

Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum, Inc.

1013 North Long Drive

Syracuse, IN 46567

574-457-3599

[www.syracusemuseum.org](http://www.syracusemuseum.org)

VOLUME II, ISSUE IV

DECEMBER 2014

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## Curator's Corner: The "Ghosts" of Syracuse Past

The holiday season is upon us, and one of my favorite books of the season is *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. In the novella, miser Ebenezer Scrooge undergoes a transformation of character (for the better!) as a result of supernatural visits from The Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come. While reflecting on this column for December, it occurred to me that I myself have been visiting with "ghosts" in a way—The "Ghosts" of Syracuse Past! These past few months I have been diligently compiling information about historically

Very Important Persons of Syracuse. Each VIP made an important contribution (or two!) to our community; collectively, their stories paint a picture of what life was once like in our beloved town. I'm excited to announce that this VIP information will be used by 4th grade school students this spring to put on a "Living Wax Museum" for the Syracuse community. Each participating student will pick a VIP to research, pen an "autobiography" from a first-person perspective, and present that VIP's life story in costume on the night of the event! Living Wax Museum char-

acters will include Samuel Crosson, J. P. Dolan, W. E. Long, Chief Wawasee, Cecilia Smith, Shanna Zolman, Jess Sargent, Bonnie Spink Cuniff, Sheldon Harkless and more! At this time, the date is still to be determined—I'll be sure to send out a postcard to all of you with specific details in the early part of 2015. You can be certain, however, that the characters won't "haunt" you like the spirits in Dickens' book—the event will be an opportunity to learn about people of our past and celebrate the hard work of the students who tell their stories.

## News from the Board of Directors

**The Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum has recently** received several grants and monetary donations from community organizations and museum members — we are so thankful for this display of support!

- Lopp Family Fund of the Marshall County Community Foundation: \$175

- Kosciusko County Community Foundation: \$2500 for Educational Outreach Programming
- J. Allen and Dorothy Campbell Family Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation: \$1000
- Nancy Harter: \$1000
- SHS Class of 1964: \$400 for a yearbook bookcase

We've spent time publicizing the Museum in the past few months by participating in the Kosciusko County Taste and Trade Expo, advertising our programs and visiting exhibits through the local paper and other media outlets, and developing a glossy new color brochure for distribution to the general public as well as visitors and tourism bureaus.

# Upcoming Programs

The Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum is proud to offer educational local history events on a monthly basis. If you have suggestions for program topics, or would like to offer a program to the general public through the Museum, please call the Museum at 574-457-3599 or stop by and share your ideas!

**December 2014:** Stamp your own Christmas cards with foil lettering using a Kingsly Stamping Machine that was once in service at Thornburg's Drug Store! Available during regular business hours and during the Breakfast with Santa event on December 6th.

**Saturdays, February 2015** Take a guided tour through the Museum. Offered every Saturday on the hour, between 10 am and 2 pm. Can't make Saturdays? Schedule your tour by appointment!

**Don't forget to watch for our V.I.P.s of Syracuse "Wax Museum" community event this spring, put on by Wawasee School High-Ability Students!**



Interior of the Star Clothing Store

*The past is a source of knowledge, and the future is a source of hope. Love of the past implies faith in the future*  
**- Stephen E. Ambrose**

## Donations and Loans

We say thank you to Sue Nadin of Plainfield, Indiana, and Bob Ibach of Winona Lake, Indiana for providing visiting exhibits to the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum in October and November 2014. Sue's button collection and Bob's lathed wooden goblet collection have triggered an increase in Museum traffic and patronage this fall!

**Recent Donations:** Thornburg Drug Ruler (S. Holtkamp); collection of S. Zolman newspaper articles and memorabilia (C. Bales); Christmas card stamping machine and supplies (J. Rowland); Africa School programs (J. Koher); Scrapbook of Syracuse Art Club (P. Rhode); souvenir postcards of Syracuse and Lake Wawasee (D.

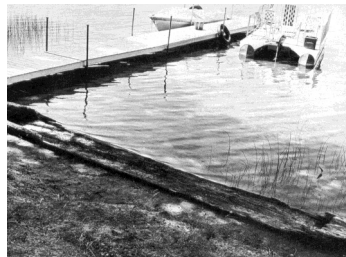
Hayes); Thornburg Drugs recipe book (D. and D. Stell); Sesquicentennial t-shirt (J. Jarrett); Navy dress hat and pants (B. Butt); scrapbook of Theo Thomas, 1945 SHS grad (J. Stoelting).

**Loans:** 1900 McKinley-Roosevelt United States Presidential Campaign Umbrella (C. Fry).

## Museum Gift Shop

Remember to check out our gift store for your holiday shopping this Christmas season! During the month of December, the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum is offering free gift wrapping with every purchase.

