

The

NOW 'n' THEN

Preserving the ♥ of Romeoville

The official newsletter of the
Romeoville Area Historical Society

FALL ISSUE 2014

The Society has been busy this fall. I presented a history program for children on September 23 and on September 24 we held a panel discussion about the early days of Hampton Park for adults. Both programs were cosponsored by the White Oak Library and held in the Romeoville branch. Members of the society set up a display and were there both days to help with the programs. A week later, we had a display at Representative Emily McAsey's Senior Fair, which always has a nice attendance. The following week found us at the Fire Department's Open House for Fire Prevention Week. There our display featured photos of fires and firemen and Chief Al Stadelmeier's fire hat. We had a fund-raiser at Culver's all day on October 24, with members of the Society greeting people and requesting that they support us with their orders.

The Village provided a new computer for our use. We are keeping the older one for times when two people are available to work on our cataloging projects. Bill Prueter donated photos of a class at Spangler School and the last class at Taylor School, both with all the students identified. He also gave us a copy of his graduation certificate from Taylor School. Shirley Breitwieser Nona brought us a curtain stretcher, a quilting hoop and a wicker bassinet which had been used by 4 generations of her family.

We have begun requesting information and pictures for a book to continue Mabel Hrpcha's *Romeoville*, which ended with Neal Murphy and the early days of Hampton Park. A flyer to advertise it was at the above programs and is included in this newsletter. This won't have the stringent requirements that were needed for the recent book. Families that were in Mabel's book can update their histories; those who moved into Hampton Park are asked to provide family information and photographs to bring our history up to date.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 1 Shea Martin, James Szczepaniak
Dec. 11 Harold Lindstrom
Dec. 19 Lloyd 'Duke' Baker
Dec. 21 Earl Hassert
Dec. 22 Carol Wicburg
Dec. 27 Ted Stafiej
Dec. 28 Lorell
Dec. 29 Elizabeth Kolar

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 1 Kelby Briddick
Jan. 5 Lou Strong
Jan. 11 Melba Tolbert, Delores Heeg
Jan. 13 Brian Esposito

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 24 Len and Gerri Frost

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 1 Alice Ernst
Feb. 21 Lydia Mack
Feb. 23 Pattie Hassert
Feb. 23 Blanche Smith, Allison Eichorst
Feb. 26 Lois Shepherd

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 3 Tom & Sara Martin
Feb. 19 James & Shirley Nona
Feb. 24 Len & Pat Heeg



Kyle Eichorst at his Eagle Scout ceremony.
Picture not available for the August issue.

MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be November 19 from 2-4 in the board room at the Society's building, 10 Montrose. This is the **Third Wednesday** because of Thanksgiving.

At the August meeting, Shirlee Pergler was elected Vice President and Cathy Bouley was elected Secretary. All other officers continue in their positions.

2015 MEETINGS

Meetings in 2015 will be at 10 Montrose on Wednesdays from 2-4:
February 25 (fourth Wednesday)
May 20 (third Wednesday)
August 26 (fourth Wednesday)
November 18 (third Wednesday)

EVENTS

The Historical Society placed a wreath at the Veterans Day program on Nov. 11. We created a wreath for the indoor display at the Rec Center during the month of December

The current population of Romeoville is 30% native Spanish-speaking. Valley View schools in Romeoville have registered 40% native Spanish-speaking children.

CONTACT us at:

The Society office, 10 Montrose Drive
Mondays and Fridays, 9AM-Noon
other times by appointment

Phone: 815/886-0273

E-mail: nancy.reader@sbcglobal.net

ROMEOVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10 MONTROSE DRIVE
ROMEOVILLE, IL 60446
Preserving the ♥ of Romeoville

historicalromeoville@yahoo.com
<https://www.facebook.com/RomeovilleAreaHistoricalSociety>

BE A PART OF ROMEOVILLE'S HISTORY!

The Romeoville Historical Society would like information about families and businesses in Hampton Park and Romeoville from the 1950s to 1990s for a sequel to Mabel Hrpcha's *Romeoville*, which ended with the beginning of Hampton Park.

