

Since 2015

Volume 3, Issue 1

January - February - March 2020



Our Chair Phil Gregory has been working on the Heritage Center since the beginning and is a major contributor to the important industries of our community, including International Harvester, mining, and cigar-making. Phil works full-time, and yet, he finds time to help staff the museum and to switch out exhibits. He communicates our needs and has found display cases, mannequins, signs, etc. to best showcase our artifacts.

I grew up in Canton and attended school here through high school. At age 19, I started working at the IH plant in 1970. I worked in several departments – hot and cold metal fabricating and assembling farm implements. I was laid off in March, 1982, and the plant closed the following year, in 1983. I had married in July of 1982, and then, I had no job to go to.

Jobs were scarce in the area, so I started buying antique furniture and my Dad taught me how to repair and refinish the pieces. I had several shops that I worked from over the next 25 years. The main selling I did was at antique shows in Peoria and Chicago. I also dealt in antique glassware, pottery and other collectibles.

Dad worked in the mines, and we lived on the Rowley Dairy Farm for a time. These experiences all

The Chair's Report

led to my interest in collecting more things from this area.

What are your goals for 2020?

We need to locate a building. That's the need for this year. We continue to add to our collections; storage and work spaces are lacking, as is space to show off all the historical "gems" coming in the door. We now have a Building Fund to which people can donate tax-deductible contributions. We will develop specifications for an expanded museum space and will be promoting the Building Fund.

Secondly, we work hard to change our exhibits and feature specific items, events and notable people that will pique interest and bring visitors to the center. We'd love to hear your suggestions or what you can loan or give to "tell a story" through these exhibits. I hope to see the Heritage Center grow with many items that people want to share with the community.

Finally, it's time for annual dues/donations as we start a New Year. I'd like to see more people become members and volunteer with us. See p. 4 for the membership form. And, call me about volunteering!

Philip Gregory, Chairman

Canton Area Heritage Center Exec. Board
Cell: (309) 208-2943



Acquisitions Procedures

Person offering artifact will receive a Temporary Deposit Receipt Form, certifying ownership and intent to donate or loan.

Committee will research item(s) and recommend action to Executive Board. Decisions are based on meeting the scope of collections, condition of item, non-duplication, available space (and more).

With approval, owner of artifact will receive, sign and submit "Deed of Gift" or "Loan Agreement."

Questions? Contact Mike Walters, Acquisitions Chair.

Phone, (309) 338-6272; or email, walters.michael@hotmail.com

Special points of interest

- FOLLOW OUR PROGRESS IN THIS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
- MEET MOVERS AND SHAKERS, THEN AND NOW
- LEARN INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY
- DISCOVER HOW TO DONATE OR LOAN ITEMS TO THE HERITAGE CENTER



Happy New Year!



We welcomed our 1,000th visitor, the Mel Kepler family, from Arizona last November. Above, Montana Davis (L) received a Sesquicentennial medallion on their behalf.

Inside this issue

COMMUNITY LEADERS RECOGNIZED	2
GUEST EDITOR: CURT OLDFIELD, PRESIDENT, SPOON RIVER COLLEGE	2
MEET ROY HOPPER, SPORTS WRITER & ACQUISITIONS COMM.	3
MEET HAROLD ROSE, HISTORY TEACHER & PROGRAMS COMM.	3
2020 MEMBERSHIP FORM	4
REFLECTIONS AND MORE	4

Wonder if you've paid your dues?

Check the 2020 Members list on the [Heritage Center webpage](http://www.canton-area-heritage-center.org).
Get in touch with us if you have questions.

Introducing our 2020-2021 Officers (L-R):

Phil Gregory, Chairman; Jim Morgan, Treasurer; Cheryl Bielema, Secretary; and John Putman, Vice Chairman.

The Museum Newsletter

Community Leaders Recognized

Congratulations to these excellent community leaders, who also serve on the Heritage Center Executive Board. We are very proud of your accomplishments and appreciate all that you do for the museum!

♦ **Mike Walters**, 2019 Alumni Achievement Award and 2019 Athletic Hall of Fame, Spoon River College

♦ **Jack and Mary Pollitt**, Certificate of Appreciation for Founding of the Canton Area Heritage Center, IH-Navistar Retirees in Canton

♦ **Cheryl Bielema**, 2019 Woman of Distinction Community Impact Award, YWCA



60 Years of Being Your Community College



Guest Editor:
Curt Oldfield, President of
Spoon River College

In 1959, Canton Community College was ahead of the curve from the very beginning. The founding vision of the College was rooted in the belief that West Central Illinois students should have access to local, high quality education that is affordable. From a few rooms at Canton High School to downtown classrooms to a standalone campus, the College founders believed strongly that higher education would open doors for individuals and help sustain communities for years to come. Today, Spoon River College continues to uphold the original vision with distinction.

