

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation 39 East Elm Street, Roselle, Illinois 60172-2026 (630-351-5300)

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Summer 2018

Sumner House

News-eum

We're Baaaaaaack!

Everything old is new again. Well, sort of. The Sumner House Museum is sporting a fresh new look. After several months of redesigning and refurbishing, the museum is ready for visitors once again. The doors reopened on Sunday, April 15.

As you enter the museum, you're treated to a barber shop exhibit that includes treasures from various former barber shops in town—shops that were owned by Adolph Link, Otto Felitz, Ron Kuhlmann (Ron's Barber Shop), Bill Clucas, and Jim Kerr (Advanced Hair Design). Ron's Barber Shop, 123 Bokelman, is now owned by his daughter, Cindy (Ron & Cindy's), who is assisted by her husband, John Kerr (Jim's son).



It was not uncommon for customers to engage in a "fireside chat" while playing checkers. The general store also served as a friendly community center.





Just ahead is a mini version of the old J. Henry Hattendorf General Merchandise Store. An old photo of the original store was used by the Exhibit Committee as a model for the display. See photo at cash register.



Products ranged from groceries to medicine to farm supplies; and services included a post office and everything one needed for a funeral.

Next time: We'll show you the renovations to the former Children's Room, now The Roselle Room.

TANK納 被BEEZ

CONCERT ON THE PORCH



Back by popular demand, Brian and Beth (Malouf) Blankenship will present their second "Concert on the Porch" Sunday, June 10, from 2:30–4:00 p.m. at the Sumner House Museum, 102 S. Prospect St.

Bring lawn chairs and blankets.

59th Annual Rose Parade

Sunday, June 3 2-4 p.m.

The History Museum's float this year will celebrate the 30th



anniversary of the Grand Opening of the Sumner House Museum, which took place on September 25, 1988.

Passport Program Changing This Year!

Program now includes adults—as well as children—and is year-round.

Pick up a free passport booklet at the Roselle History Museum.

Earn Stamps by visiting museums, nature centers, and historic sites found in the passport booklet.



Visit two sites from May 2018 through Aug 2018, and mail in the stamp page by Sept 15 to be entered into the first drawing.

Visit two sites from Sept 2018 to Oct 2018, two sites from Nov 2018 to Feb 2019, and two sites from March 2019 to April 2019. Then mail in the stamp page by May 15 to be entered into the second drawing.



Kicks Off Second Year Coffee and Donuts at 6:30 a.m.

The FFR program will begin its second year on Memorial Day. Nearly 300 flags will be flying in front yards and other significant locations in Roselle.

Help send our volunteers off on a high note—be part of the cheering section. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee at the Fire Department pick-up location at Maple and Prospect as firemen help volunteers load their vehicles with the flags. Hear a few words from Mayor Maglio. The ceremony will last about 10 minutes, and the volunteers will be off on their appointed rounds.

Thank You to the Lake Park students and other volunteer team members, the Village of Roselle, the Fire Department, Printing Plus of Roselle, Inc., and Thrivent Financial for their amazing efforts and generous support.

We continue to receive positive feedback:

Thank you. I did this for my mom, a 63-year resident of Roselle. Mom will be 100 . . . I know she will love having the flag out front! She lives in our family home . . . She and my dad raised 7 children there. Again, thank you for this program!

Thank you Roselle for waving our flag!! Much success to your program.

The American Legion Women's Auxiliary thinks this is a wonderful idea, and we support it whole-heartedly! Thanks for all your hard work and dedication.

So excited – Thank you!





2017: This photograph may look familiar. Daily Herald photographer Mark Black used it last year when the DH publicized the brand new Flags for Roselle program. At that time, there were not yet any pictures of the FFR program. See next newsletter for the newest pictures.

