

The

NOW 'n' THEN

**The official newsletter of the
Romeoville Area Historical Society**

JAN. 2020

historicalromeoville@yahoo.com
815-552-9080

P.O. Box 7814
Romeoville, IL 60446

www.romeohistory.org
Like Us On Facebook

The museum has been quiet, with few visitors. This is disappointing, but allows us time to work on displays and continue unpacking boxes. More people are bringing donations for the museum. These are cataloged before adding them to the displays.

We presented a wreath at the Veterans Day ceremony, as is our custom. A nice-sized group of members walked with the wreath. The weather caused the ceremony to be moved inside Firehouse 1 instead of at the nearby Edward 'Doc' McCartan Veterans Memorial Garden.

The Village has asked several times for information about old buildings and early residents. The histories written by Mabel Hrpcha and Dorothy Hassert and the extensive clipping files begun by our first members have been invaluable in answering these questions.

At our October meeting, it was decided to close the museum from December 15th through March 2nd. You can visit during this time by calling or emailing the museum or one of the officers to arrange for a private showing.

The displays through February and March will be the Boy Scouts (anniversary in February) and Girl Scouts (March anniversary), with a few items from other youth groups. Members Tom Rednour and Kyle Eichorst, both Eagle Scouts, will create the Boy Scout exhibit. The Girl Scout display will be from the Trailways Girl Scout Council and my personal collection. The Boy Scout and Girl Scout councils will be notified and asked to share the information about the exhibit with local troops.

An unusual number of longtime residents and village staff passed away recently. John (Jack) Sergeant, Sr. passed away in March. His wife Doris died in November. They were the parents of John Sergeant. Gerianne Scharnagle, nee Raisor, worked for the village, as did Jeff Worm. Their obituaries are included here.

Several members of the Historical Society were honored recently. Jerry Capps was recognized by U. S. Representative Dan Lipinski. Virgil Oikion and I received citations from State Representative John Connor at his annual Senior Fair. Also, I was named one of sixteen Everyday Heroes by the Joliet Herald News at a breakfast for the honorees. The paper printed a special section with a page for each of their Heroes. Pictures from the events are inside.

Annette Eichorst, Society Secretary, has taken over the newsletter, beginning with the previous issue. We both forgot to begin with the traditional masthead, as we used the current logo on the first page. There were several comments about the missing masthead. It has been replaced and the logo is on the cover.

Nancy Hackett, President



ROMEOVILLE HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY DONATES \$750 TO ROMEOVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Homecoming Week at Romeoville HS was more than just the traditions of the game, crowing a Homecoming Court, and various school spirit related activities. Prior to Homecoming Week, Romeoville HS Principal Mr. Derek Kinder and Asst. Activities Director Mrs. Krista Simpson established a partnership between RHS and the Romeoville Area Historical Society to raise funds for the Society during Homecoming.

Romeoville HS committed to donating the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle from the Homecoming football game against Joliet West to the Society. During the home football game on Fri. Oct. 18, the school presented the Society with a check for \$750.

Lockport / Romeo - Circa 1921-1923

Below are some photos provided by Matt Anderson – his grandfather worked at the Excelsior Motorcycle Company.

In the photo with the Romeo Station is Jeanette Anderson (1918-1924) who you can barely see in the side with Matt's grandmother Agnes (nee-Wrzesinski) Anderson 1893-1988. Jeanette was Agnus' first child. The other three people photographed were friends of Matt's grandfather Elmer Anderson 1892-1969 (who was taking the photo).

The photo on the bridge is again with friends, and Agnes Anderson and Jeanette Anderson in the side car.

The photo in Lockport is of Jeanette, Agnes and Elmer Anderson.

All of them were living in Chicago at the time of the photo. Jeanette died of Scarlet Fever. The Anderson's are all buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery in River Grove, IL



Rural DuPage Twsp.

