

ON THE SQUARE



The Magazine of the McLean County Museum of History

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presented by

COUNTRY
FINANCIAL®



Cover Photo

Mrs. Kathy Kennedy's year old basset hound, St. Sadie McLean, poses for a photo in front of their house at 1523 E. Grove St. in Bloomington. *The Pantagraph* ran this photo on Sunday, September 23, 1956, in honor of National Dog Week. The Museum digitized this photo for the *Pantagraph Negatives* collection, available through the Illinois Digital Archives. Explore more than 166,000 images at bit.ly/MCMHIDA. To learn more about the Museum's ongoing efforts to save y(our) history and make it more accessible for all, please visit mchistory.org.

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Museum membership is an act of philanthropy that supports local history, preservation, and education for the entire community. Membership also offers direct benefits to you and your family with free admission to the Museum, Library & Archives, plus discounts in the Visitors Center & Gift Shop, special member pricing for events, this magazine, and a Time Travelers reciprocal membership that grants you free and discounted admission to hundreds of sites across the country.

From the Desk of Executive Director Emig

In Abraham Lincoln's 1862 annual message to Congress, he proclaimed, "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present." Over the past few months, we at the McLean County Museum of History have felt the weight of those words.

As public historians, our role is to document and interpret history as it unfolds – to make sense of the "stormy present" and to remain steadfast in our commitment to "telling the multi-faceted stories of this [community's] extraordinary heritage" as Smithsonian Institution Secretary Lonnie Bunch puts it.

So, despite the tremendous challenges we're facing, internally and externally, we're looking to the future with knowledge of the past and an appreciation of what has led us to this moment.

Internally, our staff is shifting. After 50 years of service, 30 as a volunteer and 20 as a staff member, Archivist George Perkins will retire this May. Many of you know also that Susan Hartzold, the Museum's Curator of Exhibits, retired at the end of January after 33 years. These two people played a significant role in transforming this institution into what it is today – which we've chronicled on pages six and seven. Similarly, Jeff Woodard plans to retire at the end of 2026 after 21 years as the Museum's Director of Marketing & Community Relations.

Just as their service transformed the Museum, so does their departure. Each brings unique talents and knowledge to the team that, in many ways, is irreplaceable. This forces us to face the reality of change and meet this moment with innovative ideas and fresh initiatives.

Thus, guided by staff expertise, community feedback, board input, and stark financial realities, we've been rethinking the way we operate. We're reorienting and reorganizing ourselves around five central units: research, programming, creativity, visitor experience, and governance. At the heart of it lies our mission: preservation, education, and collaboration – all in service to McLean County.

We're in the process of hiring a new archivist with digital preservation expertise, but we will not be hiring another Curator of Exhibits. Maria Mears, our former Director of Adult Education with a Ph.D. in American Studies and several years of museum experience, has stepped into the new role of Curator of Historical Interpretation. She will work with the rest of our curatorial team and staff to develop exhibits. Other staff responsibilities are also shifting based on their unique expertise, and we're working together, as a team, to face the future.

Concurrently, the external environment continues to provide new and unprecedented challenges. Recent cuts to federal funding for the cultural arts and humanities will directly affect our capacity to serve this community. Slashes to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) are a blow to not only the Museum but institutions like ours across the nation. The federal government's abrupt rescission of funding is causing widespread anxiety and instability in cultural organizations.

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Beloved collections like the Pantagraph Negatives, which document a century of life in Central Illinois, exist in the public domain due to the past decade of reliable IMLS support. Some examples of these invaluable images are included on the next page.

We were fortunate to receive our last reimbursement check for our \$75,000 art storage project before the major cuts. The grant enabled us to double our art collection capacity, conduct critical conservation work, and provide meaningful, hands-on internship experiences. We pushed up the installation and invoicing for this project due to news related to the unstable future of IMLS. On April 15, we received a letter from the acting director of IMLS notifying us that the grant was terminated.

We also waited for several months to receive expenditure reimbursements related to our National Historical Publications & Records Commission Grant to digitize more Pantagraph Negatives. Norris and I were giddy when it arrived, after spending several nights awake, unsure how we would come up with \$211,000 to pay the contractors who had already digitized the negatives. This is a multi-year grant running through 2027, so we will request funding for grant expenses in advance because we can no longer be sure that payments will be made for costs incurred [the normal grant funding process requires reimbursement for funds expended].

However, we weren't as lucky with an NEH Grant. Staff spent months working on a compelling narrative, project outline, and nationally competitive application, which we were overjoyed to learn we received the last week of January. However, within a matter of weeks, the federal government terminated that \$25,000 grant without as much as a courtesy email.

This is our stormy present. There are a lot of unknowns. There are also a lot of opportunities. But to adequately respond to them, we need your continued support. We ask you to stand with us. Support the Museum by donating, being a member, and reminding others that history matters – now more than ever.



Julie M. Emig
Julie M. Emig, Ed.D.



There are over 166,000+ images available on the Illinois Digital Archives (IDA) website, thanks to the efforts of our Library & Archives staff, volunteers, and grant funds from IMLS and the National Historical Publications & Records Commission. The funding we receive covers the cost of scanning and digitizing each negative and compensating our dedicated assistant archivists, Jana Kiefer and Rochelle Gridley. They research each image, providing metadata and historical context, and then upload the files to the IDA website, where anyone can access them at anytime and from anywhere.

Jana and Rochelle have processed tens of thousands of images over the last few years. We asked them if any photos in this most recent batch stood out. Jana's pick is featured below Julie's article on the previous page; Rochelle's is on page 8. Jana herself is pictured in the lower righthand corner of this page.

The image to the left, selected by Jana, appeared in *The Pantagraph* on July 14, 1957. It captures a moment in time as Lieutenant Jesse Parker, front left, and Captain Allen Myers, front right, led a National Guard training in Bloomington. While all the men in the photo appear to be serious soliders, *The Pantagraph* reporting shed a light on their lives out of uniform.

The Captain and Lieutenant were both mail carriers in their civilian lives. The other men in the photo held various jobs, from florist to factory worker. This editorial juxtaposition proved to be not only a valuable source of sociological information but also a gentle reminder that behind every soldier is a human being, just like you and me.

Guard Members Lead Double Lives



"There it is! Up there!" Lt. Jesse Parker, left, Battery "C" commanding officer, points out to Capt. Allen Myers, commander of Battery "D." Behind them are the men of a gun crew. The men fire at radio-controlled aircraft (called "R-Cats"), and at "shadows" which planes tow several hundred feet behind them. Excitement when an R-Cat is shot down is intense.



Chuck Holley, left, usually is a camera salesman for Montgomery Ward, and John Joyce works for Novak Flowers. But at Camp Haven, Wis., they are leading far different lives.



Donald L. Carter of Downs earns his living as a butcher for the Food Circus in Bloomington. Here he is sharpening a mighty big knife.



