

ON THE SQUARE



The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

March-April-May 2020

Volume 52, Number 1

Making History Together

page 3

Community Building: Preservation as Collaboration

page 4-5

Futures in History Camp

page 6-7



Also inside this issue:

Announcements & New Members . . .	2
Emerging Sound Artist Series	8
Program Encourages Dialogue	9
New to Collections	10
Volunteer Spotlight	12
March of the Women	14
An Enduring Partnership	14
Upcoming Events	15
Mystery History Quiz	16

With thanks to our magazine sponsor:



ON THE SQUARE
Quarterly Magazine

Edited by Susan Hartzold and Hannah Johnson for the
McLean County Museum of History

and the



CRUISING
with Lincoln on 66

Visitors Center

200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone 309-827-0428 Fax 309-827-0100
www.mchistory.org

Museum and Visitors Center Hours:

Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday till 9 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May through September

Admission:

\$5 - Adults \$4 - Seniors 65 +
FREE - Children and Students with valid ID

Museum Staff

Greg Koos - Interim Executive Director
Susan Hartzold - Curator of Collections & Exhibits
Chelsea Banks - Registrar
Candace Summers - Director of Education
Hannah Johnson - Education Program Coordinator
Anthony Bowman - Education Outreach Coordinator
Bill Kemp - Librarian
George Perkins - Archivist
Rochelle Gridley - Assistant Archivist
Rachael Masa - Director of Volunteers
Betty Turchiello - Volunteer Assistant
Divah Griffin - Director of Development
Brandy Maloney - Development Assistant
Jeff Woodard - Marketing & Public Relations
Torii Moré - Curator of Digital Humanities
Joe McDonnell - Visitors Center Manager
Kathi Davis - Visitors Center Assistant

Museum Board

OFFICERS

Bob Watkins - President
Tom Eder - 1st Vice President
Russel Francois - 2nd Vice President
John Killian - Treasurer
Robert Porter - Secretary

DIRECTORS

Craig Alexander
Larry Dietz
Rob Fazzini
Sandra Harmon
Susan Laiming
Todd Lowery
Mike Matejka
John McIntyre
John Meek
Pam Muirhead
Shelli Opsal
Michelle Pazar
Josh Rohrscheib
Ann Sullivan
Carl Telchman
Paul Van Ness
Bill Wetzel
Bob Williams
Carolyn Perry Yockey



Cover image: Display of Historical Society artifacts hosted by the Museum's very first partner. See *An Enduring Partnership* on page 14!

Announcements

Chelsea Banks Joins Staff as New Registrar

The Museum is pleased to introduce our new Registrar* Chelsea Banks, who brings with her over six years of collections and registrar experience. Prior to joining our staff, Chelsea earned a Bachelor's degree in anthropology from Brigham Young University and a Master of Arts in historical archaeology from the University of Nevada at Reno. Her work experience includes five years at the Church History Museum in Salt Lake City, Utah. While there she completed a number of important projects—including a trip to Nauvoo, Illinois, where she was tasked with organizing and training volunteers to inventory and rehouse an archaeological collection associated with the Church of the Latter Day Saints.



Chelsea, who describes herself as an Air Force “brat,” was born at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona. Though she has lived in many locations across the United States, she calls Tooele, Utah her hometown. In her free time, she enjoys reading books on cryptozoology (monster hunting) and has even read about the “alleged” 2006 Big Foot sighting in Funks Grove. She also likes to paint and cuddle with her cat Spook.

*The Museum's Registrar is the person who researches and processes our object collection, and enters data associated with those objects into our collections database.

Welcome New Members!

Anita Ackerman
Angelo Capparella
Diane Clark-Dennis
Ethan Davis
Alix G. Erickson
Linda Garbe
Jacquelyn S. Glowacki
Paula S. Hager
Mike Herzog
Jami King

Richard Kroll
Linda Lacy
Dayna Brown Nielsen
Gregory Nussbaum
Susan Owens
David Parker
Susanne M. Robb
Diane K. Stephens
Mary Sutter
Al Veitengruber

Gina and Eitan Weltman

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 pricing for event tickets, and our *Time Travelers* reciprocal membership that offers free and discounted admission to hundreds of sites across the U.S.

Making History Together

The Museum is no stranger to community partnerships. In fact, its longest running educational program—the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk*—brings together the time and talents of the Museum, Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, and Illinois Voices Theater-Echoes every year. For even longer than that, the Museum has worked with community experts in support of the Bloomington-Normal Black History Project—resulting in the collection of vital, often chronically underrepresented, historical perspectives through oral histories and object donations. But, perhaps more important than the collection of items and information are the intangible relationships fostered through these processes that persist to this day. It is on this foundation that the Museum has continued this pattern of partnerships for the Latino, Asian Indian, and (award-winning) LGBTQ+ history projects. It is also in this spirit that the Museum has maintained an almost 30 year partnership with the McLean County Genealogical Society to ensure that resources relating to family histories and genealogy are available to all researchers.

Museum staff aren't inherently experts. We don't have all of the answers. We rely on the knowledge and experience of people all around us.

We continue this tradition of collaboration into 2020. As you read this issue, you'll encounter many more examples of the Museum working and partnering with outside individuals and groups, such as *A Community in Conflict Conversation*, which connects Museum content, knowledgeable facilitators, partner organizations, and community members through open dialogue to highlight issues that are important to the community.

Museum staff aren't inherently experts. We don't have all of the answers. We rely on the knowledge and experience of people all around us. We are not in the business of generating content, but rather serve as a conduit through which to share it with others. We relish opportunities to connect people, to nurture relationships, and to build community.

Your Museum, Your History! It's not just a slogan. It's a value statement. Help us be it!



