



# Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation  
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Summer 2016



**Sunday July 3**

Museum volunteers will be out in force to sell the popular glow sticks during the Village's Fourth of July Fireworks event at Lake Park High School's West Campus, 500 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.



One glow stick – \$2  
Three glow sticks – \$5  
Seven glow sticks – \$10

Proceeds from the annual glow stick sale go to fulfilling the mission of the Roselle Historical Foundation to provide an outstanding museum and educational programs for residents of Roselle and the surrounding areas.



## *It Didn't Rain on Our Parade!*

It was a perfect sunny day for the Rose Parade on Sunday, June 5. The museum's float took the 1920s theme on the road. Matthew Kluber and flapper Maria Wojtas waved to the crowd and danced, while Paulette Lotz looked over the scenario from her desk and typewriter. A loveseat and lamps completed the scene. Five walkers distributed candy, and one carried the museum banner.



**August 5, 6, 7**  
**Friday, Saturday,**  
**Sunday**

Don't miss the museum's booth at the Village's 2016 *Taste of Roselle*.



New this year: In the spirit of "getting to know you," or getting to know you better, you may sign a guest registry at the museum's booth and pick up a name tag to wear throughout the Taste. Makes it easy for your neighbors who may know you, but not your name, to say, "Hi, Tom" (or Dick, or Harriet).

The Taste of Roselle draws current Rosellians as well as those who have moved away. It's a great "reunion" of old neighbors, Lake Park and Driscoll alumni, former business owners, etc.

While you're there, take a few minutes to visit the museum at Elm and Prospect to see the new "1920s Room Exhibit." (See the insert.) The buildings will be open from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup>.

## ***IF BUILDINGS COULD TALK***

### ***Roselle History Museum Office***

Ray Hitzemann

#### ***Second in a Series***

*(How often have you said to yourself, "Would that these walls could talk!" Indeed, they'd have quite a tale to tell. Ray Hitzemann continues his up-close-and-personal interviews with significant buildings in town. This time, the Museum Office shares its story with Ray.)*

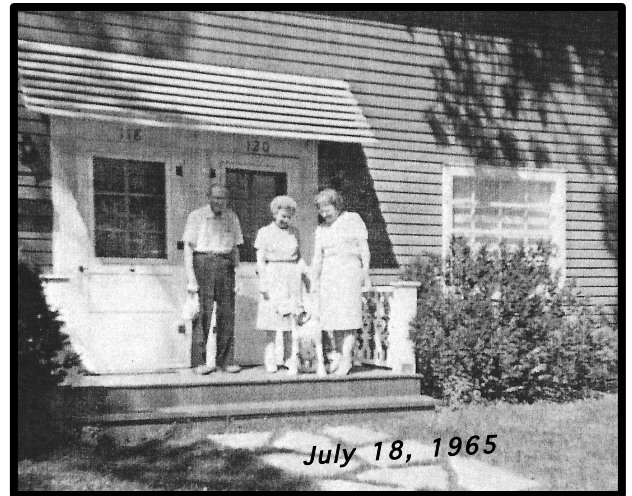
I was built in 1890, originally at 118 E. Irving Park Road, as the coach house on the property where J. Henry Hattendorf had built the largest residence in Roselle. I was painted red to match the "big house" and housed many different beautiful coaches through the years.

Some time in the early 1900s, I heard a strange noise and looked outside to see a big black machine parked in my driveway. It could move all by itself without any horses. I soon learned this curiosity was called an automobile. At that point, the coach that I was housing was removed and replaced by the black machine. My name might have been changed from *coach house* to *garage*, but *coach house* was the sentimental favorite and remained so throughout the transition.

I was purchased in the 1940s by the Ham Warnoch family. Nice people. They permitted Roselle Boy Scout Troop 55 to use the second floor for meetings and for storage of, among other things, camping equipment. Every Monday, 10 to 12 scouts, accompanied by Scoutmaster Warren Burres and Assistant Harry Rowe, would come over and have their meetings. I enjoyed having them here playing games while they learned many different and valuable skills.

Roselle continued to grow in the 1960s. Harris Bank purchased the Roselle State Bank, which stood at Irving Park Road and Prospect Street. Soon, Harris Bank would expand, purchase the Warnoch property, raze the residence, and build the first Harris Bank Roselle.

When I saw the revered, historical Hattendorf house being torn down, I was sure that my life had also ended. But the bank officials had a different idea; they decided that I still had value. One day workmen arrived and gutted my whole being.



