

ON THE SQUARE



The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

June-July-August 2020

Volume 52, Number 2

Museum Receives AASLH Award of Excellence

page 3

History Makers Named

page 4

Pedal Power! Crosses Finish Line

page 5



Also inside this issue:

Announcements & New Members . . .	2
New to Collections	6
Face Mask Fence	7
Futures in History Camp	8
What's Happening at the Museum . . .	10
Mystery History Quiz	12

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



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
Brandy Maloney - Development Assistant
Jeff Woodard - Marketing & Public Relations
Tori 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 Mulrhead
Shelli Opsal
Michelle Pazar
Josh Rohrscheib
Ann Sullivan
Carl Teichman
Paul Van Ness
Bill Wetzel
Bob Williams
Carolyn Perry Yockey



Cover image: Nurses working for the McLean County Health Department test students for tuberculosis, circa 1965.

Announcements

From the Interim Executive Director

I commented the other day, with all that is going on in our community and in our lives, that I was out of surprises — nothing could surprise me. I was wrong.

The announcement from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) that the Museum was to be recognized with the coveted Award of Excellence surprised me (see page 3). It shook me out of my view of immediacy and reminded me of the long-term view.

Seven years ago, the Museum decided that it was time to renew what we do and look to the future. That work took six years of focused thought, creative ideas, skilled work, and a sense that *together* we would prepare for the future. And who then could have predicted our today as the future?

What we started in 2013 is serving us well. The Museum has been able to rapidly convert the way in which its mission is fulfilled from face-to-face engagement to digital or virtual engagement. We built an infrastructure that allows us nimble response, continuation of effort, and the ability to sustain and benefit from the talents of our remarkable staff. This magazine, our monthly mailers, our social media postings, and our email blasts narrate and describe this work as it unfolds. All of this was made possible by building for the future — a policy I heartily embrace and recommend.

—Greg Koos



We are sad to announce that Divah Griffin, our Director of Development for nearly two years, has resigned. Divah has accepted a development position at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. We will miss her community-mindedness, thoughtful pragmatism, and quiet wit, but wish her the best in her new role!

Welcome New Members!

Thomas Cherry
Darren Clerkin
June Engle
Ms. Elizabeth Fint

Stanley and Martha Geison
Susan Knepler
Shelli Opsal
Rick Wochholz

Laurie Wollrab

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.

Museum Receives 2020 AASLH Award of Excellence

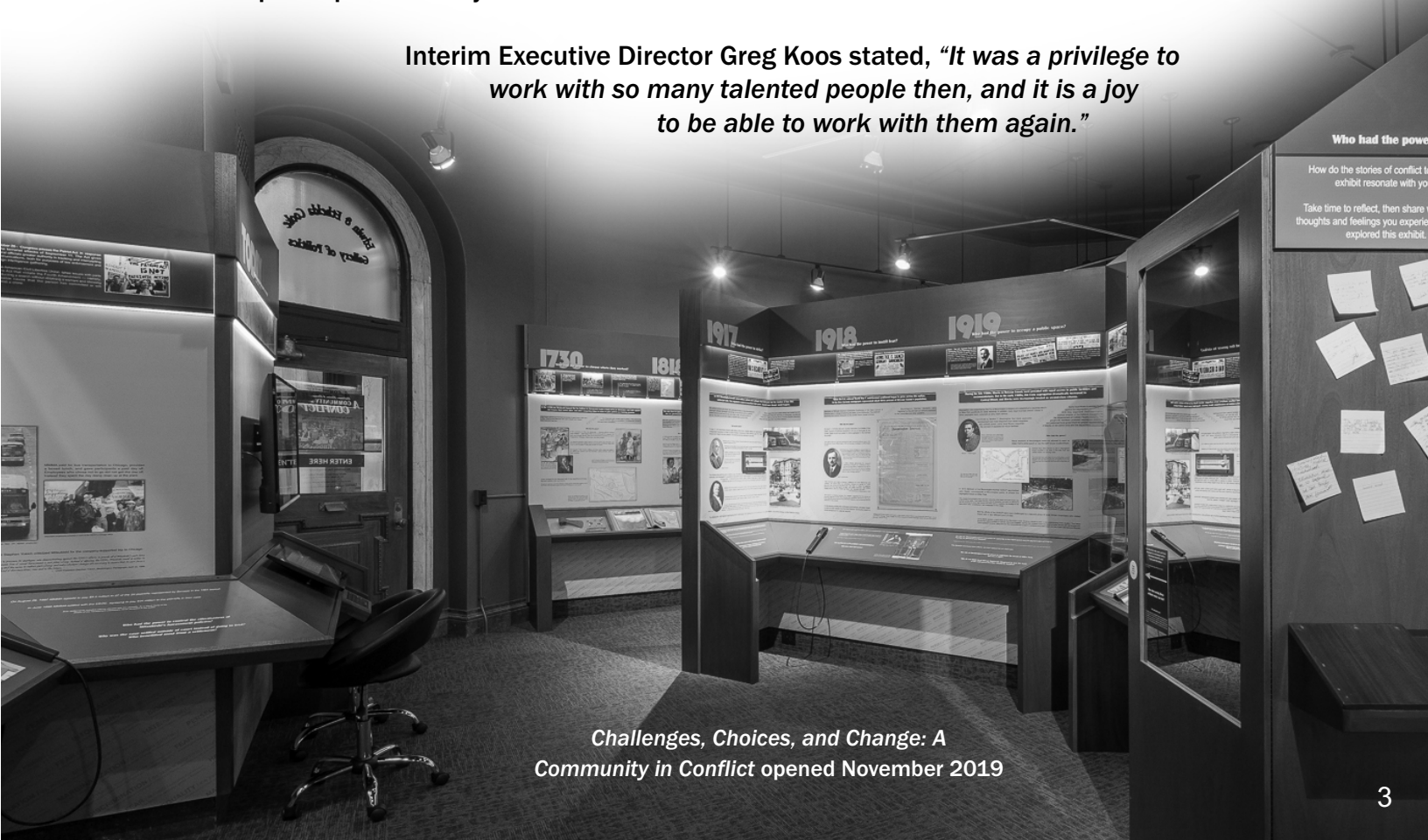
The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) announced on May 14 that the McLean County Museum of History is the recipient of an Award of Excellence for its *Extending Excellence* capital campaign. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 75th year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

