



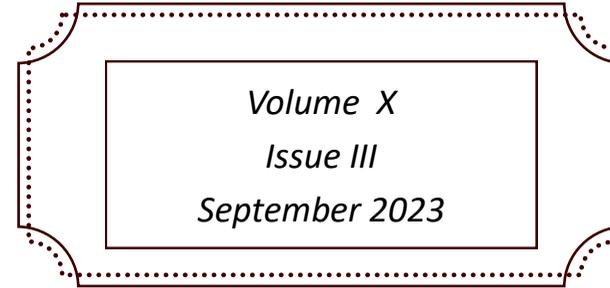
1013 North Long Drive
 Syracuse, IN 46567
 www.syracusemuseum.org

Youth History Club and Archaeology Month

From the week after school lets out until the week before school is back in session, each Thursday morning is filled with school-aged kids coming in to learn more about history. On average throughout the summer, we have 25 kids participating in the weekly Youth History Club. Each week is a different topic with this summer's topics focusing mostly on food.

This year, kids learned about: food of the Americas, food ways, composting, corn and mortar and pestle use, food preservation, basketry, bead working, and a Native American math game. Learning about foods, and where they come from, helped the kids realize how connected we all are to the foods we eat. That connection comes by

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"One Thing Leads to Another" By Ann Garceau

2023 Centennial Programs

The creation of Lake Papakeeche by the Northern Indiana Improvement Company led to the development of the Wawasee State Fish Hatchery. This past summer's Centennial programs featured this chain of events in the early 1900s. Just southeast of Lake Wawasee there was a large tract of inaccessible territory with high hills, deep holes full of water, swamps and razorback ridges. Separated by



low marsh lands, six little lakes were scattered about the valley. The lives of highly motivated men like Charles Sudlow, George Xanders and George Miles intertwined to create a serene lake. About the time the waters of Lake Papakeeche were rising behind its dam and embankments, the state of Indiana started funding state fish hatcheries. The ideal location was right there at the marshy area between the dam and Lake Wawasee. Master Gardener and Papakeeche resident Joyce Arleen Corson also shared her efforts in mitigating the current wetlands.

The second program followed the fish hatchery development from just two rearing ponds at the foot of the dam through tremendous enlargement in the

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One Thing Leads to Another...Continued...

mid-1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps to 27 ponds! A Herdrich family aerial photo and evidence of the CCC camp on the Hursey property pinpointed its location; something highly debated for years. The artesian well used by those enrollees continues to flow today. With the help of museum board member Mike Mock, Ann Garceau was blessed with an incredible amount of research material. Amy Hurd, Kosciusko County Surveyor's Office, supplied property records



Both Donna Workmans attended the second program.



Centennial plaques were given to families essential to this year's programs.

for the grocery and bait shop nestled in the middle of all the hatchery ponds. First-person accounts added much human interest to the area. Maurice Lung started working at the hatchery in the 1930s, later becoming superintendent of all the state fish hatcheries in Indiana. His daughter, Diana Lung Castell, enthralled the audience with stories of her "childhood playground."

The 2023 Centennial Presentations will be edited this winter and available in digital format at the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum by next summer.

Youth History Club and Archaeology Month...Continued...

learning how we grow, harvest, and preserve the foods we eat. The kids were super excited to help get a compost bin started and how to use the compost once it is ready. I pulled out modern mortar and pestles, as well as our most sturdy displayed mortar and pestle for the kids to try their hand at grinding corn. The kids learned about many different types of baskets, how they are used in harvesting and storage, and how to weave a simple basket. They also learned about birds and how they contribute to pollination. In the last class the kids learned about the many different types of food preservation methods and enjoyed a take-home collection of fruit leather, freeze-dried fruit, and freeze-dried skittles.

We are very thankful to the Dekko Foundation for their full and continued support of our Youth History Club, which allows us to offer the program for free to our community's kids.