Sergeant Holley, in charge of a gun crew, is in the foreground here. Pfc. Joyce, a gun pointer, is at right. Men at left are Cpl. Linden Brooks of Farmer City. Sergeant Holley lives at 1008 S. Main St. Private Joyce at 802 S. Lee St.



Here Sgt. 1 C. Carter is standing on the chow line at breakfast, watching as the men get food. He is all over the place, checking on service and cleanliness.



A first sergeant has a great variety of duties. Here Paul C. Smith inspects the wing of an R-Cat his battery shot down. At left is Sgt. 1 C. Carter Sylvester.



In civilian life Lieutenant Parker, who lives at 219 E. Mulberry St., and Captain Myers, 1213 S. Madison St. are both mail carriers for the Bloomington Post Office. Photo was taken the day they left for camp.



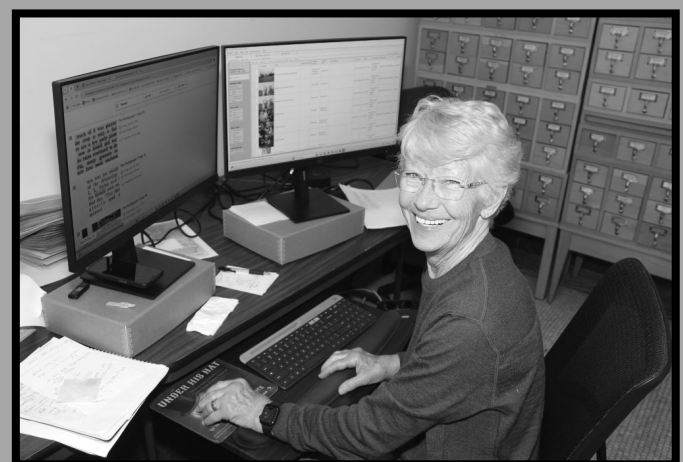
Cpl. Frank Thompson in private life is a shoe salesman at Rodgers Gerhart store. Here he demonstrates his job with the help of a fellow salesperson, Mrs. Harrietta Harsha of 1301 E. Emerson St.



In civilian life he sells shoes; in military life he wears 'em out. Corporal Thompson, acting as corporal of the guard, is about to march his men to their points. He lives at 1107 E. Jefferson St.



Sergeant Smith, who lives at 1311 N. Western Ave., chews a feeding roll on a flaking roll machine at Ralston Purina. Another part of his job involves working with explosives. Photographs taken by Keith Wilson.



Celebrating Susan & George's Legacies

After putting in 20 years as the Museum's Archivist, George Perkins is retiring at the end of April. His legacy reminds us that the Museum is defined as much by the people who work and volunteer here as the objects and papers in our collections.

George's connections to the Museum go way, way back—all the way back to 1972, in fact. That's when he began volunteering for what was then the McLean County Historical Society. At that time, the Historical Society had suffered a near-calamitous fire at the McBarnes Memorial Building. So, a temporary storefront museum opened at Route 9 and Fairway Drive and then on Front Street in downtown Bloomington. Eventually, the Historical Society would return to the McBarnes Building before opening in the old courthouse in 1991. As a volunteer, George opened and closed the Historical Society on Saturdays during this topsy-turvy time in the Museum's history.

In 2005, George joined the Museum staff, having recently retired as an archivist for the telecommunications giant Verizon. As noted, he had been a longtime Library & Archives volunteer, so the transition was a smooth one. To cite a few of his many accomplishments, he first oversaw the digitization of the Museum's photographic print collections and then helped direct the ongoing digitization of the Pantagraph Negatives Collection.

With a talent for space allocation, George proved invaluable in making the most out of existing and repurposed Archives spaces. During his tenure as archivist, George also made a series of significant donations to the Museum, enabling the Library & Archives to purchase new and more suitable Archive shelving. The up-to-date shelving greatly expanded the linear feet capacity of the Museum's Archives.

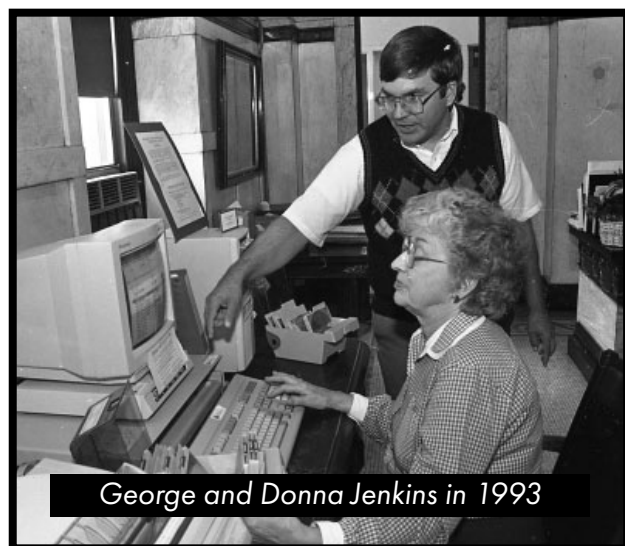
In addition to his career as an archivist, George also contributed to Bloomington-Normal's cultural scene, serving as a cast member for the American Passion Play for no less than 42 years — most of those as one of the Twelve Disciples of Jesus.

However, what George is perhaps the most passionate about is genealogy. He is an accomplished genealogist, having acted as president of both the McLean County and Illinois State Genealogical societies, teaching genealogy for decades, lecturing at conferences around the country, and publishing several genealogy books.

In his 1999 publication, *Shared Traditions*, George beautifully sums up the impact one man can have: "No matter how great or small, or how long or short a man may live, he has made his contribution to the character of mankind through his relationships and actions with the people he has come in contact with."

During his tenure, George has come in contact with thousands of people, helping each one to discover something new from something old and creating an insurmountable impact. For all of George's hard work and dedication to the Museum and its mission, staff members and volunteers will perhaps miss most George's buoyant personality and unflagging good spirits — especially in staff meetings, which routinely end with George saying "hearing nothing else, we're adjourned," swiftly knocking the table with his fist as to simulate a gavel.

Help us celebrate his well-deserved retirement by typing bit.ly/georgeperkins into your web browser and submitting a congratulatory message or fond memory. Questions? Email mharris@mchistory.org



George and Donna Jenkins in 1993

If you've visited the McLean County Museum of History anytime in the last 33 years, you've experienced the creative genius of Susan Hartzold. Serving as Curator of Exhibits and Collections for the last three decades, Susan curated nearly 50 exhibits for the Museum – ranging in topic from Lincoln to Vietnam, fashion trends to foodways, oddities, and everything in between. She created spaces for people from all walks of life and from all over the world to reflect and learn something new at the McLean County Museum of History.

In January, Susan announced to the staff that it was time to retire – to "reorient her life," as she put it. She's excited to spend more time on the lake, traveling with her family, hiking, photographing birds, and creating art in her home studio alongside her husband, Andrew Jumonville.

