

It's Membership Renewal Time!!

If you hold an ANNUAL membership (renewable every year January 1st) it's time to submit your \$15 for the 2020 calendar year. A Membership form is attached to the last page of this newsletter for your convenience. We appreciate and NEED all of our members—Annual and Lifetime. It costs ~\$7,000 every year just to maintain the Museum (mortgage, utilities, maintenance, upkeep). In 2020 we will be doing some major repairs on the little shed to the south of the Museum. We have been unable to use that area for much-needed storage or for the display of farm tools, etc. due to a leaking roof and the subsequent water damage to the floors. We cover those costs through your continued support as a member, your additional generous donations, and through fundraisers held during the year. Many of our volunteers give of their time and talents to help control our costs, and for that we are forever grateful.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your support!!!

2020 Vintage Calendars for Sale!



There are still calendars available at the following locations until Dec. 14th—First State Insurance, Sandy's Shear Magic, The Barber Shop and the Museum during open hours. The cost is \$15 each. If you wish to have the calendar mailed to you there is a \$2 shipping fee for each calendar that you order. Checks can be mailed to the Earlville Community Historical Society, PO Box 683, Earlville 60518. Please mark "Attention Calendars" on the envelope and include your name, mailing address and email if applicable.

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
earlville.history@yahoo.com

"Like" us on Facebook!



Meetings

The next meeting will be
Sat. Apr 4th, 9am at the Museum.

2020 Officers

Pres	Rich Goodbred
VP	Stan Meloy
Sec	Karen Wold
Treas	Kris Goodbred
Curator	Anna Svendsen

Directors:	Bill Mitchell
	Larry Maly
	Sandi Engel



- To all of the volunteers who show up to clean, decorate and rearrange items in the Museum. They are just a phone call away and always happy to help!
- To the speakers who provide an interesting meeting for our members every month. In September, LaVerle Carter spoke about her years growing up in Earlville; in October Joan Hardekopf from the Sandwich Fair Board gave a presentation on the History of the Sandwich Fair; and, in November, Dale Stockley discussed the Early Settlers of Earlville. Our December meeting featured Jim Hughes and Al Matison (EHS Class of 1972) honoring the 40th anniversary of the last football game at EHS.
- To the Howard Gast Family for their very generous donation to the Historical Society in honor of their dad.
- For all of our members and supporters during the 2019 season!



.....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



2019

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 1 | EBA Christmas Festival |
| Dec. 7 | ECHS Meeting |
| Dec. 15 | Last day of the season for the Museum |
| Dec. 25 | Merry Christmas! |

2020

- | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Jan-Mar | Museum closed except by appt |
| Apr. 4 | ECHS Monthly Mtg
Museum reopens |
| Apr. 25 | Dueling Pianos fundraiser |

Immanuel Lutheran Church Live Nativity

The Lutheran church's Live Nativity has been a part of the Christmas season in Earlville since 1987 with only a couple of exceptions due to bad weather. The props and outfits are made by volunteers, and the cast is



made up of Earlville residents of all denominations. Live animals have always been a part of the performances including donkeys owned by Eileen Balcom-Vetillo and Nick/Lena Sellers. One year a sheep escaped and the shepherds had to chase them down! Thank you for this beautiful display!!

Update on Potter's Field Project

In our last newsletter we told the story of Precinct Cemetery and the area referred to as Potter's field where indigent or unknown persons are buried. We are moving ahead and working with Mendota Monument to create a stone to commemorate those who are buried in that area and hope to have it in place by Memorial Day 2020.

