

Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society



GEORGE FURTON 1923-2006

On Wednesday, March 29, 2006, we of the society lost our great benefactor and beloved friend, George Furton.. George died of prostate cancer at University Hospital in Ann Arbor. He was 82.

George was born in his parents' home on Sugarbush and went on to graduate from Mt. Clemens High School and take classes through the University of Michigan's extension school. He served in the Army during World War II in the Asia-Pacific Theater.

George worked at the GM Tech Center in Warren until 1965 when he founded Furton Realty. George served terms as director and president of the Macomb County Board of Realtors and of the Michigan Association of Realtors.

George was Chesterfield Township's first full-time fire

chief. In 1954, Fire Station No. 2 at Forbes and Jefferson was named in his honor!

From there, George served in the state House in 1984-86, representing the 75th District.

In 1988, he became township treasurer and was re-elected four years later. George first developed his love for

flying in the early 1940's. George then bought a plane and piloted it for 30 years until 2005. He served in the Civil Air Patrol, the Air Force's civilian auxiliary, until 1996, attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel. He once said his biggest aviation thrill was taking

the controls of an A7 fighter jet during a VIP day at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township in 1986.

Besides helping to organize the Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society, George was a member of the

American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Lions Club. George also volunteered for the March of Dimes, the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Goodfellows.

He was a founding member of the Chesterfield Business

Association.

George wrote an enjoyable autobiography "Can't Keep My Feet On the Ground" in 2001, which is available at the Chesterfield Twp. Public Library. As far as the historical society was concerned, "let George do it" certainly applied. George did everything from helping to organize the society, serving as its president at an important crossroads, to driving the tractor for the float in the Bay Rama parade.

As for me, I revered George. If not for him you would not be reading this newsletter because George talked me into doing it, as only George could. I respected George so much that just to hear him com-



UPCOMING!

- The annual Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society Pasta Dinner will be on Thursday, May 18th from 5 pm to 7:30 pm. See page 4.
- The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 2nd with a Bob Mack slide show.
- The June 6th after-meeting presentation will be Michael Dixon presenting his book on the development of small marine engines and how it helped lead to the auto engine developments of our area.



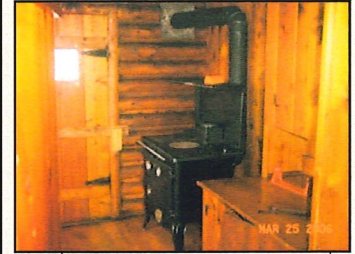
pliment it would inspire me to try to make each one bigger and better. George had that effect on you. Under George's leadership we have helped turn a dream into a reality, as the historical village grows and many of our other goals are being achieved. It was asked that memorials be sent to the Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society at our address, 47275 Sugarbush, Chesterfield Township, 48047.

LOG CABIN CLEAN-UPS GOING GREAT!

With a lot of dedication and elbow grease, a few members have done a lot of work on the last few Saturday mornings to get the log cabin cleaned up. The cabinets have been cleaned out and washed and most of the walls have been

polished with *Orange-Glo*. Also, the stove donated by the Friedemans has been cleaned up and is in place! A big thanks to Roy & Eileen Rivard, Bill Wallace, Janine Smith, Duane Vosburg, Frank & Lou Adcox, and Dolly Al-

lemon for the work completed so far. Lots of tasks were completed, but there is still a lot more work to do. The work crews are there most Saturdays from 9:30a.m. to 11:30a.m during the spring. Volunteer help is always appreciated!



The Log Cabin interior is getting a spring cleaning.

Newsletter name suggestions so far include: *Echoes, Voyager, Journey, Journal, Reminder, and History Highlights!*

NEWSLETTER NAME TO BE ANNOUNCED NEXT ISSUE

We had a good response to our idea to have people submit names to name the newsletter. If you have a preference for any of the names to the left (and it wasn't

suggested by you), please let us know! Also, please send any more entries to:

chesterfieldhistory@yahoo.com

We want to announce

the new name (and start using it) by the next newsletter. At that time, we'll let everybody know who is the winner of the **Big Prize** is!



