

# Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 15, Number 4

August-September 2010

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## Calendar

### Aug-Sept-Oct

Every Wednesday 10:30-2:00

### August 18

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### August 25

Christmas in October  
Meeting 10:30 a.m.

### Pot Luck Noon

### September 15

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### September 29

Pot Luck Noon

### October 6

Newsletter Mailing

### October 13

Board Meeting 1:00 HH

### October 15 & 16

Friday & Saturday

Christmas in October

10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

### October 27

Pot Luck Noon

## President's Notes

I sure love Log Cabin Days, but I sure love when it's over for the year! Saturday was great, but Sunday left us looking to the sky all day until the severe weather sirens finally ended us a few hours early. That was a new twist for us! Despite an odd Sunday, we came out over \$6,800 to the good. A miracle in this economy and a shortened day.

We have really come a long way from last year and the comments were positive and numerous. Someone even said we are "better than Greenfield Village"! Wow, high praise, indeed. I know I have pushed all of us to dig into the history and really strive for authenticity. Some of you are probably very sick of it! But, I can honestly say that this year, every building was a true step back in time.

Please take credit for what you all do. Even if you did not physically place an item on a shelf, you contributed. You paid your dues, you shopped at some point, you supported us in a kind word or praise. I continue to harp on this because I really want you to know how truly important each of you are.

All of this was apparent when the whole Donelson Hills 2nd grade came to visit on June 4th (2 buses full). They toured the buildings and went to several different stations: clothes washing, typewriters, recess games, farm tools, archeological dig and corn shelling. They said it was their favorite trip ever!

Pat yourselves on the back and continue to do your part, large or small or somewhere in between. Watch our Waterford history come alive.

*Sally Strait*

## Board

### President

Sally Strait 248-683-2697

### Vice President

Dorothy White 248-623-0937

### Recording Secretary

Dorothy Webber 248-666-4907

### Corresponding Secretary

Betty Seymour 248-666-4265

### Treasurer

Betty Horn 248-673-9708

### Bookkeeper

Cheryl Stoutenburg 248-623-0414

### Members At Large

Bob Allen 248-623-0463

Harvey Hedlund 248-622-9509

Merrill Paine 248-673-0615

Norm Watchpocket 248-673-5310

## Christmas in October

Let's not get too comfortable in our summer fun to forget about upcoming events. The Christmas in October planning meeting will be Wednesday, August 25th at 10:30 a.m. in the Hatchery House. Please come with your ideas and help us make plans.

### Save The Date

August 25, 10:30 a.m.

## Membership Dues

Hard to believe, but it is time for all annual members to start thinking about membership dues. All annual memberships will be due on December 15th for the next year. All memberships coming in now will be good until December of 2011. We have much going on and don't want you to miss out!

Clip out your form and bring it in on a Wednesday or mail it to our post office box:  
Waterford Historical Society  
P.O. Box 300491  
Waterford, MI 48330-0491

## Donelson Hills Thank You's

Here are some excerpts from the Thank You letters we received from Mr. Schlaufman's 2nd graders after their June 4th field trip here to Fish Hatchery Park. (Typed exactly as they wrote, spelling not corrected)

"I loved the lawn mower. and I loved how we washed cloths. I also liked the log cabin. and the recess games. and the typewriters. the best was the lawn mower!"

"I never new that in the old days they washed the cloths like that."

"thank you for the amasing trip. I hope you never close down."

"I felt like Mary in little house in the big woods."

"I learned that people send notes on tipewriters."

"I felt lik I really did live in the olden days."

## Post Office Blues

We were very sad to have last months newsletter come so late, if at all, to you. We felt this was the most important one of the year and the post office really dropped the ball. We have been very disappointed in our mailings lately. We always drop off the newsletter in a timely fashion, but then never have a clue when it will be delivered using the bulk rate system.

So, after months of headaches, we have decided to start to use first class postage and mail your newsletter 4 times a year instead of 6 times. What we save in printing costs we will use for postage.

Watch for the change in the near future.

## Crafty Christmas Greetings

Calling all men and women who feel inclined to be crafty! As August rolls in the Crafty Ladies roll out the craft making supplies for Christmas in October. As always, you can come and work in Jacober's Store on Wednesdays or at your leisure at home. We can all multi-task while we are watching summer reruns on TV.! Stop by Jacober's Store and pick up supplies from the craft supply stash we accumulate all year long. Take one of our ideas or your own, or look through some of our craft idea books. No excuses! Everyone is good at something, and we all learned to glue/paste and cut with scissors in kindergarten. Get busy and help us with this enjoyable fund raiser.

Please call Margaret Maneese for any questions or suggestions 248-332-0839.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Christmas in October

October 15 & 16, 10:00am-4:00pm

## Recent Tours

Here is a list of our recent tour visitors: the Mt. Clemens Salvation Army Senior Center, the American Business Women's Association (AWBA), and the Waterford Rotary.

## Elephant, continued from page 3

At 3 p.m., the police said they would obtain a warrant from the prosecutor's office and close the circus if she wasn't buried immediately.

Finally, the owner was contacted, permission was obtained from the owners of the Pontiac Mall, and a back hoe began digging a nine foot hole for Little Jennie at 3:45 p.m.

At 4:30, when the back hoe operator lifted the shovel and nudged Little Jennie toward the pit, a cry went up from the circus hands.

