



Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

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Spring 2011 Issue



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• *ROSELLE TRUCK FARM*

WHAT 'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM??

Come in and see the large mural of early times in our area in the Children's room. It was painted by Paulina Engel, wife of Jim and daughter-in-law of Al and Marge Engel. The museum is open Sunday from 2-4 or by appointment

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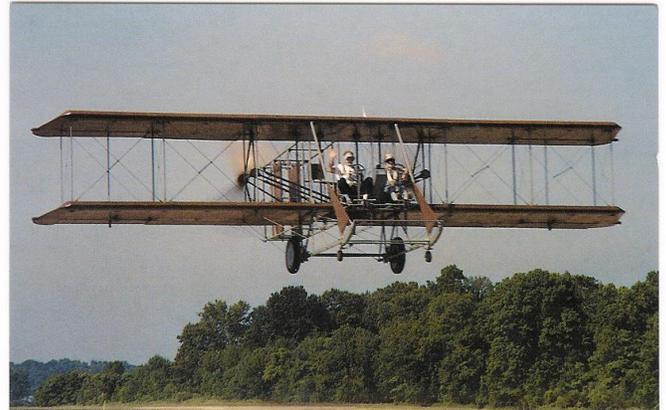
Joseph Devlin

Historian

Joan Beaprez

Take Flight with the Wright Brothers!

Having lost their way on a cross-country flight, Wilbur and Orville Wright will make an emergency landing at the Trinity Lutheran Family Life Center, 405 S. Rush Street, Roselle, on Saturday, April 9, 2011. While visiting with us, they will demonstrate their childhood experiments of making improvements to a sled, a bicycle, and a kite. They will reenact the story of constructing the first airplane and recreate their historic twelve-second flight.



The evening begins with a wine reception, compliments of Lynfred Winery, at 7:30 p.m. with the program following at 8:00 p.m. New this year – purchase a bottle of wine and win a restaurant gift card! Also for your spending enjoyment, raffle opportunities and silent auction items! Join us for an evening of entertainment and fun! Homemade cookies 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 Roselle 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.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

About 60 people attended the "Olde England" Christmas open house held at the history museum in early December. The winners of the door prizes were: Poinsettia-Carol Carani; Lynfred Wine-Barbara Meisel; Christmas Plate-Adam Frandsen; Tin of Candies-Jake Zielinski; "Remembering Roselle"-Elaine Pizzicaro.

The Poinsettia was donated by Platt Hill Nursery. The other items were donated by members.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ron Sass 1943-2010

Ron Sass passed away December 20, 2010 at the age of 67 after a long battle with cancer. He was a strong supporter of the Roselle History Museum both personally by helping out with special events and as a Roselle Village Trustee for 26 years. As a gesture of final support his family requested that memorials be sent to the Roselle History Museum

TRUCK GARDENERS By Elinor (Hortick) Mueller

"Our farm of 40 acres, located on the southwest corner of Plum Grove and Nerge Roads in Schaumburg Township, since incorporated into Village of Roselle, was strictly for raising vegetables. It was one of two truck farms in the immediate area. The other farms being dairy farms growing mostly grain for their cattle.

A variety of vegetables were grown, such as cabbage, tomatoes, onions, squash, carrots, parsnips, sugar beets, asparagus, melons, pumpkins, corn, cucumbers, rhubarb, and raspberries. There was also an apple and cherry orchard, and a huge bed of gladiola flowers.

Most of this produce was taken to the Randolph Street Market in Chicago where it was purchased by wholesalers and some retailers. Some vegetables were sold on the farm and to some local grocery stores.

On July 5, 1933 a tornado hit the area. All of the buildings, barn, sheds, home and crops were destroyed. Since it was too late in the season to re-

plant, we had no income, so my dad was forced to work for the WPA until spring at which time he delivered seed for Vaughn's Seed Co.

Truck farming is hard work and long hours, driving to the market at 2 a.m. and then working until the next day's load was ready for delivery. From planting in spring until harvesting in fall there was always plowing, planting, cultivating and harvesting to do. In the winter there were always machines to repair.

Farming is a gamble. Weather can affect all profit and loss for the year; too much rain, not enough rain, too hot or too cold. Farming is a labor of love, God's gift to a few."

THE HISTORIC ROSELLE

Jay Gosalia who was a student at Lake Park volunteered one hour a week at the museum for two years. When he went to college, he had to write a paper for his English Class. So, he wrote about the museum. It contains a paragraph about Roselle as in introduction followed by an interview with Joan Beauprez about the history of the museum and what it means to her. Her comments reflect the feelings of many of the members of the museum. If you would like to read this paper, it is available on the web site. Go to our website at rosellehistory.com, click on the calendar tab and scroll down to Jay Gosalia. If you do not have computer access and would like a copy, please call the History Museum at 630-351-5300. Leave your name and address and we will gladly mail it to you.

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM WEBSITE

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

HARVESTING OATS IN THE 40'S

By Ray Hitzemann

During my grade school days in the 1940's, I helped harvest oats at several local farms.

Oats were planted on all dairy farms as a necessary crop for feeding the cattle. In August when the oats were golden in the fields, the work would begin. The oats would be cut with a binder machine pulled by either a team of horses or tractor which would cut the oats and tie them in bundles about a foot in diameter and drop them on the ground.

The farmer would then gather them into shocks of 8 to 10 bundles, standing the oats on end. After they had dried for several days, it was time to start threshing them.

A work team of farmers from several farms and some "day laborers" from town would be assembled for this task. It required a threshing machine which was shared by several farmers, two hay rack wagons with a team of horses, a box wagon, a blower and three tractors.

After the morning milking was done and the dew was off of the oats, the work would begin.



Four or five people would go out and load the shocks of oats on to the hayrack wagon. When the wagon was full, they would take it to the threshing machine which would be set up in the middle of the field. The machine was powered by a belt driven from the fly wheel of a tractor which would turn the gears in the machine.

The oat bundles were fed into the machine which separated the oats from the straw. The straw was blown into a straw stack. The oats fell to the bottom and were augured through a tube into the box wagon. My job was to level the oats in the box wagon. When the wagon was full, it was taken to the barn. The oats were unloaded into a blower and blown up into the oat bin on the second floor of the barn. The oat bins were on the second floor of the barns so that the oats could be shoveled into a hole in the floor and fall to the lower floor to feed the cattle.

At noon time the farmer's wife would have a meal prepared for the workers. The typical meal was roast beef or ham, mashed potatoes with gravy, homemade bread and butter, vegetables (typically greens beans or corn from her garden) and a fruit pie for desert. Then it was back to work.



When one field was finished the "threshing crew" moved on to the next field and started all over again.

Later it was time to bale the straw, which was used for bedding for the cattle. A crew of 4 or 5 people would take a stationary baler out to the straw stack. The straw was fed into the baler using a hay fork. One man was sitting on each side of the baler; one would feed in the wires for tying the bales from his side and the man on the other side would drop in a divider board used to separate the bales and tie the wires when the bale was big enough. When the bales came out they would be loaded on the hay rack wagon and taken to the barn.

All of this ended in the late 40's when the farms started turning into sub-divisions.

MEMBERSHIP

SP-11

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 had reduced their financial support of the museum by 50% for 2010. Hopefully some of 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*_____

*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

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM

39 E. ELM STREET

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