

Monroe County Historical Society

Monroe County Historical Society Quarterly Meeting January 8, 2017 2:00 p.m.

The Traveling 219 Project

Our next Quarterly Meeting will be presented by Gibbs Kinderman on Sunday, January 8th at 2:00 pm in the lower level of the Library in Union. Several years ago, Gibbs Kinderman was given a copy of "West Virginia, A Guide to the Mountain State, a 1941 WPA publication. These state guides were part of a New Deal federal writers' project that was launched after the Great Depression and continued until the start of WWII. The book inspired Kinderman to start the "Traveling 219 Project" which presents the history and happenings of the communities along US 219 through the mountain state. This project is supported by a web site, a Facebook Page and occasional articles, presentations and exhibits.



Gibbs Kinderman moved to West Virginia in 1966, working with a college-based program called Appalachian Volunteers. He worked for thirty-six years with the Pocahontas Communications Cooperative, helping to produce several books and CD's on local history and culture and run a non-commercial, community-oriented radio station. He also served on the Board of Education and the Library Board. A few years ago Gibbs and his wife moved to Willow Bend. Gibbs has a BA in government and a Masters in Public Administration.

November Fundraiser at Salt Sulphur Springs

Our Annual Fundraiser this year was the most successful ever and the



Society received over \$6,000 in contributions. Again, Betty Farmer was our hostess in the Grand Ballroom of "The Old Salt" and again, the music was

provided by Leah and Roger Trent on the Harp and Harpischord.

The refreshments were wine & cheese as usual and the ladies of the Historical Society Board, led by Ana Lusk organized the party. Again many of our supporters from out-of-state sent in contributions for which we are very grateful. The monies from this fundraiser are used to cover the operating expenses for our five properties in Union. The pictures in this newsletter were taken at this wonderful event.



Historical Society Endowment

This past year we invested \$9,500 in the Greater Greenbrier Valley Community Foundation to begin an endowment for the Society. This foundation serves Monroe, Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties and boasts a return of 5% on invested funds. Already, our endowment exceeds \$10,000 so it is doing better than anticipated. Our goal is to grow this over the next few years so that the membership can expect appeals for this purpose. So far, our fund is based on a \$5,000 endowment from the Haskell Shumate Fund, and gifts of \$2,500 from Lawrence Caperton of London, and \$1,000 from Board Members Mary Pearl Compton and Fred & Barbara Ziegler.