In March 2018 the Museum and the Bloomington-Normal Black History Project celebrated its long partnership and looked to the future of the project. The special program included a panel discussion and the portrayal of important African American leaders in McLean County by area young people.

Community Building—continued from page 5

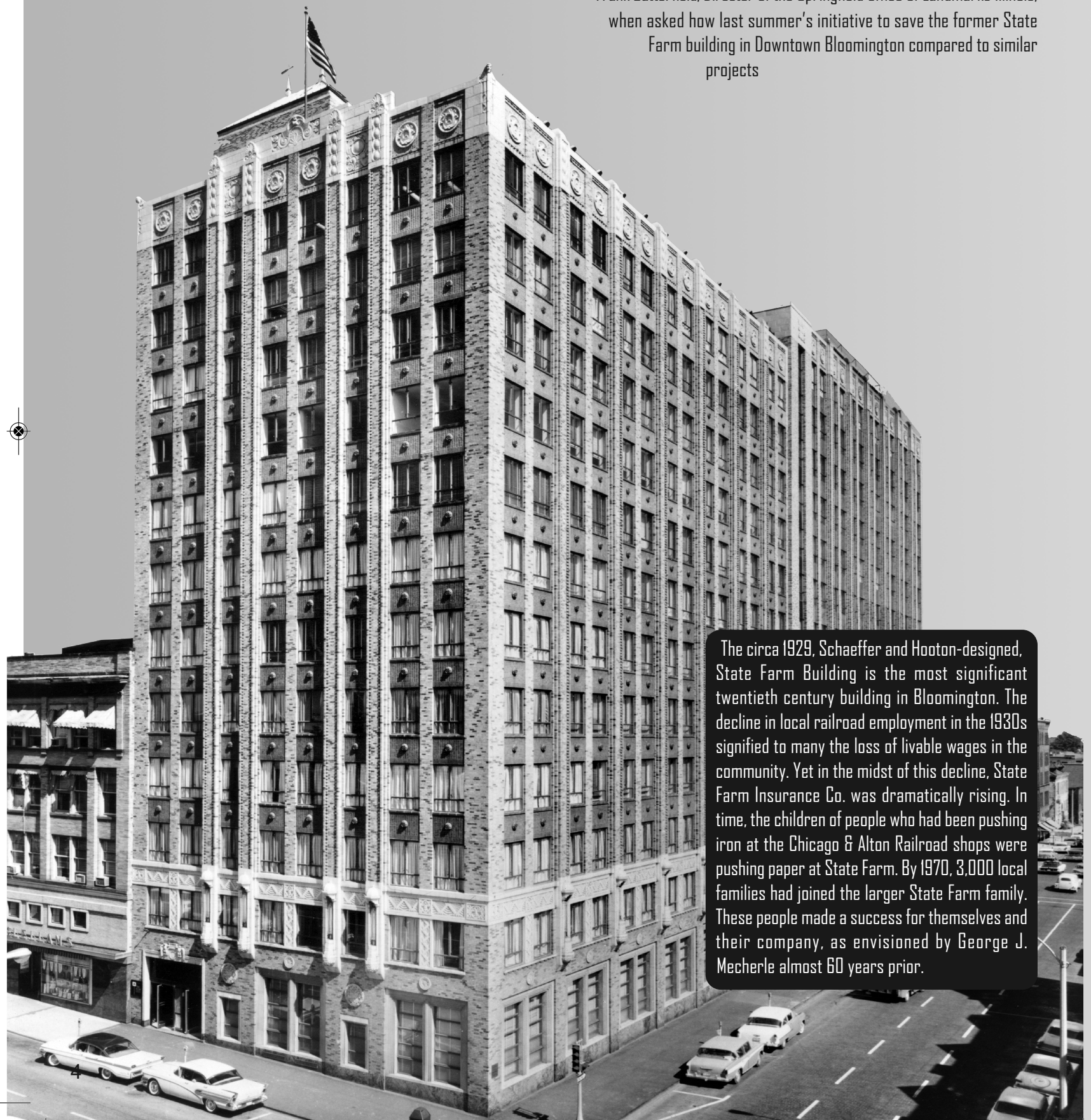
towards preservation and restoration. Last year, numerous properties were honored—including a Downtown studio venue that had previously sat empty for over a century. Considering that location now houses upwards of five rotating independent businesses, how much history making and community building has been deprived this and similar spaces in 100 years' time? Not only that, what limited resources could have been conserved if others had embraced the tenets of adaptive reuse even fifty years ago and opted to redefine—rather than redesign—their community's built environment?

To be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a property must be associated with historically significant events and/or people, and/or "embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction..." The former State Farm building, soon to be Bloomington Lofts, met the specified criteria and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. That said, must a property be listed on a national register to be worthy of redemption and rehabilitation? Or, is it enough for us to want to limit costs to ourselves, our society, and our planet by reusing and preserving the buildings around us? With these questions in mind, let us—as a community—consider how best to invest in our existing infrastructure, how to fill these wanting spaces with willing people, and how to reinstate these buildings as prominent features of our shared past, present, and future landscape.

Community Building : Preservation as Collaboration

"... this was a people-centered effort. I was impressed by how many people cared about this building for a variety of reasons. We [Landmarks Illinois] worked hard on a communications strategy, political connections, and developer outreach, but it is the level of public participation and discussion on the issue that stands out to me."

