



On The Square

Sponsored by Heartland Bank

The Quarterly Newsletter for the McLean County Museum of History

Volume 42, Number 2

June, July, August 2010

Dennis French to Present Photographic Tour of Southeast Asia

The Museum is proud to welcome local artist and photographer Dennis French, who will present a slideshow of his 2009 trip to Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. Offered in conjunction with the Museum's exhibit *A Turbulent Time: Perspectives of the Vietnam War*, the program will be held in the Governor Fifer Courtroom at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 10, and is free and open to the public.

As a youth, French developed an interest in photography, a result of looking through *National Geographics*. The combination of exotic faraway cultures and stunning photojournalism captivated him.

During his U.S. Army tour in Vietnam (1970-71) with the 79th Engineer Group, his primary job was that of construction draftsman. But when his unit's photographer was injured and sent home about three months into his tour, French was asked to take on those responsibilities as well. This included running a mobile darkroom in 100 degree heat! Since his "Asian initiation" in 1970, he has been back to that part of the world countless times, but never to Vietnam. He made a pact with himself that once he retired, Vietnam/Cambodia

would be his first major trip, a dream which he fulfilled in November 2009.

French graduated from Arizona State University in 1977 with a bachelor of fine arts and a minor in anthropology. He also attended the University of Illinois and received a master of fine arts in metals and jewelry design in 1980. From 1983 until his retirement in May 2009, French taught the Jewelry and Metals Design program at Illinois State University.

His presentation will include pictures highlighting the far north Sa Pa region that is only a few kilometers from the Chinese border, as well as Hanoi, Hue, Ha Long Bay, Hoian, the Mekong Delta and the Cao Dai Temple outside of Tay Ninh City. In addition, French will show selected images from Angkor Wat in Cambodia and the Lumphaya Floating Market in Thailand.

For more information on this and other programs, please contact the Education Department at (309) 827-0428 or via email at: education@mchistory.org.

Support for this program provided by



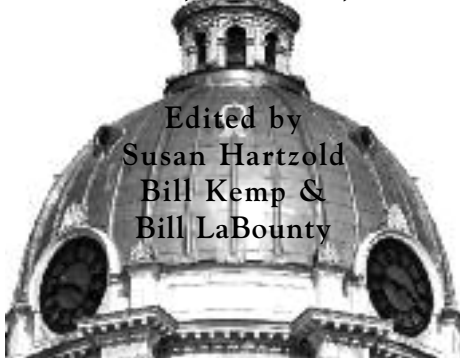
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Quarterly Newsletter

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Edited by
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Bill Kemp &
Bill LaBounty

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 Tuesday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

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Vietnam Exhibit Extended

Since *A Turbulent Time: Perspectives of the Vietnam War* opened in January 2008, the Museum has received overwhelmingly positive response to this exhibit. This feedback has included growing use of the exhibit by as many as eight area high school and college teachers who have incorporated visiting it into their curriculum.

As early as last fall area teachers began to tell Museum staff that they hoped the exhibit would remain open for a longer period. Because the Museum's key mission is to tell the history of McLean County, and this exhibit was doing just that and doing it very successfully, the option to postpone the closing date was given serious thought. In addition, given the recent economic downturn and subsequent budget belt tightening here at the Museum, economically, it made further sense to extend the exhibit.

Accordingly, we are now pleased to announce that the exhibit has indeed been extended an additional year—through August 6, 2011. We have also decided to keep another exhibit open longer than originally planned. *Come & Get It! The Way We Ate 1830-2008* will now remain open through January 2012.

The Museum's staff and Board of Directors wish to thank members of the community who loaned artifacts to the museum for either of these exhibits for their initial loans and for then agreeing to extend the loans.



Staff Picks Tri-Valley History Fair Favorites

Congratulations to the following Tri-Valley Middle School students whose history projects were deemed favorites by Museum staff:

Most Creative Project: "The Dana-Thomas House of Springfield" by Taylor Williams.

Best McLean County Project: "John Patton Log Cabin of Lexington" by Michael McCarty and Angel Chaidez.

Best Critical Thinking Project: "The Rosemond Grove Cemetery" by Vanessa Holliday.

Best Overall Project (2 winners): "Illinois Soldier's and Sailor's Children's Home" by Daniel Benedetto and Tyler Creamean; and "Cherry Mine Disaster" by Courtney Brown and Taylor Tedrick.

These students will receive a special certificate at the Museum's next Board Meeting on May 19. Congratulations to all student participants for all their hard work generating interest in Illinois' fascinating history.

Music Historian Michael Lasser to Present Program



Join the Museum in welcoming back wildly popular Michael Lasser for a lecture on the relationship between food and music entitled *Cooking Breakfast for the One I Love: When (and Why) Love Songs Sing About Food*. This lecture will be held Saturday, August 21, in the Governor Fifer Courtroom. It is free and open to the public.