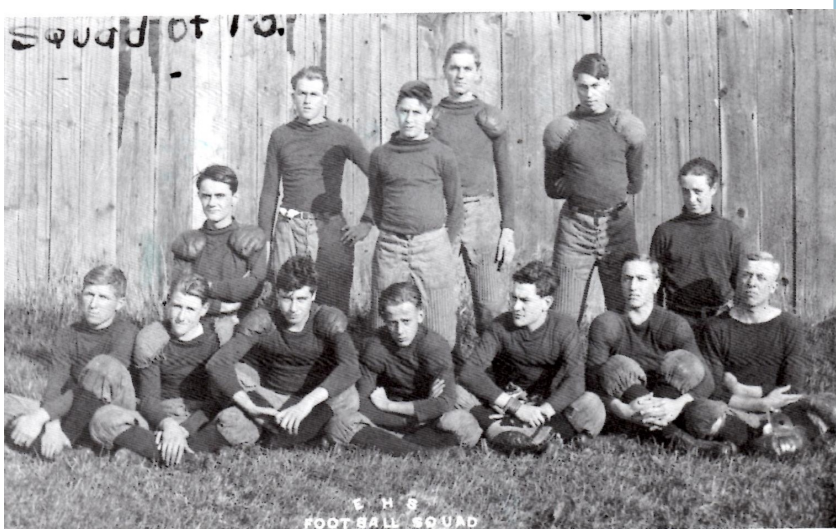


Friday Night Lights



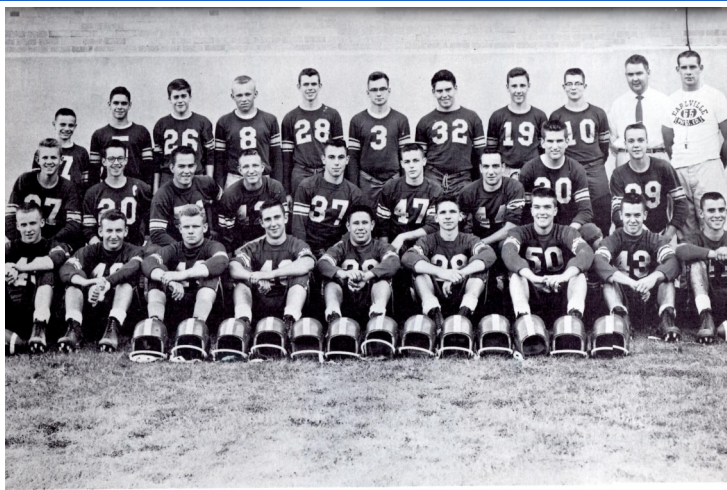
Parents and students who lived in Earlville during the 1950's, 60's and 70's, remember the excitement surrounding Friday night football games. During those decades there were only a few sports options available to young men, and girls sports (outside of GAA) were pretty much non-existent. There was no internet or videogame to occupy our time (outside of the very modern "Foto-Electric" football game of the 1950s), so playing outdoors and attending the weekly football game was what we did. The games were always played in the evening on Friday or on Saturdays so most adults were not at work and could easily attend. That led to a huge community attendance and outpouring of support for the home team. Parents volunteered to run the sidelines as well as "spot" and announce the plays from tall wooden stand. A group of parent volunteers formed a "Quarterback Club" in the late 50's /early 60's and sponsored the awards banquet each year securing notable speakers to motivate the players. It was a time of great community involvement and shared pride—regardless of the success of the season.

Earlville's rich football history started in or around 1909. A letter to the editor of the Earlville Leader (11/22/1979) by Paul Zimmerman stated, "When I entered the first grade in 1909 EHS was playing football and it was played steadily until I was in the 8th grade." The letter goes on to say, "That era ended when Arthur Schneider, son of the sexton of Precinct Cemetery was injured in a game at Paw Paw and lay unconscious at least overnight. L.B. Mann, who was Superintendent then was also coach. That was the last of football at EHS until its revival in 1950." The photo to the right is from 1913.



VARSIITY FOOTBALL SQUAD -- Coach Maechtle, J. Rayson, A. Hecathorn, W. Hayward, J. Cook, R. Stockley, M. Swanson, G. Kaleel, K. Hinderlider, F. Kaminky, R. Sanders, Asst. Coach, Campbell - Standing -- T. Anderson, S. Stienke, W. Woods, D. Frey, J. Pritchard, C. Worsley, R. Dyas, S. Goodchild, R. Kirby. Sitting -- T. Turnipseed, A. Smith, B. Kreiter, J. Major, R. Inis, C. Haight, R. Harmon, R. Whitlock.

The first game following the re-birth of football at EHS was played Sep. 22, 1950. Coaches were Don Maechtle and Thel Campbell. The team won their first game against Orland Park. Tickets were \$.75 for adults and \$.25 for students. The game was played in Sandwich since the lights at Earlville weren't ready yet. They honored the \$2 season pass for the Earlville attendees. The photo to the left is the 1950-51 team.



Football Team

First row: B. Torman, B. Larsen, B. Atherton, D. Van Horn, R. Riva, D. Osola, G. Meloy, H. Seaton, C. Whitaker. Second row: J. Sturgeon, T. Major, J. Dohm, T. Harmon, C. Sanford, K. Turnipseed, B. Ward, R. Morrill, D. Sanders. Third row: D. Vance, J. Landers, D. Thompson, D. Roem, R. Gibson, E. Davis, J. Myers, P. Miller, N. Cole, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Bennett.

Earlville played in the Fox Valley Conference from 1950 through the 1958 season. Other teams in that conference included much larger schools like Orland Park, Oswego, Plainfield, Plano, Sandwich, Yorkville, and Marseilles. In 1956, under the coaching of Mark Johnston and Harold Bennett, EHS was co-champions of that conference with their only loss being Marseilles.

The 1956-57 team is pictured to the left.