— Frank Butterfield, Director of the Springfield office of Landmarks Illinois, when asked how last summer's initiative to save the former State Farm building in Downtown Bloomington compared to similar projects



The circa 1929, Schaeffer and Hooton-designed, State Farm Building is the most significant twentieth century building in Bloomington. The decline in local railroad employment in the 1930s signified to many the loss of livable wages in the community. Yet in the midst of this decline, State Farm Insurance Co. was dramatically rising. In time, the children of people who had been pushing iron at the Chicago & Alton Railroad shops were pushing paper at State Farm. By 1970, 3,000 local families had joined the larger State Farm family. These people made a success for themselves and their company, as envisioned by George J. Mecherle almost 60 years prior.

laboration

When State Farm announced in June 2019 that the company intended to demolish its former headquarters at 112 E. Washington St., Landmarks Illinois—a statewide nonprofit organization with a mission to “*preserve, protect, and promote architectural and historic resources in Illinois*”—received calls and emails from people across the state, and decided to join the “*on-the-ground effort*” after receiving requests directly from the people of McLean County.

In addition to reaching out to Landmarks, these same people engaged friends, colleagues, and strangers on social media through such channels as the Save Our State Farm Building group, provided talking points for impassioned parties to share with fellow community members, presented public programs to charitable organizations and social groups, hosted thematic activities during Downtown events, and connected with other organizations with similarly vested interests in the building’s continued existence—including the Route 66 Association of Illinois. With a shared mission to help encourage the preservation of our community’s historic built environment, numerous Museum staff were inclined to involve themselves in these efforts as well.

In fact, on Friday, September 6—the headline-making day that Urban Equity Properties (UEP) of Rockford announced its intent to purchase the former State Farm building—the Museum was partnering with local artist Lisa Lofgren on a First Friday of architecture-inspired printmaking on the Museum lawn. Lofgren, with the help of fellow artist Doug DeLong, crafted printmaking materials inspired by the often-overlooked, Art Deco details of the circa 1929 State Farm building. “*The architecture [of Downtown] is richly layered with the influences of prominent figures and unknown artists to tell a visual story of Bloomington’s past,*” said Lofgren. “*This continues to become more and more vibrant with the addition of current creative efforts.*”

These current creative efforts to which Lofgren refers, in addition to the architectural history of Downtown, are likely each part of why UEP has decided to invest in Bloomington’s city center and “*be part of the great things happening*” here. Justin Fern, UEP Founding principal, told the *Pantagraph*, “*Bloomington is making strides in the redevelopment their downtown, but we feel this is really going to energize downtown like it hasn’t been before.*” In the meantime, while Downtown Bloomington waits patiently to see whether this promise of never-before-seen energy comes to fruition (and we hope that it does), we must ask ourselves, “*What is it that our Downtown needs now and what can we do to meet those needs in the near future?*”

One answer—the same answer that helped save the State Farm Building—is community involvement and investment. Lofgren knows Downtown needs people of all communities populating its buildings and patronizing its businesses, stating that it is “*vital to keep the unique character of the city center.*” Members of the Save Our State Farm Building group knew that community-driven action was imperative to attracting the support of well-connected organizations to help them achieve their goals. And though research shows that “*protecting and investing in ... downtown Bloomington is the best approach to revitalization, job creation and sustainability,*” Butterfield knows that the data is “*only effective when backed by the voices of the community.*”

Municipal efforts toward preservation, like the vote last October to update the City’s historic preservation plan, are absolutely invaluable. However, as demonstrated by the State Farm building purchase, the fates of these imperiled spaces often largely depend on the investment and advocacy of firms like UEP and/or local preservation-minded entrepreneurs. Downtown is rich with examples of local community members with the commitment and capital necessary to rehabilitate and reimagine our historic places. However, there must be an equal desire on the part of other community members to inhabit these places—which often necessitates a certain amount of education and outreach.

In this spirit of outreach, each year Bloomington’s Historic Preservation Commission recognizes local property owners for their exceptional efforts



Downtown’s Peoples Bank (top) and Montgomery Ward buildings both remain vacant and without immediate plans for redevelopment, as do many other buildings worth being repurposed.

Community Building—continued on page 3

No Futures in History Without Community Pa

"My child ... loves making new friends and learning about the history of Bloomington! I am extremely grateful for the instructors and all the local businesses who support Futures in History Camp"

— Camper Parent, 2019

Can we just say, we are too! Since the beginning, Futures in History Camp (FiHC) has served as an exemplar of community collaboration. This 16-year partnership between the McLean County Museum of History, the David Davis Mansion (DDM), and Sugar Grove Nature Center (SGNC) has continued to evolve, expand, and explore new themes, but collaborative partnering has always been an identifying characteristic.

"Over the years, it has become such a comfortable relationship," says Jill Wallace, lead educator at Sugar Grove Nature Center. "We are truly friends, and discussions regarding camp are always fun and lively ... [FiHC] has also opened the avenue for us to collaborate on other programs and events."

"The enthusiasm [Museum staff] bring to this program is always a delight," says Jeff Saulsbery, Site Superintendent of the David Davis Mansion. "They make this one of the easier programs we do here at the Mansion, and the kids leaving at the end of the day covered with dust and big smiles all around make it a true pleasure."

In summer 2019 alone, community partners who contributed to FiHC included: the David Davis Mansion, SGNC, the McLean County Coroners Office, ISU professor emeritus Bob Bradley, archaeologist Eve Hargrave, Connect Transit, Bloomington and Normal planning commissions, West Bloomington Revitalization Project (WBRP), local artist Doug Delong, cometogetherspace, University Galleries, District 87 Food Service, D.P. Dough, and Hourglass Films; with financial support from the Young Men's Club, ISU professor emeritus Mark Wyman, and generous donors to the Museum's annual FiHC fund drive—not to mention the time and talents of more than 10 enthusiastic volunteers, in addition to ready and willing interdepartmental collaboration between Museum staff.



ty Partners

"The Museum is a very important resource for the community," said Deborah Halperin, WBRP board president. "[FiHC] is an extension of the quality education and experience that you would find inside the Museum. The curriculum is thoughtful and enriching. This camp builds citizens. The kids have a full day that teaches them, challenges them, and lets them have fun. They are gaining a fresh perspective on their hometown, and that is a wonderful way to spend your summer."

