



October 2019

## WARREN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 256 Indianola, IA 50125

Phone-515-961-8085

(Highway 92 West, 1400 West 2nd, turn north into fair grounds, then turn east)

E-mail- [contact@warrencountyhistory.org](mailto:contact@warrencountyhistory.org)

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### WCHS MEETING Glue Chipping Glass

**John Parker Sr.**  
**7:00 pm**  
**October 22**

**WCHS**  
**VOLUNTEER**  
**DINNER**  
**Sat. at 6:00 pm**  
**November 2**

**WCHS DECEMBER**  
**50s CHRISTMAS**  
**TEA**

**Sun. December**  
**8th**

**2:00-4:00**

**Purchase your \$10**  
**tickets in advance**  
**at the WCHS**  
**Museum**

**We are still**  
**looking for**  
**Warren County**  
**Women's stories**  
**for the 2020 book.**  
**Please share your**  
**mother's, sister's**  
**grandmother's**  
**and great-**  
**grandmother's**  
**stories with us.**

October 22, 7:00 pm  
**GENERAL MEETING**  
**Glue Chipping Glass**

Never heard of it? Come to our WCHS General Meeting on Tuesday, October 22nd at 7:00 pm to program at Warren County Historical Society Tuesday, October 22nd and see the beautiful effects our speaker, John Parker, Sr., can create on glass with this process.

Perhaps you saw him demonstrate this process at the Iowa State Fair in August at Pioneer Hall. It is another way to create objects with the look of historic or modern designs. Maybe you can even learn to do it yourself. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM and is free and open to the public.

This will be our last meeting of 2019. Our programs will resume again on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of March 2020.

Please continue to collect Indianola HYVEE receipts and bring them in to the museum. We have a large glass container near the kitchen where you can place them. We can use gas, pharmacy, grocery or any other HYVEE receipt. It is an easy way to raise funds for WCHS.







In the Oct. 7, 2019 issue of PEOPLE Magazine voted Crouse Café's cherry pie best in State of Iowa. Amy Duncan and Mark Davitt won our Crouse cherry pie at our auction.

### LCF 2019

Connie Sheil won our quilt auction.

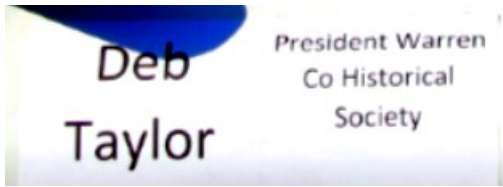
Jerry and Linda Beatty are 2019 LCF Parade Marshalls



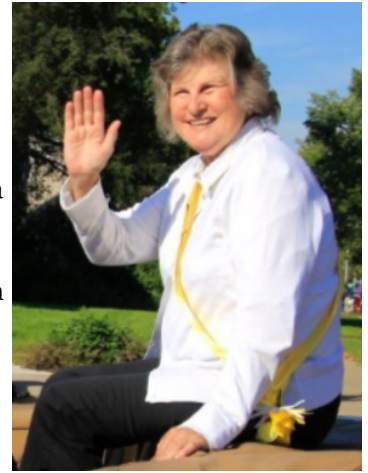
Two Warren County women in parade Honor Guard







Hello everyone! Life has been busy the last few weeks. The trustees have replaced a sump pump, dehumidifiers, hauled off the broken light fixtures from the basement, and completed minor repairs of buildings and furnishings. Log Cabin Days Festival was once again a



challenge, only possible through your participation and willingness to volunteer. Saturday's weather was perfect for the festival and there seemed to be a good attendance. Sunday brought rain, but we had a good time at the pie auction as usual. If you haven't been to one of these auctions you are missing out. The baked goods are delicious, but the spirited bidding for the Society benefit is fun to watch. Hazel Wickett's Black Raspberry Pie was the high selling item bringing \$600. Overall, a little over \$2400 was netted from this event. Thank you to everyone who participated. The garage sale was also a huge success and a special thanks to all who donated toward it.

