



Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation
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Fall 2016

STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES

Barbara Peterson

Photos by Joyce Kuhlmann

The numerous flowerbeds surrounding the three buildings of the Roselle History Museum Campus offer a vast array of

continuous color throughout the year with an emphasis on perennials and a few annuals which vary each year.

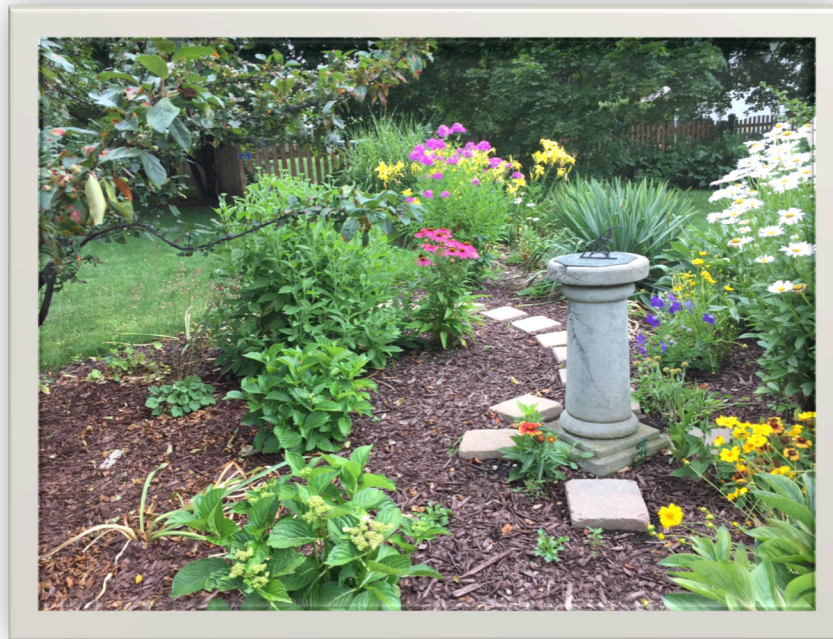
Trees on the property, which include maples, spruce, locust, pine, magnolia, crabapple, and a Japanese lilac, provide shade and affect the

variety of flowers in each of the four main flower beds. Pachysandra ground cover, Stella de Oro and old-fashioned daylilies, lily-of-the-valley, gooseneck loosestrife, peonies, shrub roses, a dwarf Japanese maple, and five varieties of hosta surround the three buildings. An antique 2-bottom plough brings a touch of history to the property.

The four main garden areas are maintained by five volunteers who can be seen weeding, watering, planting, deadheading, and mulching with the most intense work performed in the

spring. Two hand-painted rain barrels supply much needed water during the gardening season. The garden directly to the north of the coach house on Elm Street is shaded by two beautiful magnolia trees that bloom in May. Shade plants of various species—hosta, ferns, creeping myrtle ground cover, columbine,

yellow daffodils, and wild daisies thrive under the trees. Annuals accenting the area vary yearly, but often include red salvia, alyssum, coleus, and orange Rieger begonias. A marker in remembrance of Helen Rodewald, Cliff Benhart, and Ronald Kuhlmann is located near the sidewalk.



The garden area between the coach house (museum office) and the Richter House is in shade/part sun. In the early summer, bright yellow buttercups can be seen blooming with either impatiens or red and white begonias showing off their colors during the summer months, and sedum flowering in the fall.

The garden along the rail fence in the northwest corner of the north side-yard was re-landscaped a few years ago and plays host to a crab-apple tree. This garden also happens to be blessed with more sun, thus enabling the

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ROSELLE-THAT-WAS

Pastor Charles S. Mueller, Sr.

Garrison Keillor of Lakewoebegone (MN) fame would be right at home in the Roselle I learned to love after arriving in 1978 to serve Trinity Lutheran Church. The Roselle I came to know was like no community I had experienced before and which now no longer exists except in the memory of some and in stories we pass on.

I was introduced to Roselle-That-Was by longtime residents like Ma (and Pa) Thorsell, Esther Kruse, Leroy and Norma Thiemann, Ed Gieske, Ron Kuhlmann, the Tedrahns, and many others. Patiently and with kindness to all they told me how that world worked then.

Rule #1, then, was that in Roselle-That-Was everyone was related or was connected in one way or another to everyone else. As such they not only practiced, but were community.

Rule #2 was that in some miraculous way, news spreads throughout that community faster than the speed of light. People in Roselle-That-Was were careful about what they said to and about each other—not so much because they were afraid of being caught, but because they were a family that really cared for each other, including the one or two quirky family members everybody knew about and accepted.

As I was learning who was who in the community, I discovered that most whom I came upon in the community's centers (places like the lumberyard, the stores on Main Street, Shirl's Drive-In, Gorski's, Roselle Bank, Pik-Kwik, Rose Cafe, the shoe repair shop, and the paint store—all now gone) already knew who I was via the local tell-or-phone system. They not only spotted and helped me, but I found that they did the same for other people who were new in town. Everyone functioned as an unofficial but effective Welcome Wagon.

