



Sumner House

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation
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Fall 2020

Remembering a Giant



Alfred C. Engel
1927-2020

When Al Engel died on May 26, Roselle lost a dedicated citizen, a loved and gentle man with many talents. The History Museum lost a giant, a leader, a supporter, a positive influence and role model, an artist, and a guy who could make you laugh. "No one could be mad at him," said his beloved wife, Marge.

In 1987, Al was called upon by then Mayor Sandra Birdsall to serve as president of the newly-formed Roselle Historical Foundation. He led the movement to create and develop a

history museum in the heart of town.

For that entire year, Al Engel led a group of enthusiastic volunteers who transformed a family home, formerly owned by the Donald Thomas family and now a property of the Village, into a museum at 102 S. Prospect St.

The various rooms in the house were designated for specific exhibits; i.e., the Classroom, the Military Room, the Farm Room, the Timeline Room, etc. Hundreds of artifacts, which were resurrected from the old Roselle Historical Society's treasure trove, were placed on display in the appropriate rooms.

In the meantime, Al was working on one of the original exhibits that remains today—a birds-eye view of early Roselle (Room 3), which shows a wall-size map depicting the village, the railroad track, and the homes scattered throughout town—a great example of Al's creativity and craftsmanship. This unique rounded wall exhibit is a "must see" for visitors and a favorite of school children.

As a Foundation Board member, Al contributed ideas and provided encouragement to fellow members at every turn. When new ideas were tossed out for the Core

Group's consideration, Al was supportive; he never rejected an idea. He was always thinking about what could be next.

Al Engel loved Roselle—having moved here in the 3rd grade—and he has served his town well. He was a dedicated member of Trinity Lutheran Church where he was a member of the Men's Choir. One of his proudest accomplishments, according to Marge, was while he served on the Roselle Park District's Board and worked diligently (and successfully!) on the referendum to build the Kemmerling Pool. Al was the president and founding commissioner of the Park District. He also played a major role in the negotiations to purchase the Turner property that would become Turner Park. He still had time to coach Little League teams, where he was a source of comfort and encouragement to many young athletes.

Near the end of World War II, at age 18, Al was drafted into the U.S. Army and spent 13 months at Camp Grant near Rockford processing the discharges of hundreds of servicemen.

Al enjoyed writing and oil painting. This painting, one of his many "objets d'art," was exhibited in the Museum's 1998 Art Gallery Invitational, "Connections I."



Al Engel is remembered fondly by his museum colleagues as a mild, humble sort with a good sense of humor.

Tom Piorkowski: As we were walking up to the Museum Office for a meeting, I said to him, "Has anyone ever told you that you look like Ian McKellen?" Al didn't know who that was, and when I told him he is an actor, Al asked if he was handsome. I said, "Yes." Al replied, "Then you must be lying about me looking like him, but I'll take it."

(continued on Page 2)

Al Engel Remembered

(continued from Page 1)

Tom also remembers when Pres. Ray Hitzemann passed around the docent sign-up sheet showing the only opening was for a Sunday three weeks away. Al said he wanted to sign up, but that he never makes plans that far in advance. Ray asked, "Why?" Al said, "At my age I don't know if I'll still be here and I would hate to let anybody down."

Joyce Kuhlmann: When I moved to Roselle in 1959, Al was the first friend I met as we walked from the train to our homes after work. One of the nicest friends I have ever met.

Milan Bagel: Shortly after moving to Roselle, I met Al and Marge at Trinity Lutheran Church. Al and I learned we had a lot in common. We especially enjoyed discussing stock market strategies and antiques! One day, after I retired, he invited me to attend a meeting of the Roselle Historical Foundation. That was the beginning of a long relationship with the Museum. Al was a good friend and is sorely missed.

Joan Beauprez: I have always looked forward to working with Al on projects and exhibits. He was thoughtful, creative, humorous, and willing to help wherever there was a need. He will be greatly missed!

Mary Crompton: I remember Al as a kind man with a fabulous sense of humor!

Ray Hitzemann: Sharon and I went with Al and Marge on all the Museum group's history trips out East. He was a fun person to travel with. Oftentimes, too, he invited us to join them for happy hour on his patio.

Diana Eckert: Al always complimented people when he saw them, with a twinkle in his eye and a big smile on his face. I always loved Al and Marge—what a couple!

Al Engel is survived by his devoted wife, Marge, their children: Joan (Steve), Judy (Ken), Jim (Paulina), Jeff, nine grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Al Engel is shown cutting the ribbon at the Grand Opening of the Roselle History Museum in September 1988.