If you haven't noticed, the Mt. Hope School is in the process of some long needed attention. The General Joseph Warren Quester's ladies have been busy painting, cleaning and raising funds to restore windows in the building. We look forward to the improvements and appreciate their help in adopting this building. If you are a member of a group that would be interested in adopting a building, please contact me. I would love to talk! At this time we have a Log Cabin in need of a new roof and possibly raised to have a concrete foundation placed under it. Also the church is in need of electrical wiring and ceiling replacement along with some roof work. Many of the other buildings also need attention. It is our hope to give the Machine Shed a good cleaning and reorganization over this next year. If you would like to help with this, please let us know. Hope your fall is a good one. Deb

# **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION** **Saturday, Nov. 2, 6:00pm**

**All WCHS 2019 Volunteers  
are invited to our  
Volunteer Appreciation  
Celebration Dinner  
on Saturday, November  
2nd at 6:00 pm.**



**Please RSVP to  
515-961-8085  
Or  
contact  
@warrencounty  
history.org**



Liberty Center Store 1950s



Cumming School which became Belmonte's restaurant.



Wrestler Rose Roman shows her wrist lock, Aug. 10, 1955, Des Moines Register

**Belmonte, Rose. M. (Hesseltine)** Born in Des Moines and lived most of her life in the Des Moines area. With her husband, Robert C. Belmonte Sr., Rose owned and operated Belmonte's Restaurant and Lounge in Cumming for nearly three decades before retiring in 1990. The restaurant was originally a one room school house in Cumming, located directly on highway G-14. For a time, they lived in part of the restaurant. Bob was born in Italy and lived in Chicago, IL, until 1961, when he moved to Cumming. He was a U. S. Army veteran and member of Knights of Columbus. The couple had one son: Robert.

Rose was world champion in women's wrestling from 1954-1960. She worked to legalize women's wrestling in seven states and pursued the Illinois Supreme Court to overrule the Illinois Athletic Commission and granted wrestling licenses to women. After the ruling, attendance at lady wrestling jumped 300-500 percent. In early 1955, Indiana became the 43rd state to permit women to wrestle in public exhibitions.

A Chicago news item published by the Williamsport, PA **Gazette Bulletin**, August 26, 1955 under the heading: *Women Grapplers Add Bit To Groaners*, aptly summarizes the state of women's wrestling in the 1950s and Rose's contribution to women's athletics.

Women wrestlers like Rose Roman Hesseltine believe a woman's place is in the ring. She ranks as a top hand among the 40 members of the fabled sex in the United States who have invaded man's wrestling domain for a share of the loot. Rose Roman has been wrestling professionally ever since she came to Chicago five years ago from Des Moines.

"I've had about a dozen black eyes, broken toes and fingers, and have been laid up with my back several times. But I've won better than half my matches." ...Lady wrestlers can make from \$15,000 to \$65,000 a year.

[Rose] is one of six lady wrestlers in [Promoter] Kohler's stable which also has 35 men wrestlers for matches as far away as Mexico City and Caracas, Venezuela. He insists they be ladies and follow the rules set by athletic commissions on behavior. That means no kicking, or hair pulling, no gouging of eyes[

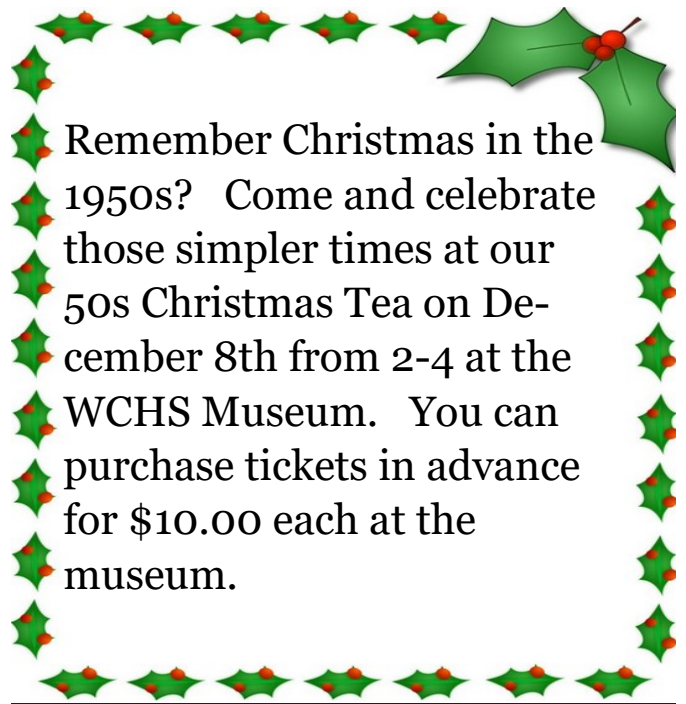
"They want to protect the fragility of women," Rose Roman says. Her 138 pounds and 24 years are about average for her profession.