Soon after I arrived I needed a haircut and turned to Ron's Barber shop for his one-of-a-kind trim. His barbershop was where people dropped in to talk, pass around the latest news, banter with Ron and sometimes get a haircut. When I entered I noticed a priest

seated who was waiting his turn. I introduced myself and we shook hands. After he left Ron told me he believed that was the first time the local Lutheran pastor and Catholic priest had publicly acknowledged each other. Maybe so. But it certainly wasn't the last as subsequent years of cooperative efforts between Trinity and St. Walter's and St. Isidore's show. I mention this not only to show that the winds of ecumenical change were blowing in Roselle at the clergy level but that healthy and helpful relations among Roselle's various churches were being practiced at the pew level before they were openly exhibited at the pulpit level. The seeds of better things to come were quietly sown in Roselle-That-Was.

In future articles about Roselle-That-Was I'll pass on some of the fascinating things I learned about getting a mortgage in those days, a recipe for sausage making, implications for being a Cubs or Sox fan, building houses, life in the conflicting attraction of Elgin and Chicago, and other stories.

Paul Ricoeur said, "Hope is the same thing as remembering." But if you don't know what happened, how can you remember? Hooray for Roselle's Historical Foundation.



gardeners to plant sun-loving plants. Favorites of this writer are the three recently added pink 'Star Gazer' mophead hydrangea shrubs and the white shasta daisies which bloom in the summer.

A sundial and stepping stones (cover page) highlight the area along with tulips, daffodils, irises, and old-fashioned pink, white, and red peonies blooming in the spring, whereas summer brings yellow coreopsis, pink echinacea (cone-flower), blue campanula, phlox, gaillardia, and occasional butterflies. This summer, old-fashioned, multi-colored zinnias have displayed their color by the fence, along with showy rudbeckia (black-eyed Susan). Sedum 'Autumn Joy' rounds out the fall landscape into the winter months. The front garden area (See next column.)

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Interested in volunteering? Call the museum office at 630-351-5300.

on Prospect St., though partially shaded by a maple tree, receives the morning sun. Red geraniums, perennial blue sage salvia, Stella de Oro and common daylilies, Rozanne cranesbill, and daisies, along with two benches, highlight the museum's entrance.

A little surprise in the summer is a purple clematis (left) on the outhouse that is surrounded by lilies, lamb's ear, sedum, and yellow daffodils showing off their colors in spring and summer. Many walkers stop and chat while we strive to make the gardens beautiful for the center of town. To further enhance the Museum Campus grounds, the Village of

Roselle provides landscaping services that include lawn care and tree trimming.



NEWSLETTER REACHING MORE READERS



In an effort to expand distribution of the RHM Newsletter, it will soon be sent via email as well as regular mail.

If you currently receive the hard copy, and you prefer it that way, no need to take any action.

If you'd like to receive *both* the hard copy and the emailed copy, or the emailed copy only, please provide us with your email address.

- 1) Notify the museum office, 630-351-5300;
- 2) Email rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net; **or**
- 3) On the Membership Form, include your email address and circle Y on the Email Option.

Now We Know!

The people in this picture, which appeared in the Summer issue, have been identified.

Tom Walters wrote:



I very much enjoyed Ray Hitzemann's story about the 118 E. Irving Park building (now the museum office). My grandparents lived in the west unit for many years. The photo shows my step-grandfather, Warner F. Alexander (left), and my grandmother, Elizabeth (right). The woman in the center could be one of the women who lived in the east unit.

My first grade teacher, Miss Carmella Phelan, rented a room in the main house, which was owned by Mildred Warnock. It was fun having my teacher live so near my grandparents.

WHERE HAS ALL THE FARMLAND GONE?

Ray Hitzemann

Over 100 years ago, this area was part of Bloomingdale Township, primarily a dairy town, with a train running through the middle of what would eventually become “downtown Roselle.” Surrounding the area were eleven farms and two truck farms.

Ready to respond to farmers’ needs were a blacksmith, harness shop, shoe repair shop, feed mill, lumberyard, general store, post office, coal yard, farm implement store, as well as a couple of taverns.

As time went on, a doctor, a dentist, and a barber came to town. Then an auto/truck dealer and garage, gas station, hatchery, bank, oil dealer, and propane dealer. Soon churches and schools were built, and grocery stores popped up, even a bakery and a drug store. In the 1940s, Roselle had two manufacturing companies: Suburban Plastics and Midwest Folding. (MF made the old-fashioned folding tables with masonite tops and metal legs.)

As land owners began to age, and the land became more and more valuable, farms were sold to developers or developed by the owners. Families who wanted to remain in farming purchased farms west of Elgin. Much of the vacant farmland in Roselle sold for \$1,000-\$1,500/acre at that time.

