



Sumner House

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation
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Roselle Historical Foundation welcomes its new Museum Manager, **Bonnie Rimer**.

Bonnie's role is to manage the day-to-day operation of the museum: its collection, buildings and grounds, fund raising and other events, public relations, and clerical tasks. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the part-time position as well as an impressive educational background.

She sees the museum's strength in its "solid core of volunteers," the museum's collection, and its mission. (See Mission Statement on page 8.)

"I would love to see more residents taking advantage of all the museum has to offer, whether through visits, membership, or participation in the museum's programs. I think, through a combination of additional programming, marketing, and increase of didactic materials within the museum and a greater presence on the web and through social media, we could reach a broader audience and bring in new visitors and welcome back those that have visited before to new exhibits and experiences that will help bring Roselle's history alive for them."

Bonnie's heart is in community service. She is a girl scout troop leader, volunteers at District 12 taking a lead role in the creation of the D12 learning gardens, and she helps the Roselle Garden Club create their giving garden. She has served on the Flags for Roselle committee since its beginning in 2016 and will soon serve as a member of the FFR Board of Directors.

She has a passion for early childhood education and hopes to bring a younger generation of visitors to the museum.

Bonnie Rimer is not new to the museum. Back in 2005, she initiated the Historic Property Recognition Program (HPRP) which involved extensive research on various properties in Roselle. (*cont'd*)

Christmas Open House



Sunday, December 2, from 2 to 4 p.m.
Sumner House Museum, 102 S. Prospect Street

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO OPEN HOUSE? Right! Lots of snowmen—in the form of cookies and other treats. They'll be among the holiday decorations that will warm the spirit as will the subtle music in the background. Both buildings—the Sumner House Museum and the Richter House—will be open for tours. See how a home may have looked in the 1920s at Christmastime. Don't miss the table setting in the dining room.

New this year: A lucky RHM member will win a Lynfred Winery gift basket! All members who have contributed dues for 2018 will be eligible. In addition, door prizes will be awarded during the Open House.



(*Bonnie-cont'd*) She graduated from St. Walter School and Lake Park High School. She received her BA from the University of Illinois and an MA in Art Conservation from Queen's University in Canada. She owns her own painting conservation business, where she works with museums and private clients.

The youngest of six children, Bonnie has fond memories of growing up in Roselle. She and her husband, John (a librarian at Roselle Public Library), have two daughters.



Celebrating the Museum's 30th Anniversary

About 50 visitors, volunteers, and VIPs rallied on Sept. 23 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Sumner House Museum on Prospect St.

Rose Queens

Roselle's first Rose Queen (1960), Ann Vander Werf Thanos, and the 2018 Rose Queen, Joie Allen, were among some very special guests. Ann shared memorabilia from the 1960 Rose Queen Pageant, and Joie shared a video of her talent performance during the 2018 Rose Queen Pageant.

State Representative

Rep. Christine Winger enjoyed a guided tour of the Richter House by Diana Eckert. Diana was part of the team who, in 2000, transformed the house into a typical 1920s circa home.

Barber Shop Quartet

(Joyce Kerr, Joyce Kuhlmann, John Kerr, Cindy Kuhlmann Kerr)

Joyce Kerr, a charter member of the Foundation group that organized the museum back in 1988, traveled in from Dowagiac, MI, to join the celebration. She posed for a picture with Joyce Kuhlmann in the barbershop exhibit and shared stories about the good old days when their late husbands owned the two barber shops in town. Kerr's husband, Jim, owned Advanced Hair Design on Main St., and Kuhlmann's husband, Ron, owned Ron's Barber Shop on Bokelman St. Most of the artifacts in the museum's exhibit are from their shops. Today, Kuhlmann's daughter, Cindy, and Kerr's son, John, both barbers, are married and run Ron & Cindy's on Bokelman St.

Piece of Cake

And what's a birthday party without a birthday cake! Here's what it looked like before it was cut into single servings for all to enjoy.



Ann Thanos
& Joie Allen



Rep. Christine Winger



Joyce Kerr & Joyce Kuhlmann



Volunteers Hank Kvintus
& Frank Zielinski

The 10th Annual Potluck Luncheon



Seated: Marge Engel; Standing: Marie Piraino-Kay Cahill
Sue Spachman-Barbara Peterson-Joyce Kuhlmann



Seated: Bob Kling; Standing: Sharon Hitzemann
Ruth Bagel-Joan Beauprez

(Not pictured: Susan Jankowski, cookbook photog, moved to WI.)