Waite quietly walked over and unchained Babe and led her over to her dead companion.

The elephant trainer Guy Gossing shouted in a heavy Belgian accent, "Push, Babe. Push her Babe." And the elephant toppled Little Jennie into her grave.

The circus spokesman said it would cost about \$5,000 to replace her, but Bill Waite's eyes said she meant more than that.

# Waterford is Elephant Graveyard

**Oakland Press, Saturday, July 22, 1972**

*Here is the original of the ever popular "Elephant Story" we still get asked about. Written by Bill Felch, a Press Staff Writer, the story is as heart warming and quirky now as it was 38 years ago!*

Little Jennie, star of the silver screen and the sawdust trail, died at 10 a.m. Friday of old age. She was 60.

Funeral Service was held at 4:30 p.m. by the Pontiac Mall at the corner of Telegraph and Pontiac Lake Roads. It was presided over by Waterford Police officers H. Rosner and E. W. Meredith.

Surviving are Jennie's longtime companion Babe, rising six-year old star, Jimbo, and children and circus people who remember Jennie's days of glory. Burial followed immediately next to the spot where Jennie breathed her last.

Little Jennie, Babe and Jimbo are elephants on contract to a carnival-circus owned by Link Shows playing until Sunday at Pontiac Mall.

Friday night Babe and Jimbo went on without Jennie, who lay six feet under the ground thirty feet away.

Bill Waite, a toothless old circus hand who fed and groomed Little Jennie and Babe for the last 14 years said after Jennie's death, "I don't feel so good."

Bill clearly didn't feel like talking, but shared a few reminiscences of his four-ton child's past. He described how Jennie and Babe co-starred with Elizabeth Taylor in the movie "Elephant Walk." Babe, who is slightly older than Jennie was, is the only one of ten elephants

that appeared in that film that still survives.

Bill said he has toured the entire country with the two elephants, most recently with Cole Brothers Circus before joining the Link group three years ago.

When Little Jennie stopped eating Tuesday, circus officials called a Waterford veterinarian who gave her 100 c.c.'s of penicillin. They called Dr. Wilson at the Detroit Zoo Thursday and he said Little Jennie probably had pneumonia and that there was nothing they could do except to continue to try and feed and water her. Like humans, elephants live to 60 or 70 years. Then early Friday, Little Jennie slumped to the ground and quietly died.

Soon after, the Oakland Press and the Waterford Police began receiving calls from motorists who had passed the dead elephant. Representatives of the Humane Society showed up charging cruelty to animals and blaming the circus for keeping the animals out in the heat. But Bill Waite and others explained to those who did not know elephants as well as they do, that the animals come from the tropics and can be felled by old age, but not heat.

The circus folks wanted to have Little Jennie carried away but Waterford Police said there was no one in Oakland County who could lift her. They said she would have to be buried there.

A circus spokesman said he would have to contact Little Jennie's owner in Illinois.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Waterford Township Historical Society Membership Application

<hr/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15.00	Individual
<hr/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00	Family
Date	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00	Patron
<hr/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50.00	Organizations/Businesses
Name		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$150.00	Lifetime per family
<hr/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00	Lifetime per person
Address		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$125.00	Lifetime per couple
City, State, Zip	Mail payment to: Waterford Historical Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250.00	Lifetime Org./Businesses
Make Check Payable To: Waterford Township Historical Society	P.O. Box 300491 Waterford, MI 48330-0491	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500.00	Lifetime Patron

## Waterford Historical Society

We are open every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

We are located in Fish Hatchery Park at:  
4490 Hatchery Rd  
Waterford, MI 48329

Our Mailing Address is:  
P.O. Box 300491  
Waterford, MI 48330-0491

Contact us at:  
Hatchery House 248-673-0342  
Sally Strait 248-683-2697

[www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org)

Non-profit 501(c)3 organization

Please save your VG's and Tenuta's receipts and bring them to the Hatchery House on Wednesday or mail them to us at the above mailing address. This is free money for us!

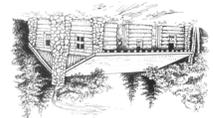


## Things you might like:

- ◆ **August 21, Sept. 18 and October 16 Fisk Farm Community Garage Sale:** and Flea Market from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. On the Fisk grounds at 7525 Highland Road in White Lake. Set up charge \$10.00 per seller. Call 248-360-0188 for info.
- ◆
- ◆ **Concerts in the Park Series** at Hess-Hathaway Park. Last one in the series: **August 19** Cats & The Fiddler. Performance starts at 7:00 p.m. Local talent to perform at 6:00 p.m. 625 S. Williams Lake Road. Inclement weather call 248-618-7671.
- ◆
- ◆ **Waterford's Got Talent** September 25th 7:00 p.m. at Waterford Kettering's Performing Arts Center. Join Master of Ceremonies, Jay Towers from Fox 2, for a night of Waterford's best talent. Presented by the Waterford Coalition for Youth. Questions call 248-618-7424 or visit the website [www.wcfy.org](http://www.wcfy.org)
- ◆
- ◆ **23rd Annual Harvest Happening** at Hess-Hathaway Park. Saturday, **October 2nd** from 11am-5pm.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Waterford, MI  
Permit No. 123

P.O. Box 300491  
Waterford, Michigan  
48330-0491



Waterford Township Historical Society