

Catlin Historical Society

210 North Paris, Catlin, Illinois 61817 (217) 427-5766
Hours: Monday, Wednesday 9 a.m.—12 p.m. and 1p.m.—4p.m.
May thru Sept, Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Website: www.rootsweb.com/~ilchs/

ANNUAL MEETING

The second Monday of New Year always arrives faster every year and Monday January 11, 2010 was no exception—a cold snow flurry evening did not dampen the spirits of those who attended. Board President Buzz Ritchie welcomed everyone and thanked them for their loyalty to our Society meetings. The minutes from last years annual meeting and the yearly financial statement were read, reviewed and passed for approval.

Buzz gave a summary of our last years projects. The bedroom-ceiling repair was completed by Neal Brogan bringing us into code with the fire department. The new brochure for the Historical Society was

completed, used as a mailing for a membership drive; we have definitely seen an increase. Awarded the annual Iris Davis scholarship to Hannah Wilkins. Removed and replaced the annex building roof, a big job done on a couple of very hot days by a group of great volunteers. Assisted the Catlin Library District with their summer reading program and hosted the program's ending party. Continued to have school children visit and learn history from our tours. The annual fund raising events of the Society, rummage sales, ice cream social and the ham/bean dinner were all considered successful for another year. The DVD, Catlin, A Journey

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Back in Time has been a wonderful fundraiser for us. Buzz reminded everyone that these activities could not be possible if not for the wonderful volunteer base we have. A special thanks went to our volunteers who work on a regular basis, every Monday or Wednesday of the year. Monday crew, Evelyn Darr, Lorene Sawyer and Alma Moody. Wednesday crew, Sara Cast, Virginia Wallen and Ruth Martin.

Projects for the coming year were listed as: guttering for the log cabin building, rearranging the parking lot with installation of bumper stops (donated by the Catlin Lions Club) and replacing the basement windows in the Museum house.

Our most important duty of the evening is to elect the new board members. Evelyn Darr read the nominating committee's report, which proposed Butch Schmink and Dolores Belton to their 2nd three-year term. No nominations from the floor were received so the committee slate was voted upon and accepted. Thanks to both Butch and Dee for continuing their service.

Director Sara Cast tested our Catlin history knowledge by giving a short "Do you remember?" quiz. Try your hand with the following questions and see how you do. Answers follow later in the newsletter. Prizes were awarded our top couple of winners, refreshments were served and the evening was enjoyed by everyone.

M E M B E R S H I P

The Catlin Historical Society would like to welcome our new members---Brad/Leslie Sacre as family members, Jason Coker and Cynthia Edwards as an individual and Mike Robison as an life individual membership. All are residents of Catlin and we welcome them to our museum family.

Renewals received since our last newsletter, thanks!
Maylene Johnson
Roberta Rodrick
M/M Max Enos
Neal/Cathy Brogan
Allen County Public Library
Florence Britch

Lela Mae DeNeal thru 2011
M/M Bob Joiner
Jean Fisher
Alice McCleery
Nola Elliott
Kenneth Thorndyke
Jeff/Teresa Parish thru 2012
Larry/Jeannie Ohl

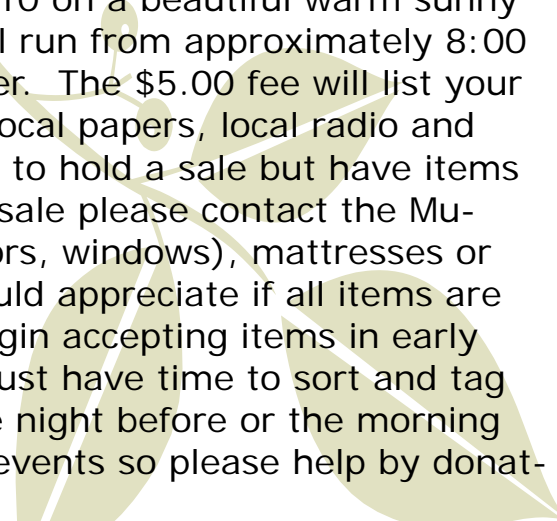
M/M Ed Moore
Tom/Sandy Johnson
Esther Pricer
Andy/Heidi Newlin
M/M Tom Cook
Esther Henderson

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. What was Catlin's original name?
2. What does our log cabin and President Andrew Jackson have in common?
3. Name any three past Mayors of Catlin.
4. What piece of Catlin history stood where the current post office building is located?
5. Name the leading person who was instrumental in helping create the Historical Society?
6. What year was the old school located in the present park torn down?
7. Give the month and year the Catlin Sesquicentennial was held?
8. Who were the owners of the Museum and grounds when the Society purchased it?
9. What two symbol/mascot have the athletic teams of Catlin High School been named?
10. What year was the Museum house built and name the builder and his occupation?
11. What was the name of the first yearbook of Catlin High School and what is the present name?
12. What organization built the War Memorial on the Museum grounds and what year was it dedicated?