Joan Beauprez Stepping Back

The RHM Board of Directors is looking for someone to take Joan Beauprez's place. Effective October 2018, Joan will limit her role at the museum to that of a committee volunteer. The Board is looking for a self-motivated individual who has an interest in local history and has clerical skills. Some of the tasks include answering the phone, responding to emails and regular mail, some research, assistance with special events, serving as a docent once a month, and attending general meetings on the second Saturday of the month. This is a 10-hour week paid position. For more information, contact President Ray Hitzemann at rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net.

Tom Piorkowski received an unsolicited compliment recently about the museum from a St. Walter 4th



grader and Girl Scout. She was complaining about other field trips she had been on, but told Tom she "likes the house museum by school—that it's a lot of fun." Tom said, "It is always nice to get praise, especially the unfiltered kind you can only get from a kid!"



Don't Make a Move

Without letting us know. Occasionally, mail is returned to the museum due to an address change. The museum staff

strives to be good stewards of the museum's funds, and monitoring the cost of postage is one way it does that. Therefore, please let the office know when you move to a new location. We trust you want to continue receiving the newsletter and other mailings, and we want to keep your membership information up-to-date. Send an email to rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net, or call 630-351-5300.

Membership Reminder

Christmas is just around the corner. All members' names will be entered into a drawing for a Lynfred Winery gift basket which will be awarded



during the Christmas Open House December 2. If you have paid your 2018 dues, you're already in the drawing. If not, you still have time to enroll. See the membership form on the back page of this newsletter. Do it today. If the winner lives out of state, the gift will be shipped.

The Aluminum Tree

Do You Have a Story? (Doesn't everyone?)

Do you have a favorite story about your glistening, razor-sharp *Aluminum Christmas Tree* and its accompanying color wheel? Let us hear it!

We'd like to print the nostalgic stories in the Fall and Winter issues of the newsletter. The

best story will be selected for a special prize to be awarded at the 2018 Christmas Open House on December 2. Send to kaycahill@comcast.net.



Area Museums Share Ideas

The fourth "Area Museum Shareshop" was held at Carol Stream Historical Society's Historic Farmhouse on April 17, and 15 representatives from Addison, Bloomingdale, Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, Roselle, Schaumburg, and Wood Dale Historical Societies/museums participated.



This innovative program was introduced at the Roselle History Museum last June; then the group was hosted by Wood Dale and Glen Ellyn during the year. The next Shareshop will be held July 17 at the Schaumburg Township District Library.

The quarterly get-togethers are opportunities for our neighboring historical societies to share news of their events, compare organizational notes, share new ideas, and learn from each other. The host group prepares an agenda with input from the entire group. Conversations become lively, and sometimes the group doesn't get through all the agenda items. That's fine, though; they're added to the next shareshop agenda.

An informative discussion took place in Carol Stream on how to approach the gathering of oral histories. Following the meeting, Leslie Drewitz of the Bloomingdale Public Library distributed copies of BPL's procedure.

For a list of all the area museums' 2018 summer events, send a request to rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net.

The Engels have a lifetime of stories, many of which they shared recently in a videotaped interview conducted by David Pileski and Bonnie Rimer. It was good timing, since Marge and Al are celebrating their 90th birthdays and their 70th wedding

In 1927, Marjorie Ann Lichthardt was born at 141 S. Prospect, and Alfred Charles Engel was born in Schaumburg. Al's family moved to 46 W. Elm, Roselle, when he was 9. Marge and Al met in 5th grade at Trinity Lutheran School on Prospect St. (where the Village Hall is

anniversary this year.

today). In addition to their deep and loving involvement in Trinity Church, the couple takes great pride in having served the community: Al on the first Roselle Park District Board—Marge on the Planning & Zoning Board.

Marge's family name, Lichthardt, translates to "light heart" in German, and Al's family name, Engel, means "angel." Hence, their nickname: the "Light-hearted Angels."

