



Summer House

# Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

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Summer 2012 Issue



We are on Facebook

**Inside:....** • Winter Wonder Land in Roselle

• Dairy farming in the 1940's



## ***HISTORICAL EVENING***

The active volunteers of the museum would like to thank everyone who supported our historical evening presentation of ULYSSES S. GRANT. Approximately 150 people attended. Next year, on April 13, 2013, we will be presenting ABRAHAM LINCOLN. This will continue our Civil War theme.

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## **ROSE PARADE**

Continuing the museum's tradition, we entered a float in the annual Rose Parade on June 3. Since the theme this year was "HONORING THE MILITARY", we decided to go back to the Civil War and honor our town founder, Col. Rosell Hough. The float committee did an outstanding job and the walkers handed out almost 100 pounds of Tootsie Rolls

Colonel Hough was portrayed by Aidan McAuliffe and Mrs Hough was portrayed by Joanne Zielinski Policht



## ***GIRLS SCOUTS CELEBRATE 100 YEARS***

Come and view a new exhibit celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America. It all started March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia when Juliette Gordon Lowe founded a new organization to encourage girls to learn outdoor skills, crafts and form friendships. We welcome all Girl Scout Troops to see what Roselle girls years ago did to earn badges and give back to the community. (Note- Juliette Gordon Lowe's house still exists as a tourist attraction in Savannah).

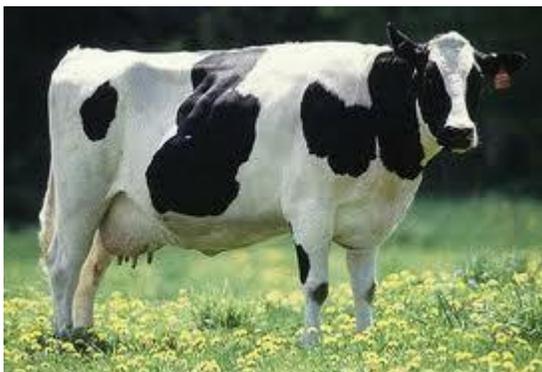
## **TASTE OF ROSELLE**

The History Museum will have a booth at Taste of Roselle being held August 3-5. Our booth will be near Prospect Street. Stop and visit us and see some interesting artifacts. We will also have extended hours at the museum. We will be open from 1 to 5 PM on both Saturday and Sunday. Come and visit the museum between "tastes" We are right across from the village hall and police station at the SW corner of Prospect and Elm..

## DAIRY FARMING IN THE 1940'S

Growing up in the 1940's, I spent a lot of time around farms. My family lost their dairy herd in the 1930's because of some disease so they stopped dairy farming. We only had a small farm of several cows, a horse, pigs, chickens, and geese. We had an 80 acre farm but only farmed 5 acres of it and leased the rest of it to another farmer.

Dairy farming was the major type of farming around Roselle in the 40's with at least 12 farms. In the late 40's the farms started to be sold for development because the land was too valuable to farm. So the farmer sold his land some of them retired and others bought farms farther west past Elgin. Dairy farming is a very labor intensive occupation. The cows had to be milked twice a day 365 days a year.



The farmer's day typically started at 5 AM. He would have a light breakfast and head out to the barn to milk the cows. Most farms had 20 to 25 cows. He would start down the line washing the udders and attaching the milking machine which was run by a pulsating vacuum. When the cow was finished he would empty the milk into a stainless steel bucket and move the machine to the next cow. While that cow was being milked he would carry the bucket of milk to the milk house and pour it into the milk cans which would be picked up each day.

When the cows were all milked they would be sent out to the cow yard or pasture depending on the weather. The farmer would then go in for a bigger breakfast and then return to the barn to clean out the manure and put down new straw for bedding when necessary. The manure was either put into the manure spreader or put on a manure pile depending upon the time of the year. From the time the crops were harvested, until they were planted the next spring, it would be spread on the fields immediately. Once the crops were planted the manure would be piled up until the next fall.

The farmer would then go in and have a second bigger breakfast! After breakfast he would go back to work. What he did depended upon the weather and the season of the year. If it was dry enough he would work the fields otherwise he would do maintenance on his equipment.

The farmer's year started in spring when he would plow and disc the fields and plant the crops. The typical crops were corn, oats and hay. These three crops were necessary to feed his cattle. In late spring the hay was tall enough for the first cutting so he mowed the hay and let it dry for several days. He would then go out with a windrow rake and rake it into rows. Then he would come along with a baler and bale it and haul the hay into the barn. The baling job required at least 3 people, one to drive the tractor and two to feed and tie the baling wire. The farmer would either work with other farmers on the job or hire day laborers from town. When the corn came up he would cultivate the corn to loosen the dirt and remove the weeds.