The Siems family had a 133-acre farm in the 1940s that covered the area bordered by Roselle Rd. on the west, Rush St. on the east, Ardmore on the north, and the equivalent of Forest on the south. (Forest Ave. does not extend east of Roselle Rd.) A section of that farm—the south side of Walnut St. from Roselle Rd. to Rush St.—was sold to son Art and his wife Gladys, who developed a tree nursery. The property was held in the family until the 1970s when it was subdivided and developed into Siems Circle.

After 1945, several of the Siemses’ lots, extending along the north side of Walnut to

Prospect St., were sold to make room for Roselle Middle School and Kemmerling Pool. The rest of the land on the north side of Walnut was sold as individual lots.

The Meyer farm extended from Rush St. on the west to White Oak Dr. on the east, and from the Forest Ave. equivalent on the south to Trinity’s northern boundary on the north.

In 1955, most of the Meyer farm was sold to a developer. Ten acres of it, though, were sold to Trinity Lutheran Church on Rush St. The remaining lots along Walnut, east of Rush, were kept in the family and sold one by one over the years. The last lot was sold in 1973 to Ray and Sharon Hitzemann.

In the 1950s, families started to “move west” out of Chicago in search of more living space. This urban sprawl transposed the little farm community into a “bedroom community” where families lived in town and wage earners traveled to and from other towns to work.

The farms northwest of Roselle Rd. to Rodenburg Rd. and north to Wise (Wiese) Rd. were sold in 1964. Land speculators wanted to buy the farms, so the farmers agreed in 1963 that all of the farms should be sold for the same price per acre so no one could hold out for a better price. All of these farms were eventually annexed to Schaumburg.

Today, Roselle covers 5½ square miles, boasts a population of 23,000+, and is proud of its significant growth and development since its incorporation in 1922.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Call 630-351-5300 to make your reservation for the next *Sip ‘n Paint* session.

Friday, August 26

7-10 pm at the museum office,
39 E. Elm St. The class fills up quickly, so don’t hesitate. Cost per person: \$40.



THE AMERICAN WAY

*A chicken in every pot, a car in every garage,
and a flag in every yard!*



The Roselle History Museum will launch a Community Flag Program in the Spring of 2017. This unique fund raiser will benefit the museum and other local non-profits as it sparks a patriotic spirit throughout Roselle.

Volunteers will install American flags in front yards at dawn and remove them at dusk on the four holidays: Memorial Day, Flag Day (June 14), Fourth of July, and Labor Day. A subscription for this service is \$40 for the four holidays. Proceeds will be divided among the organizations that participate in the activity.

A kick-off meeting was held at the museum office on July 12. Feedback from the representatives of local groups (American Legion, Itasca Bank & Trust Co., Lake Park High School, Girl Scouts, and the History Museum) was not only positive, but enthusiastic.

Subscriptions will be available soon. More details, including how to sign up, will be published in this newsletter and elsewhere.

Christmas Open House! **Sun, Dec 4, 2-4 pm** **at the Museum**

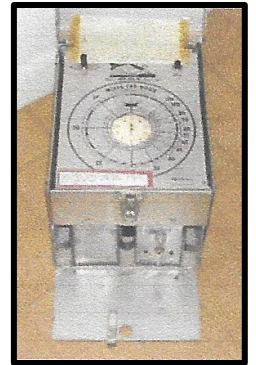
Delicious, delightful, and de-lovely! That's what you'll say about the holiday treats and music planned for you this year. Mark your calendar.



Tom Walters Remembers the Speed Machine

Tom Walters, a Roselle resident from 1950 to 1970, wrote to us recently about an article (Summer 2012) about a machine that detected a driver's speed. Tom has an interesting postscript. He wrote:

I'd been meaning to write to comment on a story in the newsletter a while ago. It was about a traffic speed machine that was used to measure automobile speeds through town. My dad, George Walters, was a volunteer policeman in the 1950s, and I remember being with him as he used the machine to clock cars traveling along Roselle Rd. near Maple Ave. The setup required running a rubber hose across the road several yards up-road from the machine. As a vehicle crossed the hose, air pressure would cause its speed to show on the dial (much the same way the old gas station hoses would ring a bell when a vehicle arrived). If the vehicle was speeding, my dad would wave at the car. I don't remember if he actually stopped them. It was an interesting (and memorable) way for a youngster to spend a Saturday morning!



Officer George Walters

(Original story: www.rosellehistory.com, newsletter archives, then scroll down to Summer 2012.)

(May we suggest that you make a copy of the form on the next page so you don't lose any of the content on this page.)

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM
39 E ELM STREET
ROSELLE IL 60172



REMINDER: Send us your email address if you'd like to receive the RHM Newsletter electronically.

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 \$_____ Email Option: Y / N

_____ 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.

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