The *Cherished Recipes* cookbook committee held its 10th annual potluck luncheon on August 7 at the home of Sue Spachman. Originally, the luncheon was an opportunity for the cookbook creators to pat each other on the back and say, "Good job, my friend!"

Now, since the group has grown, and is no longer a committee, the lunch bunch gets together to brainstorm ideas for the upcoming Christmas Open House. This year, they chose a "Snowman" theme. Keeping with tradition, each guest will receive a cookie recipe booklet as a thank-you gift from the history museum for your continued support of its mission. ~~~~~

Flags for Roselle

We Will Remember Them on November 11

The final tribute for 2018 to veterans and others who have fought for our freedom will take place on Veterans Day, Sunday, November 11, when 244



American flags will be installed at homes and businesses throughout Roselle.

The 2019 program will kick off on January 1. You may subscribe any time after that. Reminders will be sent. Deadline is April 1, 2019.

Ever wonder about the behind-the-scenes effort that makes the program possible? Here's Part One.

1) The U.S. American-made flags are purchased and stored at the home of one of the volunteers.

2) PVC pipe, caps, rebar, and zip ties, are purchased by a volunteer at Menard's and delivered to Lake Park High School. This expenditure has been covered by Thrivent Financial Services.

3) Lake Park HS students cut the 12-foot PVC pipe to 8 feet, and remove all the printing. This is done in the school's Innovation Center.

4) The students then drill holes in the pipe in two places, slip the zip ties through the holes and through the grommets in the flag.

5) They then finish the assembly by placing a cap at the top of the pole, and Voila! one flag is ready for installation. Multiply that by 244.

6) Next they roll the flags, and secure them with rubber bands for delivery.

The flags are then delivered to the Fire Department for storage and eventual distribution.

There's more. We'll continue the saga of how it all works in the next newsletter. The creativity, cooperation, and enthusiasm shown by the students, Lake Park staff, and all the volunteers have been nothing short of awesome.



Students & Firemen

Thank You to the 244 subscribers, Printing Plus of Roselle, Thrivent Financial, several anonymous donors, and many volunteers for making the program succeed.

"It wasn't until I lost America for a time that I realized how much I loved her." (John McCain)

Celebrating 50 Years!



It was 50 years ago that Ron and Marilyn Rodewald established Rodewald Properties, and on August 10 this year, the town turned out to help them celebrate.

Rodewald Properties has expanded significantly since it began with one

office building at 15 S. Howard St. That building has been remodeled and repurposed over the years, but remains the center of operation.

Prior to opening Rodewald Properties, Rodewald Farms Dairy was operated by Ron's father, Henry, from the same location. For a heartwarming history of the Rodewald Farms Dairy Co., Google *Roselle History Museum*, click on Newsletter, and go to the Summer 2010 issue. See "Dairies in Roselle."

Thank you to Tim Briscoe

for donating his time, energy, and materials to create the lettering in two rooms at the Museum. Briscoe, whose shop is at 119 Bokelman St., has donated signs for the museum's events as well.



Do Ya Read Me?

I often wonder what happens to me when I land in the mail box at your front door or on your computer. Do you read me? If so, do you enjoy what you read?

The only way I know if my stories are meeting your expectations is if you let my editor know. So, please take a moment and let us know:

- What you like most about the newsletter;
- What you like least; and
- What you'd like to see that you haven't seen before.

Contact my editor at kaycahill@comcast.net, and you'll receive a reply pronto. You can count on it.



Ye Olde Aluminum Christmas Tree

Charlie Brown played a major role in the demise of the aluminum Christmas tree.

For a few holiday seasons in the early 1960s, aluminum trees glistened in homes across America. They came with spotlights and color wheels that made the trees twinkle in rotating hues.

1965: Enter TV's "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and Lucy's instruction to "get the biggest aluminum tree you can find, Charlie Brown. Maybe paint it pink!" However, Charlie Brown and Linus had another idea: a small natural tree. That did it. Sales of aluminum trees tapered off, and it wasn't long before they were gone.

