



Morgan County Historic Preservation Society  
P. O. Box 1377  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
<http://www.mchps.org>

Summer 2008

## PRESERVATION NEWS

Visit our blue-ribbon booth at the  
Morgan County Fair!  
July 26 – August 2

### Message from the President

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I am back as your president after a few years off the board and a few more serving as secretary. I have to admit that it was with some hesitation that I agreed to resume the position of leader. Joe did such a remarkable job directing this organization, securing and managing grant funds, and standing up to elected officials and others who make grass roots preservation both difficult and stressful. It is my hope that we will someday soon get to the point where preservation is no longer an issue of crisis management and instead about proactive and responsible cultural resource management.

I have been president since the Annual Meeting held May 17<sup>th</sup>. In those two months, we have learned that the Morgan County commissioners and council have resumed their acquisition of historic properties near the administration building on South Main Street. The county's purchase of the Crone house at 109 W. Jackson St. means the Barnard House is again in jeopardy. Read more below.

We have established a significant partnership with Grassyfork Heritage, a group of Martinsville natives and residents and now MCHPS members who are striving to save the old Grassyfork sales and display building on East Morgan Street. We are cautiously preparing to make a purchase offer on this landmark property.

We're also gearing up for future fundraising efforts—a new Cat's Meow piece depicting the Homelawn Sanitarium and a new Martinsville history book—and the Morgan County Fair. Our webmaster and former board member,

Terry Bunton, has created a beautiful hand fan featuring "must save" historic properties in Morgan County. We're also hoping to give away Pepperidge Farm's smiling goldfish crackers to publicize the current plight of Grassyfork and to rally support for the effort to save it. Mark Stuttgen is also assembling an eye-catching slide show of historic properties throughout Morgan County

Our fair booth will be manned some nights by representatives of Grassyfork Heritage, Wilbur Community Center, Academy of Hoosier Heritage, and perhaps also by the Hall Civic Association. Come by and say hello, lend your encouragement, and give them a pat on the back. All of them are valued colleagues in preserving Morgan County.

### Double Trouble

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*The Barnard House is again endangered, and this time it is joined by a second house. The County recently signed a purchase agreement for the Crone house at 109 W. Columbus St. Ron Hawkins of the Reporter-Times wrote the following article published July 9. Now we are confronted with trying to negotiate not just one but two saves.*

The future of the Morgan County-owned, historic Barnard House is uncertain again after the Morgan County Council authorized buying a property Monday that was going to be included in a deal to save the house.

In January, Morgan County Commissioner Norman Voyles said a deal to save the Barnard House, 89 W. Columbus St., was “pretty much” done. At that time, however, members of the Morgan County Historic Preservation Society said it wasn’t quite that simple.

In the proposed deal, the family that wanted the Barnard House was going to buy the W.I. and Garnet Crone House, 109 W. Jackson St., and trade it for the Barnard House. The family had wanted the Barnard House to be on the National Register of Historic Places because it would make it more notable and would make it eligible for rehabilitation tax credits.

The family lives on the East Coast, however, and needed to sell its home there before completing the deal. The family has been unable to sell the property.

The collapse of the possible deal became final when the county council voted Monday to authorize the purchase of the Jackson Street house for \$118,000.

Voyles confirmed Tuesday that the house had been expected to be part of the deal that would have saved the Barnard House. In January, Voyles said he had “no comment” about that aspect of the deal “until the person involved” is ready.

Historic preservation society members and county officials have declined to name the family, other than to say it had long-term family ties to Morgan County.

Joanne Stuttgen, president of the Morgan County Historic Preservation Society, said Tuesday she had not been informed about the new acquisition.

Historic preservation society members had been working on plans to move the Barnard House before the family stepped forward saying it would like to buy the house and keep it where it is.

Voyles told the council that the purchase of the Crone House will give the county a half-city block that could be used for future development such as a parking lot. When it acquired the Barnard House in 2006, the county planned to tear it down and convert the lot into parking space for the adjacent Morgan County Administration Building.