Susan grew up in rural McLean County, one of eight children on the Hartzold family farmstead in Danvers. She attended Illinois State University and earned her B.A. in Art. While at ISU, one of her professors, Naomi Whiting Towner, connected her with the McLean County Historical Society as an intern. Susan finished her degree in 1982 and went on to live in New York and North Carolina. While visiting home in the summer of 1991, she once again helped the Museum as preparations were underway for the move from the McBarnes Building on Grove Street into the courthouse. It was then that the opportunity to join the staff presented itself. She eagerly accepted the position and facilitated the move into the Museum's current home, along with the help of other staff and volunteers, in 1991.

Susan's first exhibit at the Museum, *Freewheeling Into the 20th Century*, opened in 1992. It explored the history and development of bicycles, with 26 examples and three-sided mat board panels she created by hand because "well, we didn't have a modular panel system yet!" Susan said, chuckling.

During her tenure, she's faced monumental challenges head-on, made lots of choices, and created copious amounts of change – including bringing the Museum's collection into the twentieth century, transitioning thousands of object records from catalog cards to a digital database. On top of collections care, Susan often juggled multiple exhibits simultaneously. She worked with guest curators and exhibit committees all the while managing each exhibit's development, budget, research, writing, designing, and construction.

In 2013, the Museum began an extensive remodel of all its permanent exhibits. Susan led the charge to create five new exhibits, reusing about 80% of the original permanent exhibits' platforms, panels, and build materials. In 2019, the Illinois Association of Museums honored Susan with the Award of Distinction Lifetime Professional Achievement. The City of Bloomington also honored her later that year with a proclamation from the City Council recognizing her 28 years of service. Three of her exhibits, *It has Begun: Central Illinois in the Civil War*, *Journey through the Great Depression*, and *A Turbulent Time: Perspectives of the Vietnam War*, won the national AASLH Award of Merit.

Susan's accolades don't even begin to encapsulate the incredible woman she is, and the stalwart colleague she was. The McLean County Museum of History is what it is today because of her dedication and innovation. We are grateful for her 33 years of service and wish her a happy, peaceful, and rewarding retirement.

We celebrated her last day on January 28 with an ice cream cake, a new plant, and a memory book made from old exhibit posters and over 50 messages submitted by community members, colleagues, and friends. If you still want to send Susan a congratulatory message, type bit.ly/susanhartzold into your web browser and submit the form. We'll make sure the message gets to her!





This image, selected by Assistant Archivist Rochelle Gridley, features Rita Fehrenbacher and Mike McCain peeking inside a door at Brigham School in 1957. The two third graders previously attended Houghton School but eagerly moved into the recently constructed Unit 5 elementary school south of Bloomington.

The lines of light seen crackling throughout the image are reticulation, an irreversible form of damage. All photographic negatives, over time, will reticulate and ultimately disintegrate. Since acquiring the Pantagraph Negatives collection over a decade ago, we've been working against Mother Nature and Father Time to digitize images like these before they're gone forever.

To explore the images available on IDA from the Museum's collection, please visit bit.ly/MCMHIDA.

Evolution of Storm Claims Response:

How COUNTRY Financial® Claims Adjusters Help Clients in Times of Need

By Carrie Skoberg, COUNTRY Financial®

In 2025, COUNTRY Financial is celebrating its 100th anniversary. As part of that celebration, COUNTRY is partnering with the McLean County Museum of History to share moments of its history.

COUNTRY Financial has a long history of being there for clients when they need them the most. One of these times occurred on January 7, 1989, when a tornado devastated the town of Allendale, IL. According to an article in FarmWeek, the storm leveled nearly half the town and caused several injuries. Thankfully, no one was killed.

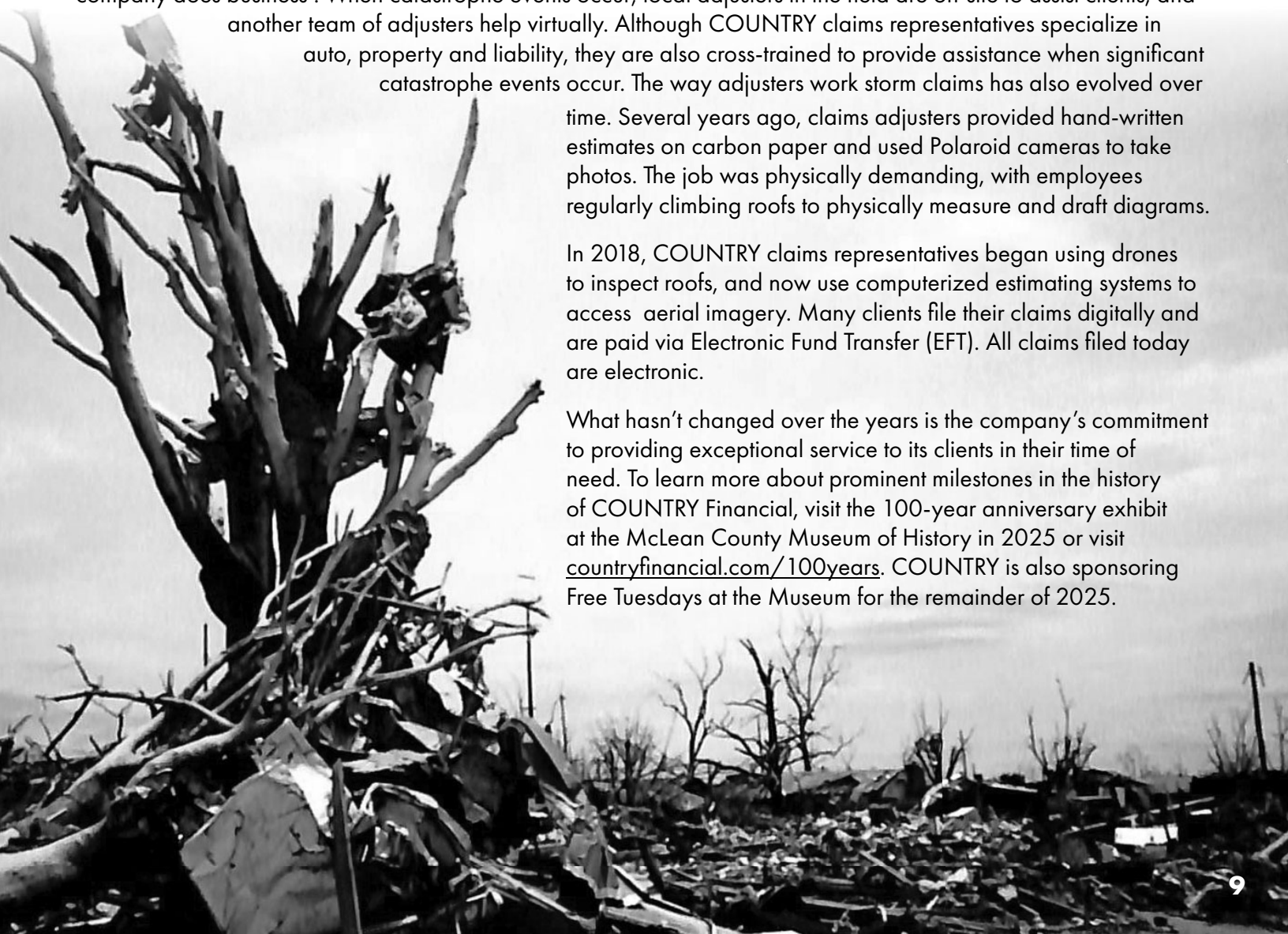
COUNTRY insured nearly 70 percent of the town's population of 600 residents. COUNTRY claims teams sprang into action and took an all-hands-on-deck approach to serve clients. Within 24 hours of the storm, a special team of 20 claims representatives and two agents set up a generator-powered office in one of the remaining downtown buildings. Within 48 hours, COUNTRY had paid \$1 million to policy holders. Nearly 100 percent of the claims were settled within four days.