By D. Hassert



Mr. Val Heussner was born and raised on this farm. The original Deed to this piece of ground was plotted by the I & M Canal Dist. And deeded to the Governor of the State, then Purchased in 1859 by Mike Ray. Mr. Ray in turn sold 20 acres in the back which jointed the Fitzgerald's farm (Jurca's) to Mr. Henry Heussner, Val's father. Val later purchased 10 more acres from Albert Hassert and Mike Ray (Where the Beautiful home now stands). In order for the Browns, Fitzgeralds and Heussners to go to Lemont, they forded the Des Plaines river. Later when the I & M Canal was built, they were cut off so these farmers had to donate 40 ft. of their frontage ground to the township, to tie into a road that serviced the people living on Sweeds Hill and lower Bluff Rd. This road was called "New Road" for many years, later the people on lower Bluff Rd. called it Bluff Rd. as we know it today. Since the 1960's the Township has put in a new bridge and blacktopped the road.

When Mr. Val Heussner got married, they built the beautiful home which is located on the south side of Bluff Rd. $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from Joliet Rd. (About 1915.) Val married Minnie Hamstengle (Pictured in their lovely flower garden). They had one daughter Etta, who married Harold Huthinson and they had two sons and a daughter. Harold worked for the Arrow Brook farm, and was Ruth McGarveys nephew. Val Heussner was a dairy farmer and also had bees. Minnie died and Val was very lonely. He spent many hours in his flower garden. He had a monument erected in front of St. Matthews Church in memory of Minnie (that is used as their Announcement Marquee.)



After Val's death, his daughter rented the home for several years, but in 1966 she sold the home and the farm to Roy Hassert. Several of his sons lived there at various times and his daughter Mary and my daughter Deborah lived together for a year before Mary decided to get married to her college sweetheart, Kelby Briddick. They had a beautiful garden wedding on June 28th 1980. My daughter moved into Lemont and now Mary and Kelby have two beautiful children Mathew, March 12, 18983 and Brin born October 3, 1984. Mary and Kelby are both graduates of Northern Ill. University. Mary is devoting her time to her family while her husband is teaching Art and Photography at Hinsdale So. High School

Below is page from the June 1963, Beacon News

10

**FINAL
CLOSE OUT**

OF ALL 1964 Model CHEVROLET
and BUICKs

Tremendous SAVINGS

NOW IS THE TIME TO
SAVE SAVE SAVE

Impalas, Wildcats, Chevelles,
Biscaynes, Belaires, plus
Executive Cars.

plus
5% Off **Green Stamps**

CALL 838-4646 or 257-2216

FLETCHER CHEVROLET
BUICK

Authorized Factory Dealer

44 STEPHEN ST., LEMONT

**CANEVA'S
VARSITY SHOP**

838-0642
LOCKPORT

TENTH AND HAMILTON STREETS.

HEADQUARTERS
for

WEST HIGH:
Gym Suits,
Gym Shoes,
Gym Bags

WEST HIGH SCHOOL:
Sweaters,
Jackets,
Emblems,
Sweatshirts

also
TEEN MAN CLOTHS by LEVI'S - A-1 - LEE
SHAPLEY - Sport Shirts

ROMEOVILLE TAX ORDINANCE

Listed below is an unofficial synopsis of the Village of Romeoville Tax Levy Ordinance for the 64-65 fiscal year. Citizens wishing to examine the Levy in its entirety may ask to see it at the Civic Center.

	Appropriated	Levied
Administrative:	\$ 23,800	\$ 4,900
Streets & Alleys:	79,800	14,000
Fire Dept:	22,900	3,600
Police Dept:	69,700	29,476
Water-Sewage Dept:	180,000	non levied
Public Benefits:	32,000	" "
Zoning-Planning:	500	" "
Landscaping etc:	1,000	" "
Grading-Filling:	500	" "
Totals:	\$ 420,200	\$ 51,976

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE. West-bury registrar at 269 Edgehill. Tues 7-9 P.M and Saturday 1-3 P.M. Phone 739-7344

LICENSED OPERATOR
Gives
Permanents
IN YOUR HOME OR MINE
739-1901

BLIND MOTHER NEEDS HELP

A Colonial Village family is in need of a few Good Samaritans. The mother, who is blind, has seven children, the two youngest are three week old twin boys. She must stay off her feet for several weeks because of a blood clot in her leg.

Women are needed to take turns making formula, feed the babies, etc. Good Samaritans may phone 739-7586, or 739-5739 to volunteer their services.

