

EARLVILLE AMBULANCE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!

Before January of 1976, Earlville's response to medical or accidental emergencies was through the local funeral directors. Art Hill started the service in 1941 and it continued with Torman Funeral Home. While they provided a valuable "pick-up and delivery" service, the funeral directors were not trained or staffed to provide any care at the scene or enroute to the hospital. Don Hanley spoke to the Lion's Club in October of 1975 telling of new regulations that would prohibit funeral directors from continuing this practice. This set the wheels in motion to pursue Earlville's own ambulance service.

An arrangement was made with Robert Torman to utilize the funeral home's local hearse but to staff it with emergency responders from Earlville. In November (1975) a plea was made to the community requesting volunteers who were willing to give their time and to enroll in classes to learn the skills needed to provide prehospital care. Before the end of December, they had recruited 3 EMTs, 2 RNs, 17 First Aiders, and 3 drivers. An Ambulance Board was formed with Chuck Jenkins (Pres), Tom Heitmann (VP), Bill Budach (Asst. VP), Patricia Powell and Dennis Trump (co-secretaries), Stuart Montooth (Treas), Tony Hamel (Sgt. At Arms), Bill Hill and Russ Pratt (fund-raising chairmen).

Advanced First Aid classes were provided in January (1976), and before the end of the month, Earlville had recruited and trained 33 volunteers including 6 EMTs, 4 RNs, 20 advanced first aiders, and 3 drivers. Seven more were enrolled in EMT classes. Nurses were allowed to staff the ambulance in lieu of enough EMTs, however, they were later required to earn the EMT certification.



(continued on Page 2)

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

"Like" us on Facebook!



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

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Recognizing that the hearse was not a long-term solution, it became necessary to investigate the cost of purchasing an ambulance that could be stocked with the appropriate equipment and supplies to provide emergency care. In February (1976) a goal of \$18,500 was announced to fund the new ambulance. The Jaycees and ambulance volunteers took on a house-to-house campaign to solicit money for that purchase. A regional band, "The Entertainers" (Gerry Durbin) performed and donated their time at a benefit dance to raise funds. In less than 30 days the goal was not only met but *exceeded* by nearly \$4,000. The ambulance was ordered!

The cost of the ambulance with equipment was \$19,400, and it was delivered in April of 1976. The next step was to hold a special election to levy a tax to place the ambulance service with the legal jurisdiction of the fire district. The fire and ambulance boards would remain separate, but the funding would be through the Fire District. Chuck Jenkins, the Ambulance Director, wrote a letter to the editor of the Earlville Leader in April explaining the reason for the election and asking the community for their support. In April, the levy successfully passed! The fund-raising continued. Individuals and businesses donated \$25 each to purchase backboards, and Charlie Biehl donated his time to cut and finish them. That same year the Fire Protection Board announced its decision to build an addition to their building to accommodate the new equipment. The ambulance service received final certification from the Illinois Department of Public Health in 1980.



28 in Earlville Ambulance Service

Over the years the scope of training for the EMT's has expanded significantly allowing them to perform more lifesaving treatments such as defibrillation and administering certain medications for diabetic emergencies, allergic reactions, heart attacks, and drug overdoses. Alongside their partners in the fire department, they are trained in extrication and scene safety.

In the beginning, they were dispatched through the funeral home, and, for many years, through a phone service. Radios were replaced with a Motorola paging system which would allow calls to be automatically dispatched the volunteers

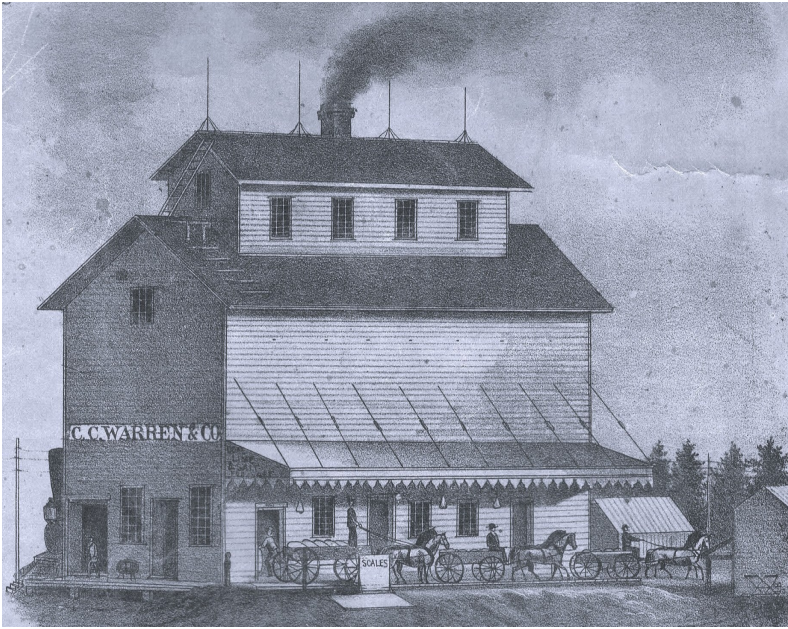
through a paging system. Today, the service is dispatched through a county regional office. Advanced life support (ALS) is provided through an "intercept" with paramedics in surrounding communities so that a higher level of care can be delivered enroute to the hospital. Helicopters from larger medical centers are now stationed in the region so that patients can be airlifted to those centers if needed.

