



Champaign County Historical Society and Museum
Est. 1934

Sept/Oct 2022

CHAMPAIGN CHRONICLES

Committee Helping CCHS Adopt Best Museum Practices StEPs Program

A group of Champaign County Historical Society board members and volunteers—the StEPs Committee—is meeting regularly to assess the museum’s policies and operations. Their aim is to identify strengths and opportunities for improvement, to better align with standards and recognized best practices for history organizations—in the interest of better serving our community.

CCHS Director Cheryl Ogden chairs the committee, which is following the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs) of the American Association for State and Local History, of which CCHS is a member.

Serving on the StEPs Committee are board President Candy Gilliam, board member Cate Brinnon, and volunteers Victoria Wildman and Gary Schenkel.

Step by step, the committee is reviewing CCHS’s policies and practices and making recommendations to the CCHS Board, as needed, to improve operations and meet StEPs standards. The committee is reviewing standards in areas such as mission, vision, and governance; audience and community engagement; stewardship and interpretation of collections; public trust; fiscal accountability; accessibility and inclusion; and management.

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*banner photo provided by Robert Ogden
of The Good Camera, LLC.

Upcoming Events

Oktoberfest

50th Annual Oktoberfest

October 2, 2022

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Historical Society Museum

809 East Lawn Ave.

Urbana, Ohio 43078

Join the festivities at the longest running event in Champaign County (except the fair)! The Oktoberfest committee has been working for months to ensure the 50th Oktoberfest will be memorable!

Fifty years ago, Mrs. Gale (Charlotte) Hupp and her ten committee members decided to hold a craft fair and fundraiser featuring the products, processes, and pastimes of early Champaign County. The festival which was held Oct. 7, 1973, on the Museum lawn, hosted the largest number of exhibiting and demonstrating artists and craftsmen ever

assembled in this area. In addition to the artists and craftsmen, antique dealers offered quality antiques and collectibles for sale, a barbershop quartet entertained and the CCHS sold cider, donuts, bratwurst, and coffee. The entry fee was \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children through high school age, and children under six were free. A total of 60 vendors ensured a day of discovery, learning, and enjoyment for the entire family!

On Oct. 2, 2022, once again, the Museum grounds will hum with activity featuring live music, craft vendors, artists, and delicious food!

Adhering to the principles established by Mrs. Hupp, we are holding to the original stipulation that only quality, handmade, or homegrown products be offered. Vendors who have participated for years were still invited, but all new applicants will be “juried” and at this time, we have 21 new vendors who will offer quality, unique products to purchase. We receive applications weekly and we anticipate adding more new vendors. If you would like to apply as a vendor, applications are available online.

www.champaigncountyhistoricalmuseum.org

In addition to new vendors, Lois Monroe, children’s activities chairman, is expanding the children’s activities this year and Sandy Gonzalez, food vendor chairman is expanding the food choices.

Returning is Schmidt’s Restaurant of German Village with their authentic German fare and their famous cream puffs – a true crowd pleaser! Also, Poppy’s Smokehouse, Layla’s Sweet Treats, The Fat Straw Company, and Nourishing Souls Juice Bar.

No Oktoberfest is complete without a “biergarten” and we will be offering your favorite brew! Relax under the big tent and enjoy the food, the entertainment and visiting with friends!

Delicious food, live entertainment, and an admission price of only \$3.00 – what could be better? Mark your calendar and don’t miss this day of fun for the whole family!

Oktoberfest is the largest fundraiser for the Historical Society and the proceeds fund over half of each year’s operating budget. Let’s all support our museum with our attendance!



Upcoming Programs



Joe Wing the Alfalfa King

On September 11, 2022, members of the Wing family will present a program about Joe Wing the Alfalfa King.

The program will be held at the Champaign County Historical Society Museum and will start at 2 p.m..



Mt. Vernon Teachers Institute

Mrs. Sadie Steffan, 8th grade American History teacher at Urbana Jr. High and Mrs. Amanda Goodwin, 7th grade World Studies also at Urbana Jr. High will present a program about George Washingtons plantation Mount Vernon and the lives of slaves that lived there. Both educators were honored to be chosen to attend the Mount Vernon Teachers Institute and were selected from a pool of teachers from all across the United States.



