



Romeo Perspective

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2010!

www.romeohistoricalsociety.org

Church Clock Project Jumps Ahead

The Church clock is going to run and the bells will chime again if William Miller and Charlie Randles have their way about it. The First Congregational Church on N. Main Street at Church St. has a clock tower that easily is Romeo's landmark tower visible from quite a distance. The Clock stopped awhile ago but these two men are determined to restore and repair the works for better days ahead. As volunteers on this intricate project, the two men started last fall and progress towards a spring goal to complete the job.

To support this wonderful restoration, RHS has committed to raise the \$5,000 to \$7,000 in funds needed for materials to support their expert machinist and clock restoration skills. RHS set a goal to raise \$1,000 by 2009 year end to get started. But the community members responded with well past that amount and more. RHS con-



William Miller (rear) of Miller Machine & Tool Co. of Shelby Twp. With Charlie Randles way up high in the Church Clock Tower last November.

tinues to fund raise to continue paying the bills on this project. We hope to see the clock tell time and chime in time for the fifth annual Romeo Victorian Festival set for Saturday May 15, 2010. Mark your calendars!

Please continue to donate to this exciting restoration pro-

ject to bring back an important Romeo landmark to full use. We will be thanked every day as it chimes.

Want to learn more?

Visit our website at :

romeohistoricalsociety.org and stay tuned to the progress!

Village Series Ornament Wellington Jersey House sells well for the Society since November

The 2009 ornament in our Village series went on sale in late November 2009 and is almost sold out! "It has proved to be a popular image for sure", says Sue Kane, RHS president. This ornament and all the others will be

available not only at the RAAC gift shop on Tuesday nights but also at the RHS gift shop at the Downtown Welcome Center during *Romeo Romantic Days & Chocolate Festival*. The Welcome Center will be located at the Masonic Tem-

ple, 231 N. Main Street ,on Friday evening 2/12 and all day Saturday 2/13.

Buy your valentine a RHS 'uniquely Romeo' gift this year!

Visit us at the shop!

Barb Merryfield staffs RHS office and museums

RHS followed through on plans to hire our first administrative assistant!

Barbara Merryfield of Rochester Hills began serving as the RHS support person at the RAAC last fall. Barb brings a wealth of expertise on marketing, promotion and office support including some great computer skills with her! She has worked for Oakland County in the past and is knowledgeable about community promotion. Barb loves the historic background and setting of Romeo and has con-

tributed to our events already.

"I set up the gift shop table at the Christmas Homes Tour in December and was thrilled to sell ornaments as fast as I could that evening..." says Barb. "I love working with all the Romeo people and the RHS board members on all these projects and events."

Barb is using the PC at the RAAC to organize information, respond to website requests and messages. Let us all welcome Barb as she helps the RHS move forward,



Barb Merryfield of Rochester Hills works part time at the RHS office at the RAAC.

organized and on top of all the projects and events planned this year!

Romeo has more museums per capita than Washington DC!

Three local museums

RAAC, Romeo Art & Archives Center, 290 N. Main Street.

(state police building)

Bancroft-Stranahan House

132 Church St.

Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop

301 N. Bailey St.

RHS HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

RHS also followed through on plans and deciding on a new website address and service!

The Society moved much of the web information from the former website to a new service and format using www.romeowhistoricalsociety.org. Please have a look at the wealth of information and

photos that have appeared lately.

Our 2009 events and exhibits are featured with our ornaments, history and more membership information

More on 2010 events will be added soon.

Plus RHS also has a separate

website of the upcoming Fifth Annual Victorian Festival at www.romeovictorianfestival.com.

Watch both sites for more information!

Suggestions? Contact Barb Merryfield at our office phone or by email off the new website!

RHS donations at year end...we thank our generous donors.

RHS would like to thank companies who made major donations at the end of 2009.

Heidebreicht Chevrolet,

Hubble, Roth & Clark, Inc,

Thee Office Pub & Cookery,

Wing Construction, Inc

and Romeo Jewelry.

Homes Tour a huge success!