RUMMAGE SALE - SAT. JUNE 5, 2010

Our first fundraising event for the year! The annual village wide rummage sales will be held Saturday June 5, 2010 on a beautiful warm sunny spring day (we hope)! The Museum sale will run from approximately 8:00 to 2:00, while individual sales may run longer. The \$5.00 fee will list your sale on the map and advertisements in the local papers, local radio and posters thru out the area. If you are unable to hold a sale but have items you wish to donate to the Historical Society sale please contact the Museum—remember no building materials (doors, windows), mattresses or large items, if in doubt call and ask. We would appreciate if all items are clean and in good working order. We will begin accepting items in early May and stop a week before the sale—we must have time to sort and tag the merchandise. Please do not drop off the night before or the morning off! This is one of our main money making events so please help by donating or by volunteering to work the sale.



RESIDENTS REMINISCE

During this winter's cold days I was privileged to spend some time talking with and learning from John Russell, what a ray of positive, upbeat sunshine he provided! Listening with John brings Catlin history and his experiences alive.



1961 Citizen of the Year

John was born in Taft, Ca. April 15, 1916 to Frank and Florence (Busby) Russell. He has two younger brothers, Ted and Dale. When John was one year old the family moved to Illinois and

bought a farm south of Catlin. In 1918 there was a nation wide polio epidemic and John was stricken, he recovered but the polio left him unable to walk. At the age of 7 the family moved into the village of Catlin and his parents took John to McClain Rehabilitation in St Louis, where after 8 months there, with therapy, braces and crutches, he was able to walk once more.

His early years living on the farm left John with many happy memories. He particularly re-

members riding in the horse drawn wagon during the corn shucking days, his dad did this all by hand! Thrashing rings involving 12-15 different farms, and the old steam engines were always a busy day for the entire family. Cold winter January days were also the time when John's dad and several other farmers got together for a day of butchering. Each farmer had a least one hog and the days work usually involved dressing out 8-10. They would butcher, cut them up, wrap them and then take home such cuts as salted sides, hams and mince-meat; it provided many meals for all the families.

One of John's earliest memories of Catlin was the fire of 1921. It was on the block where our current city/township building is located. The flames destroyed the old livery stable, a residence and parts of the hardware store and the back corner of the garage building John's family was to own later on. He remembers the old electrical plant south of the railroad tracks, when you only had electricity in the evening. In the same area was the leading

chute, which area farmers used to lead their livestock on the railroad to ship them to market. Dr. Cloyd, Dr. Peale and Dr. Dewhirst were all remembered by John as the early doctors of the village, we could probably do a story about tales of early doctoring! John remembers the interurban coming thru town, watching the conductor stop by the high school and changing the guiding rod for the return trip to Danville—with a smile on his face he also tells of certain individuals challenging the interurban to a race, speeding alongside the tracks the conductor would “open it up” and always win!

John’s mother always insisted they go to church, attending the Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church while living in the country. When the family moved to town they attended the Presbyterian Church next to the Methodist Church, when it closed in 1938 they joined the Methodist Church. Serving as church treasurer for 30 years was a way John could show how important his church is to him.

John’s education was thru the Catlin schools, beginning in the old school located in the current village park. He especially remembers when starting 5th grade, which was on the second floor, they put in a hand pulled

elevator for him. Memories of the great school lunches his mother packed for him, an example being homemade sausage sandwich on fresh bread with cherry pie caused us to wish for one to be served now! G.W.Burroughs, as principal, Grace Pate, Juanita Tarrant and Ruth Church were a few of his teachers. During high school years John recalled how the sporting games, football/ basketball were the big social events of the community, everyone attended. Jack Jones was one of John’s best pals as they pretty much grew up together. John played trumpet and piano, with Mr. Pierce his music teacher. During the summer the band played concerts on the wooden bandstand located where the current bank parking lot is, and before the Lions Club built the band stand on the lot catty corner from it. He remembers it not being in very good condition, not wanting everyone to stand on one side as it might fall. Residents attended the concerts or they may have attended the free movies, another fond memory. Associated with both, was often a trip to George/ Mabel Cox’s restaurant for ice cream! High school dating was mainly getting together at friends homes to play cards and games, going to movies and attending school functions.