The county put its plans for demolishing the house on hold when historic preservation society members raised objections last summer. The Martinsville Common Council passed a resolution asking the county to reconsider its plans.

Voyles said Monday there are no plans to do anything with the properties. Council members, however, said that with the increased use of the administration building, the lack of parking is becoming a problem.

Although the future of the Barnard House is uncertain, Voyles said, there are no current plans to tear down the building.

## **Be Careful What you Say. . .**

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*One year ago, many people were outraged when Norman Voyles disowned a local resident and active preservationist because she was “not born and raised here.” Board member Del Chafey may have forgiven, but he didn’t forget. He has filed to run against incumbent Voyles for his seat as county commissioner. Please cast a vote this fall for preservation—and in support of everyone who by choice has moved into the community and stayed.*

*Ron Hawkins is the author of this article that appeared in the July 12 issue of the Reporter-Times:*

Comments made by Morgan County Commissioner Norman Voyles to a *Reporter-Times* staffer a little more than a year ago helped convince Del Chafey to oppose the incumbent. Chafey filed to run as a Democrat in the November general election for the District 1 seat held by Voyles, a Republican. Chafey was the only Democrat to file to run in a countywide race.

The comments by Voyles last July that helped push Chafey to toss his hat into ring were made regarding a Morgan County preservationist trying to save the Barnard House from the wrecking ball. The future of that building remains uncertain.

“I’m sure you could find some historical item about several houses downtown and around town,” Voyles said last year. “You’ve got someone not born and raised here on a mission to save these old buildings. The county gave up the old jail (where the Hummingbird Heaven Tea Room was until earlier this month) and now there’s nothing more crappy than driving up through Home Bank and seeing that.”

Based on that comment, the standard for being part of the community would seem to exclude many who chose to move to Morgan County, Chafey said.

“I’ve lived here for 36 years and I consider myself a citizen of the county,” Chafey said. “I resent people who say I don’t belong here. . . . I don’t want to live anywhere

else. I felt bad for those who were born here. That's no way for an elected official to talk."

Around last Christmas, he was asked "by good friends" if he would run for the commissioner seat held by Voyles. "I asked God to give me a sign," Chafey said. "I asked (God) for months to impress upon me if that's what he wanted me to do."

The sign, the candidate said, came in the form of the people who crossed his path in the time that followed. Those people included Democrats and Republicans and many of them shared Chafey's displeasure with Voyles' comments and his work as a commissioner, Chafey said.

Chafey has always considered himself a conservative Democrat. The tag "conservative" can be applied to most Morgan County residents, he said.

If he were elected commissioner, Chafey would want to be known as an elected official who cares about residents. Voters want someone in the office "who doesn't look down on them, who respects them," Chafey said. The most important issue in his campaign is the need to elect someone who cares, Chafey said.

Chafey also is concerned about saving historic properties. "I'm tired of seeing the county's heritage torn down," the Democratic candidate said. Elected officials have lacked the vision to appreciate "the value of a building that's been around here longer than we have."

On other issues, Chafey said:

— He wants the county to be a safe, prosperous and affordable place to raise a family and for their children to raise their families.

— He takes great pride in his decision-making skills developed in his work and fiscal responsibility and keeping an open mind "with all parties concerned to reach decisions based on facts and common sense."

— Said he hasn't heard many objections about the county's decision to double its income tax to make county revenues less reliant on property taxes.

— It's clear that the county needs to expand its jail, but to do that the county needs to stop spending money on parking lots it doesn't need.

— He believes many county residents rose to the occasion in January when wind damaged the Morgan County Courthouse and in June when hundreds of homes were flooded. There may, however, have been communication glitches in the county's response to the flooding, he said.

## 2008 Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, May 17, at the historic Kivett's building at the corner of Main and Morgan Streets in downtown Martinsville. The landmark building has recently been purchased by Ron Stanhouse, who served as genial host and tour guide.