Popular songs are more likely to be about a sandwich and a cup of coffee than more elegant fare, but these allusions to food in song give us insight into character, an irreverent dash of satire, a sense of how songwriters use common associations and attitudes suggestive of their time—everything from Irving Berlin’s playfully ironic, “Let’s Have Another Cup of Coffee,” to Henry Tobias and Billy Rose’s charmingly naughty, “Cooking Breakfast for the One I Love.” Interestingly, there are more song

references to food and eating during the Great Depression than at any other time in the twentieth century. Evidently we sing about food more often when it is harder to come by.

Lasser is a co-author of the book *America’s Songs: The Stories Behind the Songs of Broadway, Hollywood, and Tin Pan Alley*. These songs are the basis for his nationally syndicated public radio program, *Fascinatin’ Rhythm*, winner of a 1994 Peabody Award. He has spoken at universities and art and history museums in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Lasser also appears with two singers in cabaret-style performances enhanced by his knowledge of the songwriters, the music’s history, and how the songs amuse us and stir our emotions. He has taught the history of the Broadway musical at colleges and universities, and has been a freelance writer for a wide range of national magazines. He was also a major contributor to the standard work, *American Song Lyricists, 1920-1960*.

This program is being held in conjunction with the Museum’s current exhibit *Come and Get It! The Way We Ate: 1830-2008*. For more information on this and other programs, please contact the Education Department at (309) 827-0428 or via email at: education@mchistory.org

Support for this program provided by



Fresh From the Farm: Poetry at Babbitt’s Returns for Farmers’ Market

Join the Museum in welcoming back the Poetry at Babbitt’s Workshop. The program will feature poems about farming, fresh foods, folk music, and Lincoln. There will also be poems inspired by the Museum’s *Farming* exhibit and the *Lincoln in Illinois* photograph exhibit. Here’s a taste of what you’ll hear:

*The Lincoln Bench in Bloomington, Illinois
Cast in iron on the square,
Mr. Lincoln lingers there.
Hat in hand, he settles in
to rest awhile and maybe spin
a yarn or two if you drop by
to sit beneath the dome of sky.*

—Peg Kirk

This event will be held on Saturday, June 26 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. during Farmers’ Market and is free and open to the public. For more information please contact the Education Department at 827-0428 or visit the Museum’s website at www.mchistory.org.

Volunteers that Wow Us

Every year the museum tallies up the accumulated hours of its volunteers. This year’s top ten volunteers of all time are:

Bill LaBounty	8,543
Judith Myers	4,097
Nola Marquardt	3,205
Elsie Schalk	3,086
John Sicks	2,881
Donna Jenkins	2,773
Carol Fox	2,644
Peggy Fuller	2,621
William Miller	2,238
Ardys Serpette	2,005

Financial Planning and the “Safety Valve”

As a rule, financial planners favor consolidating IRAs into a single account for ease of management. Having lots of different accounts means lots of different statements and, very often, an incoherent and impulse-driven investment approach. However, there is a circumstance in which having multiple accounts can be advantageous. It has to do with conversions of traditional IRAs to Roth IRAs.

When a traditional IRA is converted to a Roth IRA, all of the nontaxed portion of the account becomes taxable. Assume that a \$500,000 IRA is converted by a taxpayer in the 35% tax bracket. The tax cost of the conversion comes to \$175,000.

All income and growth in the Roth IRA is potentially tax free after the date of the conversion. But what if the market tanks? Say that the \$500,000 Roth IRA falls to \$400,000? The owner still will owe the full \$175,000 in taxes on the conversion.

The tax code has a safety valve built in for such situations. The account owner is permitted to recharacterize the conversion, going back to the traditional IRA format and erasing the tax obligation.

The recharacterized IRA then can be converted to Roth status at a later date—at least 30 days, or the next tax year, whichever is later.

A middle ground is possible, one that involves using multiple Roth IRAs to receive the conversions.

A two-basket plan

For the sake of simplicity, assume that the \$500,000 IRA is half in bonds, half in stocks. When the account is converted, one Roth IRA will be a basket for all the bonds, a second Roth IRA will own all the stocks. Now let's say that the account contraction is concentrated in one or the other asset class. Perhaps an interest rate hike causes bond values to fall, or a major economic setback hurts stock values. For whatever reason, at year-end one IRA is worth \$150,000, and the other is worth \$250,000.

At that point the owner can decide to recharacterize just one of the Roth IRAs, the one that declined in value. He can cut his tax bill on the conversion in half by so doing.

What about the situation when the accounts don't go down in value? There still can be added financial flexibility in having

more than one Roth IRA. For example, let's say that by tax time the fellow who converted the \$500,000 traditional IRA can't come up with the necessary \$175,000 to pay the tax. He might decide to recharacterize one of the two IRAs, cutting the tax bill in half, just to ease the burden on his cash flow.