Today, COUNTRY still handles major catastrophes with an all-in approach, but its claims team has grown significantly since the Allendale tornado in 1989. COUNTRY now has a dedicated Catastrophe (CAT) team that is deployed to storm-damaged areas, and more than 200 claims representatives work in the states where the company does business. When catastrophe events occur, local adjusters in the field are on-site to assist clients, and another team of adjusters help virtually. Although COUNTRY claims representatives specialize in auto, property and liability, they are also cross-trained to provide assistance when significant catastrophe events occur. The way adjusters work storm claims has also evolved over

time. Several years ago, claims adjusters provided hand-written estimates on carbon paper and used Polaroid cameras to take photos. The job was physically demanding, with employees regularly climbing roofs to physically measure and draft diagrams.

In 2018, COUNTRY claims representatives began using drones to inspect roofs, and now use computerized estimating systems to access aerial imagery. Many clients file their claims digitally and are paid via Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT). All claims filed today are electronic.

What hasn't changed over the years is the company's commitment to providing exceptional service to its clients in their time of need. To learn more about prominent milestones in the history of COUNTRY Financial, visit the 100-year anniversary exhibit at the McLean County Museum of History in 2025 or visit countryfinancial.com/100years. COUNTRY is also sponsoring Free Tuesdays at the Museum for the remainder of 2025.



Development Updates

Saving Santa Recap

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Saving Santa campaign to restore the iconic Livingston Santas. We surpassed our original project goal of \$85,000, raising a total of \$86,932. Santa will return in late November 2025.

Lost Speech Mural

On May 29, 2025, the Museum will dedicate a new historic mural in downtown Bloomington. Designed by Troy Freeman, owner of Free Sky Studios the mural will adorn the west-facing wall of Rosie's Pub and stand 45 feet tall. It depicts Lincoln's famous "Lost Speech" which he gave just across the street in Major's Hall (where the Lincoln Parking Garage is today) on May 29, 1856, for the Illinois Anti-Nebraska Convention. At this gathering, several political parties in the anti-slavery movement united to form the Illinois Republican Party. Historical accounts note that Lincoln used the Declaration of Independence to argue against slavery, and the crowd eagerly embraced the impassioned lawyer.

This speech was a pivotal point not only in Lincoln's political career but also in local and national history. The mural reflects the monumental nature of this anniversary, and the dedication ceremony is the first of many more celebrations honoring the signing of the Declaration of Independence and America 250 as we roll into 2026.

Presenting Sponsors

As we begin our new fiscal year, we want to thank our current slate of Presenting Sponsors whose support empowers us to continue preserving, educating, and collaborating in sharing the diverse stories of the people of McLean County. Contact Norris Porter if you or your organization are interested in sponsoring the work we do.

Ace Worldwide Moving – Livingston Santa's Reindeer
Avanti's – Museum Volunteers
Bridgestone – Futures in History Camp
COUNTRY Financial – Free Tuesdays at the Museum, *On The Square* Magazine
Cumulus Radio Bloomington – Christmas Under the Dome
Illinois Farm Bureau – Museum at the Farmer's Market
Jeffrey Alans & the Wandell Family – Livingston Santas
LAMAR Advertising – Museum E-Blast Newsletter
MCK CPAs & Advisors – Lunch & Learn Series
Pantagraph – Rotating Rotunda Installations
WGLT – Live Stream Programs

What will your LEGACY be? Planned giving is an ideal way to support the Museum and cement your legacy, creating a lasting impact. For more information visit mchistory.org/legacy or contact Norris at nporter@mchistory.org

The 2025 History Makers Gala, including the Annual Meeting of the McLean County Historical Society, will take place on the evening of Wednesday, June 18th, at the Brown Ballroom in the Bone Student Center on the campus of Illinois State University. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and the program begins at 6:15 p.m.

Each year, the History Makers Gala recognizes long-standing residents whose contributions of time and talents have helped make McLean County a better place to live. This year, we will gather to recognize Rob Fazzini, Father Doug Hennessy, and Sally Rudolph.

The Gala program will feature a fresh twist this year as we've replaced the traditional theatrical presentation with a multimedia video montage of each honoree sharing their impact on McLean County.

The deadline to register for the event is Monday, June 2nd. Individual member tickets are \$75 each, and non-member tickets are \$100. Half-table sponsorships are \$750 and include four seats. Full table sponsorships are \$1,500 and include eight seats. Please visit bit.ly/hmgala25 to get your tickets and to learn more.



HISTORY *Makers* GALA 2025



Rob Fazzini, Sally Rudolph, and Fr. Doug Hennessy



ROB FAZZINI

Originally hailing from Chicago Heights, Rob grew up in a multi-ethnic Chicago neighborhood, living in a flat with multiple generations of family, including his Italian immigrant grandmother. He came to Bloomington to study at Illinois Wesleyan University. Here he met his wife, Normal native Lynne Johnson. The two married in 1962 after he graduated with a B.S. in Insurance and Economics.

Rob's career took the couple all over the world from Chicago to Rochelle, Amsterdam, Piraeus, and Taipei. The Fazzinis returned to Bloomington in 1988, opening Busey Bank's first local office.

Rob's goal is always to make connections, not just for business's sake, but to build a community. With his leadership, multiple local businesses were backed by Busey Bank, including the Shoppes at College Hills, Destihl Restaurant and Brewery, Coffee Hound, Arby's, Highland Animal Hospital, the Great Display Company, Tornquist Construction, Isaacson Construction, and the CornBelters and their stadium. "Every time I drive by one of these places, I smile," he said.