The program will be held at the Champaign County Historical Society Museum, 809 E. Lawn Ave. Urbana. On October 9, 2022 at 2 p.m..

ELOISE FROMME, STADIUM GIRL

by Candy Gilliam



Eloise Fromme, College photo as Stadium Girl!

and Varsity A. She was also a member of the Mortar Board, the Chemistry Society, the Junior Honorary Society and the Delta Delta Delta Sorority. Early in 1920, Eloise was selected by her fellow classmates to be a "Rosebud", a yearly contest held to pay tribute to the most beautiful girls on the university campus.

Later in 1920, The Ohio State University made an announcement looking for a young lady to be their official sponsor of an upcoming construction

project. Because football was gaining in popularity, the university felt their current stadium was too small. The administration wanted a larger stadium that was unlike any others, and one that could hold the thousands of fans who swarmed the campus on game days. The estimated cost of the new stadium would be over one million dollars, a considerable fund in those days. They needed someone to be a face for the university to help with entertainment and the massive fundraising events. They wanted a "Stadium Girl", and the requirements to be this girl were to be pretty, witty and wise. Since it was also the 50th anniversary of the founding of The Ohio State University, it was decided to announce the winner during

Grant Fromme was an attorney living on Lafayette Ave, Urbana, in the early 1900's, working to give his wife and three daughters all they wanted. When his eldest daughter showed her talents in theater, he gave her his full support. Eloise Fromme discovered her love of theater when she played the part of a pear blossom in an elementary school play and a washer woman in a carnival show. From there, she joined many local girl clubs, such as the Priscilla Club, the JUG Club and the Camp Fire Girls.

After graduating from Urbana High School in 1917, she left in the fall to attend The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, with plans to major in chemistry and teaching. She lived at St. Hilda's Hall with school friends Harriet Day and Evelyn Williams. There at OSU, she joined local theater organizations known as The Browning Society and The Strollers, where she thrived in doing dramatic plays. Among the many drama's she participated in were *The Merchants of Venice*, *The Four Flushers* and *Six Who Pass While The Lentils Boil*. Eloise loved being on the stage! Her friendliness and charming personality not only endeared her to her friends, but to the entire school campus. She joined other social clubs such as the Women's Glee Club, the Cosmopolitan Club, the YMCA, the Women's Athletic Association

Coupon No. 7 October 6, 1920

Stadium Girl Popularity Contest

This coupon good for one vote only, to be deposited at Stadium Girl committee's office, second floor, Ohio Union, within 24 hours after publication. Check one name only.

<input type="checkbox"/> Georgea Backus	<input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte A. Martin
<input type="checkbox"/> Eugenia Bending	<input type="checkbox"/> Alice R. Redfern
<input type="checkbox"/> Miriam Cherry	<input type="checkbox"/> Margaret T. Snider
<input type="checkbox"/> Eloise Fromme	<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Wallin
<input type="checkbox"/> Adelaide Hibbard	<input type="checkbox"/> Margaret Welch
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive W. Higgy	<input type="checkbox"/> Margaret L. Wood
<input type="checkbox"/> Lenore Hubbard	<input type="checkbox"/> Anna K. Young

Coupon from OSU The Lantern, Oct, 1920



Newspaper Article published in most newspapers, 1920.

the Jubilee Day celebration and ox roast. Obviously, Eloise Fromme was one of their first choices. She won by popular vote, and was chosen not only because of her dedicated work in theater, but also as one of their most accomplished pupils. At the end of the festivities, Eloise made her debut as the new Stadium Girl by riding onto the carnival grounds in a chariot drawn by two spirited horses who were following behind two lively heralds. She was wearing flowing white robes with a scarlet scarf across her shoulder. The Men & Girls Glee Clubs sang the new stadium song as Eloise was presented to the crowds. During the football game the very next day, Eloise occupied a special box as a reminder of the kick-off campaign to build the new Ohio Stadium. She was honored to unveil the working model of the planned stadium, a plaster cast made by the architecture department. A few days later, the first fund drive was held at the corner of



Above: Construction of Ohio Stadium, 1922.



