

McLean County Museum of History



On the Museum Square

December 2017-January-February 2018

Join us for Christmas at the Courthouse

Our local history reminds us of a time in the early 1850s, when an influx of German immigrants helped to grow the community's enthusiasm for celebrating the Christmas holiday in McLean County. Each year the Museum revisits a time honored tradition of celebrating the holiday season with our annual Christmas at the Courthouse and invite you to join



us for one of the area's most diverse and popular events of the season.

On Saturday, December 2, immediately following the Jaycees parade, visitors can enjoy holiday music, family activities, and refreshments throughout the day from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. See Santa from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Musical performances this year will feature the acoustical music of Marcos Mendez, the BHS Quartet, Sunshine Bells, Loving Missionary

Choir, Sound of Illinois Chorus, Wind Song Woodwind Quintet, and the State Farm Employee Activities Chorus.

The Museum's interior will be decorated in holiday splendor and exhibit galleries on all four levels of the Museum will be open. Mike Matejka's model railroad train will be available for kids to experience as well as face painting by Wild Style, crafts, games, and cookies.

Looking for unique gifts? The *Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66* Visitors Center on the Museum's ground level has locally



sourced books, food items, art, apparel, collectibles, and plenty of Route 66 and Abraham Lincoln related items that are sure to delight.

This free event is our way of thanking our members, friends, sponsors, and the community

for your continued support of our mission, and celebrate another successful year of preserving and sharing local history through education.

Downtown Bloomington Association's 'Once upon a Holiday' and 'Fix it Friday'

Come out for the Downtown Bloomington Association's "Once upon a Holiday," Friday evening, December 1, from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. Visit the Museum for an evening of music and refreshments, including adult eggnog, a model railroad for kids, and celebrity readings of "Twas the night before Christmas" by Illinois State University president Dr. Larry Dietz at 6 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Jack Moody who is retiring from McLean County after years of caring for our Old Courthouse home.



With thanks to our newsletter sponsor:



In the spirit of giving, the Museum will host 'Fix it Friday' on Friday evening, Dec. 1 and on Saturday, Dec. 2. ISU Fashion students will offer their skills to the public, to mend and repair basic clothing including textile decorations. All events are free and open to the public.

On the Museum Square

Quarterly Newsletter

December 2017-January-February 2018 Volume 49, Number 4

Produced by Samantha Yoder and Jane Flanders Osborn



McLean County
MUSEUM of HISTORY

and

Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66

Visitors Center



200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701

Phone 309-827-0428 Fax 309-827-0100

www.mchistory.org

Located on the corner of Main (Rt. 66)
and Washington Streets,
the Visitors Center and Museum entrance
is located on Washington Street on the
south side of the Museum Square

HOURS

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday, Saturday

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Tuesday (Free)

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday (May-September)

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Pages from Our Past Volume Two coming soon!

The Museum is pleased to announce that the highly anticipated second volume of *Pages from Our Past* will be coming this holiday season! The second edition of the book will include 75 more of the nearly 600 installments of "A Page from Our Past" written by the Museum's Librarian, Bill Kemp. Kemp's weekly column debuted in the Sunday *Pantagraph* in December of 2005 and continues today. Selections included in this book will range from Native Americans to World War II and everything in between. Kemp will present a free public program on this latest collection of stories from our past on Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Museum's second floor Governor Fifer Courtroom.

Bill Kemp has been the Librarian for the McLean County Museum of History since 2003. He has a master's degree in journalism from the University of Illinois Springfield and a master's in history from Illinois State University. In 2009, Illinois Humanities awarded Kemp the Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award for his work on "Pages from Our Past." In 2012, the Illinois State Historical Society honored Kemp with its Superior Achievement Award for this series.

For more information about this program, contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428. Free parking is available on the Museum Square and surrounding streets or at the Lincoln Parking Deck located on Front Street.

History Reads Book Club

Attention avid readers and lovers of local history, the Museum and Bloomington Public Library are excited to announce the long awaited list of titles for the 2018 season of the ever popular History Reads Book Club. All discussions, unless otherwise noted, will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom on the second floor of the Museum. Dust off your library cards and mark your calendars for the following dates:

February 6

They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War (2003)

by De Anne Blanton

May 1

Dandelion Wine (1957) by Ray Bradbury

August 7

The Outlaws of Cave-in-Rock (1924) by Otto Arthur Rothert

November 7***

American Years (1938) by Harold Sinclair

***Please note that, due to Election Day, this meeting will take place on the first Wednesday of month in the Community Room of Bloomington Public Library.

This free, quarterly program is brought to you by the Museum and Bloomington Public Library. Discussions will last approximately 60 minutes, and participants are encouraged to explore the Museum before the meeting. Free parking is available on the street and at the Lincoln Parking Deck, located one block south of the Museum on Front Street.

Copies of the books will be available for checkout at Bloomington Public Library or may be requested via interlibrary loan through your local public library. For more information on this program please contact the Museum's Education Department by email at education@mchistory.org or by phone at 309-827-0428; or contact Karen Moen at Bloomington Public Library at reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.

Pedal Power! to Open Spring 2018

Pedal Power!—the Museum's newest exhibit—will open on Saturday, March 10, 2018. This exhibit will feature dozens of child-sized autos from the Bruce Callis Pedal Car Collection, which spans 50 years of pedal car production from the 1920s through the 1970s. Learn about the Callis collection, discover who designed these popular toys, and interact with these icons of childhoods past. Whether you remember these toys from your youth or are discovering pedal cars for the first time, you will want to cruise down to the Museum and explore *Pedal Power!* In the meantime, enjoy this selection of the pedal car memories that we have collected from folks like you. Thank you to our sponsor, State Farm Insurance.



Three-year-old Steve Detloff grins from the seat of his new John Deere pedal tractor. September 1955. (Courtesy of Karen Downing)



Sally Pyne sits in her blue Murray Champion with her brother Doug nearby. The car was a present for her seventh birthday in 1965. (Courtesy of Sally K. Pyne)



Dale Sutter's life-long interest in autos began at age three with this pedal car in 1937. (Courtesy of Dale M. Sutter)

Want to share your pedal car memories for this exhibit?
Contact Education Outreach Coordinator Anthony Bowman at abowman@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.

