

We end our fourth year at 111 South Main Street in Canton, having welcomed 2050 visitors, to-date, and having reached many more with our Facebook page, media interviews, and programs in the community. We have acquired hundreds of historic artifacts to achieve our mission, “to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Canton’s and the surrounding area’s history, culture, and industry.”

Following are reports of the Heritage Center committees and activities in the past year. We increased our outreach to Canton alums and hosting of group tours. We hope you’ll plan to come visit us, too.

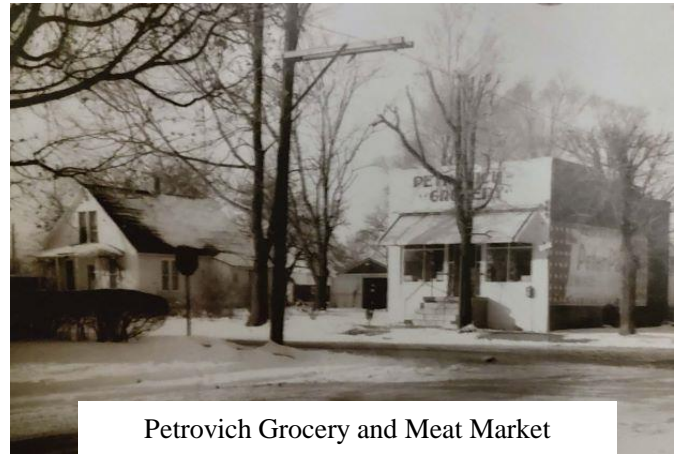
Facilities Committee

The committee oversees facility maintenance and the exhibits, collaborating with the other committees. We change out artifacts and re-organize spaces to accommodate additions to the permanent exhibits.

The permanent exhibits include important Industries of the area – Parlin-Orendorff Plow Works; International Harvester; Mining Companies and Miners of Fulton County; Medical Pioneers, Graham Hospital and Graham School of Nursing. Also, Notable People are showcased – those entrepreneurs, business men and women, musicians, athletes, politicians, and philanthropists who have made a difference in this community.

New museum exhibits coordinated with the Acquisitions and Programs Committees this year included:

- Class of 1972 Baseball Champions
- John Keets, Teen AIDS Advocate
- International Harvester Anniversary and Tornado Newspaper Collections
- Ira and Imo Ludlum’s Grocery & Meat Market on South Sixth Avenue
- Katy & Torrie Petrovich Grocery Store/ Old Candy Boxes with Receipts
- Thomas G. Smith, Special Effects Producer, Lucasfilm



Petrovich Grocery and Meat Market
447 East Birch Street

Committee: Phil Gregory, Jim Morgan, Co-chairs, John Putman and Kevin Stephenson

Fundraising Committee

Memberships and donations help maintain the museum as visitors, new and sustaining members and donors respond generously to the annual membership drive. We co-sponsored the first “Guided Museum Tour,” April 28, 2022, along with Spoon River College. Our annual fundraiser, “Echoes of the Past” Cemetery Walk, was held September 25, 2022.

Following are details of our fundraising activities:

- 232 individual/family and 17 business/organization members joined the museum in 2022
- Eight *Major Donors* were recognized: Ray and Emily Cleer; Graham Hospital Association; George H. Mills; Dr. Roland Pettit; CFC Properties, Inc./Cook Medical Group, Bloomington, IN; Helping Hands Resale Shoppe; and, Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development (*Founder Level*, \$1000+); and, Paul and Roberta Reber (*Benefactor Level*, \$500)
- We were selected for a *Connecting with Agency Partners Grant* by the First Christian Church of Canton
- We received a City of Canton *Hotel-Motel Tax Grant* to support promotion of the museum and the 2022 Cemetery Walk
- The 2022 Cemetery Walk told 10 compelling stories of military heroes, parks district director, business men and women, and a pioneer, first Magistrate of Canton. There were an estimated 450 attendees. Collaborators included excellent local actors, writers Mike and Susan Walters and director Carol Davis; the City of Canton, Graham Hospital Association, and Mark Bixler, Mbixler Legacy Media. Actors included: Andrea Barbknecht, Ana Davis, Carol Davis, Aaron Haacke, Bob Juraco, Clay Klinedinst, Mike Krulac, David Lewis, Phil Miller, Nancy Stiglish. DVDs of this outdoor theater presentation are available @ \$15 (plus mailing cost). Request a copy by contacting the museum, (309) 647-2242, or cahcpo19@att.net



Committee: Cheryl Bielema, Helen Crosby, Patrick Ketcham, Jim Morgan, John Putman, Joe Stone, Susan and Mike Walters. Don Heller advisor

As lives of Marine LCpl. Dana A. Harrison and Army Sgt. Bruce G. Howerter were described, two soldiers stood at attention in the background. Both young men perished in the Vietnam War, in 1968.