Caveats

Normally, the income tax is due on a conversion to a Roth IRA in the tax year of the conversion. For 2010 Roth conversions only, the income can be spread over the 2011 and 2012 tax years instead. A 2010 conversion that is recharacterized won't be eligible for this favorable treatment.

But is the treatment so favorable? Tax professionals debate that question daily. Income tax rates for top-bracket taxpayers appear to be headed higher, perhaps sharply higher, as the Bush tax cuts expire at the end of 2010.

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Jewel and Elsie Schalk Named Honorary Lincoln Club Members

An anonymous donor has continued an annual tradition of making a Lincoln Club gift in the name of a dedicated volunteer, or in this case volunteers. Jewel and Elsie Schalk have been chosen as this year's recipients, and they certainly are deserving of this distinction.

Over the years, Elsie has logged an amazing 3,086 volunteer hours for the Museum, the fifth highest all-time total. She has been volunteering since the Museum was located in the McBarnes building. Jewel has also given an impressive 1,275 hours of his time, a total that places him in the top twenty. According to the federal standard, the value of a volunteer hour is \$20.85. That puts their combined donation of time to the Museum at over \$90,000. However, it's impossible to put a dollar amount on what their years of dedication to our mission have meant to us. It's safe to say that they have given a lifetime of Lincoln Club gifts with their generous donation of time. We thank Jewel and Elsie for their service, and we thank our donor who made this possible.

State Farm is Museum's "Good Neighbor"

As a result of the contributions of our State Farm volunteers, we received \$7,500 from the State Farm Companies Foundation's Good Neighbor Grant Program. Fifteen employees and retirees gave forty or more hours of their time and talents to the Museum in calendar year 2009. We thank the following volunteers for choosing the Museum as the beneficiary of these funds: Deborah Boston, Michael DeVore, Willie Brown, Wilma J. Farmer, Louise Hebert, Karen Heinrich, Charles Lamlein, Judith Myers, Margaret D. Myers, Robert J. Scott, Patrick V. Wilson, Sharon Tallon, Robert L. Watkins, Mary Diane Hawk and Mary Alice Willis.

The financial support we receive through this program contributes to the development of new educational programs for children and adults. We applaud State Farm and its employees for placing great value on volunteer service and this community.

On the Square Gift Shop BLOWOUT SALE

The Museum's On the Square Gift Shop is busting at the seams with history goodies. We need to make room for new items, so we are slashing prices on already reduced items. Stop by the gift shop and check out the fascinating history items on clearance through June, July and August! Items include vintage greeting cards, WJBC media and the audio CD *A Tour Narrated by Abraham Lincoln*. Tear out this coupon for an additional 25% off the clearance price! Come in today and don't forget this coupon!

25% off already reduced items at the
On the Square
Gift Shop

Schierman Presents at Conference

Mary Anne Schierman was at the American Association of Museums (AAM) annual conference in Los Angeles in May. While there she participated in the session "Talking Shop: A Roundtable Discussion with Volunteer and Docent Managers." Her discussion focused on developing and maintaining a thriving internship program. This is the sixth conference session Mary Anne has presented as a representative of the Museum. She has been at the Museum for eleven years, coordinating approximately 225 individuals per year. She is also a Mid-West regional director of the board of the American Association of Museum Volunteers, treasurer and immediate past president of the Mid-Central (Illinois) Volunteer Coordinator's Association and co-chair of the East Central Illinois Conference on Volunteerism taking place at Heartland Community College on June 10 of this year.



The Museum Welcomes the Following New Members

Mr. Terry and Mrs. Kathy Oberhardt
Mr. Doug Shankel
Mr. John and Mrs. Barbara Marshall
Mr. Anthony Crubaugh
Ms. Deborah Hutchins
Ms. Daniella Barroqueiro

Mr. Philip Shaw
Ms. Julia Davis
Ms. Virginia Gaston
Dr. Don and Ms. Sharon Cochran

Thank you so much for your support!

Abraham Lincoln in Bloomington Festival

On Saturday, July 31, Bloomington residents are invited to Celebrate Lincoln in Bloomington. Throughout the day sites throughout Bloomington, including the McLean County Museum of History and the David Davis Mansion, will host reenactors, traditional craft demonstrations, children's activities, musical performances, lectures and tours, all relating to Lincoln in Bloomington.

McLean County Museum of History

- At 11:15 a.m. Guy Fraker will present *Lincoln on the Eighth Cudical Circuit*, a program that explores Lincoln's life as a circuit lawyer. For more information call the Museum at 827-0428

- At 1 p.m. Museum Director Greg Koos will lead a downtown Bloomington walking tour of historic sites relating to Lincoln.

David Davis Mansion

Activities will focus on the 1860 campaign and election of Lincoln and will be spread throughout the day.

