

Spring 2018  
Newsletter #11

## It's a DUCKY DERBY!!



**Sunday, September 9th**



*(tentative)*

As a Fundraising Event this year we are going to try our hand at a "Duck Derby"! Rubber Duckies are "adopted" for \$10 each—or for the AMAZING value of 3/\$25. Each person will draw a number that will be written on their adopted duck prior to the event. The purchaser will be given a ticket (not the actual duck) with their duck's number. All of the numbered ducks will be dropped into Indian Creek at one location and will race through the current toward the finish line at another location downstream. We're still working out the details, but we've set a tentative date of Sunday, September 9th. The first duck to cross the finish line will be awarded a cash prize—**\$400 for 1st, \$75 for 2nd** and **\$25 for 3rd** place. You do NOT have to be present to win. Our goal is to sell 200 ducks, so we REALLY need your help and support.

Of course, the date of the event will be dependent on the weather and the level of water in the creek! If there is a bad weather, or there is a flood (or if the water level is too low), we will establish an alternate date a week later.

We hope to create a lot of fun and excitement around the finish of the race so make sure you get your kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids involved by adopting a duck for them! Our plan is to try to sell a hot dog/brat meal at the conclusion of the race. We are in the very early stages of planning the event but wanted to be able to include the preliminary information in this newsletter. More details will follow.

If you are from out of town and wish to help support the event and "adopt" a duck, send your money (\$10/duck, or \$25/3 ducks) to the address located at the top of this newsletter. Please add "Attn: Duck Derby" on the envelope. Be sure to include all of your contact information so we can send your duck's number(s) to you.

### MUSEUM

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

### HOURS

Saturday 10am-2pm  
Sunday 12pm-2pm  
**CLOSED JAN.-MAR.**

Anytime by appointment  
Call:  
815-246-9778  
815-985-3763

[www.earlvillehistory.org](http://www.earlvillehistory.org)  
[earlville.history@yahoo.com](mailto:earlville.history@yahoo.com)

"Like" us on Facebook!



### Meetings

Our meetings are currently being held at 9am on the first Saturday of every month. Next meeting will be Saturday, June 2nd, at the Museum.

### 2018 Officers

Pres	Rich Goodbred
VP	Stan Meloy
Sec	Karen Wold
Treas	Kris Goodbred
Directors:	Tracy Smith Bill Mitchell Larry Maly

## HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2018 ANNUAL DUES?

If you pay your dues “annually” (and it slipped your mind over the holidays) please submit \$15 as soon as possible. Use the Membership Form on the last page of this newsletter. Not only will you help the organization, but you’ll continue to receive one of these awesome newsletters in May, August and November :)

*\*This does not apply to Lifetime members\**

## CALENDAR SALES!

Our first-ever Calendar Sales was a HUGE success! We sold over 200 calendars and netted over \$1800, far beyond our wildest expectations! We’re sorry for those we had to turn away after selling out of our inventory. Many have asked that we do another calendar project for 2019 (with different pictures, of course), but we’re concerned that it might be too soon to repeat. Anyway, we’d be very interested in your feedback on that! If you purchased one this past year, would you purchase another one for 2019? Let one of our members know, or send us a note via email ([earlville.history@yahoo.com](mailto:earlville.history@yahoo.com)) or via Facebook.

## A Little Tidbit From our House Research...



E.W. Malley once owned at least 3 lots on the corner of East St. and Union St. The home on the NW corner was sold to Warren Willey, just to the east of his Motor Inn Garage. A house that had been located across the street in the area of the gas station was moved onto his other property just to the north of the Willey residence in 1939. E.W.’s first wife passed away, but when he remarried (Lydia) several years later, he built the red brick home located on the NE corner. This was all part of the old Bates property, hence the name of east/west street. next to that home.

“Bates Woods” or “Bates Pasture” existed between Ottawa St. on the west and Indian Creek on the east. Ward B. Bates purchased this tract of land somewhere around 1850. According to an article in the Earlville Leader (1918), “Mr. Bates built and lived in the now dilapidated house opposite the Presbyterian Church but which was in those days a pretentious mansion.” When Grant St. was created and East St. was extended south, much of the timbered area would now be cleared. The editor went on to say, “It will always be remembered kindly by those who have picnicked in its grateful shade or strolled along the classic shores of Old Indian Creek within its confines.”

## Thank You

The Earlville Community Historical Society gratefully accepts the generous donations made by the Family of Mildred “Millie” Gast. Millie was a long-time active member of ECHS and served as President. We are honored that you considered us when directing the memorials in her name. Our sincere condolences to the family.

## The Automobile Age in Earlville

Steam-powered automobiles date back to the 1700s, and gas-powered cars were introduced in the mid 1800s. Karl Benz introduced the first gas-powered “production” vehicle in 1885. Ford followed with the Model T in 1908, and in 1913, became the first automobile to be mass-produced in an assembly line. Over the years nearly 20 different types of cars were sold by dealers in Earlville. The sales of automobiles also created the need for mechanics and gas stations. Below is an abbreviated history of some of those businesses.