Kohler says Shirley [Strimple of Pittsburgh] and Rose are the two most beautiful ring dolls who ever applied a head lock. Rose has the edge with her purple hairdo, however. Why purple hair? "I wanted to be different; there are too many blondes."

Rose Belmonte, 70, of Cumming died in Feb. 2001 and was buried at Jordan Cemetery in West Des Moines. She was survived by a son, Robert of Cumming, three brothers, two sisters, and a grandchild.

[DMR, 2/13/2001; 6/124/1985; 8/10/1955





Remember Christmas in the 1950s? Come and celebrate those simpler times at our 50s Christmas Tea on December 8th from 2-4 at the WCHS Museum. You can purchase tickets in advance for \$10.00 each at the museum.

## NEW WCHS ACQUISITIONS

**Our Wonder World Books** Set and 12 ladies hats from Lynne Van Clark

Iowa map, school directories, Carver booklet and miscellaneous items from Debra Dittmer

**Functional Method Dictation** from anonymous donor

Darlene Clark Gaumer scrapbook of Milo/Motor areas from Wolf Gaumer

German small wood wagon, lightening rod, strainer, wooden shoes and Boy Scout book from Dennis and Sandra Dop

Indianola HS Yearbooks 1987-2009, 2012, 2014 ; Zeniths 1992,93, 95, 97-2000; Indianola Middle School 1996,98, 2002; SE Warren 1985, 88 from Indianola Police Dept.

Myrtle Young's fur cape from Carl Meisel

1920s oak sewing stand from Susan Graeser

Silver-plated tea set from Jan Summer

Easel, chair, cook books and miscellaneous kitchen items from Carmen Hampton

Camera with glass plates, Tru View slide viewer, Spring Hill hymnal, Iowa Girl's Basketball Tournament booklets, sheet music, kitchen tools, telescope, punching bag toy, children's books, and Leslie Dey diploma from Merrill and Marilea Chase

Tatting shuttle and thread from Mary Babcock

Recipes file from Simpson Sorority from Sandy Newell

Books, genealogy, and miscellaneous items from Vernon Wilson

HS scrapbook, yearbooks and 1920 photo from Priscilla Shipley Glen

Child's teamer trunk, small suitcase with doll clothes, baby articles, high chair, sewing kit, aprons, hankies, collars and gloves from Jolene Schwery

School desk from Michelle Steen

1960 transistor radio and paper tablet from Mary Hickman



From **The Muscatine Journal**, May 26, 1921 - ***New Virginia Suffers Fire for 2nd Time in 10 Years,***

Property loss amounting to more than \$35,000 resulted from fire started by an explosion at an electric plant last night. Most of the business section was destroyed.

One death is believed to have resulted from the blaze which wrecked five business houses before being extinguished. Mrs. R.M. Fee, a sufferer of heart disease, collapsed while watching the fire and died soon after.

The fire destroyed the light store, a flat and one dwelling. Bucket brigades were organized to extinguish the blaze.

This is the second disastrous fire New Virginia has had in the past ten years. Ten years ago a fire completely destroyed the east side of town and partially destroyed buildings in other sections.

Two other persons are in serious condition because of last night's fire. Dr. Fee, who also is suffering with heart disease is lying in a precarious condition at his home due to shock at the fire and death of his wife. Miss Nellie McClintock, who was ill in bed when the fire reached her home, now is in a coma and is in a serious condition.