Jerry Capps of Romeoville Honored by Congressman Lipinski

Every year, Congressman Dan Lipinski receives nominations for his Senior of the Year awards. It recognizes



senior citizens who are engaged in volunteerism and service within their communities. To be eligible, a senior must be nominated by the leader of an organization or an official from their community. Only a select few are chosen to receive this honor and this year, Romeoville's Jerry Capps was among them.

"Jerry has been involved in Romeoville for a long time," explained Mayor John Noak, who nominated Capps for the award. "We are very proud of him and grateful for his continued service to our village."

Capps is involved in the Romeoville Area Historical Society, the Downtown Redevelopment Commission, and last year retired from a long run of coaching basketball at the rec center for high schoolers. Additionally, he is the vice president of the Romeoville Food Pantry, the past president of Friends of the Library, and the secretary of the Mosquito Abatement program.

Virgil Oikion and Nancy Hackett of Romeoville Honored by State Representative John Connor D-Lockport

State Rep. John Connor, D-Lockport, recently hosted a celebration honoring local seniors for the leadership roles they have played in the community in the past year.

"Our seniors deserve credit for their accomplishments and contributions to the local community," Connor said. "The leadership they've displayed is just one part of the important role they play in cities and towns across Illinois, and the Golden Spirit award is recognition of that. I'm happy to spend time with people who are also committed to building a stronger Illinois for current and future generations."

This is the 3rd time Connor has held his annual event recognizing local seniors for their accomplishments with the Golden Spirit award. Connor's commitment to the senior community has been a driving force deciding his legislative priorities as a representative, where he supported funding for senior services in the most recent state budget, worked to crack down on con artists who target seniors and backed property tax relief efforts for the senior community.

Local senior citizens honored at this celebration were Virgil Oikion and Nancy Hackett.



Nancy Hackett Honored as a 2019 Everyday Hero

Seventy years ago, Nancy Hackett was a Girl Scout, and when she started her first permanent job, she called the Girl Scout office and said she wanted to be a leader. Nearly 60 years ago, Hackett moved to Romeoville and assisted her minister's wife in a troop, which she eventually took over.

"She is dedicated and passionate about what she does. She has been a Girl Scout volunteer over 50 years and when she gets involved in something, she stays with it. She's very creative," said Debbie Newara, a staff member for Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. "My favorite part of Girl Scouts is camping. When I was a kid, I went to summer camp for two weeks and that was my favorite part of the year besides Christmas. I took troops camping with leaders and then started camping on my own with my dog,"

Hackett said. As a history buff, Hackett's next favorite volunteer task was to join the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Council Historians in 1987.

"I love seeing old stuff and collecting old stuff," she said. "It's a surprise when boxes come to me. I just received one a week or two ago of patterns to make uniforms and patterns to make uniforms for American Girl Dolls." One of Hackett's favorite finds was an old khaki uniform with 20 badges sewn on it. One patch on the uniform was the highest award, the Golden Eaglet award, which was used into the 1930s before its name was changed to the gold award. Hackett then saw a picture in the Herald-News of a girl with a uniform on.

"I looked at the picture and the sleeves, pulled out the uniform I had, enlarged the picture and knew the woman in the picture was the one who had owned the uniform," Hackett said. "It's the thrill of the hunt." Newara said Hackett even has her own Girl Scout museum in her house. "She makes Girl Scout history come alive. It's not like reading information in books. The girls can touch and see the things. Nancy is a good story teller," Newara said.

In addition to her involvement in Girl Scouts, Hackett remains active in the Romeoville Area Historical Society and has been president for 15 years. She also co-authored a book with others in the community, writing seven of the 10 chapters and the photo captions. "With the Romeoville Area Historical Society, it's wonderful when old timers come in and know history more than I do," Hackett said. "It's also fun to do. I tell myself I'm not going to go to the museum three to four times per week, but I do."

As a librarian, she joined the board of directors of White Oak Library and is currently in her second six-year term.

"I have been reading since I was 5," Hackett said. "I always have a book in my hand, so what other profession do you go into?"

When asked what sparked her passion to volunteer, Hackett said she was taught to volunteer in the Girl Scouts. As an adult, the only way to get involved with Girl Scouts was to volunteer. She then passed those values on to the kids she mentored.

Local Obituaries



Thomas J. Pierson, Sr.

