

The Ferry Landing

*The Martins Ferry Area Historical Society, Inc.
Spring 2007*

*Tom Thomas, President
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . TOM THOMAS

Spring is here and the museum is getting ready for our summer hours of operation. We have been hard at work cleaning the inside of the museum and preparing the outside area for the hundreds of people who will be touring the Sedgwick House soon. Thanks to Betty Pokas and her wonderful article in the TIMES LEADER, we have had two Martins Ferrians volunteer to serve as tour guides for us. Jeannie Splenda and Candy Wilson will be sharing their expertise with visitors to the museum this summer. Thanks also to the Martins Ferry Rotary Club for giving us the financial support to allow us to open again.

Once again, our hours of operation will be every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon until 4:00 p.m. The Sedgwick House will be available for tours Memorial Day weekend (May 25, 26, 27). The next weekend should also be busy, since graduation and the M.F.H.S. Alumni reunion will take place and many old and new Purple Riders will want to spend time at the museum. Later in June, another important activity, the Soap Box Derby, will make that weekend a very busy one for us. The Sedgwick House will remain open until the end of August when school begins again. Remember, the museum visit costs only \$2 for adults, with school students being admitted without cost.

As I told you before, we have used money from the Belmont County Tourism group to convert the back porch to an additional room. We will be moving our printed materials and memorabilia and various files there, giving us more room for other displays throughout the museum. These changes are now ongoing due to the hard work of our dedicated officers and directors. This year, our grant money will be used for various repairs and improvements within the museum's interior. The Sedgwick House opened in 1970, and some of this work is extremely necessary.

We thank you for your continued support of the MFAHS, for your purchases of the books we have for sale, and for your kind and supportive words to our group. Most of all...PLEASE COME AND VISIT US. Many people in Martins Ferry have never shared in the historical experience that awaits them at the Sedgwick House Museum.

THE DISASTROUS SCOTT LUMBER FIRE THE DAILY TIMES, July 1, 1929

A city block laid waste, fifty firemen and volunteers injured, a loss of approximately \$350,000, the mammoth Scott Lumber Company plant a smoldering heap of ruins, more than a score of residences destroyed or damaged – that was the toll of the disastrous and spectacular Scott Lumber fire of June 30 – July 1, 1929.

Fire departments from more than seven cities and villages aided the hard pressed Martins Ferry Fire Department in an all night struggle. Thousands of spectators added to the greatest traffic jam in many years.

For some years Ferry firemen had a plan of battle for a conflagration such as the Scott Lumber fire, but they didn't have a chance to even get started on it. The fire was discovered about 6:30 p.m. by Wayne Blair. Who pulled box 53, located in front of the building. Even though plenty of firemen were available and all three hose trucks were out at the first alarm, the flames traveled so fast that by the time the first truck, The Alerts, arrived on scene, the fire had burst through the roof and was rolling from both sides of the building. By the time the Liberty Company could get water in their lines, the blaze had jumped the alley and ignited the Koehrsen property and had obtained a start on the MacIninch residence to the north, a half block away. By actual count, no less than 19 pieces of property, other than the lumber yard and building were on fire at one time. Firemen, strangling in the flames and smoke fought doggedly to bar the progress of the flames to the south, west and north. A shift in the wind saved Carlisle Street, but meant the destruction of a row of houses on Park Street to the north. Heat was so intense that houses a full block away were left blistered. The woodwork at the Post Office, 60 yards from the Scott Plant was smoking. Telephone, street car, and city lines, together with supporting poles, were completely burned away within the fire zone.

Ambulances rushed the victims to the Martins Ferry Hospital in a steady stream. Miss Ruth Brandt, Hospital Superintendent, mobilized her staff to handle the steady flow of injured firemen. Practically every doctor in town rushed to the hospital to volunteer his services. E. S. Manchin, Superintendent of The American Sheet and Tin Plate Laughlin Works, rushed the plant pulmotor to the hospital. It was used to revive several firemen overcome by smoke. Many firemen were treated on scene, having oil put in their smoke inflamed eyes, and cream put on their blistered skin. One fireman, Chester Coss, his scalp injured by a fall from a ladder, left the hospital through a window, and went right back to fighting the fire. By the next morning, the area resembled a "movie set" with the skeletons of charred and burned out houses.

But the Scott Lumber Company carried on. Vice President Walter D. Carlile rented a room in the Hayne Building, and had business going as usual the next morning. The company had many other yards from which to furnish materials until the Martins Ferry branch could be re-established. As for insurance, much of the damage was covered. Also, there was a notice in that day's paper that there were many homes for rent in Martins Ferry, and those left homeless should be able to find a place to live.

THE DISASTROUS SCOTT LUMBER FIRE
Photos provided by Kimberly Kinsel Hurley



THE CLASS OF 1957

Looking back at the 1957 FERRIAN, here are some of the things we found:

Superintendent: Harold A. Meyer
Principal: Stephen J. Polinsky
Dean of Girls: Miss Leonore Lemmler
Guidance Director: Mr. E. R. Bovenizer

Senior Class Officers: Joe Jones, President; James Everson, Vice President; Secretary, Diana Evans; Barbara Laslo, Treasurer

Homecoming Queen: Nancy Daubenmeyer

National Honor Society: Virginia Funari, Buddy Evans, Alice Jones, Jack Ehmer, Billie Meldrum, Joe Jones, Marjorie Kolozsi

Clubs: Varsity Club, Dramatic Club, Glee Club, Library Club, Industrial Arts Club, Nutbusters, Junior Red Cross, F.T.A., Senior Y-Teens, Stage Crew, Juke Box Committee, Latin Club, Projection Crew, G.A.A., Junior Town Meeting, Student Council Photo Club, Hi-Y, F.H.A.

Senior Cheerleaders: Carolyn Duck, Joan Paul, Nancy Daubenmeyer, Captain; Kay Richards, Connie McKean

Football Record – W 2, L 7, T 1
Boys' Basketball – W 9, L 9
Girls' Basketball – W 4



FOR SALE FROM THE SEDGWICK HOUSE MUSEUM

	Museum Pick Up (Includes Tax)	Mailed (Includes S/H)
<u>Annie Tanks' Martins Ferry</u> By Annie C. Tanks	\$16.00	\$19.00
<u>A Town of Grandeur</u> By Annie C. Tanks	\$13.00	\$15.50
<u>Lillie</u> By Jacob C. Williams, Jr.	\$16.00	\$18.50
<u>Bulltown</u> By Andy Shemenski	\$4.00	\$ 5.00
<u>The Zane Genealogy in the Ebenezer Martin Line</u> Compiled by A. Alma Martin Phyllis Kane, Myra Martin, Diane Nichols	\$20.00	\$22.50
<u>Through One Man's Eyes</u> By Paul E. Rieger	\$ 7.00	\$ 9.50
<u>Remembrances of Nutbusters and Beauty Queens</u> By Bill Burge	\$11.00	\$13.50
<u>Harry Northwood The Early Years 1881-1900</u> By William Heacock, James Measell, Berry Wiggins	\$20.00	\$22.50
Note Cards, pkg. of eight Artist, Jean Gwinn	\$3.00	\$4.00

Mail to: Name: _____

 Address: _____

 City, State, Zip Code: _____

Mail orders to:

Martins Ferry Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 422, Martins Ferry, OH 43935



JIM'S DRIVE INN RESTAURANT
Stop 10 — Jim Dandy Hamburgers — Route 7

Pictured in the 1957 Ferrian