



# Quarterly Newsletter

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## Archaeological digs and speakers featured at the museum By Mary Hursh

The summer schedule for the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum begins with six weeks of programming designed especially for young people. Every Thursday from June 3 through August 5, children will interact with museum director Jamie Clemons in a variety of hands-on activities where they can make cornhusk dolls, beeswax candles, journals, ink, paper and quills. Fun activities include a mock archaeology dig and games. Children will also learn about the weather, bike safety, and penmanship. These programs are free.



Area artist Cindy Newcomer will highlight her wooden boat paintings at the annual meeting

Area artist Cindy Newcomer will be the guest speaker at the annual museum members’ meeting on June 19 at the Syracuse Community Center at 10:30 a.m. Her topic will be “Taking a Risk,” and will focus on the moment she decided to take a risk and paint wooden boats. Her first subject was a Riva. She experimented with composition and with creating the romantic nature of the crafts.

As the years went on, Cindy created landscapes, posters, and lake décor at her studios on Kale Island and in Zionsville. Her works are sold at the Water Lily in Syracuse and at Charles Mayer in Indianapolis.

The Centennial Homes presentations held at the community center are one of the highlights of offerings sponsored by the museum. The Saturday programs will take place July 10 at 1:00 p.m. and August 14 at 10:30 a.m. One program will feature two family names pronounced the same but spelled differently. The other program will feature a centennial home on Kale Island moving into its second life. To preserve lake history, the museum has compiled the first five seasons of Centennial Homes and Families into digital format. These programs are available by contacting the museum (574) 457-3599 or by

visiting the museum on Tuesday through Saturday from 10-2.

Indiana Archaeology month is always a special time for the museum. In partnership with Chautauqua-Wawasee, area residents will be treated to a discussion of the Fred Bartol collection of prehistoric Indian artifacts on Thursday, September 2 from

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## Digs and Speakers...Continued

6:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, September 3 from 6:30-7:30 p.m., the archaeology of northern Indiana will be explained by a professor from Notre Dame and a postdoctoral fellow from Dartmouth. On Saturday, September 4, a series of programs from 9-noon will feature plant traditions of the Miami tribe, the French influences in our area, flint knapping, a kayak display and an archaeology dig for children.

## Biking Around The Lakes By Jamie Clemons and Mary Hursh

The museum has a wonderful lineup for its Youth History Club this year. Erlene, executive director of the Syracuse-Wawasee Trails, kicked off our weekly meetings with bike teaching the kids about bike safety, trail etiquette, and the history of the Trails organization. The kids also received maps of the trails, the ABCs of safe biking, and a sticker.



1959 Schwinn Traveler  
and bell

Bud Hursh, known to this director as a man that has many collections, loaned the museum two extremely beautiful vintage bikes from his collection.

The Arnold Schwinn Company was established in 1895 in Chicago. The last Schwinn built in Chicago was 1982. After 1982, the Schwinn badge appears on various Chinese imports. Schwinn Travelers were produced from 1950-1988. **The Traveler model** was the most popular of the lightweight bikes. America's favorite fully equipped bike was perfect for sports, utility, or touring. The equipment includes a three-speed gear shift, front and rear hand caliper brakes, generator with headlight and taillight along with a saddle bag.

**The Raleigh "Superbe"** is the super-deluxe version of Raleigh's top of the line bike. The usual Superbe model differs from a standard sports model by having a locking fork, Dynohub lighting system, and a sprung saddle, usually a Brooks B-66 model.



1970 Raleigh Superbe  
with seat and bag

The first Raleigh bike was built in 1885 on Raleigh Street in Nottingham, England. Raleigh bicycles are still in production today. The Arnold Schwinn Company was established in 1895 in Chicago. The last Chicago-built Schwinn was in 1892.

Both of these bikes are in fantastic condition and we are happy to display them through the summer.

## The Myrick-Kroh family has a long history in Syracuse. By Mary Hursh

The museum now has a new case which will be dedicated to area businesses. The case was donated in memory of Susan Kroh Myrick by her children Amy Coy Matherly, Sarah Ann Coy, and Cynthia Myrick Rosenberg.

