

March 2008

Fort Journal

Individual Highlights:

Chair report	1
Calendar	2
Dues Due	3
Shirts & Caps	4
Truck Tracks	5
Boy Scout Visit	- 6
New Members	7
Lead Safety*	7
Donor recognition	7

*Lead Safety Class
registration - attached

**HFWC Hours
given to the
Fort in 2008 as
of Feb. 28,
2008:**

- 311.25

Historic Fort Wayne Coalition

Website Re-Launched!!!

Another great step was taken last week in our continuing goal to spread the story of Historic Fort Wayne. On February 25, Jeremy Bevard, our new Webmaster, launched a new version of www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com. Be sure to stop by and check it out.

The first thing you'll notice is the new look of the cover page. It is designed to keep the look of the site consistent throughout. But look deeper. There are new historic photos on the photos page, an updated schedule and much, much more. Check back for regular updates!

Chairman's Report – Tom Berlucchi

I would like to first start off this article with a personal message from Judy, Pam, Mary, Tom Jr. (TJ), and myself. Just before Christmas our daughter Mary was diagnosed with neurological problems. Wednesday, March 5th she will be under going major surgery at Children's Hospital in Detroit. This surgery will require extensive reconstruction of the top of her cranium to relieve the pressure on the brain. As a father, I have fought the medical system to get her to Children's and into the hands of experienced pediatric neurological Surgeons. It was only accomplished by the grace of God. We have felt the prayers, words of encouragement, all the hugs and mostly just the feeling of love that everyone has displayed toward Mary. I asked Mary what she would like to do last Saturday. She knew it was a Coalition workday and she wanted to go to town (as she calls the Fort). As her surgery draws closer, we as a family have come closer together knowing that Mary is in God's hands. On February 26th, I received like everyone else from Doris asking you all to vote for Children's Hospital to receive a new play area if they win. When we (Judy and I opened it) we broke down

and thank God for this family called the Coalition. The warmth, love, and friendship are what make this organization first class above the rest. We are truly blessed to have the friends, companions, and mostly the love that you all have displayed to our family. No words can be written nor can enough thank you to be said to express the warm-hearted love we have for you all.

Another year is done and we as a group have a lot to be proud of. I want to start with is our on Site safety record. We have had over 6000 volunteer hours since we formed and over 4000 last year alone. We have had just one bad mark in that time- the poison ivy incident behind the quartermaster shop. I know for those whom were affected it was very unpleasant. I bring that up again also as a reminder that the site still may contain some areas of it so please be careful. However, other then that we have worked hard, long on many projects with no accidents- Kudos to you all. We have the Safety book in the office and I ask you all too please review it. Safety is no accident if followed properly and I have tasked the Executive Board to create an even safer environment for us all while

2008 Calendar of Events



March 8, 2008	Federal Officer's and NCOs Drill and Leadership Conference
April 5, 2008	HFWC Workday 9am – 5pm
April 18-20, 2008	Federal Combined Arms Drill – Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery expected
April 25-27, 2008	Medich Confederate Battalion Drill
May 2-4, 2008	Boy Scout event
May 10, 2009	HFWC Workday 9am – 5pm – bi-monthly membership meeting
May 16, 2008	Scranton Middle School Presentation – Brighton, MI – HFWC paid \$300.00
June 7-8, 2008	RMS MS visits Fort Wayne
June 21, 2008	HFWC Workday 9am – 5pm – bi-monthly membership meeting
June 25, 2008	Detroit Fireworks – HFWC social function in star fort
July 11-13, 2008	Civil War Days
July 26, 2008	HFWC Workday 9am – 5pm
August 2-3, 2008	Sally Port Mess sponsored Garrison weekend – 19 th US infantry impression
August 16, 2008	HFWC Workday 9am – 5pm – bi-monthly membership meeting
September 12-14, 2008	Bike Rally – fundraiser for the Fort!

Chairman's Art – cont'd from pg. 1

on site. . More news on this will be forthcoming in a separate letter to the membership.

Environmental issues are still with us and we are still moving ahead in the areas of Lead compliance. Recently the projects committee met and has plans to present for funding to the executive board a new idea in how to handle the lead paint. This will be in complete compliance with MIOSHA.

