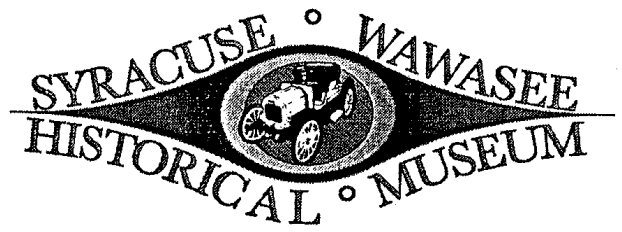


Quarterly Newsletter

Volume V, Issue 4 December 2017



What's on Display? By Mary Hursh

Because of the generosity of our members, the museum has been able to spotlight many aspects of local history in each of our glass cases.



Wawasee Golf Club House, Lake Wawasee, Ind.

Wawasee Golf Club and Maxwellton Golf Course were highlighted in special displays this summer. Frank Remy opened Wawasee Golf Club in 1913. Don Byrd followed Frank as the owner. He owned the club for forty-six years.

The Gazelle, a steamer brought to Turkey Lake (Lake Wawasee) in 1885 by John Terrell Vawter, was displayed at the museum. The replica, on loan from the Oakwood Hotel on Lake Wawasee, was chartered for special parties and moonlight trips. Other steamers on the lake included Anna Jones, Modac, Iva, American Girl, Dawn, Falcon, and Lady of the Lake.



Waco Dance Pavilion on the south shore of Lake Wawasee was spotlighted in one of our large cases this summer. The dance hall drew many for dancing from the 1920s through the 1940s. Big bands provided hours of dancing for those from far and near. The pavilion was torn down in 1957.

Over the years, many restaurants have opened and closed in our area. One of the most famous restaurants was the Beacon on Kale Island.

Because Syracuse is very close to Lake Wawasee and



Syracuse Lake, marinas have been a big part of our lives. Mock's Marina opened in 1920 as Mock's Boat Livery. It closed in 1990. The museum spotlighted many items that would have been found at the old marina including lines, oil cans, and propellers. Mock's closed in 1990.



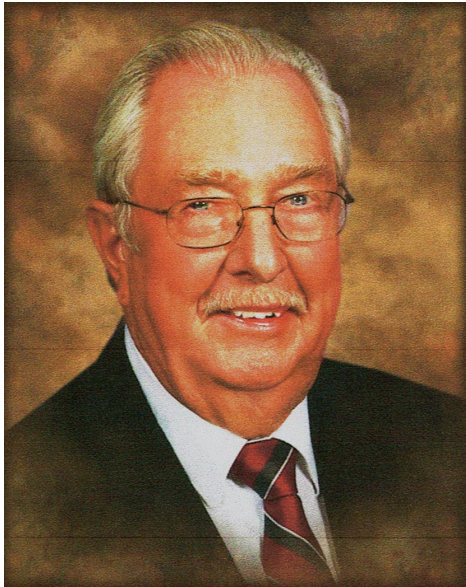
Every Sunday for the past few years, several wooden boats have made their way around Lake Wawasee in what has come to be known as the Thunder Run. Because boating is such a dominant part of life here, the museum featured a display of bow and stern poles, yacht ensigns and burgees used on some of the many wooden boats owned by area residents.

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Board Changes

By Jamie Clemons and Mary Hursh



All things in life must change, and your museum is not immune to change. Since the last newsletter publishing, the board lost an important member...Charlie Harris. It was with sad hearts that we learned Charlie died on September 13, 2017. Charlie was a WWII veteran, an active community member, and the oldest practicing licensed funeral director in Indiana. Those of you who knew Charlie knew that he loved the museum. Just the month before his passing, he made a comment during the monthly board meeting that we may want to start inquiring for a new board member. We agreed, simply because there was an extra spot within the board that could be filled. He is greatly missed, and your two new board members have big shoes to fill in his place. With the

placement of two new board members, we now have a full board of directors (eleven members) in place.

So, without further ado, Mary introduces your newest board members.

Martha Stoelting

Stoelting, a reporter, editor, and columnist for the Mail Journal, Inc., is perhaps best known to us as the writer of *Cruzin' Cuse*, a column she has written for over twenty-five years. She also writes the *Heart of the Lakes* column covering North Webster.

