



Quarterly Newsletter

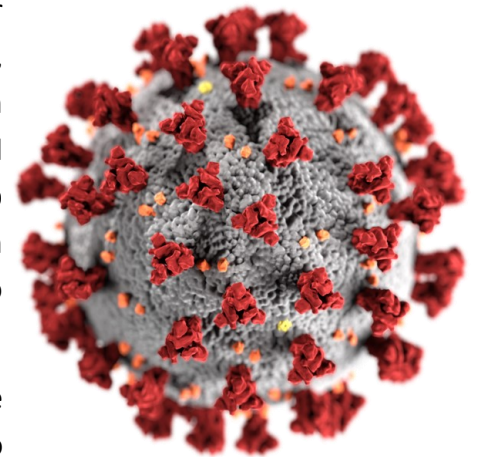
Volume VIII
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SWHM Covid-19 and Financial Update By Jamie Clemons

We all know that life since March, in general, has been stressful for everyone. The stresses are there, not only for people, but for businesses, too. Nonprofits and small businesses have been hit especially hard with just trying to survive. It has been unfortunate that many small businesses have closed due to lack of business needed to simply keep them afloat. Simply staying ahead of the disinfecting of the space can put a strain on a business, due to the extra time and supplies needed to do the job properly.



Decreases in patronage, sales, and donations have especially hit the museum. The museum was closed from March 18-June 15 due to Governor Holcomb’s quarantine plan, cutting our patronage by 1,134 during the 12-week shut down from last year’s numbers. The virus has taken its toll on the overall summer patronage by seeing an approximate 41% decrease from last year. We are looking at a similar, or even larger, decrease in visitation from September-December.

The museum does not charge an entrance fee to view our displayed collection. We do have a good-will donation container for those that want to contribute during their visit and during our programs. We also receive grants, memorial donations, and mail a yearly sponsorship campaign. Although the good-will donations and the sponsorship campaign have, so far, been lower than previous years, the museum has been very fortunate to gain its regular yearly grants, and two additional Covid relief grants. The regular yearly grants provide for the general daily operation expenses and programs that the museum run throughout the year. The Covid relief grants have allowed the museum to keep the Director on as paid staff during shut down and provided the funds to purchase necessary sanitation supplies and cleaning hours needed to make the museum a safe destination for visitors.



What does this all of this mean for the future of the museum? Right now, the museum is okay, but that could quickly change. There are concerns about the coming year and funding our daily operations. We are currently awaiting the results of the Kenneth & Lela Harkless Foundation grant,

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Update...Continued

which supplies over half of our daily operation expenses for the coming year. In order to continue offering our programs free of charge, we need to continue with, or secure new, grants from other organizations. We will soon be submitting another Community Funds grant through the Kosciusko County Community Foundation to help fund museum supplies and yearly programming. Our Dekko grant, supporting all of our children's programming, is still active through fall of 2021.

The director is currently looking for additional grant funding in the event that another shutdown happens, along with any other grant funding that the museum may qualify to receive.

The museum also welcomes any donations. Donations can be designated for certain uses (please speak with the director for needs), given in memory of a person, or designated as a donation toward the sponsorship campaign and general fund. There is a PayPal secure donation button on the website that you may use, you may mail a check to the museum with your donation, or stop by with your cash or check during operating hours. All donations receive a thank you letter that can be used for tax purposes. All donations received in person or postmarked by December 31, 2020 will receive a thank you for the 2020 tax season. No donation is too small or large.



The Hats Have It

Let's be honest...Our museum is small! For such a small room, we have a *lot* of items packed in to tell the rich history of our town. It shouldn't be a surprise that regardless of how diligently we use our space, that we must have a storage somewhere to hold all of the items we can't display all of the time.

Well, this director thought it would be a good idea to pull some of that storage out for a temporary display.

For this time, I chose to pull out our huge collection of hats, dating from the late 1800s to the 1950s. Our collection consists of approximately 60 hats, and while I cannot have them all out at one time, I will be having 15-20 on display in a rotation through the winter. Included in the display is a 1902 print of a Sears & Roebucks catalogue turned to the hats section.



Christmas Memories... By Jamie Clemons

This Christmas feels a bit different for all of us. With the whole pandemic going on, many of us has had to adjust our traditions a bit. This adjustment for me didn't happen just this year, but also 20 Christmases ago after we moved from southern Mississippi to northern Indiana. It meant leaving all of our family behind and forcing my husband, our then-2 year old daughter, and myself to form our own traditions outside of our extended family. My dad recently told me that our annual Christmas Eve family gathering, which has been happening for 67 years, and encapsulates five generations, will be canceled due to the pandemic. My heart breaks that this family tradition is broken as I've seen most traditions like this is forever more ended due to one cancelation. I can only hope that this will not be the case.

