**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The lost art of woodcarving explored**

**at Iola Historical Society’s October meeting**

The Iola Historical Society’s program for October 28 will be on the lost art of woodcarving. Merlin Mayer, one of Iola's most outstanding carvers, will make the presentation. He will talk about the influence that Iola’s Lee Nelson had on him to become a carver. Nelson, a World War II Air Force hero and, in later life, a fellow woodcarver, passed away July 11, 2011. Memorabilia from Nelson’s war years and some of his carvings are on display at the historical society.

Mayer will talk about some of Nelson’s most interesting and challenging creations, explain various styles of carving, various woods used and also the tools he uses. Other local carvers may also be present to show some of their work.

The program starts at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the Iola Historical Society’s museum, at 205 Depot Street, just off Main Street in downtown Iola. The presentation is free of charge, although goodwill offerings to help fund the Iola & Northern Railroad depot restoration are welcome.

The Historical Society’s regular monthly meeting will follow the presentation. Guests are welcome to stay for it. For more information on the Iola Historical Society, go to [www.iolahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.iolahistoricalsociety.org), or come to the presentation!

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