

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation
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Fall 2019

Summertime in the Ole Town Rose Parade



A Fashion Odyssey from the 20s to the 90s: Frank Zielinski in his 70s leisure suit; Walt Lotz as a 70s hippie; Joan Beauprez in an 80s jacket; Jillian McAuliffe in her grandma's 60s dress; Elizabeth Zielinski wearing a 50s ensemble and showing off some hoola hoop tricks. Several others in real, vintage clothing walked in front of the float handing out candy.

Bob Beauprez delights the children with the Museum's traditional Tootsie Rolls

Flags for Roselle

Taste of Roselle



The 38th annual Taste of Roselle was held over the Aug 2-4 weekend. The

summertime tradition continued as the food fest in downtown Roselle attracted families, neighbors, and visitors. The museum was represented at one of the booths. (permission to print artwork, "Corn on the Curb," granted by artist Rollie Brandt.)

RHM representatives Walt Lotz, Tom Piorkowski, and Bonnie Rimer were among the many volunteers who installed more than 300 flags in yards and at businesses throughout town on Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day—and they'll be out again on Patriot Day and Veterans Day. A black ribbon will be attached to the flags on Patriot Day to honor the first responders and all the victims of "9/11." See the FFR video at www.flagsforroselle.weebly.com.



Remembering the Museum's First Lady

Sandra Birdsall (1942-2019)



It was an idea Sandra Birdsall had for some time—to have a history museum in the heart of town. So, the former Mayor of Roselle (1981-1988) set out to get it done. Up to this time, Roselle's history and its precious artifacts were being cared

for by the Roselle Historical Society and stored at the Library and other locations.

In 1987, Mayor Birdsall (“Sandy”) established the Roselle Historical Foundation, formed a Board of Directors, purchased the Donald Thomas house at 102 S. Prospect, led the way to turn it into a history museum, and the rest is history, you might say.

Sandy passed away suddenly on June 29 in Las Cruces, NM. She was 76.

Sandy's various roles in the community began as a Village trustee in 1980. During the ensuing couple of years she became an attorney, served two terms as Roselle's Mayor, and eventually led the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the museum's Grand Opening on September 25, 1988 (see photograph on the right).

The Birdsalls moved from Roselle to Peoria, where Sandy opened her own law firm (Birdsall & Flaherty). The couple then moved to Beaver Island, MI, where Sandy was active in the Beaver Island Historical Society and, among a number of other involvements, also served as co-chairman of the Natural Resource Group there. A few years ago, they moved to Las Cruces, NM.

Sandy grew up as an “army brat” and lived all over the world—wherever her father was stationed. When he retired, they settled in Roselle.

She was a member of Lake Park High School's Class of 1960, when her name was Sandra Hendrickson. Her LP colleague, Andy Fowler, tells us that Sandy was the first Lake Park graduate who went on to teach at the Alma Mater. (He was the second.) Colleagues Dwain Thomas and Bob Beauprez added that, from 1967-1970, Sandy taught journalism and English and served as the student newspaper advisor.

Andy Maglio, Mayor of Roselle, shares some thoughts. “Sandra was the first Mayor I worked with. She is the one who got me started with my involvement in the Village. She appointed me as a commissioner to the Planning and Zoning Board in 1984. I don't know what she saw in me, but it must have been something, because 35 years later I'm doing what she was doing when I started. I hope I have not let her down. I do believe that I am not the only one she motivated to be involved; I know there is a list of people. I have always thanked her for her faith in me. May she rest in peace. I hope she is always remembered as one of the fine mayors of our Village. I will always remember her.”

Gayle Smolinski, former Mayor of Roselle, offers some kind words: “Sandy was a joy to work with when she was Mayor. Her leadership style was inclusive and her encouragement sent me on my path in politics. Roselle was blessed to have her share her talents with our community, and it was her vision that began our History Museum.”