Help us meet our fundraising goal with your tax-deductible end-of-year gift

With 2018 drawing near, we want to thank our members, donors, and friends for supporting the Museum and allowing us to continue to offer free programs, lectures, and educational resources to the community. This year saw the continued success of the *Extending Excellence* capital campaign, with our newest exhibit, *Farming in the Great Corn Belt*, having opened in March. Additionally, we've seen unprecedented numbers of visitors from across the country and abroad, have begun construction on our new exhibit *Working for a Living*, and have served record numbers of students and senior citizens. Your support makes these things possible!

Now is a great time to consider a year-end tax-deductible gift. We are currently addressing one of the biggest challenges of occupying a historic building: collections preservation. Although we have been improving the collections storage spaces since we moved into the Old Courthouse in 1991, we need to improve our climate control. A stable, low-humidity climate is crucial for the preservation of historic artifacts. Our current fundraising goal to stabilize all our storage spaces is \$5,500. To help us reach this goal, visit mcmh.networkforgood.com and make a one-time donation on

or before Dec. 31, 2017 or set up recurring weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual gifts to the Museum with this convenient online donation platform.

All gifts must be received by December 31 to be tax deductible for 2017. If sending a check, please date your check on or before Dec. 31, 2017 and mail it to 200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701. Your gift by credit card or PayPal can also be processed very easily via our website www.mchistory.org on or before Dec. 31, 2017. Credit card gifts sent via the mail will be processed on the date they are received, so please allow plenty of time to mail them before the deadline.

Planned giving is also an ideal way for Museum supporters to have a lasting impact. The Museum now offers charitable gift annuities for those who want to support the Museum while establishing a reliable retirement income supplement. Contact Director of Development Lauren Lacy at 309-827-0428 for more information. As with any major financial decision, consult your financial advisor to decide if a charitable gift annuity is right for you.

Thank you!

Contributions for Volunteering

Did you know that the State Farm Good Neighbor Grant will give an organization of your choice \$500 when you volunteer 40 hours? This is for present and past employees of State Farm. If you have not received a form in the mail, please contact Samantha Yoder, Director of Volunteers and Interns at 309-827-0428 or syoder@mchistory.org.

COUNTRY Financial also has a similar program; the company will donate \$100 once a year if an employee volunteers at an event for the organization. So if you assisted at the Cemetery Walk or other events the Museum has hosted, you can request that money to be sent to the Museum. Or if there are supplies needed for an event, the employee can also request for those to be donated as well. You will need to complete the Volunteer Assistance Program Request Form from COUNTRY.

Agriculture in Illinois:

Stories of Place and the People



The Museum is pleased to welcome Dr. Debra Reid, Curator of Agriculture and the Environment at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan. Reid will present on Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. in the Governor Fifer Courtroom. This program is free and open to the public.

Reid will discuss major changes in farming and farm businesses in the Central Illinois Grand Prairie during the twentieth century, drawing on census data, historical atlases, published directories, and artifacts. The landscape changed dramatically over 100 years, transitioning from farmers tilling an average of 129 acres per farm in 1910 in Illinois, to an average of 351 in the early 2000s. Reid will focus on decisions that farmers had to make to keep their farms operational and their families intact. Strategies included balancing traditional animal husbandry with changing technologies (tractors, combines, and synthetic applications) and new commercial crops (soybeans). In addition, farm families adopted new business approaches (organic and artisanal) and legal strategies (family corporations) to keep their

farms functioning.

This presentation will conclude by informing the audience of resources available on the website, “Many Faces of the Illinois Farmscape.” Photographer Benjamin Halpern collected oral histories and photographs that document farm operations in the Grand Prairie during 2015 and 2016. These stories, told by farm families, can help us make sense of the changes.

Dr. Debra Reid is a farm girl from southern Illinois, is the author of *Interpreting Agriculture at Museums and Historic Sites*, and has over 30 years of experience working in living history farms and agricultural museums. She holds a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University and M.A.s from Baylor University and SUNY/Cooperstown Graduate Program in History Museum Studies.

This program is suitable for people of all levels of familiarity with agriculture (including none at all).

For more information, please contact the Education Department at education@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428. Free parking is available on the Museum Square and surrounding streets or at the Lincoln Parking Deck located on Front Street.

Prez Day 2018: Constitution “U”

Give me a “C”! Give me an “O”! Give me an “N”! Wow, “Constitution” is a longer word than you think. But, “U” get the point. Mark your calendars now for Monday, February 19, 2018 from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. and join the Museum for its sixth *Presidents’ Day Open House: Constitution “U.”*

Grab a college-ruled notebook and a freshly sharpened pencil, and come prepared to be schooled in all things constitutional! Do you have a strong constitution? Or is it weak? If Article II of the Constitution established the executive branch of government in 1787, how might Article 2.0 read differently in 2018?

Reflect on 200 years of Illinois history since the first signing of our state’s constitution two centuries ago. Cast your vote for the coach (err... president) who will lead your team to victory. Redefine the meaning of the phrase “daily constitutional.” Do all this and more to graduate with honors from Constitution “U”!



Family-friendly activities will include a mock election, crafts, games, and some sweet treats to help celebrate the many ways that “we, the people of the United States of America” have made, and will continue to make, the Constitution a document of the people. Remember, there are many “I”s in “constitution,” but only one “U”!

Study up, and we will see you in February! This event is free and open to the public. All ages are invited to attend.

New Findings from Recent Archaeological Fieldwork at the Noble-Wieting Site

In honor of the Bicentennial of Illinois, the Museum welcomes Dr. G. Logan Miller, assistant professor of anthropology at Illinois State University, who will present a program about the recent archaeological findings at the Noble-Wieting Site this past summer. The program will be held on Saturday, February 24 at 1:00 p.m. in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom and is free and open to the public.

During the Mississippian period (1000-1400 AD) the largest prehistoric North American city existed right here in Illinois. The rise and fall of Cahokia reverberated throughout eastern North America, resulting in many population movements and new ways of life in the region. Archaeologists refer to the new lifeways in northern Illinois at this time as the Langford tradition. While most major Langford sites occur along the upper Illinois River and the Chicago-land area, one site that does not fit the pattern is the village of Noble-Wieting



in McLean County. Since the early 1900s archaeologists have puzzled over the site's anomalous nature. Was Noble-Wieting a trading outpost, set up by Langford peoples to access Mississippian goods or ideas? Was it a refuge, established by Langford peoples but accepting disaffected Mississippians? Or was it an example of ethnogenesis, a new cultural entity emerging from the interaction of two or more disparate groups? Recently, Illinois State University and the Illinois State Archaeological Survey returned to this important site

to address these, and other, questions. Miller will review what we are learning about Noble-Wieting as well as the many lingering questions that remain unanswered.

