

ON THE SQUARE



The Quarterly Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

December-January-February 2020-2021

Volume 52, Number 4

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ON THE SQUARE

Quarterly Magazine

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



Visitors Center

MUSEUM CLOSED

to the public until
further notice

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Susan Hartzold - Curator of Collections & Exhibits
Chelsea Banks - Registrar
Candace Summers - Director of Education
Hannah Johnson - Education Program Coordinator
Norris Porter - Director of Development
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Cover image: Jean Day, Jean Wirt, and Iola Webb of LeRoy ring in the 1939 New Year with kitchen pots, pans, and spoons.

Announcements

Thank You Doesn't Come Close

It is often said that a person can never truly step away from something they are deeply passionate about. When it comes to our Executive Director Emeritus, Greg Koos, that is most definitely the case.

After a long and distinguished career at the Museum, Greg had begun researching and writing a comprehensive new history of McLean County and exploring other projects. He was still involved at the Museum as a volunteer—serving on exhibit committees, assisting with various research projects, and presenting occasional programs. But in October 2019—when the Museum found itself between directors and in need of some expertise and institutional memory—without hesitation, Greg did what was needed (and more) to aid the Museum and empower its staff to continue their efforts uninterrupted. The sign on his door his first day on the job said it all, WELCOME BACK!



Greg expected to be back at the Museum a few short months, but thanks to a global pandemic his brief tenure turned into 10 months. While COVID-19 has posed many new challenges for our Museum and its staff, we see the silver lining — the opportunity for those on staff who did not know Greg to see his impact on the Museum firsthand; and for those on staff fortunate to have worked with Greg before, more time to benefit from his insight and knowledge of all things Museum-related.

To Greg Koos: The staff, volunteers, and board of the McLean County Museum of History would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for coming out of retirement and assisting the Museum during a time of need. Words cannot fully express how much we appreciate all that you have done for the Museum. It comforts us to know that during your “second retirement” you will continue to work in the interest of the Museum by sharing and shaping our county’s rich history.

Welcome New Members!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Judie Bey
Diane Cowell
Susan Dessa
Kathryn Dunn
Laura Kowalczyk

David Krostal
Mark Larsen
Dale Maley
Bernadette Manuel
Jamie Michaud

Scott Myers
Kenneth Poirier
Camille and Art Taylor
Carl Teichman
Lisa Weathersbee

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.

Q&A With Our New Director of Development Norris Porter

Norris Porter comes to the Museum as our new Director of Development with 30+ years of experience, having most recently served as Assistant Vice President of Major Gifts and Planned Giving for The Baby Fold. He previously retired early from Illinois State University as the Senior Director of Development.

Tell us a little bit about yourself. How did you come to the Museum?

I have lived in the area now for 36 years. My wife and I feel very fortunate to have raised our three boys in such a wonderful and unique community. I have spent the majority of my career in education. I taught at the high school and collegiate levels, and worked in various administrative roles at ISU. My love of history and passion for education attracted me to MCMH. Working at a museum was on my "bucket list," so I am thrilled to play a part in positioning the Museum for continued excellence in the future.

How will your new role as the Museum's Director of Development compare to your previous roles, and how will you draw upon these past experiences to move the Museum forward?

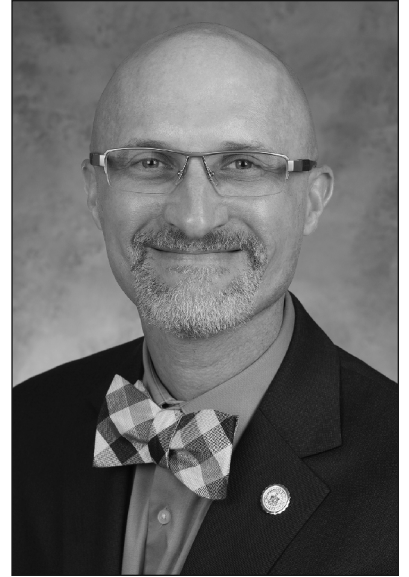
Typically those in fundraising get their start in cultural and social service roles, and then aspire to attaining positions in higher education. I am fortunate to have begun my development career at the university level and then retired early enough to explore a second career in the nonprofit sector. I have developed a personal philanthropic approach and expertise in planned giving that I hope will be helpful in growing the Museum's private support.

What do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the Museum? The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has to be one of the greatest challenges facing the Museum and other nonprofits. Creative storytelling and unique platforms for the sharing of Museum resources with the community will be critical to its future and should be appealing to donors.

You are a longtime member of the Museum. What about our Museum has kept you engaged?

When our boys were growing up, we always planned trips around museum visits. I believe understanding our past is a key to good decision making in the future. The McLean County Museum of History is one of the unique gems that makes our community special. As a collector of Abraham Lincoln memorabilia, my favorite exhibit is *Abraham Lincoln in McLean County*.

What do you do to relax? I like to pursue my interests in history and collecting. I read, and like to ride bikes and walk with my wife. We recently adopted a kitten named Sting that we affectionately refer to as our "COVID Kitten." Our granddaughters live in Hawaii, as our middle son is stationed at Pearl Harbor with the Navy. Keeping up with their adventures occupies our time as well.



Bowman Accepts Position at Heartland

After six years as the Museum's first Education Outreach Coordinator, Anthony Bowman has accepted a job as Program Coordinator for Continuing Education at Heartland Community College. In his time with the Museum, Anthony was integral to growing the reach and impact of our Senior Reminiscence Program, initiating the creation of the Museum's Inclusion Task Force, and fostering community relationships that led to such events as an annual Día de los Muertos celebration. He also curated the popular *Pedal Power!* exhibit. We wish him the best in his new position!