The first automobile sold in Earlville was in 1905—a Cadillac. A.H. Smith was the dealer and sold both Cadillacs and Buicks. Mr. Smith was the father of Gale Smith Sr, and grandfather to Lyle, Gale Jr. and Robert. Over the next 10-12 years, a number of car dealerships were born. The autos would arrive by train. L.G. Taylor and Jay Barnard were the first to bring a REO to the Chicago Automobile Show. The Museum has a wonderful photo of a REO Exhibition that occurred at the corner of Railroad and Ottawa Streets. Charles G. Wiley and Otto Kaminky also sold this model.

*(continued on Page 6)*

## EHS ALUMNI DINNER!!



The 127th EHS Alumni will be held on June 9th in the Community Building. Classes ending in “8” will be honored and classes ending in “3” will be recognized. The Social Hour begins at 5pm with dinner at 6pm—followed by a short meeting in the gymnasium. Tickets are \$15/person and are available at First State Insurance, The Barber Shop, Sandy’s Shear Magic or by mail at Earlville Alumni Association, PO Box 685, Earlville IL 60518. No tickets sold after June 2—not even at the door.

**Please plan on including a visit to the Museum while you are in town. We will be open Saturday from 10am-5pm and on Sunday from 12pm-2pm.**

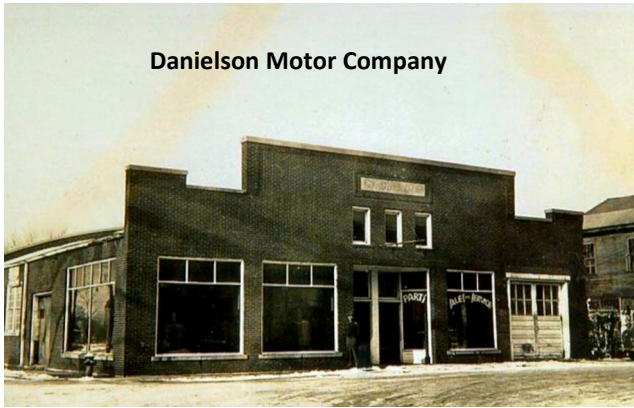
**Or, anytime by appointment—call 815-246-9778, 815-246-9039**

## Museum Improvements!

1. The old hand-pulled freight elevator in the Museum building is such an interesting detail that we’ve always wanted to be able to put it on display. The elevator was once used to move products and supplies that were delivered from the back alley into the elevator and then down to the basement or up to the second floor which was a tin shop. Larry Maly and Norm Peterson have built a solid wood half-wall that will allow visitors to safely view the huge pulleys and gears and learn more about the history of building.

2. Upcoming - repair and painting the front of the “shed” next to Museum

Danielson Motor Company



Motor Inn Garage



Humm Bros Garage



Flickingers Auto and Implement



## CRUISE NIGHT!

Stop in at the Museum while attending the Earlville Business Association's 16th Annual Cruise Night!

We've created a display highlighting all of Earlville's Car Dealerships and Auto Garage/Gas Stations throughout the years! A metal toy truck loaned to us by Dave Michelsen will also be featured.

We'll be open on Saturday, May 19th, from 10am until the car show concludes that evening. There will be cookies and coffee available, too!



## 16th Annual Earlville Cruise Night

5X7 Photos to 25 cars by KZ Studios

Drive-In movie available



200 Dash Plaques by Tri-County Veterinary Service

Free Official NSRA Inspections

Carriage Rides

Buttons the Clown

**Saturday, May 19, 2018**

**5:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Earlville, IL**

**Registration Fee \$5**

Fee applies to the Scholarship Fund

Downtown Earlville  
North of US Rt 34  
10 miles east of I39

Sponsored by  
Earlville Business Association  
Remember to buy your T-Shirt

Contact: Ken of KZ Studios  
at 815-246-8822 (cell 815-739-9431);  
Kevin of Tri-County Veterinary Service  
at 815-246-9545 (cell 815-712-8398)

Music by 3D Sound

Facebook: Earlville Cruise

**No burnouts, skateboards or bikes.**

# DeKalb County Barn Tour

**Aug. 11, 2018**

**9am-4pm**

The DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association In (DAA-HA) is sponsoring a tour of interesting and historic barns in DeKalb County, and they have asked to feature our Museum in their program. The Museum will be open to those attendees and to the public on this date from 9am-4pm



.....are always needed and welcomed!