The first featured business in the case will be Thornburg Drug Company. Thornburg Drug Company has a history with the Myrick family.

Stephen Freeman III was Susan Myrick's grandfather. In 1902, he married Josephine Walter. Her parents had a cottage on Waco along the shores of Lake Wawasee. The Freeman children, Stephen, Lucy, Margaret, Joseph, and James, enjoyed many summers at the lake.

As time passed, the Freemans bought lots 9 and 10 plus farmland (Sunbeam Farm) in a platted area called Truesdale Lodge, one-half mile from the Waco cottage. They lived in the log cabin on lot 9 for several years, and then in 1918, built a home on lot 10 and lot 8.

George Franklin Kroh was Susan Myrick's grandfather on her father's side. George married Mary Weaver in 1877 and they had two sons, George Russell Kroh and Charles Weaver Kroh, known as Jim. After service in World War 1, Jim Kroh returned to Syracuse and began working for Ralph Thornburg, Sr., at Thornburg Drug Store.



Jim Kroh married Lucy Freeman in 1924. That same year, Jim and Lucy bought one-half interest in Thornburg Drugs and Jim got his pharmacy assistant's license. In 1941, Ralph Thornburg, Jr., joined the partnership.

Thornburg's was a community gathering spot. It started when Ralph Thornburg and his wife Blanche purchased the drug store in the S.L. Ketring building on Main Street east of Huntington. Patrons enjoyed homemade ice cream and chocolate syrup quite often in



## Exhibits...By Jamie Clemons

Do you ever wonder why we have temporary exhibits? There are a couple of reasons why we do such things. The first reason is so that people with various collections can put them on display to the public. Many of these are not necessarily tied to the community, other than the owner living here, but these objects can give us a glimpse into how another person lived or what items from the past looked like. For example, in the past the museum has had displays on buttons, eggshell ornaments, Civil War to WWI medical tools, business advertising materials, native wood samples, Fischer Price toys, and movie equipment.

Often times these temporary displays come from the museum's own collections. We are able to pull items from our storage that cannot always be on display due to space limits within the museum. For example, over the past several months we have had two such exhibits: Hats and Jewelry. The museum has almost 100 hats in its collection that

has been put on a rotation basis in order to show them all off. Board member Mary Hursh and myself put a jewelry display together featuring costume jewelry from our personal collections and, as a result, Joan Stoelting has recently gifted many pieces from her jewelry collection to the museum, which are currently on display.

So, if you are going through your collections, your parents', or even better your grandparents' collections, think about the possibility of loaning items to the museum to display for a time. Displays usually are on for 6-8 weeks and, unless they are quite large and heavy, are kept under lock in a case. The best way to start the process is to call me, Jamie Clemons, at the museum. I will be happy to talk to you about your collection, when the best time would be to display, and the process of loaning items to the museum. If you would rather donate items, we follow a similar process as a loan. Please call ahead before bringing in large items as unfortunately I cannot accept every article that comes through our doors.



## Recent Donations

THANK YOU

- Michael L. Shank—1964 Northeast Indiana Lake Map
- Carolyn Hapner—Native American points found on Syracuse property
- Michael W. Smith—Eli Lilly correspondence letters
- Tom Combs—Steel shoe snow spikes, United Spanish War Veterans membership card (1944), Easter postcard (1927), 1940s & 1950s Christmas cards, campaign buttons, beer & coke caps, Parker Brothers game money
- Joan Stoelting—Household spindle
- Donald P. Sheline—Paintings of Crow's Nest, Louie Stolt's Grocery, & Emerson's Grocery
- Deanna Swain (Water Lily)—Replacement glass for painting

## Myrick-Kroh...Continued

the soda shop area of the store. The store also featured jewelry, silverware, and phonographs. Eventually, Thornburg Drug was purchased by John Kroh (1987) and then Richard Snyder (1990s), and the name was changed to Park Pharmacy.