Joe Devlin, former Mayor of Roselle, said, “Sandy was strong, intelligent, passionate, and kind. She had a positive impact on Roselle and the numerous lives she touched along the way. She will be missed!”



Sandy & Jim Birdsall at the Museum's Grand Opening

Special thanks to the people who helped bring Sandy's history to our readers: Joan Beauprez, Tony and Jeanie Bonavolonta, Barbara Devlin, Linda McDermott, and Dave Victor.

Sandy's many friends at the Roselle Historical Foundation extend their deepest sympathy to her husband, Jim, and their three children.

*“Think of all the beauty still left around you,
and be happy.” (Anne Frank)*



50 Years Ago – To the Moon!

July 20, 1969. During the past few weeks many have been reminiscing about where they were when Neil Armstrong took that “one small step for man—and one giant leap for mankind.” Most people were in front of their TV sets at home, at work, or school.

Joyce Kuhlmann was in a Wisconsin Dells motel room with her family watching the landing on a small TV. She said her father, who had passed away a few months earlier, “would never have believed it could be done.”

Glenn Spachmann was in the Army stationed in Washington, DC. He and his roommate were glued to the TV. He said it was riveting! *Walt Lotz* watched it during his break at work.

Kay Cahill watched it on a TV in the Alexian Brothers pediatrics ward with her son who celebrated his 7th birthday the next day. Double celebration.

Milan Bagel and his late wife, *Ruth*, watched it on TV in their Glendale Heights apartment. Milan saved all the Chicago Tribune articles from the following weeks.

15 years earlier (1954), Bart Howard wrote “Fly Me to the Moon,” a Frank Sinatra hit in 1964, which became a theme song of the Apollo missions. ~~~~~

It's Been 50 Years

—since they belted out “Stand and Cheer for Lake Park High,” and they’re ready to do it again.

Lake Park High School’s Class of 1969 will celebrate its 50th anniversary at a reunion at Medinah Country Club on Saturday, September 14, and, according to Chairman Sue Nolte, they are “crazy excited” about it.

This class had its junior and senior proms at Medinah CC, so it will be somewhat nostalgic. The event will feature dinner with music from the 60’s and 70’s by the Lake Effect Band and will run from 6 to 11 p.m. Registration is required. For information, classmates may contact Susan (Anderson) Nolte at nolte.susana@gmail.com.



Woodland Windows & Doors Celebrates

Do you remember this building at the southeast corner of Lake Street and Gary Avenue?



Well, that’s how it looked from 1969 until the 1990s.

Celebrating 50 years in the community of Roselle, Woodland Windows and Doors is going strong. The family-owned company founded by John and Ann Mariotti at the corner of Lake Street and Gary Avenue in Roselle was originally called the Woodland Lumber Company and specialized in selling millwork and doors, along with firewood and railroad ties to make ends meet. The company became known as the “Little House with the Doors of Many Colors.”

By the 1990s the company expanded its product offerings and became Woodland. Having outgrown its original facilities, a 14,000 square foot building was constructed to accommodate the growing company, including a 6,000-square-foot showroom (see below).

Owner Ken Mariotti said, “Our grandfather who founded Woodland in 1969 always said, ‘If you take care of the customer, the customer will take care of you.’” Mariotti added, “Our mission is to continue to build our business to serve our customers with faster response times, better expertise, and quality installation.”



Lynfred Winery Toasting 40 Years

In 1979, Fred and Lynn Koehler made their mark in American wine history by starting a little winery in, of all places, Roselle, Illinois.

Just a few years earlier, in 1976, there was a wine event called “The Paris Tasting,” pitting California wines against French wines. California won both Best Red and White. People were just starting to take Napa seriously, let alone even blinking an eye at Illinois wine. And yet, Fred Koehler became a wine pioneer, opening the door to Lynfred Winery in a house in Roselle, on Oct. 14, 1979.