Like the fire department, the ambulance must be able to provide service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In the early years, many of the volunteers worked locally and they were available to respond from their workplace. With fewer job opportunities close to home many volunteers work out of town making it more difficult to staff the daytime hours. In 2014, in response to this shortage, the ambulance service hired 2 full-time EMTs to staff Monday through Friday.

Ambulance directors over the years included Chuck Jenkins, Patricia Powell, Bill Hill, Dick Wold, Melody Nanzer, Greg Pfaff, A.J. Wold and, currently, Jen Coppes. We wish we could include the names of every volunteer who has given their time and dedication to the service. You have all made a huge impact on the lives of this community. Congratulations on 50 years!!



C.C. Warren & Co.



This pencil drawing of the grain elevator belonging to C.C. Warren & Co. was recently uncovered in a rolled up scroll with a map of LaSalle County. The map itself had disintegrated, however, we were able to rescue some drawings of businesses including this one, probably from around 1870.

Samuel T. Stilson and Wm. Haight built this grain elevator south of the tracks in 1857 shortly after the railroad was completed. It was the second grain elevator to be built in the new town. Sometime later it was sold to Wm. Lukins who was in partnership with C.C. Warren. Lukins sold out to C.C. Warren in 1869. L.I. Taylor leased the business from Warren for a number of years, and it appears that he purchased it around 1884. In 1882 "carpenters were sent down from Chicago to raise up and put new, foot-square sills under the 40x80 foot building and equal to 6 stories high."



Charles H. Strong and Mr. Kaminky bought the building in 1907, and along with Charles' son, Robert A. Strong, started a grain and feed business that would become an integral part of this community for 70+ years. Sons, Robert W., William and Louis all played important roles in the success and longevity of Strong & Strong. Robert W. led the Earlville locations and William opened the feed store branch in Ottawa. Many local farmers raised chickens for Strong & Strong over the years.



In 1950 a 2 story brick building was erected on the property. In the late 1950s when more grain storage was needed, Strong purchased the Lyric Theater, the Duffy building, and the old Walker house, demolished them, and put up storage buildings on Ottawa Street downtown. One of the buildings was purchased by Vince and Alice Coss for their grocery business in 1964 (the same building and site of our current grocery store). The original Strong & Strong business on the SE corner of Ottawa and Railroad Streets was liquidated in 1981. The elevator was demolished around 2003, but the 2 story brick building still stands today.

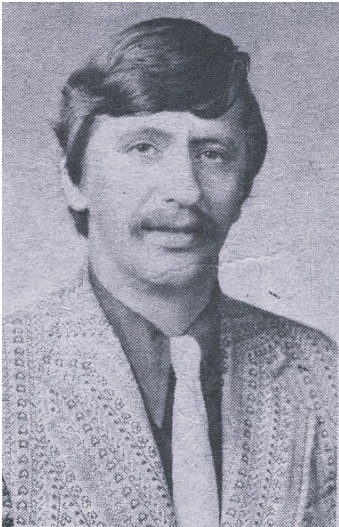
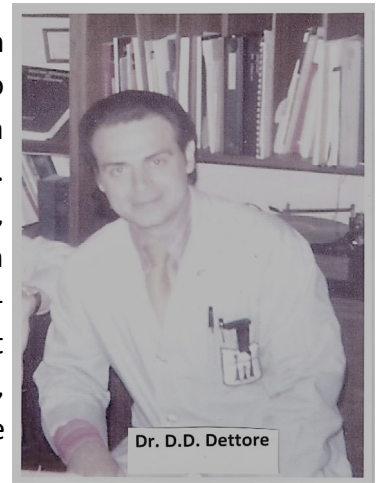
CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S HEALTH

A LOOKBACK AT PHYSICIANS WHO SERVED EARLVILLE

(Thanks to Carolyn Doughty for her research on Earlville Physicians)

