

# THE CARMEL SIGNAL

## CARMEL CLAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fourth Quarter 2021

Established 1975

Our 46th Year



### MUSEUM UPDATE

Groundbreaking on the new Carmel Clay History Museum is planned for spring 2022. We have recently received numerous artifacts from Carmel families around the country to share in the new facility! We started our building fund with \$43,000 from an earlier campaign. This year, a generous \$500,000 grant was awarded from The Allen Whitehall Clowes Charitable Foundation for furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Additionally, CCHS donors have pledged or donated over \$600,000. While we have many miles to go to reach our \$3 million goal, we are very grateful to have our capital campaign pushed over the \$1.14 million level at this time.

If you are interested in donating to the new Carmel Clay History Museum before the end of the year, please contact Debbie Gangstad at 317-979-4236. Donors can choose from cash donations, transferring stock, or estate gifts. Pledges can be paid over multiple years. Naming opportunities for areas in the museum are still available at this time. All gifts are appreciated and valued!



### GIVE THE GIFT OF HISTORY!

Are you looking for a special gift this holiday? We have books on just about every topic regarding Carmel history. They range in price from \$9 to \$22 and make great stocking stuffers. Our latest book, *Greyhound Legends*, tells the history of sports at

Carmel High School from the games played on the schoolyard in the mid-1800s through 1981, when Carmel solidified its status as a statewide powerhouse. It includes profiles on teams, coaches and athletes, including Billy and Dave Shepherd, Mark Herrmann, Dick Nyers, Eric Clark, Bill Stubbs, Dick Dullaghan, Jim Belden and more! You can find all of our books at the Monon Depot, All Things Carmel, or click the link below.

[Give the Gift of History this Holiday!](#)

### POLAR EXPRESS EVENINGS

This year we had a lovely Holiday Home Tour planned that included one of Carmel's most historic structures, but circumstances arose that caused us to cancel the tour in October. As the HHT is our biggest fundraiser of the year, we held an alternative event—Polar Express Evenings.

On December 3 and 4, about 150 children and adults joined us in the Monon Depot for six magical sessions of storytelling and holiday fun! Thank you to all those who attended this event and to the staff and volunteers who made it possible! We would also like to thank Brad Esch of Lightscapes for the beautiful lighting of the Depot!



## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Meeting of the General Membership was held in the Wilfong Pavilion at Founders Park on October 17. Attending members voted in favor of the proposed ballot of officers and board members. Dan McFeely will serve as president and Nick Davis as vice president. Christine Owens will serve as secretary, and Deb Teets will continue as treasurer. We would like to welcome our new board members, Lily Pai and Ginny Steckley!

We were honored to present our Heritage Award to Judy Hagan and our Volunteer Award to Brendan White. Thank you both for all you have done to keep Carmel's history alive and accessible.



## MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBER

### Lily Pai

Lily Pai is a chartered architect and a small business owner with an international portfolio, who believes in creating elegant lifestyles through simplicity, comfort and individuality. Before moving to Indiana, Lily



lived and worked in India and the UK. She found living abroad to be a life enriching experience, one that involved acclimating to new cultures, successfully overcoming challenges and embracing opportunities. She is the mother of two children, an active community volunteer, and also serves as the chair of the Board of Governors at Newfields. Her previous board experience includes the Board of Trustees of the Sycamore School, Indianapolis and the Advisory Board of the Women's Fund of Central Indiana. She is looking forward to a great year serving on the board of the Carmel Clay Historical Society.

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## Member News

We were saddened to learn of the loss of a friend and charter member of the historical society in November. Our condolences go out to the family of Marilyn Campbell.

We welcome the following New Members who joined CCHS in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2021.

Wanda Blanton  
Meg Fuertges  
Barbara Gibson  
Jon Osler  
Lily Pai

James Pierce  
Barbara West  
Nathan White  
Amanda Woodbury

## NEW ARCHIVE SPACE

CCHS was thrilled to find a new location for our collection and archival material. This new location is far more secure than any we have had in the past! We are so grateful to the volunteers who helped us move into the new space. Special thanks to our collections manager, Emily Hanawalt, and volunteer Meg Fuertges for overseeing the move, making countless trips back and forth over several weeks this fall, and for always ensuring the safety of our collection!

## OFFICE HOURS THIS WINTER

The Monon Depot will continue to be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, but our exhibit season

has come to an end, and the Depot will be closed on Saturday and Sunday. If you would like to visit the Depot on the weekend, please call our office at 317-846-7117 to make an appointment.



# Tidbits from our Facebook Page

The Old Town Antique Mall building is iconic with the brightly colored mural on the west side. The building has traded hands many times over the years, and it will soon have a new owner. Back in 1903 when the streetcar tracks were laid through town along what is now Veterans Way, this was the site of the Bond Block. Calvin Bond owned three commercial buildings here, and his furniture store was the site of the antique mall building. However, a gas explosion destroyed the Bond Block in 1904.

Charles Myers and his son Allen were entrepreneurs who had their hands in a lot of business ventures in Carmel, including the town's first bank in 1901. In 1906, they purchased the property from Bond and began constructing a building using cement blocks they manufactured on the site where the Donald Swails fire station stood. Their original idea for the property was to have four business offices on the ground floor and a public hall on the second floor. In 1909, the building was still under construction, but they had a new use planned. They soon opened a tomato and pumpkin canning factory in



The Carmel Garage housed Carmel's firetruck in 1927.

the building. It was in operation for several years.

In 1913, a fire burned down the entire north side of West Main Street with the exception of the Myers building thanks to its concrete block construction. At the time the building was unoccupied but had been redesigned as a garage. It finally served that purpose when Fred Lutz moved his automobile repair business into the building later that year. Fred Strattan took over the business in 1914. The Carmel Garage was the headquarters for the volunteer fire department for many years. During the silent film era, the second floor housed a movie theater and local pianists would play during screenings. In 1924, Leslie Haines manufactured his traffic lights on the second floor. Later, the

Economy Elevator Co. manufactured grain elevators in the building.

Today, the old Carmel Garage/Old Town Antique Mall is one of the last holdovers on an otherwise redeveloped block. It stands as a monument of the little town Carmel used to be.

**SPECIAL THANKS IS EXTENDED  
TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS:**



Old Town Design Group, Engledow Group, Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf, Woodland Terrace of Carmel, Sun King Brewery, Current in Carmel, Church Church Hittle + Antrim (CCHA), Wedgewood Building Co, The Barrington, Rangeline Self Storage, Fine Craft Builders, The National Bank of Indianapolis, Ceramica, Indiana Brick Co, Coldwell Banker – Kaiser Real Estate, Ogle Design, Carmel Welding, Shepherd Insurance, and Musselman Landscape Solutions.

**CARMEL CLAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
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