

# THE ERIE CHRONICLE

THIRD EDITION

ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 1, 1990



## FREEDOM TRAIN

WITH FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE LYNN AND MAE ROSINO TRUST, THE ECHS IS BRINGING TO SANDUSKY THE THEATREWORKS/USA DRAMATIC MUSICAL FREEDOM TRAIN, A STORY OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.

THERE WILL BE TWO PERFORMANCES AT THE STATE THEATRE ON FRIDAY, APRIL 6: ONE AT 12:30 FOR THE FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADES OF AREA SCHOOLS AND ONE AT 7:30 PM FOR THE PUBLIC. TICKETS FOR THE EVENING SHOW WILL BE HANDLED IN THE SAME WAY THEY ARE FOR THE LANGE TRUST SHOWS. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO ATTEND, WE WILL NOT LIMIT TICKET QUANTITY. 4 TICKETS WILL BE SENT TO ALL MEMBERS. HELEN SEITZ IS IN CHARGE OF TICKETS.

THEATREWORKS/USA IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION AND THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST AND MOST PRE-EMINENT PROFESSIONAL THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCING AND TOURING PLAYS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES. THEY ARE BASED IN NEW YORK CITY. THEY HAVE PRESENTED OVER 19,000 PERFORMANCES IN 49 STATES IN THEIR 26 YEARS OF EXISTENCE. THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY PUBLIC FUNDS FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

FREEDOM TRAIN TELLS THE STORY OF HARRIET TUBMAN, THE MOSES OF HER PEOPLE, IN A FASCINATING SERIES OF HIGHLY THEATRICAL SCENES: SCENES THAT USE DANCE, DIALOGUE, MIME AND MUSIC OF THE PERIOD. THE STORY IS LACED WITH WARMTH AND A SENSE OF HUMOR THAT CELEBRATES THE HUMAN SPIRIT--A UNIVERSAL STORY FOR ALL AGES AND RACES.

HERE IS A CHANCE FOR MANY MEMBERS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT. THERE WILL BE ABOUT 1300 CHILDREN ATTENDING THE DAYTIME PERFORMANCE. THEY WILL BE COMING BY BUS FROM SANDUSKY, PERKINS AND HURON. GEORGE MYLANDER IS IN CHARGE OF THIS OPERATION AND HE FEELS THAT IF THERE ARE USHERS TO SEAT THE CHILDREN IN PREDETERMINED AREAS, THINGS WILL MOVE MORE SMOOTHLY AND QUICKLY. WE WILL NEED TWENTY-FIVE HELPERS FOR THE DAYTIME SHOW AND TEN OR SO FOR THE EVENING. WE HAVE BADGES FOR USHERS TO WEAR.

VIRGINIA STEINEMANN HAS AGREED TO TAKE THE CALLS OF MEMBERS WHO WILL VOLUNTEER. HER NUMBER IS 625-0651. SHE HAS AN ANSWERING SERVICE, SO YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER AND SHE WILL RETURN YOUR CALL. PLEASE CALL SOON IF YOU WILL HELP, SO WE KNOW HOW MANY MEMBERS WE CAN COUNT ON AND IF WE WILL HAVE TO GO TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FOR HELP.

ECHS MEETING - MARCH 18



OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 18 AT 2:30 PM IN THE FROHMAN ROOM OF THE SANDUSKY LIBRARY. THE PROGRAM WILL BE A SLIDE SHOW AND TALK BY ELLIE DAMM ENTITLED "THE GERMAN INFLUENCE IN SANDUSKY". LOOKING AT OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST, IT WOULD SEEM THAT A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF US ARE DESCENDED FROM THAT STURDY AND INDUSTRIOUS GROUP OF IMMIGRANTS. HUNSDON CARY'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY CHARACTERIZES SANDUSKY AS A TOWN WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF GERMANS, AND HE NOTES THAT THE VESTRY OF GRACE CHURCH WAS HALF OF GERMAN DESCENT. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

BE SURE TO MARK THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR AS NO POST CARDS WILL BE SENT.

MUSEUM IN NEW ERIE COUNTY JAIL

SHERIFF JOHN MAGNUSON ATTENDED AN ECHS BOARD MEETING IN THE FALL AND ASKED FOR OUR HELP WITH A SMALL LAW ENFORCEMENT MUSEUM HE WISHES TO START IN THE LOBBY OF THE NEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITY. WE ASKED HIM FOR A LETTER EXPLAINING OUR POSITION AND WHAT HE EXPECTED OF US. ALL THAT IS ASKED IS "ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING A DISPLAY AND PERIODICALLY PROVIDING PERSONNEL AND EXPERTISE IN MAINTAINING THE DISPLAY."

HE FEELS THAT HAVING THE SOCIETY AS A PARTNER TO THE DEPARTMENT WILL GIVE CONTINUITY AND PROTECTION TO THE PROJECT IF A SHERIFF IS ELECTED WHO HAS NO INTEREST IN HISTORY OR THE ARTIFACTS THAT HAD BEEN COLLECTED. THE LATEST WORD IS THAT THE FACILITY WILL OPEN IN JULY.

WE WILL DISCUSS THIS PROJECT AND VOTE ON OUR PARTICIPATION AT THE MARCH 18 MEETING.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR



MARCH 17 1-5 LYME VILLAGE ANTIQUE DOLL AND TOY SHOW PUNCH AND JUDY SHOW 1:30 3:00 4:00

MARCH 18 ECHS MEETING 2:30 LIBRARY "GERMAN INFLUENCE"

APRIL 6 FREEDOM TRAIN STATE THEATRE 7:30

APR 21-22 LYME VILLAGE QUILT SHOW 1-5

APRIL 28 REGION 2 OAHSM MEETING AT HAYES MUSEUM IN FREMONT

MAY 5 OLD HOUSE GUILD WALKING TOUR CABLE PARK (WAYNE ST) 10:00 RAIN OR SHINE - COME SEE THE NEW HISTORIC MARKER LED BY VIRGINIA STEINEMANN AND ANN MURRAY

MAY 20 ECHS MEETING 2:30 MERRY-GO-ROUND MUSEUM

FOR OUR MAY 20 MEETING WE WILL BE TAKEN ON A PREVIEW TOUR OF THE NEW MERRY-GO-ROUND MUSEUM BY DIRECTOR RACHEL PRATT. THIS EXCITING ADDITION TO OUR DOWNTOWN WILL CONTAIN A FULL SIZED CAROUSEL, A WORKSHOP, A GIFT SHOP AND PICTURES AND ARTIFACTS FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS. WE WILL MEET AT THE MUSEUM IN THE OLD POST OFFICE AT 2:30 ON SUNDAY, MAY 20 FOR THE TOUR. POST CARDS WILL BE SENT IN MAY.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER, KATHARYN WUNDERLEY