The collaboration between WBRP and FiHC began in 2017, when campers first dedicated part of Architecture Day to learning about the relationship between natural and built environments, the importance of dedicated green space in urban centers, food security, and the rich history of Bloomington's West Side. Museum Marketing Director, avid gardener, and West Side advocate, Jeff Woodard provides the campers with a tour of the West Side Community Garden each summer, while Education Department staff guide campers in a garden-inspired service project. Over the last four years, Futures in History Campers have collaboratively painted new garden signage designed by Doug DeLong, with vinyl installation by Meltdown Creative Works; built and supplied a free library; built a decorative and functional wooden fence; and painted a thematic mural on said fence, designed again by DeLong.



"The WBRP looks forward to our collaboration with the Museum's Futures in History Camp every summer! We know the campers will be full of wonderful ideas and that boost brings great energy to the garden," said Halperin. "They are curious and want to understand little things about plants and seeds as well as big things about how our community works together. For some students, ... it might be the first time they have visited the West Side. ... They are a very bright group of kids, and working with the camp always leaves me feeling both proud and hopeful."

In summer 2020, campers will have the chance to explore future careers related to the field of history, including: law, archaeology, architecture, museum studies, and environmental science. Over the course of the five-day camp, students will visit the David Davis Mansion and Sugar Grove Nature Center, and will become experts on the Museum and Downtown Bloomington.

Brother and sister, Jake and Brooke Piotrowski, attended FiHC in summer 2019. *"I loved this camp because we learned so much about history and Bloomington," said Jake. "The escape room, the mock trial, and movie making at Sugar Grove were my favorite parts. And the mock excavation! Wait, I love it all it! Me and my friend are signing up this summer!"*

"I had so much fun at history camp!" said Brooke. "We did so many cool activities each day and they were all so different and fun. I loved box building architecture, our pop-up mini museum, and spending the day at the David Davis Mansion. I can't wait for this year!"

Registration for the 2020 season of Futures in History Camp will open April 15. Two separate sessions—both in July—are open to the first 20 campers to apply for each week of camp. The dates for the two sessions are as follows: July 6-10 and July 27-31. Camp registration is available to all area kids entering fourth through sixth grades. The cost per camper is \$125. Cost includes snacks, meals, materials, transportation to and from SGNC, and more. Full scholarships are available to households that qualify. Online registration, as well as printable registration forms, will be available through the Museum's website. For more information, please contact Education Program Coordinator Hannah Johnson at hjohnson@mchistory.org or by phone at 309-827-0428. We look forward to hearing from all of you future-thinking, aspiring historians in April!

Museum to Host Emerging Sound Artists Series

In 2019 the Museum was approached by pt.fwd—an independent nonprofit group that presents arts and cultural programming in Central Illinois— with an exciting proposal to host their 2020 concert season. And accept their proposal, we have.

Since their inaugural season in 2018, pt.fwd has organized contemporary music and sonic arts performances in Bloomington-Normal that feature new work by local and regional artists. Through these programs, pt.fwd wishes to promote the arts as a community activity that reinforces shared connections, presents McLean County's people and history as a source of creative activity, positions McLean County as a hub of high-quality contemporary art-making, and by presenting these performances in the Museum, activates the "old courthouse's" rich acoustic and historic characteristics through the creative use of sound or music.

"We are honored to present our series in the McLean County Museum of History's 'Old Courthouse,' a beautiful, culturally significant, and acoustically fascinating setting," said artist Eddie Breitweiser, one of the founding members of pt.fwd. Breitweiser, himself an Illinois-based artist, musician, and writer, organizes particulars (software, electronics, audio/visual signals, text, networked distribution channels, improvisational music, performative activities) into arrangements whose "products are the macro-result of the emergent interactions of all components at once." For more information about pt.fwd, future projects, and the spring 2020 season at the Museum, follow them on Facebook @pt.fwd.

Spring 2020 pt.fwd Schedule of Performances

Lou Mallozzi - Saturday, March 28: A Chicago-based artist who works with a variety of strategies, including performance, installation, improvised music, and visual arts, Mallozzi will present solo sound performances that incorporate language, pre-recorded sounds, microphones, and simple technologies in dialogue with the particularities of a site and his body. By slightly de-stabilizing these relationships, his performances invite an increased attention to the familiar on the part of the audience, and open the possibility of questions about power, agency, and perception.

Josh Rios and Matt Joynt - Saturday, April 18:

Rios and Joynt will present *Not Peaceable and Quiet (The Siren and Social Space)*, a performative lecture with experimental guitar and video. Their program is part of an extended project that examines the relationship between sound and power, giving special attention to sonic practices that function as social resistance, as well as how certain sonic practices are criminalized in order to enact evermore intense forms of racialized policing. Josh Rios teaches courses in visual critical studies and research-based practice at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He is also a media artist, writer, and educator



All performances are free and open to the public. They begin at 7:00 p.m. and last approximately one hour.



whose projects deal with histories, archives, and futurities of Latinx subjectivity and US/Mexico relations. Matt Joynt is a Chicago-based composer and artist whose work engages the multivalent political histories of sound, sonic archives, and sound as site.