Dr. G. Logan Miller's research and publications cover topics related to lithic technology and Midwestern prehistory. He has also directed archaeological field schools in Illinois and Ohio.



For more information about this program, please contact the Education Department at 309-827-0428 or education@mchistory.org. Free parking is available on the Museum Square and surrounding streets or at the Lincoln Parking Deck located on Front Street.

History Teacher Symposium Ready to Break Out

Even after 11 years of collaboration, the Museum, Illinois State University Department of History, and the Regional Office of Education 17, are ever striving to break the mold of their annual history teacher symposium—which will take place in Downtown Bloomington on Thursday, February 1, 2018.

Though the Museum is playing the role of host for this coming year's symposium, in keeping true to the theme "Breaking Out!" (whether that be out of the classroom, out of the box, or out of the building), symposium sessions will be presented throughout the buildings of Downtown Bloomington near the Museum Square. On behalf of the organizing committee, the Museum extends a gracious thank you to Heritage Enterprises and Ensenberger Condominiums for opening their facilities to our participating teachers and students.

Each year, this annual history symposium serves over 100 practicing middle and high school history and social science teachers from throughout the state of Illi-

nois, in conjunction with a contingent of upperclass ISU history education majors. It is the hope that this year's theme will encourage these present and future teachers to fervently explore educational opportunities that integrate classroom instruction with community resources in ways that inspire their students to embrace learning in all its forms—in and outside the classroom. Many sessions will be co-presented by a practicing teacher and

a community partner to further demonstrate the feasibility and mutual benefit of such relationships for teachers and students alike. Symposium attendants may also find themselves literally "breaking out" as they work as teams to solve lockboxes provided by SMARTpath Education at Escape Bloomington and considering ways in

which similar teaching strategies could be implemented in their own classrooms.

The call for session proposals is out, and individuals who have submitted a proposal for the 2018 symposium will be notified of their acceptance in early December.

For more information on submitting a session proposal, please contact Dr. Monica Noraian by email at mcnora2@ilstu.edu.

If you are an Illinois teacher and wish to register for the

symposium, please visit the Classes/Workshops calendar under the Professional Development tab on the ROE's website: www.roe17.org for a direct link to the registration form.

Take the chance to break out of routine in the name of professional development. See you in February!





Successful Cemetery Walk Highlights WWI



Edward Bynum (portrayed by Timothy Jefferson) served side by side with his brother Lincoln Bynum in the trenches of France during "The Great War."

The Bynum brothers were members of the all African American 370th U.S. Infantry, that quickly earned the nickname "The Black Devils" from German troops unfortunate enough to encounter them in battle. The Bynums, along with at least 180 other men and women who served the United States during World War I, are buried at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. The Museum honored their service by putting a flag and poppy at each of their grave sites during the entire *Cemetery Walk*.



Above, students are listening to Carl and Julia Vrooman, played by Dean and Cyndee Brown. The Vroomans were one of the preeminent power couples of their day. Carl served as Secretary of Agriculture under President Woodrow Wilson, and is best known for his agricultural work during World War I. Julia, who was active in philanthropic work, decided she too wanted to help with the war effort. While she and Carl were in Europe, Julia began working for the YMCA with American soldiers at the front. The jazz band of soldiers she formed entertained and improved the morale of troops stationed in Europe.

This year's theme for the *Cemetery Walk* commemorated the centennial of World War I. Julia Holder (played by Abby Scott) was one of thousands of McLean County women who helped the war effort on the home front. Holder was dedicated to meeting the needs of others throughout her entire life. A longtime teacher at Bloomington High School, Holder worked on behalf of the Red Cross War Fund and was in charge of a "corps" of volunteers cutting gauze to make surgical bandages for war-wounded during World War I. Holder continued to help those in need long after the war was over as well. In this scene she is directing the children's tableaux during the Russian-Near East Relief carnival held in the summer of 1922.



she is directing the children's tableaux during the Russian-Near East Relief carnival held in the summer of 1922.

Amy Miller (center) is one of over 40 volunteers who make this annual event possible.



Amy has volunteered with the *Cemetery Walk* since its inception in 1995! These volunteers research, serve as box office volunteers, guide the tours, assist with creation of the guide script and character biographies, and even bake cookies! This event would not happen without them. Thank you!

The 2017 *Evergreen Cemetery Walk* staff and cast hope you enjoyed the event and look forward to seeing you next year when the *Cemetery Walk* will commemorate the Bicentennial of Illinois!

Under the Dome Knit In growing and going strong!

Knitters and crocheters—mark your calendars for another year of Under the Dome Knit Ins! Dates for the 2018 Knit Ins will be held Saturdays, February 10, May 5, August 25, and November 17 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom. The Museum welcomes all knitters and crocheters to come down and create charity items or work on their own project.

This quarter's featured knitting/crocheting charity is Little Hats, Big Hearts through the American Heart Association. Volunteers for the American Heart Association are celebrating American Heart Month by knitting red hats for all babies born in February at participating hospitals. They are raising awareness of heart disease, the No. 1 killer of Americans, and congenital



A volunteer at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center receives the donation of little red hats.

heart defects, the most common type of birth defect in the country. They work with both the hospital's Mother-Baby unit and Neonatal Intensive Care unit, so they need hats in both newborn and

preemie sizes. Locally, hats go to Advocate BroMenn Medical Center.

For more information about the project and for hat specifications, please visit the Museum website at www.mchistory.org.

The Under the Dome Knit In is FREE and open to everyone. Light refreshments will also be served. Just bring your own project or the materials to begin a new one. Grab a friend, some needles or hooks, and of course don't forget your yarn, and come on down to the Museum to "knit for a bit!"

Free parking will be available at the Lincoln Parking Deck, one block south of the Museum on Front Street.

For more information or any questions, please contact the Education Department at 309-827-0428 or education@mchistory.org.

Staff Q&A

Meet Sammi Kern



Museum Development Assistant

How did you start working at the Museum?