Marge and AI reminisced, recalling the Depression years (1929-1939), when desperate men of all ages rode the freight trains. "You could see them sitting on the roofs of the cars. They were called *hobos*—not a derogatory term in those days. They would get off in town, knock on doors, and ask if there was work they could do, and possibly have a sandwich." Al's and Marge's mothers prepared food for the men. "The men would mark a white *X* in front of your house meaning 'this lady will feed you,'" AI remembered. (hobo: an impoverished migrant worker—Wikipedia)

For fun in the 1930s, children ice skated at Turner Park, the only park at the time. Turner Woods (now Town Acres subdivision) was the site of many carnivals, and the big barn on the property housed formal dances to which Chicagoans came in formal attire. Marge added that, "Under very suspicious circumstances, one Halloween night, the barn burned down. It was sensational." Hmm. Still a mystery.

Al and Marge went to Glenbard High School (now Glenbard West) in the 1940s. Elgin and Bensenville were the only other schools in the area. Parents paid taxes to the school the child chose to attend.

AL & MARGE ENGEL Light-Hearted Angels



Near the end of World War II, at age 18, Al was drafted and spent 13 months at Camp Grant near

Rockford processing the discharges of hundreds of servicemen.

"I don't think people who are not in our generation realize the impact the War had on civilians," Marge said. People didn't have cars, but there was no gas for a car either • Movies were about the War + Patriotism was at an alltime high . Food was rationed. A familiar lament from butcher shop owners when homemakers would ask for something as precious as pork chops was, "Lady! Dontcha know there's a war on?"

Everyone had a Victory Garden. People canned food from their gardens.

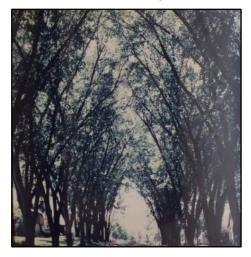
Al and Marge were married in 1948. Low on funds, like all young couples at the time, entertainment consisted mostly of going to movies.

In 1950, Al's father built the house at 112 W. Maple Ave., which Al and Marge would call "home" for the next 67 years. Al assisted in the construction. Marge said all their friends built their own houses around that time; they would help one another.



The Engels' dream was to keep the house in the family—not to sell it. That dream came true. Coincidentally, grandson Dan Ibeling, was moving into the family house at the very hour this interview was taking place. "There will always be a demand (for the house)," Al said.

The Engels had an "overarching" desire to live on Maple Avenue because of the elegant elm trees that formed an archway over the street adorning the entire block. So, they bought the lot at 112. The beauty lasted only 40 years, though, when Dutch Elm disease attacked all the trees and they had to be removed.



In 1987, then Mayor Sandra Birdsall approached Al to serve as President of the newly-formed Roselle Historical Foundation. Al designed and built the rounded exhibit wall in the museum that depicts the early railroad, homes, and businesses.

In 2013, the Roselle Park District dedicated five acres of beautiful land to the Engels in recognition of their significant contributions to the community as well as to honor Al Engel for his service on the first Park District Board. Engel Park is located at 615 Newcastle Drive.





Al and Marge have four children: Joan, Judy, Jim, and Jeff—two girls, two boys. Al often told his poker buddies, "Don't tell me two pair isn't a full house." They are also enjoying 9 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Today, the Engels are living the good life at Lexington Square Senior Living Community in Lombard, where they're making more friends and staying in close in touch with their Roselle friends.

(Ed. note: This entire videotaped interview is on file at the Village Hall and the Roselle History Museum.)

Dutch Elm Disease in Roselle

Mike Schulz, Village Forester and Water Superintendent, shares the story of the Dutch Elm disease that claimed so many beautiful elms in recent history, including those on Maple Avenue.

"Roselle's first Dutch Elm disease ordinance was passed in 1960. They were treating for Dutch Elm disease in 1955 and stopped in the late 1970s. There are still 8 living American Elms on Roselle parkways in 2018. The elms on Maple were removed as they showed signs of the disease—over a period of 40 years. There are still 2 living American Elms on private property on West Maple Ave . . . Monocultures are susceptible to insects and disease. An entire street of (the same kind of) trees can be lost to one insect or disease in a short period of time—lesson learned from Dutch Elm disease and Emerald Ash borer. As a result of this experience, the Village is working on a reforestation plan this year."

