

Fall Speaker Series

Ready to Go

September 15th will present local resident **Roger Schindler** as he shares his story of dealing with illness over his lifetime. It is truly a "Profile in Courage".



October 20th we will meet at the Suffield United Church of Christ where **Brian Ebie** will take us back to the days of silent film as he accompanies the black and white Laurel and Hardy film on the organ.



Travel to South Africa with **Keith Stayer and Loren Stayer** as they share their big game hunting adventure with videos, slides, and mounts of some of their wild game. **November 17th**!

Programs begin at 7:00 p.m. at the community room of the Suffield Fire Station. Light refreshments are served.

Calling all photographers!

The Suffield Historical Society wants to offer a 2016 calendar featuring "Seasons of Suffield" which will feature color photos of scenes around our community. With Wingfoot Lake, Mogadore Dam, golf courses, and farm land, there are ample places where Mother Nature creates beautiful scenery during all seasons of the year. If you are interested, please think about capturing some fall and winter pictures. We will remind you in the spring newsletter about additional spring and summer pictures. We want to have the calendar ready for purchase during the fall of 2015. Please contact any of the officers listed on the back page for further information.

Museum is open so...

Stop in on the 1st and 3rd Sunday afternoon of September, October, and November from 2 – 4 PM. Coffee is on, plenty of things to read and see, and lots of great conversation. Call for other times.

Plans underway for Spaghetti Dinner...

Saturday, November 1st will find the aroma of homemade spaghetti sauce in the air as the historical society offers "A Night in Italy" dinner and fellowship from 5 to 7 pm at the Suffield UCC. The menu consists of spaghetti, tossed salad, apple sauce, garlic bread, beverage, and a wide variety of desserts. Once again, a bread bar and raffle for gift baskets will be available. Ticket prices have remained the same - \$7 for adults, \$5 for students, and 5 and under are free. Carryouts are offered if you prefer "home" dining.

Tickets may be purchased from any of the officers, at the September and October programs, or by calling Nancy Wise at 330-628-2823.

We hope you will join us in this fund raiser. All proceeds are used to maintain the museum, provide scholarships, and serve the Suffield community whatever way we can.

Success is relative—the more success, the more relatives.



*Who knows what evil
lurks in the hearts of
men...???*

Only the shadow knows.

Ears would be glued to the radio as *The Shadow* radio program begin its half-hour journey into the land of mystery and adventure! How many of us grew up **listening** to programs like *The Lone Ranger*, the *Arthur Godfrey Show*, *Amos and Andy*, *Our Gal Sunday*, *The Green Hornet*, *Burns and Allen*, *Jack Benny*, *Fiber McGee* and *Molly* ...to name just a few. Families gathered around the radio, first the big boxlike structures and later smaller units, and sat often spell bound by what was heard through the speakers. Unlike television, radio put no boundaries on imagination and the images created in our mind's eye were only limited by our own choosing.

**Spaghetti Dinner
Tickets On Sale Now!
Pre-Sale Only!**

Remember Orson Wells **War of the Worlds** broadcast?

Rarely has a radio program elicited the mass hysteria as did that October 30th broadcast of H.G. Wells novel, **War of the Worlds**.

Orson Welles narrated as the Mercury Theater on the Air broadcast an "alien" invasion in Grover's Mill, New Jersey. Most listeners missed the brief announcement that this program was fictional. The realistic broadcast created absolute panic as people fled into the streets to escape the invading creatures. The power of audio and people's imaginations and the ability to create such mass fear stunned the country. It was exactly 76 years ago Oct. 30th that Wells put the **War of the Worlds** on the radio. YouTube can provide you with this broadcast. Halloween would be a great time to gather the family around, turn off cell phones and lights, and recreate the atmosphere of 1938!



Thanks for your support!

Our May plant sale, Memorial Day concessions, and the Music Festival booth all provided us with needed funds for the historical society. Not only were the sales better, but the opportunity people had to reminisce was great. The many folks who looked over the scrapbooks and photo albums shared how it brought back many memories and connections. Thanks again for showing such interest in local history.



When fish are in schools,
they sometimes take debate!

A thief who stole a calendar
got twelve months!

To write with a broken pencil
is pointless!

When the smog lifts in Los
Angeles U.C.L.A.

(Thanks to Bev Persons for
sharing these "lexophiles".)

Notes on Brian....

Many of you remember the programs that Brian Ebie has presented to the historical society. The History of Mogadore Dam, The Story of Edison and Phonograph, and the exciting and dramatic organ accompaniment to the original "Phantom of the Opera" silent movie were among his popular programs. Brian recently was privileged to play the organ at the Morman Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah. His mastery of the King of Instruments is well known and all of us can look forward to hearing him at the November Speaker Series.