A brief business meeting preceded the public program and building tour.

**Financial Report** • Treasurer Mark Stuttgen presented the 2007 summary financial report. As of December 31, 2007, the balance in our HomeBank account was \$14,976.05. We also had a \$3,000 CD at Keybank, but it has since expired and has not been renewed. Total income for 2007 was \$25,419.97. Total expenses for 2007 were \$19,071.21. Total net income was \$6,348.76. The opening account balance for 2007 was \$6,967.56. The closing account balance was \$13,316.32.

**Façade Improvement Grants** • Del Chafey reported that this year there were three residential applications and one non-residential application. The review committee consisted of Bob Elliott (Habitat for Humanity), Jamie Thompson (Greater Martinsville Chamber of Commerce), Del Chafey, and Mark Dollase (Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana). The committee evaluated the applications in terms of historic accuracy of the proposed project; appropriateness of the restoration of the building to the immediate area; the degree to which the project maintained the integrity of the community; the significance of the property; and the economic viability of the property.

The recipients of this year's grants are Karen Melaniphy, in the non-residential category for repair of the brick cornice of the IOOF building, Martinsville, and Ed and Marilyn James in the residential category for replication of shutters at 90 W. Harrison Street, Martinsville. There were no applications from outside Martinsville.

**President's Recap of 2007** • Following the business meeting, outgoing president Joe Mills summarized the highs and lows of the Society's work in 2007. "All in all, it was a good year," he said. Recipients of the first façade improvement grant were Bill and Kelly Wells in the residential category and the Wilbur Community Center Corporation in the non-residential category.

At the Morgan County fair, fairgoers voted for their choices of endangered properties. Grassyfork, Goethe Link Observatory, and the Martinsville Sanitarium/Kennedy Home were carried over from 2006. "They remain of great concern. We are treading water with most of these properties," Joe said.

The good news includes a new group formed to address the threat to the Grassyfork building. The MCHPS Board has agreed to allow Grassyfork Heritage to umbrella under the organization so it can take advantage of our not-for-profit status.

"In regards to the historic properties around the County Administration building, it appears that several elected county officials have learned that the scorched earth policy has some political liability. The Barnard House was the subject of much public attention, and where it looked like it was close to being saved, that hope has now faded. It is not extinguished, but it is faded.

"The Martinsville Sanitarium/Kennedy home is now in imminent danger. There was some storm damage in January, and people are now scrambling to do something with it. It does not look good.

"The courthouse square has received a lot of attention, and there are signs of hope. There are new owners of several buildings, including this one [Kivett's], a new ordinance is being drafted by the plan commission, and a Main Street program is being explored by the community.

"The Cunningham Cemetery is still of some concern. The Morgan County History and Genealogy Association is investigating several issues, including ownership, precise location, and size.

"The good news with the West Union Cemetery is that the state is no longer taking the land it wanted. Other good news related to the State Road 42 project comes from Don and Joyce Robinson, owners of the historic William Macy house and farm, who inform us that the highway plans have been changed. The state is no longer taking a major chunk of their front yard, with mature trees. Instead, the highway has been pushed north, proving that the good guys do indeed sometimes win.

"Our fundraising efforts continue to be successful. Book sales are steady, as are the sales of Cat's Meow pieces. Despite what can only be called miserable cold and wet conditions, December's historic homes tour was the best we have ever had. In March, we moved the Cabin Fever Yard Sale to the Armory, and it, too, was successful.

"Thanks and praise goes to Mark Stuttgen for returning as our treasurer and getting our financial affairs back in order.

"Thanks comes from the board of the Academy of Hoosier Heritage for partnering with them on our fundraisers. This is the single biggest source of income that the museum has."

**Election of the Board of Directors** • Returning members are Mark and Joanne Stuttgen, Del and Tina Chafey, and Pam and John Badger. New members agreeing to serve are Richard and Marilyn Hornberger and Aaron Method. Randy Marsh and Joe Mills have stepped down. All nominees were elected, making a full board of nine members.