After graduation in 1936 John worked for Wayne Woods at Catlin Auto Sales and remained until the dealership closed in 1938. In the fall of 38 John started his own business, Catlin Service Station in the same building and operated it himself for 17 years. In those times all service stations pumped gas, checked tires, oil, water and battery each time! In 1941 John married Lois Spesard, the love of his life. They met in the Methodist Church youth group, called Epworth League when they were teenagers. John cannot say enough about how supportive Lois was over their married years. Twin daughters, Bonnie and Connie were born to John and Lois in 1946 and both girls bring extreme pride and enjoyment to John.

A story of John Russell cannot be written without mentioning his service to our community. Secretary of the grade school board for 40 years, village clerk for 40 years and township clerk for 60 years. I wonder just how many pages of board meeting minutes he has written. During all his years of service John recalls the most memorable time/event being during the 70's—the

strip-mining controversy! The Amax Coal Company proposed to open a strip mine in Catlin Township—community members rallied together in opposition—zoning laws were passed and all in all it was a very busy time period for our village and township governments. On a personal note, being named the Man of the Year in 1961 by the Catlin Lions Club was a highlight for John.

We want to thank John for spending time with us and sharing the memories of his life—I still have your number and will call again when I need help straightening out an historical fact of Catlin.



1st row: John Russell, Ruth Martin, Ron Smoot
Standing: Scott Church, Bob Newman, Gibbs Taylor, John Puzey

ACQUISITIONS 2009



Early Icebox

An item on the Museum wish list has become one of our 2009 acquisitions, something we have been longing for---an icebox!!! This hardwood double door version may be capable of holding 75 to 100 pounds of ice. The doors are arranged so the ice can be placed inside without having the inconvenience of raising the top. Three shelves are located on the right side of the refrigerator so that perishable foods may be placed there. The left

side is devoted to a large chunk of ice and a bucket to receive any moisture melting from the ice. Stylish paneled doors, sides and heavy brass closures finish the outside. The top is convenient for storing the ice tongs and numbered card for ordering the ice. Talking about the ole icebox brings many memories back of following the ice truck around, riding our bikes, just to get a few cooling ice chips! Our new treasure, was donated by John W. Taylor of Ca., grandson of Joel and Josephine (Fisher) Taylor.

This year's acquisitions also included a large picture of Lincoln donated by the First National Bank of Catlin and several 1940's telephones from Curtis Hunt, which help to complete our displays of phones and radios. Artifacts from the CHS class

of 1933 were donated by Roger Towner, Chuck Inman gave us a copper cuspidor or spittoon, which was used in the local bank years ago. An oak table, that was a perfect fit for our foyer telephone was made by Sara Cast's grandfather, Joel Taylor. We have received many toys, genealogies and other items used in bygone times, which we treasure. Please don't forget the Museum and consider us when trying to decide what to do with your artifacts.



Number please!



Answers from page 5 "Do You Remember?"

1. Butlers Point
2. President Jackson took office the year the cabin was built.
3. H.H. Kidd, W.H. Jones, Ross Egnaw, Herman Byerly, Joe Balsey, Glen Gill, Fred Collins, David White, Clyde Barkman, Terry Dolan, Chad Hays, Fred Rinehart
4. Lions Club War Memorial Band Stand
5. Nancy or Terry Dolan
6. 1964
7. July, 2006
8. Ingram family
9. Wolverine—Salt Fork Storm
10. 1827—Amos Woodin—cooper
11. Argonaut 1922—Catlinean
12. Lions Club July 2002

HISTORICAL HEADLINES

For those of us who volunteer regularly at the Museum we are constantly amazed at the history we have the privilege to read and work with every day. Our newspaper collection alone is a wonderful step back into time, seeing just how our ancestors lived. Late this fall when the harvest season weather was the talk we came across the following article and decided to share this with our readers—times have changed!

