Lost Car Companies of Detroit—featuring the History of the American Auto Industry

Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 pm
Richmond Community Center
36164 Festival Dr.
Richmond, MI

Do you know?

Which automaker forgot to put brakes in his new automobile, so on the first test run, he had to drive it in circles until it ran out of gas?

Which automakers trashed many saloons but always paid for damages the next day?

Which automaker built an auto plant in Marysville, Michigan?

Learn the answers to these questions and hear many more fascinating stories and facts when local author and historian, Alan Naldrett, shares the history and tales of automakers who ultimately failed but shaped the industry and designs putting wheels on the road today.

For more information contact Mary Ellen at 586-808-2953
Thrivent Grant Supports RAHGS

Dinner Meeting Packets Available

Because of Pam Materazzi’s generosity and good will, RAHGS received a grant from Thrivent Financial Services. Pam filed the necessary paperwork to start the process, and just a couple of weeks later she presented us with “Seed Money” for the Historic Tea. The $250.00 was used to purchase baking supplies for the homemade scones and table favor cookies. Thank you, Thrivent, for giving back to our community and for supporting local non-profits, and thank you Pam for thinking of RAHGS with this opportunity.

The 2017 Annual Dinner Meeting was fun and informative for all. The evening included remarks from State Representative Jeff Yaroch, the “Year in Review” PowerPoint presentation by Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan, a time-lapse video of barn activities by Rich Weinert, remarks from Foundation President Dr. Patrick McClellan, a description of recent projects by Norm Gibson, and the general State of the Society.

Attendees received a packet of information that includes finances, donations, accomplishments, and goals of the Society. If you did not attend the meeting, but would like a copy of the packet, let me know and I will be sure that you receive one either electronically or by snail mail.

Naturally it is the comments from the membership that mean so much to us, and I would like to share this one with you from Linda Schenburn: First, we loved your program and dinner! The amount you all have accomplished, the number of volunteers and the collaboration with the city, and community leaders was truly impressive! Your organization should be showcased and be a spotlight for the State of Michigan local history initiatives. And Linda’s guest Dr. Naomi Stasak commented, “I loved the video. I’m amazed at how much you do...and all the volunteers. I think all historic societies should see the video and what has been done in Richmond. I’m very impressed with the relationship you have with the city.”

Remember the Historic Tea on March 10th at Golden Hawk Golf Course. On the same day, the men of RAHGS are gathering to have a wiener roast at the Village. All RAHGS men are invited to attend this annual event.


Christine
Early American Doll Class

Thursday, June 21, 2018:
10am to 12pm
School Section
One Room Schoolhouse
Price $10, limit 12 students

Save the date! Learn about the history of Early American dolls as you make a handkerchief doll to take home with you. Carol Lippman, teacher of the science explorers class for the past two years, is back this summer to share her knowledge of dolls. Join us at the Village for the fun!

Task Force Team Formed

The society board recognizes the need to secure funds necessary to not only complete the current, Richmond Historic Barn project, but to move forward with the vision of the historic village. Without additional funds, the village will cease to grow and the vision will not become a reality. It was out of this monetary need, the society board voted to create a task force team whose purpose was to research and interview possible candidates suitable and willing to serve as a grant writer for the society. The following members were nominated and approved to serve as the task force team: Jon Beard, Mary Ellen Shepherd-Logan, Ken Simmons, and Rich Weinert. Please contact one of these members if you know anyone who might be able to help the society reach the necessary financial goals to secure the future of the historic village.

Welcome!

New Members:

Mary Elizabeth Hirt Weisheit:
Commerce Township, MI

Robert Westin Hirt:
San Jose, CA

Kevin and Jody McKiernan:
Richmond, MI
2017 RAHGS Accomplishments

- Sent letters to Richmond area businesses for Historic Barn fundraising effort
- Built brick sidewalk from cabin to depot
- Replaced steps to depot platform
- Completed RHS graduation picture preservation project
- Continued restoration of RR hand car and motor car
- Eliminated pockets in cabin logs that collect water
- Reorganized freight side of depot/cleaned and sealed the floor
- Repaired garage windows
- Painted the garage inside and out including the floor
- Repaired garage doors and re-cemented entrances
- Set up temporary Agricultural Exhibit inside Garage.
- Volunteers cleaned out 2 dumpsters worth of debris from the old barn
- Amish workers disassembled the barn and moved beams to new site
- New barn foundation put in and slab floor poured
- Amish workers re-assembled the barn on new site; work continues
- Reconditioned hay carriage for use in barn loft
- Moved piano to school; tuned piano
- Installed shelving in cabin
- Made a mattress for the rope bed; new curtains for the cabin
- Added new members to membership roster
- Established a task force to pursue funding for barn
- Held a successful cemetery walk in October
- Published 6 bi-monthly newsletters
- Held science explorers program in the SSS
- Held Annual Log Cabin Day in June
- Planned two programs for the community
- Hosted the Richmond and Armada Fifth Grades in the SSS
- Provided a guided tour of the Historic Village for Richmond Second Graders

2018 Goals

- Continue fundraising campaign for Village expansion
- Secure a grant writer
- Record names from the 1890s quilt
- Organize the history of RAHGS
- Seal the charred ceiling inside the cabin
- Repair the cabin sills
- Continue restoration of RR hand car and motor car
- Electrify the RR crossing signal
- Replace damaged wood on exterior of school and depot
- Eliminate pockets in cabin logs that collect water (on north wall)
- Reseal schoolhouse floor
- Recruit new members
- Seal bottom door in agricultural exhibit
- Move the donated windmill
- Fix leak in SSS roof
- Unblock depot chimney
- Finish the barn; create strategy to showcase the barn
- Recruit help for yard maintenance

In Memoriam

RAHGS member Paul McConnell, 89, passed away on January 8, 2018. Paul was born in Warren, MI. He had a passion for antiques and he took great pride in the business that he owned for 23 years with his wife Barbara. Paul was an active member of RAHGS, supporting all of the programs and helping at events. A memorial service was scheduled at the Columbus Bible Church on February 24, 2018. He will be missed.
We have been working on several different projects. We are in the process of restoring windows and vents for the barn, a bob sled, a pedal operated grinding wheel, and a hay lift.