If interested in lending a hand and learning about Earlville please contact us at:

earlville.history@yahoo.com

## Calendar of Events



May	19	EBA Cruise Night
Jun.	2	ECHS Meeting
Jun.	9	EHS Alumni
Jun.	23	Lionsfest
Jul.	7	ECHS Meeting
Aug.	4	ECHS Meeting
Aug.	11	Barn Tour

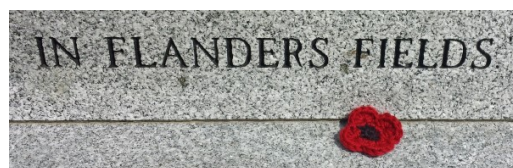
## What's New at the Museum?!

*We are appreciative of ALL donations. Here are a few of some of the unique items that have come in recently.....*

- Set of doors that led from the building into the fire escape in the old 1900 school that stood on the NW corner of Stilson and Union Streets.—*donated by Schrecengost family.*
- A large wooden “Secretary” that was purchased by A.J. Grover and arrived in Earlville by train in the 1800s - *donated by Dave Kolzow*
- Toy pedal fire truck from Large’s Hardware—*donated by the Schrecengost family.*
- 1889 copy of the Earlville Leader—*donated by Jeff Carter*
- IV Bottle from Dr. Fischer’s office—*donated by Barb Ridge*
- Lutheran Cross & Crown Sunday School certificate from 1908—*donated by Marj Colley*
- Display case—*donated by Dick Wold*



**This month we pause to thank and honor our Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice. Please plan to honor our fallen soldiers at the Memorial Day Service sponsored by the American Legion on Monday, May 28th.**



## The Automobile Age in Earlville (cont.)

Ed and F.V. Dolder opened the first automobile garage in 1908 at the SE corner of N. Ottawa and Park Street (currently Whittaker Construction building). The business was called Dolder's Garage, and, in addition to the mechanic business they sold **Everitt-Metzgar-Flanders (EMF)**, **Schacht**, **Brush** and **Studebaker** vehicles. F.V. Dolder built and patented the Dolder Auto Engine Stand. In 1914 the name was changed to the Earlville Garage when the younger Dolder took over and changed the location to E. Railroad St. —the area behind our current American Legion. A.C. Sadler moved into the old location to run his new business, the Cannon Ball Garage where he sold **Overland** vehicles (precursors to the current Jeep).

In 1908, J.L. Hughes and Sons opened up a garage and **Studebaker** dealership on Main St. just north of the area currently used as a parking lot behind the Post Office. Rumor has it that one cold night he stopped in to check on his building and found a man lying unconscious on the floor presumed dead. He called the mortician, Bud Trevillion, but when Bud came to pick the guy up, he roused up and gave them quite a scare. Seems that he had just stopped in to sleep off a long night at a local tavern.

In 1939 J.L. Hughes purchased the land where Dave Large had a blacksmith shop (currently Union St. Auto Repair) and built a gas station and coffee shop.

Others who sold vehicles in the early 1900s included C.H. Sellers (sold **Maxwells**), J.H. Garrity (sold **Jacksons**) and E.A. Danielson who was the first **Ford** dealer in town (1917). Danielson built a large brick building on the NW corner of Main and Winthrop in the location of the current Post Office. After he left the area, Bert Howe leased the building and continued selling **Fords** until Robert Weidner purchased the building for his implement dealership. In 1946, John Mooney bought the building and began his business selling **Plymouths** and **DeSotos** (father to Deanna Zerr and Wanda Kofoed).

In 1920 Louis Willey and his son, Warren (grandfather to Jay Allen and Jane Baird) purchased part of the Bates property and built the Motor Inn Garage on the NE corner of Union and Ottawa Streets (currently Presbyterian Church parking lot). They also joined in the auto sales business and sold **Nash** and **Grant** vehicles. George W. "Bill" Norton purchased the Motor Inn Garage in 1947 and operated it until 1955 when he bought out John Mooney and became a **Ford** dealer in the building on Main/Winthrop. Pete Yarnell leased the garage and gas business from Bill until he added onto the building in 1963 and moved the Ford dealership back to that location where he stayed until 1983. Bill's wife was Ann; Children Teresa and Rita.

In 1925 Guy Humm and his brother, Richard, built a garage and car dealership on the NW corner of Railroad and East Street (old Chandler Livery Barn) where the building still stands. They sold 3 different types of vehicles—**Terraplanes**, **Hudsons** and **Chevrolets**. In 1954, Humm's built and moved their gas business to the "new Rt. 34" (current BP/Amoco) which was operated by Guy's 2 sons, Dudley and Stanley until 1960.

Rounding out the car dealerships in Earlville is E.P. Flickinger, father of Keith Flickinger. E.P. came to town to open up the Hemp Mill during WWII. When the war was over and the hemp mill closed, he built and opened Flickingers Auto and Implements on E. Railroad Street (behind the current American Legion) where he sold **Kaiser-Fraziers**, **Studebakers**, and **Packards**.

There is much more information about these dealers as well as the numerous gas stations and garages in town at our exhibit at the Museum. Please stop by the next time you're in town. And, if you have more information to share on these businesses, or if you find that we have some details that are incorrect, we encourage you to help us out!

# 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***

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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