



Quarterly Newsletter

Volume V, Issue 2 June 2017

Curator's Corner

By Jamie Clemons

Wow! Can you believe that summer is almost here? It is already June, graduations have happened, and graduation open houses are in full swing. The summer residents are beginning to come back, the boats are in the water, and so are the people.

If you have visited the museum lately, you have noticed that I've been a bit frazzled. My daughter graduated from high school and we hosted several friends for a graduation party at our church. Also, many changes have taken place at the museum. During the winter and spring, we have had different exhibits come through the museum. We had an ice boat exhibit and a Betty Appenzeller painting exhibit. Both were large exhibits.

We are currently working on getting everything in the museum labeled so that items will have a brief description. Some of the labels I am working on now are labels for the crank/wall phone, the Barbara Bowser and the military displays. Speaking of military displays! You will all be happy to know that we have purchased two new display cases. One of the cases has been dedicated to a full military display. With this new case, we have been able to pull out many more items for display that were previously in storage. Among those items were a 5-lb practice bomb, a WWI gas mask, a German helmet, and a Korean War Chinese helmet. We are also diligently working on pulling more military uniforms out of storage to hang on our new garment rack.

Youth History Club is going strong! I think we have a lot of interesting topics and speakers for the kids this year. So far the kids have had a visit from the IN Department of Natural Resources to learn about shipwrecks in the Midwest/ Indiana Great Lakes region, and from Dr. Jerry Riffle to learn how to identify trees by using their leaves. The kids will also learn about how to tie knots, sailing on the lake, cemetery grave markers, golf, and how to construct an atlatl. For the full schedule and dates, contact the museum.

Please see page 2 of this newsletter for information on our 2017 Centennial Homes presentation! And, if you missed last year's edition of Centennial Homes, you can purchase a copy from the museum for \$5 each.

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The Gazelle Visits

By Mary Hursh

A model of the Gazelle is now on loan to the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum through the generosity of the Oakwood Resort where it resides in the first-floor library.

The steamer was brought to Lake Wawasee by John Vawter in 1885. It was used in the late 1880s to transport Vawter Park Hotel guests to and from the railroad station.



When the Gazelle was not transporting guests to the hotel, it was used as an excursion boat for sightseeing. The boat was 80-feet long.

Summer Programs

This summer, the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum will continue its Centennial Homes series with three Saturday presentations starting at 10:30 a.m. in the Kiwanis Room at the Syracuse Community Center.

Come join us:

June 24th – Oakwood Park: The Rodabaugh and Pioneer cottages

July 22nd – Pickwick Park: The Freese cottage and author Julie Laughner (*The People of Pickwick Park*)

August 26th – The Frank Remy Connection: Lookout cottage, the Ernst & Palmer homes (former Remy cottages), and the Wawasee Golf Course which he built.

June 24 (Following the Annual Meeting)



The Pioneer Cottage at Oakwood

Mona Lou Brumm and Pamela Peterson will share their insights and pictures of the restoration of the Pioneer cottage, the oldest cottage in Oakwood Park. The committee raised money through their Friends of the Pioneer Cottage drive and completed much of the work within a year. New appliances were put into an expanded kitchen, floors were sanded, and antique furnishings were gathered for the four bedrooms and large living room.

The Rodabaugh/Soltau Cottage at Oakwood

The Rodabaugh/Soltau cottage in Oakwood Park, built in 1898, will also be featured at the annual members' meeting. The cottage, originally named Lakeside cottage, was built by John A. Soltau using full-dimensional oak lumber. The cottage has been improved over the years and has been enjoyed as a summer cottage since 1994 by owner Edward Rodabaugh. The family often relaxes in the lower kitchen and the third-floor bedroom, the "Crow's Nest," which overlooks the circle drive of the Oakwood Resort. Cottage #58 is distinctive for its green shutters held up by long wooden poles. A hammock rests comfortably in the front yard and geraniums in large pots welcome visitors.



July 22



On **July 22nd**, join us to learn more about **Pickwick Park**. Julie Clifton Laughner, author of a recent book about the park, and George Freese, its longest standing resident, will enlighten you on an area of Lake Wawasee with a particularly strong sense of community. The Milford Clubhouse was built in 1893 by a group of Milford businessmen, and the main part was remodeled into the present Freese cottage (pier # 740). They'll be talking about the formation of the community, its history, some of the centennial homes, the multi-generational families that have lived in the park, and what makes this community so special.

August 26

In 1896, the Remy Brothers of Anderson became early innovators in automobile electrical systems. Frank Remy retired in 1911 at age 30 when the company was sold for a million dollars. Join us on **August 26th** to hear from homeowners about the influence of **Frank Remy** on Lake Wawasee after his retirement. Some extremely interesting stories about the Pottawatomie Clubhouse - later named Lookout Cottage - will be shared by Al Campbell, the Vawter Park property's owner. Frank lived first in what is now the cottage of Walter and Ann Palmer, and then he built a cottage next door now occupied by Georgia Ernst whose home was featured on the television show, "If Walls Could Talk." Ever the entrepreneur, Frank built the Wawasee Golf Course which opened in 1913 near the Wawasee Inn (now Spink Condominiums).