- Abraham Lincoln and David Davis reenactors will recall humorous stories from the 1860 presidential campaign and election, and later President and Mrs. Lincoln will stroll the grounds.

- Performances by the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Regimental Band.

- Reenactors will set up a Union soldier camp and settler's camp. Demonstrations will include a surgical reenactment.

- The Tea Ladies will invite visitors to participate in an officer's tea.

- Period arts and crafts, foods, and children's activities.

For more information call the Davis Mansion at 828-1084.

The Oaks (Asahel Gridley Mansion)

- Reenactors of the 10th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, known as "Lincoln's Own," will be encamped at the Mansion and will share demonstrations of every day camp life of the cavalry soldier. For more information call Barb Adams at 824-8862.

Burr House located on the western edge of historic Franklin Park

- reenactors will be set up on the lawn to share their Union soldier stories.

- Tours of their Bed and Breakfast and refreshments will also be offered. For more information call 828-7686.

Vrooman Mansion (situated in the Dimmitt's Grove neighborhood)

- Reenactors will set up a Civil War campsite close to the site of the Lincoln Oak where it is said that Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas may have sparred. For more information call the Vrooman Mansion at 828-8816

Lincoln Sculpture in Bloomington

The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of McLean County continues to take donations for the sculpture, "Convergence of Purpose," to be installed at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts this coming October.



The life-sized bronze statuary group will feature Abraham Lincoln, Jesse Fell and David Davis, and pays tribute to the key role Bloomington played in making Abraham Lincoln president of the United States. It was commissioned in recognition of the Lincoln Bicentennial.

Bloomington artist Andrew Jumonville was selected to create this piece through a national search. The sculpture represents Davis and Fell's work to convince Lincoln to run for President. Without their tireless efforts, Lincoln may never have been nominated and elected.



Artist scale model of the sculpture "Convergence of Purpose."

To make a donation to the statue fund go to www.mclincoln.org and click on "Convergence of Purpose Statue fund."

The Museum's Valued Volunteers for 2009 - 2010

The museum extends its gratitude to each and every one!

Craig Alexander	Lynne Fazzini	John Killian	Sarah Rapp	Tony Turchirollo
Katie Allen**	Karen Fleming	Peg Kirk	Paul Rayburn **	Rebecca Valdez
Barbara Allsup	Flora Foltz	Katharine Klein**	Nadine Reining	Phylis VerSteegh
Jim Anderson	Carol Fox (270)	Kristie Klinger	Joanne Ressler	Sandra Voyles
Mary Anderson	Don Fox	Verena Knapp	Ben Rhodes	Nicole Wagner **
Marilyn Aucutt	Guy Fraker	Carole Knipp	Alexander Roehm **	Patricia
Drew Barringer	Russel Francois	John Kohoutek	Betty Salch	Wannemacher*
Diana Behnke	Marilyn Freese	Pat Kohoutek	Dorothy Sallee	Robert Watkins
Carl Behr	Denise Fries	Carol Koos	Neil Sallee	Joanne Weed
Judie Bey	Sharon Frizzell	Michael Kozak	Denise Sampson **	James Weirman
Maureen Blair	Nancy Froelich	Bill LaBounty (795)	Loretta Santejka	Pete Whitmer
Barbara Blunk	Peggy Fuller	Charles Lamlein	Elsie Schalk	Ylanda Wilhite
Patricia Bolda *	Mary Gastelum	Mark Langenfeld *	Jewel Schalk	Amy Wiens
Peter Borowski	Chuck Geigner	Daniel Locke	Joyce Schneider	Nancy Wilkey
Deb Boston	Judy Geigner	David Long**	Steve Schroeder	Doug Williamson
Sean Boston *	Mark Gibson	Patricia Luthe	Jacqueline	Myron Willke
Shirley Boward	Janet Giegerich	Ruth Mangina	Schwarzentraub	Mary Alice Wills
John Bowles III	Anthony Green	Nola Marquardt (300)	Mary Scott	Patrick Wilson
Al Bowman	Talli Hardt	Mike Matejka	Robert Scott (211)	Richard Wilson
Amy Bowman	Sandra Harmon	Mary McClintock	Ardys Serpette	Annajean Winn *
Anthony Bowman**	Sara Harris**	Kathy McNiff	Deb Setterlund	Angela Woodard *
Roger Bridges	Elizabeth Harroun	Izabel Mecinski**	Nancy Shevokas	Arielle Woodard *
Alison Brown**	Joann Hart (237)	John Meek	Phyllis Short *	Terry Woodburn
Willie Brown	Diana Hauman	Emily Mihalcean**	John Sicks	Carolyn Yockey
Sarah Butler	Diane Hawk	Amy Miller	Soemer Simmons	Ethlyn Yount
Don Clemens	Louise Hebert	William Miller	Scott Smith	Mary Kay Zeter
Shirley Clemens *	Karen Heinrich (205)	Arlene Mitchell *	Vickie Smith	Eve Zook
Ruthie Cobb	Kay Henrichs	Gretchen Monti	Matt Sorenson	
James Coe	Carol Herdien	Victoria More' **	Peg Sours (209)	
Kathleen Conley	Michelle Herrmann	Charlene Morger	Patty Stahly	
Elaine Cousins	Frank Hill	Carolyn Moyer	Harry Stern	
Dani Creasey	Jordan Hill	Pamela Muirhead	Carol Straka (663)	
Jessica Creasey	Mary Rose Hill	Gene Murray	Amy Stringwell	
Sara Cushing	Mary Hollywood	Judith Myers (363)	Joseph Summers	
Jill Meek-Davis	Gary Hoover	Margaret (Dee)	Sharon Tallon	
Nancy Davis	Milan Jackson *	Myers	Lisa Texiera	
Dianne DeLong	Zoe Iutzi	Marcia Nagy	Stephanie Thomas **	
Doug DeLong	Danielle Jackson**	Robert Neuleib	Yuki Tian	
Eva DeVore	Donna Jenkins	Gary Nichols	Chizuko Tsukamoto	
Mike DeVore	Alexandra Jones	Marie O'Brokta		
Rob Dirks	Joyce Jones	Vicki Olsen		
Fred Dolan	Arti Kamatar	David Olson **		
David Dorris	Eileen Kanzler	Jerry Parsons		
Lisa Dretske**	James Keeran	Marcy Parsons *		
Mark Dunn	Frank Kemp	Pat Perkins		
Tod Eagleton	Sue Kemp	Ann Peterson		
Diane Eytalis	Mike Kerber	Flora Poling		
Paul Essington	Chris Kibler	Nadine Prall		
Jane Farmer	John Kibler	Jeff Raines		
Rob Fazzini	Jana Kiefer	Kay Ramseyer		