Rob embraced involvement with community organizations, becoming president of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce, the BroMenn Advisory Council, and the McLean County Museum of History. He was elected to the Bloomington City Council representing Ward 8 from 2011-2014, served as a past General Chairman of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce Leadership McLean County program, and in 2009 helped establish the Multicultural Leadership Program where he chaired the advisory council. Of all things, Rob also walked the red carpet in Los Angeles for a Jackie Chan movie, and credits that as one of his life's most exciting experiences.

Always a businessman at heart, he and his brother, Dan, are currently developing a golf ball innovation that could save players' time by finding lost golf balls via a Harmonic Radar Method, for which a patent was granted in 2024.

As he looks at the next generation, he asks, "How do we continue to make McLean County great?" He encourages people to volunteer not just to build a resume but to find their passion. "If you do it right, you'll get more out of it than you put into it."

**"People come
to our
community
because of
quality of life."**

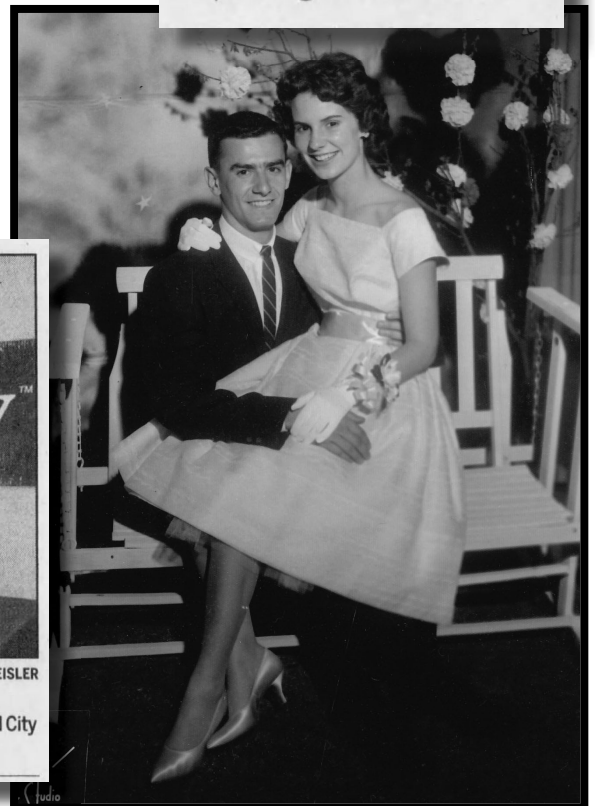
Rob Fazzini

*an alderman who voted in
favor of providing money
for Eagle View Park*



The Pantagraph/LORI ANN NEISLER

Rob Fazzini, senior vice president of commercial loans with Busey Bank, speaks at a news conference Tuesday where the Normal CornBelters announced key partnerships with BroMenn Regional Medical Center, CEFCU and City Beverage. Fazzini said his bank and four others have financed a \$4 million loan to the team's ownership group.



FR. DOUG HENNESSY

Affectionately known as "Fr. Doug," Douglas Hennessy dedicated over 50 years to the service of others in McLean County and across the world. Born in 1938, Fr. Doug grew up in Bloomington, where his father, Harry, operated H.J. Hennessy Stockyards on West Miller Street, buying, selling, and shipping hogs. As a teenager, Doug worked in the stockyards with his father, helping load the porcine cargoes.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church was his family's parish long before he served as its priest. As a boy, Fr. Doug attended Holy Trinity Grade School and High School (now Central Catholic High). He began altar serving at Mass during the fourth grade. He enjoyed sports, especially baseball, playing Little League baseball for the American Legion and Holy Trinity. After graduating high school in 1956, he studied at the University of Notre Dame and later at St. Ambrose University before studying theology at the Gregorian University in Rome.

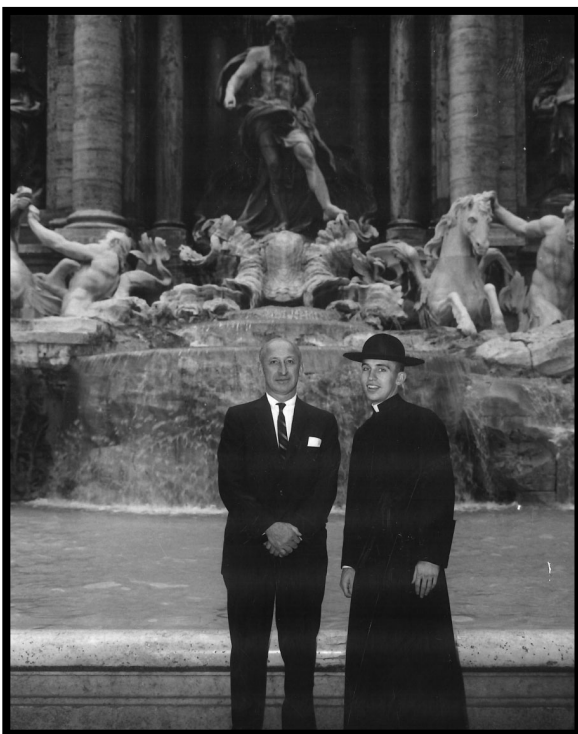
Ordained in 1963, he witnessed the transformative Second Vatican Council firsthand. Pope John XXIII (who reigned from 1958 to 1963) opened the windows and refreshed the Catholic Church in an increasingly secularized world. The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) brought together Church leaders from around the world to improve some of the church's practices and make them more understandable and relevant. "The people came first," Fr. Doug remarked. This move reenergized the Catholic faith, allowing lay people to serve in leadership roles, shifting services to local languages instead of solely in Latin, and bringing the altar to face parishioners instead of the celebrant having his back to the congregation. "I was there in Rome for the first two sessions of the Second Vatican Council. It was a great time to be there, it really was," Fr. Doug recalled.

In 1967, Fr. Doug returned to school. He studied religious education at Fordham University in New York, crafting how to share a renewed church with parishioners and their children. After earning a master's degree in religious education, he was appointed the associate director of religious education for the Peoria Diocese.

The 1960s-1970s ferment of civil rights and the Vietnam War saw him speaking up for human rights and equality, a passion he carried into his 2013 retirement, becoming active in immigrant rights and other causes. "God's Word tells us every person without exception has inherent human dignity and is worthy of respect," Fr. Doug said.

In 2013, Bloomington's Dave Wochner told The Pantagraph that Fr. Doug "is extremely dedicated to serving. As

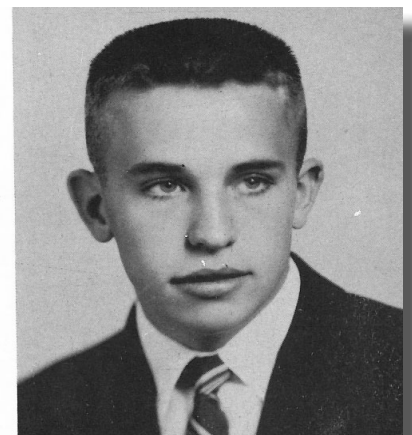
a priest, he is concerned about serving all of God's people, starting with the lowliest, the sick and the poor." Those in need frequented Trinity's door, knowing Fr. Doug would always share. In retirement, Fr. Doug enjoys golfing but still serves when called by local congregations and continues to stand up for social justice. "Respect and love everybody," he advises. "Listen to their story; the more you listen, the better off you are."



