

Calendar

April 4

GPS Meeting
Galway Town Hall

7:00-7:30
Social Half Hour

7:30 Business Meeting

8:00 Program.

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April GPS Update

From Virginia Sawicki and Bonnie Donnan

There have been joking references in the news about wanting to charge Punxsutawney Phil with fraud for predicting an early spring. One Ohio prosecutor is seeking the death penalty. Maybe we will see tiny groundhog-sized spectacles at prediction time next February. Some of the local TV weather people have been reminding us that the thermometer hit 81 degrees in March 2012. This must be our year to average out last year's record highs.

Our March program "A Visit from President Grant" was presented by Steve Trimm, a Grant Cottage tour guide. An interesting program about Civil War soldiers recruited from our region.

The speaker for the April 1st meeting will be Paul Perrault, Town of Malta Historian. His subject will be "Bertha Denton Snell of Galway: A True Pioneer."

The Board of Trustees will meet April 17th at Town Hall at 7:00 pm. As always all are wel-

come to attend any board meeting.

The new display is in place in the lobby at Town Hall. Over 14 member families have shared items for our Family Heirloom exhibit. We received a wide variety of items including a wooden duck decoy, soup tureen, photos, cow bell, banjo, 100 year old quilt, birth and marriage certificates and more. Take time to check out the items. If you are inspired by the display to share a story about an item in your family that reminds you of a relative, a family event, or the origins of your family, please write it up to share in this newsletter. If you are concerned about the quality of your prose Evelyn Hanna has volunteered to help you out.

We are still scouting for a host for our June 3rd picnic. We are trusting that the snow will be gone by June, but so far this spring has yet to impress.

That Was Entertainment

By Tom Cwiakala

The picture shown on the front page of the December 2012 Issue of the G.P.S. Journal reminds me of my early years of listening to radio. Santa appears to be listening to radio through a set of earphones. While growing up here in the Town of Galway, I would walk up to visit nearby neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Eastwood quite often. I was very young when they let me put on the earphones of their quality crystal set radio and listen to the programs that were broadcast at the time.

A crystal set, as some readers may already know, is a simple type of radio receiver having only a crystal detector stage for demodulation of a received radio frequency (a.m. of course) and needs no external source of power. Yes, believe it or not, no batteries, solar cells or 120vac was required. What was required was an outdoor antenna, usually an enameled copper wire strung out to a tree and a copper-coated steel ground rod driven into the ground. There was just enough power to drive a set of earphones (monaural of course).

In the early 1940's my sister and brother in law gave me a crystal set and my brother-in-law helped me set it up. I recall many hours of entertainment with that crystal set radio. I could pick up stations WGY, WTRY, and WROW and hear the latest music and news. Later on, my parents bought an ac/dc radio

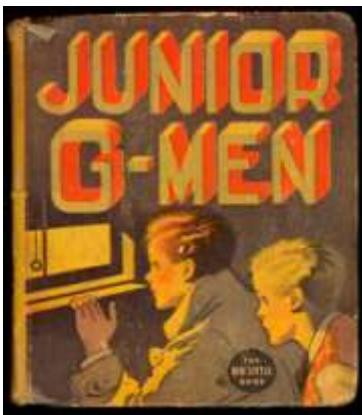
which we ran on batteries until we got our rural electric service connected. A speaker allowed the whole family to listen and as time went on, more stations became available.

On mornings while getting ready for school I recall listening to "Happy Hank" or "Smilin' Ed McConnell". When I returned from school my Mother would have the soap operas tuned in. There was "Stella Dallas". When a Girl Marries", "Lorenzo Jones and his wife, Belle", "Fibber Magee and Molly". I liked "The Lone Ranger" which always concluded with that famous line " Say, who was that masked man, anyway?". Another of my favorites was "Tennessee Jed". Saturday nights were good family listening. " The bell Telephone Hour", "Manhattan Merry-go-round" "Your Hit Parade" with Dorothy Collins, and Snooky Lanson" singing all the up to date tunes. Other programs that I recall (I don't recall what days they were featured) were "Inner sanctum", "I love a Mystery" " Jack Armstrong, the All American Boy", "The Jack Benny Show", "Amos n' Andy", "The Great Guildersleeve", "The Life of Riley". There were many more plus regular newscasts.

In the late 40's I was really impressed when I first viewed television. Chuck Snyder Jr. of Galway Building Supply started selling appliances including Philco televisions and that is where I first enjoyed watching television. Galway Building Supply was the next building north of the Galway American Legion Hall on the West side of Sacandaga Road. Chuck would invite people over to view this new form of entertainment. Test pattern was broadcast during early morning and daytime hours with programs starting in late afternoons. I recall a show broadcast from Schenectady WRGB called

“The After Six Seven”, featuring Earl Pudney on piano, Gary Steven on trumpet, Mickey Folus on tenor Sax. Another locally produced show was “The Freddie Freihofer Show” which featured birthday parties for local children. Coincidentally, Freihofers is celebrating 100 years of serving the community this year of 2013. Once they motorized their delivery trucks, they brought their baked goods way out here to Galway. For country and western fans there was “The Pete Williams Show” with Johnny Bonz on steel guitar along with other local musicians and vocalists.

Another source of entertainment back then for Galway residents was Galway High School, which held concerts, gymnastic exhibitions, interscholastic sports, and movies. I recall walking for miles one way to see a silent movie at the old high school on East Street in Galway Village. Movies is a word shortened from “Moving Pictures”, as I’m sure everyone knows. When sound was added they were called “talkies”. I had what was called “Big-Little books on which could be seen, by flipping the page corners, a moving picture. Mine were lost somewhere along the way and I have not seen any since. Oh well, as the song goes “Those were the days, my friend”.



Big Little Book



The Great Guildersleeve



Stella Dallas

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This picture says it's of Annette Cole, Galway New York