I started with the Museum as an intern for Curator Susan Hartzold in December 2016, helping with research for the work gallery that is currently under construction. After two weeks of free time, I missed being at the Museum and decided to volunteer with Visitors Center Manager Joe McDonnell. We

traveled Route 66 with "Abie Baby" and posted the videos on our YouTube. When the Museum Development Assistant position opened up, I was happy to have an offer. It is really great to be able to say that I landed a position in my field of study.

What brought you to the Bloomington-Normal area / McLean County, and how long have you lived here?

Illinois State University brought me to Bloomington. I grew up in Odell and went to high school in Pontiac, so it was familiar to me. Initially, I wanted to do history education and the program at ISU is fantastic. I ended up switching to history to pursue a museum career. It was the best decision I have ever made.

What is the role of the Development Assistant at the Museum?

I assist Development Director, Lauren Lacy, with membership, gifts, grant writing, and event planning for our members. We work closely with the

Board, members, and our executive director making sure we meet members' needs while recruiting new members.

What's one thing about the Museum that would surprise a lot of folks?

The Museum's collection is huge! As an intern, I toured the collection and archives. I was amazed by the size of the collections and by some strange artifacts that we have in our holdings. The alligator claw purse reminded me of the weird things that people buy and keep. Everything has a history.

In your view, what's the biggest challenge facing the Museum today?

In my position, the biggest challenge is finding members who are my age. The Museum has done a fantastic job integrating younger and older generations together. It is our department's goal to reach more younger members so that they also realize how much of a staple the Museum is to Downtown Bloomington.

To take a look at the video Sammi and Joe created, search *Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66* at www.youtube.com.

Meet Our Interns



Victoria Lieggi is a senior English Publishing Studies major with a minor in Italian at Illinois State University. After graduation, she hopes to attend graduate school for a degree in Library and Information Science and plans to specialize in archives or special collections. Victoria's dream is to use her Italian language skills and cultural knowledge. This semester, she is working as a Library/Archives intern

organizing the earlier half of the McLean County Home Bureau collection. Her passions lie in advancing the general well-being of a community through the spread of knowledge, and she feels that this is something she shares with the once-called Home Bureau.

Jennifer David is a senior at Illinois State University. She is majoring in Publishing Studies and aspires to work at a small publishing company or museum in the West or Northwest. She grew up in Peoria and moved to Bloomington to get her bachelor's degree at ISU.

Jennifer is serving as an intern in the Library/Archives for the Fall 2017 semester. She is organizing the McLean County Homemakers Extension collection. She is also learning how a museum library operates and hopes to apply this knowledge to her career.

In her spare time Jennifer loves to read and spend time with her fiancé and three cats.



Molly Rumler started her internship at the McLean County Museum of History in August 2017 as Public Programs intern for the Education Department. Molly is a senior at Illinois State University majoring in History with a minor in Political Science. Once she graduates in May 2018, she hopes to return home to the Quad Cities after her four years

here in Bloomington-Normal.

Molly worked with the Education Department on the 23rd Annual *Evergreen Cemetery Walk*. She volunteered as a tour

guide for the school tours and provided an extra hand to the cast and crew during the eight days of the event. For the rest of her internship, she will continue to provide her services around the Museum while preparing for the next big event, *Christmas at the Courthouse*, where she will plan fun crafts and activities for the visitors.

Molly says her experience interning at the McLean County Museum of History has given her the opportunity to expand on her existing skills and gain even more along the way.

Molly is excited for what the future holds, and hopes this experience will lead her to a career working with non-profit organizations. She also hopes to continue her work for the Museum as a volunteer once her internship has finished.



Koos embodies 'Spirit of McLean County'

The Museum's Executive Director Emeritus Greg Koos was honored November 2, 2017 by receiving the WJBC *Don Munson Spirit of McLean County Award* for his decades of work in preserving McLean County history and bettering our community. Many employees of the McLean County Museum of History were able to attend the event to honor Greg. He is currently writing a book on local history.

State Bicentennial Tree Food Forest, Town of Normal

On October 13, 2017, the Museum, in partnership with the Town of Normal and the University of Illinois Extension, helped plant a "Johnny Appleseed" tree at the Food Forest on the grounds of the old Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home. The Illinois State Historical Society is calling on local groups in each of the state's 102 counties to plant a Johnny Appleseed tree as a way to kickoff the state's upcoming Bicentennial, 1818-2018. Be on the lookout for many upcoming Bicentennial events happening throughout 2018 in your local community.

Jeff Woodard of the Museum and Bill Davidson of the U of I extension office plant the tree.



IRAs for charity

Charitable giving in the U.S. rose 2.7% last year, reaching an all-time record of \$390.05 billion. That's also a record in inflation-adjusted dollars, reports the Giving USA Foundation in its annual report on philanthropy. Individuals, foundations, and corporations contributed to the robust growth in philanthropy, while bequests were projected to have declined by 9.0%. Some 72% of charitable gifts come from individuals—an average of \$2,240 per U.S. household.

Religious organizations are the largest beneficiaries of charitable giving, receiving 32% of the total gifts. Education comes in a distant second, at 15%, followed by human services with 12%.

The charitable IRA rollover

One reason for the growth in giving may be the growth in assets. As the stock markets touch new highs, people can afford to be more generous. Another factor might be that as top marginal tax rates have increased, the value of charitable deductions for top taxpayers has grown as well.

A popular charitable giving tax break has been made permanent, one that has been dubbed the "charitable IRA rollover." Those who are over age 70½ may want to consider the gift of a direct distribution from their IRAs. Up to \$100,000 may be transferred to charity in this manner. Couples may transfer up to \$200,000 if each partner has an IRA. In contrast to normal IRA distributions, amounts transferred directly to charity won't be included in ordinary income (and so no charitable deduction is appropriate).

The definition of who is permitted to take advantage of this tax strategy dovetails perfectly with those who are required to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from their IRAs. So some taxpayers simply opt to direct their required minimum IRA distributions to charity, because the distribution requirement will be satisfied, even though the amounts distributed aren't included in taxable income.

Extra tax advantages

In some cases, the income tax exclusion for a transfer to charity from an IRA might not seem like such a big deal. After all, one always has been allowed to follow an IRA withdrawal by a charitable contribution and claim an income tax deduction. However, the full benefit of that deduction is not available to all taxpayers.