Early 1950s photo taken at Mt. Hope School. A play with former legislator James I. Middleswart and wife Geraldine (Geri) is taking place. Geri was a teacher at Mt. Hope. When Daughter Irene Case taught for our Pioneer School, she told what it was like to have your mother be your teacher.

Notice the advertising screen. Mt. Hope must have had one. Anyone know what happened to it?

If you have been at the museum, you will notice that the east wall is a big, blank void. John Parker has removed our Sandyville advertising screen to his home to finish stabilizing and repairing it.

Below: Governor William Beardsley, New Virginia, Luther Williams, Henry Godlove and Lloyd Van Patten having coffee at Iowa Governor's mansion. In 1947 the Iowa Legislature purchased 2900 Grand, which was built in 1903 by Des Moines businessman W.W. Witmer. Beardsley was governor from 1949-1954, when he was killed in a car accident. The Witmer House (below left) was official residence until 1976.







## INDIANOLA BANKING CO

Indianola Banking Company was organized the winter of 1892 and opened April 17, 1893 on the east side of square. Organizing officers were: Phillip Sinnard, President; John F. Schee, Vice President and W.G. Stanley, cashier. Other shareholders were Nathan Schee, James Schee, Lewis Schee and Samuel Shaw. In January 1894 a \$14,000 double front building was erected. It was located on northwest corner of the Square at Buxton and Ashland.

On February 1, 1894 the Indianola Library moved to a large room on the second floor of the Indianola Banking Company. This same year the library moved from the total control of the city council to a nine member library board of trustees appointed by the mayor.

In 1908 Elmore Haldeman sold his furniture store to Orr and moved upstairs in the Indianola Banking Company and had the Piano Parlor. In 1911 Elmore had a contest where he offered a free piano to the person who could find 20 pictures in the drawing below that had "ca" (Example: cat). One entry per family. The neatest and most correct answer will win the piano prize. All entries will receive a win a prize. The winner was Oscar Trueblood.

*Save this*

**DIRECTIONS:**—Outline on this or a separate sheet of paper, twenty objects in the above picture, whose names begin with the letters, "ca," for example, cat. Also, write out your list of names. The person not owning an upright piano sending in the neatest and nearest correct answer will receive the first prize. Everyone not owning a piano, that sends in answer shall receive a prize. Winners will be notified by mail. Only one prize awarded in a family. Decisions of judges final. Professional artists, draughtsmen or designers, answers will not be accepted. Write your name and address plainly on your answer and mail or bring same to

**E. HALDEMAN PIANO PARLORS**  
Up stairs over Indianola Bank Bldg. **INDIANOLA, IOWA**

**Contest closes Nov. 22, 8:00 p. m., 1911**

It's time to join Warren County Historical Society. Send your check to WCHS, Box 259, Indianola, Iowa 50125 or go to website-www.warrencountyhistory.org where you can use PAYPAL.

\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_ \$ 20 One Year Individual

\_\_\_ Renewal

\$ \_\_\_ Contribution (designate amount)

\_\_\_ Gift/Memorial

\$ \_\_\_ Memorial (Indicate individual(s))

I am interested in volunteering

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Special Events

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Newsletter/Publisher Work

\_\_\_ Publicity/Public Relations

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Website Development

\_\_\_ Exhibit Work

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Data Entry

\_\_\_ Outdoor Work

\_\_\_ Other (skill, talent or time)

\_\_\_\_\_ List talent



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**NOTE:** WCHS has no paid staff; all workers are volunteers. 100% of your donation goes to the maintenance and care of our museum and library collections. We are a 501c3 organization so all donations may be tax deductible.

### WCHS MISSION

**WCHS MISSION:** To collect, preserve, and create interest in the cultural, political, and economic heritage of Warren County, Iowa

To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution—Women's Right to Vote, WCHS is publishing a book on Women of Warren.

Jerry and Linda Beatty are collecting information, stories and photos about women who lived in Warren County from its earliest days to the present. They are asking for suggestions or stories of women who should be included in the book. Please contact them with your information at phone -515-961-3088, address -1100 East Girard, Indianola, IA 50125 or E-mail - jerrykbeatty42@gmail.com Information is due by May 15, 2020.