Danville Commerical News ---
1928

Mrs. Mary Church, 72, who resides with her son, George Church, on a farm about three miles northwest of Catlin, may not be the champion woman corn husker in Illinois, but her friends believe her claim to the oldest woman corn husker in the state cannot not be disputed.

For the past 10 years, or since the marriage of her son, being as active as the average woman is at 40, has devoted practically all of her time to farm work.

"When George got married I found that it was not necessary for me to help in the housework, as there are only three of us, so I decided to save George the expense of a hired hand by helping



Mary A. Church
1856-1940
With her dog Nig

him in the fields," said Mrs. Church," and I always did like working in the fields better than doing housework."

Mrs. Church has not missed a year since 1917 in assisting her son harvest his corn crop. Each spring she mounts a riding plow and does her share in preparing the ground for the spring planting. She usually goes to the field when her son begins his day's work and remains until he quits in the evening.

"George takes two rows and I take one when we husk corn, and as he is some corn shucker it keeps me stepping to hold up my end of it," said the aged woman.

"I have never kept a record of

the number of bushels of corn I have husked in a single season, but I suppose I could arrive at some conclusion by dividing the total by one-third. I know I have husked several hundred bushels already this winter, and we still have several acres that must be husked out before spring. The fields have been in such a bad condition, due to the wet weather, that our husking had been delayed this winter," Mrs. Church said. She also assists her son in the operation of a hay baler.

Mrs. Church was born in Danville in one of two little white houses built exactly alike, which once stood on west Main street, just west of the old Force carriage factory building. She was born March 5, 1856. She is the daughter of the late George and Jane Vandersteen, who were among the early pioneers of Danville. Her father was employed for a number of years by the late Danville Force, pioneer carriage manufacturer. When she was only 1 year old her parents moved to Catlin, and since then she has lived in or near that village.

"I never was much of a hand to gad about," said the aged woman, who stated that she never had

been beyond the confines of Vermillion county but twice in her lifetime.

"They were just short trips, and once I asked my son to take me across the Indiana state line just so I could say that I had been out of the state," she said.

She is the widow of Charles C. Church who died at the old Church homestead, which lies just a quarter of a mile east of the farm on which Mrs. Church lives, in 1914. They were married in 1880.

Mrs. Church never went to school a day in her life, but was taught at home to read, and by her own efforts acquired a good education. She is the mother of two children, Alex Church, who lives on the old Olmsted farm, near Catlin, and the son with whom she has lived since the death of her husband.

One of Mrs. Church's prized possessions is a picture of herself, her oldest son, Alex; his oldest daughter, Mrs. Grace Martin, and the latter's oldest child, Ruth Martin.

In her more than three score and 10 years of life Mrs. Church has required the services of a physician but three times. She is



Four Generations
Great Grandmother, Mary A. Church
Grandfather, HV Church, Mother, Grace Martin,
Daughter, Edna Ruth Martin

a tall, strongly built woman, with a ruddy glow of health in her cheeks.

"Barring accidents I ought to live to be 100 years old, and be able to work in the fields another fifteen or twenty years," said Mrs. Church as she prepared to go to the barn to assist her son "do up the chores."

What wonderful, vibrant women!! In checking our newspaper files we also found her obituary—she live another 12 years after her story ran and I bet that she continued to shuck corn.

Mrs. Mary A. Church

Catlin – In failing health the past winter, and seriously ill several days, Mrs. Mary A. Church, died at her home northwest of

here at 2 p.m. Saturday, Mar. 2, 1940.

A life long resident of this community, Mrs. Church was born in Danville, Mar. 5, 1856. She was the youngest daughter of George and Jane Vandersteen. She was married Nov. 6, 1880. Her husband preceded her in death, July 19, 1914.

Mrs. Church was a member of Catlin Methodist Church.

Surviving her are two sons, A.V. Church Catlin, and George B. Church. The latter son and his wife made their home with her. Six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren also survive.

Funeral arrangements, in charge of N.E. Carrington, Fairmount undertaker, are incomplete,



W O L V E R I N E H I S T O R Y

We currently have the last worn Wolverine mascot costume on display in the Museum—our question; do you remember the mascot when you attended Catlin High School? By studying yearbook pictures we believe there have been at least three different mascot heads during its reign.

