



Historico

The newsletter of the Sangamon County Historical Society

June, 2007

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Carolyn Moore

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Programs

Taylor Pensoneau

Project Awards

Dr. Virgilio R. Pilapil

Publications

Curtis Mann

Publicity

Janice Petterchak

Webmaster

Karen Everingham

June 19, Tuesday, 6:00

Annual Meeting, Banquet and Program

Sangamo Club

227 East Adams, Springfield

The 2006-2007 season of the Sangamon County Historical Society will climax with the organization's Forty-sixth Annual Meeting to be held for the second straight year at the Sangamo Club. The event begins with a reception at 6 p.m. and continues with the traditional banquet at 7 p.m. After that, a brief business meeting will be conducted, followed by a program with a different twist.

While the Annual Meeting program normally revolves around historical talks, this year's program features the presentation of a Sangamon County history trivia game by Tim E. Krell, the Society's president in 1997-1998. Dinner attendees will participate in the resurrection of the past by Krell and a nephew, Russell Friedwald, who is expected to serve as "game master" for the event.

Tim Krell was born in Springfield in 1951, but grew up on a farm near Williamsville and graduated from Williamsville High School in 1969. After serving in the army from 1970 to 1972, he returned to live in Springfield and engage for eight years in the restaurant and beverage sales business. In 1980, he joined the Springfield Fire Department. When he retired from the department in 2003, he was a deputy division chief.

The evening will conclude with the customary drawing for door prizes. Tickets for the prizes may be purchased that evening at the Sangamo Club. Persons wishing to contribute items for the drawing are asked to contact Curtis Mann at 753-4900 (extension 234) or cmann67@hotmail.com.

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*Bus trip to
Monticello and Allerton Park*

The bus trip to Monticello, Illinois and Allerton Park on May 11th was delightful. Our Monticello Chamber of Commerce guide introduced a side of Monticello new to many of us - 'Millionaire's Row'. She explained that a Dr. Caldwell had invented a patent medicine in the 1890s that became quite popular, was packaged by a couple of local pharmacists for delivery in surrounding areas, resulted in the founding of the Pepsin Syrup Company and an eventually purchased by the Sterling Drug Company for \$5,000,000 in 1925 - big money! Sterling continued to operate the plant in Monticello until 1985. The result of which was a great deal of wealth being infused into the small community. As a consequence several lavish and unusual mansions were constructed along what became known as 'Millionaire's Row'. Interestingly enough, these homes have continued to be owned by many of the original families until very recently. Despite the current lack of economic development in the community to sustain the homes, the charm of the small community of about 5,500, which still retains its original downtown surrounding the 1903 courthouse, has proven a magnet for buyers in both Decatur and Champaign as the homes come on the market.

Allerton Park was the next destination, and time allowed for an informal tour of the first floor of the elegant Allerton House and its views of the reflecting pond before lunch in

schs@sancohis.org

the conference dining room. The mansion is used as a conference center and, with the addition of bedrooms in the gatehouse and 'house in the woods' can sleep about 80 for such events.

Following lunch we were split into two smaller groups for a guided walking tour of the sculpture gardens. We were introduced to the various sculptures that enhance each elaborately planned garden space: the lions, the Chinese goldfish and Japanese guardian fish, the Chinese musicians - with their Western facial features that give away the fact that they are modern copies of the originals. The peony gardens were particularly glorious with some 60 varieties represented. While the statuary is prolific and impressive, unquestionably the Milles 15 foot high Sun Singer statue, set off by itself in a lovely opening of the woods, is the star attraction. It is truly magnificent in its setting.

Congratulations to Susie Hammond for putting together a most interesting tour and providing every comfort - such as lots of water bottles!