PROGRAM SERIES TO EXPLORE MIGRATION

Come February 2021, the Museum, in partnership with BN Welcoming (a coalition of the Immigration Project, Not In Our Town/Not In Our Schools, and West Bloomington Revitalization Project together creating a supportive environment for immigrants to McLean County), and Design Streak at Illinois State University, will launch a 10-part program series exploring stories of migration, immigration, adaptation, assimilation, appropriation, preservation, contribution, and sustenance in McLean County. **Breaking Bread in McLean County** will highlight the shared and disparate experiences of local migrant communities from the Kickapoo to the Congolese, seeking to disrupt the historical chronology in order to promote a deeper understanding of the ways McLean County has traditionally treated its migrant communities.

"When originally approaching the Museum to partner on the immigration series, the motivation was the current poor treatment of immigrants in McLean County," said program partner Mike Matejka. "The hope was that if we talked about how previous immigrants and migrants were treated, we could help people see the connectivity between what current immigrants endure and what previous generations of immigrants faced in their time...by being reminded of this history, perhaps it would conjure a less judgmental and more welcoming attitude toward today's voyagers to McLean County."

From February to November 2021, Breaking Bread in McLean County will take audiences through the migration stories of the Kickapoo, Irish and Upland Southerners, Germans, Swedes, African and Black Americans, Italian-Americans, Mexicans and Central Americans, Japanese, Asian Indians, and Congolese, emphasizing shared elements including food, family, tradition, trauma, and exchange. Each program will incorporate a multitude of voices from the community who can speak to the migrant experiences of these varied cultural groups, relying on scholarship, expertise, and firsthand accounts.

Program collaborator Archana Shekara noted, *"As an immigrant, cultural researcher, and Creative Director of Design Streak Studio at ISU, I am excited to be a part of the planning and designing of the Breaking Bread in McLean County series. The project brings together diverse communities of people to share their migration and adaption stories, celebrating their rich cultural history and traditions through cuisine. The collaboration has brought new cultural under-*



STORIES in McLEAN COUNTY

standings and sensitivity into the studio-lab this semester. I am looking forward to learning about my community and home.”

The program series will alternate Tuesday evening and Saturday afternoon dates. The first three programs (February through April) will be held over Zoom, with the hope that subsequent programs may be held in person at locations yet to be determined.

BREAKING BREAD in McLean County



Tuesday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
It's All in the Salsa: Mexican Stories of McLean County (Carolyn Nadeau, Constantina Navarrete)

To register, go to: bit.ly/breakbread1

Saturday, March 13 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom
Johnny Cakes to Paddy Cakes - Irish Cookery (Greg Koos)

To register, go to: bit.ly/breakbread2

Similarly inspired, the *How Did We Get Here?* interactive featured in the Museum's exhibit *Challenges, Choices, & Change: Making a Home* illustrates historic patterns of migration to McLean County and allows visitors to explore the migration stories of those who made McLean County their home through audio recordings and animated graphics.

Evergreen Cemetery Walk Makes History

Following a milestone 25th anniversary, the McLean County Museum of History, Illinois Voices Theatre, and Evergreen Memorial Cemetery were already making plans for the 26th annual **Evergreen Cemetery Walk**. As we reflected on the 2019 experience, we began brainstorming ways we could take the Cemetery Walk to the next level; continuing to improve it and make it more accessible. Ideas we pondered included offering ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters at select performances and, of course, the long requested “non-walking” version of the Evergreen Cemetery Walk. Little did we know just how transformative 2020 would be for this award-winning, signature event.

Ultimately, the decision to take the Evergreen Cemetery Walk virtual via an online platform was driven by the foremost mission of the event—to educate local students on the historic significance of cemeteries. Embracing an online format best guaranteed that we could continue to reach—and even grow—our student audiences; as well as offer the experience to all new audiences, including older adults in area senior care facilities who were invited to view this year’s Walk free of charge. We are thrilled that barriers such as geography and mobility were eliminated by this digital debut.

While we could not gather together on the hallowed grounds of Evergreen Memorial Cemetery (despite picture perfect weather this year), the response to our Virtual Cemetery Walk has been overwhelmingly positive! We have received many comments from members of our community (and beyond) about how much they have enjoyed viewing the Walk this year. One viewer stated that, *“The narrators and actors were all excellent. The subtle messages about voting, helping others, overcoming adversity, etc. were on point. The bonus footage was so interesting and a nice addition!”*

Another viewer shared that they *“applaud the hard work of the staff and everyone involved in making this an engaging experience during these challenging times.”* Extended by popular demand and in an effort to best serve our teachers and students,

— Continued on page 7



Scott Sarver of Broadleaf Video Production taped Lolu Jimoh's performance of Bloomington barber William McCoslin.

Museum Shares More Pieces From Our Past

After 14 years and 676 articles, Museum Librarian Bill Kemp announced his retirement from writing his renowned weekly *Sunday Pantagraph* column, *Pages From Our Past* (PFOP), in December 2019. It was sad news for all, including the Museum's staff, who appreciated the window into the Museum's archives just as much as the column's other avid readers. Not yet ready to say goodbye to a good thing, however, *The Pantagraph* approached the Museum to see if other staff would be interested in writing content for this popular feature, now renamed ***Pieces From Our Past***. Believing it to be an excellent opportunity, Candace Summers, Director of Education; Susan Hartzold, Curator of Collections and Exhibits; and Kemp too, agreed to each write one story per month, with the fourth Sunday to be dedicated to favorite previously published PFOPs.

After authoring articles for 10 months, the new staff writers have expressed greater admiration for Kemp's work and the amount of time it takes to craft these informative articles that help provide deep insight into people and places in McLean County's past. Since February 2020, staff contributors have expanded to include former Education Outreach Coordinator Anthony Bowman, Registrar Chelsea Banks, and Assistant Archivist Rochelle Gridley, as well as student interns.