The next big job was in late summer when the oats were ready to harvest. He would cut the oats with a mower that would also tie it into bundles. The bundles were then set in shocks of 8 to ten bundles. And left to dry for several days. The threshing team would come in and thresh the oats and take them to the barn to be used as cattle feed. The straw was blown into a straw stack in the field so they could bale it to be used as bedding for the cattle.

The next big job was in early fall just before the corn was ripe. A portion of the corn field would be cut and put into the bundles and then made into silage. The bundles of corn would be fed into a chopper and blown into the big silos which would be near each barn. The silage would be used as cattle feed during the winter. There was still some moisture in the corn so the silage remained wet all winter. In late summer or early fall another cutting was made.

The final big job was husking the ripe corn late in fall or even into winter. Corn would be husked and stored in the corn cribs which were typically long thin buildings with space between the siding to allow air to circulate so the corn would not get moldy.

These were typical days for the farmer. By about 5:30 each evening he had to be out in the barn milking the cows again. If he was running behind schedule on any of the field tasks, he would go back out into the fields until dark.

If the farmer had a large family with older children they would work with him otherwise he would have a hired hand. Many of the jobs were co-op jobs because each farmer did not have all of the necessary equipment.

*By Ray Hitzemann*

## ***KEEPING COOL!!***

### ***A Winter Story about Meacham Woods (January 26, 1994)***

A recollection of our experience in the 252 acre “Crystal Chandelier” called the Meacham Grove Forest Preserve.

On January 25, 1994 we had a light rain falling with a rapidly dropping temperature. The weather was very different from John Coleman’s forecast. The forest was turning into something remarkable.

The icy day started at the edge of the forest, which consists of a growth of oak, maple, hickory and ash trees all standing eighty feet tall or more. These trees, electric wires, and the ground were all covered with an inch and a half of ice. There were even ice crystals floating in the air that morning. A full new moon lit up the moonscape which gave a panoramic view; like a picture negative. The whole forest of trees casting their shadows on the forest floor provided an amazing sight. Even the electrical wires were casting a shadow down the driveway at 23W121 Glendale Terrace in Roselle, Illinois.

It was before sunrise on the 26th when I woke up to God’s miracle. Looking out the kitchen window was the most beautiful sight. Time-wise, it was probably around four or five AM. I walked outside barefoot and in my shorts onto the patio. The patio was too slippery to stand on so I had to get to the grassy area. I stepped onto the grass because I could break through the coat of ice for some sort of footing. Then I went to the corner of the house to get a better view. What beauty! What grandeur! I couldn’t help thinking...just imagine what this will look like when the sun breaks the horizon.

I went back into the house to wake my wife Evie to show her this amazing sight. We stood there in awe for several minutes before we went back into the house to have our morning cup of coffee. Sitting in front of our fireplace, we talked about this magnificent landscape, right in our own backyard. We felt we had to share this moment in history with someone before it disappeared. Our neighbors down the street, Bob and Freida were the chosen ones. After Evie and I watched the sun rise through the forest that morning, we gave our friends a call to invite them to go for a walk in the “crystal chandelier” of Meacham Grove Forest Preserve.

The sunrise was just spectacular! From the first morning glow to the first rays of sunlight shining through the branches on the ice-coated trees and bouncing off the forest floor. What an amazing sight! The forest was lit up! All the colors of the prism of light – red, blue, green and yellow – were ever-changing from tree to tree. As the sun continued to rise there were truly a thousand points of light.

After watching the sun rise, we called Bob and Freida to invite them on our walk. Bob was all for it, but Freida was not so sure. It was, after all, a very, very, very cold slippery, icy morning when you would rather stay in the house and keep warm. It was decided we would meet at the end of our driveway, which was the western edge of the forest; where we would start our cold early morning walk. We took a minute to stand in our neighbor’s driveway to admire the beauty before us.



As we stepped onto the trail that morning, the lack of sound was surreal – no wind, not even a breeze. No birds were chirping, not even the crows were calling. There was a large flock of them in the woods usually at that time who were early risers and very noisy every morning, except this morning. Nothing! The crunch from our boots, breaking through the one-inch crust of ice, was startling in the otherwise stillness of the morning.