Mike has been with Roselle's Public Works Department for the past 35 years and a Roselle resident for the past 55 years. "As I was growing up in Roselle, I remember many elm-lined streets and helicopters spraying elm trees each year to control elm bark beetles. Residents were alerted when this effort was scheduled and were advised to not hang laundry out on those days.

"The Morton Arboretum collected cuttings a few years ago from some of our American Elm trees in Roselle on public parkways in its search for an American Elm tree which is resistant to Dutch Elm disease. They look for survivors of the non-native insects and diseases introduced into this country to learn how they manage to survive and reestablish native populations. We have lost too many species to lack of understanding of our ecosystems."

OTTO H. BECKER

Artisan, Businessman, Family Man, Citizen

Today, the AT&T building, just east of Roselle Road on Irving Park Road, is located on the very spot where, in 1900, the Schauble & Becker Machine Shop stood—the scene of a bustling, successful business.



Otto Becker, the Artisan/Businessman: Becker and Louis Schauble were jacks-of-all-trades and masters of all of them. They made and repaired all things wooden: spindles, balusters, newel posts, doors, screen doors, screens for windows, ironing boards, boxes, slats for hay loaders, and water troughs. They sold and repaired cisterns and the pumps that were mounted on them, and did the associated pipe fitting. They sold gas-powered engines for pumping water and powering small machines. They sold weather vanes.

They built, installed, and repaired windmills. They did repair work on all Case Farm Equipment; i.e., harrows (plows), hay loaders, mowers, hay stackers, and grain binders (machines to cut, bind, and bundle grain).

If anything at home needed repair, it was off to Schauble & Becker to fix butter churns, lawn mowers, and door latches, and replace screen cloth.

In the fall, the services included pressing grapes and apples for juice and eventually cider and wine.

Then, sometime after 1906, Otto Becker ended his partnership with Louis Schauble. The new

partnership with Louis Leiseberg necessitated changing the company name to Becker & Leiseberg.

Otto Becker, the Family Man: Otto married Emilie Meyer on September 23, 1884, at St. John's Lutheran Church at the corner of Irving Park and Rodenburg Roads. Initially, the couple lived on Mensching Road.

"On February 16, 1901, Otto purchased two lots in Roselle from Louis Dohl and Katherine Dohl for \$400. This was from the originally platted part of the village that Roselle (sic) M. Hough had laid out. These lots were at the southwest corner of Prospect and Maple. He hired Louis Menke, a contractor and builder from Schaumburg, to build the house.

"Although Mr. Menke was the builder, Otto did much of the millwork for the house himself. He turned the spindles for the staircase and porch. It was a lovely two-story house with a large walk-up attic. It had a widow's walk on the roof surrounding the brick chimney. The back porch was screened in during the summer months, and it was enclosed with windows during the winter." (excerpted from Becker Story by LaVonne Thies Presley)

The Becker house, 132 S. Prospect St., also had running water. Otto built a windmill that had a holding tank on top which held water from an underground spring. A pipeline carried the water from the windmill to the house. An indoor bathroom was a major feature in the house as was the first septic system in town.



132 S. Prospect

A barn was built on the west side of the property, behind the house, to accommodate the horse.

Heating and cooking at the time required wood, so Otto and Emilie bought two acres of wooded land on December 18, 1900. This property is located a short distance south on Roselle Road.

Otto Becker, the Citizen: Otto's involvement in the community included serving as a volunteer fireman and as a horn/tuba player in the Roselle Band. The Beckers were members of Trinity Lutheran Church.



Becker & Leiseberg had the first automobile agency in Roselle, so Otto had the opportunity to own his own car. He was the first in town to be so up to date.

At age 51, he contracted a spinal disease. Even as he convalesced, friends came to seek his advice and expertise about, among other things, cars.

