

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

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Spring 2010 Issue

Special points of interest:

- Go to our website rosellehistory.com to view this newsletter in color.
- We need you as a member... Help us preserve history of our village. See page 5 for a membership form.



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Don't miss the annual

HISTORIC EVENING

APRIL 10, 2010



“Give the lady what she wants!” Come learn about this famous Chicago entrepreneur, Marshall Field, and other ***Early Movers and Shakers*** at the Roselle History Museum’s annual historical evening on April 10, 2010. Meet some of history’s most engaging personalities! Terry Lynch, dressed in turn-of-the-century period clothing, will bring the stories of Marshall Field, William Wrigley, Charles Walgreen, Ray Kroc,

and Frederick Maytag to life before our very eyes. Join us for an evening of delightful entertainment beginning with a wine and cheese reception at 7:30 p.m. with the program following at 8:00 p.m. Homemade cookies, lemonade and coffee will be served after the program.

Advance tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the Roselle Village Hall, 31 S. Prospect Street, or at the History Museum’s Office, 39 E. Elm Street beginning March 1st. Tickets purchased at the door the night of the program will be \$15. Students ages 6 – 12 will be admitted free. The program will be held at the **Trinity Lutheran Church Family Life Center**, 405 S. Rush Street in Roselle.

Christmas Open House

More than 80 people enjoyed the Christmas in Italy Open house on December 10th. The winners of the door prizes were: Elaine Pizzicaro-CD of Tony Spavone Italian songs; Christopher Engel-Gift basket from Roselle Polish Deli; Joanne Policht-Poinsettia from Don Braun; Martin Engel-Gift certificate from Norma’s Hair Salon; Margee Smith-bottle of wine from Lynfred Winery; Al Skrzypiec-Gift plate of Italian cookies; and Jeanne Calvert-Remembering Roselle history book.

THE CANNONBALL

By Dorie (Thomas) Pike

A Tuesday in June 1974 is about as boring and usual as any other summer day, but I look back 36 years ago at that day and think what a great day that was. That hot summer day started like any other summer day in 1974, but I woke up in what is now referred to as "The Roselle History Museum". I woke up on the top bunk in my bedroom, but now my bedroom is called "The School Room". To me, it will always be my bedroom that I shared with my sister. Our old house (built in the late 1800's) was a sauna during the summer months. The fans at the end of the hallway and in our windows just circulated the hot air and never cooled things off. I would wake up hot and thirsty and the first thing I would think of is looking forward to getting on my bike and getting to the Roselle Pool.

Eating breakfast on the back porch with my family looking at the old Roselle Police Station and Village Hall was just second nature. In those days, the Roselle Police Station and the Village Hall were housed in the same building. Prospect Street had all old charming houses and I knew everyone in every house. They were senior citizens and always on their front porches to capture a cool breeze. I was always waving hello to my neighbors on Prospect Street. After breakfast I would put on my bathing suit and grab a beach towel, grab my bike out of the old barn, (even had a chicken coop) and head out for the day. It was pretty much the same routine, ride my bike down the alley to my friend's house on Pine Street, and then we would ride our

bikes up to Snyder's (the drug store on Main Street which is now a Deli). Other kids would have their bikes already there and we would fight for sidewalk space to park our bikes. There would be many occasions when someone would knock all the bikes down. It was just something that happened because so many kids would just love being on Main Street and at Snyder's Drug Store. The candy counter at Snyder's had every piece of candy that was made.



You could get anything from a single gumball for 1 cent to a king size candy bar for 25 cents. I never missed a day at the drug store during the summer. I also loved that it was only one block from my house. In fact, during some of the summer nights while my sisters and I were watching television, we would bet each other who could ride their bike down to Snyder's quicker during commercial breaks in our programs to get candy. I was the quickest, of course, being the youngest.

After emptying our pockets of money on candy, we would get on our bikes and ride up Prospect Street to the Roselle Pool. The Roselle Pool was the playground for all the kids in Roselle during those hot summer months. I couldn't wait to get to the pool every day. I made sure that every year I would personally hand sew my little metal red pass on my bathing suit. That metal pass was like the pass to summer fun and freedom. I couldn't wait to get my pool pass and I couldn't wait for the pool to open. After parking my bike in the jam-packed bike racks, I would check in and go straight to the pool. I loved the smell of the locker rooms and the pool; the combination of chlorine and sunscreen is still a great summer smell. After finding a spot on the cement for my towel, the lounge chairs



around the pool were for the adults, but I never thought twice about taking an open chair. I also did not stay long enough in a chair to really make it useful enough for me to sit in. Then, I would head into the pool until I was either forced out by an "Adult Break", candy break, or struck by lightning. My friend and I could swim in the shallow end of the pool all day and never think to get out. We would take turns jumping in the pool off of the diving board. We would rotate each section of the pool like we were on a merry-go-round.

Like I said earlier, this is what I did pretty much every day, but on this Tuesday in June, 1974 the pool party changed pretty dramatically for me. There was a new player in the pool that day and he scared my friends and me a lot. I had heard about this guy from my other friends, but I had never experienced his presence in the pool before. Well, this day I found out what this guy was all about. I was just swimming about in the shallow end of the pool, playing "Underwater Tea Party" when Tom came in. He was also known as "Tom the Tank". He had to have been 1,000 pounds and he was about 19 years old. He walked by me and cast a shadow in the pool. He was a big, big guy and he needed to cool off in the pool. I

never saw the pool go so quiet. The kids all seemed to stop swimming and just stood and stared at "The Tank". He kept on walking, actually stomping on the hot cement towards the diving boards. I just watched as "The Tank" kept stomping by me and everyone else in the pool. I mean everyone (including the lifeguards) was watching. "The Tank" walked to the high diving board and started climbing the ladder. I



was thinking no way is this tank of a man going to do anything off the high diving board, but I was hoping he would do something awesome.

