

Since 2015

Volume 3, Issue 4

October - November - December 2020



Chair Phil Gregory holds a bottle with IH imprint. Research will hopefully reveal for what, when and by whom the bottle was created. Any ideas?

Greetings! We're making plans on a number of fronts. Annual Meeting will be postponed until November 12, because of the pandemic and not knowing if we will be able to have a public meeting indoors. Watch for email and newspaper announcements. Just a reminder, dues are now expected by the end of the year for 2021.

New Acquisition



The IH clock which hung in the power house and timed "Big Toot's" whistle blasts throughout the work day. Read more about the clock on page 4.

The Chair's Report

Enclosed you will find a membership form. We hope you'll renew or join us for the first time!

We are excited to host new exhibits this fall and winter. You'll see our latest acquisitions, including the IH clock and the Red Cross volunteer's uniform pictured here. Campaign and election memorabilia are featured. The founding of Canton Country Club, photos, news articles, and artifacts, including Dr. Rod McGuire's golf clubs, are also on display.

A Building Campaign will be launched in 2021, in order to acquire a larger space. The Fundraising Committee will reach out to friends and potential donors in the New Year.

If you'd like to donate to our building fund now or for general maintenance, or if you're interested in loaning or gifting historical items to the center, please call me. I'm happy to answer questions and put you in touch with our Acquisitions Committee.

Philip Gregory, Chairman
Canton Area Heritage Center
Cell: (309) 208-2943



Come See Us at the Museum

Our hours are
Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Sundays, 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

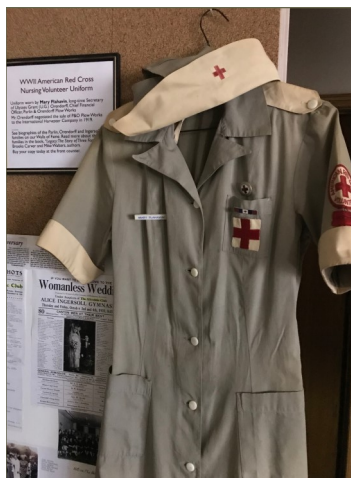
"Common sense is not so common."

— Voltaire



New Acquisition

WWII American Red Cross uniform worn by volunteer Mary Flahavin, who also worked at IH as U.G. Orendorff's secretary for 22 years.



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

Inside this issue

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| GLORIA PSCHIRER ON CANTON SCHOOLS | 2 |
| FOUNDING OF CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN | 3 |
| MEET OUR VICE CHAIRMAN, JOHN PUTMAN | 3 |
| HERITAGE CENTER REPORTS ON WBYS | 4 |
| IH CLOCK TIMED WHISTLE BLASTS | 4 |
| CEMETERY WALK POSTPONED | 4 |
| INSERT: 2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM | |



Harvest-time of old: Corn and stalks go into chopper; silage is blown into silo. A tribute to our hard-working farmers. Harry Linder farm, Morrison, IL, 1950s. Editor's grandfather pictured.

The Museum Newsletter

Meet Gloria Pschirrer, Canton School's Informal Historian

Gloria Pschirrer, long-time secretary for Canton schools, sat down with this editor to share recollections of the Canton Union School District during her 42+ years working there.



Gloria prefaced her remarks by saying, "School was my life!" Mrs. Pschirrer began working at Central School with Principal Harold Swartzbaugh, August 1, 1949. As Mr. Swartzbaugh was promoted, she moved along with him to the junior high building, January 1, 1954. In 1957, they relocated to the administration building (old high school), which is still the site of the Superintendent's Office. She paid homage to co-workers Moneta Morgan and Mary Danner, who taught her those procedures and record-keeping she would need to master. Moneta was especially well-organized, she remarked.

Mrs. Pschirrer recently donated school items as she called herself the "keeper for anything pertaining to the school." She proceeded to list the names of the superintendents with whom she served: Harold D. Swartzbaugh, 1957-1971; Fred Benson, 1971-1986; Laury Zoner, 1986-1988; and Paul Vonderhaar, 1988-1999. She retired February 1, 1992, after 42-1/2 years working in Canton's schools.

Founding of Canton Community College. She described the Superintendent Office's role in founding Canton Community College. "We did all the paperwork for the two-year college during the early years. Dr. Taylor, L.D. Barnard, and Mr. Swartzbaugh, among others, made many trips to see other community colleges and to gain support in Springfield for the project. Once faculty members were hired and college classes began in the fall of 1960, we did their payroll, keeping track of semester hours they taught. Albert Millington, Asst. Superintendent, advocated for computerization of their records. Consequently, I trained on the 'big' computer in Oak Brook, IL, and I learned a lot."