Our 2009 annual **Christmas Homes Tour** was a huge success and sold out again this year! We thank the home owners again for their magnificently-decorated homes visited by our tour patrons who bought many ornaments as well. *A RHS signature tour event!*

RHS museums and programs benefit from this annual event.

Romeo's Underground Railroad History goes on display....

Heard the stories about certain houses in Romeo neighborhoods being stops on the Underground Railroad? Had someone point out places that supposedly were key to African-American migration to Canada?

Romeo is located right on the path!!

The Secret Railroad, a new major exhibit at the RAAC, will explore Romeo's role in the Underground Railroad in the 1800s in documents,

photographs, audio tapes and more.

The new exhibit opening is planned for mid April 2010 by curator Richard Beringer.

Examine the evidence, view our photographs, read the documented details, listen to the stories.... And you decide!

Not to be missed!

Watch for the opening exhibit information soon! We hope to hold a special related event at the



Sample irons made locally for the exhibit.

time the exhibit opens!

Volunteer to learn this exhibit for visitors!

Romeo on Wheels on display...

Romeo on Wheels, on permanent display at the RAAC, tells the story of Romeo's transportation heritage from waterwheel boat, carriage industry, trolley car and automotive engine production up to present day. Yes the Ford Romeo Engine

Plant producing engines inside the village boundaries today, is part our story in Michigan's automotive heritage. It happened here in our Romeo.

Romeo on Wheels helped qualify downtown

Romeo for MotorCities National Heritage Area heritage signs to be dedicated in spring of 2010. Watch for more details on the dedication!

Visit the RAAC and learn more! Photos, documents, video and more!

"Romeo was a major manufacturing location for the automotive industry in the early 1900s!"

Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop...some improvements to the grounds

With the approval of property owners, the Romeo District Schools, RHS plans to rearrange the usable green space next to the Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop this spring. We plan to move the fencing and gates to better accommodate vehicles and visitor outdoor space here.

The grassy area north of the

Shop will have picnic tables and outdoor exhibit areas. School children programs are planned here that relate to the Shop.

It also will be easier to mow and maintain and provide more open space for future use.

The old rails stored here will have a new use soon. Watch for more on this project as part

of the Victorian Festival coming in May. In fact, watch the Shop and grounds be a major venue for the Festival this spring!

The Romeo School District has also renewed the RHS lease of the property. We thank them for their cooperation!

RHS Board members

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Preserve our Heritage!



2010 Calendar at a glance...

JAN/FEB/MAR 2010

Tuesday February 2, RHS first Victorian Festival event committee meeting, RAAC.

Tuesday February 16, RHS Victorian Festival planning meeting, RAAC. 7pm

Thursday February 18, RHS Board meeting at the RAAC. 7pm

Tuesday March 2, RHS Victorian Festival planning meeting, RAAC. 7pm

Thursday March 18, RHS Board meeting at the RAAC. 7 pm.

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM

RAAC IS OPEN!

RHS has great program plans for 2010!

Here are the opportunities to meet, socialize and preserve our important heritage here!

April 23, midmonth -Opening reception for RHS members of *The Secret Railroad*. Romeo Underground Railroad exhibit!

April 27 - *The Secret Railroad*, Romeo's Underground Railroad exhibit opens to the public.

May 15—*Fifth Annual Romeo Victorian Festival Day* we need volunteers for the five major venues we have planned!

Summer evening— *'Before Romeo was Romeo'*—Hear about our local history from the archeological point of view. OU Dr. Richard Stamps speaks!

June 12—RHS *FleaNtique* sale day. Help sell items with the rest of the surrounding communities to fund our projects!

Sept TBA,. *'Barns, Sheds and Garages'*... the historic man cave tour of Romeo's unique outbuildings.

October TBA— *Romeo Cemetery Tour* . Date to be determined but we need costumed characters with flair!

December 11—*Christmas Homes Tour*, our famous homes tour already has some plans underway with homeowners We need docents!

Join us and participate in some great events this year!

We need YOU!

RHS Board members.



This old photo from RHS archives is unmarked. We know it was taken in Romeo. If you can help identify the person, time-frame or location, we would love to hear from you!

Contact us by phone 586-752-4111 or from the website!

THANK YOU!