This project achieved four goals, which were core to our long-range plan. We installed the new 5,000-square-foot exhibit *Challenges, Choices, and Change* in four galleries. We also installed the exhibit *Abraham Lincoln in McLean County*. The exhibits explore the experience of living, working, farming, and creating community in McLean County. We significantly expanded the use of digital technology in order to serve broader learning styles and communication formats. We increased educational program delivery throughout our community, for school travel budgets are constrained and many adults are physically unable to reach us. We strengthened our endowment to secure these capacities. The resources needed to achieve these goals were provided through generous and broad private support of members and many others in our community.

The importance of the Museum's new capacities, which resulted from this project, is witnessed in its ability to continue to serve our community during the pandemic. The Museum has moved much of its programming to digital and virtual platforms, serving schools and the people of our community alike.

The Extending Excellence project was the work of many. The hugely successful capital campaign was led by museum board members Craig Alexander, Robert Fazzini, John Killian, and Carolyn Yockey; and was ably staffed by Beth Whisman. The exhibits project was led by Susan Hartzold, Curator, who took on the incredible task of researching, designing, and overseeing construction and installation of *Challenges, Choices, and Change*. Guest curators for the exhibits included Dr. Gina Hunter, associate professor of anthropology at Illinois State University; Don Meyer, retired McLean County farm extension adviser and adjunct professor of agriculture at ISU; Mike Matejka, Governmental Affairs Director for the Great Plains Laborers District Council and labor historian; and Bill Kemp, Museum Librarian. Torii Moré, whose position as Curator of Digital Humanities was created through this project, oversaw the development of the audio, video, and interactive digital components of the exhibits. The entire staff participated in ways too numerous to call out.

Interim Executive Director Greg Koos stated, *"It was a privilege to work with so many talented people then, and it is a joy to be able to work with them again."*



Challenges, Choices, and Change: A Community in Conflict opened November 2019

History Makers Named, Gala Rescheduled for Summer 2021

The Museum is excited to announce that the ninth annual *History Makers* Gala is rescheduled for June 16, 2021. Our 2020 honorees have made significant local impacts in the fields of education, arts and culture, social justice, and philanthropy, and we cannot wait to celebrate their legacies with our fellow community members and Museum supporters next summer.

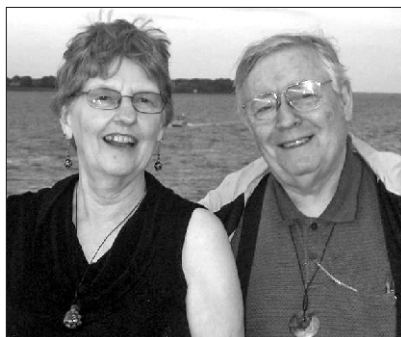
The History Makers Gala is the Museum's annual members meeting that celebrates local older adults who have made considerable contributions to shaping the fabric of McLean County. This event provides financial support for Museum-based public educational programming throughout McLean County.

Jerry and Carole Ringer

Jerry and Carole's shared passion for the arts is well known in the community. Carole says, "[Art] helps to define the quality of life. Even if you are well able to put food on the table, culture is needed for the soul, mind, and spirit."

Carole was a volunteer and ultimately a professional fundraiser for the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and BroMenn Foundation for the Mennonite College of Nursing. She was the first Executive Director of Illinois Prairie Community Foundation and served on over twelve boards, including of the Multicultural Leadership Program, Rotary Club of Bloomington, McLean County Museum of History, and Friends of the Arts at Illinois State University.

Jerry has served on the boards of the MARC Foundation, McLean County United Way, and Illinois Shakespeare Festival amongst others, served as an elder and Chairman of the Building Committee at First Presbyterian Church of Normal, and as a member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of Bloomington. He has also served on the Cornell College Board for 40 years.



Robert and Marilyn Sutherland

During their 50-plus years in Bloomington-Normal, Bob and Marilyn Sutherland have fought to make this a better community for everyone, particularly for those who struggle to make their own voices heard. "We were a team," said Bob in regards to his and Marilyn's activism.

Bob and Marilyn Sutherland were instrumental in bringing about the Community for Social Action, which supported the United Farm Workers grape and lettuce boycotts, protested the Vietnam War, and opposed the U.S. government involvement on

behalf of the Sandinistas in the El Salvadoran Civil War. They also played major roles in the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, the McLean County Jail Review Committee, and the McLean County AIDS Task Force. Bob has been "*arrested, investigated, and vilified, but he can't imagine having lived any other way,*" opined James Keeran, in a *Pantagraph* retrospective published in February 2000.

In 2014 Bob and Marilyn generously created an endowment for The Sutherland Fellowship. Administered through ISU's Department of English, creative writing students receive financial support and Fellows learn about various aspects of publishing.

Join us in honoring Carole and Jerry Ringer, Marilyn and Robert Sutherland, and Barbara Stuart for the award-worthy history they have made in this community.