Angel Bat Dawid - Friday, May 1: A Black American composer, improviser, clarinetist, pianist, vocalist, and vinyl addict, Dawid descended on Chicago's jazz and improvised music scene just a few years ago. And in that short time, the potency, prowess, spirit, and charisma of her celestial musical proselytizing has taken her from relatively unknown improviser to borderline ubiquitous performer in Chicago's avant-garde. Additionally, Dawid weaves her love of improvised music, social justice, and spirituality with original music she composes.

Program Encourages Community Dialogue

Inspired by the Museum's newest exhibit, *Challenges, Choices, and Change: A Community in Conflict*, the Museum—in collaboration with Not In Our Town (NIOT), Heartland Community College, YWCA of McLean County, the Normal Human Relations Commission, and more than one dozen other local organizations—is presenting the dialogue-based program series, *A Community in Conflict Conversation* from January to April. These monthly opportunities for community conversation serve to highlight the historic and modern significance of four questions featured in the exhibit—asking always, “Who has the power?”

In January about 70 participants and facilitators explored the question, “*Who Has the Power to Choose Their Work?*” Participants discussed under-employment and wage disparity, equal pay for equal work, access and exposure, among other labor-related issues. When asked what she took from her group's conversation, Karla Bailey-Smith responded, “*We need to make sure that as young people are growing up, their talents, passions, and interests are recognized by teachers, and that teachers have the resources to guide their students toward jobs that could utilize those interests.*”

In February participants joined members of Heartland Community College's Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce, along with representatives of the Bloomington-Normal NAACP, 100 Black Men of Central Illinois, and Black Lives Matter Bloomington-Normal, in conversation over the question, “*Who Has the Power to Get an Equal Education?*” Hosted by Heartland Community College, participants engaged in small group discussion about the lasting barriers and lack of equitable access to educational opportunities for minority and marginalized populations.

Terrance Bond, Associate Dean of Students at Heartland, was excited about the opportunity to partner with the Museum on this program series, saying, “*The ‘A Community in Conflict’ exhibit offers participants a unique exploration of the intersection of national and local history. We were glad to welcome a collection of community members, students, and educators on campus to discuss the realities and challenges of multiple power dynamics in education. We hope the conversation inspires visits to the exhibit and creates connections back to the curriculum.*”

If you missed the opportunity to participate in the first two conversations, there are two more programs in the series. On Saturday, March 21 at 12:00 p.m. we will ask ourselves, “Who Has the Power to be Heard” in the context of women's participation in politics. This conversation will take place at in the YWCA Community Room, 1201 N. Hershey Rd. in Bloomington. On Tuesday, April 28 at 6:45 p.m., the series will return to the Museum when the final discussion will pose the question, “Who Has the Power to Define Morality?” as society's understanding of sexual expression continues to evolve. For more information about each program and our partners, follow the Museum on Facebook or visit www.mchistory.org.



New to Collections

Artifacts

- Black faux leather address book used by Bernard Ryder, c. 1960; donated by Mary Ryder
- “United States Census 2000” badge used by Karen Walters; donated by Karen Walters
- Domingo Carranza’s Toledo, Peoria, & Western Railroad 15-year service pin, 1982; donated by Teresa Carranza
- Macramé wall hanging, Midwest Weavers

Conference name badge, and “Cattails” weaving made by Naomi Whiting Towner; George W. Bush political doll; print by Jim Butler; black lace shawl, c. 1850; donated by the Estate of Naomi Whiting Towner

- “Once Upon a Time Alternative Books & Gifts” ballpoint pen; donated by Kari Sandhaas
- Metal “Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers & Helpers” identification card belonging to

Cornelius Woellms, a boilermaker at the Gulf, Mobile, & Ohio Railroad shops in Bloomington, c. 1940; donated by Mike Matejka

- Collection of T-shirts associated with activities of the McLean County Aids Task Force, the Advocacy Council for Human Rights, Central Illinois Pride, and various events to increase AIDS and gay rights awareness; donated by Dave Bentlin



Featured Artifact

T-shirt collection — donated by Dave Bentlin

Dave Bentlin, an avid local supporter of gay rights and AIDS research, recently donated a collection of T-shirts he has amassed and worn over the years. The collection represents many special events and community efforts to raise money and public awareness of LGBTQ+ initiatives and issues, including the AIDS epidemic of the 1990s, which brought to light many of the issues faced by members of McLean County’s LGBTQ+ community.

Archives

- Paul O. Moratz letter to Lundeen family upon death of Alfred Lundeen, Aug. 18, 1927; memorial to Lundeen by local Carpenters Brotherhood; donated by Edgar E. Lundeen, Jr.
- Various items, including binder of First Baptist Church in Normal, mostly relating to sale of building and relocation; manuscript on Albert H. Eckert’s WWII service, 2009; donated by Shirley Craig, executor for Joy Craig and James Robinson
- Betty Crocker savings catalogs; donated by Meredith Schroeer
- Many items, including Harwood Bros. and Co. advertising cards; autograph book of Colleen Parker, Normal Community High School, 1933-36; donated by David Matthew Parker

- Henry Hartzold and Hartzold family items, including records of hog sales, 1930s; donated by Marian Hartzold
- Several postcards pertaining to downtown Bloomington; donated by Debra Cruise
- Collection of material relating to series of reunions held by the Bloomington High School class of 1944; donated by June Mandler McCluskey
- Poetry by James Hart and related items; donated by William and Pat Pence
- Memorial to John R. Benjamin by the Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers); donated by Mary Beth Carter Nevitt
- “Souvenir folder of Bloomington and Normal” linen postcard set; donated by Theresa Miller
- American Hungarian Family Society dues