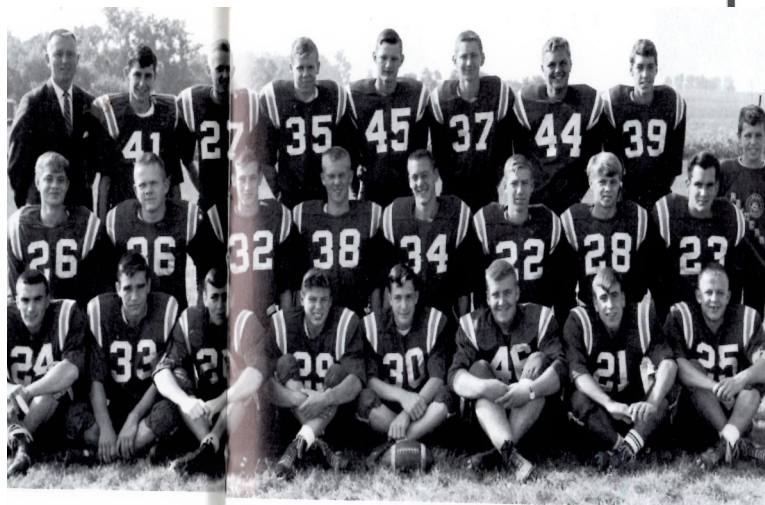
In 1959 Earlville joined the Little Eight Conference, and Lloyd Wineburner became athletic director and assistant to Mark Johnston. The following year Johnston left, and Wineburner became head coach with Gene Baum as his assistant.

The 1961-62 EHS team (pictured to the right) had a record of just 4-4 but would be one of the only Earlville teams to beat Genoa-Kingston until 1970.

Teams continued to improve under Wineburner's leadership. The 1965-66 team went 6-1 in the conference, and the following year (1966-67) EHS enjoyed a 7-1 season and were undefeated in the conference (pictured below). Both years the team took 2nd place in the conference.



FRONT ROW: Mike Imel, Jim Feld, Don Blakeslee, Ed Doughty, Jerry Botts, Larry Leonard, Mike Thompson, Ritchie Miller, Ed Wold, Richard Tuttle, Will Landers, Ken Goldman. BACK ROW: Coach Lloyd Wineburner, Gerry Shulow, Wayne Van Horn, Stan Meloy, Jim Seaton, John Orr, Mel Peterson, Mark Morrill, Ken Boltz, Dan Winter, Mike Schmitz, Norm Peterson, Bill Myers, Jim Bailey, Coach Gene Baum.



MEMBERS OF VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM: FRONT ROW: A. Maly, J. Miller, P. Russell, E. Sohm, G. McDermott, F. Green, R. Thayer, G. Stockley. SECOND ROW: J. Johnson, A. Alexander, L. Hindle, J. Englehart, M. Gast, B. Bauer, G. Imel, M. Sondgeroth. THIRD ROW: Mr. Wineburner, Coach; D. Link, P. Martin, T. Baird, D. Harger, R. Kruse, D. Farley, R. Gross, C. Lane, Manager.

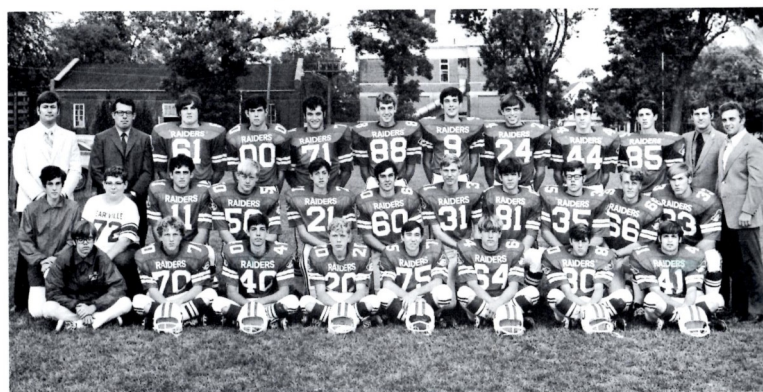
1967-68 continued the winning tradition with a 6-2 conference record. The following year yielded a disappointing 4-4 conference record, however, the last 2 wins of the season (1968-69) was the beginning of a long unbeaten streak at Earlville High School. Wineburner coached at EHS for 11 years and left Earlville after that season to take a coaching position at another Little Eight Conference school, Burlington-Central HS. He eventually retired and moved to Wisconsin. His son, David, coached football at Crivitz HS in WI and, in 2007, was honored as Packers (HS) Coach of the Week. At that time, his dad (Lloyd) was one of his assistant coaches. Lloyd Wineburner passed away in 2009 in Marinette, WI, but not before leaving his football legacy at EHS. (See *Lloyd Wineburner's letter to the editor from 11/13/1979 on page 6 of this issue*)

Gary Steinbach was named the new head coach in the fall of 1969. Genoa-Kingston continued to be our nemesis in 1969-70 spoiling a perfect season with a tie. The team ended that excellent season at 8-0-1 and Little Eight Conference Champions to add to the unbeaten record.