I typically like to decorate the weekend after Thanksgiving. Most years we put up a fake tree, and we were able to purchase a pencil tree a few years ago so it doesn't take up a lot of floor space, which is at a premium in my house. Last year we got a beautiful real tree for the first time in what feels like forever, although it was probably less than a decade. Most years I at least have a light theme going on, but the past few years we've just been doing the standard multi-colored lights. My son and I have been putting lights up outside the past couple of years, too. We love to travel to various neighborhoods and look at all of the lights. Always have and, probably, always will.

Christmas Eve is usually spent as calmly as possible. The only stressful thing I do on Christmas Eve is put together a batch of cinnamon rolls to bake on Christmas morning. We may wrap a few presents, but mostly it is devoted to putting on our new pajamas (if we get any), popping popcorn, grabbing the candy and drinks, and sitting down to watch a couple of movies. The "kids" still look forward to it, never mind that they are both adults now.

My house is tiny, so we rarely host events, but I always provide our fair share of the meal for wherever we end up. Since our family is all in Mississippi and we rarely go home for Christmas, we have "framily" that we have our Christmas celebration with, that being in the form of my best friend. Funny story...She and I went to high school together in MS, unknowingly moved to the area within a year of each other, and we recently discovered we are cousins! Each year for Christmas, we choose an ethnicity to cook for (Mexican, Italian, Indian, Soul, Cajun, etc.) and this year my crew is doing a good ol' Cajun spread. This New Orleans born girl is going to make gumbo, beignets, jambalaya, sour dough bread, and French Market coffee. My best friend and I often talk about favorite dishes of family members and I must say that my grandma made the best pies...Any kinds. One of my favorites of Grandma's was her sweet potato pie and butternut squash pie. After our meal, although we tend to graze all evening, we usually play board and card games.

This year, we don't really see a change. We are thankful to be here another year, even though it has been a hard year all around. We understand that some families choose to not gather to keep others, or themselves, as well as possible. So, if you are one of those families, make some new, or revive some old, traditions for your family. It doesn't have to cost anything because the memories that are made are all that matter. Pull that reluctant teenager into the kitchen and teach them how to make Great-Grandma's special dessert, watch a movie that was an uncle's favorite, or pretend you are in quarantine like earlier this year and play some games together. It doesn't matter what it is, as long as it's a memory that can be cherished forever.

Merry Christmas. Happy Holidays. Happy Hanukkah. Happy Kwanza. Whichever holiday you may celebrate, may it be a wonderful one.

It Happened...

150 years ago...

September 15, 1870: Cale Oraw, who lives on “the island” at Syracuse Lake, delivers some Concord grapes to the newspaper’s editor. They are “large and very delicious,” he reports.

100 years ago...

March 29, 1920: Hundreds of windows in homes at Syracuse are broken during a hail storm. The hail stones were said to be half the size of an egg. But there is wind and hail damage all across the county; in Warsaw, part of the Courthouse roof is blown off.

August 27, 1920: Indiana governor James Goodrich falls into a pond at the fish hatchery at Wawasee while trying to feed a pet fish there. It happened like this: after the supervisor of the Indiana Department of Conservation feeds a small frog to the fish, the governor decides to feed it one, too. But when Goodrich walks out on a plank over the water, he slips and falls in. Several of the state’s game wardens see the governor go in, but all of them manage to keep a straight face; the governor’s big splash, though, scares the pet fish so much it is a long time until it can be fed again by hand.

75 years ago...

January 6, 1945: About \$150 is taken in a robbery at the Thornburg store in Syracuse. It is the second robbery there in two weeks.

September 25, 1945: Three soldiers from the county are serving together in an anti-tank unit that is policing Germany, which surrendered to Allied forces last May. They are: Bill Eyer, Syracuse; Joe Miller, North Webster; and Dick Harris, Milford.

50 years ago...

February 2, 1970: Four hundred forty acres of land are annexed into the town of Syracuse. The expansion will double the town’s population to 4,000.

March 22, 1970: A warehouse at the Sea Nymph manufacturing company in Syracuse is badly damaged by fire. The loss is estimated at \$150,000. Frank Bieber is the company’s president.

July 1, 1970: A “bathing suit bandit” has been taking bikini swim suits off clothes lines in the Waco Drive area at Lake Wawasee. Over 100 suits were stolen during a recent night; Orville VanderRyan, the Syracuse Town marshal, suggests removing suits from the line before dark each evening.