History of the Lake Wawasee Flotilla By Mary Hursh



Tom Socks, Dale Butt, Clem Lisor, Tiny Sole, and Gordon McCormick organized the first Father's Day Flotilla on June 18, 1961. A WOWO "Top Pop" (Lt. Gov. Richard Ristine) was chosen as

honorary commodore of the fleet for the parade which formed at Macy's Slip. Eli Lilly joined Dale Butt in the Commodore's boat. More than one hundred floats built on pontoon boats entered the three-hour parade.

In 1970, the flotilla was moved to the Sunday nearest the Fourth of July. The "Top Pop" became the Commodore and the Wawasee Fish Hatchery became the point of origin.

The four award categories for the twenty-seven mile trek around the lake included commercial, non-profit organizations, residential and youth, plus antique and classic boat divisions.

First-place winners in each division received a gold medal. Second-place winners received a silver medal. All other entries received a bronze medal. The Commodore's trophy went to best overall entry.

After a successful eleven-year run, interest in the event diminished but was revived when the Syracuse-Wawasee Chamber of Commerce asked Ted Rogers to head the Flotilla committee with members Robert Mauzy, Tom Prickett, John Kroh, Bill Beemer, Joyce Smith, Mrs. Joe Braer, Mrs. Logan Love, Frank Putt, and Earl Money. They put together four days of activities which successfully revived the Flotilla.

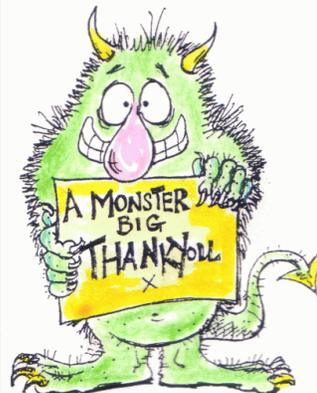
Highlights included fireworks, a ski show, a sailboat regatta, a Flotilla Ball, a parachute jump, and the parade. Frank Putt was the Commodore.

Donations

Another great season for donations to the museum!

- ◊ Shirley Vanderveer—2 photos (cement factory being built and the slip under construction) and a framed "The Indian Version of the 23rd Psalm"
- ◊ Mr. & Mrs. Phil Mock—Collection of broken lithic points for use with our educational programs
- ◊ Phil Lehman—Syracuse Lake News copies
- ◊ Steve Sharp—Plat book of Syracuse properties division (1854-1946)
- ◊ Dave Sheets—1921 Oakwood panoramic photo, 1937 Spink Bankers Association panoramic photo, and 8x10 framed Oakwood print
- ◊ Ronald W. Marquart—Shawna Zolman signed basketball
- ◊ Lambert's Auction—Small slate chalkboard
- ◊ David & Vivian Kessler—Dana Corp items: Stuffed animals, key chains, first-aid facts publication
- ◊ Doris L. Coburn—S. Frazier Av. sign (now Dolan Dr.), Shopping bags from various businesses, wooden hanger from Tom Socks Sportswear, Foo & Faye's chopsticks and boxed tea bags, 2 b/w photos, Sportsman's Bar collapsible cup, Skylark Realty playing cards
- ◊ Suellen Roose—Postcards and cards belonging to her mother
- ◊ Curt and Doris Stucky—Laura Stucky's "Syracuse Business and Professional Women's Club" recipe book, Jim Stucky's Mail Journal newspaper clippings concerning Shawna Zolman.

- ◊ Rowena Impey—A *Girl Named Zippy* book
- ◊ IDNR—*Early Peoples of Indiana* books for teacher distribution





Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum

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Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Annual Meeting

June 24, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Kiwanis Room

You are invited to join us for our Annual Member's Meeting. We will go over what we have accomplished during the past year as well as our plans for the coming year. After the meeting, Mary Hursh will share a power point on Oakwood centennial homes. Refreshments provided.

Tee Time By Ann Garceau

For those who enjoy golf, the Syracuse-Wawasee area offers three major courses. This summer, stop by the museum to learn more about these well-known courses and try your hand at miniature golf as well. Frank Remy opened the Wawasee Golf Course in 1913. Its second owner, Don Byrd, was an accomplished golfer who played briefly on the PGA Tour and participated in several US Opens. Items from his collection, on loan from the Indiana Golf Museum in Franklin, will be on display. Opened in 1930, Maxwellton, with its rolling fairways, changes in elevation and the small undulating greens, is very reminiscent of Scottish golf architecture. Using horse-drawn equipment, the Tuttle family developed the South Shore Golf Course on Roy Brown's farm in the early 1930s. Learn what is left of the former Turkey Creek Golf Course, and reminisce about the many miniature golf courses in the area. We also will feature several accomplished area golfers in the exhibit which will run from July 1 through Labor Day.



So far in 2017, approximately 300 more Syracuse-Wawasee postcards and photos have been uploaded to our Indiana Memory database. This brings our total images to 2900!! The site is very user-friendly and printable, too.

Watch for an exciting announcement concerning additions to the collection coming soon.