While he is no longer with us, Fred created a legacy. Fred created a family; some by blood but most by a passion for hospitality and wine. This year, our 40th year, we are celebrating yesteryear and growth, memories, and moments, and most importantly, the legacy that is Lynfred wine.

In our 40th year, we are remembering all the moments, stories, and especially the people, who have helped Lynfred become a leading legacy. When Lynfred was in its infancy, founder Fred Koehler hired a consultant, Bob Rohden, who also worked for Geja’s Café’s John Davis (founder of the California Wine Club). Bob wrote the Lynfred newsletters for about ten years and was a great friend to Fred and Lynfred. While Bob passed away exactly one year after Fred, we are lucky enough to have his story of how Fred’s Red came to be.

“Many years ago, Fred wanted to make a red blend that would be exclusive to Lynfred Winery. So, the blending commenced with a number of tasting exercises for the staff and a few public club member events where people tried to find the best blend. Everyone had a pipette.

The fun part came when, after settling on the exact blend, we needed to name the wine. The name was Fred’s Red and everyone liked it—except Fred! It took over a year for him to finally agree that it was the right name for the wine! The white blend followed and when Fred’s White worked so well, Fred said he would never agree to Fred’s Blush!”—Bob Rohden

into the breathtaking yet quaint wine production facility and tasting room that has now become a must-see attraction for visitors from all over the country, as well as a friendly and constant companion to the local residents.



The Winery’s name comes from our founding parents, Fred and Lynn Koehler, who were pioneers in the Illinois wine industry. Naturally, getting the business of a winery in Roselle off the ground took quite a while. The one acre of land Lynfred is currently situated on was originally owned by Colonel Rosell Hough, after whom the city was named. An historic house that was built by the Hattendorf family in 1912 occupied the land and the

Koehlers quickly went to work restoring the house and organizing the cellar to expand their “hobby” into a business. The leaded stained-glass windows, oak floors, and moldings were restored to their original state. The cellar walls, which are more than 18 inches thick, provide ideal temperature control for aging wines.

In October 1979, the Koehlers were ready to open their doors to the wine tasting public. And our Illinois wine began to take its place among the finest wines available. As the Winery grew in notoriety, the need for a larger facility became evident, and Fred and his staff broke ground on the current building—a 24,000 square foot facility with a production capacity of 100,000 gallons of wine per year and a beautiful new tasting room. The expanded facility, which is connected to the original house by a vaulted barrel-aging tunnel, also includes four meticulously decorated bed and breakfast suites. Unfortunately Lynn passed away in 1984 and did not get to see the growth of the Winery, but we believe she would be proud of what Lynfred has become.

Fred’s wife, Valerie, has helped expand Lynfred Winery to Wheaton, Naperville, and Wheeling.

Lynfred’s amazing wines are created by both Chilean-born Andres Basso and Rodrigo Gonzalez. Fred’s children are still involved with the Winery as well. Daughter Diane is the Tasting Room Manager, and son Fred, Jr., is head of landscaping and keeps the Winery grounds glorious.

In 2019, we are celebrating our 40th anniversary, and we thank all of our loyal Lyn-Friends for their patronage. We look forward to toasting more years with you!

(Excerpted from the Lynfred Winery website. Permission to print granted by Marketing Director Christina Anderson-Heller)



Lynfred Winery is the largest continuously-operating family winery in the State of Illinois. Our proud beginnings occurred when “two crazy people” combined their love, ingenuity, creativity, and practicality

Someone You Should Know

“No one wins in a war.” Those words of wisdom come from World War II veteran and Omaha Beach tank commander, Walter Trojan of Bloomingdale, who turns 98 on August 11. He adds to his sage advice: “Work hard; family is everything.” That pretty much tells it all.

Readers may remember Trojan from the previous newsletter in which we told you about his surprise visit to the Roselle History Museum’s annual Historical Evening on April 13 and the warm welcome he received from many members of the audience. Even the presenter, historian Jim Gibbons, said, “Being the history buff that I am, I got goose bumps shaking his hand. It is he who was one of the many responsible for our freedom!”

