

NEWS

We are ready for the holidays! The museum is decorated for Christmas, with Harkless the Bear looking mighty dapper in his Santa hat while commanding the Mier automobile.

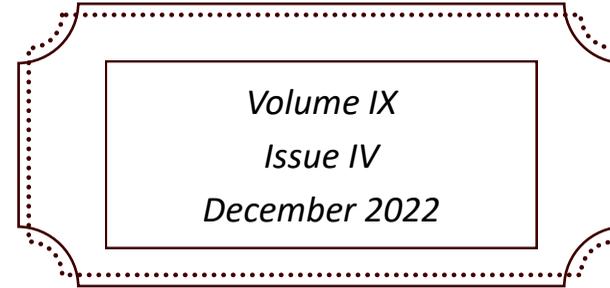
This year, the family of board member Mary Hursh came in to help decorate. Only littles know the absolute best place to put ornaments to make the museum look its best and to give this director a run for her money when it comes time to pack it all up again! Thank you for your help!



Maddie, Ellie, and Chris Larbes with Mary Hursh. Photo curtesy of Jessica Larbes.



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www.syracusemuseum.org



Thank you!

In preparation for the 1987 Syracuse Sesquicentennial event, visionaries thought it would be a great idea to put together a temporary "museum" and fill it with items that told the historical tale of the town. The response was so great with donated items and supporting funds that shortly after what we now call the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum became a permanent fixture in the town.

To this day, the donation of funds and items to the museum are what keeps this collection on display for the visiting public. The museum receives no funds from government entities, solely relying on the generosity of grant writing and donations from the public.

We would like to take a moment to thank the following people and organizations for supporting us throughout the past year:

Grant organizations:

- Kenneth & Lela Harkless Foundation
- Kosciusko County Community Foundation
- Dekko Foundation

Business & Patron Donations:

Kevin Kirkpatrick
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Joetta Lung
Joan Stoelting

Charles Garner
Sandra Jean Kosinski
Robert Fanning
David & Kathleen Jones
Shirley Bobeck
Toby Oswald
Carolyn McNorton

Recap: Centennial Homes, 2022

By Ann Garceau



Seth Ward

Even though this summer's Centennial Celebrity program on Seth Seaton Ward drew an overflow crowd, presenter Ann Garceau realized the highlights should also appear in print for posterity. For the Syracuse - Wawasee area, from the late 1950s until his death in 1974, towering, silver-haired Seth Ward became a legend. Using the recent donation to the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum of his scrapbooks and photo albums by Norma Baugher, Seth's housekeeper in his last years, we were able to reconstruct his life. Numerous area residents shared more memorabilia and personal stories.

Seth Seaton Ward was born in 1899 in Princeton, Indiana. Pictures in his parents' photo album indicate the family presence on Lake Wawasee at least as early as 1916. After his 1917 graduation from Shortridge High School in Indianapolis, he spent a year at Purdue where he was in ROTC, pledged Sigma Chi, and earned a place on the Glee Club. Fraternity brother Aldean Strieby married Irene Macy and went on to run what we now know as The Wawasee Slip. A letter from Seth states, "I entered the U.S. Military Academy (at West Point) August 1, 1919 and was discharged March 1920 because of injuries received in line of duty." He said he then found the pursuit of law more to his liking.

From 1920-1922, Seth Ward was employed by the city of Indianapolis as a Civil Engineering draftsman. As a U.S. Treasury Department Revenue Enforcement Officer (T-Man) from 1922 - 1925 during Prohibition, he cracked down on illegal activity, even aiding in the apprehension of D.C. Stephenson, Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan in the Midwest. The KKK was prosecuted by a bright, young Marion County Prosecutor, William H. Remy, who summured on Ogden Island. In 1940, his son, Charles Remy, married Mary Alice Phend of Milford but was tragically killed in 1944 in WWII action in France. From 1925-1927, Seth Ward was employed as a special investigator for an insurance company in Indianapolis. Receiving his Attorney's Certificate in 1927, Seth became a successful trial lawyer in Indianapolis and continued to practice law through 1961.