A short history of the family should include, as appropriate:

family history

where you came from

why the family moved here, when

children and their families

involvement in Village activities

positions on Village staff

elected or volunteer positions in the Village

activities with local organizations, schools and churches

family business

several family photographs, with each person identified

This can be written as a biography or in outline form. Businesses, churches, and organizations will also be highlighted, with their history, location, activities, and photographs. Each family or agency will have from one to three pages. Provide the name, phone number, email address of a contact if more information is needed. Contact information will not be printed.

For clarity, original photographs are best. Photos brought to us while we are open can be scanned and returned immediately.

The museum is open on Mondays and Fridays from 9:00 AM to noon, and at other times by appointment. Further information is available at the address above, or contact Nancy at 815/886-0273 or nancy.reader@sbcglobal.net.

Way back when...

PRESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE

- 1887-John Kreig-founder of Romeoville-President at times.
- 1895-Louis Hamann-first president after incorporation.
- 1907-1911-George Farrell
- 1919-1921-John Mitchell
- 1921-1928-Fred Boehme
- 1928-1929-Anthony Startz
- 1929-1969-Neal Murphy
- 1969-1973-John O'Hara
- 1973-1977-Dewey "Red" Chambers
- 1977-1981-Donald Kennedy
- 1981-Howard Trippett

MONTHLY SALARIES—1915	
President-Mayor.....	\$8.33
Treasurer.....	\$7.08
Clerk.....	\$7.08
Trustees.....	\$1.00
(Some months of the year salaries would vary for trustees \$1.00, \$1.50, \$3.00)	
Judges of Election.....	\$3.00
Supplies for Election.....	\$3.00-\$6.00
Janitor Service.....	\$3.00
Meetings were held in the small village hall (where Union Office located now). Inside the village hall was also a one cell jail. Heat was supplied by a pot belly stove.	

page 2 the Beacon's "Romeoville" October 7, 1981

Romeoville: from most humble beginnings...

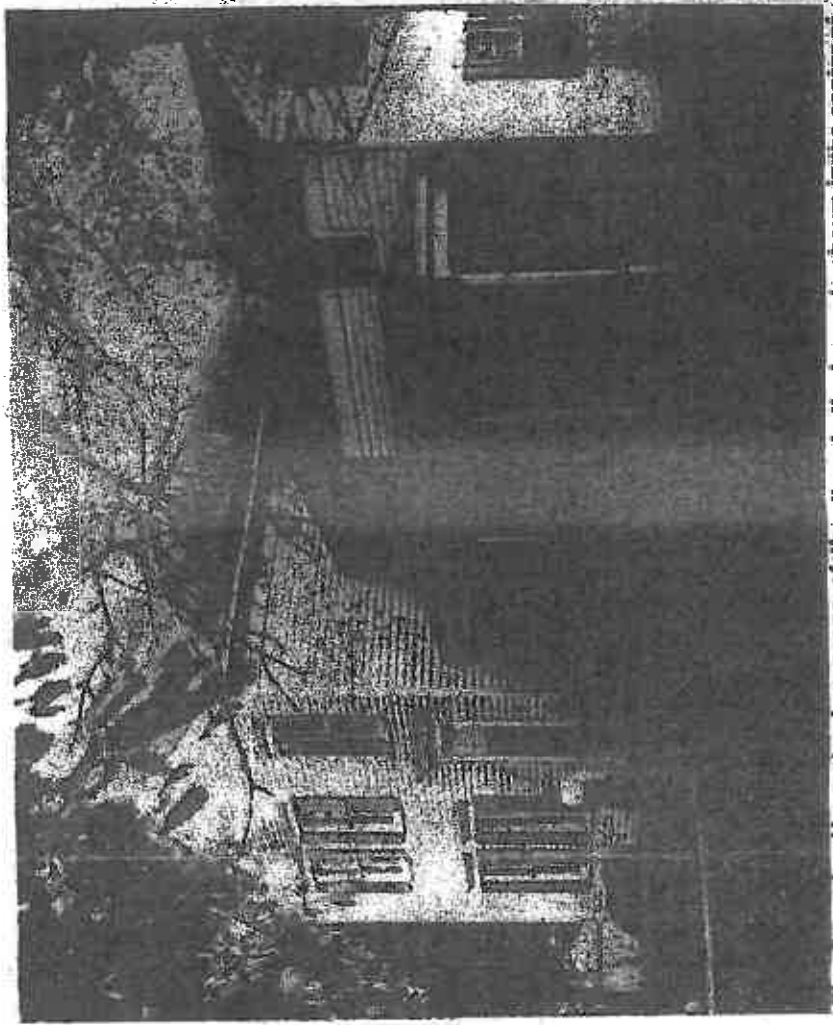
The area of which Romeoville is now a part was acquired by the U.S. Congress from the Potawatami Indians in 1816. The area was one of the best spots for hunting quail, geese and duck. An occasional trader visited the area to do business with the Indians.

