



Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

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Winter 2013 Issue

IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

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

Call the museum and pick one up soon.



The annual *Christmas Open House* will be held on Sunday December 1, 2013 from 2-4 PM at the museum. Please join us for "An Old Fashioned Christmas". Enjoy 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 to see some of the updated exhibits. We look forward to seeing you there.

FUTURE EVENTS

Save the date of April 5, 2014 when the History Museum will host its annual spring Historical Evening. It will feature a presentation about "Chicago's Sweet Candy History"



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Our more than 100 year old pump organ had leaky bellows which made it difficult to play. We decided to invest in the repair of this old musical instrument. The repair effort required the entire organ to be dismantled, including the key board. The bellows were taken off-site and rebuilt. It is now in good working order and we hope it will last another 100 years!

Come to our Christmas Open House and hear Mr. Curt Wolfanger play this old fashioned pump organ. Enjoy Christmas music around the holiday tree as it might have sounded out back in the 1920's. Perhaps some indoor caroling might even be included.



WHERE WERE YOU WHEN JFK WAS SHOT?



By Kathy Schabelski

Friday, November 22, 1963 began as such a normal day. However, as anyone who can remember that day is painfully aware, it became one of the most tragic days in American history.

Those who attended the Museum's recent historical evening commemorating "1000 Days of Kennedy's Camelot" were asked to recall what they were doing or where they were when they heard the news that President John F. Kennedy had been shot. What strikes about the responses is their simplicity, their ordinariness.

People were at school, at work, at home peeling potatoes, mixing baby formula or scrubbing the kitchen floor. Their children were eating lunch, watching Bozo, when the news broke. Amidst the universal shock and disbelief ("I told all the guys in the shop and no one believed me") was a thread of confusion about whether or not to continue with normal activities. People were crowded around radios or televisions, but schools and businesses did not close. Club groups continued to meet. Sorority rush week was not canceled.

As is often the case with events that have historical significance, the true impact of Kennedy's death was not felt for some time. One respondent would later visit the Book Depository Museum in Dallas and think about how one man who was disgruntled with the world (Lee Harvey Oswald) could change the course of history. Museum historian Joan Beauprez later worried that her son Lee's name would be stigmatized because of Oswald.

Half a century later, the circumstances surrounding Kennedy's death continue to incite curiosity and inspire debate. The cause of our continued fascination is debatable, but perhaps its root is a simple one. As one respondent noted, "the world has never been the same."

GAMES WE PLAYED AS YOUNG BOYS

By Milan Bagel

Before the advent of television, computers and smart phones, we children actually played outdoors in the fresh air!!

My family lived on the west side of Chicago near Pulaski Road (aka Crawford Avenue) and Division Street. We loved to play baseball. Actually we always played 16" softball. Almost daily we would play at the intersection of Karlov Ave and Thomas St using the four sewer covers as bases. Do you remember how we chose up sides using a bat? Once I remember hitting a home run that broke a window in the home at the opposite corner. My dad really loved baseball too and he happily repaired the neighbor's window while thinking about my well hit ball!



We also played other "teams" composed of players from the adjoining block(s). I can't remember ever having a full complement of nine players on any team. It was usually six or seven. These games were almost always played on west Division Street in an empty lot next to a casket factory. Once in a while we would play at Rezin Orr public school in the back gravel lot. We would all chip in to buy a brand new Clincher 16" softball and then the winning team got to keep the ball. It was only in later years that I found out that the 16" softball was pretty much only a Chicago sport!

Our biggest claim to fame was that one of our neighborhood boys named Billy Perkins, became a Cub batboy. Billy lived next door to me so I occasionally even got to meet a Cub player who was visiting. My even bigger thrill was in personally knowing another Cub player, Andy Pafko. He was a member of our church. Until he became ill a couple of years ago, I would get to talk baseball with him often. He signed many baseballs for my friends. I am sad to report that Andy passed away on October 8 at the age of 92.

We also played football on the street in front of our house. It was always a challenge because the large poplar trees formed a dense canopy over the "playing field". Passes had to be kept low to avoid contact with a tree limb and subsequent interception by an opposing player. I was usually the quarterback as I had a strong arm and also happened to own the football (smile)! Again we seldom had more than five or six players on a side. It was touch football so "tackles" weren't allowed but a heavy "touch" was often felt on our back, neck or butt.

These are some fond recollections of times when life was less complicated!

BOKELMAN STREET REVISITED

We receive this letter from Gertrude Stuerzebecher Siems a former Roselle resident who recently moved to Bayfield, CO. In her letter she adds some more information and corrects several misassumptions in our Summer news article. We thank her for this information.

"I am writing about the Bokelman Street article noted in your Summer 2013 newsletter.

I am Gertrude Stuerzebecher Siems, born in 1924, with younger sisters named Lucille Stuerzebecher Meyer (deceased), and Edith Stuedrzebecher Wilkening of Huntly, IL. Our parents were George and Erna Stuerzebecher who lived in Roselle, IL. We were all born in the home where the lawyer has his office today which was mentioned in the article.

My father (George Sturzebecher) bought the house in 1924. There were gaslights then, but he wired the electricity and brought water into the house himself with a pump outside.

Mr. George Sturzebecher also built the garage and one gas pump. He built that garage in 1924 right after I was born. My dad was born in Wayne, IL but grew up on Lake Street. His dad had 40 acres and tilled it with a horse and plow.

The garage was called "Main Street Garage". Later he added on to sell Oakland Pontiacs. I don't know exactly the year, but he sold to Mr. Troyke, Mr. Troyke did welding and might have shod a few horses but they were done in an old barn next to the Troyke house on Irving Park Road which is gone many years.

Mr. Bokelman had had a house on the corner where there is now a gas station. As a kid we liked to watch him dig up his peanuts that he grew. He had a nice garden there. Mr. Troyke did not buy in 1910. Mr. Troyke put a couple little stores like second hand clothing and a gift shop too, for a dime! The garage is now owned by Briscoe Signs."

AN AIRMAN'S NEW VOCABULARY

We received a copy of a WWII airman's memories of his time in the military from boot camp to discharge. It is a seven page typed document that is too long to include in the newsletter. I did find one section of it very interesting.

"So we began combat and the learning of some new words- Target (cities), Kills (for downed enemy aircraft), Abort (to leave your formation), Jerries (the Germans), Ities (the Italians), Section 8 (mental case), Frostbite (gangrene), Bogeys (enemy fighters). Target of opportunity (bomb whatever), Tour (25 missions), Chutes observed (crew members bailing out), Scrubbed (mission cancelled)"

ATTENTION VETERANS

We are looking for any other military veterans who are willing to share some of their military experiences, good, bad or funny with our members. Just send them to us we will feature them in future newsletters. Thank You.

A SLICE OF LIFE IN A SMALL TOWN: A few excerpts from a 1957 Police log give a picture of what went on in Roselle according to the officers in Roselle's Car #31 while on duty.

5/16/57 Richard Christensen a teacher at parochial school in Schaumburg wanted some prints dusted from a jewelry box and liquor bottle.

5/20/57 Had 6 people tell me about that dog that runs around here. He is getting on peoples nerves.

5/23/57 Quiet evening, the kids are hanging around a bit more. It will get worse as it gets warmer.

MEMBERSHIP

W-1314

Yes, I'd like to help the Museum! Here's my membership contribution for 2014

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.

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