DOUGLAS HENNESSY

Doug

Baseball 1,2,3,4; Basketball 1,2,3,4; Class President 2; Honor Society 3,4; Latin Club 3; Senior Play; Sodality 1,2,3,4; Student Council 1,2,3, President 4; Yearbook Sports Editor 4.



SALLY RUDOLPH

In an era when women's career options were limited, Sally Rudolph's parents gave her the greatest gift—"the freedom to be me." This support led her not only to a career as a pharmacist but also to a lifelong commitment to civic engagement and local government.

Raised in Mineral Point, Wisconsin, Sally was the daughter of Willard and Madeline Harford. Her father, a rural mail carrier, also served in township government for 45 years, instilling in her a deep respect for public service. A valedictorian passionate about science, she pursued pharmaceutical studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she met her future husband, Lee Rudolph. The couple married in 1961 and moved to McLean County, Illinois, in 1965, where they raised their two children, Heidi and Paul.

Sally's political journey began with a simple invitation from Ruth Prenzler: "You should join the League of Women Voters." That moment in 1969 sparked decades of advocacy and leadership. Encouraged by Alice Ebel, the first woman elected to the McLean County Board, Sally successfully ran for a seat in 1972, representing District 10. During her tenure, the county hired its first full-time administrator, established Comlara Park, renovated the McBarnes Memorial Building, constructed the McLean County Law and Justice Center, and improved county administration. She chose not to seek re-election in 1980 but remained actively involved in public service.

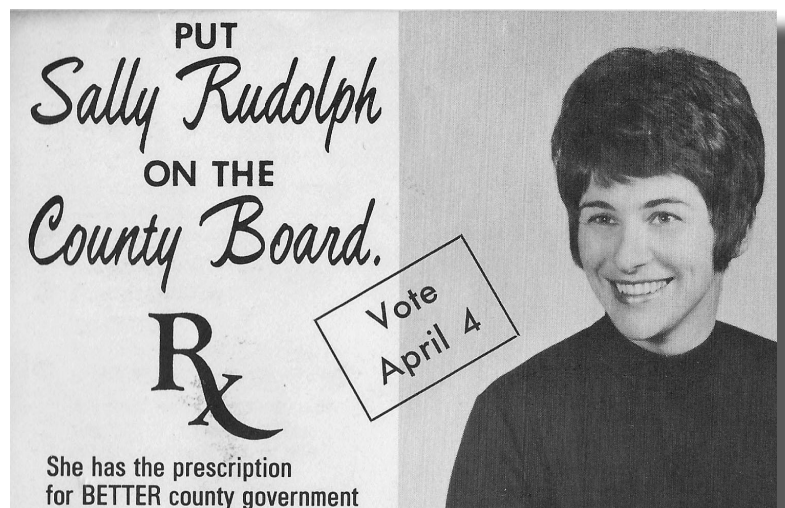
Her interest in zoning led her to the McLean County Zoning Board of Appeals in 1992, where she served for 25 years — 17 as chair. She played a key role in shaping local policies on wind farms, gravel pits, and housing development, ensuring a fair and respectful process for community members.

Beyond public office, Sally was a skilled political organizer, working on campaigns for local candidates and uniting diverse groups to achieve common goals. She was instrumental in the successful "Zap the Caps" campaign in 1997, which prevented tax caps in McLean County.

Sally fought for the Equal Rights Amendment in Illinois and helped create educational programs and government guidebooks through the League of Women Voters. In recognition of her contributions, she received the YWCA Woman of Distinction Award in 2006 and the 2017 Illinois League of Women Voters' Carrie Chapman Catt Award.

Sally's influence also extends to her family. Her daughter Heidi is now the village president of Western Springs, Illinois. Her son Paul, an Emmy-winning vocal director for Sesame Street, is married to puppeteer Leslie Carrara-Rudolph, known for bringing "Abby Cadabby" to life — Sally and Lee even made a guest appearance as extras on Sesame Street in 2013. In her spare time, Sally enjoys playing piano in a "30 fingers" trio, where multiple musicians share a single instrument, as shown below in the photo from 2013 alongside Phylis VerSteegh and Karla Weldon.

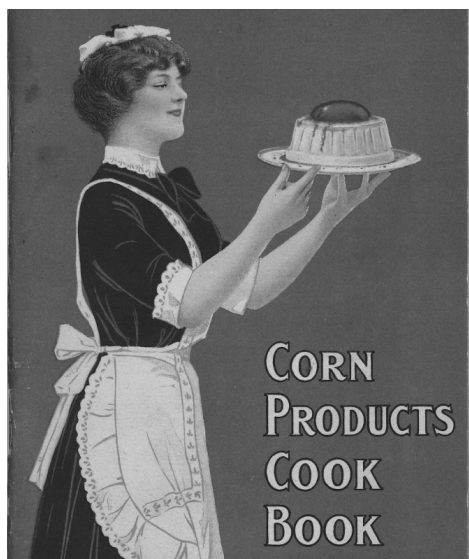
Reflecting on her legacy, she credits quiet leadership and leading by example. Those eight words—"You should join the League of Women Voters"—continue to inspire her, as she now extends the same invitation to the next generation.



NEW TO COLLECTIONS

BOOKS

- Collection of local history books from donor's father, including *Benson Centennial: 1873-1973*; *The Armington History, Big Stories from a Small Town* by Danny Tackett (2015); and a comb-bound Delavan Presbyterian Church history (1855-2005). *Donated by Allen Drake.*
- Church of Christ Uniting, Lexington, member directories, 25th (1995), 30th (2000), and 35th (2005). *Donated by Charles Laible.*
- Wire-bound manuscript, *A Compilation of Handouts and Writings by Harold Gregor for "A Painter's Pedagogy,"* (2022) McLean County Arts Center. *Donated by Micaela Harris.*
- Pekin Bicentennial 1824-2024; *Road to Fort Clarke, Volume 1*; and *Tazewell County Yearbook 2024.* *Donated by Greg Koos.*
- Saybrook-Arrowsmith Junior-Senior High School yearbook, *The Totem* (1989). *Donated by Renee Nord.*
- *Faith Wish* (2003) written by donor. *Donated by James W. Bennett.*
- Cookery publications, including the *Corn Products Cook Book* pictured below. *Donated by Genda Davis.*