- book, including bylaws and constitution, and collection of related newspaper clippings; donated by Dawn Buford on behalf of the American Hungarian Family Society
- Twin City Kart Club souvenir program, 1970; donated by Phil Warlow
- Material relating to the Central Illinois Pride Health Center; donated by Len Meyer, the center’s founder (2015) and executive director (2015-17)
- Several items, including Cooksville High School diploma of Thelma Irene Williams, class of 1929; donated by Karen Sperlin
- Collection of letters, newspaper clippings, and photographs relating to the Huff, Fuller, and Hodge families; donated by Gretchen Huff
- Two scrapbooks compiled by Nancy Peairs

Ramos covering her junior high and Normal Community High School years, 1930s; donated by Sara Ellen Anderson

Books / Periodicals / Publications

- John F. and Anna Gasser Rinkenberger genealogy, 2000; donated by Lisa Walsh
- Collected speeches, Col. R.G. Ingersoll (Rhodes and McClure Pub. Co., 1885); donated by Rebecca Theobald
- America Illustrated, 1883; donated by Diane Hawk
- American Hungarian Family Society: Celebrating 100 Years, 1919-2019; donated by Dawn Buford on behalf of the American Hungarian Family Society
- The Charter and the Revised and Compiled Ordinances of the Town of Normal, 1905; donated by Daniel Metcalf
- Rand McNally Standard Reference Map, Illinois, 1972; donated by Virginia Snow
- Talisman (Cooksville High School year-book), 1927, 1928, and 1929; donated by Karen Sperlin

- Great Lovers, vol. 13, Elbert Hubbard's Little Journeys to the Homes of the Great series, memorial edition, 1916; donated by Elizabeth Conkin
- Living Cruelty Free in Bloomington-Normal: 40 Simple Veggie / Vegan Recipes, undated cookbook published by the People Against Mistreatment of Animals; donated by Kari Sandhaas
- Girl Scout handbook, 1953; donated by Patricia Barth

Photographs / Images

- Large collection of photos relating to Walker, VanWinkle, and Sinks families; donated by Donna J. Sinks
- Four photos of Bloomington business interiors, including Consumer Wholesale Grocers at 418 N. Main St., 1925; A&P Tea Co. at 602 N. Main St., 1931; donated by S. Weeks
- Collection of family photos (reprints) from the Bentown area; donated by Mary Beth Carter Nevitt
- Congregational Church youth group, East Bay Camp, 1945; donated by Suzanne Gill
- Chicago & Alton Railroad shops, undated aerial; donated by Mel Theobald

**The Museum
collects novels, short story
compilations, poetry
collections, and all kinds of
writings—published and
unpublished—from authors
with connections to
McLean County.**

**What's gathering dust
on your bookshelf?**

- Set of photos taken on or around the Top Boy Drive-In in Bloomington and the Kentucky Fried Chicken in Normal, both in 1967; donated by Richard and Sonja Leas

Featured Photo

Consumers Wholesale Grocery Store

Stephanie Weeks donated several silver gelatin "developed out" prints (the fancy word for a common type of photograph) of Bloomington business interiors from the 1920s and 1930s. Included was this one from 1925 showing the Consumers Wholesale Grocery at 418 N. Main St. The resolution is fantastic.



Pictured from left to right: John Murphy, James T. Steele, Della Leash (we're not sure about her spelling), and Beulah Siegler.



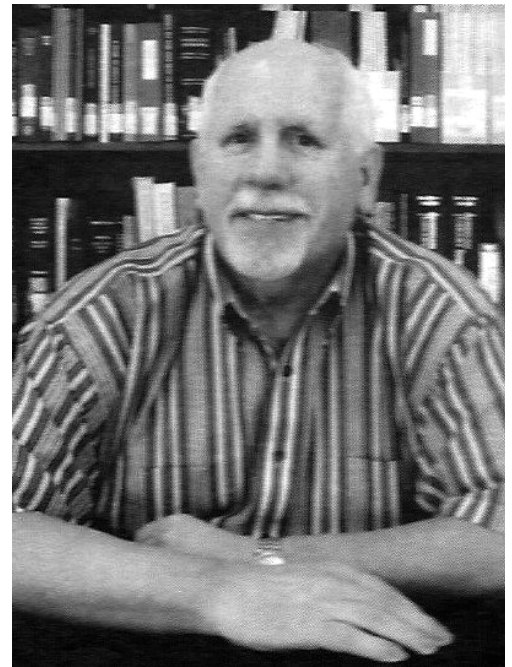
Volunteer Spotlight

Do you enjoy conducting research in our first-rate, one-of-a-kind Stevenson-Ives Library and archives? Have you ever spent time researching your local history using the Museum's collection of Bloomington-Normal City Directories? Have you ever asked yourself, "What is a city directory, and why are they important?" Long-time, valued volunteer, Milan Jackson, who passed away last December, was the mastermind behind the Museum's city directories.

Published yearly starting in 1855, each city directory provides lists of area businesses, clubs, organizations, and local residents, both alphabetically and by address. Residential information includes where members of the household worked. Lists of businesses are often sorted by category. And, most pages feature visually striking local advertisements of the time.

Knowing what a treasure trove of information the directories could be, Milan went to work to create more specific research categories to ensure a user-friendly research experience for our patrons. He used the city directories to compile subject lists including: Past Presidents of the McLean County Historical Society from 1898 to 2020; Major League Baseball Players Raised in McLean County from 1859 to 1991; Pantagraph Photo Timeline starting in 1920; Restaurants in McLean County from 1866 to 2003; Bloomington/Normal Fire Departments; Hotels of the 19th Century; Steak-N-Shake from 1938 to 2010; Patent Medicine Manufacturers Directory; and more! Milan also answered countless queries from Museum patrons, researched characters for the Museum's *Evergreen Cemetery Walk*, served as a local sports historian, and was instrumental in the coordination of numerous high school reunions.

