



Newsletter #5 Spring 2016

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Earlville Community Historical Society

2016 OFFICERS

President	Rich Goodbred
Vice Pres	Stan Meloy
Secretary	Karen Wold
Treasurer	Carol Landers/Anna Svendsen
Directors	Bruce Carter, Tracy Smith, Doug Corrigan

THE MUSEUM IS NOW OPEN!

Saturdays 10am-2pm
Sundays 12pm-2pm



IMPORTANT DATES

2016

May	1	ART SHOW (12p-3p)
	7	ECHS Meeting - 9am
	21	Cruise Night (5:30-8:30p)
	30	Memorial Day
Jun.	11	EHS Alumni Mtg - 5:30p

RECENT GIFTS/LOANS TO THE MUSEUM

A BIG thank you to the Robert and Theresa Lonie family for the donation of a chair lift in memory of their parents. The lift was installed in the front stairway and leads to our second floor which will be open to the public very soon! Because of their generosity, many more people will be able to view and enjoy all of our treasures!



Remember When...

Memory was something you lost with age

An application was for employment

A program was a TV show

A cursor used profanity

A keyboard was a piano

A web was a spider's home

A virus was the flu

A CD was a bank account

A hard drive was a long trip on the road

A mouse pad was where a mouse lived[tw1]

DID YOU KNOW THAT..?

*We have over 100 members and that 75% of them are LIFETIME members!!

*ECHS volunteers would LOVE to come to your group or organization's meeting to talk about the society and the museum? Recently we have provided presentations at the United Presbyterian Church as well as at Senior Saturday held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Give us a call if you would like us to speak. 815-252-9380.

*30 members of the VCCA car club visited the Museum. The tour was arranged by David Kozlow from Earlville. If you have a group that would like a private visit to the Museum, we can arrange that!

...and speaking of classic cars

**DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND
14TH ANNUAL**

CRUISE NIGHT

May 21, 2016

Downtown Earlville

5:30pm-8:30pm

**The Museum will be open
during the show**



"Lying about my age is easier now that I often forget what it is..." [tw2]

School
Days

EHS ALUMNI BANQUET!!

No other high school celebrates their alumni quite like Earlville High School. We are truly unique! This year's banquet is on **Saturday, June 11th**. The Social Hour starts at 5pm, followed by the dinner at 6pm and the program in the gymnasium at 7pm. As per tradition, the Presbyterian Mariners will prepare and serve the dinner.

Classes that end in "6" will be honored. Tickets are \$15/person and can be purchased at First State Insurance (Earlville) or The Barber Shop. If you are from out-of-town you can mail your check, and your tickets will be available at the door. That address is:

Earlville Alumni Association
PO Box 685
Earlville IL 605



Thanks to many volunteer hands, hours and expertise, the second floor is done and displays are being created!

STAY TUNED! OPENING SOON!!

ART SHOW!!



On May 1st, 2016, we will be sponsoring a fundraiser in the form of an Art Show featuring professional and amateur artists - ALL with Earlville roots!

We have been overwhelmed with the turnout of artists entering and those who we have found through research. At the time of this newsletter we have over 30 artists participating.

Several of the artists are from the late 1800s and early 1900s (names like Tillman, Grover, Strong, Dupee, Poole) while others are grade and high school children who have shown talent and desire for the arts.

All artists must have lived in Earlville at some time in their life.

Names that may be familiar to you from the 1960s and 1970s include Gast, Hanley, Roux, Cole, Large, Blakeslee,

Carter, Schrecengost, Swayze, and Smith.

More recent artists including professional artist, Eileen Balcom-Vetillo will also be featured.

The Art Show will be held in the Earlville Fire Station located at 99 S East St. (next to the Railroad) and will run from 12pm until 3pm. Tickets are \$5/person and can be purchased in advance at the First State Insurance (Earlville office) or at Sandy's Shear Magic. Tickets will be available at the door.

Refreshments will be served at the Museum during and following the Art Show. Please consider joining us for this fun afternoon!



"I don't do drugs. I get the same effect by standing up real fast...."



MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 30th, 2016

One of the first areas that we've been working on as part of the newly renovated second floor is the Military display. People have been particularly generous in their donations of uniforms, pictures and other wartime memorabilia. This makes for a very interesting and complete history of all of the U.S. conflicts. We are still working on it as there is much to display, and it is important to us to treat these donations with the utmost respect and honor.