Jeanne Church has done some research on this and tells us of Thelma Pettigrew, who graduated in 1923, memories. Thelma recalled that in 1931 a company came around asking area schools to select a mascot, Westville and Georgetown had chosen so Catlin joined in by selecting the Wolverine, a ferocious fighter! The colors chosen were blue and white.

Although the Catlin teams were known as the Wolverine for many years the actual mascot didn't appear at the events until the Mid 60's. JoAnne Pacot made the first Wolverine costume from a furry gray material and Dick Nicholson is listed as the first to wear the outfit. Catlinean yearbooks



provide a partial record of who portrayed the beloved mascot. The Wolverine was associated with the Catlin Pep Club, which changed to the Pep Band in the mid 1980's—after this time no one remembers or no yearbooks reflect that the mascot ever performed again. The Museum would love to have a complete record. Listed below are the names of some individuals who wore the mascot and the years where pictures of the mascot were found in the yearbook—if you can help with names or stories please contact the museum as we are trying to complete our records. Pictures are welcomed.

- 1965 Richard Nicholson
- 1966 picture, no name
- 1968 Debbie Wilder
- 1969 Jan Adams
- 1970 Jan Adams, Marsha Fernandez
- 1971 Picture, no name
- 1972 Sheelagh Wise
- 1973 Sheelagh Wise, Candy Hird
- 1978 Laurie Metzger
- 1979 Cheri Finley
- 1980 Brent Price, Dale Smith
- 1981 Greg Symanski
- 1982 Dale Deckard, Jeff Ray

IN MEMORY OF...

During the past months the Historical Society have lost several of its long-standing and very supportive members. Our sympathies go out to all their families and friends.

Robert 'Benny' Cromwell, 79, of Catlin, passed away Friday, October 16, 2009, at home with family in Shipshewana, Ind.

Benny was born June 7, 1930, in Fairmount, IL, to Charles and Beulah Louck Cromwell. Survivors include Bobby Cromwell and Kevin Cromwell; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great great granddaughter. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Cathie Boyd; brother, Blain Cromwell; sisters Gladys Fonner and Dorothy Nocera.

Funeral services were held at Robison Chapel in Catlin. Dave Burger officiated. And in Benny's own words, he will be "planted" in the Greenview Cemetery in Fairmount next to his mother's grave.

Chester "Irle" Miner, 88, of Danville, Indiana died Nov. 11, 2009.

Chester was born Sept. 7, 1921 in Champaign County, to Chester and Mabel (Irle) Miner. Irle married Patricia Pratt on April 12, 1952. Survivors include his wife, Pat; sons James (Brenda) Miner, Keith and Ross Miner, all of Danville, In., and Paul Miner of Lizton, In.; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and two sisters.

Services were held Nov. 14, at the Hendricks Community Bible Church in Danville, In., with burial in the Knights of Pythias Cemetery in Lizton, In.



Margaret L. Griffith, 92, of Danville passed away Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010, at Parkway Health Center Little Rock, Ark.

Margaret was born Nov. 15, 1917, in Catlin. She was the daughter of Wilber and Alice Holcombe Jones. She married Wilbur S. Griffith on Nov. 22, 1939. He preceded her in death on May 21, 1986. She was also preceded in death by her parents. Surviving is a son, Phillip A. (Judy) Griffith of Urbana, and a daughter, Carole Griffith Ault of Little Rock. Also surviving are three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held, Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010 at Pape Memorial Home and Cremation Gardens. The Rev. Deann Anderson officiated. Burial rites followed at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Catlin.

Memorials to: Central Christian Church, 1101 N. Vermilion St., Danville, IL 61832 or the Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., fl. 17, Chicago, IL 60601

Complete obituaries are available upon request from the Historical Society.

MEMORIALS

James Rouse donated to the museum a memorial in the memory of his wife Mildred Rouse. M/M James Jones made a memorial for Ken Feters.

W I S H L I S T

The Museum always has a wish list, remember to contact us before you throw any Catlin area artifact away.

