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# NEWS

## Butler County Historical Society

*Preserving and Interpreting Butler County's Rich Heritage*

**For Immediate Release**

Date 3/10/2009

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## **POPULAR COLUMNIST TO RECALL TRANSITION FROM COUNTRY TO CITY LIFE**

***“From Junipers to Journalism” – Ercel Eaton will explain transition from Appalachia to the “big city”***

(Hamilton, OH) – The recent economic downturn has brought about comparisons to one of the nation’s most trying times – the Great Depression. The 1930s were a difficult time for the entire country. This was especially true in the rural mountainous region known as Appalachia. When the economy rebounded after World War II, much of the Appalachian population uprooted itself, moving to Midwestern cities in search of available jobs. This is exactly how Ercel Eaton came to reside in Hamilton.

Ercel Eaton is an accomplished journalist and speaker. As a writer and editor for the Hamilton Journal News, her tenure extended over 40 years. During this time, Ercel “covered nearly every beat on the paper at one time or another.” Her beginnings, in the mountains of southeastern Kentucky, were much more humble. However, these are the experiences that led her to write column after popular column about her Appalachian upbringing.

Ercel is well known for her ability to tell the story of transition from “isolation” to life in the “big city.” This story, her story, will be the focus of her talk “From Junipers to Journalism” – a program sponsored by the Butler County Historical Society on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> (6:30pm) at Berkeley Square.

In addition to the program featuring Ercel Eaton, the Butler County Historical Society is planning other events of interest. On Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, the BCHS will open an exhibit celebrating the Anniversaries of Miami University. Located at Heritage Hall in downtown Hamilton, the exhibit will feature images, timelines, and artifacts that tell the story of Butler County’s oldest university. In May, the BCHS will welcome Curtis Ellison, PhD., editor of the soon to be released *Miami University 1809-2009: Bicentennial Perspectives*. The life of Christian Iutzi, one of Butler County’s earliest farmers, will be the focus of a program in June and will feature academic genealogist expert Neil Ann Stuckey Levine, PhD.

Simply put...

WHAT: “From Junipers to Journalism”  
WHO: Ercel Eaton – local journalist and author  
WHEN: Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
WHERE: Berkeley Square (Towne Hall Room)  
100 Berkeley Dr.  
Hamilton, OH 45013  
NOTE: Program is free and open to the public.

The Butler County Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Butler County's rich heritage. The BCHS operates out of the historic Benninghofen House – a showcase of Victorian Era lifestyle that includes all the furnishings and décor appropriate for a late 19th century home. Additionally, the BCHS manages an archive that consists of many original and secondary documents, publications, photographs, etc. To help us prepare for your visit (tour or research), please call ahead to schedule an appointment. The BCHS is also affiliated with Heritage Hall, a space for the display of rotating exhibits and the permanent location of the Robert McCloskey Collection. To learn more about Heritage Hall, please call (513) 737-5958.