November 3, 1970: In a season ending football game, Wawasee and Warsaw play to a 8-8 tie. Warsaw scores first. It comes on a touchdown pass from quarterback Pat Bennett to Mike Simpson; the TD is followed by a two-point conversion on a run by Rick Heckman. Wawasee scores late in the game when quarterback Tim Blue runs 44 yards for a touchdown. It is followed by a two-point conversion that comes when Blue throws a jump pass across the goal line to Rex Humziker. Wawasee ends the season 7-2-1; Warsaw finishes with a 5-4-1 record.

**Items of interest from the *Northern Indianian*, the *Daily Times*, and *Times-Union* newspapers of Warsaw, and reprinted in *The Thaddeus* 2020 editions.

Recent Donations

- **Sandi Ulery**—Late 1800s-Early 1900s women’s clothing (believed to have belonged to Eliza Crow and/or her daughters) from the Crow’s Nest.
- Nancy Harter—Matchbooks
- Garry Weybright—1902 edition of Sears & Roebuck catalogue
- Melinda Welsh—W.A. Jones & Son Dairy 1 qt milk jar.
- Shawn L. Gillem—1970 library card
- Anonymous—G.L. Perry 50 year commemorative cup, “Lugar For President” button pin
- Bob & Sandy McNary—Trophy: 8-5-1916 South Shore “Ladies 50 yo Swim”

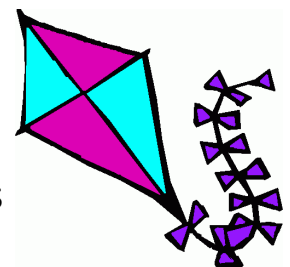


Upcoming Events

- **December 5, 8-10am, Breakfast with Santa: Reindeer Food**—This year will be a drive-thru event, similar to the Trick-or-Treat Drive-thru. Due to the change, the museum staff will have our popular reindeer food craft pre-made and ready to pass out. For more information on the entire event, please contact the Syracuse Community Center at 574-457-3440
- **Second Saturdays, 10a.m.-2p.m.**—New, hands-on family activities focused on historical crafts and the community. Each month’s activity will take place on the second Saturday of the month inside the museum.



- *December 12—Reindeer Food
- *January 11—Paper crafts
- *February 8—Board and card games
- *March 14— Make a kite





Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum

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Email: Syracuse.Wawasee.Museum@gmail.com

Website: www.syracusemuseum.org

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

Have you seen our online “Donate” button?



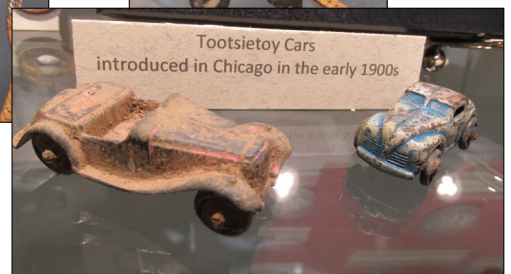
This link allows you to securely donate using your credit card or PayPal account.



From the Depths of Wawasee

Do you ever wonder what might be found at the bottom of the lake? Many people do! The museum currently has a display of various items that local residents have found on the bottom of Lake Wawasee. The items are on loan for a limited time. Some of the items on display are:

- 1930s Standing Liberty quarter
- 1937 and 1942 Walking Liberty quarters
- 1866-1883 Shield nickel
- 1893 and 1912 V nickel
- 1915 Barber quarter
- 1912 Barber dime
- 1919 and 1925 Buffalo nickel
- 1898 Barber quarter dollar
- Civil War uniform button
- Lead bullets
- Native American artifacts
- Lead soldier
- Wooden lure
- Jewelry
- WWI coat button
- Glass bottles





If you carry a membership, your membership to the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum is up for renewal.

Membership entitles you to first-hand information of Museum happenings and the knowledge that you are helping the Museum carry out its mission of preserving local history.

*If you have established a membership since September 2020, your membership is good until December 2021.

To continue your membership, please fill out this brief form:

| | |
|------------|--|
| Name: | |
| Address: | |
| Telephone: | |
| E-Mail: | |

| Membership Type: | Price: | Total Enclosed: |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Individual | \$30 Annually | |
| Family | \$50 Annually | |
| Corporate | \$100 Annually | |
| Donation | | |

Thank you for your support. Please make checks payable to “Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum” and mail with completed form to:

Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum
1013 North Long Drive
Syracuse, IN 46567

Questions? Call 574-457-3599 or E-Mail: director@syracusemuseum.org

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