Board membership has played a big part in her life. She has served on the boards of the Syracuse-Wawasee Chamber of Commerce, the Syracuse Park Board, Lakeland Youth Center, Kosciusko Literacy Service, and the North Webster-Tippecanoe Township Chamber of Commerce. She has been a member of the Syracuse-Wawasee Garden Club, the Primary Mothers' Club, and the Syracuse Elementary PTO.

"History is my passion," said Stoelting. "My parents always believed that community service was a responsibility. They instilled that value in me. My mom shared her love of homes that led to my interest in historic buildings and preservation since I majored in history in college, supporting the work of the museum was a no-brainer."

As one of her goals as a board member, Stoelting hopes to coordinate efforts between the historical museum and the Syracuse Public Library to begin a genealogy program. Historic preservation is another important goal.



Martha and her daughters

Board Changes (cont.)

By Jamie Clemons and Mary Hursh

“ I hope to help inform future generations of the hopes, dreams, and accomplishments of past generations so the community can move forward without repeating mistakes or forgetting the sacrifices made to better the lives of those who came after them. I am hopeful that more continuing funding of the museum can be obtained, allowing for more display and program space and staff,” said Stoelting.

Over the years, Stoelting was an active committee member for the Save the Syracuse Train Depot and a local volunteer coordinator for WNIT-PBS shows on Syracuse and North Webster.

Mike Smith

“When board member Garry Ringling told me that there was a board opening on the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum, he joked that a week-long, all-expense paid museum board meeting would be held in Barbados each February. I decided to join up!” said Mike Smith.

“Even though the all-expense paid meeting was a joke, I still joined as a board member,” said Smith. “The meetings are actually held the second Wednesday of each month in the Kiwanis Room of the Syracuse Community Center.”

Smith saw the board appointment as a chance for him to get involved and to help bring more patrons to the museum. “I would like to see it grow. Our community has a long and interesting story to tell,” said Smith.

Smith has lived in the Syracuse-Wawasee area since his birth in 1950. He graduated from Syracuse High School in 1968 and then the Naval Academy Prep School. He then received a Secretary of the Navy appointment to the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

For thirty-six years, Smith ran Aluminum Conversion, Inc., a company he founded. It was first located in Syracuse but moved to Cromwell where it has been for the past thirty-one years.

Smith also served on the Wawasee School Board from 1992 to 1996.



Mike Smith and 3-generation family



Board of Directors



Short Writings

By Jamie Clemons

Winter is upon us, so I thought all of you would enjoy a nice writing that many of you sportsmen can relate to. The writing comes out of the book *The Hoosier Fisherman* by Milt Wysong, pages 15-18. This is a wonderful little book about fishing in Indiana, written in 1944. It was published by *The Journal* in Syracuse, with artwork done by Arthur Sprunger's art class from Goshen High School.

Ice-Fishing

"Perhaps the most misunderstood of all kinds of fishing is ice fishing. And perhaps one of the chief reasons for this misunderstanding is the common misconceptions and inaccurate statements that are circulated. It has been my privilege to explain to quite a number of persons the ins and outs of ice fishing. Many of these people had previously been very much opposed to the sport, honestly believing it to be injurious. I am certain that not a single one had negative ideas concerning the sport after they really understood it. They had been misled by the inaccurate and false stories told by others who, in turn had been misled by their own friends.

"I know of nothing I enjoy more than ice fishing. I have talked to many old ice fishermen who are leaders in the fly and plug casting sport and they insist they like ice fishing as much or more than other kinds of fishing. I have directed many fishermen to ice fishing and none have ever told me that they gave up the sport.

"If you are an amateur in this sport perhaps a few suggestions will be helpful. In the first place, be sure you are dressed comfortably. An ordinary hunting suit is not sufficient because you are out in the wind and there are no wind breaks, unless you live in one of the states that allow fish houses on the ice. Why all states do not permit this is very difficult for an ice fisherman to understand.

"The bait to use depends upon the kind of fish you are trying to catch. You must, of course, depend upon the bait available. In many places blue gill fishermen use corn borers. Everywhere they use the little wood worm or the cadis fly larva, generally called straw bugs because of the case in which they live.

"Some ice fishermen use the small red worm or manure worm which is found in damp places in old straw stacks or in pump dumps. About the best all around bait that has been found is the funny little critter called the Michigan Wiggler which perhaps is the larva of the May fly or the June bug. It is called the Michigan Wiggler because it was first found and used, according to a number of people near Kalamazoo, MI, in a lake where breakfast food manufacturers dumped waste products. The state of Michigan realizing that a possible profit was in sight, forced the bait salesmen to pay a salesman tax on the wiggler, so now they cost a little more. The tax has caused the bait salesmen in Indiana to search for a similar bait with the result that the wiggler has been found in many places in Northern Indiana."