Barbara Stuart

Barbara served for several years as president of the Normal Public Library board and became the first president of the Friends of the Normal Public Library. She founded seven activist organizations: Young Adult Problems Study Group, the Minority Advocacy Council, the Minority Complaints about Police, the Peaceful Schools Committee, the Rebound Committee, the Alternatives to Jail Committee, and the McLean County Community COMPACT. She also served on the McLean County Board for 17 years as the vice chair of the Justice Committee. She urged the adoption of Drug Court, Mental Health Court, electronic monitoring, and Victim / Offender Reconciliation programs, and was the driving force of the McLean County People to People Festival in 1999.

When hearing loss made it difficult for Barbara to be a part of committee meetings and other events, she began to write poetry and opinion pieces for the *Pantagraph* and the *Normalite* newspapers. She is currently active with McLean County League of Women Voters, the Multicultural Leadership Program, the Peaceful Schools Initiative, and the Youth LEADS program.

Barbara said, "I've always admired the teachings of Jesus. The compassion...the feeling that every person has value and that we are connected to each other and to God... I just hate to see people treated cruelly and unfairly, and I always think something should be done about it."



Pedal Power! Crosses Finish Line

For more than two years, dozens of colorful, pedal-powered vehicles drew people to the third floor of the Museum, where visitors had the opportunity to view these stunning works of industrial art and consider the artistic and technological achievements of the Bruce Callis Pedal Car Collection.

Programming for *Pedal Power!* encouraged participants to make and create. Whether using chalk and paint (or more unconventional materials like fruit or bubbles) at the Downtown Bloomington Farmers' Market, or designing elements of their own toy cars using 3D printing technology, they were tasked with turning their imagination into reality.

The Museum also invited visitors of the exhibit to consider the history and function of toys (like pedal cars) throughout time. To do so, we welcomed toy experts from The National Museum of Toys & Miniatures (Kansas City, Missouri) and The Strong National Museum of Play (Rochester, New York) to lead engaging conversations on the lasting power of play.

Though *Pedal Power!*, co-curated by the Museum's Anthony Bowman and Susan Hartzold, is now closed, there is still an opportunity for Museum supporters and people far and wide to see this amazing collection of pedal cars online, and maybe even own one!

Generously donated by the family of Bruce Callis, the collection of 53 pedal cars dating from 1927 to 1981 was seen by thousands of visitors during the exhibit's run. But what many may not know is that the donation also included funding to develop the exhibit, and the caveat that the collection would be sold after the exhibit ended to benefit the Museum's *Extending Excellence* capital campaign.

The exhibit was dismantled in late April and the collection was carefully packed and shipped to be sold via auction by the RM Sotheby company. To take one last look at these beautifully restored pedal cars, go to <https://rmsothebys.com/en/home/lots/PP20>. Or maybe you'd like to own one of these human powered diversions and support the Museum at the same time? The online auction will take place June 20-27 at <https://rmsothebys.com/en/home/auction/PP20>.



Pedal Power! was sponsored by State Farm.

New to Collections

Artifacts

- Jeweler's balance used by Clyde V. Noble between 1918 and 1944; donated by Ed Lundeen.
- Safety belt, hard hat, and tools used by Doug Welch, a lineman with G.T.E., between 1970 and 2002; donated by Doug Welch.
- Dress worn by Barb Dillinger for her 2001

commitment ceremony to JoAnn Rayfield; donated by Barb Dillinger.

- Eyeglasses and case from the office of Dr. P. L. Noggle, circa 1914; donated by Mickey Little.
- Playing cards advertising Paul M. Ball & Son, circa 1963; donated by David Parker.
- Medical equipment belonging to Dr. Marie

Crothers and Dr. Eli Crothers, from the late 1800s; purchased at auction.

- Identification badges used by J. L. Wroan & Sons employees while working at Chanute Air Force Base circa 1973; donated by John Wroan.

Archives

- Several items relating to the Classical Mandolin Society of America's 33rd annual convention, held in Normal, October 2019, including promotional poster and programs; donated by Amy Miller.
- Various items, including two diaries, 1958-1959, authored by Cristina Correll (great aunt of donor); a marriage proposal "keepsake," penned by Samuel Fisher to Emma Gates, April 19, 1897; 10-inch 78 rpm record featuring "Get Your Kicks On Route 66," by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters, Decca, 1946; and other items; donated by Jim Armstrong.
- Collection of local Business to Business magazines from 1994, including January issue featuring Irving Tick and Morris Tick Co.; donated by Ruth Cobb.
- Items from the Adlai E. Stevenson II funeral, July 19, 1965, including telegram, schedule, list of guests, and program; donated by Denny Feicke.
- Various ephemera, including a "Free Bicycle" card, Sinclair Service Station, Normal, undated; City of Bloomington water bill, 1883; Jaycees 1} "Tour of Homes" program and tickets, 1966; Russell Jones, "King of Ice Jazz," promotional card, undated; and many other items; donated by David Parker.
- Several items, including 2019 issues of Pioneer, the University High School alumni newsletter; donated by Bob Neuleib.
- Architectural assessment of the Normal Theater, by White and Borgognoni Architects, Carbondale, 1992; donated by Chris Koos.
- Two scrapbooks compiled by Frances Wagers on the history of Dawson Lake and Moraine View State Recreation Area, as well as an unpublished manuscript on Dawson Lake, and miscellaneous papers from the Illinois Wildlife Association (Frances is credited with naming Dawson Lake); donated by Scott Wagers.
- Collection of newspaper clippings and related papers on local LGBTQ+ pioneers Ron Frazier and Tom McCulley; donated by Ron Frazier and Tom McCulley.
- Abraham Lincoln Eighth Judicial Circuit document, "The answer of Robert H. Rutledge to a bill in chancery ...," circa September 1851, written in Lincoln's own hand, full page and half-page on reverse; donated by Guy Fraker.

