



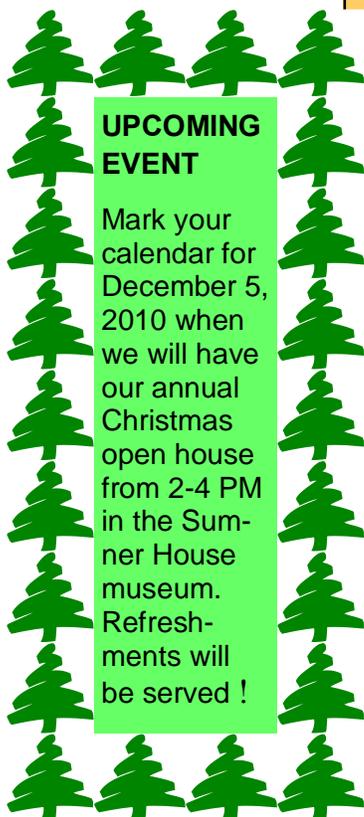
Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

39 East Elm Street Roselle, IL 60172-2026

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Fall 2010 Issue



UPCOMING EVENT

Mark your calendar for December 5, 2010 when we will have our annual Christmas open house from 2-4 PM in the Summer House museum. Refreshments will be served!

Inside....• *Trinity celebrates 100 years in Roselle*

- *Oldest building is taken down*
- *Roselle's many village halls*

Commuting 1943 style

A Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul steam engine train boards its passengers at the Roselle train station on October 2, 1943. Quite a change from today's Metra service isn't it? You can decide if it was better or worse in those days!



Board of Directors

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In Remembrance

Charles Southern

Charles Southern, a long time resident of Roselle, passed away in August. Chuck was a WWII veteran. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and received a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He was a founding member of the Roselle Historical Society and served as its President in 1978 and 1979. In 1985 he wrote a brief history of Roselle which was included in the Du Page County History book DUPAGE ROOTS published in 1985.

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'S FOUR VILLAGE HALLS

By Joan Beauprez

The Village of Roselle was incorporated in 1922 with Herman Thiemann as the first mayor

The First Village Hall

The first Village Hall was originally a barn located on the south side of Irving Park Road, east of Roselle Road. In the early 1900's it also housed the fire department, one jail cell and the courthouse. The building was later moved across the street to the northeast corner of the same intersection. The cupola was then replaced with a tall bell tower and a green call light for the fire department.



The Second Village Hall

The second Village Hall was built in 1934 for the cost of \$600. It was first located facing Irving Park Road on the northeast corner of Roselle Road. Later it was moved to face Roselle Road. The white wooden building was then covered with bricks taken from the large chimney that was torn down from the Kee and Chapell Dairy that was located on Main Street. The small 9 x 12 office also served as a polling place for all elections. The one jail cell was in back of the brick waterworks building next door.



After outgrowing this space, the Village of Roselle bought another building in the 1960's on south

Prospect Avenue, but the small office building remained until 1991 when it was torn down.

The Third Village Hall



The third Village Hall was in an old 1926 two-story brick building that was previously a Lutheran school. It was purchased in the 1960's from Trinity Lutheran Church and remodeled in 1967. The bricks were painted tan and a mansard roof was added. The municipal building now also housed the Police department until 1979 when a new police station was built. When the Village outgrew this building, it was demolished in 1997

The Fourth and Current Village Hall



When the Village needed to expand their facility, they bought two lots to the north with two small houses on them. One house was torn down and the other one moved across the street on Prospect to the museum campus in 1996. In 1997 a new brick building was erected to serve a growing community.

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM WEBSITE

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Trinity Lutheran Church in Roselle is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Actually the seeds for the church were planted 11 years earlier in 1899 when eleven Roselle families – those of Conrad Biesterfeld, William Bokelmann, Henry Botterman, Fred Haak, J.C. Hattendorf, J.H. Hattendorf, August Scharlau, Henry Steinbeck, Carl Trost, Adolph Troyke, and Henry Wilkening – requested that a Lutheran school district be organized in Roselle. Prior to that, the children went to school at St. Peter Lutheran School in Schaumburg or St. Johns (Rodenburg) Schaumburg. Land was purchased from Conrad Biesterfeld for the purpose of building a



school. The school was located at Prospect and Elm and was called Roselle's Lutheran School and opened in September of 1899. Classes were conducted in German in the morning and English in the afternoon - therefore it was often called the German School.

