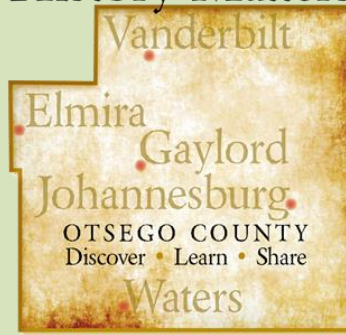


History Matters

Update # 18



May 5, 2018

If it happened, it's history is a phrase we repeatedly use to remind people that history is being made every day. Even though we might initially think of antiques and “old stuff”, we need to also include recent history. After all, with time, new stuff eventually becomes old stuff. The present becomes the past.

As we get ready for our county's sesquicentennial – our 150th birthday – let's be sure to encompass all 15 decades. Getting stuck in just one era prevents us from telling our entire story. We need to show what has changed, what has stayed the same and explain why. This is what History Matters is all about.

Another important task is to actively collect and record what's happening now and in the recent past. Much of what we experience today is the result of changes that took place in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. Things like the opening of I-75, oil & gas exploration, and establishing the golf mecca to mention just a few examples. We need to get busy with our tape recorders and cameras to capture everyday life experiences as well as the major events. It's only going to get more difficult as time passes to get those items added to our archives. What are we waiting for?

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The Chatter Box exhibit at the museum gets a lot of attention – especially by people who were in high school here during the 1950s and '60s. It was one of the main hang outs for local students.

Its appeal is obvious from the moment alumni enter the museum's front door. Eyes light up and big grins appear. It triggers memories of years gone by and offers an immediate connection with the past.

Gordon “Butch” Lehmann (in photo with wife Peg) recently visited the museum from Montana and **shared** many interesting stories about when his family owned the restaurant. Stories that brought history to life.



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Our thanks to Jon and Jean Morris for donating the items shown to the left for our U.S. Plywood / Georgia-Pacific exhibit at the museum. This company played an important role in the recent history of Otsego County.

The factory closed in 2006 and the buildings have since been removed. Gone maybe, but not forgotten. Now's the time to collect and preserve the pictures, documents, and personal recollections that will help future generations **learn** about one of our county's major businesses.



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1. Take a look at our Otsego County [Timeline](#). **Share** your ideas of what events should be added during 1950 – Present.
2. What artifacts, documents, and photos should we collect now that represents the previous 50 years? Telephone books, restaurant menus, church directories, maps, etc.
3. Do you have information about Project Nature that was located near Vanderbilt? **Share** your memories of the 100 mile an hour wind storm that ripped through our county in 1998. Did you watch Lauren Duski on The Voice? What other examples of recent history can you help us collect and preserve?

It's just a matter of time