- Two Lone Oak School (Dawson Township) ledgers, 1920s and early 1930s, compiled by teacher Frances Wagers; donated by Richard Wagers.
- Three Dimmitt's Grove Neighborhood Association booklets, 2002, 2005, and 2008; donated by Karen Schmidt.
- Digitized home movies shot by donor's father using family's 8mm camera, 1950s; Meadows Manufacturing Co. booklet, "Meadows Press Ironing Does All the Work," circa 1935; other items; donated by Greg Koos.
- Collection of fliers, newspaper clippings, and other material related to the local LGBTQ+ community and associated activities; donated by Dave Bentlin.
- Brochure on G.I. Bill, "The Gateway to Opportunity for Veterans of World War 2" (belonged to Army veteran Edgar Anderson, Jr., donor's father); donated by Martin J. Anderson.
- Various items, including correspondence and essays / articles written by donor; donated by Mike Matejka.
- Scrapbook compiled by Arlene Genevieve Elliott, 1934, featuring items from Cropsey High School and Browns Business College; donated by Sue Harrison.
- Research notes from scholarly article on the development of eastern McLean County and the Lake Erie and Western Railroad; donated by William D. Walters.
- Several Christmas cards from local businesses, including Campbell Holton & Co.; donated by Janice Vitton.
- Kelly's Kottage menu, hand-typed, with note at bottom reading "Buy War Bonds and Stamps" (business was located on Route 66 on the southwest edge of Bloomington); donated by Pat Pence.
- Additions to the Edgar and Rachael Lundeen Collection, including a collection of postcard correspondence; donated by Ed Lundeen.
- Helen McCoy Haskell (donor's mother) artwork / illustrations for planned reference book on children's glass dishes and china sets; donated by Mary Helen Haskell.
- Two shares of WBLN Television Inc. common stock, to Charles R. and Allece Dabbs (donor's parents), dated April 1, 1959; donated by Paul Dabbs.

- "History of Timberline Barn," built in 1942 with German POW labor (later known as Barn II Theatre, Goodfield); donated by Jeanne and John Wroan III.
- Several items relating to B.S. Green Co., Bloomington, including undated harness price list; donated by A. Gridley Antiques.
- Collection of papers relating to the Old North Normal neighborhood, and collection of papers relating to research into the history of Parklands Foundation; donated by Mark Wyman.
- Williams Oil-O-Matic brochure, 1946, and a service contract for an oil burner; donated by Nancy Gager.

Books / Periodicals / Publications

- U.S. Naval Ammunition Depot (Hastings, Nebraska) history, 2013, written by Walter L. Miller; includes several mentions of Willie Tripp of Bloomington, and his experiences stationed there as an African American sailor; donated by Betty Tripp.
- This Moment ... In Sarah's Garden, two-book photography and poetry set by Ken Kashian and Kathleen Kirk, 2019, signed by both; donated by John Elterich.
- Reverie (Normal Community High School yearbook), 1937; donated by Amy Miller.
- Association Work: Whitten, Porter, and the Course of Interscholastics, published by the IHSA and the National Federation of State High School Associations, 2018, by Scott Johnson; donated by Scott Johnson.
- ISU Annuitants Association, chapter directory, 2014-2015; donated by Bob Neuleib.
- Barn: Form and Function of an American Icon, by Susan Carol Hauser; donated by Steve and Barb Brooks.
- Gridley United Methodist Church 1872-1972; Personal and Family Survival: Civil Defense Adult Education Course (student manual), 1966; and collection of five cookbooks, including Christmas Cook Book, 1955, by the McLean County Home Bureau; donated by Carol and Charlie Gose.
- Strange Children, 1999/2000 and Cruel Habitations, 2000/2001—two paperback novels by Kate Charles (nom de plume of Carol Chase); donated by JoAnna Mink.
- Downtown Redevelopment Plan, Town of

Normal, by Farr Associates, Chicago, July 2000; and Town of Normal strategic plan documents, 2008-2018; donated by Chris Koos.

• Some Interesting Menard County Homes, 1967, includes handwritten annotations; and Music Out of Dixie by Harold Sinclair, paperback, Perma-books edition, 1953; donated by Greg Koos.

• New Deal Utopias, 2017, photography and text by Jason Reblando; donated by Jason Reblando.

• Selling Americans on America: Journey into a Troubled Nation (book on the 1947-1949 "Freedom Train," which stopped in Bloomington) by Gerry and Janet Souter (authors made use of the Museum's Freedom Train Collection); donated by Janet Souter.

• Jane's Fighting Ships, 1919 and 1941, and other titles; donated by William D. Walters.

• Several titles, including The Coming Conflict of Nations, or the Japanese-American War: A Narrative (1909); donated by Margaret Bratcher.

• Love, Louis by Laura Jannika, narrative of the life of Louis E. Rust, as remembered by his daughter; donated by Laura Jannika.

• DIY High, novel by local author Amanda Webster; donated by Amanda Webster.

• B.S. Green Co., Catalogue No. 37, illustrated price lists of harness, horse collars, riding saddles, and similar inventory; donated by A. Gridley Antiques.

Photographs

• Thirteen Kodachrome prints of the Adlai E. Stevenson II funeral, July 19, 1965; donated by Denny Feicke.

