



Quarterly Newsletter

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Syracuse Spotlight by Mary Hursh

The Art of Betty Harkless Appenzeller

Betty Harkless Appenzeller grew up in Syracuse, IN., surrounded by the scenes of prominent landmarks that she would eventually paint as an adult.

After graduating from Syracuse High School, Betty studied business at Indiana University in Bloomington. She married Harry Appenzeller, settled in Syracuse in 1947, and with him, started Appenzeller Specialties. They made business forms and advertising displays for auto dealers. Because Betty loved music, she joined the choir and was the organist at Calvary Methodist Church from 1958-1989.

When Betty's youngest child was a sophomore in high school, she started her prolific painting career. The year was 1968, and her uncle, Ken Harkless, encouraged her to take lessons. Her first teacher was Margi Stevens from Middlebury, IN. Painting lake scenes was easy for her because she could look at the lake daily from her home on Lake Wawasee. The Appenzellers built their prairie-style home on Pickwick Road in 1956, and fortunately, her studio was directly in the back of her home.

Area resident Priscilla Garner, Isabelle Westfall, Rosie Jones, Anna Schwam, and Sara Kitch took lessons from Betty. The lighting was great in her studio. Betty would model the technique and the students followed her lead on their own canvasses. Landscapes were often started on Friday and would be finished on the following Friday. Many times, the students would paint from pictures, or actually go on field trips to special places around the lake. Flowers and trees in season were Betty's favorite topics. She created radiant effects with her watercolors.

Among the famous Appenzeller oils and watercolors were the Crow's Nest Yacht Club, the Frog Tavern, the

Oakwood Inn, and Pickwick boat houses. Many will remember her depiction of the Spink Hotel, Waco Dance Hall, and sailboats on Lake Wawasee.

An exhibit of Betty's original watercolor and oil paintings will be on display at the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum during April, May, and June. It will include works from the private collection of her son, Patrick Appenzeller, and other lake area residents. Laser prints and note cards of her work will be for sale during the exhibit months.



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From the Board...

Dear Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read our quarterly newsletter and for your continued support of the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum. This year marks our 30th anniversary!

We have been working hard this past year continuing to improve the look and feel of the museum. We have added LED lighting to our new glass display cases, redesigned the director's workspace, added a wall-mounted flat-screen TV, table, and chairs to utilize for the research and review of the many reference materials that we have available, and a map cabinet to hold old maps, oversized prints, and other materials. We have a very small space to work with, so we are moving and changing out our displays more often to showcase different collections from the Syracuse-Wawasee community. We received a grant from the Kosciusko County Community Foundation and used a portion of the grant to purchase some **Kindles**. We will be able to use the Kindles for multiple educational purposes for both student and adult programs.

We are gearing up for a busy summer season at the lake. **Youth History Club** will be in full swing on Thursdays during the months of June and July. This program is geared toward elementary and middle school children, but all are welcome to join in on the fun. A couple of the programs will be a Native American program with a visit from an archaeologist from the IN Department of Natural Resources and a day with tree doctor, Dr. Jerry, devoted to identifying trees in the area.

Watch for dates and times for our annual **MEMBERS' MEETING** at the community center and plans are in the works for another Historical Lake Cruise on the SS Lillypad in conjunction with the WACF.

We had a great turn out and a lot of positive feedback from last summer's Centennial Homes program and, again this summer, our own **Ann Vanderford Garceau and Mary Hursh** will introduce another group of owners to share the history of their historic homes and neighborhoods.

Robert and Jean Kennedy loaned us a fun collection of old Fisher-Price toys for display. We also had a fabulous ice boat display that highlighted this great sport and its history in our local community. We are fortunate to have a great group of men that are passionate about this sport to assist with this display. Many thanks go out to **Bob Fanning, Jeff Herdrich, Kenny Bolles and Rick Lemberg**.

The museum is always looking for visiting displays, volunteers, monetary donations, and your donations of local historical value. Please stop in to see us Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m.– 2 p.m., and keep up with upcoming events by visiting our website and Facebook.

We look forward to another exciting year at the museum!

Sincerely,
Peggy Genshaw
Board President



Curator's Corner By Jamie Clemons

It has been a busy winter for us at the museum! We have been moving things around to make the museum a more enjoyable place to visit, and the cataloguing of our possessions has begun. As the winter is winding down, the museum is gearing up for the summer. May is usually super busy with the elementary kids coming in to visit. **Youth History Club** is coming together with eight weeks of fun for all school-aged kids. Ann Vanderford Garceau and Mary Hursh will moderate a program on centennial home in Oakwood Park, Pickwick Park, and Vawter Park. There are also a lot of other things going on during the summer.

Something I want all of you to keep in mind is that **the museum turns 30 this year!** We are planning to have an evening open house-type celebration sometime in September. Please keep up with everything by visiting our website regularly.