Sean Buckert, Don Iveson, Mike Buckert, and Weldon Fealko are working on removing metal parts from a bob sled axle. Rusty nuts and bolts needed to be heated to remove them.

The three runners were then painted. This project has come to a stand still due to need to sand blast parts. We have just acquired a sandblasting cabinet that was donated by Roy Schroeder so we will be making progress soon. An update will be in the next newsletter.

We removed all of the metal parts from three bob sleds runners, and repaired damage to them. An additional runner had to be replaced because it was in very bad condition.

In these photos, Mike and Weldon are working on turning scrap barn siding into window trim for the barn. We restored four windows and made two new ones, plus one window for the loft. We also made fourteen wooden vent windows and the trim for them.

This photo shows the mockup of a closed vent window as seen from the inside, and outside. The wood shutter slides up and down in a wood track. Next to it are all the 182 parts needed to install the fourteen vents.

This is a mock up that shows how the six restored barn windows will look. We have made all the parts needed to install the six windows.
Barn Project Update

The weather has improved, the snow has cleared and the Amish crew worked several days in the last couple of weeks.

Double sliding doors on both ends of the barn that roll on steel tracks have been installed. The tracks have been boxed in with wood that adds a nice finished touch to the doors. Both ends of the barn roof and the “Turkey Tail” (the extension on the west end) have been trimmed out.

Still to come, cutting out the loft doors: one large upper door for the hay carrier on the west end. Two lower doors on the both ends.

Soon, 7 windows and 14 stall vent windows will be installed. We are trying to place the windows and doors in basically the same locations as we found them in the original barn. Norm and his crew have done a great job repairing and building new windows and vents.

The stairway will be rebuilt in the southwest corner. The hay carrier will be installed on a wooden 4x4 rail at the very top of the inside center of the loft. Norm and his crew have cleaned and fixed the hay carrier mechanism to work on the rail.

The loft floor is almost completely installed. This will be an incredible demonstration when finished. Once the weather breaks the cedar shake roof will be installed. Getting closer to completion. It is very exciting seeing the barn coming together. Thank you to all who have donated.

See the Historic Barn Project Time Lapse video on YouTube here: https://youtu.be/5Hda8Ko83AQ

Please make a tax-deductible donation to the Richmond Historic Barn Project.

Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society, 36045 Park Street, PO Box 68

Richmond, MI 48062
If anyone is interested in some seed packets please let me know. We have sold most of the packets that we have for 2018, but we still have Nicotiana, Cleome, Hollyhocks, Cosmos, and Columbine seed packets left, but not many! The Giant Zinnias are all gone! I will harvest more of those for next year. I didn’t realize how popular those would be. Thank you to everyone who purchased our RAHGS seed packets!

If you purchased some of our seeds you should be starting them around the first week in March. I will be starting our seeds for the Village at VanThommes Greenhouse this year instead of in my basement. The seed packets we have left are on sale in the museum.

If you have ANY questions or problems please feel free to call me.

The crocus bulbs that were planted in front of the train depot are coming up! If you drive by the Village, make sure you look and check out what bulbs are coming up! At my house the snowdrops (in the crocus family) are starting to bloom. Also, the daffodils are coming up. I am really anxious to get out in the flower beds but I know it is too early. Easter is very early this year. Maybe by the time the next newsletter comes out there will be some pansies planted at the Village!

Happy Seed Starting!!

Marsha
586-321-8519

Robert Wendt:
Pulley and chain
Evener (horse hitch part)
Gulf air tank
MI registered chauffeur badge 1918
Wool carding tool
Sm brass 1890 Stanley level
Screw-in 1908 light dimmer
1939-43 GTR passes
Wm Wendt and wife 1919 Untitled Brotherhood
Maintenance working card
1913 RHS Echo
Old recipe book
Melvin Wendt birth certificate
Autograph album
Seed sower, hog spreader, hay hook, smoke stack ring plate
Muskrat trap

Marguerite Little:
3 milk bottles, reproductions (c. 1884)
Tattoo kit for goats and sheep

Kelly Osterman:
RI Feed and Grain poster/calendar, May 1935
1940s flag

Barb Platz:
Ucago ceramic pieces
Bicentennial mason jars

Tammy Ryall:
Wooden child’s sled

Gary Bertossi:
Laundry bottle from Gleason St. house

Darrel Haws:
Electrical boxes

Charlotte Ward:
1958 Richmond phone book
1894 Richmond silver spoon
Our mission statement:

- To share with others the legacy left us by our forefathers, the migrants from the East and the immigrants from Europe, who with foresight and conviction built a better future for themselves and their children, and for the generations that followed.
- To honor and remember those who cleared the land, grew the crops, educated the young, and to pay homage to those who fought in the wars and sacrificed their lives for something they believed in.
- To encourage our community leaders to preserve the few historical building remaining today.
- To provide assistance to those who turn to us for help in finding their roots.

The general membership meetings/programs, which are open to the public, are held throughout the year. The Historic Village is open during Winter Festival, on Log Cain Day, during Good Old Days, Thursday morning work bees, special events, and by special appointment. Watch the newsletter, the website, and Facebook for dates, times, and program information.