As the memories that are on display at the Canton Heritage Museum or stories told by our alumni are shared, you will find amazing individuals who are active in our communities and having an impact around the world. True to our vision, we've graduated generations of adventurous individuals who ask critical questions, challenge assumptions, create solutions, and leave an indelible stamp.

We owe our current success to individuals like Dr. William Taylor, L.D. Barnard, Harold Swartzbaugh, Gloria Pschirrer, Phillip Osborn, Virginia Vasen, and Hearl Bishop, along with countless others, who pushed to create a college for the communities of Fulton and Mason counties. The service area of the College grew to serve portions of McDonough and Schuyler counties. The first class in the fall of 1960 had 187 enrolled. By comparison, the fall of 2019 saw 1,270 students enrolled. Every year more students benefit from the vision of these pioneers.

Over the last 60 years, academic programs have been added and some have gone away, but the core of Spoon River College has stayed the same: high quality teaching and learning. Ask anyone who is a SRC alumnus, and they will probably share a memory of a SRC faculty



member who impacted their life. SRC faculty play an important role in the success of the College and our alumni. Not all learning occurs in the classroom; sometimes learning occurs on van rides to sporting events, agriculture contests, speech and debate contests, or on a stage during a play production. Regardless of where the learning happens, SRC has dedicated faculty and staff who work tirelessly to create those learning opportunities.

As we move forward, the landscape of higher education will change. Technology will continue to evolve how classroom material is delivered, funding from the State and Federal governments will impact tuition costs, and new careers will be developed. However, something that will not change is our dedication to helping individuals improve themselves, academically, personally and professionally. We are proud to offer assistance to individuals who strive to achieve their GED, or being the launch pad for someone looking to complete their Bachelor's degree, Master's degree or Doctorate degree. SRC assists students wanting to learn a skill, or helps someone learn a trade that can lead to a career full of possibilities, and we also provide learning opportunities later in life. We will continue to work to offer innovative academic programs that fill needs in the communities, and regardless of the need, Spoon River College will be there to take you where you want to go.

Thank you to the Canton Heritage Museum for providing space to share the Canton Community College/Spoon River College story. I hope you are able to visit the museum and see the 60th anniversary display along with the other great displays that tell Canton and Fulton County history.

Thank you, President Oldfield, for sharing your reflections and goals for the future at Spoon River College.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Museum Hours

Fridays, 10-12

Saturdays, 10-2

Sundays, 1-4

We look forward to your visit!

Volume 3, Issue 1

Meet Roy Hopper, Sports Researcher & Writer

Roy Hopper serves on the Executive Board and the Acquisitions Comm. He helped establish a Sports area at the museum, featuring local players who advanced to the national scene.

I worked at International Harvester in Canton from October, 1962, until the plant closed in December, 1983. I transferred to Navistar in Springfield, Ohio, in June, 1985, and retired in August, 1993. I came home every weekend, except three, in those eight-plus years. It was over a six-hour drive, one way.

I am a Past Commander of the Canton American Legion Post 16, serve on the City's Planning and Zoning Board, and am a member and treasurer of Canton High School's Hall of Fame Comm. I have refereed basketball since my retirement.

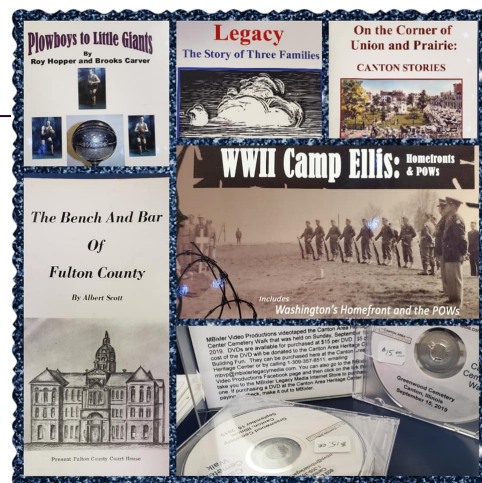
I have always been interested in sports history. Brooks Carver and I have written two books about the history of Canton basketball. This required over 3,000 hours, gathering state and all-time victories for boys and girls, leading scorers

by season and by careers. I searched for coaching victories and our teams' total appearances in the Illinois State Tournaments.

Two items I'm especially proud of – first, the renewal of the Ledger Plow Share [trophy] when playing against Pekin in basketball. The winner keeps the Plow Share until the next game. The second – I discovered the first time the name “Little Giants” was mentioned; it was first used on February 11, 1933. A big finding from my research! Before then, Canton was referred to as the Plow Boys and Purple and Old Gold.

I've been a member of the Executive Board of the Canton Area Heritage Center (CAHC) since I was elected to the board in September, 2015. I hope more people will become interested in joining us!

Roy Hopper, Executive Board Member
Acquisitions Committee Member



Plowboys to Little Giants is the Hopper & Carver book, available along with other books at the Heritage Center. Stop by or call us for details, (309) 647-2242.

You can't go back and change the beginning but you can start where you are and change the ending.

