



GRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010

JUNE 16, 2010
Marion Public Library
Room B, 7 p.m.

Program: Ed Breen
“Saving Indiana’s
Abraham Lincoln’s Collection”

When the Lincoln Insurance Co. in Fort Wayne, IN closed its Lincoln Museum, there was great concern as to where the extensive collection would be housed. Certainly, the State of Indiana wanted it. Illinois claimed that they deserved the collection and others were interested. Mr. Breen will share the efforts that were made to save this historic collection for Indiana and how people can still get involved.

Ed Breen is well known to the citizens of Marion. His resume includes being an Editor, Photographer at the Marion Chronicle Tribune, an Editor on the staff of the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, and one of the founders of Mississinewa 1812. Ed is on the radio now, on the early morning show on WBAT. If that isn't enough, he was also a good friend and traveling buddy of Richard Simon.

Gleanings From the Board

A certificate of appreciation will be presented to Bob Humbert for his many years of serving as vice-president and program chair. Bob will continue to help with program ideas. Membership is encouraged to help also.

There was a recommendation from the Membership Committee for a \$5 a-year membership for students, elementary through college. Motion carried.

MATTER PARK BEGINNINGS

Submitted by Juanita Rapp

“The Marion Daily Chronicle on Thursday, July 14, 1892 published the following information, titled: City’s acceptance of the Grant, told in the Committee Report and the Ordinance adopted by the council, July 12, 1892.

The story of the gift of Matter Park to Marion, with its conditions and provision, is told in the report of the committee of investigation and in the ordinance accepting the gift. These are given herewith. They will be found to be good things to cut out and paste in scrapbooks that the children may know some day the origin of a famous and lovely city’s breathing spot.

Highlights of the ordinance reads as follows:

Our esteemed fellow townsman Phillip Matter has submitted his written proposition to convey thirty acres of land to the city of Marion to be forever devoted to purposes of a public park.

The City of Marion will expend, in improvement and beautifying said plat of ground two thousand dollars the first year at the completion of the Highland Avenue Bridge.

Landowners owning land lying between the bridge and proposed park donate a right of way along the river bank.

A street car line shall be built to said proposed park within 12 months of the bridge completion.

It is the opinion of the council that such action would conduce to the convenience, comfort, and enjoyment of the citizens, therefore being a necessity.”

Note: For a complete reading of the article, see the copy of this news item at the next GCHS Meeting or check the vertical file on MATTER PARK at the Indiana Room. J.R.

Officers for 2010-2011 are Juanita Rapp, President.; Bob McDonald, Vice President; Sue Israel, Secretary/Historian; Jim and Kay Dougherty and Joan Vickers, Newsletter. John Bradley will fill Ralph Kirkpatrick’s seat on the board. PJ Culley and David Wright will serve regular terms on the board.

Grant County Historical Society

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