



Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

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MUSEUM'S ANNUAL HISTORICAL EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS

We would like to thank everyone that attended our annual historical evening held at Trinity Church April 10th. The Early Movers and Sharers presentation was attended by over 140 people. The attendance was the best ever. This event is very important for the museum. It is one of our two major fund raisers. Save the date of April 9, 2011 when we will be presenting "The Wright Brothers".

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BOY SCOUTS CELEBRATE THEIR 100 TH ANNIVERSARY

By Ray Hitzemann



The Boy Scouts of America are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. To commemorate this event the History Museum with the Boy Scout Leaders have set up a three table exhibit in the flag room in the Sumner House Museum. Drop by and see the exhibit. When I saw the exhibit it brought back fond memories of my Boy Scout days.

Roselle has had scout troops for over 70 years. Boy Scout 55 was the first of many troops. It was sponsored by American Legion Post 1084. They first met in the basement of the public school located on Pine Street. Later they moved their meetings to the Coach House of Ham Warnoch which was located on Irving Park Road where the Harris Bank is currently located. We used the second floor for our meetings. (This is the same Coach House that is located on the Museum campus and serves as the office.)

During WWII the scout troop held numerous paper drives collecting paper and tin foil. The scouts would go door to door collecting the paper, tying it into bundles and setting it on the curb. Other scouts would come along in a truck, pick it up and take it to a barn-like structure that was located on the west side of Prospect on the south side of the railroad tracks. When enough paper was collected, a rail car would be moved to the siding, loaded with paper and shipped away.



When I was in the scouts Warren Burress was the Scout Master and

Harry Rowe a teacher at Roselle Public School was the Assistant Scout Master. We would have nature hikes and overnight campouts in Turner's Woods (now Town Acres Subdivision.) At least once a year there would be Council wide campouts at different locations. One of them, with over 10 troops attending, was held in the Charles Turner farm pasture which was located north of Foster Avenue and west of Walnut. We also had one at Camp Mc Dowell which was an army radar site in WW II. It is now a forest preserve.

For several years I went to a Boy Scout camp in Wisconsin for a week of fun and education. We could earn merit badges there that were much more difficult to earn locally.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4th

We will be selling glow sticks at the 4th of July fireworks which will be held at the Lake Park West campus. Look for one of our many members that will be out and about selling them.

Taste of Roselle July 30-Aug 1

We will have a booth on Main Street at the *Taste of Roselle*. Stop by and say hi, and look at the two great books that we will be selling.

PASSPORT PROGRAM

The annual Passport program has started. Children between the ages of 4-12 are able to participate. Passport Books are available at the History Museum or Roselle Public Library. Each child needs their own Passport book. Children are urged to visit Du Page County Museums between May 31 and September 6, 2010.

When visiting a museum have your passport stamped and answer a question about that museum.

There is an incentive to visit 7 or more museums. Any child visiting at least 7 museums should turn their Passport in after September 6, 2010 and they will receive a \$5.00 gift certificate for "How Sweet It Is" on Main Street.

THOSE WERE THE GOOD OLD DAYS

By Ray Hitzemann

We always hear people talking about the "good old days". The good old days that bring back some of my fondest memories were my school days at Trinity Lutheran School which was located where the Roselle Village Hall is now located.

Perhaps sharing some of my memories with you will let you see how schools have changed. You may even remember some of your grammar school day activities and friends.

In the 1940's Trinity had a total staff of four people. They were Rev. Mehlberg, pastor; A. J. Binneboese, principal, organist, music director and grade 5-8 teacher; Ruth Kruse teacher grades 1-4; and H. Beisner, part-time janitor. You did not need a big staff for a small church and a school of less than 60 students.

Our typical school day was from 8:30 to 3:30. We had two ½ hour recesses and 1 hour for lunch. The first two hours each day were devoted to religion studies.