Following a similar format to PFOP, the new *Pieces From Our Past* Sunday column provides a continuing opportunity to share unique stories and experiences of local residents, and to educate the public about the county's rich and diverse history. Recent stories have examined Sister Antona Ebo — an African American nun from Bloomington who played an important role in the 1950s and 60s Civil Rights Movement; Julia LeBeau — a Bloomington musician, teacher, and maestro of the tin can xylophone; and a 1936 visit to the area by world famous aviator Amelia Earhart to speak about her "Aviation Adventures." The column also features objects, photographs, and archival documents associated with these stories that are part of the Museum's extensive collections, and serves as a means to bring greater awareness to the public about the depth of our collections and continued collections efforts. And who knows, after reading one of these stories, a few readers just might realize the value of an object, image, or document in their possession, make a donation to the Museum, and one day see it featured as a piece from our past in *The Pantagraph*.

Cemetery Walk, continued from page 6 — audiences could view the virtual Walk through December 1. As of the publication of this magazine, an estimated 795 households experienced the Walk, with an additional 2,739 students and 132 older adults in senior care facilities able to participate. Teachers found this online format particularly beneficial due to the fact that the Walk was accessible to their students regardless of whether they were learning in-person, hybrid, remote, or home schooled. "I want to give you and the entire team for this year's walk a BRAVO!," said Andy Goveia, social studies teacher at Thomas Metcalf School. "Such an immersive experience, easily accessible, and engaging this year. Thank you for making this accessible for all again this year!"

Thanks to our sponsors Evergreen Memorial Cemetery and the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, with additional support from Illinois Humanities, CEFCU, WJBC, WGLT, and Museum members. Without their generous support, we would not have been able to share in this history-making, virtual experience.

Though this has been a history-making year for the Evergreen Cemetery Walk, we are looking towards the future with anticipation and hope that we will be able to present an in-person (or even a hybrid) Evergreen Cemetery Walk in 2021. We hope that you will join us either way!



Epiphany Catholic School students watch the Cemetery Walk from the comfort of a classroom.

2020 - The Year in Review

JANUARY	- The Museum and partners Not In Our Town, Heartland Community College, YWCA McLean County, Town of Normal Human Relations Commission, and more launched the four-part program series A Community in Conversation with its first conversation "Who Has the Power to Choose Their Work?" at the Museum. - Chelsea Banks began work as the Museum's Registrar. Banks came to the Museum by way of her role as Programs Attendant with the City of Manassas Museum System in Manassas, Virginia. - Maureen Blair resigned as the Museum's Assistant Visitors Center Manager, and Kathi Davis began work as the Museum's Assistant Visitors Center Manager.
FEBRUARY	Education staff hosted more than 400 Bloomington Junior High School sixth graders over four days for an inaugural Who Has the Power? program inspired by the Museum's <i>A Community in Conflict</i> exhibit. This program was co-created by Education Department staff in collaboration with intern Lizbeth Padilla.
MARCH	- Due to the developing COVID-19 pandemic, the Museum announced that it and the and <i>Cruisin' with Lincoln</i> on 66 Visitors Center would close to the public beginning Saturday, March 14. - Education department staff launched MUSE 2U, a series of at-home, Museum-inspired activities for distance-learning students and families on the Museum's website and social media channels. You can find them at mchistory.org/learn/muse2u - The Museum used a portion of its \$250,000 Institute of Museum of Library Services (IMLS) grant to install a 15½ by 7½ foot walk-in freezer to house its Pantagraph Negatives Collection. This type of storage helps mitigate the degradation process common to older cellulose acetate negatives.
APRIL	Curator Susan Hartzold and Curator of Digital Humanities Torii Moré created COVID-19: The McLean County Experience with the purpose of preserving local experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since that time, the Museum has collected 64 submissions to the project. Visit mchistory.org/collectingcovid19.ph for more information about the project and how you can contribute.
MAY	- The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) announced that the McLean County Museum of History was the recipient of a Leadership in History Award of Excellence for its <i>Extending Excellence</i> capital campaign. The award is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. - Following the Illinois Governor's May 1 executive order, 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, the Face Mask Fence provided community members of all ages with free face coverings crafted according to health and safety recommendations. In total, more than 400 masks were given away to community members in need. - Divah Griffin resigned as the Museum's Director of Development to assume the role of Director of Development for the School of Education, Health and Human Behavior at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.
JUNE	- The Museum acknowledged that Black lives matter and bore witness to the vicious cycle of centuries of violence waged against Black people and communities of color. As a community organization, it remains our duty to stand against hate in all forms and to provide local context as we contend with current events. - The Bloomington-Normal Black History Project (BNBHP) in partnership with the Museum hosted a virtual Juneteenth Celebration that sought to renew interest in the project and successfully inspired an increase in donations that will go to further the mission of BNBHP. - The Bruce Callis collection of 53 pedal cars, formerly on display in the Museum's Pedal Power! exhibit, sold at auction. A total of \$105,778 was earned from the sale to benefit the Museum's endowment. - The Museum announced its 2020 History Maker honorees: Carole and Jerry Ringer, Marilyn and Robert Sutherland, and Barbara Stuart. The ninth annual History Makers Gala is rescheduled for June 2021.
JULY	- Education staff reimagined the Museum's annual Futures in History Camp as a virtual camp experience. Twenty-seven enthusiastic and intuitive campers attended Futures in History Camp 2.0 from the comfort of their own homes in Bloomington, Normal, Towanda, Clinton, LeRoy, Hopedale, Heyworth, and Hennepin, Illinois. The Museum could not have achieved such an engaging online experience without the commitment and creativity of its 20 community partners. - The Museum Board of Directors accepted a bid for the construction of new public restrooms to serve the Visitors Center and Museum. This project demolishes the two existing ground floor restrooms and installs two new restrooms—which will feature doorless entry, as well as touchless toilet and sink operation. Demolition of the restrooms began in September, with construction still underway.