Susan Myrick, granddaughter of Jim and Lucy Kroh was born in 1930. She grew up on Lake Street in Syracuse. Susan worked at Thornburg's. She graduated from Syracuse High School in 1948 and then MacMurray College. She married Marshall Coy in 1951. In 1961, after Marshall's death, she married Carl Myrick. Carl helped build the Weatherhead plant and served on the Syracuse Town Board. He was a member of the volunteer fire department.

Susan was active in politics, clubs, and associations in Syracuse. She was a room mother, a Girl Scout leader, and a dedicated election worker. She earned her real estate license and worked at the Turkey Creek Township

Assessor's office. She was later elected Township Assessor.

"When she passed away in 2015, our first thought was to help preserve the history of the place she loved. From the time the Indians canoed across silent waters to the crazy July 4 days when speedboats crisscrossed the lakes, Syracuse has always been an utterly unique place. It was special to her and special to the three of us," said Amy Coy Matherly.

## Centennial Homes...Continued

built one of the first homes on Waco Dr. and Freeman's Orchard. Together Jim and Lucy entered into partnership in Thornburg Drug Company, and the family became even more well known in the area. You'll also marvel at how descendants of the Nathaniel Crow family continue to figure prominently in the area. Crow's Nest may be gone, but in preparation for this program, various members of the family are making sure memories stay alive in the community.

In an effort to preserve lake history, the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum has compiled the first five seasons of Centennial Homes and Families into digital format. These ten programs will be available this summer. Check the website for further details.





## Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum

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Website: [www.syracusemuseum.org](http://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.



## Museum's 6<sup>th</sup> season of Centennial Homes and Families By Ann Garceau

Mark your calendars for the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum's fascinating programs about Centennial Homes and Families in the area. Held [at the Syracuse Community Center](#) across from Lakeside Park.



The first program will take place Saturday, July 10th at 1:00 featuring the Quinn log cabin, a centennial home on Kale Island moving into its second life. The story of the home and other landmarks on the island will hold you spellbound.

The second program will be Saturday, August 14th at 10:30 at the Syracuse Community Center. This program will feature two family names (Kroh and Crow) pronounced the same but spelled differently. Join us to learn more about the Charles (Jim) and Lucy Kroh family – Lucy's roots in the area go back to the Walter family who



### Summer 2021 Events

### Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum

All events are free to the public.

1013 North Long Drive, Syracuse, IN 46567

Funded by: Dekko Foundation, Kosciusko County Community Foundation, and the Harkless Foundation

Phone: 574-457-3599

### Youth History Club, Thursdays, 10am.-11:30pm, June 3-August 5



Youth History Club teaches about the rich history of our area. This year we will learn about archaeological digs, paper making, corn husk dolls, history of weather reporting, and many more. Due to the need to prepare supplies, we ask that you pre-register. Funded by the Dekko Foundation.

### Annual Meeting and Artist’s Presentation, June 19 at 10:30

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity for the public to learn about what the museum has done over the past year, as well as getting a glimpse into the overall financial health of the museum. Artist Cindy Newcomer will be our featured artist. Cindy has been painting a series of lake views from different times of the year. Funded by the KCCF.



### Centennial Homes, July 10 at 1:00pm and August 14 at 10:30am



Our yearly Centennial Homes will make a return this summer. July will feature Kale Island. August will feature the Crow’s Nest, Crow family, and Kroh family. If you have a centennial home and would like to present at some point, please get in touch with the director or Ann Garceau to get on the schedule. Funded by the KCCF.

### Northeastern Indiana Historical Native American Program, September 2-4

Indiana Archaeology Month is a time to celebrate the various aspects of Indiana archaeology. The museum and Chautauqua-Wawasee will again partner to bring you this fascinating series of varying topics over a 3-day period. This year will feature Notre Dame’s Dr. Mark Schurr, Joe Zdbebko, Mike Smith, Jeff Mesaros, and others. Funded by the KCCF and Dekko Foundation.





**If you carry a “Family” or “Individual” 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.

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

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
E-Mail:	

<b>Membership Type:</b>	<b>Price:</b>	<b>Total Enclosed:</b>
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](mailto:director@syracusemuseum.org)

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