• Eighteen 5 by 3 ½ views of the old Chicago & Alton shops, undated; donated by Norm Hiser.

• Arrowsmith Methodist Church, school group with individuals identified, undated; foldout postcard set, "Greetings from Saybrook, Ill;" and other items; donated by David Parker.

• Collection of family photographs; donated by Ed Lundeen.

• Several items, including photo of the Bloomington

Masonic Temple; donated by June McCluskey.

• Advertising photograph for Lake Park Beach (now State Farm Park), Fred Wolkau, Jr., proprietor, and several other photos; donated by Sharon and Robin Carr.

**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?**

Museum Addresses Community Need With Face Mask Fence

The demand for face masks existed long before the Center for Disease Control (CDC) first recommended *"everyone wear a cloth face covering in public settings when social distancing could not be maintained."* To help supply this demand, groups of civilian mask makers formed quickly. People around the world began making home-sewn face coverings by the thousands on their personal machines, and even some producers in the fashion industry changed over their machines to begin manufacturing Olson and surgical masks. Local volunteers also rose to the occasion.

"I did not know how to sew before Covid hit," said Eileen Backman, Downtown Bloomington business owner and volunteer mask maker. *"I bought a sewing machine and was determined to learn first and foremost so I could make masks to give to my friends, family, and neighbors."* Now, more than two months later, *"there are still lots of people who don't have access to masks."*

With Governor Pritzker's May 1 executive order, the need for masks grew exponentially. To help address the local need, Museum staff led by Director of Education Candace Summers established the Face Mask Fence — located on West Washington Street on the Museum Square. Supplied by several local volunteer mask makers, including Backman and Summers, the Face Mask Fence provides community members of all ages with free face coverings crafted according to current health and safety recommendations. Each comes with care instructions (in English and in Spanish) and is individually packaged in a sealed plastic bag.

To say the Face Mask Fence is helping meet a need would be an understatement. In its first week of operation, the Fence was restocked five times, with 99 face masks given away (with particular demand for child-sized masks). As of mid-May, the Facebook post promoting the Fence was shared over 130 times and reached more than 14,500 people. Several Facebook users have commented stating, *"This is so nice."* *"Thank you to all the mask makers out there!"* *"A wonderful idea!"* And, *"This is such a great community project. Thank you so much!"*

The Face Mask Fence will be replenished as time and supplies allow. If you are a mask maker and would like to donate masks for the Fence, please contact the Museum at education@mchistory.org for more information.

"When I was contacted by the Museum about the Face Mask Fence, I was elated," said Backman. *"... it gives me a real sense of pride and community to just play a small part in helping people here stay safe."* We are all in this together! Thank you for helping to #flattenthecurve.



5, 4, 3, 2, 1... Lift Off!

Registration for Futures in History Camp 2.0 is OPEN!

There is no time like the present to learn from the past and start shaping our future! From law to archaeology, architecture, museum studies, and environmental science, there is a future for everyone at Futures in History Camp 2.0!

This immersive 5-day virtual camp experience will include live and recorded online activities facilitated by Museum staff and other experts, material kits for hands-on learning, and opportunities for friendship and fun along the way.

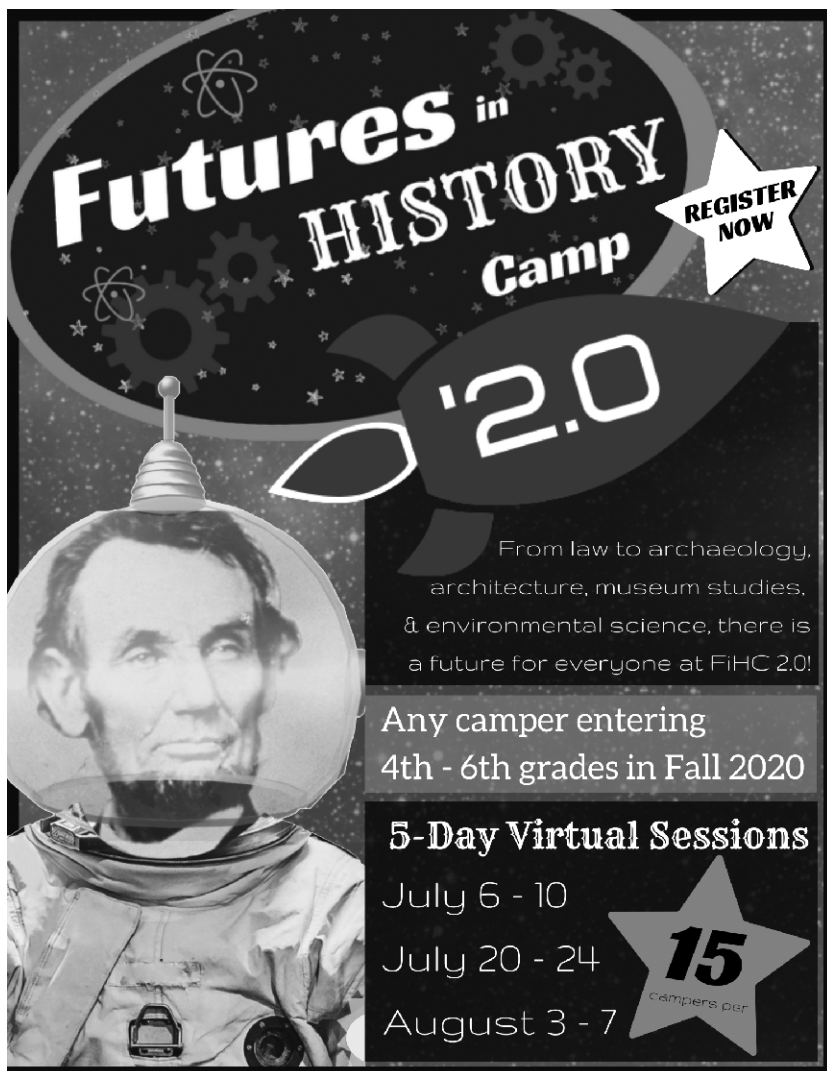
The Museum has been fortunate to collaborate with such amazing partners as David Davis Mansion, Sugar Grove Nature Center, West Bloomington Revitalization Project, University Galleries of Illinois State University, Connect Transit, City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, the cometogetherspace, Hourglass Films, and so many more area professionals who have shared their expertise and enthusiasm with our campers each and every summer. And though we cannot gather together for a typical camp experience, we are no less in this together with a stellar list of partners and exciting opportunities to come!