Otto H. Becker died on April 25, 1913. His obituary reads: The funeral was held Monday afternoon; the many friends filled the church to its capacity. The floral offerings were many. The remains were laid to rest in Trinity Cemetery. He leaves to mourn his wife, one son, and two daughters. Mr. Becker was one of Roselle's respected citizens and leaves many friends.

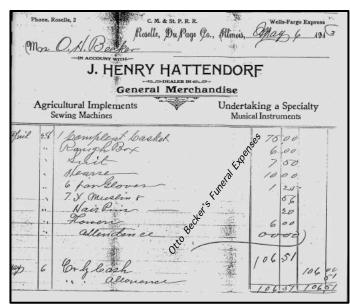
The machine shop went on, and Louis Leiseberg entered into a partnership with E.W. Allman. The business was also an agency for Ford automobiles, tractors, and trucks. The new

partners continued to do the usual repair work and soon the business became a dealership for John Deere farm implements and pumps. Eventually, the focus was on auto repair.

Emilie Becker continued to live in the house. The couple had four children, Hannah (who died in infancy), Clara Becker Thies, Viola Becker Voelz, and Emil Becker.



Top: Ramona Hattendorf, Lydia Botterman, Lillian Blank, Carol Hopener, Clarence Schmoldt, Edwin Steinbeck, Emil Richert, Herman Segesman, Otto Bokelmann, Emil Becker; 2nd Row: Wilmer Biesterfeld, Henry Wilkening, Albert Richert, William Becker, Herman Haberkamp; Front: Selma Troyke, Alfred Richert, Anna Haberkamp, William Haberkamp. Teacher: Pastor Luecke



(Thanks to LaVonne Thies Presley who compiled the Becker Story booklet on which this article was based. The booklet, which contains multiple and varied documents, is on file at the Roselle History Museum.)

A MESSAGE TO ALL GRADUATES Young and Old



"Pomp and Circumstance" Leads and Words of Wisdom Follow

by Bob Frisk

Daily Herald, 1958-2008

Written June 3, 2005

People perceive and respond to music in different ways. You can't deny its power. I'll admit I'm not in tune with today's pop music scene, but I hope you cut me some slack. Remember, I'm a senior citizen.

I'm the kind of guy who still gets chills over Kate Smith's rendition of "God Bless America" or Ray Charles' "America the Beautiful."

I always will stop and listen to Bette Midler's "Wind Beneath My Wings," or John Lennon's "Imagine," or Paul McCartney's "Yesterday." There's very little that Frank Sinatra contributed over the years that I don't like. I'm a big fan of Carly Simon and still get a little choked up over Barry Manilow's "Mandy."

Yes, I know all these music confessions today make me very square in the eyes of teenagers. I'm comfortable with that.

There's another piece of music that really gets to me, and it involves these same teenagers. They will all be part of an event that has music with melodies that convey a complex of emotions, that sounds triumphant but with an underlying quality of nostalgia.

Of course, I am talking about their high school graduation and the processional. "Pomp and Circumstance," written by Edward Elgar in 1901. It's difficult to imagine any graduation at any age level without it.

Interestingly, it wasn't originally intended for graduations. The march was used for the coronation of King Edward VII. "Pomp and Circumstance" first became associated with graduations in 1905, when it was played as Elgar received an honorary doctorate from Yale University.

After Yale used it, Princeton followed, and then the University of Chicago and Columbia until, now it's heard almost everywhere in May and June.

If Elgar's music doesn't stir parents when they see their child walk to his or her seat, then they must be completely devoid of feelings. "Pomp and Circumstance" still gets to me, and it has been a long time since I've had an emotional attachment to any graduation.

Whenever I hear that music, I think about my own graduations and my daughter's graduations. Those are events you never forget. I even remember the weather.

Graduation is the first of those pivotal times in our lives when we look back at our past, turn consciously away from it, and begin to stare our future straight in the face.

Graduation is a life-changing, life-affirming moment.