* Completed 50 hours of service to earn a name badge.

** Student Intern

Bold - most volunteer hours 2009-2010

The Museum apologizes if your name was inadvertently left off this list. Please call the Director of Volunteers, Mary Anne Schierman (827-0428), with any corrections.

Volunteers Feted at Annual Appreciation Party

On April 21 the Museum honored its volunteers with a dessert reception, prepared and organized by the staff. This past fiscal year 207 volunteers contributed 15,006 hours of service. The entertainment was a behind-the-scenes tour of four archive/storage areas with tours and presentations led by staff. This organization could not open its doors without the valuable service volunteers provide. We graciously thank all of them.





New to the Collections

OBJECTS

- ❑ Tea pot and platter decorated by women associates of Mayor Judy Markowitz for her retirement; donated by Judy Markowitz.
- ❑ SAR medals and badges of James Hamm; donated by General Bartholomew Chapter of Sons of American Revolution.
- ❑ Records used by the American Legion before they had a band; donated by American Legion.
- ❑ Thermograph used at the *Pantagraph* for many years; donated by Sharon Wolfe.
- ❑ Window painted "Randolph Post Office;" donated by the Ivan Light family.
- ❑ Dale McMackin's football shoes from IWU 1932, school bell from Hillside School, crazy quilt made by Grandma

McMackin; donated by the estate of Dale McMackin.

- ❑ Pencil drawing of IWU's Old North Hall; donated by Phyllis Short.

ARCHIVES

- ❑ Material relating to the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School (ISSCS) including menus, proctor's handbook and memo, all 1955; by Jacqueline D. Erikson.
- ❑ Illinois State University student-written papers from the 1980s based on interviews with veterans and others from World War II; by Earl A. Reitan, ISU professor emeritus in history.
- ❑ *Daily Vidette* (student newspaper of Illinois State University), February 11,

1969, covering the dedication of Stevenson Hall; by William R. Miller.

- ❑ Various, mostly relating to Illinois State University and University High School, including report to university community by ISU President David Berlo, and ISU faculty and graduate student library handbook, spring 1970; by Robert Neuleib.
- ❑ Business ledger for H.A. Miner, mostly receipts, 1880s; by Jim Armstrong.
- ❑ Various items relating to Eureka Co., including 1979 Illinois State University research paper, newspaper clippings and product catalog and brochure, 1990; by Vicki Olsen.
- ❑ Hotel Tilden-Hall, coaster for Pink Elephant Tap Room; by Elsie L. and Jewel W. Schalk.
- ❑ Letter on Hills (hotel) stationery, 1909, and Lake Erie & Western Railway stationery, 1886; by Amy Miller.
- ❑ CD containing digital scans of pages from scrapbook of Bloomington Fire Department (BFD) firefighters Fred Wade and father; by Rich Batka, BFD firefighter.
- ❑ American Passion Play program, ca. 1928; by Maryann Sharifi.
- ❑ Research clippings, extensive run of *Post Amerikan* newspaper, political ephemera, all relating to activities in McLean County, ca. 1972 to 1990; by Mark Silverstein.
- ❑ Various items relating to the Longfellow Club, including

A recent donation from the estate of Dale McMackin has brought us the football shoes he wore while a player for Illinois Wesleyan University. His freshman yearbook (1932) describes McMackin as, "A Freshman with a great chance of becoming one of the best of Wesleyan's fighting heroes, a man with a fighting heart and ever on his toes in a battle. He is a product of Bloomington High, well grounded in the fundamentals of the game. Dale is well liked by all members of the team and is always a leader in keeping up the morale of the boys." Many thanks to Vicki Thomas for this gift.