Museum staff would like to recognize the hard work, passion, and loyalty of our longtime volunteer and friend, Milan Jackson, who spent thousands of hours compiling these city directory subject lists that will continue to help people research our local history for years to come. Thank you Milan! We will miss you!



Longtime Member Makes Bequest



Ms. Joy Hebert of Evanston was a longtime member of the McLean County Historical Society and a supporter of the Museum's educational activities, exhibitions, and preservation efforts. An active docent for the Chicago Architecture Foundation, she was described as a woman dedicated to education and historic preservation—especially architecture. In fact, an architectural bus tour of Downtown Bloomington is how Hebert first came to know about the McLean County Museum of History.

In the early-1980s, while on a campaign bus tour with fellow Adlai Stevenson III supporters (Stevenson was running for Illinois governor at the time), Hebert was so impressed by the tour—led by none other than the Museum's own Greg Koos—that she soon after became a faithful member of the Museum. Other than a couple of visits to Bloomington and involvement with Museum activities, such as the *Evergreen Cemetery Walk*, we are not aware that Hebert had any connections with Central Illinois. However, the Museum's mission, staff, volunteers, and communications met what we have learned were her very high standards.

After Hebert's death, the Museum learned it was named in her will and received a generous six-figure bequest in the closing of her estate. We sincerely thank and salute Ms. Hebert for her caring generosity. It seems that the way to honor her gift is to continue to do—in the best ways possible—the things she admired and practiced by furthering the knowledge of local history, changing the ways people view history through outreach and innovative programming, and greeting all who enter the Museum with kindness, professionalism, and stewardship.

The SECURE Act Upends Estate Plans

The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act [H.R. 1994] passed the House last year on a bipartisan basis, by a vote of 417 to 3, but then stalled in the Senate. A few Republican Senators objected to unanimous consent for the bill. In December, Congress enacted tax-and-spend legislation that included the SECURE Act, taking effect the first of this year.

The Act includes a number of liberalizations that should promote retirement savings. For example, the prohibition on contributing to a traditional IRA upon reaching age 70½ has been eliminated. Required minimum distributions from IRAs and qualified retirement plans may now be delayed to age 72, rather than age 70½.

To pay for the changes that result in delayed tax collections, the Congress changed the rules rather drastically for inherited IRAs. Under the old rules, one who inherited a traditional or a Roth IRA was allowed to take minimum distributions from the account over his or her lifetime. For example, a 50-year-old could spread the payments out over 34.2 years. If a great-grandchild inherited the account, the payout period could be as long as 80 years! This planning strategy was known as the “stretch IRA,” and it was understandably popular. To assure that the IRA was not invaded prematurely, some people paired the stretch IRA with a trust plan.

The SECURE Act largely eliminates the stretch IRA. The general rule now is that the IRA assets must be distributed over the ten years following the account owner's death. Exceptions are made for these designated beneficiaries:

- a surviving spouse;
- a minor child or children;
- a disabled beneficiary;
- a chronically ill individual; and
- beneficiaries who are less than ten years younger than the account owner (such as a brother or sister).

The exception for the minor child lasts only until he or she reaches the age of majority, because then the ten-year rule kicks in. For the other categories of designated beneficiaries, the delay in distributions ends at death when a ten-year distribution must begin.

Eliminating the stretch IRA accelerates the taxes on the retirement savings, shortens the deferral period, and it also makes it more likely that the distributions will occur during the beneficiary's high earning years instead of being delayed until retirement. If a large IRA will be a significant element of your estate, you should consider meeting with your estate planning advisors early this year.

Sample questions and answers

I turned 70½ in 2019, so am I excused from taking a required minimum distribution now? Or next year? Sorry, the change does not affect you. Only those who turn 70½ in 2020 or later get the benefit of waiting to age 72 for required minimum distributions. You will have to take a minimum distribution for the 2019 tax year (if you haven't already) as well as the 2020 tax year.

I inherited an IRA three years ago from a parent and have been taking minimum distributions over my lifetime. Does that have to change now, do I take the rest over ten years? Good news, the new law does not affect you. IRAs inherited from those who died after December 31, 2019, are the ones affected by the new law.

My children are adults, but my grandchildren are not. Can they get the benefit of waiting until they reach their majority for the ten-year rule to apply? Sorry, no. The exception only is for minor children of the account owner, not grandchildren, nieces, or nephews. These more remote relatives will need to withdraw everything from the account over ten years.

This information is not intended to be and should not be treated as legal advice or tax advice. Readers should under no circumstances rely upon this information as a substitute for their own research or for obtaining specific legal or tax advice from their own counsel. January 2020 © 2020 M.A. Co. All rights reserved



It's more than an investment,
it's your legacy.

Grow, protect, and
transfer your wealth
with confidence.

Wealth Management
hbtbank.com | 855-244-1217

 **Heartland**
Bank and Trust Company

Securities and insurance products are NOT deposits of Heartland Bank, are NOT FDIC insured, are NOT guaranteed by or obligations of the bank, and are subject to potential fluctuation in return and possible loss of principal.

March of the Women: Music for the 100th Anniversary of Suffrage

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of a salient moment in U.S. Women's History—the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States' Constitution, which guarantees that the *"right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."* To commemorate this anniversary, the Museum, in partnership with the League of Women Voters of McLean County, is pleased to host musician Phil Passen, who will perform songs on his hammered dulcimer celebrating women's suffrage and the role of women in late-nineteenth and early twentieth century society. This free public program will be held at 1:15 p.m. on Saturday, March 28.