"We loved everything about last summer's camp," said a 2019 FiHC family. "Knowing it must be online is sad, but understandable. I trust the staff to know how best to apply the spirit/curriculum of that physical camp to an online environment. Education is what makes this camp more than just empty fun. So that's important."

Three sessions of 15 campers (entering 4th through 6th grades) each will be offered throughout the months of July and August. Full scholarships are available for all campers who qualify; and new Family Pricing provides households with multiple campers a discounted rate. We are also thrilled to announce that the Museum is partnering with Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal to provide a number of BGCBN members with an out of this world FiHC 2.0 experience.

"...I sincerely believe...one young person each summer has had a career interest in history, education, and/or museum work awakened from the Futures in History Camp experience," said FiHC volunteer and Museum member Herb Knudsen. "The Camp was well-organized and interest centers well-varied; the students exuberant, attentive, and fully-engaged; and [the Museum staff] was unflappable, sensitive to the wide variety of student needs and skill levels."

Take a chance on a bright future, and register for Futures in History Camp 2.0 today! Visit tinyurl.com/y7ybf7da to register your camper, or visit tinyurl.com/ybq39cfk to invest in a camper's future in history by donating to our annual fund drive!

A promotional graphic for Futures in History Camp 2.0. It features a stylized rocket ship with the text 'Futures in HISTORY Camp' and '2.0' on its side. A starburst says 'REGISTER NOW'. Below the rocket, a quote reads: 'From law to archaeology, architecture, museum studies, & environmental science, there is a future for everyone at FiHC 2.0!'. At the bottom, it lists 'Any camper entering 4th - 6th grades in Fall 2020' and '5-Day Virtual Sessions' with dates: 'July 6 - 10', 'July 20 - 24', and 'August 3 - 7'. A starburst indicates '15 campers per session'. On the left, there is a black and white image of Abraham Lincoln's face inside a space helmet.

Futures in HISTORY Camp

2.0

REGISTER NOW

From law to archaeology, architecture, museum studies, & environmental science, there is a future for everyone at FiHC 2.0!

Any camper entering 4th - 6th grades in Fall 2020

5-Day Virtual Sessions

July 6 - 10
July 20 - 24
August 3 - 7

15 campers per session

Three Mistakes in Portability Planning

The increase in the amount exempt from federal estate tax to \$10 million per taxpayer (plus inflation adjustments) has been a game changer for estate planners. Nearly as important, when it comes to estate plans for married couples, is the advent of the portability of the estate tax exemption, the Deceased Spouse's Unused Exemption (DSUE). By simply filing an estate tax return at the death of a spouse, even if no estate tax is due, the estate tax exemption for the surviving spouse may roughly double. Such a filing is not required, but it would be a good precaution to take. The future course of the family fortune as well as the federal transfer tax regime are difficult to predict, so any step that could save substantial tax dollars in the future should at least be considered.

Don't accidentally elect out of portability

Failure to file an estate tax return for the first spouse to die will forfeit the DSUE for the survivor. The estate tax return must be filed within nine months of death, but a six-month extension may be granted. Timely filing Form 4768 will gain an estate an automatic six-month extension. Estates smaller than the statutory threshold for filing may apply for a discretionary extension of time even beyond the normal 15-month period.

Don't assume that no estate tax planning will be needed

If total family wealth is about \$10 million, a couple may assume that a single federal exemption amount will be sufficient to shield the family fortune from the federal estate tax. Thus, they might decide to forego planning for the portability election as not worth the expense of hiring a professional to file an otherwise unnecessary estate tax return.

There are two potential defects with this plan. First, the amount exempt from federal estate tax could be sharply reduced in the future—it is scheduled to fall roughly in half in 2026 already, and some Democratic presidential candidates advocate for accelerating that change.

Second, the surviving spouse may live for decades, and may not consume all of the income from that \$10 million. If asset appreciation plus savings comes to just 7.2% annually, the family fortune will grow to \$20 million in ten years, \$40 million in 20 years. Inflation adjustments to the exempt amount are unlikely to keep up with that.

Don't lose the DSUE through remarriage

A surviving spouse may have a DSUE only from his or her most recently deceased spouse. Assume, for example, that a widow with \$12 million in assets has a \$5 million DSUE through her late husband. She remarries a widower who has \$10 million, and through a prenuptial agreement they waive their marital rights to each other's assets. The second husband dies, leaving his estate to his descendants, using up his estate tax exemption. The widow's DSUE from her first husband will be extinguished. Her heirs then may be exposed to substantial estate taxes.

It is entirely possible that when she consulted her lawyers about the pre-nup, they might have recommended against the marriage at all, considering the tax consequences.

Summing up

The advent of portability, coupled with larger exemptions, has allowed much greater flexibility in estate planning. However, that is not quite the same thing as simplicity. There remains a wealth of considerations to weigh in finding the best way forward in a challenging environment.

