

Hopalong Cassidy display added to Heritage Museum

ST. CLAIRSVILLE - The Belmont County Heritage Museum in St. Clairsville recently received a generous donation related to William Lawrence Boyd who was born on June 5, 1895 in Hendrysburg, and in 1935 started a movie career as Hopalong Cassidy.

Laura Bares of New Concord, Ohio, started a movement in 1991 to honor Boyd who claimed Cambridge, Ohio as his boyhood home. The family moved from Hendrysburg to Cambridge in the early 1900's. The Boyd children attended an east side school for seven years.

Following a highly successful movie career as Hoppy, Bill Boyd gained further recognition through the marketing of 2,400 products that bear his name and likeness.

These items have been very collectible and from the years of 1991 until 2015, hundreds of Hoppy fans descended on the city of Cambridge for the annual festival honoring their hero. And, to search for a special collectible.

The items donated to the Belmont County Heritage Museum were a part of the Bates collection which was open to the public as the Hopalong Cassidy Museum. The building housing the museum burned in September of 2016. Fortunately, a number of items were saved by Cambridge Fire Department.

Mrs. Bates said, "My sons, Randy and Jon, agree with me that a display related to William Boyd should be housed in the county of his birth and are pleased to know that visitors will learn about Hoppy at the Belmont County Museum".

In accepting the donation, Barb Ballint, Executive Director of Belmont County Tourism said, "The items related to William Boyd will add a new dimension to our quest to recognize county residents who have made a remarkable difference in their chosen career or have contributed to the betterment of their particular community."

The Belmont County Heritage Museum, 101 E. Main St., St. Clairsville, opened on Friday, Sept. 4. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Per state mandate, facial coverings will be required and may be provided. Hand sanitizer will be available for guests. For more information, please call Cathryn Stanley at 740-298-7020.