I will ensure that this group will meet all environmental issues regarding the work on this site that we do. That leads to the use of professional contractors to restore some of the buildings on this site. I will be the first to say this is absolutely the way to go. However, we also have to be realistic about how to fund this. There definitely is enough room for the volunteers to create the opportunity of huge savings to the City.

Cont'd on Page 3

Chairman's article – the end:

. We will always welcome the professionals. One recent accomplishment is new roof on the quartermasters building. Thank you Jim Conway for getting that project completed and Jim welcome back to work for your recovery period- you were missed by many and we are glad you are back on the job.

The Web site- all I have to say is thank you to the following members for their relentless effort to get the new site developed, started and working. Thanks to Bob & Mary Hovansian for the donation of Dreamweaver program. I want the membership to know that one person has worked his tail off on this project. Jeremy Bevard, your relentless hours of hard work are paying off for all of us to enjoy the new site again. THANK YOU, Jeremy!

The newly formed grounds committee has met once and come up with an extreme plan to clean up, remove and kill the unwanted growth. They also plan to repair the curbs and roads. It is aggressive but very doable and I believe with this group it can be completed. Once we meet again we will put out to the membership the final version of our plan and how we will accomplish this task.

For you folks that live down river, on March 12 at the City of Gibraltar Col. David Jamroz and I will be addressing the Gibraltar Historical Society on Fort Wayne and the Coalition. Please mark your calendars to come, listen, and support us.

In closing, if you look at Historic Fort Wayne today, you see buildings with roof decay, trees growing out of buildings, and vines over taking buildings. There are still challenges ahead. However, without all or our hard work you'd still see: railings missing around powder magazine, broken walk ways, and the front stairs to the commanding officers house rotting away with the public not able to go in the front door. You would see the entire inside of the star fort full taken over by the over growth, more dead trees standing waiting to fall on visitors or the fragile buildings, and trash laying all over. Today the reality is we have turned the tide of Mother Nature on the star fort and some buildings. Yes, we still have buildings in decaying shape but remember Rome was not built in a day and neither will be Fort Wayne. Thank you for all your hard efforts. You are simply the best!

Tom Berlucchi



Scouts from the 3 Rivers Camporee meet Corporal "Crusty" St. John and Donovan.

Photo by Matt Beaudry

2008 Dues

As members of the leadership, it has been a thrill to see so many of our fellow members show up at the January and February events with checks in hand to pay their 2008 dues. We must be all doing something right together! If you've not had a chance to pay your 2008 dues yet, please bring them to a workday or send them to Doris Julian, our Secretary at the Coalition address found on the last page of this Journal.

Please also send Doris your current address, phone number and email. Even though you think you are up to date with contact info, this gives us a chance to double check. The easiest way to do this is to print a membership application off the website at the bottom of the "Get Involved" page. It's all of our dues that are the backbone of our financial means to push our efforts forward. Thanks for your help in making this possible.

Shirts and Hats for sale – Show your pride!



Historic Fort Wayne

T-shirt Breast patch design (top)

Cap text layout (bottom)

After a lot of discussion and some good hard work, a new fundraiser for our work at the Fort is about to kick off. Executive Board member Lloyd Hevelhorst has been working hard with other Coalition members to design T-shirts for Coalition members and ball caps to promote the Fort. We expect them to arrive the week of March 3rd. Shirts and caps will be available for sale at Fort Wayne Saturday, March 8th at the Leadership Drill and Conference. Even if you are not planning on attending the event, feel free to stop by and pick up your cap and shirt.

Shirts will retail for \$20.00 each. Caps retail at \$15.00. All Historic Fort Wayne Coalition members are eligible for a 10% discount off these prices. All you have to do is show your 2008 membership card.

We have two shirt choices and one cap style currently. Both shirts will have a patch on the left breast the group’s name and a great rendition of the 1848 barracks that was designed by Matthew Music. There are two separate designs for the back, one with an infantry image and one with Loomis’ battery at drill. Thanks to the Detroit Historical Museum

and The Burton Collection, respectively, for permission to use those images. Each style of shirt will be available in either tan or white.

The caps are will be blue and have “Historic Fort Wayne” stitched in gold thread.