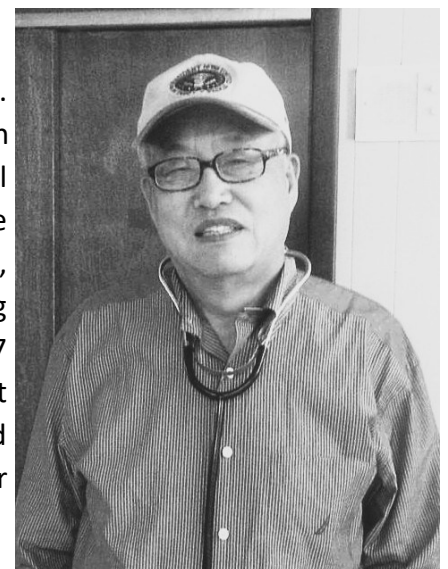
In past newsletters we have highlighted some of Earlville's early physicians. In this newsletter we'll continue with those who came in the mid-1960s and early 1970s to fill the shoes of Dr. Rayson and Dr. Fischer.

Dr. Diamond Donald "D.D." Dettore was born in 1938 and graduated from Ottawa High School and the University of Illinois Medical School in Champaign Urbana. He came to Earlville in 1964 to take over the practice of Dr. Edwin Rayson who had retired. Myra McDermott was his laboratory technician, and June Sharp his receptionist/bookkeeper. He was married to Eleda Klugman, and they became parents of three children, Deonte, Dalane, and Darcia. During his tenure here he built the Greenbriar Medical Center on the east edge of the city and the unusual brick home that his family lived in on the Harding Blacktop. In 1976 his wife, Eleda, opened the Tree Trunk House retail boutique at their residence. He later married Charmayne Janecek, and they had two daughters, Tara and Vanessa. Dr. Dettore practiced in Earlville for eight years (1964-1972) before beginning a career in Hinsdale as a physician educator.



Dr. Robert L. Carter returned to Earlville in 1971 after serving in the Air Force for 6 years. Robert was the son of Robert L. and Madeline Carter of Earlville. He attended Earlville schools and graduated from Peoria Manual High School in 1958. He graduated from Wabash College in Indiana and, in 1966, obtained his medical degree from the University of Illinois Medical School. He joined the practice of Dr. Dettore until he left for Hinsdale a year later. Craig Carter served as his physician assistant. Myra McDermott was his laboratory technician, and June Sharp continued as receptionist/bookkeeper. In 1975 he and his family moved into a large Spanish architecture home that they built south on the Harding Blacktop just east of Precinct Cemetery, complete with a bowling alley in the basement. Dr. Carter was killed suddenly on August 8, 1976, in an automobile accident, leaving his wife, Charlotte and five children—Robert, Troy, Lori, Wendy, Kara and Katherine. Dr. Dettore served Earlville from 1971-1976.

Dr. Kwang P. Chung, physician and surgeon, was a native of Korea. Following Dr. Carter's death, he came to Earlville in September of 1977 and opened his office in the Earlville Medical Clinic. He was a graduate of Chonam University Medical School in Korea and interned at Weld County General Hospital in Colorado. He moved into a new home on Tally Street with his wife, Ann and three children, Nami, Sui and Ted. In December 1978 he took over the practice of Dr. Lucy Young in Paw Paw. He retired on March 31st, 2014 after serving the community for 37 years. After June Sharp retired, Carol Hart of Paw Paw became his receptionist and bookkeeper and remained with Dr. Chung until his retirement. He returned to Earlville in 2016 and opened a "donation only" based clinic but closed it a year later and returned to Naperville where he resides.



Other attempts to recruit or place a primary care physician in Earlville have been unsuccessful. The low volume of patients, high cost of healthcare, and the necessity of testing beyond the physician's office are all influencing factors.

The Haight House 402 S. Ottawa St.

William R. Haight built this beautiful home located on the southwest corner of Ottawa and Church Streets in 1879. Prior to moving to Earlville in 1855, Haight was in charge of building the section of the C,B &Q rail between Mendota and Leland. He was the first president of the National Bank of Earlville and involved in the grain business with S.T. Stilson.



A detailed description of each room in the house appears in the Sep. 5th, 1879, edition of the Earlville Gazette. The exterior of the home was originally painted pink with brown shutters. Within the description it refers to Mr. Haight's 8x8 "pouting room" on the second floor "designed for his especial use in entertaining his frequent guest—the sick headache." It was built in the days of the double parlor. The front parlor was opened rarely for funerals and weddings, and occasionally when the minister called. The Dining Room faces the north and is surrounded by glass. There are three bedrooms plus servant's quarters on the second floor with front and back staircases. Through the double front door and entry is a beautiful walnut staircase.