In 1910, St. John's Lutheran Church of Rodenburg was completely destroyed by a fire caused by lightning. The Lutherans of Roselle felt that this was an opportune time to organize their own congregation in Roselle. Nine members of St. John's Lutheran Church were granted a peaceful release for the purpose of organizing a congregation in Roselle. The founding fathers of the new church were Conrad Biesterfeld, William Bokelmann, Henry Botterman, J. Henry Hattendorf, August Scharlau, Carl Trost, Adolph Troyke, Fred Haak, and Henry Steinbeck. The name of the new church was *Evangelisch Lutherische Drieinigkeits Gemeinde*, later changed to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Trinity immediately affiliated with what is now the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. After the founding on September 12, 1910, the Reverend G. Theiss of St. Peter in Schaumburg served the congregation for about a year

Soon after organizing, the congregation resolved to build a church. The land and building cost \$8,650. The cornerstone of the new church was laid on Sunday, October 2, 1910. Three months later on January 29, 1911 the new church was dedicated.

The original school was moved to West Pine Avenue where it became a private residence. It was replaced by a two-story brick structure which served the congregation until February of 1962. In 1956, ten acres of land were purchased from Charles Meyer, a member, who was subdividing his farm. At that time, an educational building with nine classrooms, one all-purpose room, an auditorium/gym, and two offices, was built at the Rush Street address. A new church was built next to the school on Rush Street and dedicated on February 24, 1971. (See **CHURCH** on page 4)

THANK YOU ROSELLE Your support of our glow stick fund raising event at the 4th of July fireworks and the Taste of Roselle was greatly appreciated. This financial support was really appreciated during these difficult economic times.

(**CHURCH** Cont. from pg 3) Over the years, Trinity Church and School has continued to grow. Additional classrooms, a second and larger gymnasium, and a Family Life Center were added in 1982. The latter serves the congregation, but also hosts various civic functions for the Roselle community. The “open gym” nights also encourage interaction with the youth of the community. In 1996, the church was enlarged to accommodate the growth of Trinity, the Village of Roselle, and the surrounding communities.

In 1993, Roselle officials decided to close the Walnut Street fire station and a Trinity member, Ed Schwarzer, purchased the building for Trinity to use as a day care center for children and adults . After a number of years, it became too small. When the former Parkside School/Marklund facility became available, Trinity purchased it and renovated it. The enlarged day care facilities opened in 2008.

The building has been named Trinity Community Center which, in addition to day care for children and adults, also features a gymnasium and classroom space. Presently, only the gymnasium is utilized for “open gym” nights but eventually a youth center will be developed to further serve the community.

Trinity has been an integral part of Roselle for 100 years, pitching in after disasters, supporting those in need, participating in civic events, and encouraging good citizenship. Trinity Lutheran Church is excited about the next 100 years and looks forward to seeing what God is going to do in our community.

In it’s 100 years Trinity has had 9 senior pastors and a number of assistant and associate pastors. The longest serving senior pastor was Reverend Mehlberg who served for 36 years.

Many thanks to Donna Voelz and La Vonne Presley for providing information for this article.

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM BUSINESS MEMBER CENTURY CLUB

The following local businesses have recently helped support the Roselle History Museum by making donations of \$100 or more to help us continue to keep the museum operating. Please support them with your business whenever possible.

Coach House Restaurant
300 N. Roselle Road
Roselle, 60172
630-893-0110

Reddi-Strip Company
100 West Central Ave
Roselle, IL 60172
630-529-2442

Wickstrom Chevrolet
555 east Irving Park Road
Roselle, IL 60172
630-529-7070

WHAT’S NEW AT THE MUSEUM

Rosell Hough Cutout

A life size cutout of Col. Rosell Hough has been added to a Sumner House exhibit. Hough was a business man that had a great impact on early Roselle. When the Village of Roselle was incorporated in 1922 the village was named after him.