Passen's program will feature songs about women's suffrage from the mid-nineteenth century through 1920, along with additional songs about equal work for equal pay, reproductive rights, and other relevant topics. His program will begin with "Winning the Vote," a humorous but pointed song written in 1912 as a conversation between men and women about women's suffrage; and conclude with "Bread and Roses," the anthemic song of women workers based on a poem inspired by the 1912 Lawrence textile strike. This entertaining and informative performance will highlight the fight for women's right to vote and the continuing fight for women's rights today.

Few musicians play the hammered dulcimer. Fewer still sing while accompanying themselves on this fascinating instrument. Phil Passen does both. A native of Ohio, Passen was a full-time activist in the antiwar and civil rights movement of the 1960s and 1970s before he became involved in folk music. Itching to learn how to play a musical instrument, Passen did not pick up the dulcimer until 1994 after he saw it being performed at a concert. He has been playing ever since. Passen regularly performs at libraries and has also performed in the World Symphony Orchestra at Chicago's Auditorium Theater. Following his performances, Passen invites audience members to take a closer look at his dulcimer and sometimes try their hand at it too.

This program is sponsored by a grant from Illinois Humanities. Illinois Humanities is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Illinois General Assembly (through the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency), as well as by contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations.

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

An Enduring Partnership

The Museum's first partner was the County of McLean, which provided the McLean County Historical Society a space in the newly completed courthouse (1903) to display to the public its growing collection of historic artifacts. That partnership continued in 1925 when the Society moved to the McBarnes Memorial Building, which provided even more room to house the Society's growing collection. When the Society moved back into the former courthouse as the McLean County Museum of History in 1991, our partnership with McLean County continued with a lease for the entire building. This enduring partnership has been in place for 116 years. The third floor space where the Society first displayed its collections is now storage for the Museum's Barbara Dunbar Textile Collection.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Through March 6

Every spring since 1998, local and state history projects created by seventh grade students attending Tri-Valley Middle School have been on display throughout the halls of the Museum. Many of these projects will go on to compete at the Illinois History Day in Springfield on May 7. Come see what these hardworking students, led by their teacher Ms. Mary Pfeiffer, have created.

March 6 5 to 8 p.m.

First Friday - Discovering Young Artists with BCAI School of Arts

Through March 7

The Civil Rights Prints of Billy Morrow Jackson

View artist Billy Morrow Jackson's eight-print portfolio depicting some of the major protagonists, settings, and encounters of the U.S. Civil Rights movement. Presented by Dr. Charles and Jeanne Morris.

March 10 7:15 p.m.

9 Wonder Women of Toys with Christopher Bensch from the Strong Museum of Play, Rochester, New York

March 19

Museum Closed for Staff In-Service

March 21 12 p.m.

A Community in Conflict Conversation Part 3 - Who Has the Power to be Heard? at the YWCA Community Room, 1201 N. Hershey Rd., Bloomington

March 21

Last day to see **Pedal Power!**

March 28 1:15 p.m.

March of the Women: Music for the 100th Anniversary of Suffrage with Phil Passen

March 28 7 p.m.

pt.fwd Concert Series featuring Lou Mallozzi (Chicago) doing solo sound performances

April 16

Museum Closed for Staff In-Service

April 18 7 p.m.

pt.fwd Concert Series featuring Josh Rios & Matt Joynt (Chicago) doing performative lecture with experimental guitar and video

April 28 6:45 p.m.

A Community in Conflict Conversation Part 4 - Who Has the Power to Define Morality? at the McLean County Museum of History

LUNCH & LEARN

March-April-May programs

Co-sponsored by the Museum and Illinois Wesleyan University

March 12 at 12:10 p.m.

Harriet Emma Dean Powell with Dr. Marcia Thomas, Professor Emeritus, Illinois Wesleyan University

April 9 at 12:10 p.m.

Today's Fell Arboretum with Patrick Murphy, Horticulturalist and Curator, Fell Arboretum, Illinois State University

May 14 at 12:10 p.m.

Brahms' Use of Motive to Unify his Three Intermezzi, Opus 117 with Dr. Franklin Larey, Director and Professor, School of Music, Illinois Wesleyan University

Pack a lunch and feast on some food for thought every second Thursday of the month September through May.

May 5 at 7:00 p.m.

DEATH IN THE HAYMARKET

A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America

by James Green

History Reads Book Club



Bloomington Public Library
Bloomington Museum of History

May 1 5 to 8 p.m.

First Friday and pt.fwd Concert Series (7 p.m.)

featuring Angel Bat Dawid (Chicago) doing compositions and improvisations for clarinet, piano, and voice

May 2

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Knit In at Normal Public Library

May 25

Museum Closed for Memorial Day

All programs are presented in the Governor Fifer Courtroom on the 2nd floor of the Museum unless otherwise noted.



NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
BLOOMINGTON IL
PERMIT NO. 118

Mystery History Quiz

Last issue's Mystery History was another stumper, that's for sure. Gary Faulk was the only one who came close, as he guessed either the Dunn-Barton or Fell residence halls on the Illinois State University campus. Actually, the 1954 photo showed the construction of Walker Hall—Dunn-Barton's "twin," which was located along Main Street. Dunn-Barton was located on the east side of the same block, facing University Street. Walker Hall was dedicated on February 23, 1956, but then fell to the wrecking ball in 2008 to make way for the Student Fitness Center.



For this Mystery History go-around, we're asking you to identify this store and give a rough approximation of the date. Here's a hint: It's not Walmart. Ha! If you think you know the answer, send an email to bkemp@mchistory.org or give the Library a call at 309-827-0428. Good luck!