"The main thing that you have to remember on this journey is, just be nice to everyone and always smile."

(Ed Sheeran)

Kind Words from Bob Frisk

(1937 - 2020)

Readers may remember a moving "Message to All Graduates, Young and Old," written by Daily Herald prep sports reporter Bob Frisk, which we included, with his permission, in the Summer 2018 issue of this newsletter. Bob was with the DH from 1958-2008. He died in May 2020 at age 83. "Universally beloved, always upbeat and a legend in suburban high school sports," is how columnist Burt Constable began his impressive tribute to Frisk in the Daily Herald.

We at the RHM Newsletter were humbled when we received the following comment from Bob Frisk after he read our newsletter back in 2018: "Thank you so much for sending the hard copy. I will show it to friends as a shining example of how a very professional newsletter should look." That comment from a highly respected columnist made our day and served as incentive to continue doing our best to bring to our readers the most professional product possible.

(Thank you to Burt Constable for permitting us to use his words about Bob Frisk. To see "Message to All Graduates," go to <http://rosellehistory.org/newsletter>, click on 2018, then Summer.)

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

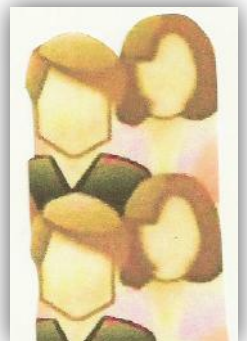
Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

(Permission to print granted by Michelle Sherbun of Merlin Solutions.)



"We meet no ordinary people in our lives. If you give them a chance, everyone has something amazing to offer." (Ryan Seacrest)

Peaceful Protest

Several hundred protestors joined in a peaceful march through Roselle in June in support of the Black Lives Matters movement. Photos were taken by Kara McAuliffe on Prospect St. in front of the History Museum.



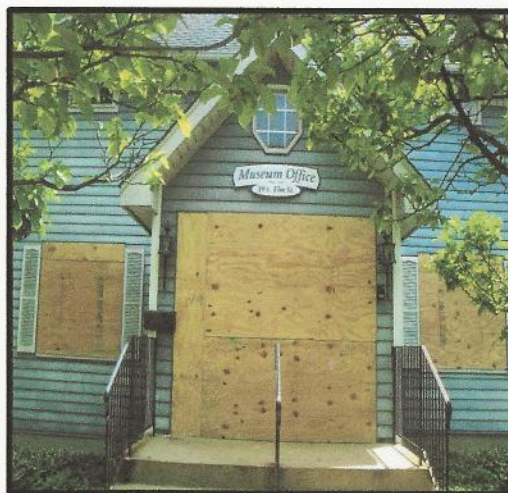
As a precaution against possible damage, the Village boarded up the Museum Campus buildings. There was no damage, and the boards were removed a few days later. (Photos by Leslie Drewitz and Joan Beauprez)



*History
Museum*



*Richter
House*



*Museum
Office*

Rose Queen's Reign is Reined In

Julia Burke of Lake Park High School was crowned Rose Queen in February, but her reign was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic, and all the events she had planned to attend were canceled. Hopefully, she will be able to make at least a few appearances before her year as Roselle's regal representative ends.

She entered the competition when she saw Rose Pageant Committee member Pam Mitchell's Facebook page indicating the applications deadline was nearing. So she wrote her required essay and submitted it just in time.

The competition itself was great fun. Julia said, "The girls were all so incredibly talented, beautiful, and sweet, and we had so much fun backstage. One challenge I faced was that for my talent I had decided to do a pie baking demonstration, and was going to make an apple pie. I then learned one of the girls in the competition was super allergic to apples, so rather than finish it, I went home and changed my recipe to a blueberry one."

The pie demonstration was different from most talent presentations. It took on a comedic tone, and allowed Julia to interact with the audience and get them laughing—always her favorite thing to do.

In spite of the fact that we can't meet her in person (yet), let's get to know Julia. The middle child—and only girl—in the Burke family, Julia considers it an



"interesting dynamic." Her younger brother was her escort in the competition, which, Julia says, showed his unconditional support. She enjoys that same support from her older brother and her parents, as well as the "cutest dog in the world, a husky named Whiskey." She grew up in Itasca, attending Benson, Franzen, and Peacock schools, and then on to Lake Park. Julia wants to pursue a degree in political science and eventually work in politics as an environmental lobbyist for a nonprofit organization.