- **Nonitemizers.** There are a great many taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions, even in the upper tax brackets.
- **Big donors.** Percentage limits on the charitable deduction mean that some donors can't take a full charitable deduction in the year that they make a gift.
- **Social Security recipients.** An increase in taxable income may cause an increase in the tax on Social Security benefits for some taxpayers. The direct gift from an IRA avoids this problem.

Accordingly, if you are 70½, you should consider a charitable gift from your IRA if:

- You do not itemize tax deductions;
- Your charitable deductions have been maximized; or
- You do not need the additional income made necessary by your required minimum distribution.

As welcome as this tax planning opportunity is, every taxpayer's situation is unique. See your tax adviser before taking any action.

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McLean County Museum of History Welcomes Our New Members!

Brenda Harness
Barbara Koski
Suzanne Kraus
Sue McGinnes
Shelley Perlmutter
Theresa Sylvester
Ruth Wene

Museum membership is an act of philanthropy that supports local history, preservation, and education for the entire community. Each membership also offers direct benefits to you and your family with free admission to the Museum and Library/Archives, discounts in the gift shop, member price for event tickets, and our Time Travelers reciprocal membership that offers free and discounted admission to hundreds of sites across the U.S.

Join today at www.mchistory.org!

Give a gift of membership this holiday season.

Donations to Collections

New to Collections

Portraits of Leslie Ritchie and George Ritchie c. 1880; donated by Maurine Ritchie Flesher Berg

Man's horsehide mittens, c. 1925; donated by Sharon Builta

Child's brown beanie with stitched on ally flags c. 1945; donated by Lynne Fazzini

Parker fountain pen c. 1950, Vocational Home Economics Club token c. 1930, Eisenhower pin c. 1952, three cent silver coin c. 1852; donated by Cyril B. Frevert

Eclipse glasses 2017; donated by Susan Hartzold

McLean County Deputy Sheriff badge number 138 c. 1960; donated by Taylor E. Johnson & Elaine Albergo

Destihl Brewery Abbey's Single beer can c. 2017; donated by Bill Kemp

Iron Molders Union No. 157 Bloomington IL Union badge, c. 1900; donated by Michael Matejka

Bloomington Civic Unemployment Relief token c. 1932, Keep Your Temper token c. 1850, Arrowsmith Illinois Centennial token c. 1971, Lincoln Heritage Trail token c. 1969, Worlds Fair Knoxville token c. 1982, Illinois Sesquicentennial 150 Years of Progress c. 1968, New York World's Fair c. 1939, Inter-

national Business Machines skip bars c. 1940, chad punch c. 1940; National Machine Accountants Association pin c. 1960, Data Processing Management Association c. 1950; donated by David Salch

Schultze Machine Shop identification tag c. 1920, three open-end wrenches c. 1920, brass plated blow torch c. 1920, soldering iron c. 1920, grinder c. 1920; donated by Roger Schultze

GTE lineman spikes c. 1970, GTE lineman's belt c. 1970, GTE telephone tester c. 1940, State Farm telephone with crank c. 1920; donated by Rob Walden

Collections Spotlight Featured Artifact

Political Pin — donated by Cyril B. Frevert



The Museum recently received this pin, which belonged to Allie Bozarth Frevert. The pin was part of a larger collection of objects that are associated with the Bozarth-Frevert families. Allie was born in Stanford, Illinois and lived on the family farm her whole life. She was very involved in her community as a member of the Brown's Grove Woman's Club and the Allan Township Home Extension Club, and a volunteer at BroMenn.

Allie received this pin in 1952 when she hosted a tea at her home for the Eisenhower campaign. Eisenhower received almost 65 percent of the votes in McLean County with a total of 24,495 votes to Adlai Stevenson II's 13,298.

New to Library/Archives

Abstract of title for Village of Hudson lot, and other abstracts representing Bloomington environs; donated by Walter Morse

Three 33 1/3 LPs, Chiddix Junior High School honor band, 1970-1971, and two undated; donated by Harlan Fuller

Further additions to the existing Justice Robert C. Underwood Collection, including scrapbooks, honorary degrees, awards and certificates, and other items (a Normal resident, Justice Underwood served on the Illinois Supreme Court from 1962 until his retirement in 1984); donated by Susan Barcalow (daughter of the late Justice Underwood)

Lawson Brothers music, including 1978 LP, "White Album;" 8-track tape, "Black Album;" and cassette, "Once for All," 1987; donated by Kevin Lawson (one of the Lawson Brothers!)

"The Christmas Eve Visitor," a play presented by the children of Cooksville Grade School, 1955; donated by Jane Hensen

Large donation of items relating to State Farm Insurance Co., including "Special

War Edition" Road Atlas from 1943; a cassette tape featuring a broadcast of State Farm founder G. J. Mecherle; and other fascinating items; donated by David F. Salch

Various items relating to publication design business, including Mennonite College of Nursing catalog, 1985-1986, University of Illinois Extension annual reports, 2013 and 2014; and other promotional material; donated by Jane Flanders Osborn

Brotherhood of Railway Clerks charter, December 2, 1917; two menus from "The Caboose" restaurant, 608 W. Seminary St., Bloomington; and other items; donated by the Bloomington Elks #281

Cora Piper, Covell, autograph book, 1881-1883; donated by Cyril B. Frevert

Large run of the Normal Community High School newspaper, "The Inkspot," 1972-1994; donated by Margaret S. Kirk

Collection of material relating to the Hidden Creek Nature Sanctuary off Sycamore Street, Normal; donated by Katherine and Terry Oberhardt

October 2017 issue of *Old House Journal* featuring article on residence at 611 N. Lee St.; donated by Andy Streenz

Collection of theater and music programs, 1940s and 1950s, including YWCA water pageant, "Professor Bullfrog's School," April 1942, and others; donated by Sybil Mervis

Various items relating to Cochrane, Casey, Sabin, and Campbell families; donated by Stephen Sabin Campbell

Williams Oil-O-Matic pocket notebook (promotional giveaway), 1940; donated by Tom Ogan

Article, "Charles G. Radbourne: The Greatest Pitcher of the Nineteenth Century," *Illinois Historical Journal*, Winter 1988; donated by David Holst

Collection related to Bloomington singer-songwriter Joe Dowell, including publicity materials, a CD containing commercial jingles ("image ballads"); CD, "Joe Dowell Sings Classical Hymns;" unpublished manuscript, "Ephraim, the Alligator Bait and other True Stories;" and other items; donated by Susie Dowell Emery (Joe's sister)

Library/Archives Collection Spotlight

Justice Underwood, Law and Justice Center dedication, May 1, 1977

The Museum received an impressive addition to its existing Justice Robert C. Underwood Collection. Included in the donation by Susan Barcalow, daughter of the late Justice Underwood, were a series of scrapbooks, each offering a treasure trove of items detailing the life and career of this important twentieth century jurist. The scrapbooks include correspondence, handwritten notes, greeting cards, original photographs, newspaper clippings, bulletins and programs, and all sorts of fascinating "stuff" (as we say here at the Museum).

