



The Completed Mural!!

To say that this project exceeded our expectations would be an understatement! The Mural Committee (Karen Wold, Anna Svendsen, Jane Bauer, Matt Johnson, and Kris Goodbred) could not have selected a more talented artist than Euliojio Ortega. The mural was started on Sep. 3rd and finished on Nov. 14th. A Dedication Ceremony was held on Sunday, Nov. 9th, in the Museum with ~90 people attending. Euliojio (Joe) spoke to the crowd about the mural process and his experience during his time in Earlville. A time-lapsed video of the project which was created by Terry Bronk, was shown and is now available, along with the entire Dedication Ceremony, on our YouTube Channel.

The ECHS Board thanks all who helped make this project a success including Terry Bronk; The City of Earlville employees and Police Dept; Tom & Kevin Fox, building owners; Cantlin Law Office; NuMark Credit Union employees; Earlville Cold Storage Locker; our devoted volunteers; and the following donors:

Mark Actis	M/M John Anderson	M/M Bruce Bauer
M/M John Boltz	M/M Paul Bottomley	Roger Cantlin
Jim Duffy	M/M Harry Eager	Earlville Lions Club
EHS Class of '71	First State Insurance	Ken Goldman
M/M Ron Goodbred	Marlyn Hackett	M/M Curt Imel
Bill Landers	he Lounge	Larry Maly
Dave Michelsen	Connie Miller	M/M Bob Pakenham
M/M Pat Russell	Larry Simpson Family	M/M Kurt Larson
NuMark Credit Union	M/M Gregg Russell	M/M Terry Schutt
M/M Charles Svendsen		Bob Weiland

Because of these generous donors the Mural Project was nearly 100% funded!
Estimated final cost \$36,000

MUSEUM

136 S. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 683
Earlville, IL 60518

HOURS

Saturday 10am-2pm
Sunday 12pm-2pm

Anytime by appointment
Call:

815-615-1192
815-252-9380
815-826-0630

www.earlvillehistory.org
earlville.history@yahoo.com

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Board Meetings are on the 1st Sat. of the month (April through December) 9a.m. at the Museum

Presentations as announced

Check Calendar

2025 Officers

Pres	Karen Wold
VP	Jack Anderson
Sec	Julie Krzyzek
Treas	Kris Goodbred
Curator	Anna Svendsen
Directors:	Bill Landers
	Kent Sellers
	Al Matison
Building:	Dave Michelsen

SUTPHEN STONE REPAIRED

In our last newsletter we told you of our plan to repair and restore old broken gravestones in the Precinct Cemetery starting with the stone of Elizabeth Sutphen. Mendota Monument did a great job. The cost was \$300. During our November Board meeting we committed to repairing 2-3/year. The cost will vary depending on the damage and restoration needed. We applied for a grant through the LaSalle County Genealogy Guild to help, and just heard that we will receive \$1,000 for this project. Thanks to Karen Wold for filling out the application and successfully winning the money. As each gravestone is chosen for repair we will provide a short story of that person's life and relationship to Earlville.



BEFORE



AFTER

Our YouTube Channel

If you haven't visited our YouTube channel this would be a great time to check it out. There is a couple of new videos regarding the Mural project. "The Mural" is a time-lapsed video that also includes segments of interviews with our artist, Eulojio Ortega, as the painting progressed. The other is the "Mural Dedication Ceremony". And, while you're there, take a look at some of the interviews of residents, view the glass negatives, or one of our previous presentations. Thanks again to Terry Bronk for assisting with all of our technology and videography needs. Below is a direct link to the channel, or you can go to YouTube.com and type in Earlville Community Historical Society in the search bar. Click on "videos".

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCb1OyYaBPLmXmH3taJLRg>



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 6	ECHS Board Mtg. 9am
Dec. 7	EBA Christmas Festival 3-6p
Dec. 13-14	Last weekend for Museum to be open except by appt
Feb.14-16	LaSalle Co. Passport Event

Did you know?.....

According to the Earlville Leader 1/2/1941—
"Good news is the news that Earlville is to have ambulance service soon. Arthur Hill will provide the service when he moves here from Sheridan.

