



# Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

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## ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM OPERATIONS

The Roselle History Museum is operated by a group of dedicated volunteers. We have one paid employee. She is a contract employee who works 10 hours a week and puts in many additional volunteer hours. She is an expert at answering research inquiries about Roselle and its history, either in person, via e-mail, or by phone. A group of about 10 committed volunteers which we call the "core group" meet monthly. We also have several "on call" volunteers. There is a lot more to running the museum than having it open for 2 hours each Sunday!

Some of the other activities performed by various committees include museum exhibits, gardens, minor interior maintenance, memberships, finances, newsletter, computer operations for the web-site and e-mails, conducting special museum tours, community relations, and answering inquiries. Occasionally, the other volunteers step up to help out. Two such events are detailed below and on the following page.

Each Spring, Trinity Lutheran Church has a "Be a Blessing Saturday" where members do community service projects in the Roselle area.



As an example, the ramp leading up to the Richter House needed to be scraped and painted. So we put in a request to have it done. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate for several months. Finally one Friday, Dr. Robert Lipka, the Principal of Trinity Lutheran School, and his wife Bonnie came over at

7:30 am and worked until 4:30 pm. They used 3 gallons of stain for the job. They then both joined as paying members of the museum!

## Board of Directors

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**MUSEUM HOURS :** Open from 2-4PM every Sunday and almost any other time by appointment. Phone 630-351-5300 for more information.

**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.



(Cont..from page 1) Another example: As a result of a logistical problem, we did not sell as many glo-stiks at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks display as planned. So our annual museum revenue came up short. Paulina Engel heard about this and decided to help out at the Taste of Roselle booth. She did face painting on Friday and Saturday. She painted more than 50 faces on those two days and donated all of the monies collected, to the museum.

### **ROSELLE RURAL MAIL DELIVERY by Mrs. Kathrine Vaas Kimball**

On January 2, 1905, Theodore G. Vaas was appointed by the General Post Office Department to be Roselle's first Rural Mail Carrier. The Roselle Post Office was located in the general store owned by Mr. J. H. Hattendorf, Postmaster.

Mail in those days was delivered by horse and wagon in summer, and horse and sleigh in winter.



In later years, a Stanley Steamer was used. The mail route was so large that fresh horses had to be used half way through the deliveries. (The entire daily trip was about 23 miles). The mail was brought by train to Roselle in the morning and taken to Hattendorf's store where it was sorted by Mr. Vaas. His route went west on Irving Park Road to Rodenberg road where he lived. He would stop for lunch and then continue west to Bartel's Corner and Wise Road, then proceed east to Homeyer's, corner of Roselle road, north to Schaumburg Center, and east to Meacham and Nerge Roads.

[Nerge Road was named for Fredrick Nerge, who obtained a section of land through a land grant from the Government. There was an Indian living on this piece of land who had Squatter's Rights. Mr. Nerge offered him \$50.00 to leave which he accepted. Later, the land went to Nerge's son Fredrick and then on to his son Henry. Walter Nerge bought the land when he married Lydia Botterman, daughter of Henry, who had the first butcher shop in Roselle. They worked the farm until it was sold for sub-division purposed.]

Vaas's route continued out west on Nerge road to Roselle road, south to Picton road, and west to Menching road, named after Fred Mensching, a farmer. He rode south on Rosedale to Hausing's Corner where he changed horses and continued on to Lake Street, east to Frick's, (who made cement blocks), then back north to Picton Road, east to Roselle Road, north to Circle Ave., winding toward the south to Broker Road, east to Meacham Road, north to Irving Park and west to Roselle Road, ending at the Post Office in Hattendorf's store.

When Mr. Vaas was ill, his wife or William Ewald took over as substitute carriers. There were no paved roads, just dirt roads, which were very muddy from the spring thaws or summer rains. Travel was difficult because of the deep holes, ruts, and washouts. Winter travel was worse. There were no plows and everyone had to make their way through the snow the best they could, shoveling through the high drifts.

Mr. Vaas, aside from being a mail carrier, was one of the most successful farmers around Roselle. He had taken a course in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry at Illinois University in Urbana, IL. He was schooled in the use of commercial fertilizers, and as a result, grew corn 6 ft. high or taller. His silo, which was in the Village of Rodenberg, was the first in this area. H. Reichert's was the second, and Albert Meyer's was the third.

Many amusing incidents occurred while Mr. Vaas was a mail carrier. Some of the people on his route would call the general store where the Post Office was located and ask him to bring along a grocery order. When there was a wedding, an invitation was left in the family's mail box for "Carrier and Family" The next day after the wedding, there was usually a large package left in the post box for the carrier, containing sausage, cookies, cake, etc.

In the winter months, money was often left for a stamp, but had to be dug out of the frost in the box. This meant the carrier had to remove his heavy gloves and unbutton his coat to get a pen knife to free the coins.

Lydia Nerge, who was then 5 years old, would put a rope from her sled around the runner of the mail sleigh and hold on to get a ride behind the sleigh. When she had ridden as far as she wanted to, she would release the rope from the runner. However, one time a knot in the rope prevented it from slipping off, so she had to keep riding until she finally attracted the carrier's attention. He stopped and released the rope, but Lydia had a long walk home.

"The Mail Must Go Through" was demonstrated when the National Guard was on Lake Street going to Camp Douglas. The Officer in Charge halted half the Company to permit the Mail Carrier to cross the road to deposit the mail.

### **" A Slice of Life in a Small Town"**

Two excerpts from old Roselle Police Log entries.....

Mar 4 1956 - Radio call at 4:45. Kids throwing rocks at Chevrolet Garage. Took the 2 boys home and both of them got a good spanking from their mothers— Watched them get that.

April 17 1956 - Radio call at 3:40 pm . Woman on Roselle Rd called and said she has the dog that killed 2 chickens. I picked up the dog and took it to the owner and gave him a ticket and checked his Vet. License. They had \$5.00 to live on until Sat. when he got paid. He wanted to give it to me. I told him to keep it. The Village didn't need it that bad. Told him when he gets his pay to buy one. (license) (Entry : dog running loose Void , Fine )

***Yes, I'd like to help the Museum!*** *Here's my membership contribution for 2015*

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

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

I have joined/renewed for at least \$50 and would like a free copy of the ***Remembering Roselle*** history book.

*Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address* \_\_\_\_\_

*City* \_\_\_\_\_ *State* \_\_\_\_\_ *Zip* \_\_\_\_\_ *Phone* \_\_\_\_\_,

The Roselle Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation, and your contribution may be fully tax deductible

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