

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

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World War II Display

Stop by the Roselle Public Library during September and see the History Museum's World War II display in the show case across from the check-out counter.

FUTURE EVENTS

December 2, 2012 The annual Christmas open house at our museum. More information will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

March 2, 2012 The museum will host a one day local historic tour. Exact location and details will be in the next issue.

Board of Directors

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TASTE OF ROSELLE

We would like to thank everyone who visited our booth or the museum during the Taste of Roselle. Many people enjoyed trying to guess what several items were that we had on display. Pictured here are several of the items. Do you know what they are? The answers are below.

Upper left hand side.- A hat stretcher. Upper right hand side.- A kerosene iron. The kerosene was in the tank in

front and the flame was in the gap in the middle to keep the iron hot. Everyone thought it was a steam iron. *Bottom.*- A mothball holder to be hung in your closet. Most people thought it was some kind of spring.



Roselle Public Library Sunday September 30 1:30 p.m.

Author Talk - In Love with Freedom. Author Steven Aavang will talk about how he decided to write his book about Princess Catherine of Romania and how she help G.I. prisoners of war in Romania during WWII. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Schaumburg Township Public Library September 30 1:00 p.m.

Larry Nerge will present a program entitled "Search of St. John Lutheran Church Schaumburg" (or as some call it, Rodenburg). His efforts encompass 473 surnames and reads like who's who in Schaumburg Township.

Itasca Historical Society October 14

The Itasca Historical Society will host a historic Trolley tour of Itasca on Sunday October 14, 2012. The tours will begin at the historic train station across from the library. It will be hosted by Jerry Danzer. Cost \$5 per person children are welcome.

LOCAL HISTORY: The Kent Tragedy

Rosell Hough, founder of Roselle, II, played a small role in this scenario.

In 1833 Dr. Meacham, the first settler in Bloomingdale, made a squatters claim in Sections 14 and 15 and built a house on section 14. Today this is the area east of Roselle Road, on the north side of Lake Street, close to where Dunkin' Donuts and Dino's Restaurant now stand. He leased both sections to Milton Kent who came from New York in 1835.

While Kent held this lease he made claims to Sections 10 and 11, but erected buildings on the land leased from Meacham. They consisted of a frame house and a barn designed for tavern-keeping on a small portion of the leased land which is located on the north side of Lake Street by Fairfield Way (about where Dino's Restaurant is). Meacham sold his claim to the land to Mr. Green before Kent's lease expired. In 1837 when the lease expired Green demanded possession of the property from Kent, but Kent refused claiming that Meacham had given him the land. Meacham sued Kent. The court confirmed the title to Meacham. In spring of 1840 the Sheriff of DuPage had to remove Kent and his family from the property. The ejected family moved their goods to a grove not too far away. They piled the furniture to make walls and spread canvas to make a roof.

Mr. Kent, his son, son-in-law, and a future son-in-law had a meeting. They drew up a guit claim deed for Green to sign. They intended to force Green to sign it. They appeared at his door the following night. Green had taken possession of Kent's house. One of them knocked at the door. No one answered. The door was knocked down and there was Green with a rifle, pistol, and a butcher knife. The gun was fired and just barely missed the neck of old Kent. All of the men were now in the house, and old Kent was fighting with Green. He tried to use his pistol but it would not work. Green stabbed Kent in the heart, and Kent stumbled back outdoors exclaiming, "I am a dead man!" Instantly the young Kent fought with Green, but Green thrust the same knife that had just killed old Kent into young Kent's back. Green was hit on the head with the pistol and collapsed. The fight ended.

One of the young men stayed with Kent who was not dead yet. The others grabbed Green and took him to Kent's temporary shelter. They made him sign the quit claim and then brought him back to his house and left him on the steps. Green's wife had run to the neighbors for help and they soon returned with her to the scene. Rosell Hough helped bandage young Kent's wounds and the

other neighbors helped Green. The Sheriff was called, and he arrested Kent and the rest of the gang. While waiting for the trial they escaped and fled the state. Green was found not guilty of killing old Kent. He kept the property for another four years, sold it, and moved back to Chicago.