The Museum is beginning work on an exhibit that explores the history of sports in McLean County. If you have artifacts or memorabilia related to this topic that you would like to donate, please be sure to contact us!



Titan "Leatherhead" Dale McMackin and his shoes

programs and membership lists; by M&J Sales.

- ❑ Sheet music and lyrics, "The Bridge was Burned at Chatsworth," 1887; by Amy Miller.
- ❑ Various, mostly related to the political career of Carol Reitan, including 1972 and 1976 state senate campaigns, and 1972 Normal mayoral campaign, including newspaper articles, campaign material and miscellany; by Carol A. Reitan.
- ❑ DVD featuring segment on local artist Harold Gregor; by Laura E. Berk.
- ❑ Seven-page, typed manuscript, "Growing up Jewish in Bloomington in the Mid-Twentieth Century," as recalled by Sybil Stern Mervis; by Sybil Mervis.

BOOKS

- ❑ Bound issues of *Stars and Stripes* newspaper, February 1918 to June 1919; by American Legion Louis E. Davis Post 56, Mike Moffitt, commander.
- ❑ *Two Years' Residence on the English Prairie of Illinois* by John Woods (1968 edition); by William D. Walters.
- ❑ *The Aegis* (Bloomington High School newspaper, 1910 commencement issue featuring boys' state basketball champs), and *100 Years of Madness: The Illinois High School Association Boys' Basketball Tournament* (2006); by the Illinois High School Association, Scott

Longtime Museum volunteers Elsie and Jewel Schalk recently donated this Pink Elephant Tap Room coaster. The restaurant was located in the Hotel Tilden-Hall, a popular downtown hangout for three decades.

The Tilden-Hall, located at the northeast corner of Madison and Washington streets, opened around 1900, but was first known as the Arnold. Later name changes included the Hills and then the Arlington. In 1932-1933, during the Great Depression, lumbermen and building contractors William Tilden and Charles Hall took a gamble and modernized the down-on-its-luck hotel. The newly renovated hotel included the Pullman Coffee shop and the Pink Elephant ("Where the spirit of fellowship reigns supreme"). In late 1961 Peoples Bank (now Commerce) purchased the Tilden-Hall, and not long after the old hotel was razed to make way for a parking lot.

Elsie Schalk remembers being in the Pink Elephant the final night before its closing when the bartender gave her a stack of coasters as a keepsake.

The Museum is always on the lookout for local hotel and business ephemera, including brochures, stationery, ink blotters, receipts and the like.



Coaster from the Hotel Tilden Hall bar, the Pink Elephant Tap Room

- Johnson, assistant executive director.
- ❑ *The O'Neills of County Cork* (1999) by Germaine C. Grady; by Greg Koos.
- ❑ 125th anniversary history of Saunemin (Livingston County); by Judith G. Stone.
- ❑ Various county plat books, including DeWitt, Woodford and Logan counties; by Barbara Ringger.
- ❑ Jacqueline D. Erikson.
- ❑ Four photographs of John W., John L. and Lewis W. Probasco; by Elizabeth Kutchai.
- ❑ Two 8x10 prints of visit to Illinois State University campus by Hubert Humphrey, late 1960s; by Mike Whelan.
- ❑ 8x10 print of Irish immigrant Mary Motherway O'Neil; by Greg Koos.
- ❑ 4½x2½ black-and-white photo of unidentified man standing in front of Williams Oil-O-Matic truck, no date; by Pete Hettinger.

PHOTOS

- ❑ Ten color photographs of Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School (ISSCS) campus buildings, ca. 1981; by

To make donations of photographs, books or archival materials call the Museum's Librarian/Archivist, Bill Kemp. If you have objects you wish to donate to the collection call the Museum's Curator of Collections, Susan Hartzold. Both can be reached at the McLean County Museum of History, 827-0428.

Ask the Librarian!



1316 E. Washington St, and is considered the boyhood home of Adlai II. This home, designed by Bloomington architect Arthur L. Pillsbury, was built in 1899 for Lyman Graham, who lived at 1302 E. Washington. Graham rented the house to Lyle Funk and his wife Irene. It was originally built in a Victorian colonial revival style. Lewis and Helen Stevenson, along with their two children Elizabeth and Adlai, moved into this home in 1906. Pillsbury was then retained by the family to make several major changes, including a modification of the front porch and the addition of a concrete terrace. In addition, the clapboard of the exterior was covered with stucco. These changes, also overseen by Pillsbury, were made in the English Arts and Crafts style.