DUANE AND ALAN ATTEND DIGITAL WORKSHOP

On March 31 Duane Vosburg and Alan Naldrett, along with Lynn Minor of the Chesterfield Public Library staff, attended a workshop to upload photos to the "Hyperion Digital Media Archive." Also known as the Digital Li-

brary, it is located on the library's catalog page at the extreme right. Under the auspices of the Suburban Library Co-operative, which is the consortium to which most of the Macomb Co. libraries belong, local communities

can upload photos to the online archive. This allows access to all public library users and anyone else who wishes to access them. We plan to upload photos dealing with the historical aspects of Chesterfield and wish to invite

all who have photos that would be good for the archive to submit them to Alan at (586) 948-0604, or Duane at (586) 949-3810. The photos will be returned after being scanned. The society will be maintaining an archive at the library.



George's Funeral Procession was an inspiring affair, with fire trucks and fire officials standing at attention at each station as the procession went by. Climatically, fire trucks formed an arc for the funeral procession to pass through as it reached George's final resting place, St. Mary's Cemetery in New Baltimore.



Photos by Deb Walsh

10th ANNUAL PASTA DINNER

For a furnace in the School Annex and reroof the Cabin



BY THE CHESTERFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DONATION \$9:00-- UNDER 13yrs. \$6:50 (SOLD AT THE DOOR)

MENU--PASTA with YOUR CHOICE of TWO SAUCES,
SALAD, COFFEE, TEA, MILK, DESSERT, ROLLS & BUTTER

LOCATION, SALT RIVER GOLF CLUB
33633 23 MILE RD. CHESTERFIELD TWP.

MUSIC + DOOR PRIZES + CASH BAR

==== COME , JOIN IN THE FUN==== BRING YOUR FRIENDS====

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 5:00 pm to 7:30pm

For Info. Roy 504-0161, Duane 949-3810, Mary/Edna 949-3230

Tickets can be purchased at the Chesterfield Senior Center,
Tom's Market and Furton Realty

*Chesterfield Twp.
Historical Society :*

President-

Eileen Rivard

Vice-President-

Roy Rivard

Recording Secretary-

Duane Vosburg

Correspondence Secretary-

Deb Walsh

Treasurer-

Kathy Vosburg

Trustees-

George Deeby

Janine Smith

Past Presidents-

Don Howitt

George Furton

Board Liaison-

John Grivas

Newsletter Editors-

Alan Naldrett

Deb Walsh

Please send any corrections,
additions, or other submissions to:

chesterfieldhistory@yahoo.com

OR

*Chesterfield Twp.
Historical Society*

57275 Sugarbush Rd.

Chesterfield Twp., MI. 48047

PROGRAM NEWS



Marilyn Kaake at April meeting.

Photo by Duane Vosburg

Marilyn Kaake gave a presentation on the book "New Haven-Reflections of a Unique Village" at the April 4th meeting of the Chesterfield Historical Society. She and member Joanne Johnson worked with George Drake and a few others to refurbish a picture-laden volume of New Haven. She also discussed the New Haven Depot, which has been restored and is looking

great! If you haven't seen it yet, it is located on Victoria St. near New Haven Rd. (Washington St. in New Baltimore). The next time it will be open is Saturday and Sunday, April 29th and 30th for an HO Train Show. Check it out!

We also had Billie Henning at our March meeting talking about the interurban railroad that connected the small towns of Southeastern Michigan. She possessed many rare photos, slides and maps and had many interesting facts about this historical era in our history. As an extra added bonus, she had her Macomb Co. Community College class join the society for the presentation. Billie Henning will be giving a presentation to the society in July when she will discuss and show slides of the waterways of our area including the Detroit River, Anchor Bay, and Lake St. Clair.

Bob Mack started his slide show at the February meeting but didn't get time to finish his new slides of the area including many new ones he acquired. A lot of these are of the May 1964 tornado that ravaged the area. He'll finish them up at the May 2nd meeting.