



# Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

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Spring 2012 Issue

Watch for our float during the annual Rose Parade on June 3, 2012

Inside:....*Schaumburg Regional Airport formerly Roselle Airport*



## .Christmas Open house



Thank you for making our annual Christmas open house on December 4<sup>th</sup> a huge success. We had the largest turnout ever, enjoying homemade cookies and touring the museum.

We are looking forward to seeing you next December.

## GENERAL U.S. GRANT IS COMING TO ROSELLE

To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, the Roselle History Museum has invited Ulysses S. Grant to share his thoughts with us for our annual Historical Evening. At 8:00 p.m. on April 14, 2012, in the Trinity Family Life Center, 405 S. Rush St., Roselle, Terry Lynch will portray General Grant and share his thoughts on how the war was not restricted to the battle fields but, also affected the lives of average citizens as the nation struggled to remain united. Preceding the program, at 7:30 p.m. , a wine and cheese reception will be offered featuring wine, compliments of Lynfred Winery. Coffee, lemonade, and homemade cookies will follow the program.



We again are pleased to have Terry present our program this year. Other programs he previously has done included *The Underground Railroad* and *Early Movers and Shakers*.

Advance tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at the Roselle Village Hall, 31 S. Prospect Street, at the Roselle History Museum's Office, 39 E. Elm Street, or from museum members beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. Tickets purchased at the door the night of the program will be \$15. Students ages 6 – 12 will be admitted free when accompanied by an adult..

Advance tickets may be ordered by sending your check payable to the Roselle Historical Foundation. Mail it to the Roselle History Museum, 39 E. Elm St., Roselle, IL 60172. Tickets purchased by mail may be picked up at the door the night of the performance.

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### WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM.....

The exhibit committee has refreshed the Church and School Room exhibits in the Sumner House. They gave it a fresh coat of paint, improved the lighting and upgraded the exhibits. It was a labor of love.

The Girl Scouts of America are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. An exhibit has been set-up in the Flag Room in the Sumner House museum.

Stop by and see these exhibits while touring our museum.

## ROSELLE AIRPORT

by Kathy Schabelski

Roselle residents have had aircraft in their skies for some time, even before an airport was established. During World War II, an area around what is currently Schaumburg and Barrington Roads was used as an Optional Landing Field (OLF) for pilots training at the Glenview Naval Air Station.

This photo was from 1992. We don't have either a more current view or, a good picture of the old Roselle Airport. If any of our readers can provide that, we would really appreciate it.



The airport as we know it today had its beginnings in 1959 in an unincorporated area of Cook and DuPage counties, between the villages of Roselle and Schaumburg. Although the airport was not (and has never been) officially part of the village of Roselle, it was originally called Roselle Airport, probably because it was physically closer to Roselle than Schaumburg. In June of 1961, the owner of the airport approached the Roselle Village Board about the possibility of annexing the airport into the Village. Talks continued for eighteen months, and in January of 1963, the Roselle Planning Commission recommended to the Village Board that the airport be annexed into the Village. For reasons that are not documented, the proposal of airport annexation was never voted on by the Village Board. In 1964, the airport was annexed to the Village of Schaumburg. In the early 1970s, the airport's name was changed from Roselle Airport to Schaumburg Airpark, which fueled speculation by some Roselle residents that Roselle "gave away" the airport. Today, the airport's official name is Schaumburg Regional Airport.

The airport continued to be privately operated until 1994, when the Village of Schaumburg purchased it in order to prevent it from being sold to developers. The Schaumburg Village Board and Schaumburg Park District purchased the airport for \$14 million and paid for \$8 million of improvements. The biggest improvement was replacing the 30-year-old 3,000 foot by 40 foot asphalt runway with a 3,800 foot by 100 foot concrete runway. The new runway also had a parallel taxiway and concrete tie-down areas for parking.

The purpose of President Nixon's visit to our area was to dedicate a water treatment plant at the corner of Barrington Road and Irving Park Road. The President viewed a sewage treatment operation that was considered necessary for his Administration to meet antipollution goals and federal water quality standards that were in place at the time. The plant in Hanover Park was the only plant operated by the Metropolitan Sanitary District that had a step of water treatment in place that increased waste removal from 90 percent to over 99 percent. Our local plant was being considered as a model for a \$4 billion program in aid to local governments to install improved sewage treatment facilities.

One issue that has been an ongoing challenge for the airport and Village residents to coexist peacefully in recent years has been that of aircraft noise. A flight school has its base of operations at the airport. A maneuver allowed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to allow students to efficiently practice takeoffs and landings is called a "touch and go." The student takes off, circles around an area that is typically less than 1000 feet in altitude, then land. Because of the frequency and low altitude of these maneuvers, residents who lived near the airport frequently heard the sound of aircraft. Solutions proposed to abate the noise included stopping touch and go's entirely, moving them to a nonresidential area, or restricting the times of day that a "touch and go" maneuver could be practiced by flight school students. However, of the airport's approximately 41,000 annual takeoffs, only about 9,000, or 22%, are touch and go, so the majority of airport traffic has not been cause for concern to residents of the Village of Roselle.

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#### HOW ARE WE DOING?

When we prepare this newsletter each quarter, we try to present articles from the past. They are either actual events or personal memories. In the upcoming quarters we will present articles about businesses that used to exist in Roselle. If there is something that you would like to us to include, or share some of your memories

NEXT MONTH we will feature an article on dairy farming in Roselle written by our president Ray Hitzemann

MEMBERSHIP

SP-12

*Yes, I'd like to help the Museum! Here's my membership contribution for 2012*

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

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

*Other Amount* \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

**ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM**

**39 E. ELM STREET**

**ROSELLE, IL 60172**