The Two Adlai Stevenson Houses

This issue's "Ask the Librarian" question comes from Museum member Roger Hughes, who wanted to know a little something about the two Adlai Stevenson houses in Bloomington.

Visitors to Bloomington, and even locals with an interest in local history, are often confused about the two homes in Bloomington with connections to an Adlai Stevenson.

The older home, located at the north-east corner of McLean and Chestnut streets on Franklin Park, was the home of Adlai E. Stevenson I, who served as vice president during Democratic President Grover Cleveland's second (but not consecutive) term, 1893 to 1897. This home dates to 1869 and was originally built for William K. Dodson. In the 1880s, Adlai and his wife Letitia Green bought the home. Built in the



Italianate style, the house once featured ornate brackets, decorative porches with high columns and a widow's walk (see accompanying photograph). Sadly, this local gem, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was foreclosed last fall. As of this writing, First State Bank of Bloomington is still looking for a buyer.

Adlai I had a son Lewis, who then had a son Adlai II. The fact that the unusual name of Adlai skipped a generation is often the source of confusion between the two men and the two houses associated with their lives and careers.

The second Adlai Stevenson home is located at

Young Adlai lived in this house until he was sent to college preparatory boarding school on the East Coast. His sister Elizabeth "Buffie" Ives retired here, and used the family home as her primary residence until she passed away in the early 1990s. The home was bequeathed to the McLean County Museum of History, which then undertook a major renovation of this historic home. Last fall the Museum placed this home on the market, and as of this writing, it too is still waiting for a buyer.

If you have a question for next issue, please call Bill or George in the Library / Archives at 827-0428 or email via library@mchistory.org.

McLean County Museum of History

Calendar of Events for June, July, August 2010



Through August 6, 2011

A Turbulent Time: Perspectives of the Vietnam War explores the complex ways McLean County residents perceived and responded to this crucial twentieth century event.

Saturdays until August 6, 2011

Support our Veterans. Every Saturday during the Vietnam exhibit, visitors may donate items listed below in exchange for the admission fee. These items will be given to patients and residents of the Department of Veterans Affairs Danville Medical Center. **New and unused items** (no hotel items please): Spray deodorant, mouthwash, hairbrushes, combs, hand liquid soap, body powder, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, pre-shave lotion, aftershave, disposable razors, stationary kits, paperback puzzle books (large print is preferred), playing cards, t-shirts, and socks.

Through January 29, 2012

Come and Get It! The Way We Ate 1830-2008. This exhibit explores the eating habits, cooking equipment and methods, and diverse food traditions of McLean County residents since the early 1800s. Discover how dramatically our habits have changed over time. Investigate four kitchens, each representing a different era and illustrating how the kitchen has changed in the last 180 years.



Through August 21

Stevenson House Treasures. This fascinating exhibit features antique furniture, decorative arts, travel mementos, heirloom pieces and political artifacts collected by members of the Stevenson Family while living at their home at 1316 E. Washington St.

Through November 12, 2010

Lincoln in Illinois. Photographic exhibit featuring images by Ron Schramm, Chicago photographer, of Lincoln sculptures in Illinois. The exhibit is located in the first floor hallway of the Museum.

Saturdays through October 9

Museum Opens at 8:30 a.m. to all visitors! Tour the Museum's latest exhibits and shop at Farmer's Market—how convenient is that!

Saturday, June 5 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Museum at the Market. Visit our booth for information on upcoming Museum events and exhibits and to view some unique mystery artifacts from the Museum's collection. Guess what they are, and you could win a prize!

Saturday, June 12 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Museum at the Market. Visit our booth for information on upcoming Museum events and exhibits and children's activities.

June 21 through June 25 Session 1

History Careers Day Camp. Open to students entering fourth, fifth and sixth grades in the fall. This camp explores the history-related careers of archaeology, museums, art history and architecture and environmental science, now expanded to a five-day camp.

Saturday, June 19 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Museum at the Market. Visit our booth for more information on upcoming events and exhibits.

Saturday, June 26 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Fresh From the Farm. Join the Museum in welcoming back the Poetry at Babbitt's Workshop, this time with poems about farming, fresh foods, folk music, and our own honest Abe. This program is free and open to the public and will be held in the Museum's Governor Fifer Courtroom.

Saturday, June 26 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Museum at the Market. Museum Executive Director Greg Koos will lead an architectural walking tour of Downtown Bloomington. Tour will begin at main entrance of Museum.

Saturday, July 10 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Museum at the Market. Visit our booth for information on upcoming Museum events and exhibits and children's activities.