#### ***118 & 120 E. Irving Park Road***

They built a wall down my mid-section and built two staircases to the second floor. I became a two-apartment building, or a duplex. Apparently the arrangement no longer served the company's purposes, so a new group of workmen reported, tore everything apart, put new blue siding on me, and turned me into offices. I don't remember what businesses occupied all of the offices, but I do remember a travel agency in one of them. Later, the bank needed more work space, so I became its loan office.

Then, around 1990, Harris Bank Roselle planned to build a bigger facility, so it purchased and razed the house just to the east (corner of Irving Park Road and Park Street), which had been used by an insurance agency. This time I thought I was surely done for. Not yet.

In October of 1990, a big truck and another group of workmen arrived. They jacked me up, put several huge timbers under me, and attached some wheels. I was really confused. They towed me west on Irving Park Road to Prospect Street, turned left, crossed the railroad tracks, proceeded to Elm Street, turned right and soon approached our destination: 39 E. Elm Street. (continued)

## *IF BUILDINGS COULD TALK (Cont'd)*



***Destination – 39 E. Elm Street***

There they slowly and strategically, placed me on a brand new foundation, and, for the first time in my life I had a basement. And, they did all this in a matter of hours.



***New Foundation***

Harris Bank Roselle donated me to the history museum, but the cost of moving was prohibitive. The Village of Roselle lent the museum funding for some of the costs of the move. Through a number of fund raisers, the museum staff and volunteers raised enough money to cover the balance of the moving costs and to repay the debt to the Village, all in record time.

It was then that I received my new name—the Roselle History Museum Office.



***The Roselle History Museum Office***

I am sure I will have a long life here with the tender loving care provided by the museum volunteers and staff and the Village of Roselle.

## ***GREAT FUN NIGHT OUT***



The next “Sip & Paint” sessions for adults are set for June 24 and July 29, Friday evenings, from 7-10 p.m. at the Museum Office, 39 E. Elm Street. Artist Paulina Engel will conduct the sessions.

Call 630-351-5300 to register. A minimum of five artists is needed, with a maximum of ten. Cost is \$40 per person. All supplies and wine and cheese delights are included.

Check the website ([www.rosellehistory.com](http://www.rosellehistory.com)) and Facebook ([Facebook.com/rosellehistory](https://www.facebook.com/rosellehistory)) for more specifics.



# ROARING TWENTIES

Don't miss the latest exhibit at the Sumner House Museum – The 1920s Room.

## ***FASHION, FLAIR, AND THE FORBIDDEN DRINK***

- See a stunning Flapper.
- Learn what went on in Roselle during Prohibition.
- See samples of the popular music of the day, including a 1920s record on the old Victrola.
- Reminisce as you check out household items from Grandma and Grandpa's era.
- Enjoy the photos of old cars on parade.

“The 1920s were an age of dramatic social and political change. For the first time, more Americans lived in cities than on farms. The nation's total wealth more than doubled between 1920 and 1929, and this economic growth swept many Americans into an affluent but unfamiliar *consumer*



*society*. People from coast to coast bought the same goods (thanks to nationwide advertising and the spread of chain stores), listened to the same music, did the same dances and even used the same slang! Many Americans were uncomfortable with this new, urban, sometimes racy *mass culture*; in fact, for many—even most—people in the United States, the 1920s brought more conflict than celebration. However, for a small handful of young people in the nation's big cities, the 1920s were roaring indeed.”

(Ref: <http://www.history.com/topics/roaring-twenties>)

## ***Buddy, Can You Spare an Hour?***

You'd like to make a difference in your community, but you don't have the time? Well, let's do the math: From the 24 hours we're all given every day, deduct 11 hours for sleeping and eating. Balance: 13 hrs/day. That's 190 hours in a month to do other things. Maybe you could spare an hour or two a month to participate in a community project. That leaves 188 hours. (If you're employed fulltime, deduct another 160 hours per month.)

The History Museum can help you fill those hours. If you enjoy meeting and greeting people, consider serving as a docent for two hours on any given Sunday. Skills in computer and most-things-clerical are welcome. Handyman skills? Voila! If you'd like to work on a one-time project or event, consider selling glow sticks on July 3 during the Village fireworks, or helping at the museum booth at the Taste of Roselle. If you've ever worked on a parade float, you know what fun it can be. Consider sharing your talents; the Float committee meets in January.

Call Joan Beauprez at 630-351-5300, or email [rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net). If you need to leave a phone message, be sure to include your name, phone, email, and “a brief message.”

