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THE HISTORICAL RECORD

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CHRIS PAYNE TO ENTERTAIN KIDS AND ADULTS AT THE GAZEBO...



Wyoming graduate (Class of 1972) and world renowned artist/illustrator Chris (C.F.) Payne will be speaking to kids (and adults) at the gazebo on Friday, July 30, at 10 A.M. Bring coolers, blankets, chairs, kids and adults for this interesting presentation. Chris' work can be found in so many places like covers of Time Magazine and back covers of Reader's Digest. And many of the faces you see in his work are people you might know from here in Wyoming. The mural in the entry of the high school is one of his works as is the mural at Playhouse In The Park. A great artist with a clever mind on a beautiful summer morning in Wyoming...what a great place to be!

OUR 2010 JUNIOR HISTORY AWARD WINNER...



Casey Goodall is looking forward to being a senior at Wyoming High School this fall. While she loves American History, her interests go far beyond the classroom. Casey was a member of the state-qualifying Science Olympiad team and the nationally ranked JETS engineering team at Wyoming. She also spends a lot of her time out of school at The Studio for Dance, where she studies ballet, tap, jazz, clogging, lyrical, and modern dance. Casey has a passion for performing, as some of her favorite experiences have been performing with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra and participating in dance competitions. She will be the senior class president next year, and hopes to lead the Class of 2011 through an awesome year at Wyoming.

As the recipient of the WHS American History Award, Casey received a certificate, two Social Studies oriented books and a check for \$500 on May 26 at the Wyoming Underclass Honors Night. The award is based on earning top grades in social studies, participating in the social studies class activities, setting an excellent example for other students, and being held in high regard by teachers and classmates.

WYOMING WORDSEARCH - STREETS...

Up, down, sideways or diagonal...the letters of each street name will 'touch'. Need help? Street names on Page 4.

G	L	B	H	S	J	T	S	E	W	C	H	A	R	L	O	T	T	E	B
L	S	E	D	V	M	U	Z	K	S	L	L	I	M	Q	N	B	W	K	O
E	B	E	N	M	U	O	Y	A	N	T	R	W	A	P	I	S	A	P	N
N	Z	C	W	E	N	T	W	O	R	T	H	C	L	A	R	K	V	C	H
W	Y	H	E	G	R	S	S	O	U	J	T	M	C	H	O	O	E	T	A
A	J	U	K	A	Q	N	L	I	B	A	R	N	E	Y	D	O	R	I	M
Y	D	R	G	N	E	F	C	R	E	S	C	E	N	T	P	R	L	V	R
Y	A	U	R	D	V	P	R	D	L	G	U	S	T	A	C	B	Y	A	O
P	S	O	N	H	T	R	O	N	M	X	H	E	V	O	R	G	K	I	P
W	T	I	Z	U	I	C	S	W	O	E	W	E	S	T	H	I	L	L	M
O	L	I	V	E	R	O	L	P	R	E	L	J	W	I	Y	Y	T	W	R
R	A	W	E	G	H	O	E	R	J	D	U	R	R	E	L	L	N	O	A
T	X	A	E	T	A	P	Y	L	I	E	R	C	F	H	G	I	O	R	F
H	I	L	L	C	R	E	S	T	D	I	A	L	L	E	N	M	W	E	E
I	F	N	P	F	D	R	C	H	A	R	L	E	S	I	S	R	R	A	G
N	J	U	A	A	O	I	A	S	H	L	E	Y	R	E	D	N	E	P	A
G	Y	T	M	T	N	O	M	R	E	V	F	U	H	L	R	D	V	J	O
T	U	N	T	S	E	H	C	O	M	P	T	O	N	R	A	L	P	O	P
O	I	J	H	I	L	L	T	O	P	W	E	I	V	N	A	M	L	O	H
N	Y	M	T	P	L	E	A	S	A	N	T	W	M	T	S	E	R	O	F



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PROHIBITION – AN INVITATION TO LAWLESSNESS... Glenn Lewis

An old Hollywood movie poster of the Roaring 20's would show images of rumble seats, raccoon coats, flappers, college pennants, bootleggers, hip flasks and a jazz band. These images were real at the Stockton Club on Monday night, December 31, 1923, New Year's Eve, only five miles north of Wyoming.

The newly formed Wolverine Band, with a young, twenty-year-old cornetist named Bix Beiderbecke, entertained the holiday patrons with "Fidgety Feet," "Jazz Me Blues," "China Boy," "Angry" and Jelly Roll Morton's "Wolverine Blues."