Trojan, one of the Greatest Generation, came from a modest setting on Chicago’s near West Side. He and his childhood sweetheart, Irene, enjoyed the big-band sound and did some pretty jivey dancing in their day. However, the Great Depression made it necessary to be frugal about everything. Money was scarce, and anyone who lived during those times would agree that things were tough.

Trojan remembers saving water by bathing in a porcelain tub with his brother in front of the kitchen stove. We have come to take such luxuries as water for granted.

Then came the War, and all life as we knew it changed in one day. Life would get tougher for the next four years. Walter, among hundreds of thousands of young boys from the Chicago area left on trains and buses to destinations all over the U.S. for basic training, which usually lasted six weeks. Following “boot camp,” the boys came home on a short leave before being shipped to points unknown for active duty. Walter Trojan was one of thousands of young men who made up General Dwight David Eisenhower’s warriors on Omaha Beach, Normandy, 75 years ago. All so young, but so dedicated and driven. It wouldn’t be long now and the War would be over.

Trojan’s war experience was well-covered by the *Daily Herald* on June 6 in its “Those Who Served and Still Serve” series. We followed up with our Someone You Should Know to learn what life was like for him afterward.



Walter Trojan, WWII Vet

With only a couple of day’s notice, Walter Trojan came home from overseas and traveled by train from New York to Chicago. Since both his parents had passed away, he lived with his grandmother until he was married. He went to work for a printer and two years later joined the Sheet Metal Union, where he worked until he retired. He and his bride (Irene), like most couples at the time, didn’t have a lot of money to spend on luxury items or entertainment. Their honeymoon to Canada was a fishing trip. (To this, he remarked, “terrible, right?”)

They enjoyed walks along the beaches of Lake Michigan and strolls through Chicago’s downtown. Trojan drove his father-in-law’s car until he was able to buy his own.

As a product of the Great Depression, Walter was overwhelmed by the changes in lifestyle that took place after the War. He mentions the opportunities that were available, jobs, improvements in health care, and general quality of life. Not like when he was 13 years old, and his mother died of “simple pneumonia.” “There was no penicillin in 1934. Many people dying young, just no medicine.”

The family had to move from the Taylor and Halsted area in Chicago to the Austin area when construction of the Dan Ryan and Eisenhower Expressways got underway. They remained in the Austin area for many years. Irene passed away in 1970 after a six-year battle with cancer.

The Trojans have three children—two daughters and one son. Carole said her father, a humble man whose education was cut short during the Depression, is most proud that he was able to provide all three children the opportunity for higher education and even, in Carole’s case, post-graduate study.

During the years, Trojan has been a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Legion, and the Moose Lodge. Five years ago, Walter came to live with Carole in Bloomingdale, where he enjoys the TLC provided by his daughter—and continues to be amazed at the new phones, the internet, etc., agreeing “it’s just amazing.”

Note from Jim Gibbons:

“Isn’t it ironic that (Walter’s) last name is Trojan. I think of a Trojan horse which was used to sneak an enemy to battle. The tank was an idea of Winston

Churchill’s. He said that they would call it a tank to fool the enemy, stating that it held water for Mesopotamia. The tank actually held firepower!”

(Thanks to Carole Trojan for her help in bringing Walter’s story to our readers, to Joyce Kuhlmann for her expert photography, and to Katlyn Smith for her permission to print DH citation.)



Chicago Cubs Dynasty



In the summer of 1919, the eyes of the entire baseball world were centered on Chicago. Two years removed from the 1917 World Series title, the Chicago White Sox were storming through another impressive season on their way to the American League pennant. They would finish the season with a record of 88-52, outpacing the 2nd place Cleveland Indians by 3.5 games. Heavily favored in the 1919 World Series, the White Sox famously became the “Black Sox” as several players threw the Series, having aligned themselves with professional gamblers to make up for the money they lost out on due to the unfair behavior of team owner Charles Comiskey.