Museum Update

A one hundred year old phonograph was recently donated to the historical society by member John Saxe. It is complete with old records and is in working order. Thanks, John.

Thanks to Dave and Bev Persons for the new curtains in the upstairs of the museum. It is now a safe, attractive, and comfortable

space. Additionally, special thanks goes to Ralph Wise, Bob Longbottom, Ken Durick, and Gino Calcei along with support from the township trustees in adding a new stoop, steps, and railing, carpeting the steps, adding additional railings to access the 2nd floor safely, new door and new windows.



(Taken from the Suffield Township Sesquicentennial and Homecoming Program from 1952) "The only railroad in Suffield Township is the Wheeling, Lake Erie, originally known as the Connotton Valley Railway Co...In 1878 this company purchased the Ohio and Toledo Railroad with a finished track from Delroy to Minerva. In 1879 the company was chartered to build a road (tracks) from Canton to Cleveland. This entered the southern line of Suffield Township and was completed with trains running as far north as Mogadore by June 1881. During the same year it was finished and opened through to Cleveland, Ohio.

For a number of years five passenger trains were making the trips daily. At present it is

only used to carry freight. Some of the Station Agents were Lou Long, Robert Cartmill, Curtis Sell, Charles Ferguson, Carl Burtscher, Clay Baker and W.R. Dodds and Mrs. W.R. Dodds. "

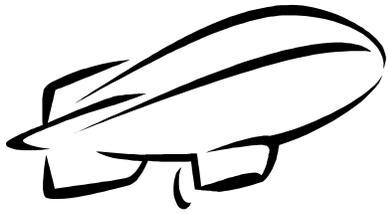
The Dodd's were the grandparents of Cookie Fogarty Apitz. Cookie recalls the days of going into the station house with its coal burning stove and wooden benches.

The railroad depot is long gone, but the sound of the trains and the rumble on the tracks still can bring back memories of the heyday of passenger service here in Suffield.

Suffield League News

With a rousing and successful Music Festival behind them, the League is looking forward to their annual "Visit with Santa" which will be held Sunday, December 14th at the town hall. Always a special event, Santa will arrive on a fire engine and children can whisper their Christmas wishes to the jolly man in red! Plan on attending this community event. Watch for further information. Thanks to the League members for all their efforts! The League's Laugh at the Lake is scheduled for mid-March! More info coming later.

Up,Up and Away...The Goodyear Blimp



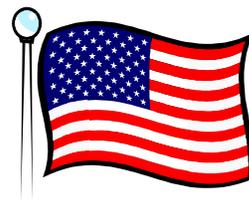
With the launching of the newest airship, Wingfoot One, we thought it timely to take a section from the book, **Portage County, Ohio – The Twentieth Century-** for inclusion in this edition of our newsletter. Following is an excerpt from Jerry Shanafelt’s recollection of his time in 1955 when he was test flying the ZPG5K:

“Some flights were done in the Akron-Cleveland area. We did most of these tests over Lake Erie and were required to wear parachutes. The scariest things about the test flight were structural maneuvers. These were at full power, sharp climbs and dives simulating what you would do in violent storms. We flew the airship to Lakehurst, New Jersey to demonstrate it to the U.S. Navy. On the last flight,#55, we were trying an emergency landing with split elevator and rudder controls. The pilot had the elevator and the copilot had the rudder. We were caught by a large wind shift. We missed the runway and came down in the sand, breaking the landing gear off. The pilot tried to take off again, but with the landing gear broken, the propellers hit the paved runway and looked like pretzels. The engines both caught on fire and we were

being blown towards the barracks and houses. The pilot tried to pull the rip cable on the envelope, but was unable. He said, “Let’s get out of here.” I was able to kick out the round window in my compartment and drop to the ground. Four of us got out. Without our weight, the airship became light enough to get back in the air, and the two pilots and a mechanic were carried by the wind several miles and landed in a cornfield.” (A copy of this book is in the historical society museum.)

To read more about the history of the Goodyear blimps and the hangar here in Suffield, visit the historical society museum where a rather complete history of the airships, photo album, and blimp memorabilia are housed.

If any of you have stories you would like to share about the blimp, please share those with us.



A Dutchman was explaining the red, white, and blue Netherlands flag to an American. “Our flag is symbolic of our taxes. We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bills, and blue after we pay them” The American nodded. “It’s the same in the USA, only we see stars, too!”