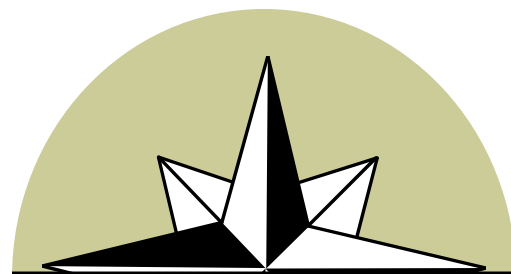
1. Pictures of village or school
2. Rain barrel
3. Hatpins and holder
4. Men's clothing prior to 1940
5. Youth clothing prior to 1930
6. Old Sears catalogues prior to 1960
7. Catlin yearbooks, 1926, 1927, 1929, 1930 thru 1937, 1940, 1974, 1979, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993 thru 1999, 2000 thru 2009

H O L I D A Y G I V I N G ' S

Another Holiday Season has come and gone and the Historical Society Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who so generously donated to the Society. During the current economic times we realize everyone is tightening their budgets, so we are very appreciative for all our donations. Please know that the board will think wisely about how the money is spent.

M/M Don Fleming
 Esther Hendrickson
 Alma Moody
 Jim/Dorothy Jones
 Katharine Smith
 Charles McGee
 Ruth Martin
 John/Sara Cast
 David/Evelyn Darr
 M/M David Sawyer
 Eileen Jeffers
 Rick Kinder
 M/M Fred Reddy

Jean Fisher
 M/M Harry Reed
 M/M Ron Smoot
 Bertha Thomas
 M/M Tom Hainline
 M/M Jack Kruzich
 M/M Fred Legg
 Ramona Bitta
 M/M Bruce Boyd
 Kathleen Harby
 Curt McGee
 M/M Anthony Saville
 M/M Steve Berry
 Melissa Taylor Panzeca
 M/M Theodore Russell
 Norma Gehm
 Roberta Rodrick
 M/M Dan Rose
 Dan/Karen Taylor
 Mae Ann Henderson
 Rodney Crawford
 Virginia Wallen
 Joan McGarigle
 M/M James McDowell
 Janet Cox Hickman
 John W. Taylor
 Patricia Tipton
 Esther Elmore



BOARD MEMBERS

Dolores Belton

Neal Brogan

Sue Colwell

Heidi Newlin

Sandy Johnson

Buzz Ritchie

Dan Rose

Lorene Sawyer

Butch Schmink

Director: Sara Cast

Treasurer: Cathy Brogan

Officers elected for 2010

President: Buzz Ritchie

Vice President: Neal Brogan

Secretary: Sue Colwell

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.ROOTSWEB.COM/~ILCHS/

CATLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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210 North Paris
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Phone: 217-427-5766
Website: rootsweb.com/~ilchs/

COMING EVENTS

Board Meeting	April 5	Annex
Board Meeting	May 3	Annex
Board Meeting	June 7	Annex
Rummage Sale	June 5	Museum
Board Meeting	July 5	Annex
Ice Cream Social	July 25	Museum
Board Meeting	Aug. 2	Annex
Board Meeting	Sept. 13	Annex
Ham/Bean Dinner	Oct. 3	Museum
Board Meeting	Oct 11	Annex
Board Meeting	Nov. 1	Annex
Board Meeting	Dec. 6	Annex

Ice Cream Social date is not definite.

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT

CATLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 658, Catlin, Illinois 61817-0658

Please correct your address or let us know if you move.. We have to pay .75 for each returned Newsletter.

Membership New or Renewal (Circle)

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership Year is January 1 to December 31

Youth (under 18).....	\$5.00
Senior Citizen (over 65).....	\$8.00
Senior Couple (One over 65)	\$12.00
Individual.....	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Corporate.....	\$50.00
LIFE Individual.....	\$150.00*
LIFE Family.....	\$250.00*

* Payable by installments

Gifts Contribution _____.

CATLIN - A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

A brief reminder to let you know we still have copies available of this wonderful DVD. Holiday sales were very good and the word must be spreading about how great it is as the sales are continuing. In case you have forgotten this DVD includes Catlin photographs from the 1800;s up thru 1960's, film slips from the 1950's, 716 W. Vermilion Street looking across to the lot where the Church of Christ was built, a grade school Halloween parade and band ap-

pearances at the V.A. Hospital Memorial Day parade. Narrative and background music accompany the photographs. If you are interest in purchasing a DVD please contact the Museum for a copy. The telephone # is 217-427-5766 or contact Sara 217-427-5428. The cost is \$12.00 or \$14.00 for those needing us to mail your copy. Please consider ordering, as I know everyone with a Catlin connection will enjoy watching the DVD and you are also helping the Museum.