Now, 50+ years later, they're making a comeback. They're found at estate sales, thrift shops, and yes, on eBay, where a pink one sold for \$3,600! Others go for hundreds of dollars. Originally, they were \$25. Aluminum trees are now considered collectors' items. Some actually think of them as another symbol of holiday Americana. In fact, the museum boasts one of its very own aluminum trees. It was part of the 1950s Room exhibit, and it's ready for an encore at a "Christmas yet-to-come."



Some of Our Readers Loved The Trees



"I remember growing up with a 6-foot silver Christmas tree in the '60s. We had two of the rotating four-color wheels that changed the silver tree to alternating colors of red, blue, green, and yellow. My mom insisted that they be synchronized for the benefit of those that would pass by the large picture window. My brother, sister, and I liked to lie on the floor in the living room as the colors bounced off the walls and ceiling as well as the tree." (Mary Swiderski)

Others, Not So Much

"Yuck, ugly! I am so glad my parents never got into that—real trees all the way while I was growing up! In fact, I can remember a few times that Dad got the tree on Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning, the presents appeared under the tree—what a surprise for us kids!" (Diana Eckert)

"I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love." (Linus Van Pelt)

50 Years Ago...

by Tom Piorkowski

APOLLO 8—In the minds of many, Apollo 11 stands as the pinnacle of human achievement in space. It is the moment in which the U.S. decisively won the Space Race and rightly stands as one of humanity's finest achievements. What is often lost in the celebration of what Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins accomplished is the recognition due to the prior achievements that made Apollo 11 possible.

As we approach the end of the year, we also approach the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 8 mission, one of those prior achievements without which Apollo 11 would never have succeeded. In that mission, which lasted from December 21 to December 27, 1968, astronauts Frank Borman, James Lovell, and William Anders orbited the moon. While not nearly as famous as its later counterpart, it was a historic accomplishment in its own right. In many ways, it can be said that it matched Apollo 11 in the sheer volume of its achievements. Among other things, Apollo 8 marked the first time in which humans left Low Earth Orbit and the first time in which humans were subject to the gravitational pull of a celestial body other than the Earth.

The sheer magnitude of the accomplishment was recognized the world over. In Rome, Pope Paul VI said of the crew's reading from the Book of Genesis that for a brief moment, "the world was at peace." Even the Soviet Union recognized what had been accomplished and sent a congratulatory message. In the U.S. it was celebrated as a respite from the political turmoil that had rocked the nation. The astronauts were named *Time* magazine's Men of the Year and received a ticker tape parade in New York City. Perhaps the most poignant example of the effect the mission had on the American people was a telegram sent by a random citizen that simply read "THANKS. YOU SAVED 1968." In addition to the celebrations that marked their safe return to Earth, the memory of Apollo 8 is celebrated by those in NASA who worked on the Apollo program and are perhaps in the best position to appreciate its achievement. Michael Collins graciously conceded that he believed future generations would recognize that "Apollo 8 was of more significance than Apollo 11."

Harrison Schmitt, a member of the Apollo 17 mission and currently the second to last person to walk on the moon, declared that Apollo 8 "was probably the most remarkable effort that the NASA team down here ever put together."

While the specifics of the Apollo 8 mission have faded in the memories of many Roselle residents, what is remarkable is the effect that the NASA program had on the hearts and minds of so many during that time.

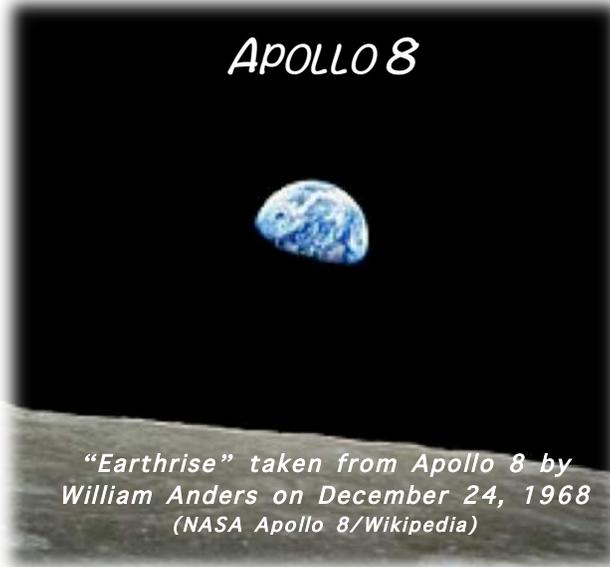
One long-time Roselle resident, Jan Swiontek, remembers that she and her family were on their way home from a road trip and that they stopped at a hotel on the way home just so that they could get to a

television in time for the first moon landing. She remembers how she and her husband opened a bottle of wine to toast the astronauts while two of their young children jumped up on down on the bed in excitement.

