



Quarterly
Newsletter

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Museum Showcases A Collection of Christmas Books By Mary Hursh

Nancy Nelson brought a large part of her Christmas book collection to the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum for visitors to enjoy. She chose old-fashioned Christmas stories as well as books that represented the Christmas traditions we all know. “Christmas is a magical time. It is a time of great anticipation for children as well as adults. As a child, my favorite memory was getting a new book and heading to my bedroom to read it.”

“Franklin and Winston, A Christmas That Changed the World” by Douglas Wood, “A Newbery Christmas” by Martin Greenberg, and “When Love Came Down at Christmas” by Point of Grace are three books Nancy has enjoyed reading.

“ I have always loved books. I was a big Nancy Drew fan as a child and now I am a mystery fan. I usually have a nonfiction and a fiction book going every week,” said Nelson

Nelson came to Syracuse in 1967 and started teaching first grade at Milford. When she received her master’s degree, she became a Title 1 coordinator. After earning her librarian’s degree from IU, she held a variety of positions. She oversaw special education, gifted and talented, and computer repair and GED instruction. Perhaps her favorite job was working as a librarian at the elementary and junior high from 1981-2011.

“ I loved working in the library. I loved ordering and reading books and even taking inventory.



Iconic Bushong Barber Shop By Mary Hursh



Bushong Barbershop was the oldest continuous family business in Syracuse. The shop was located at 105 E. Main.

Elias "Eli" Bushong started business in 1865. His sons William and Vern took over the shop in 1915. William turned the shop over to his son Joe in 1940. Joe passed the business to his son, George, in 1959. Joe's other two sons, Avon

and Jon, worked at the shop after school and weekends when they were in the seventh grade.

Jim Conder bought the shop from George in 1990 and named it the Lighthouse Barbershop.

Jim sold it to **Jeff Stout** and his father, John, around the end of 2007. **John** and Julie opened Wawasee Antiques in the old barbershop. John closed the shop and Café Liefde opened in the building July 7, 2021.

Can you believe it?!? It has been a year since I put hats on display, and we are still going strong. Joann Stoelting has twice delivered hats to us to add to the collection, bringing our total of hats to close to 100.

The Hats Have It

We do still change them out every two months, or so, and currently they will be staying on display at least until the beginning of the summer 2022. I have thoroughly enjoyed this display and will be sad when we must take it down.



Updates and Changes to the Museum By Jamie Clemons

Another year has come and gone, and with it has shown some major changes in the museum's appearance. We began the year trying to shake off the cloud of Covid and trying to cheer up every aspect of our lives, both personal and professional. Personally, 2021 started out absolutely terrible for me with my dad's death, my husband and son having surgeries, me getting Covid, and my daughter fighting pleurisy from her 2020 Covid illness. By the time summer came around, we were all finally on the mend.

Now, professionally...The museum began the year like most years with planning for the summer. If you have not seen our summer lineup the last few years, you are certainly missing out! We are BUSY! Starting in June we have weekly happenings, with at least one Saturday event all the way up until the beginning of September. So, anything that goes on involving major changes usually happens during our "Off" season, which is between Labor and the following Memorial days. We have changed all of the rotational displays to reflect a particular topic (this year's summer exhibit featured The Crow's Nest) or holiday (Nancy Nelson's Christmas books). We received a new case in memory of our town's beloved Susan Kroh Myrick, with its first display being the Thornburg's Pharmacy, and its current display being the Bushong Barber Shop. This case will be dedicated to always featuring a business, past or present, within Syracuse.

The most recent big change is the organization of the museum. In November, thanks to a grant from the Kosciusko County Community Foundation, the museum was able to get a special UV film installed onto the exterior windows. This film is invaluable in filtering out harmful UV rays that could damage our artifacts. With that installation, I had to move a number of cases and artifacts away from the wall so that the installers could do their job. Once they were done and I looked at everything that was moved, I decided that a bigger project needed to be done. After a good night's sleep and some measuring, I put my plan into action. With my daughter's help and two days of hard work, we completely rearranged the north and west walls. We now have all of our displayed business artifacts together along the west wall, have slightly moved and improved the military display along the north wall, and been able to place all of our settler and home artifacts together in a most pleasing arrangement. It is amazing how just rearranging a few things can really open up a room!

Another huge project that Mary Hursh, Kip Schumm, and I have been working on has been a new and improved brochure for the museum. We have had the old brochure a number of years, and we felt that it was time to freshen it up, and boy has it been freshened! It is a totally different look than the previous one. In addition to the new brochure, we have designed a new logo that we hope everyone will like. The new brochures are hot off the press and are now available at the museum. If you have, or know of, a business that would be willing to distribute them, I will be happy to oblige. You can call or email me and I will be happy to deliver the number that you would like to have on hand.

Thank you for your patronage and donations! Happy holidays from the staff and board!



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

Check here _____ if you would like to receive your quarterly newsletters by E-Mail.

Recent Donations

- **Jackie Bradley**—WWII Service record book, W.L. Cutter Chevrolet emergency sewing kit, Coxy's Gun Shop screwdriver, hair curling tools, straight razor, manual clippers, unknown wooden object with leather strap, Solomon Creek commemorative plate
- Fred Wissing—Father's Korean Army uniform and other standard issue items
- Susan Kline—©1864 Bible from crawl space of 1104 North Long Drive house during renovations
- Scott Norris—Cutter Chevrolet wooden yard stick, American Home Centers 13" wooden ruler, church fan with business advertisements, Syracuse Electric Co. framed map
- Linda Earnest—Postcards of CYO Camp on Wawasee
- Amanda Weldy—Enchanted Hills cookbook
- Mary Ellen Prickett—Rotary items, Papakeeche land title, Basket purses, Wawasee prep 1967 yearbook, Tom Roose high school diploma, Wawasee wooden boat rally 1994 flag, photos, post cards, Tom Socks suit bag, Macy's Wawasee Slip paint stir sticks, Marise's shopping bag



Upcoming Events

- **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.



*January 11—Board and Card games

*February 8—Board and card games
kite or windmill





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.



End-of-Year Donations

Thank you very much for your wonderful donations, both in money and items. Without either, the museum would cease to exist, and the community would not be able to see the history of Syracuse.

It's not too late to get your end-of-year donations in! All donations postmarked by December 31 are eligible for tax deductions (as allowed by law) for the 2021 year.

You can also use our “Donate” link on our website. In the “Instructions to Buyer” box, simply write in “yearly donation”, “In memory of...”, or something similar.

Whether you donate by check or online, you will receive a thank you letter acknowledging your donation to be used with your taxes.

If you are still holding on to the donation letter that we sent out earlier in the year, it's not too late to send it in. It costs approximately \$100 to keep the museum open each day. We can't stay open without your help! This year's donation letter has raised +\$14,000 to help offset this year's expenses.