“Artillery” shirt back design:



“Infantry” shirt back design:



Truck Tracks – December, 1945 continued

“During the week of August 8 {1942}, Fort Wayne shipped nearly 2,000,000 pounds of part and supplies to establish and all time high for the depot.”

ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT

Although the Ordnance Department took over all motor transportation from the Quartermaster Corps on August 1, {1942} the actual change-over did not take place until August 6, when letterheads, collar ornaments for officers and signatures were changed.

Early in August the importance of the State Fair Grounds as storage point became so important action was taken to

bring about the transfer of a full military police company to guard the vehicles.

ALL TIME NEW HIGH

During the week of August 8, Fort Wayne shipped nearly 2,000,000 pounds of parts and supplies to establish an all time high for the depot. These summer months saw the post cooperating in the nationwide salvage drive,

Cont’d on Page 5

Truck Tracks – 1945 retrospective, cont'd

giving up all its historic old cannon and salute guns to the cause, some of them dating back to pre-Civil War days.

In the same period the practice of holding retreat on main Parade Ground each Tuesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m. with all units participating, was begun.

Also early in August the transfer of D and C Blats to the Navy so affected the total carrying capacity of the available boats that a new plan was decided. Under this system, vehicles bound for points in the New York area were loaded on the decks of grain and ore carrying freighters. Each vessel, it was found, could carry between 70 and 90 vehicles without interfering with the transfer of grain and ore to the east.

NEW PROBLEMS ARISE

September opened with the problem incident to the departure of civilian personnel for high paid jobs in the industry, although efforts were being made to balance the two wage scales. Despite these efforts the departures increased.

On September 1 the last of the vehicles kept on the parade ground were moved to the Fair Grounds and on the same day construction of a temporary addition to Building 90 was begun.

NEW MOTOR REPAIR SHOP

The new motor repair shop to be used as quarters for the Post Motor Transport Garage was completed September 4 and the former fireproof garage was turned over to the storage of tires, heretofore piled in the open.

Col. Clarence E. Jones, Ordnance Department, left Fort Wayne September 15 to take command of the Lordstown

Motor Supply Depot, Warren, Ohio, and was succeeded by Major Elmer J. Jantz, as the post executive officer. Capt. F. C. Hood, Ordnance Department, assumed Major Jantz's old duties as assistant to the chief of the supply division.

RED CROSS ADDED

The Red Cross Motor Crops came into being on September 17 when one of their representatives called on the commanding officer to request permission for 30 of their qualified drivers to work with Army driver and mechanics at the Vehicle Preparation Unit.

Later, the unit took an increasingly active part in the conveying of Army vehicles from manufacturers to the State Fair Grounds. The Transportation Division, following the establishment of the 13 Ordnance Districts, moved from the Buhl Building back to Fort Wayne where it took up the more restricted task of issuing bills of lading for vehicles shipped from the War Department Motor Pool at the State Fair Grounds. The districts assumed charge of the original shipment of vehicles and parts from the manufacturers.

On September 21 the National Parts Distribution Division of the National Motor Transport moved from Fort Wayne to the Union Guardian Building. When it came from Washington in June, 1942, it brought along 3,000 requisitions – when it left Fort Wayne it had none.

Join us in the next Fort Journal for the final installment of the Army's look back at its first 100 years a Fort Wayne!



Officers of the 19th US Infantry. Image from the mid-1890s.

Image Courtesy of Thomas Steele Collection.

Boy Scout Troop 226 Visits Fort Wayne – Lloyd Hevelhorst

On Friday, 8 February 2008, 9 Boy Scouts and their adult leaders from local Holy Redeemer Church Troop 226 arrived at Historic Fort Wayne for a weekend of learning and discovery. Accompanied by Scoutmaster John O'Connor, Asst. Scoutmaster Frank Lemus, Troop Committee Chairman Mike Dowdy and Troop Quartermaster Dennis Heraty, the Scouts included:

Acting Senior Patrol Leader Aaron Slusarczk
Jonathan Woods-Kronk
James Hitch
Kevin Moore
Rafael Orozco
Raul Davis
Carlos Hernandez
Miguel Lemus
Webelo Richard (last name not available)

Bivouacking in the Enlisted Mens' Barracks inside the Star Fort, the Scouts utilized the 2nd Story sleeping quarters. Their leaders camped on the 1st floor. All meals were prepared in the Cooking Room in the rear of the Mess Hall.