**Election of Officers** • The following were elected as officers: Joanne Stuttgen, president; Tina Chafey, vice president; Mark Stuttgen, treasurer. The position of secretary is not filled [and it remains unfilled as of this writing. Joanne continues as secretary pro tem].

**Preservationist of the Year Award** • The 2008 award was given to Bill and Kelly Wells in recognition of their growth as preservationists and their great care in restoring their house at 339 S. Ohio Street. They attended MCHPS workshops on researching the history of your historic property and preparing your own National Register of Historic Places nomination, received a 2007 façade improvement grant and successfully completed the project, and prepared and submitted a National Register nomination for their house. This nomination was approved at the April meeting of the state historic preservation review board; listing is expected by the end of the year.

The Wellses received a certificate in an antique frame and a \$100 gift certificate to Lowe's.

## Remembering Kivett's

### Remembering Kivett's



Following the business portion of the Annual Meeting, attendees were invited to reminisce about Kivett's five- and ten-cent store, a local institution for more than 50 years. The building itself originated as a drugstore, with the third floor added as the Masonic lodge about 1900. The drugstore closed during the Depression, and Moore's five and dime took its place. Kivett's followed Moore's.

Ruth Hammans, born in 1927, remembers coming to Kivett's with her mother 80 years ago. The candy case was in the front, on the north side, and picture frames were on the south side. Moving east to west, then came handkerchiefs. In the back were dishes. Ruth remembers rolls and rolls of oil cloth used for kitchen tables. "Every year we had to have a new oil cloth." Her daughter Brenda Zody remembers that when she began teaching in 1969, she bought oil cloth for her students' desks.

[Brenda retired this spring from teaching at Green Township elementary School.] Ruth says that Kivett's had everything you needed for your house: shoes and boots, pots and pans, dishes, toys, aprons and bonnets. There was a hat shop in the back. "The first floor was the only part of the building I was ever in," she says. "I always thought it was so exciting to go out the side door."

As children, Brenda and her cousin would clean house for a relative who lived in one of the second floor apartments. They'd come downstairs to spend the money they earned, and also go to the movies and Newberry's. She describes the second floor apartments as having been "creaky and scary. She remembers the bathroom was downstairs. Brenda says she once asked to use the telephone and was told, "Oh, we had one once, but it kept ringing, so we took it out."

Joyce Hamilton recently ran into her friend Wilma, who worked at Kivett's for 33 1/2 years. Since Joyce was coming to this meeting, she asked what Wilma remembered about Kivett's. Wilma said the school supplies were on the left, then (heading west), paper supplies, window blinds and cosmetics, women's undergarments and aprons. She, too, recalls the hat shop in the back. The most popular item was Blue Waltz perfume. The candy counter was up front. Wilma said there were six to seven clerks working at any given time, with maybe a crew of 20 clerks total.

For Joyce, the most coveted item in the store was paper dolls. There was a wooden cigar store Indian out front and a weighing machine/scale inside the front door.

Joyce brought a price sign that she bought at Kivett's going-out-of-business auction, which she thinks was about 1984. The card that slips into the metal frame says Moore's on it, so it is over 70 years old. The sign stood on a display counter. Joyce's father-in-law bought a glass bowl—Madrid pattern Depression glass—at Kivett's for his wife in 1918. It cost 35 cents. Joyce and her husband, Richard, still have it.

At the going-out-of-business auction, Elmer Reynolds bought the card racks that stood along the south wall. He remembers these from about the 1950s-1060s. As a boy, he bought Red Rider comic books here, as well as a Shirley Temple cream pitcher. He still has a lot of stuff he bought at Kivett's, including a Gene Autry book.

Tom Tackett recalls that there was a big cash register in the center, up front, and smaller cash registers throughout the store. "There were smaller, little, cheap brown National registers and one big brass National register."

"They were always watching you," Tom remembers, and many nodded their heads in agreement.