On March 6, 1931, Seth Ward married Shortridge H.S. graduate Elizabeth ("Betsy") Prunk. They came to Wawasee the first year they were married, and in 1961, on their 30th wedding anniversary, they still had the key to the room which was always reserved for them at the Spink Wawasee Hotel. Seth and Betsy bought a small "Honeymoon Cottage" in Nordyke Park several doors east of the hotel in the 1940s. As time went on, they built a bathhouse at lakeside and a large building to house his law library. Seth and

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Recap: Centennial Homes, 2022: Continued

Chinese Gardens

built-in ice box, and a half-bath. It served as a party house, hosting many business meetings and social gatherings.

In Oct., 1950, about the time Mr. Long retired from his baking business in Chicago, the Longs offered their entire property for sale. Much of the contents of the teahouse and main house were sold with the property. The next owner donated many of the Chinese artifacts to the Indianapolis Children's Museum in 1965. Due to their secluded nature, the grounds of the Chinese Gardens began to be vandalized, and the teahouse finally had to be razed. From a first-person account, it has been learned that the building was taken apart in pieces and stored, sold or given away. In the research process, a few of the artifacts came to light in homes in the community. The daughter of the present property owner has a strong interest in historic preservation so the future of the area looks promising.

Thank you!: Continued

Nancy Nelson
 Jack Clark
 Steffen Realty, Inc.
 Dr. Charles & D'Lee Batholome
 Lavern & Marlys Yoder
 Barbara Naab
 Paul & Martha Stoelting
 Eugene & Patsy McNichols
 Jean Insley
 Thomas & Susan Spencer
 Cynthia Vaughan
 Ron Baumgartner & The Papers
 Nancy Harter
 Mary Lou Dixon
 Stu & Denise Phillips
 Gary & Shirley Kline
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 Keith & Bonnie Brauer

Bob & Sandy McNary
 Jon & Genevieve Bushong
 Richard & Julia Davis
 Elmer & Mary Stutzman
 Ursula Patrick
 Joe & Karen Stiles
 Nancy Cannon
 Mark Phillabaum
 American Legion Post 223
 Ralph & Connie Meyer
 Karen Glaser
 Thomas Everett
 Judson & Lydia Church
 Judith Schmahl Eppich
 Larry Teghtmeyer
 Irwin Deister, Jr.
 **And any other persons we may have neglected mentioning

Recap: Centennial Homes, 2022

By Ann Garceau



Chinese Gardens

The Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum's August program on W.E. Long's Chinese Gardens and Game House drew quite a crowd. Annette Sinn, Game House owner, gave the audience an inside peek at her masterful job of transforming the structure originally built primarily for entertaining into a cozy home. In putting together the history of the gardens, Ann Garceau did extensive

research using various newspaper articles, the property tax brochure, a tribute booklet to Mr. Long, and some first-person accounts. Photographs and postcards from Indiana Memory - many contributed by Garry Ringler - illustrated the presentation. Mike Mock contributed many never seen before images from his collection. Feeling that the information gathered on the Chinese Gardens and Game House needs to be shared with an even wider audience, Ann submitted the following.

In the 1930s, behind his residence on Kale Island near the entrance to Pickwick Park, W.E. Long transformed swamp land into an inland lagoon with a chain of three small islands. This quote from a 1950 sales brochure loaned by Shelly and Scott Rogers paints a picture of the transformation,

The most fascinating of the islands has been made a perfect little Chinese garden with lanterns, carved bridges, a reflection pool surrounded by Chinese figures & an authentically designed pagoda overhanging the water, equipped as a tea house for entertainment. The exotically beautiful Chinese House is built at the edge of the quiet waters of the man-made channels. The interior contains a rare collection of Chinese art. The island of Fairyland beauty is also a haven for brilliant oriental birds, flamingoes and water fowl.

The Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum has the original architectural plans for the Japanese tea house designed by Paul M. Fuller dated Feb. 20, 1934. Fuller, a designer for Chicago's Marshall Field & Co., later became the dean of jukebox designers. Chicago artist Julius Moessel painted murals of Chinese natives and various birds on the inside walls of the pagoda. He later painted huge murals for Chicago's Field Museum. The tea house consisted of one main room, a small kitchenette, a bar, a

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Memories of Auer's Friendly Service

By Mary Hursh

The local business display case at the museum has been recently filled with memories of Auer's Friendly Service station located at 200 E. Main Street.

Abshire Oil Company in Goshen built the gas station in 1945. John Auer, a local resident, was hired to run it. At that time, it was a Mobile station.

