



# The Journal

July, 2020  
Vol. XXIII, No. 1

A Publication of the Griffith Historical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 678, Griffith, IN 46319 ♦ griffithhistoricalsociety.org

## 2020 Officers

President

**Nancy Stout**

670-1621

Vice President

**Antoinette Rickert**

670-8538

Secretary

**Karen Kulinski**

513-8812

Treasurer

**Sarah Cundiff**

923-2846

Membership Secretary

**Shirley Welch**

## 2020 Board Members

**Phil Dembowski**

306-0042

**Peter Ghrist**

**Debby Hoot**

924-0146

**Ken Karlstedt**

614-7425.

## Board Member Emeriti

**Maxine Hess**

**Marthann Gatlin**

**Joane Jones**

**Eileen Janovsky**

**Jay Nichols**

**Dale Schwer**

**Dick Welch**

**Ray White**

## A Message from our President ...

Hello to all our members and friends —

I hope everyone is doing well in these uncertain times. Sadly, we lost long-time member and Board Member Emeritus **Maxine Hess** to Covid-19. Our tribute to her is on the flip side of this newsletter.

Our Hess Express barrel train will be in Griffith's 4th of July Parade, though passing out candy is not a good idea. We are also planning to run The Hess Express at Griffith's Central Market, weather permitting, and participate in town activities including Rock & Rails and Octoberfest.

Like everyone, we have been financially affected by the virus. Because we couldn't guarantee our train would run this summer, we did not feel it was fair to charge our advertisers this year, losing a major portion of our income. But we still must pay our bills, Nipsco, insurance, water bill, etc.

So, we are asking our members if, while they are writing their membership renewal check, they could add a small donation to help us through these uncertain times.

Covid-19 could change the above plans, so check our website frequently for updates.

Please stay safe,

**Nancy Stout**

President

## Time to Renew

When the corona virus is defeated, we will especially need your help to keep on keeping on with the new plans we have in the pipeline.

So, it's important you renew your membership! We are enclosing a renewal form with this newsletter.

Enclose the form, along with your check payable to the Griffith Historical Society and put it in the self-addressed envelope that came with this newsletter.

**Note to Life Members:** You do NOT need to renew your membership! But you can help us. Please give the membership form you receive with this newsletter to two people you think might be interested in joining us.

## About our Meetings

To try to accommodate both our working members and our seniors, we have set up a new meeting schedule.

Our Board meetings are open to all members and are held in our History Room at Franklin Center. Enter through Door G.

From now through October, meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm. From January to April, our meetings will be held on the first Saturday of the month at 11 a.m.

Our Board meetings are open to all members and are held in our History Room at Franklin Center. Enter through Door G.



## Farewell, Dear Friend ...

Mother. Teacher. Wife. Bookstore owner. Grandmother. Genealogist. Great Grandmother. Historian. Friend.

Maxine Hess was all these things and more during her long life, but today we write about Maxine as Historian and Friend.

Maxine was a contributing member of the Griffith Historical Society for more than 30 years and served many terms on our Board of Directors. She worked with us in maintaining the Grand Trunk Depot Museum, creating and growing our Griffith Historical Park, and establishing our Griffith History Rooms at Franklin Center.

There wasn't an event or activity that Maxine didn't volunteer for, among them working the Historical Society booth at our annual Railroad Fair for 19 years; scheduling elves for our Santa in the Caboose every Christmas and working the event; helping set up our historical rooms at Franklin Center; and starting a veterans registry that we will continue in her name.

Maxine's legacy especially will live on with The Hess Express, the barrel train for children she was instrumental in our acquiring and which was named for her. The train not only is a source of income for our Society, but also provides fun times for so many children.

Over the years so many Griffith Historical Society members have become Life Members, like Maxine and her late husband, Jay, were. But more than that, our working together to preserve our town's history resulted in life-long friendships, as well.

So, now we must say goodbye to our friend, Maxine.

She will not be forgotten.

It's on again  
for 2020!!

## **Super7 Raffle**

Enclosed

Our **50-50 Super7 Raffle** that will run all summer until our November Annual Dinner where we will draw the winning number.

are 10 tickets (**should it be 9?**), each selling at \$2, or 3 tickets for \$5. If you sell all your tickets and want to sell more, please call Debby Hoot at 924-0146.

## Thanks a Heap!

We are so grateful to:

- ☺ Outgoing president **Ray White** and his wife, **Rachelle** for everything they have done over the 10 years that Ray led our Society. He isn't going far, though. Just moving to the Board Member Emeritus position
- ☺ Incoming Board members **Ken Karlstedt** and **Phil Dembowski**. Ken has worked with us as Steering Committee Coordinator and has photographed many of our activities and helped publicize our events. Phil has worked with us on many Society projects and has regularly kept an eye on things at the Historical Park.
- ☺ **Lady's Gourmet Popcorn** for inviting us to take Santa photos in their store during Griffith's Kris Kringle Walk.
- ☺ The **Griffith Volunteer Fire Department** for coming out for both our Santa events and selling grilled hot dogs to our visitors, then donating the proceeds to the Historical Society.
- ☺ **The Frontier Girls-turned Elves** from the Griffith Christian Church.
- ☺ **Griffith Girl Scout Troop** members (**do we know which troop helped us?**) for providing hot chocolate and coffee for our visitors.
- ☺ Our Santa volunteers: **Sarah Cundiff, Phil Dembowski, Fran Evans, Shawn Graham, Craig Hoot, Debby Hoot, Ken Krick, Alan Kulinski, Karen Kulinski, Jim Marker, Beth Marker, Nancy Stout, and Joy Wilson.**
- ☺ **Valerie** and **John Wotkun** putting up the beautiful lighted Christmas decorations at our Park and replacing the 300 bulbs with energy-saving LED's
- ☺ The **Griffith Park Department** for plowing our Historical Park parking lot as they do every winter.
- ☺ **Griffith Tri Kappa** for their generous monetary donations they have given us over the years.
- ☺ And a **really, really BIG** thank you to the Griffith Town Council for the help and encouragement they continue to give us.