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. March 2020 © 2020 M.A. Co. All rights reserved



If not now,
when?

Organize your financial life

Life has a way of changing your long-term goals. Now is the time to review and update your financial plan.

Wealth Management

hbtbank.com | 855-244-1217



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.

Despite Shutdown, Museum

Though our building has been closed to the public for nearly three months now (we have a hard time believing it too!), the Museum hasn't missed a day in furthering our mission and checking in with our community. Whether it be working to provide online resources, documenting the local pandemic experience, carefully maintaining our collections, or planning future programs, the Museum is very much "open" in a figurative sense.

Museum board members and select local officials receive an update from our Development Department every Friday, titled "What's Happening at the Museum." We thought we'd share some excerpts from these updates to provide a picture of what we've all been up to.

March 20 - This week, *Journey Through the Great Depression*, a book written by Laura Wheaton and Museum Curator Susan Hartzold, was digitized so students can continue to learn about history while at home. An 8th grade social studies teacher at Evans Junior High School sent this delightful message to Candace Summers, Director of Education:

"Thank you for digitizing the Journey Through the Great Depression... This is a fantastic resource. I have used the hardcopy for years. It is wonderful to have an online version of it to use. ... I think many of my students in the past have been surprised how the New Deal programs impacted Bloomington/Normal. There are so many buildings that we still utilize today that were built as a part of the New Deal programs. ...Thank you again for all your support!"

March 27 - MUSE 2U was launched on our website and via social media this week. Created by Hannah Johnson, Candace Summers, and Anthony Bowman, MUSE 2U is our new education department series of at-home, Museum-inspired activities for all of our distance learning friends. You can find them here: mchistory.org/learn/muse2u

April 3 - The Museum has compiled a list of the many digitally accessible resources that we and our community partners can offer to our students, educators, and other history enthusiasts. This list ranges from recently digitized publications, to online collections straight from our archives, to our most favorite hashtags, and beyond. To access the list, follow this link: tinyurl.com/yclaek7c

April 10 - The *Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66* Visitors Center and Gift Shop is now selling Funks Grove Maple Sirup for curbside pickup! Joe McDonnell, Visitors Center Manager, created a website to process orders that can be picked up Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10 am and noon. Please visit our website for further details: cruisinwithlincoln66.square.site

The Museum is dependent on donations to "grow" its object and archive collections. Yet there are times when we tap into a fund set aside to acquire items available only through auction or others means. Such was the case last month when we successfully bid for a scrapbook on Bloomington's own Rachel Crothers (1878-1958), a leading Broadway playwright. This scrapbook includes family correspondence and other rare items, such as portraits of Crothers at her Danbury, Connecticut home. The Library is now processing this scrapbook so when the Museum reopens it will be available as an inventoried collection.

April 17 - Through the efforts of Torii Moré and Susan Hartzold, we have begun collecting stories about people's experiences during the pandemic.

All of us are making history every day as we experience these current events, and it is important that we value those experiences enough to document them for the future. With that goal in mind, the Museum has initiated *COVID-19: The McLean County Experience* with the purpose of hearing from area residents, just like you, and preserving those local experiences of the pandemic. We encourage everyone to document their experiences, regardless of whether you choose to share your stories with the Museum. Go to mchistory.org/collecting-covid-19.php to learn how you can participate!

Last Saturday Jeff Woodard and Bill Kemp raked leaves and cleaned up around the Museum Square. Jeff and board member Russel Francois are working on getting mulch for the flower and plant beds. We want to send a big 'THANK YOU' for their hard work!

April 24 - Our supporters have been wonderful to us during this time! Here is one of many thoughtful letters and cards included with a generous donation.

Staff as Busy as Ever!

"At this time, COVID-19 is impacting every aspect of life. I made the decision to increase my annual membership as the fall Cemetery Walk may be another unknown. I value the Museum as an important cultural site in our community. I plan to continue my support of the Museum."

This Wednesday was the day originally scheduled to host our Volunteer Reception. Annually, over 150 Museum volunteers give 16,000 plus hours of time (which is the equivalent of EIGHT FULL TIME STAFF). We love hosting, celebrating, and serving our volunteers because they are always so willing to help us! We can't wait to see them again soon, but until then we'll reminisce on last year's reception.



May 1 - The Museum holds a nearly complete run of *The Post Amerikan*, Bloomington-Normal's longtime (1972-2004) alternative newspaper. When Gary N. Fritz, an associate professor of zoology at EIU, began research into a planned *Post Amerikan* documentary, it became evident that it was time to digitally scan this long-running, influential, and historically invaluable "underground" publication and get it online. Accordingly, Bill Kemp worked with Eastern Illinois University's *The Keep*, an open access online archive, to do just that! The archive recently posted issues from April 1972 through September 1980. More will be available in the following months. Each issue can be read in high-resolution in "flip-book" format. Likewise, issues can be individually downloaded, and the entire online collection is keyword searchable. To check it out, go to tinyurl.com/yaj625g6

May 8 - Three custom garment cabinets, purchased using donations made to last fall's fund drive, arrived last week. Curator Susan Hartzold and Registrar Chelsea Banks got to work right away putting them together and then moved a selection of military uniforms into them.

Museum Archivist George Perkins has been busy nearly each and every workday scanning and processing a backlog of donations. Each week he is scanning and cataloging some 250 prints.

