



Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

39 East Elm Street Roselle, IL 60172-2026
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HOW ARE WE DOING?

Are we including the type of articles and personal memories about the Roselle area that you like in our newsletter?

If there are areas you would like to hear more about or if you would like to share your memories please let us know. We will try our best to give you what you want. Just E-mail us at rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net.

INSIDE: Dairy farming in the 40's
Christmas memories
Local shoe dye business



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Please join us at our annual Christmas Open House on December 2, 2012 from 2-4 PM.

Enjoy some homemade cookies, sign up for the door prize drawing, and tour the museum. The theme this year is "BAKIN' IN THE BURBS" featuring cookie recipes from the area. Rumor has it that there will even be some bacon cookies. We hope to see you there.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Chicago History Museum.....Saturday March 2, 2013

Come join the Roselle History Museum and the Roselle Park District as we discover the city of Chicago's rich history through a wide variety of exhibits. We will first take a guided museum tour that will highlight Chicago's transformation from a smelly swamp into a thriving metropolitan area. You will be able to immerse yourself in the sights and sounds as you feel history come alive by exploring Chicago highlights from the Chicago Fire of 1871 to the riots of 1968. You will then be able to test your knowledge about Chicago with a scavenger hunt in the museum. Trip cost includes transportation and museum entrance fee. Lunch will be on your own at Chicago's own Lou Malnati's Pizzeria.

VORTEX SHOE DYE COMPANY

Louis T. Vorgias was born in Tripolis Tegea Greece Sept. 17, 1895. He immigrated to the United States on February 5, 1917 to Columbus, N.M.. Sometime after that he moved to Roselle. He became a naturalized citizen in 1943 with Ray Scamehorn and William Fenz as his sponsors.

He started the Vortex Shoe Dye Company that he located in the Rodewald East Building before it became a dairy. It was moved to property he purchased at the southeast corner of Roselle Road and Walnut Street where the town houses are now located. He had a field stone faced house and two large garages. He used the one closest to Walnut for his vehicles and produced the shoe dye in the garage behind it. In the late 1930's he purchased a 10X 20' produce store from Fred Hitzemann and moved it across the street to the Northwest corner of his property.

The business continued into the late 50's or early 60's. We don't know what happened but, he decided to leave his wife Adeline and son Louis Jr. and return to Greece.

REMEMBERING CHRISTMAS

By Ray Hitzemann

When preparing this newsletter I started to think about Christmas time in my early childhood. For me the Christmas season started at Thanksgiving and ended on Christmas day.

Thanksgiving day we usually went to visit one of my uncles for dinner and enjoyed an afternoon of visiting and playing cards. That was the start. After that all I could think about was Christmas and the time off from school that went with it. There was the religious part of it but I also enjoyed the commercial part of it.

My parent always warned me that Santa Claus was watching so I better be good or I would not get any presents. It never dawned on me that Santa could not possibly watch millions of children to check on their behavior. Then there was the second threat that if I did not behave, I would get coal in my stocking. Today most children don't even know what coal is.

About three days before Christmas we would start to get ready. Most of my sisters and brothers and their families would be home for Christmas dinner. We would have always have 25-30 people for a big sit-down dinner. We had a dining room table that could be stretched from one end of the dining room to the other. It stretched from the buffet to the low hot water radiator that was under the windows. The radiator had a wood cover on it so that people could sit on it. We had a second round dinner table that we kept up stairs in a side closet that we brought down to the living room. We fastened the legs on it and it stretched out with three boards in it.

On Christmas Eve I would go to church for the Christmas program. We would get a big bag of treats as we left. It had an apple, orange, nuts in the shell and candy.

Finally Christmas day came when we all enjoyed a dinner of goose, ham or beef roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, Jello with fruit in it, several different vegetables and of course my favorite, candied sweet potatoes with marshmallows on them and also, some type of wine.

After dinner we would take down the table in the living room to make room for everybody to exchange presents.

I hope my ramblings have caused you to think back on your childhood Christmas's with fond memories.

ROSELLE FIREWORKS FUND

Last year Roselle did not have fireworks on the 4th of July. The previous 2 years Roselle businesses and the Taste of Roselle paid for it. We sell glow sticks at the event as a fund raiser which generally netted \$1,000. So last year we missed these additional operating funds.

The village has started a private donation plan this year asking residents and businesses to donate a total of \$25,000 for the display. Please generously support this effort.

THE DAIRY FARMER'S WIFE IN THE 1940'S By Ray Hitzemann



Whoever wrote "A woman's work is never done from early morn to setting sun" had to be talking about the dairy farmer's wife in the 1940's and earlier. I truly believe that she worked harder than her husband.

Let's start with the cooking. She typically provided seven meals a day. There was a light breakfast, then a heavier breakfast after the cows were milked, a mid-morning snack, lunch, an afternoon snack, supper and then a bedtime snack. All of these meals were made from scratch. She would bake all the breads, cakes

and pies. When she made bread and coffee cakes she would mix the dough and set it out to rise either covered outside in the sun or on the warm radiator inside in the winter. She also had to churn the butter and make cottage cheese. As her children got older they would have to make the butter.

In the summer she canned all the fruits and vegetables that she harvested from the garden making sure that there was enough for the family until next summer. If anything was left over she would sell it at a road side stand.

Then there was wash day. She had a ringer washing machine. She would roll it up next to the double wash tub sink. The water was heated on the stove and carried to the washing machine. The same water was used for all the clothes adding more hot water each load.

The clothes would be run thru the ringer into a wash tub filled with cold water. She would stir the clothes around in the tub and then swing the ringer so that the clothes could be rung into the second wash tub. She would start the next load and while that was washing she would carry the load up the stairs and hang them outside if the weather was nice. Otherwise she would hang them on the clotheslines in the basement. When the clothes were dry she would bring them in. Permanent press clothes did not exist so she had to iron all the wrinkled stuff. Then she would do the necessary patching and darn the holes in the socks when needed.

She also did many things outside. The chickens and other poultry were her responsibility. She would feed the poultry and pick the eggs, and if chicken, duck or goose was on the menu that night she would butcher and clean it. The garden was also her responsibility. She would plant it, weed it and harvest the produce.

When a pig or steer was butchered she would have a lot more work. The meat would have to be prepared for smoking. There was also sausage to be made. The casings had to be cleaned and then she would make various sausages which included summer sausage, blood loaf, rinderwurst, head cheese. Of course, all of these things were in addition to raising her children!

GOD BLESS THEM ALL!

MEMBERSHIP

W-12

Yes, I'd like to help the Museum! Here's my membership contribution for 2013

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

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

I have renewed for at least \$50 and would like my free copy of Remembering Roselle

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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ROSELLE, IL 60172