

Champaign County Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

Museum at 809 East Lawn Avenue, Urbana OH 43078

September 2013

“Reminiscences of Rothschild’s” Presented by Ruth Map Runyan

The Champaign County Historical Society will host Ruth Map Runyan on Sunday, September 22nd at 2pm 809 East Lawn Ave. Urbana, Ohio. Ruth grew up on State Route 54 just south of Urbana where she and her husband Bud are once again living in the Mapp home place. They had previously lived for forty years where Bud had grown up on the corner of Sloan and Three Mile Road.

Ruth is a member of the Urbana High School class of 1953. She went on to receive a BS in Home Economics Education in 1957. She and Bud married in 1955 and Ruth taught a year in Utica, Ohio while Bud finished college. They both then taught at West Liberty High School . . . Ruth for 4 years and Bud for 14. Ruth then took time off from teaching to become a stay-at-home mother to Mark and Melissa. Bud continued to teach and farm. He concluded his teaching career at Urbana High School before retiring to full-time farming.

In the meantime, Bob and Sara Rothschild of Palo Alto, California bought a farm in Champaign County at the other end of Three Mile Road and began planting strawberries. In 1977 they opened their 20 acres of berries to “you-pickers.” But since customers asked for already picked berries, the Rothschild’s put an ad in the newspaper for people to pick. Such a job close to home appealed to Ruth and she applied, telling Bud “that you never know what might come of such a job.” Little did she know . . .

There was an over abundance of berries in 1984 and the decision was made to use the extra harvest in preserves. Ruth, with her degree in Home Economics, was already an employee and was willing to make the preserves. She made 4,800 jars of Rothschild’s Raspberry Preserves in her own kitchen by the end of that growing season!

Other products quickly followed with the addition of a small kitchen built at the Rothschild’s Farm for the next year. Ruth continued to work at Rothschild’s retiring at the beginning of 1993 to become a proud babysitting grandmother and to be a more active partner in the farming business. Bob Rothschild’s foresight and vision developed a very profitable and innovative company. It continues today at the junction of Three Mile Road and Route 36.

Ruth will share her memories of the early years of the Robert Rothschild’s Farm at the Historical Society on Sunday, September 22nd at 2:00 p.m. The public is invited.

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CURATOR'S CORNER . . .

OKTOBERFEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

It's almost time for the Champaign County Historical Society's *Oktoberfest*. . . Be warned! I will soon be on the telephone trail to recruit the volunteers whose hard work makes the festival possible!

Please remember that the Oktoberfest is what pays the majority of the bills for the 2013 year. There is a need to acquire in 2014 an upgrade for two of our PC computer operating systems. We want to upgrade to Windows 7 in order to maintain our relationship with the Past Perfect Program that manages much of the information on our website. This program allows the public to see on our website what we have in our current archive's files. In addition, (no pun intended) the Board and Trustees continue to "talk about" the need for another addition to our building, as we have little space left for new exhibits and must be content to rotate many of our current ones when something new to exhibit becomes available. None of these plans can happen without a successful Oktoberfest and generous donors. Have a great fall season and remember to support the Oktoberfest!