AUGUST	- The Library/Archives and collections departments brought back a small group of dedicated, skilled volunteers. They are now each working on a weekly or near-weekly basis in accordance with the Museum's COVID-19 policies and procedures, including masks and physical distancing. - The Museum concluded its successful partnership with Eastern Illinois University's Booth Library to digitize and make available a nearly complete run of Bloomington-Normal's storied alternative newspaper, the Post Amerikan. Issues from April 3, 1972 to August-September 2003 are available online at thekeep.eiu.edu/post_amerikan_project/ - Visitors Center staff with the addition of Jamie Arthur took to the plaza for weekly Saturday Sidewalk Sales in Downtown Bloomington. This opportunity to interface with the community and increase revenue opportunities for the Museum and Visitors Center has proved highly meaningful. - The Museum and League of Women Voters of McLean County, with some help from Palace Events, participated in the Forward Into Light nationwide campaign. To honor the historic suffrage slogan, "Forward Through the Darkness, Forward into Light," cultural institutions across the nation changed their lights to purple and gold, the official suffrage colors, to mark the anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.
SEPTEMBER	- Julie Emig started full-time as the Museum's new Executive Director. Emig came to the Museum by way of her previous role as Executive Director of the Multicultural Leadership Program and as City of Bloomington alderperson for Ward 4. - Greg Koos celebrated a second "retirement" from the Museum, resigning his role as Interim Executive Director in favor once again for Executive Director Emeritus. - Anthony Bowman resigned as the Museum's Education Outreach Coordinator to assume the role of Program Coordinator for Continuing Education at Heartland Community College.
OCTOBER	- The Museum, in partnership with Illinois Voices Theatre-Echoes and Evergreen Memorial Cemetery, launched the first-ever virtual Evergreen Cemetery Walk with the expert assistance of Broadleaf Video Production. For more information on this historic reimagining, see page 6. - Partners Western Avenue Community Center, Conexiones Latinas de McLean County, and the Museum came together for the third year to host a community ofrenda in observance of Día de los Muertos, with a live-streamed concert by local musician Marcos Mendez. - Registrar Chelsea Banks and Curator Susan Hartzold completed a review of over 9,000 artifacts in the Museum's object collections. Their work included thorough research to uncover these objects' history when unknown and adding those findings to the collections database. Through the project over 900 objects were identified for deaccession (removal from the collection), because they had no connection to McLean County, were duplicate, or in poor condition. Their goal is to complete a review of every object in the collection of over 20,000 objects.
NOVEMBER	- Norris Porter began work as the Museum's Director of Development. Porter came to the Museum most recently from The Baby Fold as Assistant Vice President of Major Gifts and Planned Giving. He previously retired from Illinois State University as the Senior Director of Development. - Archivist George Perkins and Assistant Archivist Rochelle Gridley continued work on the \$250,000 Institute of Museum of Library Services (IMLS) grant entailing the digitization of some 50,000 negatives from the Pantagraph Negatives Collection. Gridley has processed more than 29,500 scanned images dating to the 1940s. Once ready, these photos are placed on the publicly accessible Illinois Digital Archives website idallinois.org.
DECEMBER	In the spirit of the season, the Museum and Downtown Development staff continued their collaborative efforts to spread holiday cheer and goodwill with Downtown Bloomington's annual tree lighting and an homage to one of Downtown's most reminisced icons—the Livingston Santa. See page 13 for more holiday happenings.

*To our valued members,
When I began work fulltime at the Museum, I was struck by the dynamic and passionate people who make this organization thrive. In spite of a global pandemic, MCMH has continued to offer inspirational and educative programming, historical resources, sidewalk sales, uplifting entertainment in collaboration with community partners, and soon to be unveiled renovations of our public restrooms and historic lighting. We will continue to be a centerpiece for civic engagement and respite in 2021. See you then!*

-Julie Emig, Executive Director

New to Collections

Objects

- Analog water meter, c. 1970; donated by Barb Maxwell
- Red Cross identification badge worn by Loretta Hundman Kelly, c. 1955; silver napkin clip belonging to Eleanor Kinsella Moore; Trinity High School key-chain given to Mary Kelly, 2002; Brad Barker Honda keychain; Mission Mart magnet; Winks Shell and Towing magnet, c. 2000; donated by Pat Pence
- Two protest signs carried at May 31 and June 3 rallies held outside the Law and Justice Center in Bloomington, 2020; donated by Radiance Campbell
- Caponizing kit belonging to William Blan, c. 1938; donated by Todd Scheffert
- McLean County Sportsmen's Association pin 2010, Illinois deer harvest pin 2012, and turkey leg band belonging to Robert Hartzold; donated by Susan Hartzold
- Labor Day parade banner carried by Spirit Steppers Jump Rope Team, c. 2010; jump rope used by the Spirit Steppers, c. 2000; Youth Temperance Council pennant; Women's Christian Temperance Union ribbon and poster; donated by Loreta Jent
- Portrait of Lydia Geneva, c. 1880s; donated by Tracy Holman
- Cloth face mask made for the Women's Suffrage centennial, 2020; donated by Candace Summers
- Engraving of Abraham Lincoln, c. 1866; donated by Mike Flood
- Portraits of Harvey B. Karr and Emily Jackson Karr, c. 1880s; donated by Deb Spencer

Archives

- Scrapbook and photo album detailing William R. "Russ" Blan's (1918-1977, grandfather of donor) World War II service, and other related items; donated by Todd Scheffert
- Program and map, David Davis Mansion Glorious Garden Festival, 2020; and five "Thun-

derbucks," Bloomington Prairie Thunder hockey team gift certificates; donated by Karen Schmidt and John Elterich

- Set of blueprints for Hillside Lane "Estate Cape Cod" home, Bloomington, and National Homes catalog, 1960, featuring same; donated by John D. Poling

• Large assortment of items mostly relating to African American historical research, including the manuscript, "The Origins of the Black Church in America," 1990, by Rick D. Williams; exhibit text from first B-N Black History Project exhibit, 1988, at the McBarnes Building; and more; donated by Jack Muirhead

- "Save Our State Farm Building" working group papers, 2019; and menu, Caffe Italia Ristorante, Bloomington, undated; donated by Greg Koos