Saturday, July 10 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Photographic Tour of Vietnam, Cambodia and Indochina. Join the Museum in welcoming local artist and photographer Dennis French for a photographic presentation on his recent trip to Vietnam, Cambodia and Indochina. French is a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving as an Army engineer from 1970-71. This program is free and open to the public.

July 12 through July 16 Session II

History Careers Day Camp. Open to students entering fourth, fifth and sixth grades in the fall. This camp explores the history-related careers of archaeology, museums, art history and architecture and environmental science, now expanded to a five-day camp.

Saturday, July 17 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Museum at the Market. Visit our booth for information on upcoming Museum events and exhibits and play "What the Heck Is It!?"

Saturday, July 24 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Museum at the Market. Visit our booth for information on upcoming Museum events and exhibits and play "What the Heck is It!?"

Saturday, July 31 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Lincoln in Bloomington Festival. Join the Museum, David Davis Mansion Historic Site, Burr House, Vrooman Mansion and other local sites for the Lincoln in Bloomington Festival. Throughout the day, these various sites will host Civil War reenactors, traditional craft demonstrations, children's activities, musical performances, talks and tours. The Museum will feature a lecture, *Lincoln on the Eighth Circuit Judicial Circuit*, by local Lincoln historian Guy Fraker, and a *Lincoln in Downtown Bloomington* walking tour by the Museum's Executive Director Greg Koos.

August 2 through August 6 Session III

History Careers Day Camp. Open to students entering fourth, fifth and sixth grades in the fall. This camp explores the history-related careers of archaeology, museums, art history and architecture and environmental science, now expanded to a five-day camp.

Saturday, August 7 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Museum at the Market. Executive Director Greg Koos will lead an architectural walking tour of Downtown Bloomington. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early as tour will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. at the main entrance to the Museum.

Saturday, August 14 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Museum at the Market. Visit our booth for information on upcoming Museum events and exhibits.

Saturday, August 21 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

“Cooking Breakfast for the One I Love:” When (and Why) Love Songs Sing About Food. Join the Museum in welcoming back music historian and broadcaster Michael Lasser for a lecture on the relationship between food and music. It will be held in the Museum’s Governor Fifer Courtroom and is free and open to the public.

Volunteer Help Wanted

On the Square Gift Shop seeking motivated manager – In this position, the volunteer would be in charge of ordering appropriate history resources, pricing, maintaining inventory, and other general duties. Complete training is provided by the Director of Education, the staff supervisor for this position. The Museum’s gift shop is an extension of our education mission, which reflects our local history. From its sales, the organization receives \$5,000 to \$7,500 per year in net revenue.

Girl Scout Badge Program Volunteer – In this position, the volunteers assist Museum Educators in providing quality Girl Scout badge programs for first through sixth graders. Programs are taught after school and on Saturdays. Each program lasts approximately three hours. Complete training is provided by Museum Educators. These programs are craft related and a lot of fun.

Reception Desk Volunteers – Weekend volunteers needed. In this position, the volunteer is the official greeter and Museum representative. The reception desk assistant greets visitors, and gives them a brief introduction to the Museum. They also answer the

phone, take brief messages for staff, and answer general questions. Complete training is provided. In this interesting position, you meet visitors from all over the world. Reception desk assistants are asked to serve two four-hour shifts per month. The Director of Volunteers and Interns works with your schedule and availability.

Education Outreach Volunteers (EOV) – Education outreach volunteers are trained to assist the Director of Education and the Education Program Coordinator with school tours. This is a very flexible volunteer opportunity. You are called to assist as the need arises. The average time commitment is usually two hours. Education volunteers work with children of all ages, but primarily pre-school through junior high. Complete training and all materials are provided.

Are you interested in meeting people in an exciting atmosphere and contributing to your community? If so, please contact Mary Anne Schierman, Director of Volunteers and Interns, 827-0428, or email: volunteers@mchistory.org





MYSTERY HISTORY QUIZ

For this issue, we leave the Twin Cities and head out into the fresh air of the McLean County countryside. Can you identify this community? Only one guess per person! If you think you know the answer, call Museum librarian Bill Kemp at 827-0428 or email him at library@mchistory.org.

Mystery History

Last issue's photograph of the Fell Ave. bridge over Sugar Creek just north of Emerson St. stumped quite a few history sleuths. Some thought it showed the Lake Bloomington spillway, while other guesses included the Main St. bridge to the west (where the original Steak 'n Shake was located) and the Old Colonial Rd. bridge across Little Kickapoo Creek.

Three sleuths did identify the correct location: Jack Keefe, David Beich and Ken Hartweg. Jack, local historian extraordinaire and compiler of the popular *Pantagraph* feature "How Time Flies," noted that this stretch of Fell Ave. was paved in the spring of 1910, making it the first paved thoroughfare connecting Bloomington with Normal.



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