Chagrin Falls Exponent

Chagrin Falls Historical Society 21 Walnut St. Shute Memorial Building
440.247.4695 Web Site: www.chagrinhistorical.org

February, 2012 Ron Humphrey, Graphics Editor

FOR MEMBERS ONLY!

ANNUAL POT LUCK DINNER



Thursday, February 16, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall, Valley Lutheran Church 87 E. Orange Street
Reservations Required. Call Diana Gardner 440/289-1681
Auction of some Antiques and Collectibles

New Members:
Lew and Lennie Galante

Deceased:
Chris Cordes

POT LUCK DINNER FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Make sure you've paid your dues for 2011-2012 (unless you're a Life Member!) so that you can attend our Annual Pot Luck Dinner for Members Only. We will meet at the Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall on Thursday, February 16. Bring an entree, salad, side dish or dessert, with a serving spoon or fork. We will have a baked ham as a back-up to make sure you can fill your plate! Also bring your own plate, cup and table setting. Coffee and tea will be provided.

In addition to seeing old friends, catching up on the happenings around town, and partaking of our always delicious offerings, we're going to have a mini-auction of the left over objects and collectibles from our fund-raiser, yard sale. So bring your checkbook or some cash in case you see something you just must have! We'll have a display of the objects to be auctioned off in front of our serving table to alert you of things you might want.

PLANNING FOR 2012 & BEYOND

The Executive Board, Committee Chairs, Advisory Committee members and other interested members met on January 12th to review goals which had been set for the Society in 2009 and to establish priorities for the Society for future years. Services provided by current volunteers were discussed along with the need to train additional people to take over these responsibilities in the future. Many goals which the group established in 2009 have been met including the development of our web site and the continuation of our photograph digitization efforts. President John Bourisseau led the discussion and read a response from Village Administrator, Ben Himes, regarding our tenancy at the Shute Building as requested by Mr. Bourisseau. Mr. Himes stated that should the Village need to expand the fire department in the future the Society would need to relocate and that the Village would assist us in finding accommodations.

The group discussed:

Strengthening our oral history efforts.

Having old books which are not about Chagrin Falls appraised for possible sale.

Dressing empty storefront windows in downtown Chagrin Falls.

Strengthening our Publications Committee.

Finding an editor for our newsletter.

The larger issues which we are facing including the possibility of needing to find a new home, the limitations of our current space, and future staffing needs will be discussed at future planning meetings. If you want to help direct the future of this wonderful historical society please join us at the next planning meeting on Thursday, February 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the basement of the Shute Building. We need your ideas and your talents.

Zo Sykora

TRANSIENT CAMP #5

The Historical Society recently acquired 4 photographs off Ebay dated October 1934 that showed interesting scenes from Transient Camp #5 located at the Chagrin Falls Airport. The reference to "transient camps" was something new, so Don Barriball started combing through old Exponents from the period and has put together an interesting article. The full article can be found on the Society website.

www.chagrinhistorical.org

What follows is an excerpt. May 23, 1934, State Officials visited Chagrin Falls to revive the airport project, which had not moved off center for 6 months. The State requested the Village to grant it permission to develop a "transient camp" under the direction and supervision of the Ohio Transient Service. The camp would be set up on the airport property for carrying out the improvement plans made under the CWA (Federal **C**ivil **W**orks **A**dministration) program. In a special session that evening council passed a resolution authorizing the construction of the camp.

This was camp #5 among a total of ten camps

established throughout Ohio under the direction of the Ohio National Guard. On Monday May 29, 1934 the camp was officially established at the airport. Lieutenant E. R. Kittinger was in charge of the camp and had a cadre of 5 guardsman. Two hundred men would be housed on site and twenty were already there. The men received three meals a day and a place to sleep in return for their labor on the airport. They dug ditches, laid tile and leveled the field. A well was drilled to supply drinking water. Latrines and showers were set up. The State expected the camp to be open until November of 1934.

Most of the supplies were purchased from Chagrin merchants and were paid for every two weeks by the State. Lieutenant Kittinger certified the bills twice each month and the checks were sent directly to the purveyors.

The transients working at the airport came from all parts of the US and were thankful for room and board for their daily labor. There were incidents of minor personal disagreements, usually amicably resolved. However, a report in the Exponent relates four men who were involved in an altercation with knives. Two had stab wounds to their chests and the others had less serious cuts. The military turned the four over to the Sheriff. One man had to be kept at the camp emergency hospital. The consumption of liquor was responsible for the trouble.