• Additions to the Charles and Jeanne Morris Collection, including articles of incorporation for nonprofit Bloomington-Normal Dwelling Corp., 1968; constitution and bylaws of the Minority Voters Coalition of McLean County, 1973; and other papers relating to political and civil rights; donated by Charles and Jeanne Morris

- Large collection of papers relating to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) local chapter, including scrapbooks, meeting minutes, newsletters, news clippings, and more, mostly 1980s to 2000s; donated by Loreta Jent

• Murray and Carmody Funeral Home ledgers, 1930s-1940s; collection of Harry Butler, tinsmith, business receipts; donated by Tracy Holman

- J.B. Stevenson letter book, 1866-1880; donated by Stephenson County Historical Society Museum (IL)

• Additions to the Pistole Sports Collection, including copy of March 1948 district basketball tournament, Colfax Gym, program; and other items; donated by Richard "Dick" Pistole

- Four issues, University High School "Pioneer Alumni Newsletter," 2007-2010 (helping to fill gaps in the Museum's collection); donated by Martha

West

- Junior Woman's Club scrapbook, 1978-1979, when donor served as president of the local chapter; donated by Carol Ropp

• More than 275 local restaurant menus, mostly 1980s to present; McLean County Health Department materials (including 17-year run, 1992-2009, of county employee newsletter, "County Comments"); and many more items; donated by Larry Carius

- Local restaurant and soda shop menus, late 1920s to 1930s, collected by Frieda Johnson Stroberg (donor's aunt), including Cat 'n Fiddle and Green Mill Cafe (both Bloomington), and Hildebrandt's Drug Store (Normal); donated by Charlotte Ross

• Set of recommendation letters, 1910, for prospective teacher Rae Goelzer, Illinois State Normal University graduate; Anna Holland autograph book; World War II ration materials, and other items; donated by Deb Spencer

- Poster-size print of mural, 1982-1986, painted by donor on interior wall of Laborers' Local 362 union hiring hall, demolished in 2019; donated by Kari Sandhaas

• Bloomington-Normal Public Transit schedule, August 2003; donated by Loreta Santejka

Books / Periodicals / Publications

- McLean County Health Department annual reports, 1968-69 to 2008; donated by Larry Carius
- A Life's Harvest, memoirs of J.P. Karr (father of donor), 2011; two-volume Rutherford family genealogy; donated by Deb Spencer

Photographs

- "Welcome to South Hill," with Harry Butler, undated; donated by Tracy Holman
- Assortment, including Heyworth Grade School, late 19th century; two Wesley Chapel (interior and exterior), outside of Heyworth; team portrait,

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Featured Artifact

Cloth Face Mask — donated by Candace Summers

The Museum recently received this cloth face mask, a familiar accessory in our current pandemic. The mask was worn by Summers to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment that extended voting rights to women. The purple masks were distributed at the celebration that was held outside the Museum on August 26, 2020 in partnership with the League of Women Voters of McLean County and the Bloomington-Normal Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Objects like this homemade face mask highlight the Museum's efforts to collect contemporary artifacts, as the events of today become the history of tomorrow.



History Reads 2021 Season Announced

Join the Museum and Bloomington Public Library for the 2021 season of **History Reads Book Club**. We are excited to announce four more interesting titles exploring different facets of Illinois history. The first book club discussion will be hosted via Zoom. Look to Facebook and the Museum's online events calendar for location updates for future meetings. All discussions are free and open to the public, and will take place on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

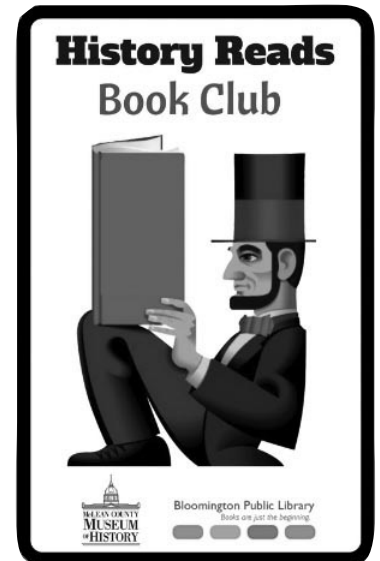
February 2: *Lincoln in the Bardo: A Novel by George Saunders* via Zoom. To register go to: bit.ly/historyreads020221

May 4: *Death in the Haymarket: A Story of Chicago, the First Labor Movement and the Bombing that Divided Gilded Age America* by James Green. Location TBD.

August 3: *Ugly Prey: An Innocent Woman and the Death Sentence That Scandalized Jazz Age Chicago* by Emilie Le Beau Lucchesi. Location TBD.

November 2: *From Slave to State Legislator: John W. E. Thomas, Illinois' First African American Lawmaker* by David A. Joens. Location TBD.

Copies of each book will be available for checkout at Bloomington Public Library or may be requested via interlibrary loan through your local public library. To request a copy of the book, please contact the Reference Desk at Bloomington Public Library at 309-828-6093 or email reference@bloomingtonlibrary.org.



New to Collections continued —

Budweiser Chiefs, Illinois Class AA Amateur Softball Association champions; and other sports-related original photos and photo prints; donated by Richard "Dick" Pistole

- Black-and-white of the Rick Harney "Lincoln Bench" sculpture (taken by donor); and two Depression-era photo albums of U.S. Department of Agriculture and Washington, D.C. scenes; donated by Mike Flood
- Nine of the Arrowsmith Grocery fire, 1970s; seven Polaroids, Arrowsmith Cafe, 1979; and others; donated by Larry Carius

- Two large-framed 19th century portraits, Harvey Benjah Karr and Emily Jackson Karr; and collection of Goelzer and Karr family photos; donated by Deb Spencer

The Museum
collects personal, military,
household, business, art, and
native objects, created and used by
the people of McLean County.

What's gathering dust
in your attic?