Joe Mills asked if anyone has a story about a Kivett's experience of an unusual or humorous nature. He told this story: He and Sharon had a booth when the Lesters had the flea market on the first floor [this would have been in the mid-1990s]. When they picked up their check and list of items sold, there was a \$1.50 item that they could not account for. They realized that the clerk had sold a \$150 Bavarian bowl for \$1.50!

Ben Rawlins remembered that they used to keep the best toys on the top shelf [he points to the top shelf of those along the north wall, west of the stairs to the basement] so you couldn't touch them. This would have been the late 1950s. Someone asked him what toy was his most coveted. He paused and answered, "Some kind of [metal] cowboy and Indian set."

Joanne Stuttgen shared a story that Dave Rosenbaum, who graduated from Martinsville High School in 1983, told her. When there was time to kill in town, they'd go to Kivett's to look around. Dave said, "I was always interested in plants, and they had this \$3.00 terrarium in a glass bowl. It was like my Holy Grail. I'd stand there and stare at, figuring out how many lawns I'd have to mow in order to buy it." David never did buy the terrarium. He also remembered the candy case/counter and fish in aquariums. However, no one present remembered the aquariums. They said it was Newberry's that had aquariums, not Kivett's.

Elmer Reynolds said that a very popular perfume was "Evening in Paris," in a cobalt blue bottle. He told a story about John Neal's wife when she was a little girl. She bought a bottle of "Evening in Paris" for her teacher as a Christmas gift. On the way up the steps as she was delivering it, she tripped and fell, breaking the bottle. Her teacher soaked up the perfume in a towel and tried to console her by saying it was the thought that counted.

Tom Tackett was barred from the building when he was a boy in 1961. His 75-year-old grandmother lived in one of the second floor apartments. He'd get bored while visiting her and come downstairs. He'd stare at the candy case. "After a half hour, an hour, a day, one of the clerk's would give me a piece. Finally, my grandma was told to please keep me out of the store."

Tom believes it was Julian Cramer who did the remodeling of the store. Tom was told there was a barbershop, either in the back of the building or in the basement, where local musicians hung out and played. This was before the remodeling, presumably the 1930s-era remodeling during which the first floor dividing wall was removed.

Joyce Hamilton remembered the great big Santa Claus in the front window. Elmer Reynolds remembered that it was mechanical, on a great big board. At the going-out-of-business auction, he bid on it but didn't get it. He was in a

hurry to get somewhere. He believes it is now up in Zionsville.

Richard Hamilton said, "This store never sold anything very expensive. The toys were the cheaper toys."

Richard Hornberger shared an anecdote about Mr. Moore, who was known for adding merchandise to a bill. There would be stuff sitting around the register, and he'd slip it onto a customer's bill. If he was questioned, he'd say, "Oh, I thought that was yours."

Marie Dake still has her Mom's and Dad's coffee cups that they bought at Kivett's. The saucers no longer exist. One Christmas, Marie's Grandpa Reynolds bought a red wagon from Kivett's, filled it with candy and fruit, and gave it to her and her sisters. "It was one of the best gifts I ever got."

"It was true that anything you couldn't find, you could find it here," Richard Hamilton said.

"That would always infuriate Martha Chambers [who owned Kivett's at the end]," remembers Elmer Reynolds. She'd say to me 'I've heard that a million times. And I'd say, "Why didn't you come here first?'"

After the stories were brought to a close—they could have flowed all night!—Ron Stanhouse took people upstairs to show them the third floor former Masonic Hall. Meanwhile, Joanne Stuttgen bravely tried out the basement bathroom. It was just as spooky down there as Brenda Zody remembers when she was a kid.