I'm excited about the purchase of some **Kindle tablets** to use with our displays and in some of our educational programs. These tablets will allow us to run slideshows and videos with individual displays to enhance their educational aspects. We will also be developing some programs for kids and adults to help learn about history while learning how to use the various functions and programs that come along with the tablets.

“Journal” Tidbits

Director’s Note: On February 15, 2017, the *Mail-Journal* reported a pike that had swallowed a bass and was found frozen in the ice on Lake Wawasee.



Pike on Wawasee

Fishing through the ice Saturday morning, Russell Kistler caught a pike which weighed 20 pounds and [measured] 44 inches in length. Kistler was fishing near Waco, in water 20 feet deep, and used a perch 7 inches long as bait. It was necessary for him to break the ice around the hole through which he was fishing in order to land the pike.

Russel Kistler’s 20-pound pike could have escaped Saturday afternoon if it had decided to flop its tail.

The story of the fish which was not up on its toes—or fins, is as follows:

Kistler had placed the fish in the water beneath the ice of Wawasee and had secured it by running a rope through its mouth and then looping the rope over an iron bar which laid across the hole in the ice.

Mrs. Bill Gingrich and guest, Mrs. Duffendorf, of South Bend, were on the lake in their motor-driven ice boat. They stopped to visit with some friends. When they decided to start again, they found the runners of the ice boat frozen to the ice on the lake.

They wig-wagged to their husbands. The husbands arrived at the boat and looked for something to use as a pry to loosen the runners. They saw the iron rod, removed it from the loop of rope, and pried the ice boat loose.

Kistler and Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Emerson were watching the incident from the window of the Emerson home. When they saw the iron rod removed they thought, “There goes the fish.” But Kistler, who had run out of the house and on to the lake, found the loop floating on the water, and that the fish had not moved. He replaced the rod through the loop. He then showed the fish to the ice boaters—and they [wondered] what would have happened if that fish had got away.

~Excerpt from *Syracuse Journal*, January 31, 1935

Donations

Another great season for donations to the museum!

THANK YOU



- ♦ **John Sells**—Vietnam “Tiger Stripe” fatigues and jungle fatigue jacket
- ♦ **Arlen Bobeck**—2 “Farmer Gathering” photos circa 1940s
- ♦ **Sandra Green**—Children story books (Army Story Book and The Bible ABC) circa 1911
- ♦ **Jean Koher**—Syracuse schools yearbooks (21 total)
- ♦ **Michele Miller Hart**—1932 & 1933 Syracuse High School yearbooks
- ♦ **Mike Smith**—Copy of 1934 iceboating on Syracuse Lake picture with names labeled and 1942 SHS class photo
- ♦ **Dennis Bjella**—1950/51 Senior cords
- ♦ **Barbara Hay**—Hoops family and cottage photos circa early 1900s(4 total)
- ♦ **Cindy Brady**—Girl Scout Brownie sweater
- ♦ **Syracuse Library**—Historical books leaving circulation
- ♦ **Judy Marquart**—Signed print of Chinese Gardens watercolor



A huge **THANK YOU!** goes out to the **Harkless Foundation** for the grant that funds our 2017 operating expenses. Without the continued support from the Harkless Foundation, Kosciusko County Community Foundation, the Dekko Foundation, and donations from you, our members and patrons, we would not be able to provide the services to the community that we do.



Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum

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Email: director@syracusemuseum.org

Website: www.syracusemuseum.org

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

Keep up with all upcoming events by visiting our website and our Facebook page!

Youth History Club

We'll begin Youth History Club again in June. The tentative schedule is as follows:

June 1: Archaeologist Cathy from the IDNR

June 8: Tree Identification with Dr. Jerry Riffle, tree doctor

June 15: Nautical Flag code and knot tying

June 22: History of Sailing with Jeff Herdrich

June 29: Grave Markers: History Embedded in Stone

July 6: Constructing and Throwing the Atlatl

July 13: Golfing Through the Years at Wawasee

July 20: Museum Picture Seek-N-Find

The finalized schedule will be posted on the museum's website the first week of May. The June 29 date will be a field trip to the Syracuse Cemetery, weather permitting.

Museum Upcoming Events

March

- *Iceboating* Exhibit

April

- *Betty Appenzeller: Artist* Exhibit

May

- Elementary Field Trip Days

June

- 1—Youth History Club
- 24—Annual Meeting, 10:30am
- 24—*Centennial Homes: Oakwood Park* (following the annual meeting)
- *Betty Appenzeller* Exhibit
- *Syracuse High School* Exhibit
- *Golfing at the Clubs* Exhibit
- *Gazelle* Exhibit

Watch for special events celebrating the museum's 30th anniversary! Watch the paper and our website for more upcoming events.