The newly published Syracuse and Lake Wawasee by Erin Lomax and Ann Vanderford Garceau would make a great keepsake or coffee table book



**Dugout Canoe, Syracuse Lake, 1959, Early Wawasee Days**

for a friend or loved one. All proceeds from the sale of this book

go directly back to the Museum! The book is also for sale at *Clippers* and *Wawasee Antiques*, thanks to Darlene Feters and John Stout. Their sales have really helped boost our profits!

Other gift books include Early Wawasee Days by Eli Lilly and Sketches of Lake Wawasee by Scott Edgell. We also have DVDs, maps, notecards, and other souvenirs for sale that would make great stocking stuffers. Stop by and see for yourself!

# Membership

It's time for our annual membership drive! Please consider renewing your annual membership or upgrading to a lifetime membership today. New lifetime members will receive a free copy of Early Wawasee Days by Eli Lilly, which can be picked up at the Museum.

Membership entitles you to first-hand information of Museum happenings, discounts on Museum programs, a quarterly newsletter, and the knowledge that you are helping the Museum carry out its mission of preserving local history. Membership options and fees are:

Annual	Individual	\$20
	Family	\$30
	Corporate	\$100
	Lifetime	\$150 / person

Annual memberships run from January to December. To continue your membership, complete and mail the following 2015 Membership Renewal Form. Please make checks payable to Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum. Thank you for your continued support!

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## 2015 Membership Renewal Form

Mail form and payment to:  
**Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum**  
**1013 North Long Drive**  
**Syracuse, IN 46567**

Name		
Address		
Telephone		
Email		
Membership Type	Individual Corporate	Family Lifetime
Total Enclosed		

# Collection Curiosities



**Bearing Burners Jacket and Plaque**

## Bearing Burners Car Club

The "Bearing Burners" was a car club formed by a group of Syracuse High School custom car and hot rod enthusiasts in 1957. Their sponsor was Don Enyeart, Chief of Police in Syracuse. They had meetings in the "old fire station" or "Hoopingarner garage" two doors west of the Pickwick Theater.

Their logo was a "rail job dragster". They had a license plate size plaque with the car club logo and name on it. They also had summer and winter jackets for wear. Summer jackets were white with the black and red logo on the back. Individual names were embroidered on jackets' left front panel. Winter jackets were black.

The Bearing Burners Car Club was service oriented; they hosted community-wide projects such as an annual paper drive to finance Christmas baskets for the needy each year. They also had business-size "courtesy" cards to pass out. The cards stated "You have been helped by a member of the Bearing Burners" and were meant to be distributed to distressed motorists when a club member stopped to come to their aid on the road.

The following is a partial list of members of the Bearing Burners Car Club: Larry Reed, Larry Warner, Marty Graff, Butch Graff, Milt Karesh, Bill Stouder, Bud Fink, Charlie Green, Jon Roddie, Bud Cripe, and John Firestone.

Thank you to Milt Karesh for providing this information as well as his summer jacket for display! If you have any more details about the club, please share them with the community by contacting the Museum.

***History isn't about dates and places and wars. It's about the people who fill the spaces between them.***

***- Jodi Picoult, The Storyteller***



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**LIFETIME MEMBERS**

Bill Appenzeller  
Jan Appenzeller  
Pat Appenzeller  
Elinor and Fred Avery  
Dennis Beadle  
Barbara Beemer  
Mark Beesley  
Anne S. Benninghoff  
Jim Bickel  
Susie Brandes  
Avon Bushong  
George Bushong  
Al Campbell  
Jim Caskey  
William Cast  
Joyce Chapman  
Shirley Connolly  
Albert Conradt  
John Dalton  
Jack Darr  
Terrence Dickson  
David and Judy Eckrich  
Ann and Art Garceau

Eric Genshaw  
Peggy Genshaw  
David Grandstaff  
Jane Grandstaff  
Barbara and Doug Grant  
Richard Green  
Charles Harris  
Nancy Harter  
Connie Heckaman  
John Heckaman  
Michael Hixenbaugh  
Barrie and Don Hooley  
Bud and Mary Hursh  
Needham Hurst  
Charles Huyette  
Wanda Quinn Isenbarger  
Carol Kiley  
Regina and Tom Knopp  
Richard Kowallik  
Charles and Rosemary Lanham  
James and Marilyn Lantz  
Bob and Sandy McNary  
Mark Nill

Lera Reinholt  
Garry Ringler  
Julie and Ernie Rogers  
Maryann Roth  
Matt Roth  
Donna Schrock  
Kip and Pam Schumm  
Anna and Dean Schwalm  
John Sells  
David Sheets  
Bette and Bud Slabaugh  
Phil Smith  
Dianna and David Stell  
Karen Swanson  
Randall Tobias  
Joe Todd  
Karen and Jim Tranter  
Brian Underwood  
Nancy and Jim Walts  
Robert Wildman  
Jean Wildman  
Jacqueline Wonso

Thank you for your continued support!