As the White Sox captured the nation’s attention for their play on the field and later their activities off it, the question arises of what the other Chicago team was doing that year. In many ways the 1919 season was an unremarkable one for the Chicago Cubs. They finished third in the National League with a record of 75-65, a respectable yet decidedly unimpressive showing.



Sports have always been known for the colorful nicknames players go by, and the dead ball era of Major League Baseball was no exception. The Cubs had players with quaint nicknames like Abraham Lincoln “Sweetbread” Bailey and George Albert “Lefty” Tyler, the latter being the highly creative appellation given to this left handed pitcher. Keeping in line with several insulting nicknames around the MLB at the time that are not fit to be printed here, there was the moniker given to James Leslie “Hippo” Vaughn due to his size, although at 6’4” and 215 lbs., he does not seem quite large enough to warrant comparison to a hippopotamus.

What stands out most, however, for the 1919 Chicago Cubs is that this season was in many ways a disappointment. The 2016 World Series notwithstanding, the Cubs have long been the “Lovable Losers.” They have become known for blown plays, missed opportunities, and more than anything else, their long title droughts, something that made 2016 that much more special for fans. What is hard for many modern

fans to fathom is that in 1919 the Cubs were considered one of baseball’s perennial powerhouses and had been so for decades.

The year before, the Cubs had won the 1918 National League pennant with a record of 84-45. Between the creation of the National League in 1876 and the first modern World Series in 1903, the Cubs, playing under various names that included the Orphans, per the insulting nicknames mentioned above, had won six National League pennants. Between 1903 and 1919 the Cubs had captured five more flags, winning two World Series titles, and in 1906 they set the modern record for the best single season win-loss record when they finished 116-36. They finished no lower than fifth place in the eight-team National League during that latter span and suffered only three losing seasons.

Another interesting thing to consider is that the Cubs’ perennial rival, the St. Louis Cardinals, were one of the teams that could more accurately be called the “Lovable Losers” during the first two decades of the 20th century. While the Cubs and the Boston Red Sox dominated their leagues, the Cardinals and the New York Yankees were perennial cellar dwellers. While the Cardinals have won 11 World Series titles and the Yankees have won 27, they both got a relatively late start on their dominance as the Cardinals did not win their first until 1926 and the Yankees until 1923. From 1901 to 1919, the Cardinals never finished higher than 3rd place and only had four winning seasons. They even had two seasons where they lost over 100 games. The Yankees did not fare much better, although they did manage to finish in 2nd place on three occasions during that period.



For the Cubs and their fans in 1919, there was no way of knowing that an era was ending. After winning five pennants in the 16 seasons between 1903 and 1918, they would win only five more in the 27 seasons between 1919 and 1945 before embarking on one of the most famous stretches of futility in sports history. While in 1919 the White Sox gave baseball a black eye that only Babe Ruth was able to heal, the 1919 Chicago Cubs began a transition that arguably had as large of an impact on the history of baseball.



They went from being one of the sport’s powerhouses, a team that Frank Chance could say “[w]hoever heard of the Cubs losing a game they had to have?” with complete sincerity, to a team that, despite the 2016 World Series, is still defined by the near comical level of futility they achieved over decades of black cats running on the field and goats being asked to leave.



The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain. (Dolly Parton)



Halloween Revisited

by Nancy Bokelman Stetter

One of the holidays that kids love most is Halloween. When I was a kid I loved Halloween, too—not just for the Trick-or-Treating or the huge bag of goodies that was collected, but for a special tradition in town. All of the store windows on Main Street and Irving, as well as Botterman's grocery store, were painted with festive holiday scenes by students from all the schools. During the weeks before Halloween all of the school classes conducted an art contest for the middle and upper grades, the winners of which were selected to paint the store windows. The winner and an “assistant” from each class were allowed to miss school for an afternoon so that the painting could be done.

