

HARBORCREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. XIV, No. 3 5240 Knowledge Parkway, Erie, PA 16510 (814) 897-2685 May/June, 2008

PRESERVING OUR PAST AND FUTURE

SPRING PROGRAM

MAY 7, 2008 - 7:00 PM

"THE ICE WALKERS"

ERIE COAST GUARD SEARCH FOR 2 MEN ON LAKE ERIE ICE

The search was on for **Ron Pirello** and **William Greulich** who were feared lost somewhere on the frozen surface of the Lake Erie. The following was reported in the Erie Times on February 22, 1977.



"The adventure of walking across the lake, or even attempting the walk, may have turned tragic for two young men who left Presque Isle Sunday morning and have not been heard from since."

For a first hand account of their great "adventure," join us for the Society Spring Program.

Ron Pirello will be our featured speaker. He will discuss how he and Bill survived their "walk on the wild side."

Following the program we invite all attendees to visit our office to view new Welch Grape display, which is on loan from Carol Laughlin and the Szklenski Family. Refreshments will be served.

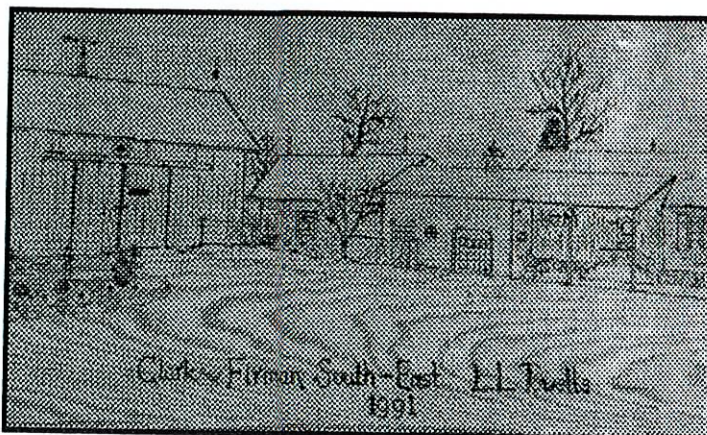
Admission free and open to the general public. See page 4 for additional details.

UNIQUE WAY OF PRESERVING OUR PAST

Mary B. Garr has written a story titled,

“A Labor of Love, A Tribute of Reverence.”

It tells the story of how **Len Towell** has chosen to memorialize the life of his father, **Leonard Towell**, by piecing together the history of his parents' past and commissioning Erie City Memorials to etch it in stone. At the right is a wood-burning (etching) rendered by his mother Olga showing the old homestead. This along with wood carvings made by his father and other memorabilia tell about Leonard and Olga's 58 years together. Len has created, along with the skilled artists at Erie City Memorials, a very unique tribute to his parents.



The monument was recently erected at the Wintergreen Gorge Cemetery just in time for the first year anniversary of Leonard's passing on April 24th. Anyone can visit the graves to see this permanent monument and tribute to Leonard and Olga's lives together. **The original artwork and photographs used by Len and Erie City Memorials to create this monument, along with additional historical information will also be on display at the Iroquois Branch Library throughout the month of May.**

Please visit our society office in Knowledge Park to read Mary's complete story of this interesting history preservation project.

ANNUAL SPRING PROGRAM

May 7, 2008 7:00 PM

Society Office 5240 Knowledge Parkway



Ron Pirello will be our featured speaker. Back during that cold, cold winter of 1976-1977, Ron and fellow adventurer **William Greulich** made the walk across Lake Erie to Canada. Many tried that year but few made it from mainland to mainland. After two days without word from them, the search was on! Ron will take us along on the long trek by both words and pictures.

Admission is FREE and open to the general public.

Refreshments will be available following the program.

Please bring a friend.