08-13-1955 / 09-29-2019

Thomas J. Pierson, Sr., age 64, late of Lockport passes away peacefully Sunday, September 29, 2019 at home surrounded by his loving family. Born in Oak Park, IL., and a Lockport resident for many years. Tom owned and operated Stephenson Photography in Lockport and was a very dedicated and talented photographer. Faithful member of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Lockport; Proud member of Lockport Chamber of Commerce, Lockport Old Canal Days, Lockport [Rotary Club](#), Lockport Lions Club, Lockport Economic Development Commission, and Associated Professional Photographers of Illinois. He graduated from Lockport Township High School, College of DuPage and the Winona School of Photography.

Survived by his beloved wife, Mary (nee Gunty) ; loving children, TJ (Kristine) Pierson, Michelle (Matt) Fernandez, James (Brooke) Pierson, David Pierson and Samantha Pierson; adored grandchildren, Lily, Kailey, Layla, Quinn, Ryan, Clayton, Parker and Maebelle; his parents, Russ and Jane (nee Love) Pierson; one brother, Jim (Cherie) Pierson; numerous nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles also survive.

Thomas was very loving, caring, thoughtful and well loved, he touched many lives in his short time here on earth and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Joliet Area Community Hospice would be greatly appreciated.



Geriann Scharnagle

09-16-1963 / 10-02-2019

Geriann Scharnagle, age 56 of Romeoville, Il., passed away Wednesday October 2, 2019. Loving mother of Matthew (Courtney) Scharnagle and Eric Scharnagle; Cherished grandmother of Lillian Scharnagle; fond sister of Lynn (Paul) Farr and Al (Michelle) Raisor; numerous nieces and nephews. Geriann was employed by the Village of Romeoville for thirty plus years



Jeffrey M. Worm

11-23-2019

Jeffrey worked for the village of Romeoville for 24 years, he loved walking his dogs, working out and he was also a Foodie. He cherished family time more than anything.

Jeffrey is survived by his loving wife, Christine A. Worm; dear daughters, Shannon (Tim) McCrory and Megan Worm; brothers, Mark (Vicki) Worm and Ken Worm; sisters Patty (Mike) Witt and Karen (Dan) Langan; and many nieces and nephews, Krystal (Joe) Salzsieder, Scott Witt, Stephanie Witt, Cassandra (Wyatt) Schubert, Jamie (Candace) Munday, Jennifer (Ethan) Warfield, Joshua Worm and Jacob Langan.

He is preceded in death by his parents Donald and Barbara Worm.



John “Jack” Sergeant **02-21-1927 / 03-29-2019**

Mr. John "Jack" Sergeant, 92 of Benton, KY died on Friday, March 29, 2019, at his residence. Born Monday, February 21, 1927 in Joliet, IL, he was the son of the late Stephen F. Sergeant and the late Mae (Cheville) Sergeant.

He was a veteran of the US Army, a member of the Knights of Columbus, Marshall County Elks, and the Paducah Area Painters Alliance (P.A.P.A.). He was also a member of St. Henry's Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Doris Mae "Dodee" (Brusatori) Sergeant of Benton, KY; son, John Sergeant, Jr. wife Cathy of Romeoville, IL; two daughters, Deborah Fleming husband Edward of Plainfield, IL and Patti Braglia husband Brian of Orland Park, IL; four grandchildren, JJ Fleming, John Sergeant, Chris Fleming, Jason Sergent; and 6 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, an infant son, Jeffrey Sergeant and sister, Lois Desjardins.

Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Henry's Catholic Church, 16097 U.S. Hwy. 68 Hardin, KY 42048.



Doris M. “Dodee” Sergeant (nee-Brusatori) **03-21-1928 / 10-04-2019**

Age 91, a lifelong resident of Joliet, IL before retiring to Benton, KY, passed peacefully Monday, November 4, 2019 at Senior Star Memory Unit, Romeoville. She was born March 21, 1928 to the late Doris (nee Young) and Emil Brusatori in Joliet, IL where she was raised and educated, graduating with the Class of 1945 from Joliet Township High School. She then attended the American Academy of Art in Chicago, beginning a lifelong journey of artistic expression in oils, pastels, graphite, stained glass, and many other fine art mediums. On April 15, 1951, Dodee married John “Jack” Sergeant at the Church of St. Anthony in downtown Joliet.