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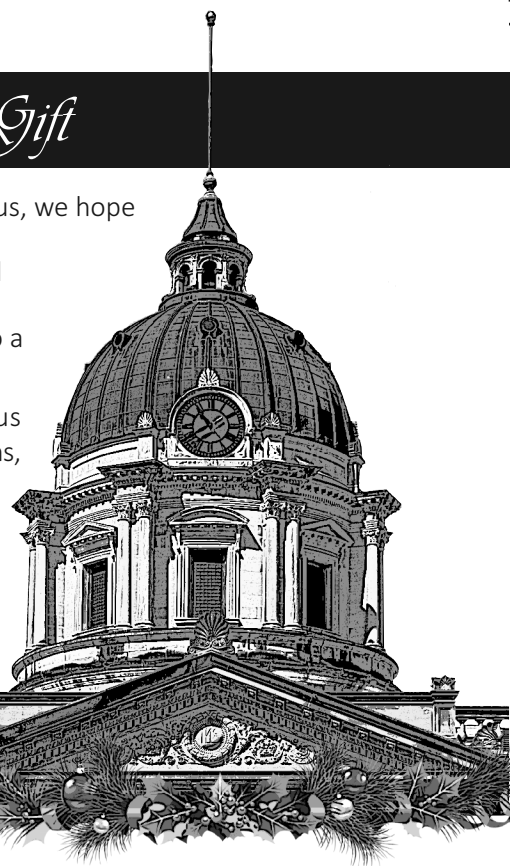
As the holidays approach and we give thanks for those things that are most important to us, we hope you will consider how you can help the Museum.

- Contribute to the Annual Fund
- Renew your membership
- Give the gift of membership to a friend or family member

Approximately 70% of our annual budget comes from private support. Your gifts help us offer safe and accessible educational programming, continue to grow and share our collections, and invest in our staff and historic building.

Make a gift this holiday season!

Contact us at Development@mchistory.org or visit mchistory.org/participate/donate



UPCOMING LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAMS



Birds of a Feather Flock Together: Where Do Birds Nest in Bloomington-Normal?

December 10 at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom — Given Harper, Professor of Biology at Illinois Wesleyan University notes that recent studies have shown that bird populations in North America have declined by almost three billion birds since 1970. As a result, urban areas have become increasingly important in providing breeding habitats for birds. Harper will present findings from a local breeding bird survey and discuss ways to make bird-friendly breeding habitats in the Twin Cities. To attend go to: bit.ly/MCMHDecLunch



What Does Fido Know? Inside the Mind of the Dog

January 14 at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom — Ellen Furlong, Associate Professor of Psychology at Illinois Wesleyan University and Director of IWU's Dog Scientists team, will discuss the psychology of the domestic dog — what dogs see, hear, and smell; whether your dog considers you their best friend; and how you can make sure your dog is happy. To attend go to: bit.ly/MCMHJanLunch



What is a Liberal Education and Why Does It Matter?

February 11 at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom — Georgia Nugent, President of Illinois Wesleyan University, will discuss the effectiveness and contributions of private liberal arts colleges and universities and the importance of the liberal arts as fields of study. To attend go to: bit.ly/MCMHFebLunch



Bloomington-Normal's Innovation Corridor

March 11 at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom — Jamie Mathy and Kevin McCarthy will explore current issues in digital transformation for organizations and governments— from driving marginal efficiency to being a catalyst of innovation. This means that in the coming years, a number of decisions must be made to embrace innovation, bolstering local economies with smart development & policies rooted in connectivity, mobility, equity, and sustainability. To attend go to: bit.ly/MCMHMarLunch

— Continued on page 13

Lunch and Learn continued —

Avoiding a Midlife Crisis: The Ecology Action Center at 50, Looking Back and Moving Ahead



April 8 at 12:10 p.m. via Zoom — Michael Brown, Executive Director of the Ecology Action Center, will look back on the history of the environmental movement in our community and the challenges that lie ahead for the next half-century. To attend go to:

bit.ly/MCMHAprLunch



Brahms's Use of Motive to Unify His Three Intermezzi, Opus 117

May 13 at 12:10 p.m. TBD — Franklin Larey, Director and Professor of the School of Music at Illinois Wesleyan University, will explore Brahms's

use of motive to bring structure and unity to the three Intermezzi. This compositional technique was described by Schoenberg as "developing variation" in his famous essay, "Brahms, the Progressive." Schoenberg also believed that this technique was one of the most important compositional principles since around 1750.

Intern Spotlight

The Museum is pleased to introduce our fall semester intern, who worked remotely on his project.



Edward Donathan is a junior History and Political Science double major from Illinois Wesleyan University. Donathan has a passion for public history, as he spent two summers working at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. He also has a knack for historical research and writing. Under the supervision of Candace Summers, Director of Education, Donathan has written and researched biographies for past characters featured on the Evergreen Cemetery Walk. One biography

focuses on the dramatic life of Minnie Saltzman Stevens, once renowned opera phenom. A portion of this biography was published in *The Pantagraph's* weekly column, *Pieces From Our Past*.

He enjoyed being part of the Museum team and readily embraced the virtual internship format.



FRIDAY, DEC. 4 - ONCE UPON A HOLIDAY 5:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Shop your favorite Downtown businesses and take a stroll around the Museum Square. The Museum will be decked for the season with lights and the addition of the new Downtown Holiday Tree!

TUESDAY, DEC. 8 - MCLEAN CO. HOLIDAY STORIES 6:30 P.M.

Join Bill Kemp for a virtual presentation of historic holiday stories that is sure to bring back fond memories of seasons gone by. To register for this free Zoom program, visit bit.ly/MCMHHoliday

ALL SEASON - SANTA ON THE SQUARE! PHOTO OP

Make new memories inspired by the history of the iconic Livingston Santas! Find Santa on the Museum Square all season long for safe, festive photos!

ALL SEASON - GIFT SHOP PERSONAL SHOPPER

Looking for the perfect gift this season? See page 11 for more info!