Recess and lunch were free time for both the students and the teachers. The teachers went to the back room (equivalent of the teachers lounge) and the students organized their own games and amused themselves. Recess was over when the bell was rung and during the spring and fall when "Binney" rapped on the window overlooking the playground.

During spring and fall there was always a softball game that included such sluggers as Gil Benhart, Wayne Gieske, Dick Ebeling, and Ralph Botterman. In fact, Wayne Gieske could hit a 12 inch softball and bounce it off of the church a half block away. If the ball went across the street into Mrs. Brachman's garden I would have to get it back because I knew her and she was my mother's friend.

Other favorite pastimes were hide-and-seek, jump rope, and bike riding. If you wanted a little extra amusement at recess, you could give Fritzie Priemer a ride on your handle bars and he would sing a song in German for you.

A favorite wintertime game was "Hot Beans" in the school basement. One person would hide a belt somewhere in or around the beams, heating ducts, or some other neat place. Everyone would look for it. The person finding it would yell "hot beans" and swat anyone he could catch with belt (non-buckle end) until they got back to the goal.

We had very unique discipline and teaching methods in those days compared to what they are now.

We had memory work to recite every day. The punishment for not knowing it was to stay in at recess until you knew it. If you had math problems wrong, you would have to re-do them on the blackboard so everyone else could see how stupid you were.

Discipline came in many shapes and forms. From standing in the corner if you did not pay attention during bible history, to staying in for a certain number of recesses for other acts of misbehavior, to the ultimate punishment of getting a number of slaps across the open hand with a ruler while everyone else was watching.

DAIRIES IN ROSELLE

KEE & CHAPPELL DAIRY CO. was the first dairy in Roselle. William Saurman, a Bloomingdale business man, moved to Roselle. He worked in various businesses as well as being an undertaker. In 1913 he met with Chappell, a dairyman from Chicago and persuaded him to open the Kee & Chappell Dairy. Saurman collected \$325 from businessmen to have a well drilled and a generator installed. Kee & Chappell invested \$65,000 in the Roselle bottling plant which was located on Main Street between Prospect and Park Street. Roselle farmers contracted for milk to be brought in from the farms. A railroad spur to pick-up the processed milk was located on Main Street where the sidewalk is located today. South of the dairy was a hill where the farmers drove their teams to unload their milk cans into tanks where the milk was pasteurized and bottled.

The dairy was one of the largest in Du Page county but was in Roselle for less than 10 years before filing for bankruptcy. In the early 1920's the empty building was first used for generators of the local electric company. In 1924 A. Juhnke purchased the dairy building and the railroad siding was paved and became Main Street. It was divided into small shops and still exists today. It is one of only a few business buildings from the 1920's or earlier that still exists in Roselle.

RODEWALD FARMS DAIRY COMPANY which was located at Main and Howard Streets. It was located on part of the Fiedler farm. In 1938 the Rodewald Dairy was opened in a building on this property. In 1940 the building was remodeled and the first bottle washing machine was installed. It washed one bottle at a time. Later a machine was installed that could wash nine bottles at a time. All of the milk for the dairy was purchased from area farmers. Some of the milk was sold to restaurants and country clubs in 8 gallon insulated cans. The dairy had an extensive home delivery business. Rodewald Dairy was the first dairy in the area to sell Grade A pasteurized milk.

Running such a large fleet of dairy trucks became unprofitable in the mid-1960s as buying habits changed and costs increased. The dairy was shut down May 1968. The building which still exists today was converted to offices. Other dairies also existed in the area. One was Suburban Dairy run by A. Hockstra and Sons. We have a newspaper ad from 1931. It had a Roselle telephone number but little else is known about it.

MEMBERSHIP

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. The village has reduced their financial support of the museum by 50% for 2010. Hopefully these funds might be restored in 2011. 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 to the Roselle History Museum for 2010

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

Name _____

address _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____ *Phone* _____

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39 E. ELM STREET
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