It was too bad for Mrs. Green that her husband wasn't killed in the fight because a few years later Green killed his wife with poison. He was found guilty. A few days before he was going to be hung, he hung himself in his cell. It is said by those who knew him that he had no sense of right and that he was cruel to his wife and unmerciful to everybody. One time he poured arsenic into a spring and poisoned three innocent children in order to drive their father away.

NOTE- There are several different accounts of this event. One of them appeared a book called the History of DuPage County 1857. We have a copy at the museum.



Do you remember?......

FRANK EBELING ELECTRIC

Frank Ebeling began his electrical efforts when electricity first came to Bartlett and Itasca. The crews worked from house to house. He did a lot of work on local homes and farms He often spoke German to the farm families when he was installing the wiring. This surely helped grow his business in a strong German community.

The *Frank Ebeling Electric* store front was purchased from LeRoy Gieseke in 1948. It was located at 56 E. Irving Park Road. The store was in a split building. The west half held a dress shop that later became the Roselle Snack Shop. The Ebeling store was located in the eastern half of the building. Their phone number was 3864!

Frank did electrical work and repaired appliances. His wife Laura ran the store which sold major appliances such as Hotpoint and Maytag. They had certificate #5 from the Roselle Businessmen's Association where Ray Scamerhorn was the president and Ed Gieseke the secretary.

Some of the typical sales prices were a water heater \$100, Maytag washer \$175, refrigerator \$220, washer and dryer \$638, deep freeze \$295 and an electric range \$663. They also sold Christmas trees in season in the vacant lot to the east of them. The business closed in 1959.

RADIO HISTORY by Milan Bagel

Almost every book credits Guglielmo Marconi with inventing the radio in 1895. Actually, evidence indicates that Marconi only "copied" an invention originally presented by Nikola Tesla in 1893. Whatever the real truth is, we are certainly the benefactors of their work!

Through the early 1900's, experimentation with radio continued. Commercial broadcasting came into its own on November 2, 1920 when radio station KDKA made the first broadcast from Pittsburgh, PA. Chicago's first radio station was KYW which began in 1921. I believe Westinghouse Electric Company owned it. This was the first "specialized," radio station as it broadcast opera music exclusively, six days a week.

The early years provided commercial free radio as it was considered to be a public service. Unfortunately for all of us, the commercial value was quickly noted and the airwaves were filled with verbal advertisements beginning only a year or so after the first broadcast.

By 1922, there were over 600 radio stations in the United States and the race was on to build more radios! Between 1922 and 1930, 60% of American families had purchased radios. Manufacturers included Westinghouse, Atwater Kent, Rogers and Stewart Warner, to name a few.

In 1924, Powell Crosley Jr decided that radios were too expensive for his family budget. He purchased a book for twenty-five cents and proceeded to build his own radio. It worked so well that he decided to make it a commercial venture. He developed a radio that had good performance, while using inexpensive parts and cabinets. Crosley eventually became known as the "Henry Ford of Radio" and soon made radio receivers to suit any budget.

The radio in our Roselle History Museum exhibit is a Crosley Model XJ. It was produced in 1924 and is a four-tube TRF receiver. This was a gift from a friend of mine and I subsequently brought it into operating condition. With a 120-foot long antenna I am able to hear WBBM, WGN and sometimes, WMAQ. When I put on the head-phones, it is like a trip into the past and is appropriate for display in our 1920's era Richter House, located on the museum campus.



	MEMBERSHIP							W-11
	Yes, I'd like to help the Museum! Here's my membership contribut							12-2013
Mail to: Roselle History Museum, 39 E. Elm St. Roselle, IL 60172								
	\Box New	□ Renewal	Circle One:	\$25	\$50	\$100	\$250	
			$Other\ Amount_$		_			
Name								
$Address_$								_
Phone		y		_ State _		Zip		

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.

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

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM 39 E. ELM STREET ROSELLE, IL 60172