Holiday Happenings

A LEGACY AND A DOLL

When the Museum recently received a legacy gift from the Duane Norman Diedrich Estate, staff did what we do best—talked to people who knew Diedrich and scoured our collections to see what could be learned about his story and his life. We found a picture of young Diedrich in our archives and located his childhood Charlie McCarthy doll in our objects collection. Diedrich's early interest in performance and speech is clearly evident in the historic record of McLean County.



Norman Diedrich with his Charlie McCarthy doll (center) and his cousins Nancy and Jay Knuth

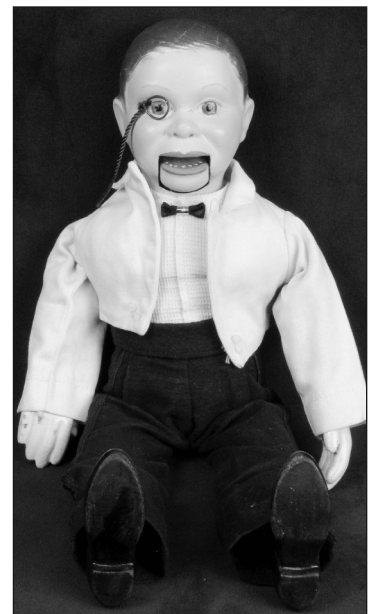
Though raised in Indiana, both of Diedrich's parents, Blandia Steege Diedrich and Elmer L. "Bud" Diedrich, grew up in Bloomington. Because of this, Diedrich spent his summers in Bloomington with his grandparents. These stays kept him in contact with them and his Bloomington cousins. During his youth, Diedrich was often accompanied by a Charlie McCarthy doll—gifted to him by his mother when he was about five years old. He was a fan of the popular actor, comedian, radio performer, and ventriloquist Edgar Bergen who created Charlie McCarthy. As a young man, Diedrich even got the thrill of meeting Bergen and the original Charlie McCarthy doll.

After graduating high school, Diedrich earned his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan and became a Professor of Speech at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

In later years, Diedrich visited the Bloomington area frequently to tend to his grandparents' graves at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery. He also became a regular visitor to the Museum. Executive Director Emeritus Greg Koos noted, *"He and I became friends. He was impressed with our archive program and thought it very professional."*

In 2004 Diedrich donated a lock of Lincoln's hair to the Museum. A *Pantagraph* article stated that he had been a member for 10 years and mentioned his extensive collection of historical artifacts. Five years later, in 2009, the Museum received his Charlie McCarthy doll accompanied by two pictures of him with the doll, as well as a doll owned by his mother. Most of Diedrich's artifact collection was bequeathed to the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan upon his death in 2018.

Diedrich recognized the power of historical preservation and education. He reinforced our vision at MCMH to "tell the rich stories of past generations and new and growing communities," and to "provide opportunities for public reflection on our heritage of hopes, triumphs, and failures" by donating valuable artifacts to the Museum's collection. Diedrich's passion for history, storytelling, and performance have been made more powerful by his generous material and monetary gifts to the McLean County Museum of History. We are honored to carry on his legacy.



Diedrich's Charlie McCarthy doll was donated to the Museum in 2009



This 1964 photo of Duane Norman Diedrich (left) and Edgar Bergen with the original Charlie McCarthy doll was taken in Muncie, Indiana

Planned Giving in 2020

The idea of “planning” a gift to charity may not spring as readily to mind as investment or retirement planning. Yet there are many ways to give, and many kinds of gifts to consider, especially when philanthropy is one of your core values.

Initial steps

Of course, the very first step in your planning is to identify the object of your philanthropy. Then consider what you intend your gift to accomplish: how you would like your gift to make a difference both in general and specific terms. At this point you probably will make contact with the director of development at your chosen charitable organization to discuss your gift.

With the procedural steps out of the way, creativity begins. How can you shape your gift? For instance, your gift need not be cash (except that non-cash gifts do have a lower deduction limit). You may own certain assets that you may want to donate, and your charity will be more than glad to receive.

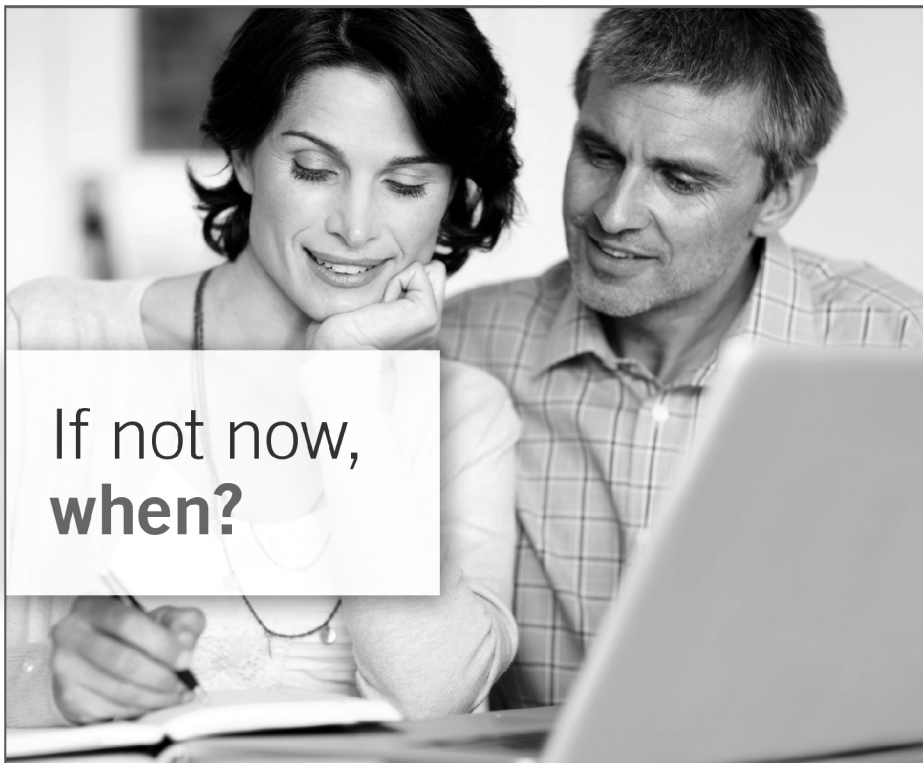
Gifts in trust

Fashioning your gift in trust adds a great deal of flexibility to your gift giving. There are many ways to establish your trust. For example, you may set up your trust during your lifetime or through provisions in your will. You can arrange for the trust to provide you with income from the trust for your life, or income for someone whom you name in the trust document. You can provide for the gift of income to yourself or the named beneficiary or beneficiaries for a period of time or for life, followed by a transfer to the charity (*a charitable remainder annuity trust, or charitable remainder unitrust*); or the reverse—a gift of income to the charity followed by a transfer of assets to the named beneficiary (*a charitable lead trust*).