A Normal resident, Justice Underwood served on the Illinois Supreme Court from 1962 until his retirement in 1984. He was the Court's chief justice from 1969 until 1976. Underwood Park in Normal is named for him. The accompanying photograph shows Justice Underwood delivering the dedicatory address at the opening of the McLean County Law and Justice Center, May 1, 1977.

The Museum is most appreciative to Susan Barcalow for acting as an excellent steward of her father's legacy, and ensuring that these valuable items now have a good home.



Photographs/Images

One 7 x 10 black-and-white print showing 1903 McLean County Courthouse (now the Museum), taken by Dr. Lynn Barnes, Decatur, June 13, 1909; donated by Brent Wielt

Large number of 8 x 10 black-and-white photos, undated or 1940-1941; donated by Bloomington Elks #281

Photograph of the Frey Building, 302 W. Washington St., downtown Bloomington, undated; and second photograph of Frey auto show, October 1965; donated by Doris B. Hays

Large collection of postcards featuring Bloomington-Normal area individuals, buildings, events, scenes, etc.; donated by David F. Salch

Several Covell-area photographs, including 4½ x 7½, mounted, showing school-house, teacher, and students, undated; and 4½ x 7½, mounted, of horses pulling farm equipment, with three men, dated 1894, stamped "E. L. Ragsdale, Bloomington, Ill." on back; and others; donated by Janice M. Thomas

Large collection of photographs relating to sponsors of Children & Elders Forest trees on the days of grove planting ceremonies; donated by Children & Elders Forest (a Twin Cities organization that encourages children and "elders" to plant indigenous trees in area groves)

Four 3 x 5 color photos of the Unity Building fire, July 1988, taken by Ella B. Wood; donated by Sherry Wood Detloff

Books/Published Materials

"School Memories," early Bloomington Junior High School yearbook, 1961; donated by Walter Morse

Large run of Parkside Junior High School yearbooks, 1995-2003 and 2005-2008; donated by Rita Garrison

Several titles, including a special issue of "Trolley Sparks," the Bulletin of the Central Electric Railfans' Association, devoted to Illinois Traction System /Illinois Terminal Railroad (the interurban line that serviced Bloomington-Normal); donated by David F. Salch

Ropp's Commercial Calculator (C. Ropp, Jr., Publisher, 1887), owned by Josiah Bozarth, Stanford; donated by Cyril B. Frevert

Supplement to the Catholic Post, August 30, 1987, on ordination of Rev. John J. Myers as coadjutor bishop of diocese, includes information on local Catholic churches; donated by Ruth Cobb

Cookbook, What to Eat, How to Cook It, official recipe book during Patriotic Food Show, Chicago, January 5-13, 1918; donated by Susan Jackson

Published sesquicentennial history of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Bloomington, 1867-2017; donated by Father Greg Nelson, pastor, St. Mary's

The Prince and the Pioneers in the Making of a Prairie Village, Dwight, Illinois, 1853-1860, by Clement J. Steichen (1987); *Want to Know Blooming Town?* by Marguerite E. Clark (1971); *U.S. Official Pictures of the World War* (Pictorial Bureau, Washington, D.C., 1920), the latter item owned by donor's father, John C. Gooding, a WW I veteran; donated by Mary Lou Mercier

Our 50th Year, history of Grace U.B. Church, Bloomington (1966); donated by Tom Ogan

Rock Island Arsenal (Images of America Series) by George Eaton (2014); donated by Nancy J. Miller

Museum seeking support for Miller Park historic marker on segregation

The Museum is serving as a partner for a planned Illinois State Historical Society marker observing the history of racial segregation at Bloomington's Miller Park. From 1908 and into the early 1950s, there were separate and unequal racially segregated beaches at the west side park.

Mark Wyman, Illinois State University distinguished emeritus professor of history, has spear-headed the effort, conducting research into this dark chapter of local history and writing the proposed text that will appear on the marker.

Other sponsors of this marker include the Bloomington-Normal NAACP and Not in Our Town. The marker will measure 44 x 51 inches and cost approximately \$3,500. A lead donor is making a large contribution, but we are looking for others to support this important project.

The Illinois State Historical Society's markers program recognizes sites of national and statewide significance. Since 1934, the Society has commemorated more than 400 such sites recognizing persons, events, and other subjects important to Illinois' cultural heritage.

There has not been an ISHS marker erected in the Bloomington-Normal area since September 2005. Twelve years ago, the McLean County League of Women Voters sponsored a marker on the east side of Franklin Park honoring the life and career of pioneering lawmaker and community leader Florence Fifer Bohrer.

Calendar of Events — ongoing programs and upcoming events

**Second Thursday of every month
until May, 2018**

Lunch and Learn at the Museum

Bring your brown bag lunch to the Museum's series, featuring engaging and enlightening topics for discussion. Join us the second Thursday of every month from now until May for a new topic to explore and discuss. The programs will be held in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom from 12:10-12:40 p.m. each time. The next three *Lunch and Learns* will be on December 14, January 11, and February 8. These programs are free, open to the public, and sponsored by Illinois Wesleyan University, the McLean County Museum of History, and the Collaborative Solutions Institute.

December 1 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Once Upon a Holiday First Friday, Fix-It Friday

Join the Museum staff for a free, fun, and festive evening for the whole family around the Christmas tree as we host Dr. Larry Dietz, president of Illinois State University for readings of the classic poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" also known as "A Visit From St. Nicholas," at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. There will also be holiday music, homemade cookies, hot apple cider, adult egg nog, and more! Plus, the Fix it Friday students from ISU will be joining us to offer free basic clothing repair and mending.