Another long-time Roselle resident, Kay Cahill, remembers her son doing a 2nd grade report on Alan Shepard shortly after he became the first American in space and how she and her family watched the first moon landing from the hospital after another of her sons had broken his leg. As for the community as a whole, she recalls how all-encompassing the space program became. Halloween costumes, school projects, and so much more were all space themed. She also remembers how President John F. Kennedy's call to go to the moon had been fulfilled and the sense of national pride that came with the U.S. having defeated the Soviet Union in the Space Race.

The long-term effects of NASA's early missions in general, and the Apollo 8 mission in particular, are still with us today. One of Apollo 8's most enduring legacies came as the result of one of the countless photographs the crew took while in orbit around the moon. The photograph, known as "Earthrise," shows the Earth coming over the lunar horizon. This image, showing our planet looking like a small blue and green marble hanging in the vastness of space, helped spark the environmental movement as it drove home the

(cont'd on Page 7)



The 8:30 Milk Train Out of Roselle

by Earl H. Crandall (1884-1977)

Jane Rozek of the Schaumburg Township Library shared this article written by Roselle's Earl Crandall c 1975. It appears here just as it was written.

For more than a century, Roselle Road through Schaumburg and Bloomingdale Townships was one of the main milk and cheese pipelines into Chicago. In the 1920s, this rolling prairie section was one of the dairy centers between Chicago and Elgin. Schaumburg Township farmers brought their milk and cream to collecting and processing points along Roselle Road.

From those points dairy products—fluid milk, butter, and cheese—were transported down the road to the Village of Roselle and the Milwaukee Railroad from which a “milk train” made a daily round trip between Elgin and Chicago. In addition a considerable number of farmers brought their fresh milk directly to the train in Roselle and were direct shippers into the city.

Being Roselle station agent in this period was the most important job in Roselle measure in terms of area and number of people served. I took over the Roselle station job in 1921 and handled it for 30 years. During my first two decades as railroad agent, practically this entire commerce passed through my office.

One of my sharpest recollections was having to make out the shipment papers for all those German farmers in Schaumburg Township. It took me a long time to learn to spell those German names, such as Springingsgoth (sic).

During these years there were commuter trains through Roselle at 5:15 and 6:30 in the morning. Then the milk train came at 8:30. We had as many as 25 farmers from Schaumburg and Bloomingdale Townships, who brought their cans of milk each morning and left them on one of two platforms we had at the station.

The crew on the milk train would handle the transfer of the cans from the loading platform to the train. The milk train came back at 4 in the afternoon and unloaded the empty milk cans so the farmers could pick them up the next morning. This shows how times have changed. It's a good thing the farmers aren't doing that now. There wouldn't be any cans there in the morning.

But the farmers were only one means of moving milk from Schaumburg and Bloomingdale farms to Chicago.



Earl H. Crandall
Roselle Station Agent & First Village Clerk

Nearly five miles north at the corner of Roselle and Higgins Roads (today this is in Hoffman Estates) stood the Nebel General Store and Creamery.

Farmers as far north as Palatine would bring in cream to Nebel and the creamery would make it into butter and cheese. Most of the butter was sold back to farmers in the area.

Several times a year I would get a shipment of 40 to 50 cases of cheese from up at Roselle and Higgins Roads. It was hauled by wagon to the Roselle station for shipment to Chicago.

Times are always changing, and during my years as Roselle station agent, I witnessed change. Farmers and companies in the Schaumburg Township agricultural complex were constantly striving to

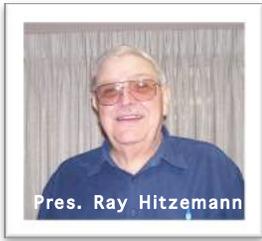
deliver a better product to Chicago in order to get better prices and protect their market. This also demonstrated how important our area was in milk production for Chicago.

At Schaumburg Center, situated at the intersection of Roselle and Schaumburg Roads, a milk plant was operated by Lake Zurich Milk Company. Its manager got a group of Schaumburg Township farmers interested in bringing their milk to Schaumburg Center so it could be cooled, put in large containers and moved by wagon down Roselle Road to the railroad siding at the Roselle station where an ice refrigerated car would be waiting.