It wasn't just the Wolverine Band that attracted such a large turnout at Butler County's classiest roadhouse, there was the best bootleg whiskey and beer in the area, good food, dancing, high stakes gambling and the excitement of mixing with the good and the bad. There were bootleggers and hardened criminals on their best behavior. The curious and the adventuresome could say they had dined, danced, gambled and drank with bootleggers and gangsters, the folk heroes of the Roaring 20's.

The crowd packing the Stockton that night included rival gangsters from Hamilton and Cincinnati. Management, wise to the potential trouble, had laid down strict ground rules; Hamiltonians in one section of the club, the boys from Cincy in another. No contact, no trouble. Things appeared to be going well until sometime in the early morning hours, when two of the Hamilton mob ventured into Cincinnati territory. A remark struck fire... somebody started punching, and within minutes all precautions had gone out the window in an eruption of fists, flying bottles, plates and chairs.

The brawl continued for about an hour, then club managers ordered the band to resume playing and organized bouncers to end the fighting and clear the club. Several people were injured and taken to Mercy Hospital in Hamilton for treatment. The Stockton Club was closed by the present managers in order to allow the alleged roughhouse on New Year's Eve to blow over, or until officers of the law had conveniently forgotten the affair.

Managers of the roadhouse had won the reputation of toughness sufficient to get the club nicknamed "Little Chicago" among the locals. It was the hottest spot in this part of the country and a major attraction in the Roaring 20's. It thrived during Prohibition for several reasons. One was for its music – good jazz was all the rage. A second reason was the location. The club sat on the northwest corner of State Route 4 (Dixie Highway) and Seward Road, about seven miles south of downtown Hamilton and only twelve miles north of Cincinnati, in a sparsely populated farm community.

That remoteness on a narrow two-lane country road is difficult to visualize today, for now the site is along a busy six-lane highway flanked by many businesses and restaurants in the city of Fairfield. This once-quiet rural township grew from just 2,527 people in 1920 to a vibrant city of 42,000 today. The scarcity of cars in the 1920's didn't hurt business at the Stockton Club. Those without cars could reach it by the Millcreek Interurban streetcar line that connected Hamilton, Glendale, Wyoming and Cincinnati. People also arrived in taxis and some of the most expensive cars could be found in the parking lot. Another reason for its prosperity was the shortage of law enforcement in the area. Throughout the decade, the sheriff had only one patrol car to cover more than 800 miles of road in a county of 469 square miles, and few police cars equipped with two-way radios. But there was no shortage of police officers (off duty, of course) at the Stockton Club. Some directed traffic and guarded cars in the parking lot. Others worked as bouncers and bartenders.

The seven months of quiet which followed the New Year's Eve roughhouse broke on August 18, 1924, when a Cincinnati man filed suit in Butler County Common Pleas Court to recover \$1,893 from the club. The plaintiff said he had lost that amount playing craps at the club during visits on May 23, 24 and 31, and on June 7. The suit wasn't successful but the litigation focused the unwanted spotlight on the illegal operations at the nightclub. It reminded residents of Butler County that the club was operating again, despite pledges by county officials that gambling and liquor laws were being enforced. The presiding judge fined the two owners \$500 for operating a habitual gambling house. A writer for the Hamilton Journal said, "The fine of \$500 is a mere trifle in the life of the Stockton Club – one roll of the 'bones' made back that \$500 fine."

Source: Little Chicago by Jim Blount, Editor with the Hamilton Journal, Bix: Man and Legend, by Richard Sudhalter. Thanks also to James Schellenbach for his reference material and knowledge. Enjoy more of Jim's stories at the Valley Barber Shop.

(Part 2 will appear in the September newsletter.)

Street names found in the puzzle on Page 2.

Allen
Ardon
Ashley
Barney
Beech
Bonham
Brooks
Burns
Charles
Charlotte
Chestnut
Clark
Compton
Cooper
Crescent
Crosley
Dorino
Durrell
Egan
Elm
Euclid
Forest
Glenway
Grove
Hillcrest
Hilltop
Holmanview
Jewett
Linden
Maple
Mills
Mt Pleasant
North
Oak
Oliver
Park
Pendery
Poage Farm
Poplar
Reilly
Sherry
St Clair
Stout
Vail
Vermont
Walnut
Waverly
Wentworth
West
West Hill
Worthington

OUR THANKS TO...