PHOTOGRAPHS

- Collection of homes on the 200 block of N. Allin St., Bloomington. *Donated by Ruth Cobb.*
- Additions to the May English (1893-1979) collection, including two of the "old English-Denman place" in White Oak Township, and many more. *Donated by the Knight Family.*
- Collection from donor's R&D career at Funk Bros. Seed Co., 1960s to 1990s. *Donated by Charles Laible.*
- Picture postcard of Withers Library, Bloomington, featuring note in shorthand. *Donated by Amy Miller.*
- 1960s portrait of Clemens Insurance founder Lewis "Buck" Jones; Don Clemens with his IWU roommate and Chicago White Sox coach Bobby Winkles 1979-81; two scenes from the Kiwanis "bike rodeo" at Miller Park in 1965; and more. *Donated by Terri Clemens.*
- Photos of everyday life featuring Harold and Marlene Gregor. *Donated by Marlene Gregor.*
- Photos from Walter John Gormley Hays Jr.' time at the U.S. Army's Commercial Trades Institute. *Donated by Steve Hays.*
- More than 40 photos from Eleanor Frakes Schapmire's (1922-1988) time on staff at St. Joseph's Hospital. *Donated by Barbie Emmert.*
- Two views of National Guardsmen encamped on the Square in downtown Bloomington during the streetcar strike of 1917. *Donated by Francis Greene.*
- Glass negative and print of the third county courthouse gutted after the Great Bloomington Fire of 1900. *Donated by Philip Hamm.*
- Early, undated view of the Dixie Truckers Home, McLean. *Donated by Sharon Wolfe.*

OBJECTS

- YWCA Collection of seals, exercise weights and print plates. *Donated by The YWCA of McLean County.*
- Military knives, c. 1940-1970. *Donated by Terry Garbe.*
- Model of Pleasant Ridge School, c. 1980's. *Donated by Mark Alsene.*
- Cemetery Walk T-shirt, c. 2019. *Donated by Michael DeVore.*
- Eureka Williams bomb fuses (3), c. 1920s. *Donated by Terri Small.*
- Harold Gregor Medals (2), c. 1929-2018. *Donated by Marlene Gregor.*

Do you have an item to donate? Inquiries regarding the donation of photographs, books, and other archival materials should be directed to Librarian Bill Kemp. Inquiries regarding physical object donations should be directed to Curator of Collections Jackie Cain. Please note, objects donated to the Museum's collection undergo a review process to ensure it's a responsible acquisition. You must fill out a form for the object to be considered. The review process may take up to three months. To fill out the form, scan the QR code below.



ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

- Political yard signs, including "Re-elect Jesse White Illinois Secretary of State," undated, and "Fazzini 4 Auditor." *Donated by Fred Dick.*
- 2025 wall calendar for E-One / Banner Fire Equipment, featuring the Bloomington Fire Department's Cyclone Stainless Steel eMax Rescue Pumper on the Square. *Donated by Michael Hartwig, BFD deputy chief of operations.*
- Large collection of items, including a partial set of blueprints for 309 E. Chestnut St., Bloomington, designed by Arthur Pillsbury; Occupational Development Center papers; and more. *Donated by Ruth Cobb.*
- Additions to existing Ecology Action Center Collection, including conference paper, "Grassroots Environmental Activism: Its Fiscal and Socio-Political Implications for Government," 1991, by Myra Gordon. *Donated by the Ecology Action Center.*
- Twenty minute-plus narrated video slide show, "101st Airborne 1st Brigade 1/327 Airborne Infantry BN Vietnam," featuring photographs by donor. *Donated by Terry Garbe.*
- Bloomington Blue Sox (early girls' fastpitch softball team) yearbook, 1976; and Amateur Softball Association Women's Midwest Major Slow Pitch Regionals program, August 20-22, 1982. *Donated by Vickie Nelson.*
- Two datebooks, 1947 and 1949, both stamped "Spier's Book and Toy Store, Bloomington," kept by donor. *Donated by Sybil Stern Mervis.*
- Postal card, 1870s, with crop prices, sent to Churchill & Abbott elevator, Chenoa; and DeLaval Handy Reference Year Book used as a promotional giveaway by Turley Farm Equipment Co., Bloomington. *Donated by Sharon Wolfe.*
- Papers relating to Duane Yockey (1948-2024), his engineering career, and service to the Bloomington Kiwanis Club and Golden K Kiwanis, with most materials dating to 1991-92 when Duane was Kiwanis Club president. *Donated by Carolyn Yockey.*
- Materials from the "Debt of Honor" veterans' parade and ceremony, May 23, 1987; and third annual VietNow national convention, 1998. *Donated by Gary Ploense.*
- Items from a local history / genealogy three-ring binder kept by donor's mother, Arlene Ruth Punke (1933-2024), including Gridley, IL brochure, circa 1950s; 25-page Rickenberger family history; and other items, including additions to the diaries / letters transcription project related to Lt. George Washington Kent of the Civil War. *Donated by Teresa Casselman.*
- YWCA historical papers and photographs from 1908 to 2010s, including reports, newsletters, promotional materials, information on the tearoom and cafeteria, scrapbooks, and more — seven bankers boxes in total. *Donated by YWCA McLean County.*
- Papers, including newspaper clippings, fliers, and business cards, 2012-2017, related to the Magic Bus shuttle, operated by the donor. *Donated Lee Eutsey.*
- 1995 March Madness Girls' State Tournament program, featuring both Normal Community High School (AA) and University High School (A). *Donated by George Perkins.*
- Collection of Valentine's Day cards, 1910s to 1930s, sent to Ruby Mae Aspel Vogel (1908-1984). *Donated by Joan Vogel (Ruby's daughter).*
- 2025 calendar, The Voice of McLean County, 100 Years, WJBC. *Donated by Gregg Watson.*
- Five postcards sent to Dr. W.E. Schultz, Illinois Wesleyan University English professor, 1920s and 1950s. *Donated by Carrie Martin.*
- Booklet, "Barry Goldwater Speaks Out on the Issues," 1964 presidential campaign, issued by Illinois Citizens for Goldwater-Miller. *Donated by Gloria Morales.*
- Papers relating to donor's father, Walter John Gormley Hays Jr., and his time with the World War II Commercial Trades Institute, 1943. *Donated by Steve Hays.*
- Collection of Tazewell County historical handouts created by the Tazewell County Clerk and Records' Office, compiled in 2024. *Donated by Greg Koos.*
- Report card from Franklin School 1902-03, for Warren Beatty. *Donated by Amanda Batterson.*
- Collection of articles written by donor on local circus history, most from *Bandwagon: Journal of the Circus Historical Society*, 1966-2022. *Donated by Steve Gossard.*
- Program, Normal (High School) District Basketball Tournament, March 7-9, 1929. *Donated by Greston Miller.*
- Papers pertaining to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County, 2007-10. *Donated by Roger Bridges.*
- Collection of newspapers, *The Colfax Press* and *The Saybrook Gazette*, 1970s-1980s. *Donated by Renee Nord.*
- Various items, including Chicago History magazine, Winter 1981-82, devoted to Illinois folk art; souvenir program on the undefeated 1951 Illinois Wesleyan University football team (roster included Don Clemens, the donor's father); and more. *Donated by Terri Clemens.*

Continued on next page...

