore Institute for Policy Research, the National Council on Public History (where he served as Executive Director), The Polis Center, and Conner Prairie Interactive History Park.

David is active in community service and is currently serving on the Meridian Street Preservation Commission and as Marion County Historian. He received his Master's Degree and Ph.D. in 19th-century United States History from Kent State University. He has a Bachelor's Degree from Calvin College.

The Research Library staff and volunteers are excited to collaborate with David on new programming, grant opportunities, and Center projects. We look forward to learning from his expertise and contributing the library's resources to his vision for the Center.

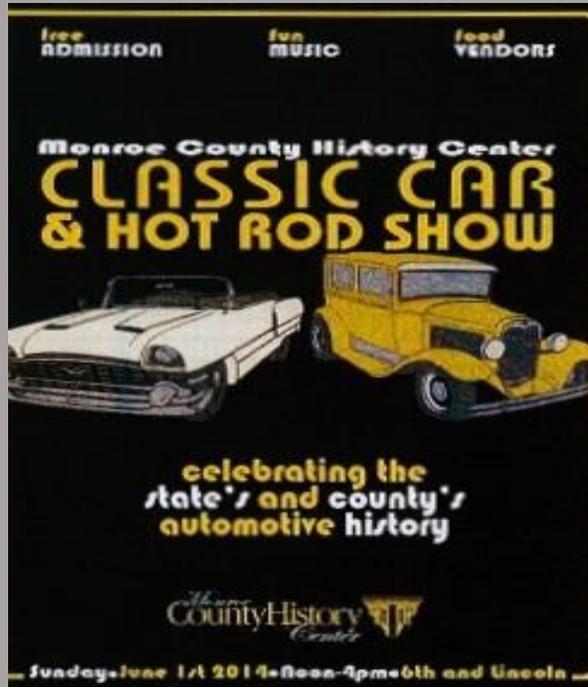
"Like" the library on Facebook!

The Monroe County History Center Research Library is now on Facebook. [Follow this link to "Like" the page](#) and keep up with the latest news from the library. Or, view photos of library programs, newly-discovered resources, and more.

Also "Like" the [History Center's main page](#).

~ AUTO INDIANA ~

Become a member today!



FREE ADMISSION!

CARS!

MUSIC!

FOOD VENDORS!

HISTORY!

What do you know about Monroe County's automotive history? Are you an expert on Indiana automobiles, or are you curious to learn more about the history of transportation in the state?

Join us for a celebration of Indiana and Monroe County automotive history this May and June!

The Indiana Historical Society is sponsoring a traveling exhibit - Auto Indiana - featuring Indiana's automotive history, and the History Center is excited to be a host organization. Exhibitions Manager, Jenny Mack, is curating an exhibit of Monroe County

The Monroe County Historical Society supports itself through members like you! Some of the benefits of membership include:

- free admission to the museum
- 10% discount in the museum store
- Bimonthly issues of *Monroe County Historian*
- Special members-only events

Levels:
 Student/Teacher \$20
 Basic \$35
 Family \$60
 Sustaining \$100
 Patron \$500

To become a member or receive more information on membership, please email admin@monroehistory.org

The Monroe County History Center Needs Your Donations...

for the 33rd
**ANNUAL
 GARAGE
 SALE**

Friday,
June 13

transportation history to accompany the content from the IHS. View the full exhibit from May 9 - June 9, and the Monroe County portion from May 9 - January 2015.

In honor of these exhibits, the Center will hold The Classic Car & Hot Rod Show on June 1 -- an exciting way to celebrate this month of automotive history and to engage the community in an important part of Indiana and Monroe County history.

Please join us:

Monroe County History Center Classic Car & Hot Rod Show

Sunday, June 1, 2014

6th and Lincoln parking lot adjacent to the History Center

12 p.m - 4:30 p.m.

Learn more about local automotive history in the Research Library...

Our vertical files are full of interesting facts and brief histories of the local auto history. Check out the blurbs below, or visit the library to conduct your own research.

Who Owned the First Automobile in Bloomington?

The answer to that question is Mr. V. F. Marsters, a geology professor at Indiana University in the early-20th century. Marsters brought his "horseless carriage" that was "drawn by gasoline" to Bloomington in 1901. Professors

8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

and

Saturday,
June 14
8 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Located in the former RCA warehouse behind Cook Pharmica. 1300 South Patterson Drive Bloomington, IN

Until June 10, please bring **donations** to the Monroe County History Center, specifying that they are a garage sale donation. The Center accepts donations during its open hours, Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

From May 6 - June 10, you may bring items directly to the sale center from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Items of interest include:

- Antiques
- Collectibles
- Dishes, glassware
- Office supplies
- Furniture
- Housewares
- Appliances
- Tools
- Artwork
- Athletic equipment
- Books
- CDs
- Toys
- Plants

Marsters, a "handsome bachelor," offered his friends rides in the extraordinary machine and drew the admiration of everyone in town, according to a September 1901 article. Apparently the car was so fascinating that Marsters--who, the article highlights, admittedly had always been popular with members of the "fair sex"--received "'goo-goo'" eyes from "every pretty girl in Bloomington."

Source: Bloomington's first automobile. (1901, September 10). Available at the Monroe County History Center Research Library, Vertical Files, "Automobiles."

Curry in the County:

W. S. Curry, known for opening the Curry Buick Company (now Curry Buick Cadillac) in Bloomington wasn't always in the automotive industry. He began as a farmer and dairyman in Bloomington but decided to move to Santa Anna California in 1912 in search of the riches of the Wild West.

Curry started a small taxi company in Santa Anna but eventually was run out of business by larger transportation businesses. This seemingly unfortunate event led Curry to the most important opportunity in his life. In 1914, he and his family set out in a Buick Model C-37, intent to drive across the country back to Bloomington, as they hauled their possessions behind the Buick in a trailer.

News of this unusual journey spread across the country, and newspapers published stories about the small family crossing the country, braving unpaved roads and camping in the snow. When Curry arrived back in Bloomington, a Buick representative was waiting for him, hoping to convince him to capitalize on the publicity garnered by his journey. Curry agreed to the man's request to start a Buick dealership in Bloomington, and Curry Buick Cadillac opened in 1915.

Since that time, members of the Curry family have managed this prominent Bloomington business, beginning with W.S.'s son, Glenn Barnhill Curry, who worked for his father for 25 cents a week--an allowance which enabled him to buy a weekly snack of a quart of ice cream and a dill pickle.

The Curry dealership has occupied several buildings around the downtown and city--including a period in the old Seward Foundry on North Walnut--and now even has a street named after it in the College Mall area; the main Curry center today is located on "Buick Cadillac Boulevard."

Source: 1914 cross country trip won Buick dealership for Currys. (1968). Courier-Tribune Sesquicentennial Edition, Section 2, p. 6. Available at the Monroe County History Center Research Library, Archive Room, Newspaper Box 2.

Linens
Bicycles
Jewelry

Items NOT accepted include:

Clothing
Nonworking appliances/TVs
Computers
Mattresses

Merchandise must be in good condition, and nonworking items are not accepted.

And don't forget to attend the sale! Proceeds go to the Monroe County History Center.

To opt out of future newsletters, please email mchlibrary@gmail.com.