The next 2 seasons (**1970-71** and **1971-71**) Earlville would dominate the Little Eight Conference with consecutive 9-0 seasons—pictures below. The unbeaten record would continue through the first two games of the 1972-73 season. In the end, EHS put up a 30-0-1 record over those 4 seasons and still ranks 14th overall with the Illinois HS Athletic Association. Steinbach left after 3 seasons.



VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM. FRONT ROW: J. Bauer, R. Stanford, E. Malley, B. Dilbeck, B. Landers, J. Meyer, J. Hall, R. Myers, C. Lane, M. Miller. BACK ROW: Coach Yeakel, Coach Curran, N. Rave, R. Moore, A. Matison, R. Smith, B. Boltz, J. Hughes, K. Tillman, D. Gast, D. Delp, Coach Myers, Coach Steinbach.



While Earlville's student population continued to decline, the other schools in the Little Eight Conference continued to consolidate and grow making it difficult to compete. That, along with the fewer students going out for the sport, rising cost of travel, insurance, and the disbanding of the Little Eight Conference, gave way to the discontinuation of the sport following the 1979 season. The last game was played on Nov. 3rd, 1979—40 years ago.

It was an end of an era. On Sat, Dec. 7th, Jim Hughes (EHS Class of 1972) presented a short history of that era at our ECHS monthly meeting. A number of players from 1950 through 1979 attended and shared their great memories. Jim told of his unique perspective as he was coaching Genoa-Kingston against Earlville in their final game in 1979. His team was in a position to go to the state tournament if they won. He spoke of the mixed emotions of that day. Thanks to Jim for a wonderful trip down Memory Lane.



Did you know....?

Earlville Football players wore red or white jerseys, but wore **BLUE** pants during the 1969 and 1970 seasons. They were purchased and worn during Coach Wineburner's last year in Earlville and the first year of Coach Steinbach's. After just 2 years they were discontinued and the team went back to wearing white pants. We have a mannequin with this uniform at the Museum.

Do YOU know....?

How many students went on to COACH football at the HS or college level? We know a few but would like your feedback. Please email us!

Football (continued)

After reading that Earlville was going to have to drop football Coach Wineburner wrote a Letter to the Editor of the Earlville Leader (11/22/1979). Here are some excerpts from that letter:

"The boys who played for me have always been my boys. I would just like to convey some thoughts to them: You had the opportunity and privilege to represent your school and community on the football field. Your sons might not have that opportunity. You tell them about the joy of victory; the bitter taste of defeat. Tell them about the pre-season practices, the sweat, the pain, the tears, the laughs. Tell them about the locker rooms after championship games. The victory dances, the string of Homecoming victories, the terrible feeling after a defeat to Genoa that could have meant a championship. Tell them about the wonderful fans who watched and cheered football Earlville style on Friday nights. Tell about those same fans and parents who gave so willingly of their time and money in the form of banquets, scoreboards, facilities, help, hell and most of all love. Tell about the pride in putting on the red and white and saying you played for Earlville High. Tell them about your touchdown runs, the great kicks and catches, your tackles, your great playing ability, and your character as a young man After you tell them these things, tell them what the game gave you personally.

It gave you self-discipline to overcome the impossible. It taught you the importance of organization. It gave you respect and appreciation of your fellow man. You learned the importance of loyalty. You learned humility,. You learned to take directions. You developed pride in yourself, home school and community. You also learned you were never defeated—time sometimes ran out on you.

If you can convey these things to your sons and the sons of the community the game will never be put to rest. The big game is life, and that's what football, as we try to teach it, personifies.

I became a better man having had the opportunity to coach and teach in Earlville. I hope all the boys who played football for Earlville became better men having played the game. Lloyd Wineburner, Coach"

Our Most Sincere Sympathies...



It's with great sadness that we said goodbye to Myra Flickinger this past month. Myra and Keith have been active members since the origin of the Earlville Community Historical Society back in 1985. We could always depend on them to help fill in our open shifts on the weekend and support all other activities of the organization. Myra was the first one to sign up to bring cookies for an event, and, most recently, chaired our first very successful Quarter Auction fundraiser. She will be missed by all of us at ECHS. Our prayers go out to Keith and the entire Flickinger family. Until we meet again....

DUELING PIANOS FUNDRAISER!!



Saturday, April 25th, 7pm

Earlville Fire Station

Featuring—Too Cool To Duel!!

Stay Tuned! Details to follow in the spring!

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