Those milk wagons were always pulled by mules. Each morning there was usually two wagon loads of milk delivered to that refrigerated car and sometimes there would be a third wagon load of milk. The “iced car” would be brought out from Elgin on one of those early morning trains and put on our Roselle siding. After the mule wagons had delivered their cargo, the car would be pulled into Chicago.



The Schaumburg Township area continued to be a major supplier of milk products to Chicago market until after World War II and into the 1950s. However, before the war, the mule wagon ceased hauling milk to Roselle as new milk handling methods, hinged to electrical refrigeration at the farm with truck transportation to the city, came into general use. Ed. note: For more of Jane's stories, visit <https://ourlocalhistory.wordpress.com/>



President's Report

2018 was an active year at the Museum. In addition to our normal activities, several other opportunities presented themselves. Some much needed changes were made to the Sumner House. We installed new carpeting on the 2nd floor. The entry room and the former Children's Room (now "My Home Town") received major upgrades. Flooring was replaced. Rooms were painted. Exhibits were rearranged. Much of this work was funded by a Taste of Roselle grant.

We celebrated the museum's 30th anniversary Sept. 23 and are looking forward to the Christmas Open House Dec. 2. We participated in the Taste of Roselle, Flags for Roselle, and will be on the Cocoa Crawl route.

Joan Beauprez retired in October after 40 years of dedicated service. After a long search, we entered into a contract with Bonnie Rimer, who has succeeded Joan.

We are in relatively good financial shape. We are making a concerted effort to increase our membership by being more involved in the community. Ray Hitzemann

(APOLLO 8 – CONT'D) knowledge of just how fragile our home actually is in the vastness of the universe. For these early NASA missions in general, in many ways they represent what can only be described as a beautiful moment in the history of the world. During their world tour following their return from the moon, the crew of Apollo 11 noted that the countless people they encountered would not say "You did it" or "You Americans did it." Instead they all said "We did it." Humanity had done it. Few events in the history of the world have been able to bring people of such differing backgrounds and circumstances together as the lunar missions in the late 1960s and early 1970s did.

As we approach the first of many 50th anniversary celebrations associated with the Apollo missions, it is worth our time to reflect on the first of these missions to travel to the moon. Cynics may ask what the point was. Why should all of the staff at NASA have gone through the trouble? Why should the crewmembers have risked their lives? Why should their families have had to go through all the worry that their husbands, fathers, sons, etc., may not come home? President Kennedy had already answered that question. We did it not because it was easy, but because it was hard. We did it because, like climbing the tallest mountain or flying the Atlantic, it forced us as humans to utilize the best of our energies and skills.



What Else is New?

The *Cocoa Crawl*, set for Sat., Nov. 24, will begin at the Library at 1 p.m., where Santa and Rose Queen Joie Allen will arrive at 2 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Village of Roselle, Choose Roselle, Roselle Public Library District, and the Roselle Main Street Merchants.

The *Crawl* will continue along Main Street and will feature Elsa and Anna from "Frozen" and musical entertainment in the Civic Plaza at Main & Prospect. A community tree will be lighted there at the conclusion of festivities. For more information, visit www.roselle.il.us/CocoaCrawl.



D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy Beach

will be the topic of the 2019 *Historical Evening* on April 13, presented by Jim Gibbons. At 6:30 p.m., prior to the program, enjoy wine & cheese, and following the program, enjoy beverages and cookies. More information will be published in the next newsletter.

Shareshop Eighteen area museum reps held their quarterly session Oct 16 at the Bloomingdale Library. The bright, positive, forward-thinking leaders shared ideas about membership and events. They discussed concerns, and offered suggestions; i.e., "This is what worked for us," etc. All over coffee and rolls.

Have a Seat Thanks to an anonymous donor, the Museum Office boasts 14 nearly new chairs: swivel, adjustable, with arms, and oh! so comfortable.



Your Guess is as Good as Mine



Give up? This new/old addition to the museum's collection is a ROLLEMOUT (roll 'em out), a pastry cutter used to make circular shapes. Who'd a thunk!

Student Column Beginning with the Spring 2019 issue, the RHM Newsletter will feature a column written by Lake Park High School students!