Julia puts the whole situation caused by the pandemic in perspective: "I told everyone I wanted to be the most involved Rose Queen ever. I wanted to show up to every gala, library event, parade, fireworks show—every single one—I wanted to show up with crown, sash, and all ready to take as many pictures with little kids as possible.

"I was so excited for this job, and I still am, but with everything being canceled it's just a little different than expected. Obviously, the reason so many events are being canceled is because of safety reasons, and the safety of those in Roselle is so much more important than a few events. I am so glad that proper precautions are being made, and I hope I'll get to do some Rose Queen events eventually. I'll just get a mask that matches the tiara!

"Roselle is truly such an amazing community with some of the kindest people I know in it which is why I'm so proud to be called your 2020 Rose Queen!"

Best-Laid Plans of Mice and Men Often Go Awry

It seemed like a good idea at the time—all the planning and scheduling for the 2020 events and exhibits. Well, poet Robert Burns put it quite clearly, didn't he? "The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry." And so began the scramble. Postpone or cancel. "To be, or not to be, that is the question." Do you suppose Burns & Hamlet knew something?

Not-To-Be had to be the answer. Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic took over the nation, RHM committee chairmen began to remove from the calendar

all the events and exhibits that had been so enthusiastically arranged. Of course, the plan is to conduct all these activities in 2021. Dates and times will be published as soon as the State provides clearance. Watch for them:

Historical Evening ♦ Children's Manners Program ♦ Flags for Roselle ♦ Rose Parade Float ♦ Glowstick Sales at the Fireworks ♦ Taste of Roselle ♦ Halloween Hunt ♦ Women and the Vote Exhibit ♦ Christmas Open House

Refresh – Reset – Restore

Museum Campus Grounds – Taking Pride in Community



No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden.
(Thomas Jefferson)



The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. (Alfred Austin)



Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years.
(unknown)



Gardens are not made by singing, "Oh, how beautiful," and sitting in the shade. (Rudyard Kipling)



Life begins the day you start a garden.
(Chinese proverb)

Roselle Garden Club members and History Museum volunteers come together to create and maintain the gardens on the Museum Campus. The corner of Prospect and Elm is a garden spot in the heart of town.

Photography by Leslie Drewitz and Joyce Kuhlmann:

- 1) Museum Office on Elm Street
- 2) Barbara Peterson, Deanna Stuart, Jeanne Calvert, and Leslie Mabbot
- 3) Jessica Kight
- 4) Leslie Mabbot, garden designer and coordinator
- 5) Hank Kvintus

Flags for Roselle

Something's been missing lately. Yes! It's the hundreds of FFR flags flying throughout Roselle on the recent holidays. Rest assured! Flags will be flying in full force in 2021. Subscriptions will be accepted beginning December 1, 2020. Your \$50 donation will cover the installation of a 3 x 5-foot U.S. Flag in your front yard or business on each of the following patriotic holidays:



Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Patriot Day, and Veterans Day. Flags are removed the same day at dusk.

Something New!

An Official FFR Logo and Scholarship

The FFR Board of Directors has not been sitting on its hands during this pandemic, in spite of the fact that no flags are being installed. The members have established a \$500 scholarship for a Lake Park High School student to design a logo for the program. Competition is underway. Application forms are available at the FFR website (see below). Deadline for submissions is October 1.



The Flags for Roselle program was created in 2016, the first installation taking place on Memorial Day 2017. Each of the three ensuing years saw the number of subscriptions grow, and all the proceeds, which also grew, were distributed equally to five nonprofit organizations in town: The American Legion Charitable Foundation, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Lake Park High School Educational Foundation, and the Roselle Historical Foundation. Last year, *each* group received \$2,500. Expenses that are not covered by generous donors, come out of the fund. The balance goes back to the community via these local organizations.

Here's an opportunity to become a member of a 2021 installation team. You may choose one or all five of the holidays to install and/or remove the flags.

Website: www.flagsforroselle.weebly.com

Email: flagsforroselle@gmail.com

Regular mail: P.O. Box 72001, Roselle, IL 60172

Where in the World Is This?

What Kinds of Cars?



And where is the photographer standing?

Hint: It's in Roselle, circa 1950s.

(For the answer, see "Photo Identification" on Page 7.)