Dr. Mark Sheehan sent us his book "Healing Prayer on Holy Ground: A Cardiologist Discovers God's Presence in the Lives of his Patients" for our Wyoming Authors Collection. Mark is a 1967 graduate of Wyoming High School who practices in Denver, CO.

Tish Williams, owner of Browning's, creatively framed a 1918 Wyoming, OH car license plate for us. The plate was a gift from Margaret Orendorff. We are hoping to learn more about the city issuing license plates before the state took over that responsibility. Come see the 'baby' sized plate at headquarters. And if any one wants to figure out when the state took over issuing plates it would help us figure out when and how long Wyoming was doing it!

In addition to the aforementioned license, Margaret Orendorff has been bringing us a wonderful assortment of 'goodies' she's uncovered. And the bonus, she has been able to identify people in photos from the 60's.

And to everyone else who drops off items to us. Thank you so much.

IN LIVING COLOR...

If you wish to see the pictures in this newsletter in color you can do so by going to our web site. We are part of the City of Wyoming web pages at www.wyoming.oh.us. Then click on Community/ Religious Organizations and the drop down box on the right will list Wyoming Historical Society. You can read old newsletters, keep up with our programs and just learn more about Wyoming's past.

THE BAKERY!...

Can you help? Phil & Kim Reschke, owners of the Wyoming Pastry Shop, are looking for historical photos and information on the bakery and building. If you can be of any help please contact them at 821-0742.

2010 VIDEO INTERVIEWS...

Our thanks again to teacher Todd Siler and his AP History students for the video history interviews they did for the Historical Society. And our thanks also to the interviewees: Carol Clark Johnson, George Lewis, Margaret Orendorff, Ruth Sears Robinson, Mildred Tomasella.

NOSTALGIA...

At least for some of us these examples of older labels on Ivory Soap and Morton Salt bring back memories of a simpler time.



ANOTHER WYOMING FIRST . . . Glenn Lewis

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, a character building and leadership program for boys between the ages of 11 and 18.

Many years ago, as the early scouting organization began to grow in membership and move across the nation, The Cincinnati Council was created. This newly formed council issued its first charter to a troop sponsored by the Wyoming Presbyterian Church, back in January, 1914.

A listing of names from this original troop may sound familiar to some of us. Scoutmaster was Gordon L. Smith and A.C. Klemm, Assistant Scoutmaster. The scouts in that first troop were, Wm. Hopple, James Cray, Robert Lewis, William Statham, Winslow Kelly, Oliver D. Roemler, Richard Porter, Jack Zahniser, Newton Lewis, Herbert S. Alcorn, Charles Ault, John R. Paddack, James Morrison, Clifford Albert, Howard Mackay,

Mack McCarthy, a former Scoutmaster of the Wyoming troop, said it best, "Scouting makes a good boy into a better boy."

Support scouting. It strengthens the individual, the family, the community and the nation.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER . . . Sherry Sheffield

We are so pleased to be able to offer another summer program that is slanted a little towards the kids out there. Last year, our first summer program, was a representative from the Hamilton County Parks. This year we are very luck to have Chris Payne as our presenter. We hope you will bring your children, grand children and, of course, yourselves as there is always a little kid in each of us! 10 a.m., Friday, July 30th...at the gazebo!

This October 17th your Historical Society will again be doing an **Historic House Tour**. You can expect to hear more about this in the coming months. We are always in need of volunteers for this great event. Please give us a call if you are interested.

As we do every year we will have a booth at Fall Festival. If you didn't get to the Vermont School History Museum in April you can see several of the displays in our booth at the festival.

For all these events we hope and pray for great weather and a big turn out. We hope to see you at all of them.

A REPLACEMENT THAT WORKED! . . .



The fire engine, our usual float, was ill and unavailable to us for the Fourth of July. But, we felt that some live music is really needed for our parade. So, a red truck replaced the red fire engine and the band played on. Thanks to Director Kaiser for securing the truck.

The Wyoming Historical Society
800 Oak Street
Wyoming OH 45215-2720

**Attend the July 30th Program
with Chris Payne. Bring your
kids and grandkids!**

OUR JULY 4TH FLOAT...



Quinn, Madison, and Anya, daughters of board member Angela Stiefbold rode in the rumble seat of Tim Schmidt's Model A Ford in this year's July 4th parade. Thanks to Tim for the loan of the car and for driving.

Following closely behind was our other float - members of the Wyoming High School band - riding and playing from the back of a much more current truck! Thanks to David Kaiser, Band Director. See their picture on Page 5.