Stop by and take a picture of your child standing next to him.

New flower garden

An active member of the museum has donated a new flower garden on the northwest corner of the museum campus just west of the Coach House. This will further enhance the beauty of the campus.

HISTORY VERSUS PROGRESS



July 2010, one of the oldest remaining buildings in Roselle was torn down to make room for a parking lot.

The building located at 57 E. Irving Park Road had a rich history. We believe it was over 130 years old. The building was purchased by William and Lena Benhart in 1906. The property also included the area where the brick building to the west of it now stands. The lower level that was entered from the northeast corner led to a tavern and the small structure on the east side of the building led to an ice cream parlor. The second floor had living quarters and a small hotel for travelers going through Roselle. There was a sign on the east side of the second floor in 1908 that said "Roselle House". The third floor had a dance hall. The entire village was invited to the dance and the ladies would wear small ribbons to show that they had paid to get in.

There was no electricity or gas at the time. The rooms were lit with kerosene lanterns. Rain water was collected from the roof in a cistern and used for washing. There was a well to supply water for cooking and drinking. To the west of the main building there were stables to house the travelers' horses, and ice houses. The ice was cut from local ponds during the winter and lasted until the next winter. There was no inside plumbing so an outhouse was also on the premises.

When William Benhart died in 1912 Lena discontinued the hotel operation but continued to run the tavern. She had two very young children Meta(Mae) and Harry to support. She continued to run the tavern and dance hall until the early 1940s. She died in 1943. Mae married Miran Kelsey and they lived on the northwest side of the Chicago. They had two daughters, Betty and Shirley. Miran died several years later. When Lena Benhart died, Mae inherited the building and her brother Harry Benhart inherited the stables and buildings to the west.

In the late 1940s, Mae married Joseph Habada who was working for Hotpoint at the time. Joe wanted to open a liquor store so Mae circulated a petition to have a package liquor store in Roselle which was the very first one. The village approved the petition and the liquor store had license #1 issued.

The liquor store was located on the lower level. An ice cream store, also selling hot dogs and barbeque was opened in the small windowed space on the east side. In the winter the ice cream business was moved inside to a small section of the liquor store. The store continued to operate until Joe retired in 1971.

During this period of time the other two floors of the building were remodeled. The second floor was converted into a single apartment in which Mae and Joe lived. The third floor had a dropped ceiling installed and two apartments were built. The two daughters lived there with their husbands for a period of time. After Mae Habada died, the building was sold. The second floor was converted into two apartments. Because of the location, and not having a street level entrance, it was difficult to get commercial tenants.

As the village TIF District progressed, then it was obvious that more parking would be needed in the downtown area. When the building was originally constructed, Irving Park Road was a two lane gravel road. With the widening of Irving Park, it became difficult to see traffic coming from the west if you were on Prospect Street north bound. Therefore, the village purchased the building using TIF dollars (which must to be used for improvements in the area) and built the parking lot.

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 for 2011

*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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HISTORY OF DU PAGE COUNTY..... In the archives of the library we have two books on the history of Du Page County.

DU PAGE DISCOVERY 1776-1976 - Edited by David E. Maas and Charles W. Weber: This book is organized by subject as opposed to a chronology. There are 10 chapters on a variety of subjects including Indians and explorers, westward movement, religion, farming, Civil War, Du Page government and the judicial system. It has pictures and pencil sketches on almost every one of its 200 pages. I found the chapter about the Civil War involvement the most interesting. Because the Roselle History Museum did not exist in 1976 when this book was written, there is very little about Roselle in it.

DU PAGE ROOTS- By Richard A. Thompson and Contributors Written in 1985 Although much of the same information is in this book as the prior one except that it starts much earlier and continues 10 years longer. It is written as a continuous history from the ice age to 1985. There is very little about Roselle in the first 81 pages which traces the county's history. The balance of the book, about 180 pages, covers individual towns. Each town in Du Page County has a chapter of several pages. Roselle has a brief history which was written by Charles Southern.

Either book can be read at the museum on Sunday between 2-4 PM or other days by appointment. Ph. 630-351-5300

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM

39 E. ELM STREET

ROSELLE, IL 60172