What's on Display? By Mary Hursh



In the fall, we hosted a duck decoy with pieces displayed from Ben Ringler.

The Enchanted Hills Playhouse ran for several years in a large playhouse built in 1910. The museum displayed programs from all the seasons. The first season was 1961 and the closing season was 1996. Over the years, the theatre was

owned by several people. The Enchanted Playhouse guild was formed in



1974. Members contributed many volunteer hours and raised funds for necessities such as air conditioning, lighting, and seating.

This winter and spring, visitors will be able to learn about Carl Eigenmann, a professor of zoology at Indiana University, who started the Indiana University Biological Station in 1895 near what is now Vawter Park. We will highlight the pictures of the lab located in a boathouse in Vawter Park, the tents where students lived, the baseball team, and the Pottawatomie Club where many lectures were given.

The Hunnicut Amusement Park was a destination for many families in the 1940s. Many enjoyed attending midget racing events organized by Harold Nicolai. Several pictures of individual racing cars are soon to fill one of our large cases.

Donations

Another great season for donations to the museum!

- Goshen Historical Museum—Framed Wawasee Post photo, c. 1941
- Lera Reinholt—Photos of area homes, previously belonging to Bill Jones Real Estate, c. 1940s
- Helen Yoder—Golf Bag with 4 woods and 6 putters
- Gary Kline—Syracuse High School Operetta photo, c. 1938
- James Caskey—WHS handkerchief, flotilla medallion, Sesquicentennial flags, Syracuse State Bank items, Farmer's State Bank items, assorted newspaper clippings, Harkless sketches
- Anita Cast—Polaroid camera c. 1950s, Singer Sewhandy sewing machine, ladies boots c. early 1900s
- Mike Smith—Stone pipe in shape of an eagle head
- Donna Workman—Charlie Harris' bowling (2) and Rinker Racing (2) shirts, 1947 Kosciusko County Guide Book
- Gary Kline—Assorted items for area businesses
 - Stan Lopp—Vernier's Chrome Cleaner tin





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.

Watch your mail for the
new **Sponsorship Drive**
to support the general
museum fund

Community Events By Jamie Clemons

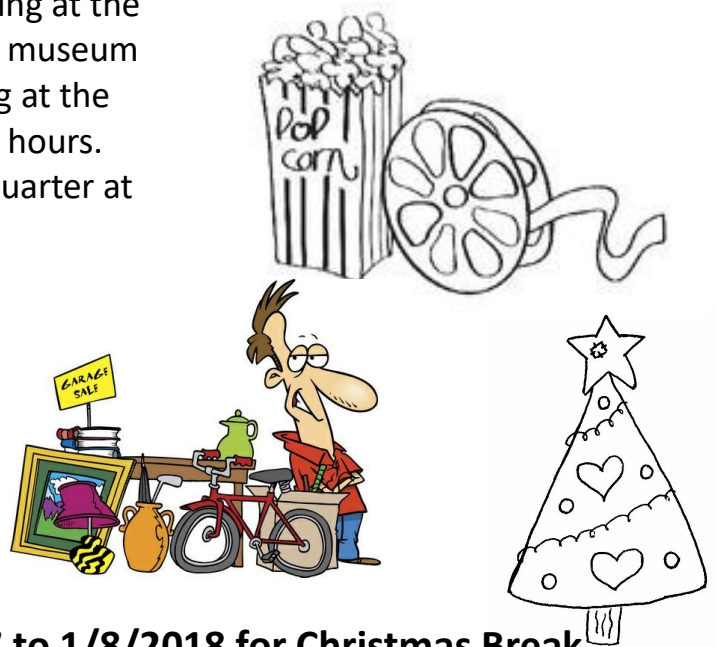
Make sure you keep up with activities happening at the Syracuse Community Center! Many times the museum will open for special events that are happening at the community center outside of normal business hours. Here's a few things happening over the next quarter at the community center:

Free movie nights

- December 15—Despicable Me 3
- January 19—Captain Underpants
- February 6—Beauty and the Beast

March 3—Community Garage Sale

- Museum plans to have a table
- Will possibly run concessions again



The museum will be closed 12/23/2017 to 1/8/2018 for Christmas Break.