Beloved mother of Deborah L. (Edward) Fleming, John H. (Catherine) Sergeant and Patricia M. (Brian) Braglia; loving grandmother of John Jacob (Gina) Fleming, Christopher David (Kathryn) Fleming, John Richard (Emily) Sergeant and Jason Matthew (Rebecca) Sergeant; proud great-grandmother of Elizabeth Joan Fleming, Jack Buckley Sergeant, Matthew Donald Sergeant, Mary Mae Sergeant, Penney Claire Sergeant and Emilio “Lio” Dalton Sergeant; dear sister of Bonnie (late Robert) Knutson; and fond aunt of several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 68 years, John “Jack” Sergeant (3/29/2019); her parents; and an infant son, Jeffrey Sergeant.

Doris was a member of the Joliet Women’s Club, Council of Catholic Women and past president of the Mother’s Club at St. Patrick Church in Joliet, where she and her family were active parishioners for many years. Dodee never missed an opportunity to share her smile or sense of humor with those around her.

In 1993, Jack and Dodee retired to Kentucky Lake area, where they enjoyed many years of friendships, family visits, and where their mutual love of art flourished. Dodee and Jack continued as community leaders, being members of St. Henry’s Parish in Hardin, and the Paducah Area Painters Alliance (PAPA) where they both served on the board and exhibited artwork regularly.



Sandra J. Erickson

01-01-2020

Sandra J. Erickson, age 77 was a long- time resident of Romeoville, IL. passed away Wednesday January 1, 2020. Beloved wife of the late William C. Erickson; loving mother of Ken Erickson, Karen (Patrick) Petty and Susan Erickson; devoted grandmother of Chad Rodriguez, Shannon (Christopher) Baskerville and Brianna Kopel and great-grandmother of Kiley and Kennedy; fond sister of Dolores (Al) Fredericks, Thomas Watts and the late Donald (Mary) Watts and the late Robert Watts; many nieces and nephews. Mrs. Erickson was retired from Valley View School District 365 U after 25 plus years of service.



John D. Wallace

03-01-1930 / 01-01-2020

John D. Wallace age 89, passed away January 1, 2020 at Silver Cross Hospital surrounded by his loving family. A longtime resident of Romeoville, John was an active member of the Mason's and Shriners, the Hampton Park S.A.C club, and the Lockport American Legion Post 18. John is survived by his loving children; Elizabeth (Dan) Panter, Rachel Wallace, Charles (Laurel) Wallace, James (significant other Amy Whennen) Wallace, John (Rhonda) Wallace II, Joseph (Kimberly) Wallace, and Dorothy Wallace. John was also survived by his 14 cherished grandchildren, and his many beloved great-grandchildren. John is preceded in death by his adored wife Joan Wallace, and his parents John and Martha Wallace.



Milli "DayDay" S. Gulliford

08-01-1948 / 01-07-2020

Milli "DayDay" S. Gulliford, age 71 of Romeoville, IL., passed away Tuesday January 7, 2020. Beloved wife of the late Kenneth Schvien; loving mother of Jeanne (Rick) Beckmann and Cindy McLendon; cherished daughter of Eleanore and the late Joseph Slavick; devoted grandmother of Lindsay Curtis, Julie Beckmann, Billy Curtis II, Zane McLendon, Lilah Curtis and Katie Beckmann and great-grandmother of Meghan Barnard; fond sister of Mike (Karen) Slavicek, Dan (Mitzy) Slavicek and the late Glen Slavicek and the late Joe (Sharon) Slavicek; many nieces and nephews. Milli was employed by State Farm Insurance Co. for twenty plus years. Cremation rites accorded.

Romeoville Area Historical Society
14 Belmont Road
Romeoville, IL 60446



We need your help!!

We have scheduled Work Days in January to accomplish odd and end jobs around the museum.

The dates/times are:

- Thursday January 16th 2-6pm
- Monday January 20th 10-4 lunch included (pizza)

Some jobs we hope to accomplish are:

-
- Unpack and file clipping
- Unpack artifacts & catalog
- Unpack and organize RAHS files
- Empty/change out certain display cases