Building Boom. "We saw so many building projects in my tenure, the community college, Eastview, Westview and Lincoln Elementary Schools, the high school and Ingersoll Junior High." She explained, "The Canton School District was designated a Special Charter District and, as such, could issue bonds for these building projects." She concluded with this, "We had a wonderful school system. I was privileged to work with so many talented faculty, staff, administrators and board members!"

Editor's Note: Thank you, Gloria, for your years of dedication to our schools. I appreciated hearing about the years of growth you were part of!

Ingersoll School, K-4 1910-1977



McCall School, K-6 1895- present



Central School, 1-6; 7-8 1916-1977



The school buildings included on this page are part of Gloria Pschirrer's photo collection. Included are grade levels and years students attended. Did you know parks were built at the site of these early schools?

John Dean School, 1-4 1914-1977



Wright School, 5-6 1862-1977



Hulit School, 1-4 1882-1977



Founding of the Church of the Brethren

The current Church of the Brethren is the result of a group of eight people, who gathered by the Eder River in Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1708, to baptize each other. The result of their actions began a new faith movement, first known as German Baptist Brethren, commonly known as Dunkers, because of their practice of baptismal immersion. Due to persecution, the movement spread westward in Europe, eventually crossing the Atlantic to reach the east coast of America. During the early 1800s, many in the church migrated westward again, with one group settling between Norris and Fairview, IL. In 1845, a congregation was established at the present location of the intersection of N. Coal Creek Road and County Road 3150 N in Farmington Township. The Dunkard Cemetery remains at this location today and is owned and maintained by the Canton Church of the Brethren. In the late 1800s, the growing congregation moved first to a small building on the south side of Canton and eventually to 120 N. First Avenue, the present location of the Church of Christ, the building immediately north of NAPA Auto Parts. In 1948, growth necessitated another move. Land was

purchased at the corner of Chestnut Street and Third Avenue, where a new building was erected and dedicated in 1948. They remain at 269 E. Chestnut Street to this day.

The Church of the Brethren is recognized as one of the original historic Peace churches, along with the Mennonites and Quakers. They are fairly simple and non-creedal, promote the practice of using peaceful solutions to conflict, and focus on lives of service to others. Peace efforts involve being socially active and engaging in means to promote the dignity of all. Two projects, for which the denomination is well-known, include Heifer International and Church World Service. Canton's Rosemary Rose, who was a member of the Canton church, served as a registered nurse, working with the poor and injured in Austria immediately after WWII. Her son Harold currently teaches history at Canton High School and is still a member of the local church. Locally, a Blessing Box and a Community Garden are current projects of the COB congregation. They also raise money for the use of LOVE INC to assist local families in need.

The Canton Church of the Brethren is small in number yet thrives with a passion to uphold the dignity of all in its acts of worship, fellowship, social justice, and service. The congregation is glad to be a part of the community of Canton and values its place among its ecumenical partners in sharing the love of God, the values of Jesus, and the ongoing work of the Spirit.

The information has been gathered by combined effort of Rev. Kevin Kessler, Jackie Davis, Connie Ludlum and Martha Harr.



Meet John Putman, Vice Chairman

John Putman was born and raised in Canton. He graduated from Canton High School. He worked as a transportation engineer, i.e., truck driver, he joked during our interview. He began working with his uncle Charlie Putman and spent many years with North American Van Lines. He married Diane and together they raised three children.

He said his interests have ranged from motorcycle riding and camping to collecting. He started collecting Victrolas about 20 years ago -- "just enough time to fill my house up," he said with a smile. "I have Victrolas from Victor, Crosley, Edison, Starr Piano, and Sears; many companies manufactured and sold these record players."

It was at an antiques and collectibles show in Canton's Jones Park that he first heard about the museum. "Since I was gone about 26 days of every month, I didn't know about the museum. I was introduced to Cheryl Bielema at the show, and when she explained they were seeking volunteers, I thought, that's something I'd like to do! It was perfect timing because I'd just retired."

His roles include helping staff the museum, transporting acquisitions, and maintaining displays. In the past year, he was seen rolling the antique Capitol Theatre candy counter on a dolly down the street to the museum and he built a wooden support to display a 1902 telephone which had been used in rural Canton. John was elected Vice Chairman through 2021 and serves on both the Facilities and Fundraising Committees.

