



Sumner House

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

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See this newsletter in color on our website.
www.rosellehistory.com

Inside: *The Old Settler's Inn*

UPCOMING EVENT December 4, 2011

Our annual Christmas Open House is from 2-4 pm in the Sumner House Museum. This years theme is "GRANDMA'S FAVORITE COOKIES". Save the date and be sure to join us.

ENDOWMENT

Consider including the Roselle Historical Foundation in your trust or will. Leave a legacy so that our village history can continue to be supported and reported for years to come. Ask your attorney to help with this. Thank you.



IN REMEMBRANCE: FRED KOEHLER

February 24, 1928-July 16, 2011

Fred Koehler died July 16, 2011 after a 6 month battle with cancer. He will be remembered, along with his wife Lynn, as the people that founded the Lynfred Winery in Roselle. He produced award winning wines that are enjoyed by many people around the country. With his keen business sense, he expanded the business to include a bakery and four deluxe Bed and Breakfast Suites. Fred was a staunch supporter of our museum.

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"THE BEST THING SINCE SLICED BREAD" ISBACON!

In July, the 1920's kitchen in the Richter House Museum was used as a backdrop setting for a video made as a possible commercial. Two actors and a videographer filmed a comedic scene at the kitchen table. The funny scenario was accepted by the *Indiana Kitchen* bacon website as a commercial for it's line of bacon. The commercial can be seen on the internet at



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFDk4CGFXvw>

It is titled "Bacon:Mother Of Invention:Indiana Kitchen" by Bacon Lovers Bacon.

This is not the first time that the Richter House kitchen was used for promotion. In September 2006, "SPIN" magazine contacted the museum to bring a popular band called "FALLOUT BOY" to be photographed for an old fashioned Thanksgiving dinner. It was a spoof on Norman Rockwell's famous illustration on a Life magazine cover.

Who remembers the **OLD SETTLER'S INN**?

Great food, cold drinks and a happy atmosphere! It was located at the southwest corner of Roselle Road and Nerge Road. (Today the west extension of Nerge Road, beyond Roselle Road, is called Pratt Boulevard). The last owner of The Old Settler's Inn, Mr. Walter Schauer, has written about his experience as proprietor in its waning days, before being subject to the wrecking ball and what we today call progress!

Do any of our readers have any pictures, stories, memorabilia or artifacts pertaining to this historic building and business? We would appreciate them for our museum archives. We promise to treat them with care and possibly use them in a future museum display.

The artist's (Joyce Kuhlmann) rendition below is based upon Mr. Schauer's memories, as all of his personal photographs have been lost.

Walter and his wife Evelyn were Roselle residents until 2010 and are now enjoying their life in Florida. "Wally and Evie" are good friends of my wife Ruth and I, and we, and their friends on Glendale Terrace, miss them!

The Roselle History Museum is trying to gather photograph's of not only this historic building, but other buildings and businesses which were part of Roselle's long history. If you have any photographs and stories to tell about "the old days" in our town, please mail them to my attention at the museum or, you can drop them off on a Sunday afternoon. We are open from 2 PM to 4 PM. Please tour the museum and the Richter House while you are there!

Milan Bagel



Artist's Rendition

The Old Settler's Inn

July 4, 1969 to December 2, 1972

As told by former proprietor

Walter Schauer

“Our part of the history began in the summer of 1968. Bob Ramsay and I were working on a project on Roselle Road – “Timbercrest” – in Schaumburg. We were running heavy equipment, doing the underground and excavating in preparation for future homes and apartments in the fast growing areas of Roselle and Schaumburg. The owner and developer, Mr. Wolf, was a happy, congenial man; although his mood could change quickly if he didn't have enough manpower or machinery on his project.

The project was going well, but one of the problems the construction crew had was there really wasn't anywhere to eat lunch. We could brown-bag it, but felt it would sure be nice to have a cheeseburger and a beer someplace. About the only place you could get a liverwurst sandwich or something simple was Lengels, on Roselle Road near Schaumburg Road. One drawback – Hannah (the owner) had to like you – AND your boots had to be clean! This was pretty difficult, as our work was all about digging and moving dirt. Once Hannah got to like you, you were invited in, but only if your boots were just a little dirty – not muddy, just dirty. As we got to know her, we found she was quite a nice lady. She was the one who told us about a tavern down the street that might be for sale. Wanda and Julius, the owners were in their mid-eighties. The Old Settler's had become just too big a job for them. When Bob Ramsay (a friend and relative of mine) approached them about buying, it must have been just the right time and they agreed to sell to us.

We assumed ownership on July 4, 1969. On the following day, Badger Pipeline opened a “gathering area” right across the street. (A “gathering area” was where the operators and tradesmen would park their vehicles, and get on a bus to take them to their various work areas). At the end of the day when they returned to their parked vehicles, many would just cross the street to the Old Settler's before they went home. We had instant success!

We developed a workman's luncheon special, which would be changed daily. If you ordered a Settler burger or special of the day, you could be in and out within a half hour. The plan worked and business continued to grow.

The building was a two and a half story white frame located on the southwest corner of Roselle and Nerge Roads. It was just outside Roselle's boundary and was kind of a landmark for the area. It was probably built sometime in the 1920's as a roadhouse. The dining room faced Roselle Road with a view of downtown Chicago's landscape. The food served was considered above average and the staff were always very friendly and courteous. We had customers from all over the area, even police and firemen from South Barrington stopped in. Friends, neighbors and employees made the Old Settler's a great success. Every Friday was standing room only with a successful fish fry. Sundays, another full house as the Chicago Bear games were on TV while most of the Chicago area was blacked out.

The Old Settler's would make “Cheers” of television fame look “classless”. But, alas, after only three and a half years of success, it was time for the business to be sold. The business and property were sold to an oil company for a gas station. This property was just off the interchange for the proposed Elgin-O'Hare Expressway. Soon the building, with all of its history and memories, was demolished. I will always be grateful for the wonderful staff, the customers and the village for our success.”

MEMBERSHIP

FALL-11

Your membership is even more important now.....With the economic slow down, many towns including Roselle, have had to make difficult decisions as to how their limited funds are spent. The village owns and maintains our property but the inside maintenance and other operating costs are the responsibility of the Museum. . Please become a member and help support and preserve and educate people about local history. Your generous help is appreciated.

Yes, I'd like to help the Museum! Here's my membership contribution.

*Mail to: **Roselle History Museum, 39 E. Elm St. Roselle, IL 60172***

New *Renewal* *Circle One:* \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 *Other Amount*_____

*Name*_____

*Address*_____

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The Roselle Historical Foundation is a 501-c(3) corporation, and your contribution may be fully tax deductible

VOLUNTEERS: We are always looking for people who are interested in helping preserve the history of our village and the surrounding area. Do you enjoy working on displays, gathering historical evidence, researching photographs or just puttering around cutting news articles for our archives? We can also use people who are handy with tools to do miscellaneous repairs and modifications or, assist with building displays, floats, etc. There are no fixed hours and your compensation is the good feeling you get when you have helped us complete an important project

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM

39 E. ELM STREET

ROSELLE, IL 60172