-- C. S. Lewis

Meet Harold Rose, Canton History Teacher

Mr. Rose was an advocate long before we invited him to serve on CAHC's Executive Board. He encourages his students to visit and volunteer at center events, as he himself does.

Harold Rose was born in Canton and graduated from Canton High School. He was involved in the band and student government. He also played football, basketball, baseball and track. He was an Eagle Scout, as were his three brothers. [Sidenote: Vern Sipes was his Scoutmaster, and was later selected as Chamber of Commerce's first Citizen of the Year.]

Rose graduated from McPherson College, in Kansas; his major was Psychology. He indicated his brother John and Kent McDowell (now our Mayor) followed him to McPherson! His intention was to become a Guidance Counselor, but by chance, he was asked to substitute-teach, and later that summer, the Regional Superintendent of Schools contacted him about Avon Schools, who were desperate to find a Sixth Grade Teacher. He took the Avon position, teaching there for nine years. Since the fall of 1989, he has taught American History and Government and has coached Jr. Varsity football and girls' softball at Canton High School.

What sparked your interest in the museum?

He explained, "It's an extension of what I teach. I always try to bring in our local history and my being involved is another way to plug my students into that local history. Canton has been a microcosm of American history – for example, the P&O and cigar-making industries were models for other businesses. And, when I do a unit on Immigration, I tell my students that the immigrants came here to do jobs in the mines that no one else wanted. Mainly, I want my students to have an appreciation of what happened here."

Harold Rose, Executive Board Member
Programs Committee Member



Mr. Rose's history students toured the museum's latest exhibits before attending a basketball game, recently.



CANTON AREA HERITAGE CENTER

Preserving our history...

2020 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mailing address:
209 East Chestnut Street
Suite 2
Canton, Illinois 61520

Phone: 309-647-2242
Fax: 309-647-2712
Email: cahcpo19@att.net

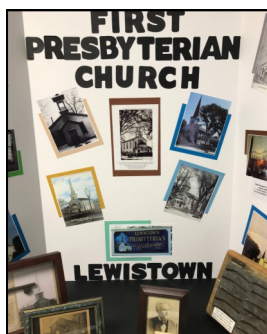
First location is 111 South Main
Street, Canton, Illinois 61520

We're on the Web:

[www.cantonillinois.org/
heritagecenter](http://www.cantonillinois.org/heritagecenter)



Find us on:
facebook®



Please complete the form below and return with a check to become, or renew as, a member of the Heritage Center. Thanks in advance for your investment and for your willingness to be a part of honoring our area's rich and vibrant history.

High School Students/ Seniors (age 65+) - \$15

Individuals - \$20/ Family - \$35

Community Organization - \$50

Business/Commercial - \$100

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Check the appropriate category:

___ Student/Senior - \$15 ___ Individual - \$20 ___ Family - \$35

___ Community Organization - \$50. Name: _____

___ Business/Commercial - \$100. Name: _____

___ Donation amount: _____

Quarterly newsletter preference: ___ Postal mail to address above/ ___ Email to me at email above

___ I'm interested in volunteering, please contact me. I understand I'm under no obligation.

Make check payable to Canton Area Heritage Center. Mail to **Canton Area Heritage Center,
209 East Chestnut, Suite 2, Canton, Illinois 61520**

Thank you!

REFLECTIONS AND MORE

During 2019, we hosted displays of important industries and leaders of the area. Notable was a re-make of **Bill Cook's First Exhibit** of his invention, the heart catheter, at the North American Society of Radiologists Convention in 1963 (courtesy of the Cook Group, Bloomington, IN). A second display, the **Post-Civil War Quilt by Charity Hedge Lingenfelter**, 1889, has been on loan from the Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL. In addition, we are grateful for the artifacts loaned by her descendents (i.e., Lizzy's photo album passed down to Judy Kemper, framed floral art piece owned by Dennis Weaver, and a family tree done by Charity's great grandson, Jack Pollitt). We've asked Jack to reflect on what displaying his family quilt has meant to him, personally.



"Having my great-grandmother's quilt at the center has been an educational experience as well as a proud one for me. I learned or confirmed many things about Charity, as well as about my great-grandfather Aaron Lingenfelter. My great-grandmother was a talented, courageous, and inspirational lady especially considering her physical limitations from birth. Reviewing her life, I also found that some people I know or have known are actually relatives. My wife Mary and I have proudly enjoyed explaining the quilt and introducing my great-grandparents to visitors. The visitor interest has been above what I expected." -- Jack Pollitt

The quilt remains on display through January, 2020. **Historic Churches** will be on display throughout 2020: Church of the Brethren, First Presbyterian Churches of Canton and Lewistown, the Salvation Army, Trinity Lutheran and Wesley United Methodist Churches, all founded between 1824 and 1890. Visitors will see memorabilia of **Spoon River College's** early years (**originally, Canton Community College**, founded in October, 1959).

All this and more from the Canton Area...we hope you make a resolution to come see us in 2020!