



Sumner House

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

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Winter 2011 Issue

EDUCATIONAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

How about a *Remembering Roselle* picture history book or a great *Cherished Recipe Cookbook* ???

Call the museum and pick one up soon.

Inside.... • *In love With Freedom*

- *Membership renewal time*



The annual **Christmas Open House** will be held on Sunday December 4, 2011 from 2-4 PM at the museum. Please join us for some of "**GRANDMA'S FAVORITE COOKIES**" and other refreshments. Sign up for a chance to win a door prize. Tour the Sumner House Museum and the historic Richter House and see some of the updated exhibits. We look forward to seeing you there.

FUTURE EVENTS

Save the date of April 14, 2012 when the History Museum will host its annual Historical Evening. It will feature a presentation by U.S Grant, the famous Civil War general



Board of Directors

- Milan Bagel
- Ruth Bagel—Secretary
- Ray Hitzemann—Pres.
- Walter Lotz
- Kathy Schabelski
- Glenn Spachman - Treas./VP
- Frank Zielinski
- Historian
- Joan Beauprez

IN REMEMBRANCE

James (Jim) Benson

August 20, 1936 –September 29, 2011



Jim served as President of the Roselle History Museum from 1994 to 2004. During his term in office he initiated an annual membership recruiting letter which increased membership and annual contributions. The historic evening performances became an annual April event. The sale of 4th of July Glo-Stix soon joined the Museum's offering of community serving fund raisers. The restoration of the Richter House was completed during his presidency adding a special "home town" charm to the Museum campus. Jim's contributions to our museum's growth and success will always be remembered.

IN LOVE WITH FREEDOM

By Kathy Schabelski

A recent meeting of the Roselle History Museum was graced with a visit from a very special guest. Steven E. Aavang is the author of *In Love With Freedom: The True Story of a Remarkable Woman*. This remarkable story would never have made it to print without the input of our own Joe Devlin, Roselle History Museum member and former Roselle mayor.

When Joe was mayor of Roselle, Steven was the Executive Director of an association of municipalities. One day during one of their regular meetings, Steve noticed a picture of

WWII bombers flying on a mission prominently displayed in Joe's office. This prompted Steve to ask if Joe had been a pilot in WWII. Joe had been a navigator during WWII and Steve was so intrigued with what Joe told him about his experiences in Romania that he suggested that Joe's story be made into a book. Joe told him, "No, if you want a REAL story, you need to meet the Princess. Now THERE'S a story!"



Joe arranged for a meeting between Steve and the Princess Catherine. His interview lasted several days and continued through correspondence. The results of that correspondence became *In Love With Freedom*. It is a compelling book that should be read by anyone who treasures freedom and does not want to take it for granted.

Steve presented Joe with a signed copy of *In Love With Freedom* to express his thanks for making him aware of this remarkable story. The book is available at the Roselle Public Library and through Amazon and Barnes and Noble, in both paper and electronic format.

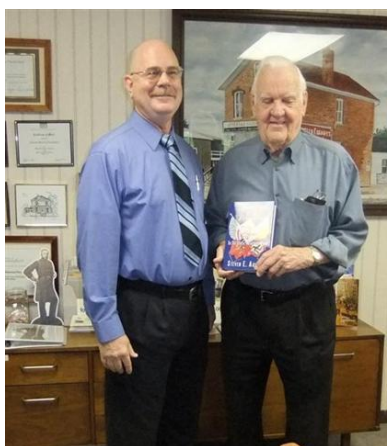
In Love With Freedom reads like a movie. On several occasions, I had to remind myself that although the book read like a work of fiction, this did actually happen.

Kidnapped as a toddler by a deranged father who used her as a pawn for an outrageous divorce settlement demand, the Romanian Princess Catherine Kretulesco Caradja spent her childhood in several European orphanages, under the assumed name of Jeanne Bardin. The "orphan" had been told that her parents were killed in a train crash and she had no idea of her true identity until she was sixteen years old. She was returned to a loving family, but the life of this true Cinderella would prove to be far from a fairy tale.