When the display is finished, [tw6]we hope to have artifacts representing each conflict and each branch of the service. We have featured both male and female servicemen.

Here are some pictures to provide you with a sneak peek of our display so far.

Thank you for your
service!



Please consider attending the
Memorial Day service presented
by the local American Legion Post

EARLVILLE COUNTRY CLUB

With the arrival of spring we thought this might be a good time to share with you the history of the Earlville Country Club!

In the 1870's there was simply a cow pasture where the golf course stands today. It was owned by an early settler named Bates. Sometime in the 1880's William Conger purchased the land and erected a brick and tile factory near the current entrance to the golf course. That business was sold a couple more times until it closed in the early 1900's

In the 1920's several townspeople^[tw7] became interested in golf. As their interest piqued^[tw8], they would travel to Ottawa as much as once a week to enjoy the game. In 1928, forty or more men initiated the effort to build a course in Earlville. These investors included businessmen, doctors, dentists, farmers, laborers and retirees. The original idea was to include an ice skating pond, tennis courts and swimming pool in addition to a 3 or 4 hole course. It would be referred to as the Indian Creek Recreation Park, and, later, the Earlville Community Country Club. The founders leased 27 acres for 2 years and proceeded to lay out the makeshift course. At first the greens were merely mown grass with small tin cups inserted and a fishing pole for a pin with a rag tied to it. A homeowner on Grant Street gave permission to use his driveway as an entrance^[tw9] to the grounds (the old Yabsley residence) which provided a beautiful view overlooking the footbridge. The automobile entrance was off of Cannon Ball Trail (now Union Street) east of Earlville near the old Lester Kaminky house/farm. The advertisements boasted that "there is parking space for several cars."^[tw10] Modest funds along with large amount of volunteer labor that summer resulted in "the prettiest place between Aurora and Mendota."

Opening Day was^[tw11] on Labor Day, 1928, attracting close to a *thousand* people despite the horrible weather. A special bandstand was improvised to accommodate a newly organized band from Paw Paw. D.J. Nunemacher led the crowd in singing "America". Options in financing were discussed by Dr. Wiley - using City or Township funds making it a public enterprise, or, secured by private parties making it a private enterprise^[tw12]. There were several speakers, and the proceedings were closed by singing the National Anthem. The formal part of the program was followed by a baseball game between the country boys and business men. "The victory (country kids) was achieved by a wonderful 3 base hit made by Frank Atherton." Attendees were invited to purchase memberships of \$15. Before the month was finished a six-hole course was completed.

In 1929, an additional 12 acres of land was purchased from Lester Hoadley with money raised by the sale of stock at \$100 per share. A 9-hole course was laid out by Joe Meister, a professional from Fox Valley Country Club. Each of the greens were sponsored by several local men. During the Depression the course barely broke even and survived only through the dedication of the directors and members. At one time each stockholder was asked to donate \$5 to keep the course open. Much of the credit goes to Ralph Dodge, a prominent resident, who loaned \$2,140 at 5% interest. Dodge died in 1935 and, in his will, forgave all of the debt owed to him.

A Ladies Auxiliary was formed in 1937 and raised money to build a log clubhouse. Ralph and Bertha Thompson donated the wagon wheels used as light fixtures. Two lantern lights on each side of the fireplace^[tw13] were donated by Marathon. They "mysteriously disappeared" in 1977.

Devotees of "walking" the course were aghast when Turner Bailey, Sr, motored onto the course in the late 1960s in his bright blue riding golf cart! By 1988, members owned and operated 57 riding carts.

Whether you are a par golfer, a duffer or just someone who appreciates the beauty of nature during the spring, summer and fall, we can all agree that we are truly lucky to have this little gem in our backyard!

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 November)

Individual (\$10.00 per person - annually)

Business/Institution (\$25.00 annually)

Family (\$20.00 annually)

Individual Lifetime (\$100 per person - one-time payment; no annual dues)

Member(s) Information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Do you have a Facebook Account? Yes/No

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

Earlville Community Historical Society

***In order to save on postage we would like to send newsletters to your email account.**

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