You can also pick up gifts for history buffs and lovers of all things local in the Museum's *Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66* Visitors Center located on the ground floor of the Museum. For more information about this event and a complete list of participating locations, please visit the Downtown Bloomington Association's website at downtownbloomington.org.

December 2 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Christmas at the Courthouse

Join the Museum staff for this annual holiday tradition which follows the Jaycees parade. Enjoy music, Christmas carols, homemade cookies, children's crafts and activities, and St. Nicholas for the kids! See page 1 of this newsletter for more details.

December 12 7:00 p.m.

More Pages from Our Past

The Museum is pleased to announce that the highly anticipated second volume of *Pages from Our Past* will be coming this holiday season! Museum Librarian Bill Kemp will present a free public program about this latest collection of his popular weekly *Pantagraph* column. See page 2 for more details.

December 14 12:10 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: The History of Farming in the Great Corn Belt with Don Meyer

Nearly 200 years have passed since the earliest settlers began to arrive in McLean County and during that period, we have seen the settlement of the land and the conversion of swamplands and adoption of scientific advances to provide us with some of the highest rated agricultural soils in the world. Farmers have survived the challenges of nature's forces, economic hardships, and inter-generational transfers of land, and have specialized into the corn and bean "breadbasket" for the world. Today with the introduction of technologies and the interdependence with agribusiness, less than 2 percent of the U.S. population remains on the highly efficient farms. Join us as we look at the challenges, choices, and change that have been an integral part of McLean County farming history. This program is free and open to the public and will be held in the Governor Fifer Courtroom on the second floor of the Museum.

December 19 7:00 p.m.

ISU Chorale: Once Upon a December

Conducted by John M. Koch, the hundred member ISU Civic Chorale will perform seasonal arrangements by Dan Forrest, Howard Helvey, Mark Shepperd, Ola Gjeilo, Peter Anglea, Alan Silvestri and Franz Josef Haydn. Performance in the Governor Fifer Room. Guest soloists will be Glenn Wilson (soprano sax) and Christine Cicha (cello). Our amazing Patricia Foltz on the piano! Admission is FREE, but there will be a free will offering box. Dress

in holiday attire and join us for punch and cookies at intermission! Special performance by Bloomington-Normal's newest female a cappella group BEAUTIES AND THE BEAT under the direction of Tracy Marie Koch!

December 25

Museum closed for Christmas holiday

January 1

Museum closed for New Years holiday

January 11 12:10 p.m.
**Counting Canines and Dogs
with Discipline: Update from
the IWU Dog Scientists**

Ellen Furlong, assistant professor, and the Illinois Wesleyan University dog scientists have been studying how dogs think and make decisions for a couple years in the Bloomington-Normal area. They are at a point now where they have some interesting new findings about how dogs do math, exhibit (or don't) self-control, and how they think about human (and dog) social partners. We are excited to share these results with the community! This program is free and open to the public and will be held in the Governor Fifer Courtroom on the second floor of the Museum.

January 18

Museum will be closed
for Staff In-Service Days.

January 27 2:30 p.m.

Agriculture in Illinois: Stories of Place and People

The Museum is pleased to welcome Dr. Debra Reid, Curator of Agriculture and the Environment at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan, who will present a program on about the decisions that farmers (of all types) make to keep their farms operational and their families intact despite a competitive business environment. See page 4 for more information about this free program.

February 2 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

First Friday Tour de Chocolat

The Museum is pleased to once again participate in this annual tradition by offering a sweet local chocolate treat. And while you are here, you can also explore the Museum's permanent exhibits on the first floor, including the new *Challenges, Choices, and Change: Farming in the Great Corn Belt*.

February 6 7:00 p.m.

History Reads Book Club

Join the Museum and Bloomington Public Library for the first installment of the *History Reads Book Club* for 2018. The discussion will be held in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom. For more information, please see page 2 of this newsletter.

February 8 12:10 p.m.

Lunch and Learn: Lincoln at Fifteen: the Maturing of His Self-Education with Robert Bray

We will look at the influence of two texts Lincoln discovered sometime around his fifteenth year, while still living in Indiana. Both would profoundly influence him

throughout his political and personal life. One is familiar: the Declaration of Independence; the other, much less so: Thomas Gray's 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard' (1751).

February 10 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Under the Dome Knit In

Knitters and crocheters—mark your calendars for another year of *Under the Dome Knit Ins*! Dates for the 2017 Knit Ins will be held on Saturdays, February 10, May 5, August 25, and November 17 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom! The Museum welcomes all knitters and crocheters to come down and create charity items or work on your own project. Light refreshments will be provided. See page 7 for more information about this program is free program.

February 15

Museum will be closed for Staff In-Service Days.

February 19 12 to 3 p.m.

President's Day Open House

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, please see page 4 of this newsletter.

February 24

1:00 p.m.

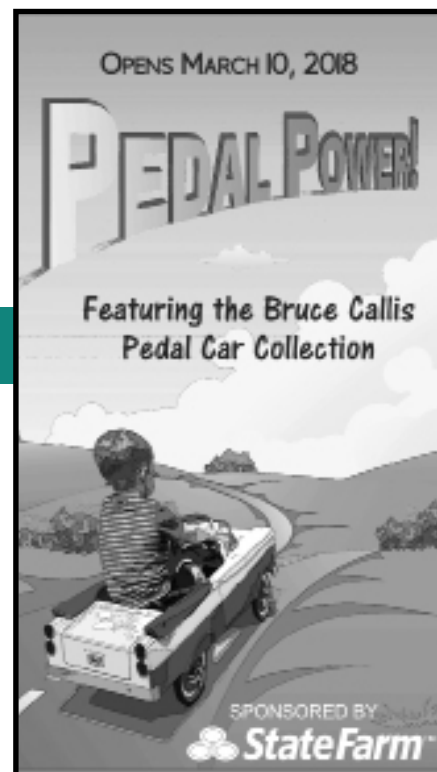
Recent Archaeological Fieldwork in McLean County at the Noble-Wieting Site

The Museum is pleased to welcome Dr. G. Logan Miller, assistant professor of anthropology at Illinois State University, who will present a program about the recent archaeological findings at the Native American Noble-Wieting Site this past summer. See page 5 for more information.