Assistant Archivist Rochelle Gridley is busy adding "metadata" (dates, names, locations, and other information) to hundreds of *Pantagraph* negatives each week. Once Rochelle finishes working on a set of photos, they are uploaded to the Illinois State Digital Archives website where they can be accessed by the public-at-large. This work is funded by a \$250,000 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant, which provides for the digitization of approximately 50,000 negatives from the *Pantagraph* Negatives Collection.

May 15 - Since our Museum educators can't visit in person right now, we thought we'd share our Senior Reminiscence program, run by Museum Educator Anthony Bowman, in a slightly different way. This video showcases images from our *Pantagraph* Negatives Collection, which the McLean County Museum of History is actively digitizing. It is made with older adults in mind, but great for all ages! To watch go to buff.ly/3fL473J



McLean County
MUSEUM of HISTORY

200 N. Main St., Bloomington, IL 61701

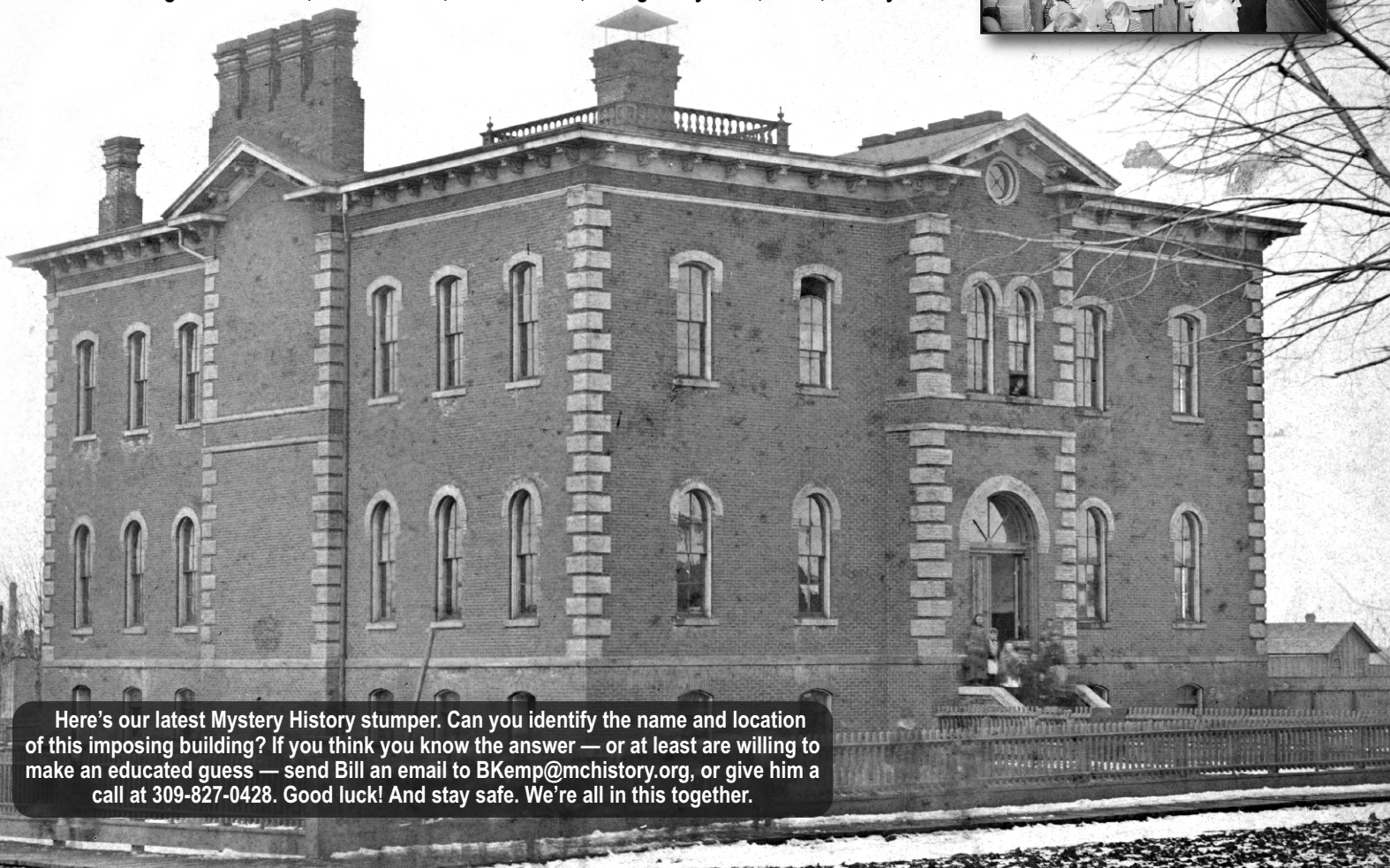
309-827-0428 or mchistory.org

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
BLOOMINGTON IL
PERMIT NO. 118

Mystery History Quiz

Our last photo proved a confounding challenge to even our most expert history sleuths. It showed the interior of the old downtown Bloomington J.C. Penney's, circa 1939. The crowd bursting through the entrance tells us it was a major sales event, perhaps one of the famed "Dollars Days" of yore.

From 1937 until its move to Eastland Mall in 1966, Penney's was located on the west side of the Courthouse (now Museum) Square, in the Braley-Field Building (home today of Maguire's Bar & Grill). Librarian Bill Kemp fielded answers that included just about every downtown department store ... except Penney's! Guesses included A. Livingston and Sons, C.W. Klemm's, W.H. Roland's, Montgomery Ward, Sears, and My Store.



Here's our latest Mystery History stumper. Can you identify the name and location of this imposing building? If you think you know the answer — or at least are willing to make an educated guess — send Bill an email to BKemp@mchistory.org, or give him a call at 309-827-0428. Good luck! And stay safe. We're all in this together.