

BOOTHE MEMORIAL PARK & MUSEUM

FEBRUARY 2023

Glass Plate Negatives Give Historical View of Boothe

Ten 8x10 Glass Plate Negatives were donated to Friends of Boothe last year. We were able to have them scanned and digitized by a Historical Society friend and professional photographer, Roger Salls.

What exactly is a glass plate negative? Well, as opposed to the type of thin, flexible negatives you may be familiar with, glass plate negatives are exactly what they sound like: a negative printed on a glass plate. They consist of a glass plate with a light sensitive emulsion fixed to it with a binding agent, which when exposed to light through a camera, creates an image.

Wet glass plate negatives were developed in 1851. The dry plate negatives in 1871. In the 1920's they were replaced by the gelatin, or celluloid roll film that was used until the computerization of photography in the late 1950's. Considering that glass plate negatives are very fragile, the condition of these donated negatives was amazing. When they arrived to us they were still in the original box that the film came in, separated by old newspaper clippings. One of them mentioned President Woodrow Wilson.

In the photo here we see what the original Clocktower looked like. According to our Clocktower historian Steve Korosh:

This is a very early image; my guess would be right around 1915-16. The Rose Windows had not yet been installed, nor the front entry porch, and most of the windows and doors on the barn section have been relocated or eliminated since this photo was made. It also shows the "birdcage" atop the



cupola, which was dismantled after a storm many decades ago. Judging by the subtle variations in gray tones in the black-and-white image, this photo shows the original paint scheme of mustard yellow with white trim on the barn, and barn red on the lower portion of the tower. I'm not sure if the upper portion of the tower, above the observation deck, was also barn red, or went back to yellow. Interestingly, the counterweight rods are missing from the clock hands. I guess they had not yet realized that they needed to balance the weight of the hands to make the clock run more efficiently. And it looks like the balls atop the corner posts on the tower railings (and the bird cage) were gilded in this image. So many changes from the Clock Tower we now know.

Holiday Open House

When the Friends of Boothe decked the halls of the homestead in the first weekend of December, they went all out. Every room was covered in holiday spirit, with many items reminding us of days gone by. Handmade ornaments, such as crocheted snowflakes, and cutout reindeer set the scene along with a dining room table set for a king.



Photos courtesy of Rod Jovanelly.



The silent auction of 3-foot table-top Christmas trees was once again a huge success thanks to our visitors, who found they couldn't go home without bidding on at least one of the unique trees.



In addition to the Homestead festivities, the Veterans Museum, the Boothe Chapel/Meeting House, and members of Boothe Astronomy Club were also sharing their holiday décor. The Vets Museum and The Chapel were open for visitors. The Astronomy members set up their top-notch telescopes behind the chapel, sharing views of the planets! The Chapel had live evening music with vocalist Tom Taliercio. Daytime pianists provided us with holiday tunes directed by Addie Lee Chase.



Photo of Chapel courtesy of Janet Halliday

“Thank You” Luncheon

To thank our volunteers for their year-long service, a festive holiday luncheon was set at the Coliseum, by Friends of Boothe President, Virginia Harris. Several volunteers helped with coordination of this yummy event!

Next year, you too can join us as a volunteer!
Contact us at: friendsofboothepk@gmail.com



Photos courtesy of Rod Jovanelly.

Stay Connected to Boothe

Please share the following with your friends, neighbors, or relatives who might enjoy this online newsletter. Simply tell them to contact the email address below and request to be added to our distribution list. The Friends of Boothe News will keep them up to date with all our upcoming events and show off those which took place last season.

Send requests to: friendsofboothepk@gmail.com

Mark your calendars!

Opening Day – Sunday May 21

Hats Off to Roses – Sunday June 11

Luminaries Light the Way

During the daylight hours of December 24th, neighbors have rallied to set out luminaries on the Boothe property and their own front lawns for over 25 years. This year there was special attraction provided by Boothe neighbor, Alex Dragone. Alex is the owner of a 1927 Ford Model TT. It was previously owned by a local gentleman who owned it since 1938. Carrying the luminaries in this vehicle to set them out on the street, added an historical element never seen before. The luminaries burn for over 12 hours on Christmas Eve lighting the roadway adjacent to the Park and attracting visitors from near and far.



Photos courtesy of Alex Dragone



Membership and Donations

For your convenience, membership and donations can now be made online at:

<https://buytickets.at/friendsofbootheparkinc>

Click the link above and click on **"Become a Member."**

Click on **"Become a Member"** on the next page.

Select the type of membership that you would like, and/or type of donation(s).

Select **'Next'**. Follow the prompts to the credit card payment screen to enter your information. Your payment is secured by Stripe, which is a protected financial site.

The annual individual membership is \$15 and family membership is \$25, but all donations are gratefully accepted. Each and every member makes a positive impact on our daily operations throughout the year.

OR, if you prefer the old fashioned way, click the link below (in green) to print out the form on the right and mail in your contribution. →

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=ae9f04d362&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1755914541189004251&th=185e42f8d3837bdb&view=att&disp=safe>

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