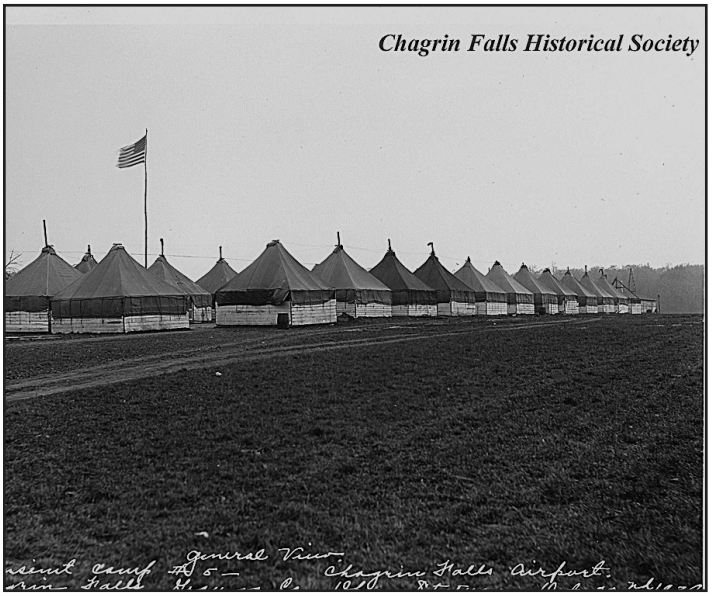
The photos presented in this edition were taken in October 1934. No additional information regarding the airport project was located at the Society.

In January 1935, William Plunkett, National Director of Transient Relief, stated that the Ohio Transient Camps still housing aproximently 1200 men would be abandoned. The men are to be returned to their homes. If they are unable to support themselves they will be placed directly on relief rolls where they reside. The men will be absorbed into the newly proposed gigantic Federal Works program. This became the Works Projects Administration (WPA) which accomplished so much throughout the Chagrin Valley and the Country.

Don Barriball

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

During our planning meeting last month we discussed the need to get new volunteers involved. As a start, we are looking for 2-3 people who would be interested in being trained to take oral histories. Another objective we have is to photograph, document and enter into our computer data base all of the objects that we have in the museum. This will take a number of volunteers, and the tasks can be broken down into manageable segments. If you are interested, you can call Pat at 247-5209, or email Zo at chaghist@sbcglobal.net, or email John at jbourisseau@gmail.com We look forward to getting you involved.



General View Transient Camp #5 Chagrin Falls Airport, Chagrin Falls, Geauga Co., Ohio status on Oct. 22nd, 1934 Dick Dreyer



Company Street looking towards flag pole. Transient Camp #5 Chagrin Falls Airport, Chagrin Falls Geauga Co. Ohio Status on Oct. 22nd, 1934 Dick Dreyer

Curators Corner

Overview Calendar

February	**9**	**Special Board Meeting for Officers, Committee Chairs, and interested members. We'll continue our discussion of Historical Society Goals, Shute Building---10:00 am**
	12	**Music at the Library, sponsored by The Friends of the Library: Peggy Coyle and Brad Bolton with Jazz, Blues and Pop Tunes, 2-4 pm (Free)**
	14	**C. F. Historical Society Board Meeting, Shute Building 9:30 am**
	16	**"Members Only" Pot Luck Dinner, held at the Lutheran Church, 6 pm**

The Historical Society is open to the public each Thursday from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. We are also open by Special Appointment. Just give us a call!!

Acquisition:
The Historical Society recently purchased, on ebay, four interesting photographs which we had never seen before. They are four photos of the Geauga-Chagrin Falls Transient Labor Camp which was located at the Chagrin Falls Airport circa 1934 (now Kensington Green) You can see 2 of the photos and excerpts from a research article by Don Barriball elsewhere in this newsletter.

Accessions:
An 1894 Chagrin Falls Exponent newspaper
(Donor--Bonnie Lane)
A C. F. Postcard Photo showing the April 1923 laying of the cornerstone of the Masonic Temple. A stage of sorts was set up and all of the prominent Masons are seated there. Over 2000 people attended and every man, woman and child is wearing a hat!
(Donor--John Bourisseau)

Be My Valentine!



Pat Zalba
Volunteer Curator

