

City of Warren celebrates 225th birthday

By **MASON COLE**
Staff writer

WARREN — The Rotary Club of Warren is preparing to celebrate the city's 225th birthday with a special event tonight at Courthouse Square.

The birthday event will include skits, guided tours, singers and dancers, magic, comedy and activities for children in celebration of the beginning of a new year.

It also will celebrate the rich



history of the city.

"When we think of the city being founded 225 years ago, that's looking back to 1798 when this area was still being developed as part of the Connecticut Land Company," Meghan Reed, the executive director of the Trumbull County Historical Society, said.

Reed said the area that is now Warren was owned by the state of Connecticut at that time. She said it was sold to a group of wealthy investors out

of Hartford, Connecticut, who founded the land company.

She said the land was then parceled off and sold at a profit.

FIRST TO ARRIVE

"Some of the first settlers we see here in Warren, like Simon Perkins and Frederick Kinsman and Ephraim Quinby, who donated the land of Courthouse Square, all of those men were a part of the Connecticut Land Company and part of that effort."

In 1801, Warren was established as the seat of Trumbull County, which at the time witheld the entire Connecticut

"Warren, Ohio, has a wonderful history. I think you have to know everything about your town, all the way back."

— Elizabeth Cole Clark

Western Reserve according to the city website. It had been selected over other cities such as Cleveland and Youngstown.

Due to its designation as the seat of Trumbull County, Warren served as a social and commercial hub in the early decades of the Western Reserve.

Reed said when discussing the history of Warren, Perkins played a crucial role as he and his family were the largest landowners in the city.

"Him and his family played a very key role in how the city developed over time," Reed said. "They owned so much land and

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Vet leads charge to fully honor slain Army commander

By **SEAN BARRON**
Correspondent



WARREN — Even though U.S. Army Capt. Richard M. Rees made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War and won a series of awards for his service, bravery and actions, the inscription on his headstone remains incomplete.

That's something Maj. Jari J. Karttunen and others want to change.

"Capt. Rees' gravesite at Oakwood Cemetery in Warren does not include markers for his Distinguished Service Cross and a second Silver Star," the Bristolville resident, who's with the Special Forces U.S. Army Retired Reserve, said.

Karttunen, who served in the Army from 1976 to 1980 and in Reserve duty in 1994, said he felt the move was timely because of the recent 50th anniversary of Rees' death. Rees, who was attached to the Joint Resolution Casualty Center, was shot to death Dec. 15, 1973, under hostile fire near a jungle camp about 12 miles from Saigon during the Vietnam War.

Just beforehand, he had led a team of unarmed Special Forces to recover the remains of American soldiers. Immediately after landing by helicopter at the site, the American men came under enemy fire from communist gunner forces. Four other Americans were wounded in the attack.

During the confrontation, Rees ordered Sgts. Peter Holmberg and Edwin Blakemore to stay down as Rees made himself vulnerable to, and met with, the enemy commander, according to Karttunen. As a result, Rees was killed in a nearby creek bed, though his actions are credited for the timely rescue of Blakemore and Holmberg.

Consequently, Rees, a 1959 Warren G. Harding High School graduate, was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross and two Silver Stars.

"Without warning, the enemy force directed a devastating combination of arms, grenades, napalm ... fire into that unit," according to an account included on his Distinguished Service Cross citation.

Nevertheless, mention of the Distinguished Service Cross and one of his Silver Stars are not included on Rees' headstone, Karttunen said. He added that Special Forces veterans are working with the Trumbull Veteran Services Commission in Warren to secure a new gravestone for Rees to rectify the omissions.

Earlier this year, Rees, who also attended Kent State University at Trumbull and graduated from The Ohio State University, was posthumously inducted into the Army's Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame.

"He will always be remembered as an excellent soldier and courageous fighter for freedom," Karttunen said.

TRANSFER IN OWNERSHIP



Jerry Misceovich, who grew up in Warren and Mecca, is shown with the boat-tail speedster replica he built. Gordon Logan, who was the current owner of the vehicle, donated it to the National Packard Museum last week.

Packard museum parks speedster replica in its permanent collection

By **ANDY GRAY**
Staff writer

WARREN — A one-of-a-kind replica vehicle is going to stay parked in the National Packard Museum's garage permanently.

Gordon Logan, founder and CEO of Sports Clips hair salons and an avid Packard enthusiast, donated his replica of the boat-tail speedster that Packard Motor Car Company engineer Jesse Vincent built in 1929 to test his latest engine designs and modifications.

It has been on display since late May as part of the exhibition "Jesse Vincent: Packard's Master Motor Builder" for what was supposed to be a one-year loan.

National Packard Museum Executive Director Mary Ann Porinchak said Logan came to visit the museum shortly before Thanksgiving.

"He was walking around the museum and said, 'Do you like this car? Do you want to keep it?' How long? (Porinchak replied). 'Permanently.' You're kidding," Porinchak said.

She was cautiously optimistic at first.

"I've had those conversations with owners before, and sometimes nothing happens," Porinchak said. "I didn't really get overly excited about it. This might be a year down the road or more."

But Logan followed up after the holiday, and Porinchak received the signed and notarized gift of deed on Thursday.

"It's officially ours," she said.

The vehicle was appraised



The lighting at the National Packard Museum reflects off of the hood and hood ornament of a replica of the vehicle built by Packard Motor Car Company engineer Jesse Vincent to test his latest engines and modifications.

before the transfer was completed, but Porinchak would not reveal the value of the donation.

The replica speedster was built by Jerry Misceovich, who grew up in Warren and Mecca and now lives in Temecula, California. The project was a labor of love inspired by

"Batman & Robin," "Godzilla" and "G.I. Joe"). It wasn't completed until 2016.

"I could not think of a better place for it to be," Misceovich said. "Holy mackerel. I'm still trying to process what this means to the museum and Warren. It wouldn't have been possible without Gordon's devotion to the legacy of Packard and the museum in particular."

Misceovich, who sold the vehicle to Logan, said he didn't find out about his plans to donate it until right before Christmas.

He shared part of the email Logan sent him: "I was up at the museum a few weeks ago. Very impressed with the impression the speedster makes when walking in. It's the star of the show," Misceovich read. "Then he concludes with, 'That's where it belongs.'"

Porinchak said, "Its original title was in Warren, Ohio, and now it's coming back. It's a very cool piece."

The vehicle will remain part of the "Jesse Vincent: Packard's Master Motor Builder" exhibition.

"We had talked about keeping the Jesse Vincent exhibit permanent, because it's so critical to the story (of the Packard Motor Car Company)," Porinchak said. "Now we can keep it permanent and with that car."

"This is a win for Warren, Ohio, to have that caliber of a car gifted to this museum. There's only one of those, and it's impeccably done. Even Jay Leno gave it his stamp of approval."