You hear so many words of wisdom in graduation speeches that it's difficult to remember them all. I have made a habit of saving words of advice I have read or heard through the years. If you have ever been a graduate, I guarantee some of these will sound familiar, but they're worth repeating.

True success is overcoming the fear of being unsuccessful.

Graduates, I am here today to tell you that

 Yesterday is but today's memory and tomorrow is today's dream.

- Every exit is an entry somewhere else.
- Tomorrow hopes we have learned something from yesterday.
- The richest man in the world is the man who still has his best friend.
- Be someone's friend as you want them to be for you.
- Success is doing what you want to do, when you want, where you want, with whom you want, as much as you want.
- Success is not so much what we have as what we are.
- Failure is success if we learn from it.
- May your future be worthy of your dreams.
- Be confident of your decisions.
- Accept 100 percent accountability and demand it of others.
- Communication is everything.
- Life is like a ten-speed bike. Most of us have gears we never use.
- Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.
- Go out on a limb. That's where the fruit
- Make your life a mission—not an intermission.
- Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words.
- Keep your words positive because your words become your actions.
- Keep your actions positive because your actions become your habits.
- Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values.
- Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny.

Your greatest possession is actually optimism.

At my graduation from the University of Illinois in 1958, I remember sitting there soaking up all those words of wisdom while feeling the sense of accomplishment, the excitement. I also experienced the most chilling feeling of all. I had this fear that the commencement speech would never end. (Permission to print granted by Bob Frisk and the Daily Herald)

Membership

You are the primary source of funding for the Roselle History Museum. You are the primary source through which new exhibits can be created and permanent ones maintained. You are the primary source through which the Museum Campus can remain the beauty spot in the heart of town. You are an integral part of keeping the museum alive and well and ready for tomorrow.

The membership year runs from Jan 1 through Dec 31. Membership contributions received after Oct 31 are credited to the following year.

While you're contemplating renewal, also consider taking an active role in the myriad of "stuff" that goes on at the museum. Here are some of the ways you can help: answering the phone, distributing regular mail and email, creating and refreshing exhibits, coordinating events, clipping newspaper articles and photographs, entering data into the computer, making copies, identifying old photos, gardening, some handyman repairs—to name only a few of the areas where help is needed. Does something jump out at you? Contact us!

Send an email (rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net), call 630-351-5300, or drop a line to the Roselle History Museum, 39 E. Elm St., Roselle, 60172. Circle something on the membership form (back page) that strikes your fancy, and we will get back to you! Also, consider attending a general meeting on the second Saturday of the month at the Museum Office.

Mark Your

Calendar!

All Year Passport Program May 28 Flags for Roselle June 3 Rose Parade (float) June 10 Porch Event June 14 Flags for Roselle July 4 Flags for Roselle August 3-5 Sept 11 Sept (tba)

Taste of Roselle Flags for Roselle Museum's 30th Anniversary Flags for Roselle

Nov 11 Dec 2 Christmas Open House

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, VP/Treas Ruth Bagel, Secretary Milan Bagel * Hank Kvintus Walter Lotz * Tom Piorkowski Frank Zielinski

Historian: Joan Beauprez
Museum Hours

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

Newsletter Deadlines

Feb 1, May 1 Aug 1, Nov 1

Editor: Kay Cahill kaycahill@comcast.net

General Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday, 10-11:30 a.m. at the Museum Office, 39 E. Elm. Everyone is welcome.

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 Renewal	Circle one:	\$30	\$50*	\$100	\$250	Other \$	
*My contribution is at least \$50. Please send me a free copy of the <i>Remembering Roselle</i> history book. I would be interested in helping in one of the areas of the Foundation's work. Circle one:								
Com	nputer/Clerical	* Exhibits	* Par	ade Float	* Resear	ch * Siı	ngle Event '	* Buildings/Grounds
The Roselle Historical Foundation is a $501(c)(3)$ corporation. Your contribution may be fully tax deductible.								Summer 2018