"The Tank" just kept on climbing and climbing. "The Tank" finally arrived at the top of the high diving board. He stomped slowly to the end of the diving to look and assess his next move. Now, while he was at the end of the board, the board was sloped in a way that you could tell that it could break any moment. I was just in awe of this tank of a man. I couldn't wait for his next move and he knew he had everyone's attention in the entire pool. I noticed that other kids started swimming to the ropes that divide the diving well from the rest of the pool. I thought what a great idea to get front row viewing for the awesome event. I made my way through

the crowded swimmers to the front line by the ropes. We finally heard the lifeguard blow his whistle and tell "The Tank" he has to get off the diving board. We all held our breath as he jumped up once, jumped up twice and then all 1,000 pounds of "The Tank" jumped and curled his body into a cannonball and hit the water like a true cannonball out of a cannon. I immediately went for my nose plugs because the surge of the waves that came over my head was awesome. What a total blast I thought. All of the swimmers in the pool who were able to catch his waves were screaming in sheer delight.

"The Tank" surfaced from underwater and you could tell from his smile that he was pleased with his waves and cannonball performance. He left the pool area. I did see him again on and off during that summer at the pool, but I will never forget my first experience with "The Tank" and how that day was one of my favorite summer days ever. I thank Tom for making that Tuesday in June 1974 one of the best days I had growing up in Roselle.

If you have a favorite memory of Roselle that you would like to share please send it to the History Museum.

H. H. BOTTERMAN & CO.

GROCERIES MEATS AND VEGETABLES

"FINE FOODS SINCE 1893"

ROSELLE, ILLINOIS

The Botterman Store property was part of 40 acres of a grant from the United States to Abel Walker, patent dated June 1, 1843. (This was part of the John Blank farm.) Abel Walker paid \$50.00 to the U. S. government in full payment for the 40 acres. The store was located at what is now the S.E. corner of Irving Park and Park St.

Walker sold to Hackaliah Brown on Oct. 9, 1846 for the sum of \$100.00. Brown sold to James F.D. Elliott on April 18, 1848 for the sum of \$400.00. Elliott sold to Barnhard Beck on March 11, 1853 for the sum of \$1,100. Beck subdivided a part of the 40 acres and it became Beck's Addition to Roselle, dated Oct. 24, 1873. On Oct. 8, 1875 Beck sold Lot #3 in Block #4 to Joseph A. Beck for the sum of \$100.00. George Wagner acquired this property by Masters deed April 26, 1893. Wagner and his wife operated a meat market in one of the buildings on the property purchased by Henry Botterman Sr. and Herman Zarndt on March 25, 1896 for the sum of \$3,000.00. Botterman and Zarndt also had another meat market in Itasca, Ill.

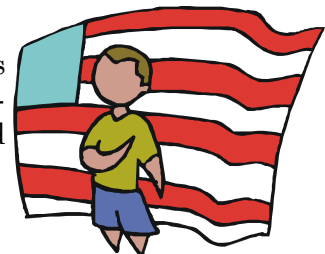


After Botterman Sr. married in 1898, they decided to dissolve the partnership and drew lots to decide who would stay in Roselle or go to Itasca. Botterman Sr. stayed in Roselle. Henry Botterman Jr. helped in the store when he was about 8 years of age. He started working full time at the age of 14. In 1921 he went into partnership with his father. It was then known as H. Botterman and Son. In 1929 Henry Botterman Sr. sold his interest to Walter J. Nerge, which changed the name of the store to H. H. Botterman and Co. or Botterman's Foods.

This business continued until Sept 13, 1963 when the merchandise and fixtures were sold, with the property being sold to Texaco Inc. (The other building which faced the same as the store, was used as a residence for the people employed by Botterman Sr. and was later moved to the rear of the property and connected to the horse barn.)

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA EXHIBIT COMING MAY-JULY

The Boy Scouts of America are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. Working with the Boy Scouts from Roselle we will have a temporary exhibit from May to July this year in the flag room on the second floor of the Sumner House Museum. Drop by and see it.



FLYING MAILMAN LANDS IN ROSELLE



It was October 1, 1946, and a helicopter carrying mail landed on Main Street as Roselle residents watched. The demonstration was staged as part of Air Mail Week at the suggestion of Mrs. Anne Mae Smith, the postmistress, who is shown aboard the helicopter, ready to take off with a bag of mail. This was taken from the newspaper archives of the Roselle History Museum. The story originally appeared in the Chicago Daily News.

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 to the Roselle History Museum for 2010

New Renewal Circle One: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 Other Amount
\$ _____

Name _____

address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

Mail to: Roselle History Museum

39 E. Elm Street

Roselle, IL 60172

SP2010

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 putting 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

GREAT BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM

Cherished Recipes is a unique 440-recipe cookbook comprised of favorite dishes of many current and former residents. It features 9 categories of recipes as well as personal stories and household hints. Hurry.... Only a few are left and they will not be reprinted!

Remembering Roselle is a unique pictorial history of the village. It contains 129 pages with 200 pictures that will take you on an historical trip through Roselle. It is great for browsing and sharing with friends. See what our town was like in the "good old days".

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39 E. ELM STREET
ROSELLE, IL 60172