Lacking a hospital, Earlville will then have the next best thing by way of providing for the seriously sick and injured. The recent tragic fire emphatically pointed the necessity of ambulance service, and there have been many other times in recent years when our lack of ambulance service amounted to cruel negligence.

With the service inaugurated there will be no more cause for shame over our afflicted having to ride to a hospital in a car or truck. Good news."

Arthur Hill was the son of Charles D. Hill, the local funeral director. He moved to Earlville to take over the business upon his father's retirement.

Before modern day ambulances it was common for funeral director's to respond to accidents or to someone who was seriously ill, and use their hearses to transport them to the nearest hospital. This practice continued in Earlville until our current service was started in 1975. We are fortunate to have such a skilled EMS system and dedicated volunteers to serve us now. And, I don't know about you, but riding in a hearse to the hospital wouldn't give me much confidence in what might be ahead!

It's Membership Time!!

If you have an ANNUAL (renewable) membership to ECHS it will be due on January 1st. We sincerely hope that you choose to renew! Checks can be mailed to ECHS, PO Box 683, Earlville, IL 60518. This does not apply to LIFETIME memberships which are nonrenewable. ANNUAL memberships are \$15 per year. LIFETIME memberships are a one-time payment of \$150. We also have memberships available for businesses. Lifetime members and Lifetime business members are recognized with a plate on our Donor Board.

We currently have 234 total members—192 Lifetime Members and 42 Annual Members. We have 5 Lifetime Business Memberships.

Maybe you have a friend or family members who would appreciate receiving our newsletters? Why not purchase a membership for them at Christmas this year? Or, maybe you have a business that you'd like to have represented on our Donor Board? Please use the form attached to the back of this newsletter. Thanks to all of our members for their steadfast support of the Museum! We couldn't do it without you!!

*****And, if you could spare a couple hours on a weekend once a month, we could sure use your help during our open hours at the Museum starting next April. We've lost quite a few volunteers over this past year. We'll make sure that you are comfortable with the "job" and never left by yourself. You may or may not have visitors during the 2 hour shift. If there are no visitors it gives you time to look around at the displays and maybe even get to know someone new. Some of our members volunteer as a couple. In addition to greeting our guests, we depend on our volunteers to point out any missing or incorrect documentation, and give ideas on some piece of history that isn't yet displayed. If this is something that you might consider please contact Kris or Anna (phone numbers on the first page). We'll let you take a "test drive" to see if you like it. No pressure!***



Pake Riddle Hunt, Minn.

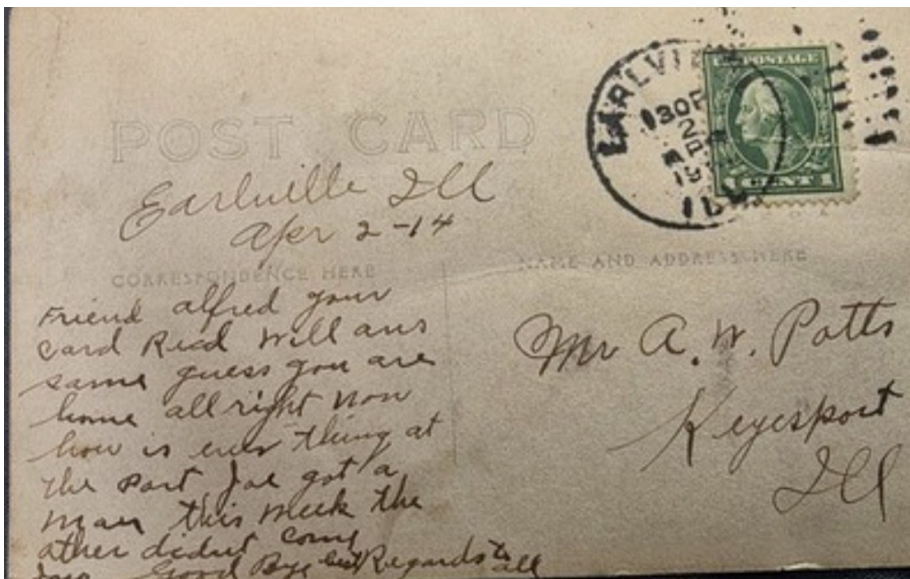
FFA Fishing Trip

You might recognize some of these handsome guys who were part of an annual FFA fishing trip to Minnesota sponsored by Stuart Montooth. The year on the photo was 1961. Coach Lloyd Wineburner went along to help chaperone. Based on the "Cracked" magazine that he's holding, there was probably no funny business happening on these trips (wink, wink). We can identify many in this group, but if you could help us out with names that would be great.