It was to be a hard slip and fall type of adventure. Slipping and sliding, we reached our first obstacle. It was a creek down by our neighbor, Tony and Sandra's house. The creek was running deep with water and the steep hill was covered with ice that was almost impossible to climb. We helped each other up and over this ice-coated obstacle. Slipping, sliding, falling and laughing, we made it back onto the dirt path. We then reached the limestone path and crossed the ice-coated bridge over Roselle Road. It would be some time before that road thawed. We continued on the path toward Hidden (Maple) Lake and Garbage Mountain.

There was no nice limestone path east of Roselle Road in those days. Along the way, we stopped often to admire the every-changing view. Danger! Danger! Danger! We have again come to the creek running full of churning, cold, icy water. At this point, the creek is about 15 feet wide. How to cross? We walked along the stream until we found a group of rocks which we could use to ford this obstacle. The trouble was, the rocks were all ice-covered. Bob took his walking stick to break the ice enough for us to use them. Bob went first, crossing the creek, Evie followed, slipping and getting her feet wet. Next, Freida crossed and immediately slips and winds up with very wet feet. Last, Wally goes across successfully and thus, we are all across. Lots of laughs. I guess this proves one thing – girls can't cross icy creeks without getting their feet wet or boys are better at jumping from rock to rock than girls are.

Whatever, we continued on toward our destination – "Garbage Mountain" or bust! We managed to conquer "Heartbreak Ridge" and our destination was in sight. However, trying to climb Garbage Mountain was another matter. It was also, totally ice-coated and very slippery. We have met our match. After many tries, we realize we are looking failure in the eye. Just imagine the icy 360° winter view we would have had.

Oh, Well! We now realized we were cold and hungry. It was time to head back home for a hot cup of coffee and a sweet roll. As we started back, Bob lost his footing and slid down Heartbreak Ridge 40 feet on his butt. More laughs! We managed to get back across the creek without anyone getting wet feet again.

Finally, we have traversed the  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile to our warm comfortable homes to have our breakfast. It would take a long time for the ice to melt, but that's another story. What fun we had that morning back in 1994!

The End, Wally (Walter Schauer)



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Looking around the Museum one day I ran across a book "1874 ATLAS OF DU PAGE COUNTY" published in 1974 by the Du Page Historical Society in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the county. It included maps and statistics of each township. It showed the original Roselle as a sub-division of B. Beck. It was about 4 blocks square starting on the west at about Park Street and on the north from about Hattendorf Street. All of the farms in the area were identified by the owners. It showed the Rosell Hough's farming property that ran from about Central Avenue on the north to Foster Avenue on the south and from Roselle road on the east to about West End Road. He also had property to the north of Irving Park (Chicago Avenue. It went from approximately Roselle Road on the west to about Plum Grove Road on the east and from Devon Avenue on the north to about Hattendorf road on the south. He also had about 40 acres which was his estate east of Roselle Road.

The book also had interesting census figures. It showed 1,141 people 1.359 acres of wheat, 2,954 acres of corn, 3,577 acres of oats, and 1,633 acres of other field products (some of which was probably Rosell Hough's flax). In addition to counting people it also counted live stock, 659 horses, 1,883 cattle, 8 mules and asses, 1,429 sheep and 749 hogs.

A number of drawings of farms were also included as well as the county history. It was also interesting to see the number of towns that have disappeared from the county.

## IN THE MUSEUM FOR YOU TO SEE.....



1924 Crosley Radio



Parlor Organ



Ice Box (Original "green" cooling).

## HIGH SCHOOL YEAR BOOKS WANTED

The History Museum has a collection of year books from Glenbard and Lake Park High Schools.. If anyone would be willing to donate Lake Park years 1958, 1959, 1960 and 1962. Please call the museum at (630)351-5300. If no one is there please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Thank You

## BEFORE RADAR

Before the Roselle Police Department had radar they used the mechanical meter device shown here. They ran a pressure sensitive hose several hundred feet down the road and connected two other hoses to it, 22 feet apart. When the front tire hit the first hose the machine would start when the tire hit the second hose it would stop and the dial on it would show your speed. The officer would then flag you down and write the ticket. Judge Winter declare it a legal device. It was used quite often on Irving Park Road between Bokelman Street and Prospect. You can see the machine in the Community Room on the second floor of the Sumner House Museum.



MEMBERSHIP

SU-12

*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

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*City* \_\_\_\_\_ *State* \_\_\_\_\_ *Zip* \_\_\_\_\_

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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. Please call us at 630-351-5300.

**ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM**

**39 E. ELM STREET**

**ROSELLE, IL 60172**