Nominees for Officers and Directors

The Board has approved the Nominating Committee's slate of Officers and Directors to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Officers:

President - Carolyn Moore
Vice-President - Gary Vitale
Past President - Taylor Pensoneau
Secretary - Sally Cadagin
Treasurer - Nancy Chapin

Directors to 2010:

Elaine Birtch
Kim Efird
Allen Smith
Carol Schwend Smith
Martha Woods Wolters

Report on May program

Taylor Pensoneau ended our program year with a wonderful insight into the Statehouse pressroom in which he worked from 1968-1978 as a journalist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Taylor began by saying that

the assignment was exciting for a young, idealistic journalist. The statehouse regular journalists numbered just about 20, but during times when the legislature was in session or discussing 'hot' issues, the number changed dramatically. While there was camaraderie in the pressroom, the competition for scoops was serious between rival papers such as the four Chicago, the two Springfield dailies and the wire services.

He pointed out that the climate changed radically in the early '70s when investigative reporting became the norm in the face of the scandals that surfaced at the time. Then reporters depended on the tipsters who most often tended to be mid level government employees who feared for their jobs if suspected and always wanted to meet in "secret places".

He sprinkled his talk with anecdotes and asides such as the eeriness of the

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2007 ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Meeting, Banquet and Program June 19th

6:00 PM Cash bar with dinner at 7:00 PM

**Sangamo Club
227 East Adams**

Reservation deadline, **June 15th** (\$5.00 surcharge on all reservations made after June 15th)

Name(s) _____

Menu choice: Marinated and Grilled chicken breast or Vegetarian Pasta Primavera

Number of Reservations: Member _____ Non Member _____ **Telephone** _____

Note: Non-member spouses/friends of members to pay non-member cost

The cost is **\$28.00** per member; **\$32.00** per non-member

Make your check payable to: The Sangamon County Historical Society

308 East Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701

You may write **one** check **and include your SCHS dues for 2007-2008.**

To join or renew your membership, simply fill out the form below and mail it along with your membership (If you want to give a gift membership, fill in name, address and telephone number of new member(s); designate (X) in 'Gift' box; sign your name as Donor; and don't forget to include that total on your check. A letter announcing the gift will be sent to the recipient including the donor's name.

Individual -	\$17.50	Individual life -	\$250.00*
Family -	\$25.00	Family life -	\$400.00*
Sustaining -	\$50.00		*One time payment

Name _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Gift membership donor

If you would like to volunteer for Society activities, please indicate your interest: _____

Would you be willing to provide refreshments for one of the monthly programs? _____

If you would be willing to serve on a committee, please indicate your interest: _____

Total enclosed for membership _____

No. of Dinner reservations _____ **Total enclosed for Annual Meeting** _____



The President's Corner

With the rapidly approaching end of my term as Society president at the Annual Meeting and dinner in June, the time has arrived to express my appreciation to a terrific group of individuals who have extended themselves greatly for the Society in the past year. All are contributors to a visible recognition of the past—an acknowledgment that understanding what occurred before can make the present, and future, more meaningful.

Every worthy organization has wheelhorses, and the Society certainly has one in Nancy Chapin. I've taken to calling Nancy "dynamo" because of her seemingly daily infusion of energy and ideas into the output of the Society. Her willingness to tackle virtually any undertaking plays out in addition to her stewardship of the Society's finances in her role as its treasurer.

And, in regard to the other officers, Sally Cadagin has been one very sure-handed secretary, while Vice President Carolyn Moore has done everything asked of her, not the least of which was spearheading the Society's role in the annual Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk last October. The immediate past president, Dr. Gil Pilapil, could have rested on his laurels, but chose to oversee a family history writing project that promises to be a Society highlight of 2007.

Members of the Board of Directors hardly sat on their hands during the past year. Three of them, David Brady, Robert Davis and Gary Vitale, were presenters at the Society's monthly programs. Each received high marks for their presentations. Furthermore, the same was said for other program presenters during the year, a list that included Phil Gonet, Anthony Rubano, the folks at Brother James Court and a team of New Berlin leaders coordinated by Allen Smith. Board member Mary Jo Potter receives kudos for putting together the special holiday reception at the Governor Yates mansion in December.