Email us at
earlville.history@yahoo.com

The Mystery of the Barber Shop Postcard!

We always love a great mystery! Earlier this year Randy Simpson posted a photo of an old barber shop in Earlville that he had seen on EBay along with a question about its location. Because of the floor tile it wasn't hard to identify it as the Barber Shop at 121 S Ottawa St. (between Malley's and the Lounge). Stacy Grey, current owner of the Barber Shop, was intrigued and purchased the postcard from the dealer who was from Oregon state. The postmark on the card was April 2, 1914. John T. Foster owned the shop 1912-1929 having bought it from the original owner, George Furbush. Chet Croxen, Joe Hyde and Foster worked together and are most likely in this photo. We just need to find some other photos of them to compare. The mystery, however, starts with who it's mailed to—Mr. A.W. Potts in Keyesport, IL. With a little research we found that John Foster's wife, Lula, was Lula Potts before she was married. David Potts was Lula's father. He had 5 siblings, but none those matched the name or initials on the postcard. He did have a brother, Leslie. Leslie had a son, Alfred William (aka A.W.) so Lula must have been corresponding with her first cousin. The Pott's and Foster families were both from Keyesport IL. John Foster was buried there. They had one son, Gilbert Foster. The other part of the mystery was how the postcard made it all the way out to Oregon State. Sometime after her husband died, Lula moved to near Spokane WA where her son, Gilbert, resided. A.W. Potts also lived in that area and died in King, WA. Both Lula and Gilbert are buried in Soap Lake, WA The postcard dealer purchased the card in Olympia WA. That card had a story of its own!



EBA Christmas Festival!

On Sunday, December 7th, 2025, from 3-6p, the Earlville Business Association will be sponsoring their annual Christmas Festival in the park and downtown. The Museum participates every year, transforming the agricultural shed into Santa's Workshop. In the past, KZ Studios has taken and provided free photos with Santa, but, after many years, have retired. We thank them for their years of generosity to the community.

This year the Museum purchased a backdrop and will again host Santa, but you will be asked to bring your own phone or camera to use. You can take the photo of your children or we can assist you if needed.

We look forward to seeing all of those smiling faces come through the doors. Hopefully, good weather will prevail. Thanks to all of the volunteers who assist at this event.



The Tillman Home

702 S. Ottawa St.

In this newsletter we are featuring another old Earlville home with lots of interesting history. The Tillman home is located on the SW corner of Ottawa and Union St. just south of the Presbyterian Church. David and Martha (Wiley) Davis built this home in 1897 when they retired from farming in Freedom Township. The house was built by Fred Keeler. David died in 1900 and Martha died in 1916. The home was purchased in 1917 by Dr. Albert and Loretta (Carter) Tillman. They moved in with their two children, Albert and Ida. Dr. Tillman was the town's veterinarian,



and Loretta was an accomplished artist. Both were honored during our Cemetery Walk last Fall. Ida married Harold Wold in 1936, and he and Ida lived on the farm west of town. Ida eventually moved off the farm and into the home in 1971. Harold and Ida had 3 children—Sara, Joyce and Harold (Ed). Ed's daughter and Joyce's son each lived there at different times between 1990-1994. Ed's wife, Karen, moved into the house in 1994, a year after he passed away. Many of Loretta's paintings as well as their original furniture still adorn the house, and several are on display at the Museum. The home has remained in the family and has been occupied by five generations.

Another interesting story surrounding the house is what was on this lot years before the home was built. In the late 1860's and early 1870's there was a Foundry that occupied this lot and the 2 lots to the south. When the Foundry closed, the Catholic Society of Earl met in this building until 1878 when their new church was completed one block west. The Foundry was torn down that same year.