## **Sunday, December 4, 2016, 2-4 p.m.**

The Christmas Open House has been an integral part of the museum's activities for nearly 20 years. It's the volunteers' way of saying *Thank You* to the friends of the museum for their support all year. You'll be treated to holiday music, door prizes, decadent sweets, and tours of the decorated museum and Richter House.



## **Saturday, April 1, 2017, 7:30 p.m.**

The annual Historical Night will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church Family Life Center. The presenter will discuss the trials and tribulations of the building of the Trans-America Railroad. The evening starts off with the traditional wine and cheese reception. After the presentation, light desserts will be served. Details on both events will appear on the website and on Facebook.

## FLY THE FLAG

Kay Cahill



I get a lump in my throat  
every time I hear *God Bless  
America* or *America the  
Beautiful* or *The Star  
Spangled Banner* being sung

by enthusiastic citizens. I get so choked up it's impossible for me to join in the singing. Well, maybe that's a good thing, since I can't carry a tune anyway. However, even if I could belt out a powerful musical message a la Kate Smith, I'd still have to deal with the lump that's brought on by those three particular pieces of music.

Listen carefully to the magnificent lyrics of these songs. They inspire an appreciation for the freedom we enjoy and whence it came. Go ahead, stand up, place your hand over your heart, and sing out with all your might. Freedom is a remarkable gift. Not everyone in the world is so blessed.

During a convention banquet I attended some years ago, several hundred voices blended—male and female, alto, soprano, tenor, and bass—to sing *God Bless America*. To raise the emotional level just a little higher, the entire body stood and held hands. The charisma was electric. Our attention was drawn to the flag next to the head table. There it was, in all its glory, standing proudly. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

When Old Glory is carried past me during a parade, there again I have all I can do to hold back the tears. Why so emotional, you ask. There are as many reasons as there are stars and stripes. I have flashbacks to elementary school and the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, when we were chanting words we had merely memorized, having no understanding of their real meaning.

It wasn't like that for long, though. While I was still in elementary school, the Day of Infamy (December 8, 1941, the start of WWII) changed our lives. The flag became a major part of daily life. A flagpole appeared on every corner. Next to it an honor roll listed the

names of all the boys on our block (no girls yet) who were serving in the armed forces. A few had tiny gold stars next to their names. We played at that corner; we looked at the honor roll every day. We knew all those people.

There were lots of parades and War Bond sales in the community. I remember, on several of these occasions, carrying the colors as a member of a color guard unit—a unique opportunity for a very young kid to demonstrate a little patriotism.

Another kind of flag hung in the front window of nearly every house in the neighborhood—the service flag, every bit of 8 x 15.2 inches. That one featured one, two, or three blue stars and announced to the world that a member (or two or three) of that family was away at War. Occasionally you would see a gold star. That hero was gone, killed in action, and the whole neighborhood wept.



When "It" (WWII, or as we called it, "The War") was over, my brothers and brothers-in-law came home to flags flying proudly and gratefully on every corner and in every American heart.

It's been more than seventy years since "It" was over, and emotion still runs high whenever the flag is carried past me in a parade or simply posted in front of me at a meeting.

Take a new look at an old friend, the flag. Don't wait for a special holiday. Fly the flag proudly; fly it properly; respectfully; and salute it. It's the symbol of all we believe in and hold dear. (*We all have "flag stories." Let's share them and give patriotism a shot in the arm.*)

### NATIONAL FLAG DAY

The U.S. flag was adopted on June 14, 1777, and in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation officially establishing June 14 as Flag Day. In August 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress. This is not an official federal holiday, but it is at the President's discretion to officially proclaim the observance.

To learn more about the care of your flag, go to  
[www.indutex.net/flagcare](http://www.indutex.net/flagcare)

**ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM**  
**39 E ELM STREET**  
**ROSELLE IL 60172**



***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***

Ray Hitzemann, President  
Glenn Spachman, Treas/VP  
Ruth Bagel, Secretary  
Milan Bagel \* Hank Kvintus  
Walter Lotz \* Frank Zielinski

***Historian*** - Joan Beauprez

***Museum Hours***

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

***Newsletter Deadlines***

Aug 1, Nov 1, 2016  
Feb 1, May 1, 2017

***Editor:*** Kay Cahill

***General Meetings*** are held on the second Saturday from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Museum Office, 39 E. Elm St. Everyone is welcome.

***MEMBERSHIP FORM***

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐

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 would be 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, and your contribution may be fully tax deductible.*

*(Su2016)*