On Saturday, 9 February, the scouts awoke to find Coalition Chairman Tom Berlucchi, and Member-at-Large Lloyd Hevelhorst in period Civil War uniform, ready for the day's activities. Tom began the day with a discussion on the Life Of The Soldier and, after a series of drill maneuvers inside the Barracks (during which Scoutmaster O'Connor was detailed to keep a Springfield Rifle lifted above his head each time the Scouts failed to properly execute a command by Tom, thus encouraging the Scouts to pay strict attention!), the lads and leaders were then lucky enough to be conducted on a detailed tour of the Fort complex by none other than Coalition member (and co-author of the new photographic history of the Fort) Dave Jamroz. After lunch in the Mess Hall, Tom and Lloyd formed up the Scouts outside the Barracks and conducted Load-In-9

demonstrations with Lloyd's original Model 1863 Springfield, and Tom's replica Springfield and Enfield.

After dinner Saturday evening, a bonfire was started in a safe area inside the Star Fort, and Lloyd gave a short talk on the ghost stories associated with the Fort, after which several of the Scouts told him they had just noticed someone standing in the sally-port entrance, waving at them. With Scoutmaster O'Connor's permission, Lloyd took 6 of the lads on an investigative trek into the sally-port (and was left with 2 Scouts only seconds upon entering the port!). No paranormal activity was observed, but hairs were standing on end nonetheless. After a round of ghost stories around the bonfire, all retired for the night inside the Barracks.

Although work activity around the Star Fort had been planned for Sunday, the bitter weather prevented such, and the Troop packed up and departed late Sunday morning.

It was a distinct pleasure to work with this Troop. A better-behaved and attentive group could not be hoped for. Scoutmaster O'Connor stated that he looks forward to bringing the Troop back on upcoming Work Days to assist the Coalition in its continuing efforts to preserve and protect the complex.



Scoutmaster O'Connor keeps the Springfield over his head while Tom Berlucchi instructs Scout Troop 226.

Photo by Dave Jamroz.

Historic Fort Wayne Coalition

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com

Welcome New Members!

Even as the old man winter blows snow and heavy weather across the Fort, we continue to have more people join us to support it. In January and February we welcomed: Alan Cutshall, Adam Jewell, Sandy Jewell, Russ Paul, Todd Yoder,

Michelle Yoder, Ashley Yoder, Kyle Yoder, Marguerite Venn and Tom Venn.

Welcome! We look forward to seeing you at the Fort!

Lead Safety Training Available

Since last summer, we've been working to bring the membership opportunities to learn skills about the work we do at the Fort. One of the biggest subjects we've discussed recently is safety in working in old buildings. Thanks to Projects Committee member Steve Stier, also a board member of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, we have a great opportunity. On May 20, the MHPN is sponsoring a daylong class geared toward contractors. Its subject is how to safely work around lead. Please note,

this is not a class in abatement, rather safety for the contractor and for the people he or she is working for. Pre-registration and a daylong commitment are required.

When you fax your registration back, please list your organization as "HFWC." Please email Will Eichler at will@historicfortwaynecoalition.com so we know how many of our people plan to attend.

Thank you Donors!!!

One of the new features in the newsletter and the website this year will be a location to recognize those who make sizable donations to the work at the Fort. Since receiving our 501c3 letter, two have already arrived.

Thanks first to Doug Nosbich, a member of the Coalition as well as the 17th MI. Doug has been threatening, "as soon as you get the 501, I'll make a \$500.00 donation." Doug, thank you for making your threat good. He showed up at the January workday and presented us with a check. When earmarked, this will help

different portions of the HFWC's work move forward.

Inn February, we received a check for \$250.00 for preservation from the 14th South Carolina reenactment group. Thank you for this donation to help with the cost of preservation!

As the website updates, look for this year's donors as well as those of the past to be recognized. Check them out at:

<http://www.historicfortwaynecoalition.com/donors.html>