OH HOW THE TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

The social and cultural changes that occurred during the late 1960s and early 1970s gave way to drastic changes in hair styles, skirt lengths, pants, etc. This brought about a revision of the EHS dress code in 1969.....

BOYS:

1. Hair shall be above the eyes, above the ears and off the collar.
2. Sideburns may be extended to the bottom of the ear lobe and blocked to a natural width.
3. Trousers should be worn with a belt if so intended and with the shirt tails in unless the shirt is designed to be worn outside the trousers.
4. Medallions and beads are prohibited unless they are for religious reasons but must be worn inside the shirt.
5. Socks must be worn at all times.

GIRLS:

1. Skirts shall be a length appropriate for modesty and avoidance of undue attention.
2. Cullottes and pant dresses are acceptable if they have fullness of the leg.
3. Extreme hair-dos and elaborate make up was out except for the prom.
4. No metal clips or rollers allowed.

It wasn't until 1970 that girls were allowed to wear "pantsuit outfits". Sweatshirts, T-shirts and blue jeans were still forbidden. By 1972, jeans were allowed as long as they were "decent and presentable", and there was no mention about hair length other than "clean and out of the eyes". However, it was added that beards or mustaches were forbidden.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE EARLVILLE RANGERS??

We have SO many photos of the Earlville Rangers baseball team. Some are identified but most are not. Many of us remember going to their games, but we know very little about the history of the team. We do know that it dates back to 1900, and the last team that we know of is in the photo to the right (mid to late 1970s?). Charlie Wilson was the coach for many of those early years. ECHS recently received an inquiry from someone who was researching his great-grandfather, Ingval Erickson. He had a photo of him in a Rangers uniform and was asking whether we did, indeed, have a baseball team called the Rangers. His great-grandfather is in the middle in the back of the 1908 photo on the left. We were lucky to be able to match him to a couple of the photos that we had and share that with him. If you have any information about the team that you could share, we would sure appreciate it. Did you or your father or grandfather play on a team? What are your (or their memories) about that experience. Where did they play? Thanks in advance for anything you might add!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER!

We are happy to share with you that we have a new member to our Board of Directors, Bill Landers. Bill is stepping into the position of Director recently vacated by Ann Newell. We thank Ann for her years of service on the Board. Bill has been an active member of the Historical Society for several years lending a hand where we need it and also volunteering on the weekends when the Museum is open. The rest of the Board remains unchanged for 2026. If you are interested in becoming a part of our Board of Directors we'd love to hear from you. There are 3 Directors on our Board, each serving a 3 year term. Our current officers and Directors are listed on the front page of this newsletter.

A TIME OF THANKSGIVING

This year in particular we would like to express our deepest gratitude for those of you who support us through membership and donations. It's the ONLY way that we exist. Back about 10 years ago we had a donor board made to recognize monetary contributions and Lifetime memberships to our organization. It was FILLED with hundreds of blank plates. We all looked at it and thought how silly we were to think that we'd even fill a few of those plates. This past month we employed a carpenter to add a section onto each side of the board because we are almost out of room! Never in our wildest dreams did we have that vision. Those donations, your membership, and your support give us motivation and financial means to keep the Museum alive and, hopefully, enjoyed by those who visit. A special thanks to those of you who include us in your annual charity giving.

Earlville Community Historical Society

A Not-For-Profit 501(c)3 Organization

MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Membership Type/Dues (after initial payment, dues are collected each Nov/Dec for following year)

☐ Individual (\$15.00 *per person* - annually)

☐ Business/Institution (\$50.00 annually)

☐ Family (\$30.00 annually)

☐ Individual Lifetime (\$150 *per person* - one-time payment; no annual dues)

☐ Business/Institution Lifetime (\$300 – one-time payment; no annual dues)

Member Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address* _____

**To avoid postage costs we would like to send newsletters to your email account.*

Do you have a Facebook Account? Yes/No

If yes, please “like” our Facebook page by searching for:

Earlville Community Historical Society

Send this form and your dues to the following address:

Earlville Community Historical Society

Attn: Membership

136 S Ottawa St.

PO Box 683

Earlville IL 60518

Eff. 11/11/2016