

# Courthouse tour will highlight major renovation

By **BOBBY WARREN**  
Staff Writer

MILLERSBURG — With a couple hundred expected from across the country for a glass auction during the Holmes County Antique Festival, there will be a special tour of the courthouse on Friday.

Steve Maag, a member of the Holmes County Historical Society, helped arrange the tour to complement the glass auction.

With between 200-300 carnival glass collectors coming here, Maag said he thought it would be good for them to see the courthouse, which was used as a pattern by the Millersburg Glass company.

The courthouse bowl by Millersburg Glass is a very familiar piece, Maag said. "I thought it would be neat to get a tour of the courthouse because it is a well-known piece of glass," he added.

Clerk of Courts Dorcas Miller will lead the tour of the Holmes County Courthouse with Commissioner Dave Hall on hand, too. The majestic courthouse visitors will see on Friday is a far cry from what it was about 20 years ago.

Miller and Common Pleas Judge Tom White said the structure was in poor condition before major renovations began in 1989.

"My courtroom went through a seven-year restoration to make it look like it did in 1885," White said. "It's one of the last few restored courtrooms in Ohio."

In White's courtroom, visitors will see opera-style folding seats, chandeliers and a gold-leaf ceiling. Much of the work was done by volunteers and those who needed to perform community service hours.

When Miller shows the historical parts of the courthouse and the grounds, guests will see the portrait of Major Holmes, the man for whom the county is named, and the statue of Lady Justice. White said the statue was originally on top of the building, then it was brought into the attic where it remained for 50 years. It was later moved to the basement for another 20 years before it was moved to the second floor, where it stayed for more than a decade. The statue is now outside of the courthouse.

"It will be a civics lesson," White said, and they will see the historical, architectural and government functions of the courthouse.

Miller, at her own expense, has reproduced, enlarged, mounted and framed several photographs of historic buildings from around the county. She has them on display in the Holmes County Courthouse. Among the photographs are the Opera House, the old mill in Killbuck, an old church in Winesburg and a hotel at O'Dell Lake.

"I tried to get historical memorabilia from around the county," Miller said. She plans on leaving the photographs with the courthouse.

"A lot of the people have not been in the courthouse to know it has been renovated the way it was. It's beautiful," Miller said.

"This is a courthouse that, when it was built in 1884-1885, cost \$110,000. Our community takes real pride in it because it is a link to our past," White said. Though the courthouse is a link to the past, in White's courtroom technology — like a 42-inch plasma screen television — is tastefully blended in.

"It's reflective of our community," White said, which is one that values families and historical traditions while recognizing "we also realize we live in a changing world."



Chris Leonard photo

Holmes County Clerk of Courts Dorcas Miller will lead a group of carnival glass collectors on a tour of the historic courthouse on Friday. Behind Miller are several photographs of historic Holmes County buildings she has had enlarged, mounted and framed.

## Parade promises to be bigger than ever

By **CHRISTINE L. PRATT**  
Staff Writer

MILLERSBURG — When she was 21, Carrie Morrison lost her best friend from high school to cancer.

Now, the chairwoman for Holmes County Relay for Life dedicates her time to "make sure someone doesn't have to go through saying goodbye to their best friend."

Relay for Life, along with Morrison and her sister-in-law, a cancer survivor, are looking to simultaneously raise awareness and thank the community

when they, for the second year, in a row participate in Sunday's Holmes County Antique Festival Grand Parade.

Parade participation likely will top the 120 units entered in last year's parade, said Jim Mirich, who has been chairman of the event for 12 years.

Starting at 2 p.m., the color guard, Scouts, athletes, churches, businesses, local and visiting festival royalty and marching bands from East and West Holmes school districts will start their trek from Lakeview Addition, through downtown Millersburg, coming to a

stop just before reaching the bridge over the Killbuck Creek.

"Everybody likes a parade. It draws a huge crowd into Millersburg and attracts people to the festival," said Mirich, adding, "There's probably no other day of year you'll find that many people walking on sidewalk in downtown Millersburg."

While Mirich has been taking preregistrations for parade entries, those interested in participating can register

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