Just as important to note is that the impressive turnouts at most of the programs would not have happened without the publicity secured month after month by Janice Petterchak. A tireless performer for the Society, Jan also loaned her considerable writing skills to the organization time and again during the past year.

The thank-you list goes on. To John Huther for laying the groundwork for a broadened Society publications program, to Sue Wall for handling book sales, to Susan Hammond for planning an Allerton Park bus trip, to Curtis Mann for his steady hand in keeping the Society on course, to Robinson Advertising for executing administrative tasks and to R-Lou Barker, Phyllis Brissenden, Carolyn Oxtoby, Dan Buck, Carol Andrews, Steve Leonard and Jack Billington for support in many different ways.

Once again, to all, my heartfelt appreciation.

Taylor Pensoneau

Program report cont. from p. 2.

statehouse at midnight; the great coffee showdown in the press room; Governor's discomfort at gridiron dinners, and the like.

His talk triggered several questions and discussion on a wide range of subjects. It was both an informative and enjoyable evening.

Thanks to Sue Wall, master bookseller!

For the last two years Sue Wall has done an outstanding job as our book seller. She has hauled her bag of books to lots and lots of meetings; set them all out; taken money when offered for sales and made change; then packaged the books all up again for the next meeting. Our members have had access to the books and the publication fund is much the richer due to her efforts, and we want her to know how much we appreciate her hard work!!

Sangamon County Historical Society
308 E. Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701



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Help needed at Iles House

Iles House needs your help! The house is scheduled to be open to visitors on Wednesdays and Saturdays and also hosts special events, but they need more docents to adequately staff those times.

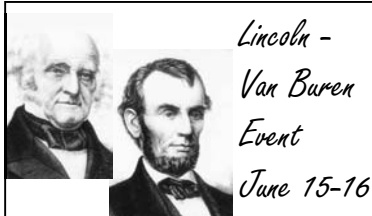
If you could give just a couple of hours on either of those days to help them, it would be most appreciated. It can be very rewarding to share with others the history of our community.

Training will be provided, so you will know everything you need to know to be a wonderful docent! If you can help, contact Linda Denk, Iles House Volunteer Coordinator: 546-9537 or dec22@insightbb.com.

SCHS Authors

SCHS members who have authored books in the last 10 years are invited to share them, and perhaps sell a few, at this year's Cemetery Walk on October 9th. Please contact Paul Mueller 522-6787 or mrclean1989@warpanet.net

Please respond to this notice as letters will not be sent out this year.



*Lincoln -
Van Buren
Event
June 15-16*

Event to host an art show, antique show, flower show, quilt show and rug-hooking exhibit. In addition Lincoln-Van Buren trail will be dedicated and a 16' X 24' mural unveiled.

Friday 2-4:00 PM Tea at Kensington House honoring presidential descendants. \$10.00.

6:30 PM Presidential Dinner featuring panel discussion on historical perspectives of Lincoln and Van Buren. \$50.00

For additional information and reservations, contact Carolyn Moore 498-7891

Interesting websites sought:

If you know of interesting historical or community websites that might intrigue the membership, please send them to the editor with a little background information about them. We will hope to introduce them next fall.

Cemetery Walk October 9th!

Portrayals to include:

George Zwicky - a member of a Swiss immigrant family who carried on the family's soap manufacturing business which included George's discovery - a "floating soap."

Aslag Eielson - A Norwegian immigrant seaman who proved to be most successful in the lumber business.

Eda Mueller - Daughter of and successor to Gerhardt Mueller in the family wholesale liquor business.

Ezra Barnes - a New England orphan came to Chatham Township as a clock peddler, worked in the Galena lead mines for a while, carried specie between Springfield and St. Louis, and became a successful farmer accumulating over 800 acres and thousands of sheep, cattle and horses.

Harriet Coats - the widow of a Springfield farmer and grocer.

Cyrus Van Deren - An early settler who lived in both Woodside Township and Chatham; served as a state senator, a Sangamon County judge, a justice of the peace; and was one of the original stockholders of the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad.

Plan to volunteer and attend!