Programs Committee

The Programs Committee coordinates exhibits with the Acquisitions and Facilities Committees. The Facebook page and webpage, www.cantonillinois.org/heritage-center, are our responsibility, as are the museum newsletters, programs and special projects. The committee chair also manages the staffing schedule for the museum's weekend hours.

Facebook stories in the past year included: Recognition by Canton Main Street as its *Spotlight Organization – December, 2021*; **John Keets**, local AIDS research advocate, remembered on World AIDS Awareness Day, December 1; **Anniversary of “the Day the Music Died,”** February 3, 1959; **Two Trailblazing Women**, Lucy Parsons, Chicago, and Charity Lingenfelter, Canton, Women's History Month – March, 2022; Meet **Thomas G. Smith**, award-winning visual effects producer,

manager of Industrial Light and Magic (ILM) Division, Lucasfilm – July, 2022; **Kids’ Museum Discovery Days** – July and August, 2022; **Echoes of the Past Cemetery Walk** – September 25, 2022.

Museum Discovery Day tours were held for school-age children from the Lambs of God Childcare Center and the YWCA Daycare. Other tours involved Girl Scouts, Canton High School reunion groups, Cuba High School history students, McDonough County Genealogical Society, and families visiting Canton. Contact us to set up tour dates for your family, class or community group.

Four quarterly newsletters were distributed to 400+ partners, members and visitors; five “Museum Reports” were given on 94.1 BYS Radio (1560wbys.com). Podcasts are available on demand.

Volunteers are always needed for a variety of tasks. Call, email, or message us, if you are interested.

Committee: Cheryl Bielema, Chair, Hannah Cox, Erika Davis, Martha Harr, Kathy Myers, Harold Rose, and Christy Semande

Promotion Committee

News Releases issued for special events and displays throughout the fiscal year included:

1. Christmas displays presented during Canton’s Christmas Walk and during the holiday season
2. Five fact-filled binders detailing Canton’s Top Athletes
3. Matchbook Exhibit
4. *Peoria Magazine* coverage about Heritage Center, former IHC-Canton Plant and Canton Revitalization
5. Spoon River College/Canton Area Heritage Center tours & classes
6. International Harvester fire presentation in Peoria IL
7. International Harvester and Tornado newspaper clippings in large books
8. Extra Canton High School yearbooks are now on sale

All news releases were issued to: The Fulton Democrat, Q98.1 FM Radio, WBYS Radio, Canton Daily Ledger, Peoria Journal Star, Canton Area Chamber of Commerce, Canton Cable Channel 22, Air1 WPZA-FM 107.9 and Canton Area Heritage Center Facebook page.

Committee: Debbie Stephenson, Co-chair, John Froehling, Co-chair, and Kevin Stephenson

Acquisitions Committee

The Canton Area Heritage Center obtained several unique items this year through the acquisition program at the museum. Here are just a few of the outstanding permanent acquisitions:



A hand-crafted **model of a P & O/IHC #2 Diamond Gang Plowman** by Samuel Buchen and donated by his great-granddaughter Lynette Isaacs of the Villages, Florida.

Replica of No. 66A Adjustable P & O Walking Cultivator also made by Samuel Buchen who had worked at the P & O factory for 26 years. The item was donated by Phil Morgan of Bartonville, Illinois.



Evans Brothers Cigar Box and a 48-star U.S. Flag; donor Patti Goyen, Bloomington, Illinois.

Hand-quilted Autograph Quilt, signed by members of Canton High School Class of 1962, was donated on behalf of the class by Cheryl Rakestraw, Canton, Illinois.



“Almost Anything Goes” ABC-TV Jacket; donor Joan Fahnestock of Canton. The show was recorded live in Canton, Illinois, on June 1, 1975, and aired nationally at 7:00 p.m. on August 14, 1975.

John L. Smith, Canton, Illinois, donated a **1909 Mission Oak Engineering Table** which still contains original P & O/ IHC blueprints.



Committee: Mike Walters, Chair, Mary Lou Kuchan, Registrar, Dean Gibson, Roy Hopper, Jack Pollitt, Mary Pollitt, Debbie Stephenson and Kevin Stephenson

Thank you to everyone who has had a part in supporting our community museum.

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