## HLFI Membership Cards

If you would like your Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana membership card in order to take advantage of HLF I member benefits, including reduced admission to the West Baden Springs Hotel, please contact Joanne Stuttgen at (765) 349-1537 or email [jstuttgen@comcast.net](mailto:jstuttgen@comcast.net). Each member is also entitled to one card good for a 30% discount off paint and 15% discount off supplies at Sherwin Williams. If you do not request these cards, they will not be mailed. One last thing: please let Joanne know if you are not receiving your bimonthly news magazine, *Indiana Preservationist*, from HLF I.

## Main Street Martinsville

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In collaboration with the Greater Martinsville Chamber of Commerce and with the support of the City of Martinsville, MCHPS is preparing to submit an application to become the 41st Main Street community in Indiana by the end of the year.

Established almost 30 years ago by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Main Street program is a community-driven, preservation-based economic development initiative for historic downtowns in more than 1200 communities nationwide. National statistics show that a ten-year Main Street program reinvests an average of \$12 million in the downtown area, launches 70 new businesses, and creates 250 new jobs.

In August, Jill Rateike of the Indiana Office of Rural and Community Affairs will present a public informational program on the Main Street program. You will receive an email or a postcard announcing the time and date. Following this program, community volunteers will be sought to form committees to work in four distinct areas: design, economic restructuring, promotion, and organization.

The Downtown Merchants Association already sponsor several promotional events year. Another was added on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Under the direction of Pam and John Badger, MCHPS board members and owners of the Martinsville Candy Kitchen, the group pulled together a successful "Fourth on the Fifth" festival held on the courthouse square. A car show, flea market, fish fry by the Baptist church youth group, pet parade, and an old-fashioned pie auction took place during the course of the day. Scotty Manley, a member of the city council with a passion for downtown Martinsville, provided his services as DJ and emcee of the events. Mayor Phil Deckard auctioned off the pies.

New board member Aaron Method is planning a trip to Delphi to visit with representatives of the Delphi Main Street group and explore ideas for regional tourism. He envisions a plan or program that will connect small communities to each other instead of each seeking to attract tourism alone.

In October, we will attend the Indiana Main Street/Cornelius O'Brien conference on historic preservation to be held in Bloomington and meet our colleagues from across the state. We have much to learn and a lot of work ahead of us, but we believe downtown Martinsville has an exciting future.

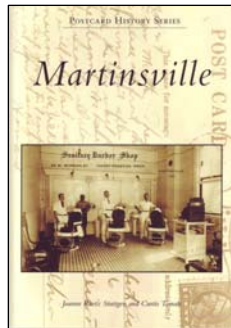
## News Briefs

### Board of Directors

**Old Jail** (Tina Chafey) • After 14 years in business, Tina Chafey and her sister-in-law, Judy Krick, have closed Hummingbird Heaven due to rising food costs. Since 2001, the business has been located in the Old Jail, so its closing means MCHPS is without a tenant. Requests to rent the building for special events have been coming in, and the Board is considering this as a possibility. The building is again actively on the market and priced at \$135,000, with a 15% credit for the protective covenants. At the same time, the Board is receiving estimates on interior plaster work and exterior masonry repair and metal work with an eye on applying for federal preservation funds this fall.

**Downtown Rezoning Ordinance** (Joanne Stuttgen) • A final draft of a proposed ordinance to rezone historic downtown Martinsville as a special zoning district will be presented to the Martinsville Plan Commission on June 22. The first public hearing will be held at the meeting of the plan commission on August 26. For more on the proposed ordinance, see the Spring 2008 newsletter.

**Fundraising** (Tina Chafey) • The new history of Martinsville based on vintage postcards by Joanne Stuttgen and Curtis Tomak will go on sale at the Martinsville Candy Kitchen the week of August 11. Cost is \$20.00 no tax/\$16 members.



## 2008-09 Board of Directors

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## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM • MORGAN COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOCIETY

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**Thank you for your support.** Memberships expire December 31. Memberships received after October 1 will be extended through the following year. Please mail completed form to:

MCHPS

P. O. Box 1377

Martinsville, IN 46151

For more information call (765) 342-0391 or (765) 349-1949 or see our website at

<http://www.mchps.org>