About the cars: Newsletter reader Gavin Barclay, who is "into cars," enjoyed seeing and attempting to identify these vintage vehicles. He shares his best guesses:

Cars on the right: 1929 Ford, 1937 Chevy, 1950 Plymouth, 1953 Plymouth

Cars on the left: 1940s Willys Jeep, 1948 Chrysler

The last one with the bump trunk may be a 1938 Pontiac. Now, see Page 7 to see where this scene is.

How to Properly Salute the Flag

Section 301(b)(1) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by replacing subparagraphs (A)–(C) with the following:



(A) individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;

(B) members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform;

(C) all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart.

Note: (C) applies to those not in the military and non-veterans. The phrase "men not in uniform" refers to civil service uniforms like police, fire fighters, and letter carriers—non-veteran civil servants who might normally render a salute while in uniform.

Meet Megan Wozniak

Membership/Marketing Manager



Megan Wozniak came onboard in January as part-time Membership/Marketing Manager. Just a few of the many tasks she has undertaken include creating the Museum's new website, updating its Facebook page, and reorganizing the membership database.

Megan became interested in the History Museum when she met Leslie Drewitz through the museum community and the Museum Shareshop sessions, where representatives from local historical societies gather several times each year to share ideas.

Megan has worked in the museum field for almost 10 years. She has found that "working in small institutions means you must be a jack-of-all-trades in order to continue doing what you love." She also works full-time at the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park as its Collections Manager.

She holds a BS in History and Psychology with a minor in Art from Elmhurst College (now University); and an MA in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Dominican University in Library and Information Science focusing on Archival Science.

"I'm a self-proclaimed 'museum nerd.' I try to consume anything and everything *museum*. From documentaries on Netflix to purchasing yet another museum reference book to hearing the next greatest thing our field has to say about X, Y, or Z on the social platforms. . .

"This pandemic has turned our world upside down, but it has not faltered the vision and mission of this organization. As a community resource, we are needed now more than ever. We have been collecting stories, keeping track of changes within the Village, and making renovations to be more accommodating when we reopen." Megan views the Museum as a great opportunity for the future of Roselle. "Like a time capsule, it is a treasure trove of goodies that has rich stories to tell."

Looking ahead five years, Megan says, "I know with absolute certainty that the Museum is going to be more of an integral part of the Roselle Community by what this year's Board and volunteers have done and continue to do despite the limitations [*caused by the pandemic*]. We will have more programs, we will have more visitors, and we will have a collection that embodies what it was like to live during these unprecedented times."



What Else is New!

Picnic Table at the Museum

Campus. If you're a walker, you can take a break. If you'd just like to sit a while and take in the beauty of the grounds, now you can. This is the Museum's way of saying, "Welcome!"



Photo Identification The photograph on Page 6 was taken on Prospect Street looking east on Main Street—on property that would become Shirl's Drive-in and now is the extension of Main St. west to Roselle Rd. "In 1924, the Kee & Chapell Dairy building (on Main St.) was sold to A. Juhnke. He subdivided the main building and rented the resulting small stores and offices to a series of businesses." (*Etched in Time*)

Memo from Megan Our biggest obstacle between now and 2025 isn't really the pandemic; it is having a solid financial future. I would be remiss as the Marketing Manager to not mention how your contributions enable us to have a future. We want to continue to be a part of your community, but we need your generosity—in any form (and I'm not just saying cash, check, or credit!). The Museum has its goals and its vision which the Board, staff, and volunteers enable, but *it is ultimately you, the community, that makes the dream a reality.*

Just Two Years Away Roselle will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2022. Get ready!

We promise! The Museum will open just as soon as possible. In the meantime, we're spiffing up a number of things to welcome you back.

Like us on Facebook! For Museum updates: <https://www.facebook.com/rosellehistorymuseum>

Newsletter If you know someone who would like to receive the newsletter, contact editor@rosellehistory.org. It's a service of the History Museum, and it's free!

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER
39 E ELM STREET
ROSELLE IL 60172



Preserving Our Past

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 & Staff

President: Ray Hitzemann

VP/Treas: Glenn Spachman

Secretary: Tom Piorkowski

Members: Milan Bagel, Joan Beauprez,
Hank Kvintus, Walter Lotz

Museum Mgr: Leslie Drewitz

museummanager@rosellehistory.org

Marketing Mgr: Megan Wozniak

marketingmanager@rosellehistory.org

General Meetings

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

Museum Hours

CLOSED temporarily
due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Newsletter Deadlines

Feb 1 – May 1 – Aug 1 – Nov 1

Editor: Kay Cahill

editor@rosellehistory.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

City/State/Zip _____

____ 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.

Fall 2020