First the winning pictures were sketched onto the windows using soap and then the details were filled in with tempera paint. The finished paintings were judged and awards were given out later at the village-wide party hosted by the Lions Club.



Cash prizes were also given out for best costumes according to age, creativity, and other categories. I was fortunate to win a few prizes for both window painting and costumes. In those days costumes focused more on story characters and animals and less on scary creatures and people in the news. Most costumes were homemade and very few were purchased. These parties were first held at Salk Pioneer School and later at Parkside School.



In addition to these parties there was also Trick-or-Treating the night before or after the big party. After coming home from school and dressing in costumes we would gather with groups of

friends and visit lots of homes throughout the town, often returning home to drop off a full bag of goodies and picking up a new bag or pillow case to use on a second round.



What Else is New?

Concert on the Porch

Tank & the Beez

Sunday, September 15 – 2 p.m.

See details in the insert in this

newsletter. Bring your lawn chairs!

Christmas Open House

Time to mark your calendars: Sunday, Dec 1, from 2-4 p.m. Again, volunteers will present an artistic exhibit of holiday cookies for the guests' enjoyment. It's free! Y'all come!



Anniversary congratulations to *Glenn & Sue Spachman* who celebrated a half century of wedded bliss on Aug 4 with friends and family at the Bloomingdale Golf Club.

American Legion Celebrates

100 Years — Congratulations to the American Legion Post 1084 Roselle for its continuing service to the community.



Half a dozen museum volunteers made it possible to raise almost \$1,000 from *Glow Stick* sales during the Village's fireworks at Lake Park HS on July 3. The funds will be used for museum exhibit updates and other projects.

The Quirky Qwerty Keyboard—It was like learning a whole new alphabet. If you could master it, you were destined for great things. The

typewriter of the 40s was labor intensive, and heartless on the fingernails. However, millions of young

stenos did, indeed, master it and are the first to applaud the introduction of the Selectric, and later welcomed the computer. Eat your heart out, stenos of today. You don't know what you missed! (Chart shared by Kathy Barclay Goedeker, LP 1971.)



Thank You, Local Businesses

for helping to spread the museum news and promote its events by placing a copy of this newsletter in your entry or waiting area. We encourage your customers to take it home. Look for the **TAKE ME HOME** tag.



ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM
39 E ELM STREET
ROSELLE IL 60172



Fall 2019

Sept 11 Flags for Roselle
Sept 15 Concert on the Porch
Nov 11 Flags for Roselle
Dec 1 Christmas Open House

Mission Statement

To maintain and enhance a historically accurate museum with primary focus on Roselle and surrounding areas

To collect local facts and artifacts of today that will be our village history and pride tomorrow

To provide a dynamic historical and educational resource for our residents and visitors

Board of Directors

President: Ray Hitzemann
VP/Treas: Glenn Spachman
Secretary: Tom Piorkowski
Joan Beauprez * Hank Kvintus
Walter Lotz * Frank Zielinski

Museum Manager: Bonnie Rimer

General Meetings

Second Saturday of the Month
10-11:30 a.m. – 39 E. Elm

Museum Hours

Sundays 2-4 p.m.
Other times by appointment

Newsletter Deadlines

Feb 1 – May 1 – Aug 1 – Nov 1
Editor: kaycahill@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Email Address _____ Send RHM Newsletter via email (Y/N) _____

_____ New Member Circle one: \$30 \$50* \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____
_____ Renewal

*My contribution is at least \$50. Please send me a free copy of the *Remembering Roselle* history book.

I am interested in helping in one of the areas of the Foundation's work. Circle one:

Computer/Clerical * Exhibits * Parade float * Research * Single Event * Buildings/Grounds

The Roselle Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contribution may be fully tax deductible.

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