

Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 9 December 2009

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE WHS OFFICERS

The WHS officers would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season. As we look forward to 2010, our thoughts and prayers go out to our troops who so bravely serve our great country.

We also want to thank everyone for the time and effort they dedicated this past year in helping the Wenonah Historical Society. At this time, we would be remiss if we did not specifically mention the dedication and persistence of Jack Sheppard Sr. in overseeing the train station restoration project. His insights and hard work are a great asset to our organization and we deeply appreciate the many hours he dedicated to the project. Please be sure to walk by the newly restored train station. The kiosk will be undergoing some improvements as a Lions Club project. It is wonderful to have this historic landmark available for all of us to enjoy.

Barbara, Brenda, Vicki and Carol

TRAIN STATION COMPLETE – REQUEST FOR HISTORICAL ITEMS ABOUT WENONAH

The train station restoration is complete and we can resume the creation of the

“Wenonah Museum.” For those who haven’t visited the building, there are visible changes inside including new paint and restoration of the interior woodwork, and best of all, a new carpet. There were many beneficial repairs both inside and out. One thing we learned was that the passenger platform roof was in danger of collapse due to the supporting wrought iron

future we will commence requesting contributions of historic artifacts, photos, writings, and news articles, anything having to do with Wenonah history. So search your attics, basements and garages, and if you have anything of interest concerning Wenonah please let us know so we can provide a place for it.

Jack Sheppard Sr.

WHS OFFICERS 2009

President	Barbara Capelli
Vice Pres.	Brenda Birkland
Secretary	Vicki McCall
Treasurer	Carol Wiltsee
Trustee	Betty MacLeod
Trustee	Louis McCall

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month at the Community Center (Train Station) except June, July and August

columns being almost completely eaten away by corrosion. Also of great benefit, the gable-end stucco and “half-timbering” woodwork has been fully repaired and restored to weather-tight condition. The badly deteriorated storm sashes have been replaced and many of the doors adjusted to work properly. The brickwork has been cleaned and repointed. All in all the building is now in sound condition and can be expected to serve Wenonah for many more years. In the not too distant

FRIENDS OF WENONAH TRAIN STATION

At our last meeting, we voted to approve Charlie Horan and Barbara Conway as chairpersons for a committee called the “Friends of Wenonah Train Station.” Charlie and Barbara will spearhead continued improvements to the building as well as ensure its upkeep by the organizations using the train station. Any suggestions may be forwarded to them or any of the WHS officers. We welcome your comments.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members since September: Marcy Ireland, John and Laura Murphy, Nicole Odenbrett, Anna Marie Goldy, Hugh Luck, and Marie and Chris Lanzalotti.

**WENONAH 100 YEARS AGO
DECEMBER 1909**

The progress and enterprise of this place demand greater conveniences and facilities in the news line, and the management of the Times has decided to meet this demand, and will begin today serving the readers by carriers, instead of through the mail. Arrangements have been made to have all the latest news of the place published and our people will appreciate the effort. (Previous to this there was no Wenonah column, therefore our publication was "Wenonah 90 years ago.")

F. J. Savage is taking orders for Christmas trees, greens, etc.

Our people are very much pleased with the extra noon mail lately put on. (The mail was sorted and delivered on the railroad.)

The thermometer registered 23 degrees this morning. This kind of weather will soon make skating good. Twelve more days and we will have to write 1910.

The "Something New Under the Sun" laundry runs a wagon through here now.

Lowell Ridgeway with Turner and McCormick had the misfortune to burst a finger on his right hand this morning while handling a barrel of apples. It pains him very much.

The question of safety gates or a watchman all year round at the railroad crossing on Mantua Avenue is being agitated again. It is believed the company will grant the request of the citizens. (There was a watchman during the summer months when the Cape May Flier would go through town at sixty miles per hour.) James B. Robenson, of this place, has been granted an original pension of \$6 a month.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE BUT YOU HAD BETTER HURRY AND LEAVE YOUR ORDER FOR A TURKEY WITH Turner & McCormick, Wenonah (Many years later a similar sign read "now is the time to talk turkey with Tony")

James Moore, near this place, had a homing pigeon to come home yesterday that had been away for a year.

It seems that the scarcity of barbers compels some of our young men to raise moustaches-they think.

H. S. Leap has a sale of his farming implements etc, today, previous to retiring from farming and taking up his residence in Mantua.

Numbers of Christmas shoppers are traveling city ward yet.

Operator Bossier has a very peculiar break in one of the depot windows to remind him how close a shave he had from a pebble picked up by an express some time ago and thrown violently against the window. A perfectly round hole was broken in the window. For a long time many thought it had been cut with a diamond by burglars. (He was the telegraph operator at the train depot.)

Our town is filling up with Christmas visitors.