Upon the death of Mr. Haight in 1906, the house was sold to Dan Burlingame. He and his wife, Caroline, lived there until his death in 1928. When his widow died in 1932 the property passed on to Dan's sister, Fanny Burlingame. After Mrs. Burlingame's death in 1943, Margaret Bullock-Johnson became the sole owner of this old New England home. Mrs. Bullock-Johnson was well-known for hosting Prom Teas at the residence each year where the prom-goers would put on their best manners and sip punch in the gorgeous surroundings. After Mrs. Johnson's death in 1990 the home was sold to Mark & Sharla (Trump) Scullans. The current owner is Maureen King. She and her husband, Tom purchased it in 2007. While Maureen still calls this her home, she also operates a business, The King Victorian Bed and Breakfast.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jun 3	ECHS Board Mtg. 6:30pm
Jun 5-6	Lions-Fest
Jun 6	Alumni Mtg. 3pm
June 30	ECHS Board Mtg. 6:30pm
July 4	Museum Closed (Holiday)
Aug 1	ECHS Board Mtg. 9am

Farm Report

(Earlville Leader, 1925)

Figures from the county assessor's office reported an increase in the number of automobiles, a decrease in the number of horses, cattle and hogs, and a decline in the number of sewing machines.

The 1925 federal government farm census calculated that the average value of the 3,998 LaSalle County farms was slightly more than \$33,000. The county's farms were run by 1,866 owners, 2,117 tenants, and 15 managers.

The census also showed that there were an average of seven horses per farm, and that 1,100 mules also call the county home. The number of horses had declined by 10% since the last census in 1920, an indication that the animals were be replaced by automobiles.



JUNE MEANS ALUMNI, LIONS-FEST, HALL OF FAME!!

JUNE 5,6,7

The decision to combine the Annual Alumni Meeting with Lions--fest a few years ago breathed new life into both events/organizations! The first Alumni meeting occurred on June 19th, 1891 making this the 135th anniversary! There have been a few years where the meeting didn't occur due to war, pandemic, etc. The EHS Alumni meeting has a new format starting at **3pm** at the school in the **WEST** gymnasium. This provides a handicapped-accessible and air -conditioned environment. A short meeting is held, light snacks, a time for fellowship, and, if desired, a short report from celebrated classes. Tours of the school are offered following the meeting. Afterwards, attendees are encouraged to head to the park to support the pork chop BBQ sponsored this year by the Earlville Summer Baseball program. Advance tickets are required however. For those still young enough to kick up their heels, there are several bands playing Friday and Saturday. At 6pm on Saturday, the new EHS Hall of Fame committee will induct 6 new members—Margaret Bullock-Johnson (Principal and Teacher), Brad Wald (Chief Operating Officer - Feature Animation at Cinesite), Roger Hewitt (Band Director), Bruce Bauer (Football Player/Coach), 1981-1982 Volleyball Team, and the 1971-1972 Football Team. The presentation will occur at the park so bring your lawn chairs and enjoy learning about the new inductees. The Hall of Fame nominees and their families along with those in town to celebrate their class reunions makes for a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends (in person, not on Facebook!). We hope that you will include a visit to the Museum if you are in town. Please stop in and say hi and take a trip down memory lane!!





**Earlville Alumni
Meeting/Social Hour**

Saturday June 6th 2026

West (new) gym

Social Hour/Alumni Meeting

3PM

Tours available after meeting.

***Classes ending in 6 will be Honored**

***All classes welcome to Attend.**

Following Alumni you are encouraged to attend the Earlville Lions Fest in downtown Porkchop dinner, live music, adult beverages and the first presentation of the Earlville Hall of fame at

6PM

History Doesn't Change, But WE Do!

When you stop into the Museum you'll notice some changes that occurred over the winter! We now have an interior door that connects the main museum to the agriculture room next door (to the south). So many of our visitors missed this area because of the separate street entrance. We also received donations of some used display cases from Louise Ketcham and Janice Bradham which we have used in the agricultural room and in the school display. This was a BIG project and could not have been accomplished without the time and talent of some great volunteers (Jack Anderson, Dave Michelsen, Anna Svendsen, Karen Wold, Joan Perkins, Cher Farley) as well as our helpful neighbor on the corner, Jeff Callaghan!

WHAT? *You've never been to the museum before?? It's time to change that! You won't be disappointed!*

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