Featured Photo

This is one of the more than 40 photos donated by Barbie Emmert which illustrate scenes from Eleanor Frakes Schapmire's (1922-1988) time on staff at St. Joseph's Hospital. Eleanor was an x-ray technician at St. Joe's, located off Morris Ave. on Bloomington's west side, just north of Miller Park.

The photo is undated, but we can reasonably guess it was taken sometime between 1945 and 1965 based on the technology and the clothing pictured. All in all this is a great snapshot of an x-ray room at St. Joe's featuring the smiling faces you would've met should you need care!

From left to right: Mary Lorig Dwyer, Eleanor Schapmire, Sister Mary Remigia, Dr. Harold Shinall, Reva Hall Merrick, and Mary Karcher Van Landschoot.



NEW TO COLLECTIONS CONTINUED

- Last "hot type" Pantagraph Farm section page from 1974 (donor is daughter of the farm editor at the time, Stanley Lantz); collection of letters, 1940, from Lantz to Evelyn Cornelius (the two were married the following year); and First Baptist Church Woman's Missionary Society late 1950s to 2017-18. *Donated by Rebekah Strack.*
- 1936 Letter from Prairie Farmer/WLS Community Service to Ralph Jacobs and Quartette, regarding Saybrook talent show. *Donated by Jacobs daughter, Jan Schlickman.*
- Three notebooks, 2010, kept by the late Larry Carius from visits to area restaurants – added to Larry Carius Collection. *Donated by Kay Carius.*
- Corn Belt Philatelic Society newsletters, 1987-2002. *Donated by Mary L. Edwards.*
- Items relating to the League of Women Voters of McLean County, including yearbooks, bylaws, and more. *Donated by Judy Poultney.*

Upcoming Events

May

Sculpture on the Square Dedication

Friday, May 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Normal Community High School Experimental Ensemble presented by pt.fwd

Saturday, May 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Red Carpet Corridor Festival

Saturday, May 3 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. AND Sunday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

History Reads Book Club: Living Downstream

Tuesday, May 6 at 7 p.m. at Bloomington Public Library

CLOSED for Staff Development Day on Wednesday, May 7

Lunch & Learn: Old Homes and Historic Preservation with Dawn Peters

Thursday, May 8 at 12:10 p.m.

Knit In at Illinois Art Station

Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CLOSED for Memorial Day on Monday, May 26

Abraham Lincoln's "Lost Speech" Mural Dedication

Thursday, May 29 at 5:25 p.m.

June

Lunch & Learn: Making Insurance Interesting - Stories from State Farm with Buck Farley

Thursday, June 5 at 12:10 p.m.

First Friday: A Walk Down Memory Lane

Friday, June 6 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Knit In at The Bistro

Saturday, June 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

History Makers Gala

Wednesday, June 18, doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Free Admission for Juneteenth

Thursday, June 19

Futures in History Camp

June 23-27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

July

CLOSED for Independence Day on Friday, July 4

Futures in History Mini Camp: Discovering Downtown

July 14-16, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily

Futures in History Mini Camp: Curious Curators

July 21-23, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily

Lunch & Learn: Atlanta, Illinois - The Land of the Giants with Bill Thomas

Thursday, July 17 at 12:10 p.m.

Pride Fest in Downtown Bloomington

Saturday, July 26 from 4 to 8 p.m.

August

History Reads Book Club: Reasonable Doubt - An Evening with Steve Vogel

Tuesday, August 5 at 7 p.m. at Bloomington Public Library

Lunch & Learn: A Fair to Remember - A History of McLean County Fairs with Don Meyer

Thursday, August 14 at 12:10 p.m.

Knit In at McLean County Arts Center

Saturday, August 16 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities

Senior Reminiscence Program

We will train interested volunteers to visit senior living centers with objects and photos from our education collection to help spur conversation and memories. This program helps combat isolation, foster a greater sense of community, and take the Museum to those who can't access it in person.

Oral History Transcription

One of the major ways that the Museum collects and preserves local history is through the use of Oral History interviews. Museum staff interview people for various reasons to capture their story. After the interview, software generates a transcript of the conversation. However, the transcripts need to be reviewed and edited by a real person to ensure accuracy. Volunteers in this category must have strong writing skills.

Day Camp Counselor

Help us facilitate the Futures in History Summer Day Camp this year! Volunteer Responsibilities include:

- Assisting with activities
- Leading discussions with campers
- Supervising campers to ensure their safety
- Answering questions from campers about our topics

Volunteer Counselors are required to attend multiple trainings and have a strict time requirement. They must also be willing and able to work with children for full days and pass a background check.

This year's camps are scheduled for June 23 - 27, July 14 - 16, and July 21 - 23.

A Walk Down Memory Lane

We are looking for volunteers to serve as greeters and activity assistants for the Downtown Bloomington First Friday festivities on June 6 from 5-8 p.m.

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities, or if there are other ways you would like to volunteer at the McLean County Museum of History, please contact Director of Volunteers Eric Hansen at volunteers@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428.

futures in HISTORY camp

Unique, hands-on summer learning
opportunities in June and July

for ages 9 to 12!

learn more at mchistory.org

LUNCH & Learn

McLean County at the
MUSEUM of HISTORY

Every second Thursday of the month
join us in person or online at 12:10
p.m. to learn something new!

Check out previous sessions at
youtube.com/mchistorymuseum

On the Square is a tri-annual magazine for members of the McLean County Museum of History. New editions of the magazine are mailed the first week of the following months: January, May, and September. Questions? Concerns? Feedback? Please contact Micaela Harris, Director of Communications, at mharris@mchistory.org or 309-827-0428 ext. 114.

Please visit mchistory.org/events for more information on all our upcoming programs and events.



McLean County MUSEUM of HISTORY

200 N. Main St. Bloomington, IL 61701

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Mystery History Quiz

Last time around we featured a postcard view of the Manual Training Building on the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School (ISSCS) in north Normal. That's where boys got hands-on experience in skilled trades, such as woodworking and shoemaking and repair. The building was torn down in 1938.

The history sleuths who sleuthed correctly included Thomas Cherry and David A. Hall. There was also longtime Museum friend and supporter Ruth Cobb, who wrote the definitive ISSCS history (*A Place We Called Home*, published in 2007). Ruth knew not only the answer, but more about the building's history than we did!

This time around, we have a mystery view as well as a mystery building. What are we looking at here? Where is this? And what's that big building to the left? If you think you have some of the answers, give Museum Librarian Bill Kemp a ring at 309-827-0428. He can also be reached by email at bkemp@mchistory.org. As always, your support is not something we take for granted!