Left: Ohio Stadium, 1922

ELOISE FROMME, STADIUM GIRL

by Candy Gilliam



Eloise Fromme standing in front of the model for the new stadium.

Broad and Third Streets. It was for an athletic pageant held by university students. After opening with a gun salute, Eloise rode in a scroll wagon pulled by four white horses, riding at the head of the women's division of physical education classes. Fundraising was not confined to just OSU alumni, but open to all Ohioans who were interested in college sports. At that time, Champaign County had 96 former students of OSU, and Eloise wanted her native county to help with its success. Two years later in 1922, the stadium was constructed along the banks of the Olentangy River. It was unlike anything anyone had ever seen since it was not built in the traditional bowl shape, but rather in a horseshoe shape (thus earning its nickname "the shoe"). With a cost of over 1.3 million dollars, it had 78 arches, a rotunda, and two towers. Ironically, even though Eloise and other women held important roles, the stadium was originally built without women's restrooms. It was deemed unfashionable for women to attend sporting events. The double-decked stadium was the largest poured concrete structure in the world with the ability to hold thousands of people, and many feared it would never be filled to capacity. The formal dedication day for the Ohio Stadium was October 21, 1922, and this was an exciting time for everyone! Not only were the Buckeye's playing against the Michigan Wolverines, but all 66,000 seats were sold out, with another 3000 people standing! Eloise Fromme had a prominent part in these ceremonies. Being dressed in a colorful

costume, she rode in a parade around the interior of the stadium while the bands played. A procession of teachers and faculty followed as university cadets carried a large United States flag to a pole at the end of the stadium. Eloise received a rousing ovation as she marched down the center of the field while the band played the Star Spangled Banner on the

Lazarus window display featuring Eloise Fromme as Stadium Girl, 1951



sidelines. The cadets gave a 21-gun salute as Eloise raised the U.S. flag. Many at-home folks, who were unable to attend, gathered around their radio sets to listen to the play-by-play. On that day, over 10,000 hot dogs and 8,000 boxes of Cracker Jacks were sold. Although the Buckeyes lost to Michigan 19-0, it was a great game that ended a highly impressive and memorable occasion.

After graduating from OSU Graduate School in 1924, Eloise Fromme briefly moved to Pennsylvania where she was a member of a Teachers College teaching English, as well as being the head of an Oral Expression Department. By 1927, she was back in Ohio teaching at Columbus area schools, and in 1928, she married Henry Manning. The couple moved to Lakewood, OH, where they raised one daughter, Matilda. Eloise made sure to instill the love of theater to her daughter, who grew up to be an accomplished woman and founder of a Young Performers Theater. Eloise Fromme Manning spoke often at various book clubs and Women's Literacy Clubs giving book reviews. She remained very informative on poets, books and plays. Eloise was a fabulous orator, always speaking in a manner that held the attention of her audience. No matter the length of her reviews, she possessed a great ability for details and never used a notebook. She was quoted in 1938, "I realize more clearly than ever the cultural background of Urbana. Know Urbana. Go away from it. And the correct impression of Urbana surely will follow". Eloise and her husband lived the rest of their lives in Lakewood, OH. She died in 1971 and was brought back to St. Paris, OH, to be buried in Evergreen Cemetery near her parents and sisters.



*Eloise Fromme Manning ,
undated photo*

Mission Statement

The Champaign
County Historical
Society collects,
preserves, and
interprets relevant
artifacts, documents,
and other resources
from Champaign
County to educate
current and future
generations about our
history.

Welcome New Members

Timothy Woodruff

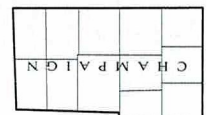
Paul Gregg Jones

Gayle Katker Giawbbe

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CHAMPAIGN COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM



Est. 1934

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