Nelson Auer joined his father John around 1946 to buy the facility from

Abshire. It's original name was Auer's Friendly Service. It then soon changed to Auer's Auto Supply when the station was expanded and parts, tires, and supplies were added.

The station was sold in the late 1970s to Jim Walsh associated with Schrader Automotive in Warsaw and Thompson Automotive in South Bend. Denny Emmert bought the business in 1983 and ran the station until 1997. The facility was then sold to Gary Ball and no longer functioned as a gas station.



Recap: Continued Seth Ward

Betsy were a flamboyant couple. One of their Lincoln cars became legendary - Seth repainted it himself, using numerous cans of aluminum spray paint and put a slow-moving vehicle sign on the trunk lid. The property was filled with "yard ornaments," and cats abounded. Seth considered the Wawasee Preparatory School priests his friends. For a year or two in the late 1960s, the school used his land across the road for a soccer field. He was very patriotic. At one time Seth paid for everything with \$2.00 bills - "so he could see where his money went!" Scores of neighborhood children and friends annually attended HIS birthday parties on Sept. 1st. Seth provided a number of cakes, gallons of ice cream and endless candy bars and cookies.

Their life was a blend of humor, sorrow and controversy. Everyone had a favorite Seth Ward story. His beloved Betsy died in Jan., 1967, and Seth passed away in 1974. They are buried in the Syracuse Cemetery. Sometime after the Wards' death, a realtor purchased the property, tore down the structures, and divided it into two building lots (#11A & 11B). A devastating fire in late March of 1998 destroyed both homes and an adjacent home. The June 7, 2000, Mail-Journal reported: "This devastating fire prompted hydrants in the waters of Lake Wawasee. Fifteen hydrants will be completed by August."

- **Nancy Shields and Chris Koher, Jr.**—Korean War Army dress hat, 1936 & 1943 SHS diploma, photos
- **Jenny Rowland**—Early 1900s dress belonging to grandmother, Lulu Blanche Thornburg
- **Sharon Moser**—Weatherhead jacket belonging to mother Mona Belle Byrd
- **Mike Mock**—Foo & Faye's fan, Macy's Wawasee Slip paint sticks and pencils
- **Nancy Shields**—1936 class ring belonging to Christian F. Koher
- **John J. Murphy**—Chairs from WACO Dance Hall
- **Chuck Crow**—WACO investment letter, theatre program, Jubilee songbook, Swift & Co. dairy shipping letter, William Crow freight ticket
- **Stephanie Tolen**—1968-1969 Wawasee Arts Foundation, aka Enchanted Hills Playhouse, photos
- **Merlin Wolfe**—Sesquicentennial plate and 1960s advertisement booklet



Less-Stress Cooking Tips by Jamie Clemons

As a southerner that loves to cook, and honestly believes that the way to make anyone feel better is to feed them, I've encountered a lot of stress trying to live up to the hub-bub of cooking for the holidays, birthdays, and other special events. Everything has to be perfect or the world will end. Right? Wrong! I've had to learn that not everything has to be perfect, including the meal! Here are some tips I've learned to help lesson the stress over these special occasions that I hope will help everyone, as well as help me remember to do them more often.

- Plan ahead! Plan the entire meal and include everyone that has a part in the meal. This is also known as "asking for help".
- Prep ahead! This step has saved my sanity so many times. Chop and freeze veggies, brown ground beef or chicken, put together and freeze appetizers.
- Plan ahead...Yes, again! Get a game plan for pulling items from the freezer, getting things put together, and cooked.

Museum Showcases A Collection of Christmas Books By Mary Hursh



Nancy Nelson has once again 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."

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- Meal prep! This can be a life saver, not only for those holiday leftover uses, but also for those crazy nights where you don't want to cook. I like to meal prep for the crockpot so all I have to do is go to the freezer, plop the bag contents into the crock, set it, and forget it. Then, all I have to do in the evening is put on some rice, noodles, etc. and dinner is served. There are tons of free meal prep ideas and recipes on the internet, many of which come with shopping lists to make it even easier.

My husband turned 50 at Thanksgiving and I know if I hadn't followed my own advise (especially the meal prep), then my brain would be mush right now. So, take a deep breath, grab you a pad and pen, and make meal time less stress and work. Take more time to enjoy your family during every meal.