March 10

Grand Opening of Pedal Power! exhibit

Mark your calendars for the grand opening program of the Museum's newest changing exhibit. Watch your mailbox and the Museum's Facebook page for more details coming soon about the opening program and activities.



Gift Shop Sale!

DECEMBER

Free Gift with \$10 purchase

JANUARY

Sale on our
Cruisin' with Lincoln T-shirts

FEBRUARY

20% off for everyone
and
25% off for members
on Lincoln items

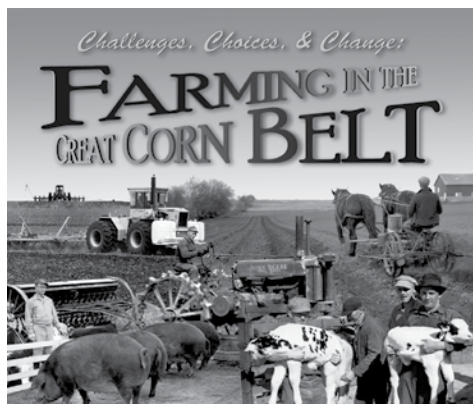
Pedal Power!

Since the dawn of the Automobile Age, pedal cars have captured the imaginations of both children and the young-at-heart. Visitors will be able to explore the Museum's newest exhibit and discover child-sized autos in a multitude of colors, shapes, and sizes from the Bruce Callis Pedal Car Collection.

Gift Shop New Holiday Items:

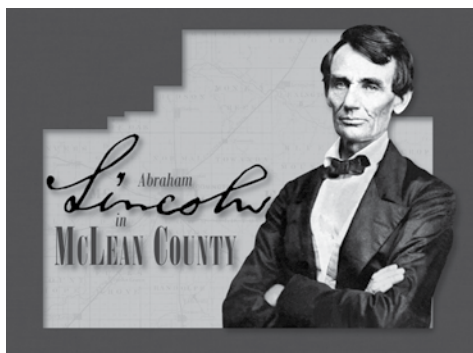
Just in time for the holidays, several new items are available in the gift shop. Bronze, pewter, and sterling silver jewelry items made in the USA just for the Museum by Chart Metalworks are some of the new additions. Among the others include: handcrafted soaps made along Route 66; new apparel items, and an expanded selection of coasters by local artist Abraham Adams. Be sure to stop in to check out the new selection!

EXHIBITS



Challenges, Choices, & Change: Farming in the Great Corn Belt

This unique exhibit tells the story of farming as it was done by McLean County farmers. It follows a nearly 200-year timeline, using images and experiences of area farmers to tell their stories and revealing the difficult choices they had to make in order to be productive and profitable. Gallery interactives will demonstrate the drastic changes farming has gone through since frontier farmers first arrived, including the size of farms, urban sprawl, technology and equipment, and even the types of crops grown.



Abraham Lincoln in McLean County

This exhibit examines Lincoln's work as an attorney in McLean County and on the Illinois Eighth Judicial Circuit. It defines his pivotal role in the anti-slavery movement and the formation of the new Republican Party in Illinois, and makes clear the circumstances of his nomination for president in 1860. Through revealing reminiscences from the residents of McLean County, the exhibit explores the lasting connections Lincoln made with the people of this community.



Challenges, Choices, & Change: Making a Home

From the arrival of native people to the immigration of Asian Indians and Latinos in the late 20th century, this exhibit explores the experiences of individuals and families who came from all over the world to make McLean County their home. Their stories reveal the many challenges this diverse group of people faced after their arrival—stories of determination and hard choices, of maintaining traditions and inventing new ones, stories of how their lives unfolded and changed—stories of making a home.



Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66

Located on the ground floor of the Museum, the Visitors Center includes an exhibit that features many local Route 66 landmarks, past and present. It allows visitors to compare and contrast travel, dining, and lodging in Abraham Lincoln's time with that of the Route 66 heyday. The Visitors Center is free and open to the public during regular Museum hours.

Encounter on the Prairie: Work

This exhibit highlights the many occupations and industries throughout the history of McLean County. It contains photographs and objects associated with McLean County businesses, including many of the goods produced locally.



Encounter on the Prairie: Politics

This exhibit provides insight into our political history through government, war, and education. Notable political figures such as Abraham Lincoln, David Davis, and Adlai Stevenson are highlighted, as are common people who have called McLean County home. Their stories teach the importance of education in the community and detail our involvement in military conflicts—from the Indian Wars through World War II.

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Susan Hartzold
Curator of Collections and Exhibits

Emma Meyer
Registrar

Bill Kemp
Librarian

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Development Assistant

Joe McDonnell
Visitors Center Manager

Maureen Blair / Brandy Maloney
Visitors Center Assistant

Lacey Bordewick
Bookkeeper



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MYSTERY HISTORY

Last issue's photograph proved much easier than several recent go-arounds of our popular "Mystery History" feature. Although a fair number of sleuths incorrectly guessed Illinois Hotel, the undated postcard featured the Rogers Hotel. Opened in December 1926, the hotel was the result of an ambitious project to convert the multi-story J. F. Humphreys and Co. building into a hotel. Howard Humphreys and his son Rogers (namesake of the hotel) decided that their wholesale grocery building would turn a greater profit if converted into a 150-room hotel. The old hotel was eventually torn down in the late 1960s/ early 1970s. Now, the Lincoln Parking Garage, part of the Law and Justice Center complex, occupies the site.

Those who knew the answer included Roger Elliott, Gary Faulk, Jim Hoppe, Jack Keefe, Kathleen Kilmartin, Lynn Webber, and Jeanne and John Wroan. If we left anyone out, our apologies.

"When I knew it, Frank Turner was the manager," Kathleen Kilmartin tells us of the old hotel. "His daughter Megan went to Holy Trinity Grade School with me. She had her friends overnight many times. Oh, the adventures we had!" Lynn Webber recalled that the hotel restaurant and bar was known as the Jolly Rogers. "I remember picking a toy out of the treasure chest after dinner with my parents," she says.



For this issue's mystery photo, do you know what's shown here? In other words, what's this company and what did they make? And where and when were they located in McLean County? If you think you know the answers to these questions, contact Librarian Bill Kemp by email at library@mchistory.org, or by phone at 309-827-0428.