You may fund your trust with cash or be more creative by using the aforementioned appreciated securities, real estate, or perhaps a life insurance policy. When your donation is placed in the trust, you receive an income tax deduction for the charitable part of the gift.

You'll need to cross all the “t’s” and dot all the “i’s” in order to reap all the possible tax benefits from a charitable gift in trust. Be sure to confer with your attorney, wealth advisor, and the charity itself when considering any of these creative ways of giving.

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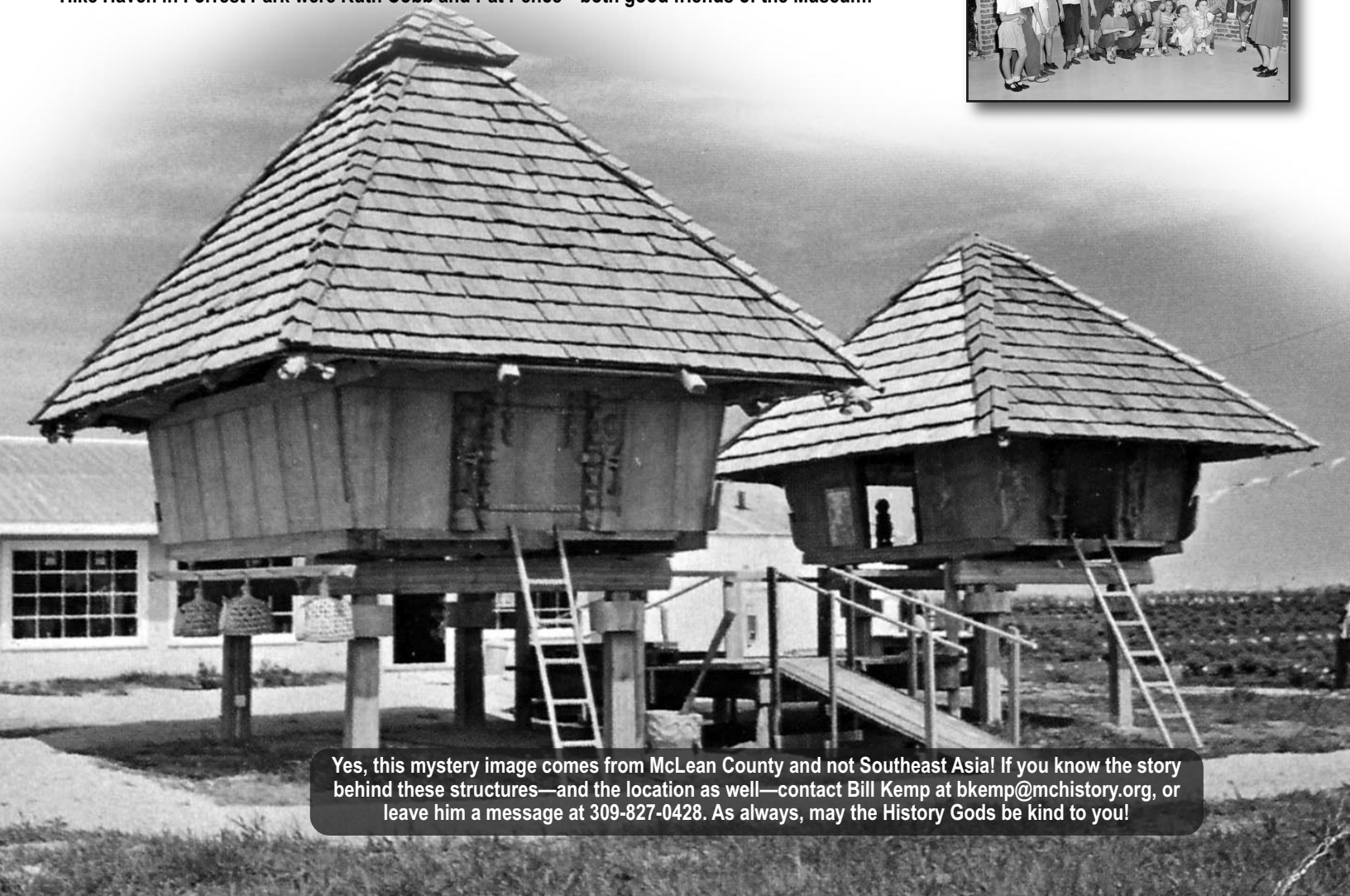
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Mystery History Quiz

Folks had more trouble than we anticipated with last issue's mystery photo featuring the July 1947 dedication of "Hike Haven," the Bloomington-Normal Girl Scouts' cabin in Forrest Park. Earlier that year, the Girls Scouts held a name-that-cabin contest, with resident Mae Kohler of the 1100 block of East Olive Street in Bloomington submitting the winning suggestion. The only two history sleuths to correctly guess Hike Haven in Forrest Park were Ruth Cobb and Pat Pence—both good friends of the Museum!



Yes, this mystery image comes from McLean County and not Southeast Asia! If you know the story behind these structures—and the location as well—contact Bill Kemp at bkemp@mchistory.org, or leave him a message at 309-827-0428. As always, may the History Gods be kind to you!