After Catherine's disappearance, her mother Irene founded

the orphanage St. Catherine's Crib, "from a mother who lost a child, to children who have lost their mothers." After her own childhood experiences, Catherine wanted something better than what she had experienced growing up for the children of St. Catherine's Crib. She established foster care programs (a novelty at the time) and educational and vocational programs that would prepare children for adulthood once they came of age. In essence, after securing her own freedom, she helped other orphan children gain their own "freedom" from life within an institution and allowed them to obtain independence. The programs Catherine established at St. Catherine's Crib gained international renown.

The bulk of the story, though, deals with Princess Catherine's efforts to maintain freedom for her beloved Romania and for her "boys," mainly prisoners of war and injured soldiers. (Our own Joe Devlin was one of her "boys"). I don't want to give away too much of the heart of this remarkable adventure, but I came away very impressed with this woman's perseverance and commitment to basic principles of independence. While she was not American, she had a life-long fascination with the United States and lived here for 35 years after Romania became part of the Communist bloc and it was no longer possible to be free there. All Americans can learn something from Princess Catherine's story. Had it been possible for her to meet our Founding Fathers, I believe she would have held her own and at the very least engaged them in some very spirited discussion and debate.



I will never have the opportunity to meet Princess Catherine. She passed away in 1993 at the age of one hundred. However, after reading her amazing story, I wish I had. It is definitely worth your time and author Steven Aavang has my gratitude for bringing this story to print so that it is preserved and not forgotten.

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ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM WEBSITE

Learn more about the museum and, also read
this newsletter in color at
www.rosellehistory.com

Dear friend of the Roselle History Museum

It's that time again! I know that some of you have already contributed for 2012 and we sincerely thank you for that early show of support.

The Village of Roselle continues to do much for us. They provide our beautiful museum campus and buildings so that we can continue to collect, catalog and present the history of our village and the surrounding area. They also provide some funds toward our operations but the majority of our financial support comes from people like you.

Your donations help us in many ways. Your financial support keeps the museum doors open and the exhibits maintained and updated. It helps us to purchase artifacts of interest and of course equipment needed to run our operations. Our small cadre of volunteers works tirelessly to make the museum interesting for visitors. Did you know that 80% of our visitors are school children, scout troops and parents who bring their children here to learn more about our history in Roselle?

If you haven't visited us in a while, please stop by and take a look. We are open every Sunday between 2 and 4 PM. We can also accommodate larger groups at almost anytime with some advance notice.

We will be hosting our annual holiday open house on December 4 between 2 and 4 PM. Start the holiday season with a visit. Tour the Sumner House Museum and the historic Richter House. While there, enjoy some home made cookies and coffee or fruit punch.

Please help. There is a membership/renewal form on the back page. Please fill it out, detach it and send it to us while it's still fresh in your mind! Your response to this letter will save us postage and paper that is usually used to make our initial request.

Thank you in advance for your past and hopefully continued support.,

Milan Bagel, Membership Chairman

REMEMBERING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON by Ray Hitzemann

As the Christmas season approaches, I have many fond memories of the holidays. Thanksgiving was usually spent with one of my aunts and uncles where we had a great dinner. After dinner the men would go in one room and play cards, the women would go into the parlor and chat while the children would go play.

When the snow was packed down on the streets (they didn't use salt back then) we could go sledding. I lived at the corner of Roselle Road and Walnut. There was nice hill there which was much higher back then. We could go from the top, to almost Roselle Road. On Main Street in Roselle the older kids would take their sleds grab hold of the back bumpers of cars and be towed!.....(Don't try that now!)

As we got closer to Christmas we would go out Christmas caroling. The people would turn their porch lights on and come out and listen to us. Eventually we would end up at someone's house for hot chocolate.

On Christmas Eve, we went to church for the holiday program that was put on by the school children. They were all dressed in festive costumes. After the service each child was given a bag full of goodies which included mixed nuts in the shell, Christmas candy, an apple and an orange. I guess these were the so called "good old days" when life and times were much simpler!

MEMBERSHIP

W-11

Yes, I'd like to help the Museum! Here's my membership contribution for 2012

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

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

Other Amount _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

Phone _____,

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. Please call us at 630-351-5300.

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM

39 E. ELM STREET

ROSELLE, IL 60172