John Putman, Vice Chairman

Cell: (309) 338-0509



John Putman assists Amanda Bryden, Illinois State Museum, as she packs the post-Civil War quilt, the Lingenfelter quilt created in Canton, for transport back to Springfield in January of this year.

Editor's Note: John decided to volunteer with us as a new retiree. He found a place where he can share his interests and expertise. How about you? We'd love to talk with you.



We are so very thankful!

Preserving our history...

HERITAGE CENTER REPORTS ON WBYS

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 S. Main,
Canton, Illinois 61520

Board members continue to give Heritage Center Reports on WBYS Radio. Remaining 2020 dates and topics include the following: October 22, Cheryl Bielema will detail *Volunteer Opportunities at the Museum*, and on November 19, several board members will reflect on *Holidays Past*. Time for these live interviews is 8:45 a.m. on 1560 WBYS. Interviews are streamed and available anytime at www.1560wbys.com. Click On Demand and scroll for the date and title of the program to listen at your convenience.

Previously, Mike Walters talked about the *Importance of Preserving Local History* (May 28), Harold Rose compared the *1918 Spanish Flu and Current COVID-19 Pandemic* (June 25), and Erika Davis shared *Facebook Stories* (July 23). Then, Jim Morgan, *Heritage Center Future Plans* (August 27), and Phil Gregory, *Cigar-making: Big Business in a Small Town* (September 24) joined Barry Blackwell at the WBYS microphone.



IH CLOCK TIMED WHISTLE BLASTS

There's a new attraction that was long a part of International Harvester in Canton. A Stromberg Time Corporation Model 65 Master Clock was a fixture in the power house at IH. It served as the official timepiece for the entire plant. In order to keep the clock running as accurately as possible, powerhouse employees would calibrate it daily with the "national clock" at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington D.C.

The date the clock was put into service at IH is unknown, but is thought to have been sometime in the early 1940s. Few citizens in Canton, and those within a several mile radius around the community, probably ever saw the clock. However, many of their daily activities were influenced by it for decades. IH employees would closely train their eyes on the clock at certain times each day to know the exact moment, down to the second, when to pull the chain to blow the IH whistle.

The clock continued to serve in that role until the last time the whistle blew under IH ownership on Christmas Eve, 1983. When Canton Industrial Corporation opened following the closing of IH, the clock was put back to work when the whistle was blown again on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve in 1984. It blew occasionally after that until around 1991.

Following the shuttering of Canton Industrial Corporation, the clock was taken to the Canton train depot for safe-keeping. It was hung on the wall in the ticket office. It was not in operating condition while there.

In early 2019 a small group of Canton citizens started looking into getting the clock running again. Mike Tucker of Canton, a trained clock repairman, voluntarily gave it a good going over and determined the clock mechanism was in very good condition. Then a way had to be found to power it. The clock operates on low-voltage direct current. It cannot simply be plugged into a wall socket. Kevin Anderson of Canton, an experienced electrician, voluntarily came up with the necessary equipment and rewired it. On January 17, 2020 the clock ran again for the first time in decades. Following several weeks of adjustments while still hanging on the depot wall, the clock now keeps accurate time to within a few seconds a week.

On September 12, 2020, the clock found a new permanent home as part of the IH exhibit at the Heritage Center where its tick-tock, tick-tock, tick-tock will continue to be heard for generations.

Kevin Stephenson, Volunteer

CEMETERY WALK, POSTPONED UNTIL 2021

Watch for the new date! We canceled our Cemetery Walk "VOICES OF THE PAST," because we didn't feel we could protect our actors or number of anticipated attendees. The Good News...we plan to re-schedule this popular outdoor theater in 2021, during which we will honor the lives and contributions of past residents of Fulton County. Among those to be portrayed in the upcoming program are large families of the 1950s and the 1960s, still well-represented in Canton: the Gregorys with 14 children, Juracos with 12, Conklins with 11, and Murphys with 9 children. There are more people to be depicted, so watch for their names in future announcements.

The Cemetery Walk is one of the Heritage Museum's major fundraising events. A team of researchers, actors and supporters put countless hours of preparation into each year's Walk to create a remarkable experience. We promise it'll be worth the wait!

Mike Walters, Cemetery Walk Chair