Our annual 3-day Archaeology Month program brought in another nice group of participants and patrons. T.J.Honeycutt spoke about

the 1826 Treaty of Paradise Spring, which created many reserves in northern Indiana, including Papakeechee's Reserve. Lynn MacKaben Brown presented her new historical novel *Furs and Fevers*, based on Dominique Rousseau's life from 1825-1840. Our outdoor "Family Fun Day" saw a new addition with metal detecting in archaeology, as well as the return of artifact identification, Five Medals Living History, 1750s French Marine, flint knapping, and atlatl demonstrations.



YHC kids filling a compost bin

Country Corner, continued

Christmas store set up with Currier and Ives ornaments, Santa Clauses, and, according to Ellis, "all sorts of cool stuff. You felt like it was Christmas that very day."

The wooden purses painted with various local landmarks here in Syracuse were next to the Christmas area. Fabric purses by Margaret Smith were also available there. These cloth-covered purses showcased different patterns, flowers, and animals.

Past the popular purses, shoppers found Waterford crystal and Fenton pieces. Alongside those pieces were all the items typically found in a country store such as kitchen supplies, towels, and those popular red and white tablecloths. Past that was a gift shop.

"The first thing Fred Elstrod did with a new hire was to take him or her to the old cash register in the center of the store and see if that person could make change! He was a father figure for me. I remember dropping a glass which broke five other pieces as it fell to the floor. I was 15. Fred told me to stop crying and not worry about

taking the cost out of my pay. He just said the incident was a lesson to be careful when dusting," said Ellis.

Turquoise jewelry was popular at the store as were Minnetonka Moccasins which first came on the scene in 1946 and could be worn indoors and outdoors. Steward Nye copper jewelry, especially the pieces shaped like maple leaves, were always in demand. "Many people who lived on the lake, including Eli Lilly and Seth Ward, did their shopping at Country Corner," said Ellis. "The ladies would get dressed up and shop. We were very busy all the time waiting on customers, cleaning, and unpacking new shipments."

Gifts purchased were carefully tucked in boxes or put in bags with lots of tissue paper plus a ribbon. "I spent the money I earned there (\$1 an hour) to buy a big red piggy bank, a necklace with a turquoise roadrunner, a purse, and a scarab bracelet," said Ellis.

The Country Corner exhibit will be showcased at the museum this fall.

Country Corner Gift Shop Revisited by Mary Hursh

Every season, the Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum highlights a business fondly remembered from the past or a current business which has become a favorite with residents. This fall, the museum will showcase the iconic Country Corner Gift Shop owned by Fred and Emily Elstrod and later by Jennifer and Robert Seward.

Country Corner, built in 1951-3, opened first as an antique store and later became a gift shop run by Emily Elstrod. It was the first

commercial building built by Buhr Builders. Later, Jennifer Seward purchased the site and operated Country Corner from 1974-1999.

Allyson Ellis, a longtime Syracuse resident, worked at the Country Corner Gift Shop for three summers when she was 15, 16, and 17. "My older sister Jill Haughey and I worked there with Jean Miller, Opal Kime and Sharon Lavernier. I worked from 10 to 5 one day and 4-9 the next day."

As many know, Country Corner was located in the current

Pizza King building at 719 Huntington St. When shoppers went through the double doors of Country Corner, they immediately came upon the



Country Corner, continued

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- **Norma Baugher**—Seth Ward items
- **Debbie Conner**—Personal Typewriter
- **Ann Garceau**—Marise's plastic pot strainer
- **Joan Stoelting**—Spink Coaster
- **Jack Darr**—Jack's Sunoco flyswatter, Louie's Bar & Grill multi bottle opener



Centennial Homes Programs (2016-2021) Now Available By Ann Garceau

After a lot of hard work, all of the Centennial Homes programs (12 of them) have been edited and are now available to the public in digital format. This Spring and Summer as residents return to the lake, Ann Garceau will see that each presenter receives a USB stick that will play on a computer or television. Ann feels this will be a great addition to documenting the history of the lake and hopes that additional families will want to add this to their collection. They are available for purchase **(\$30)** at the museum. For purchase, please call ahead and allow 2-3 days as the USBs are created on a by-purchase basis.