Here we are. We now have our stock of Christmas goods in apples, oranges, dates, white grapes, bananas, fine layer raisins, citron, lemon and orange peel, finest Jersey celery, lettuce, spinach, and a variety of fresh confectionery-Richard J. Clark (This building is now Mary Kaye-3 East Mantua Avenue.)

A. DeSanno has made his son George a Christmas present of a handsome bicycle.

While the team of Ellison Turner was standing hitched in front of R. J. Clark's this morning, the horse became frightened, and in its struggle to free itself, broke both shafts from the wagon, Mr. Clark loaned Mr. Turner another wagon to get home.

The Christmas festival by the Presbyterian Sunday school, in Noblitt's Hall last night, was a decided success, and much credit is due the superintendent who furnished the entire entertainment. Prof. Hoy with his marionettes

greatly entertained the little folks and Mr. Herbert Lloyd with his solos and character sketches came in for a goodly share of the applause. The hall was densely packed and there was scarcely standing room. A feature of the program was the presentation of a handsome cane to the Superintendent Wilkins from his class by Ex-mayor Andrew W. Carey.

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**GROUCHO MARX
IN WENONAH IN 1934**

Remember the list of famous people who have visited Wenonah over the years in Marjorie Lentz's History of Wenonah book? I recently ran across an original source document describing Groucho Marx's visit to Wenonah. You will note his sister-in-law lived in town at 4 East Willow Street, now the home of Ann and Nick Godsey. I hope you'll enjoy this article from the Evening News, April 12, 1934. There are interesting historic parallels to our current economic recovery in the article.

**GROUCHO MARX DECLARES
CRANKY BANKERS A SURE SIGN
OF U.S. RECOVERY**
PATIENT ALWAYS CRANKY WHEN
RECOVERING, FAMED COMEDIAN SAYS;
SPENDS FEW DAYS WITH SISTER-IN-LAW
AT WENONAH HOME; WIFE AND
CHILDREN WITH HIM IN REST PERIOD
BEFORE NEW SHOW; ADMITS DISLIKE
FOR WORK

Wenonah, April 12 -This small, quiet residential town entertained royalty yesterday afternoon and last night and it seemed that fully half the population turned out to see him sign his name and to settle the age-old question: "Is that moustache real?"

The Person of royal lineage was none other than the President of Fredonia. In the event you're not a movie fan, this personage is Groucho Marx,

of the famed Marx Brothers of stage, screen and radio fame.

Marx, with his wife Ruth, and two children, Miriam, 6, and Arthur, 12, are visiting Mrs. Marx's sister Mrs. Lester Russell, of 4 East Willow Street. Or rather, they're there with practically everybody else in town - or at least so it seemed last night when interviewers arrived upon the scene.

The comedian talked of the stage, the screen and radio; discussed the depression, the recovery movement, the prospects of unknowns in the theatrical venture and revealed why the famed moustache was painted and not real.

Something To Laugh At

In discussing the depression, Marx said: "Without something to laugh at during the past two or three years, people would have committed suicide. It seems to me that comedy has a very definite place in the world today, as it always has, and that place is the stop-gap, or safety valve between a complete collapse of the nervous system and enjoyment of life."

"Tell me," pleaded an interviewer, "how do you try out your gags? On your wife?"

"Not any more," was the reply, as Groucho looked sidewise at Mrs. Marx, seated on a nearby davenport. "I once did, but I found out a paying audience was more responsive. Even a wife gets tired of a comedian's jokes.

"The best place and, to me, the only place to try out gags is on the stage. There you get instantaneous response."

Much In Luck

A youthful interviewer asked what the chances were for an unknown to break into the theatrical set-up. "How good is your luck?" Groucho asked.

"Getting anywhere in this business is about 25 percent ability and 75 percent luck. If you don't get the breaks, you'll stay in Uncle Tom's Cabin road shows for the rest of your life." He cited the instance of one film comedian of middle age who for many years played minor roles on the stage until finally given the role of a comic undertaker. The play was later filmed and he again got his

same role. It made him and today he is to be seen
in many pictures. (to be continued next month)



Stamp
Here

PO Box 32
Wenonah, New Jersey 08090

Wenonah Historical Society

Membership APPLICATION 2009

Membership Benefits

- MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
- MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH INTERESTING PROGRAMS
- ACCESS TO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES AND MEMORABILIA
- INFORMATION BY KNOWLEDGEABLE WENONAHIANS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL: YES OR NO

AMOUNT PAID \$ CHECK _____ CASH _____

BRING FORM AND PAYMENT TO MEETING, OR MAIL. THANK YOU

DUES: \$15.00 PER FAMILY HOUSEHOLD PER

WHS PO Box 32, WENONAH, NJ 08090