In the spring of 1830, settlers came to the area and established themselves near the junction of the two branches of the DuPage River (immediately north of Royce Rd. in Naperville). The junction has been known over the years as the Forks, Scott's settlement and Fountaindale.

The first non-Indian people to travel through the Romeoville area were the French geographer Louis Joliet and the Jesuit missionary Father Jacques Marquette who explored the region in 1673. Large numbers of non-Indian people, however, did not arrive in the area until the late 1820's as access to the Great Lakes Plains became easier due to the opening of the Erie Canal in New York.

The plat of Romeo was

continued on page 10



The Spangler Homestead was one of the lives in the house is shown in the center of first permanent homes built in what is now this photo taken in the early 1900's. Romeoville. Mrs. Alice Spangler, who still

...To all the 'luxuries' of modern day living

Until the post-World War II era, Romeoville had survived nicely as an agricultural community.

However, like James Fennimore Cooper's tales of the westward movement of "civilization" in the late 1700's, urban and suburban expansion in the 50's paved the way for suburbanization of Romeoville as we know it.

A man with a vision, Robert E. Alexander, recognized the area now known as Romeoville would one day become a residential haven for persons working in and around the metropolitan area of Chicago. His plan was simple—to create a suburb "unique" for its time—and it did not take long to convince

James Price of the National Homes Company that his plan could take root in a dream known as Hampton Park.

Alexander planned a "new community of 20,000 with all the luxuries of modern living," a community with paved streets, its own sewage disposal plant and pumping system, fire hydrants, clothes poles and sidewalks. Also, there would be "luxuries" like house numbers and concrete incinerators.

It would be called Hampton and be located in what is now northwestern Romeoville off of Norman-town Road, conveniently situated 30 miles west of Chicago.

The site would serve a practical purpose, also—because of the layout of the land, drainage would be eastward downhill to the DesPlains River.

Alexander, under the auspices of National Homes, began researching and breaking ground in September of 1957 for what is now a common product on the housing market—the fab, conveyor belt houses. Alexander, who was lauded by the federal government for his work in designing army barracks, proved that houses too could be assembled on a large scale. They also could be sold that way.

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Hampton Park—Alexander's dream come true.

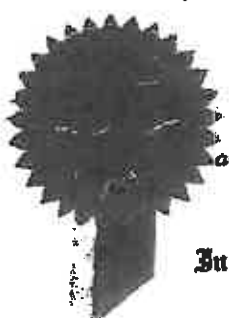
Robert E. Alexander, designer of Hampton Park, inspects a home on Fenton Drive in 1958.



Spangler School Dist. 95 1946

Teacher Mrs. Grace Price

Front row, left to right: Elaine Rademacher, Marge Nystrom, June Flagg, Alfred Nystrom.
 On chair between rows: Richard Welsh. Second row: Mary Lou Prueter, Roger Rademacher,
 Eleanor Nystrom, Theresa Sartori, William Prueter. Third row: Catherine Nystrom, Kenneth
 Rademacher, Lois Weaver, ? Sharp



William Robert Prueter

has satisfactorily completed the Course of Study in the Common Branches
 required by law to be taught in the Public Schools of

Will County

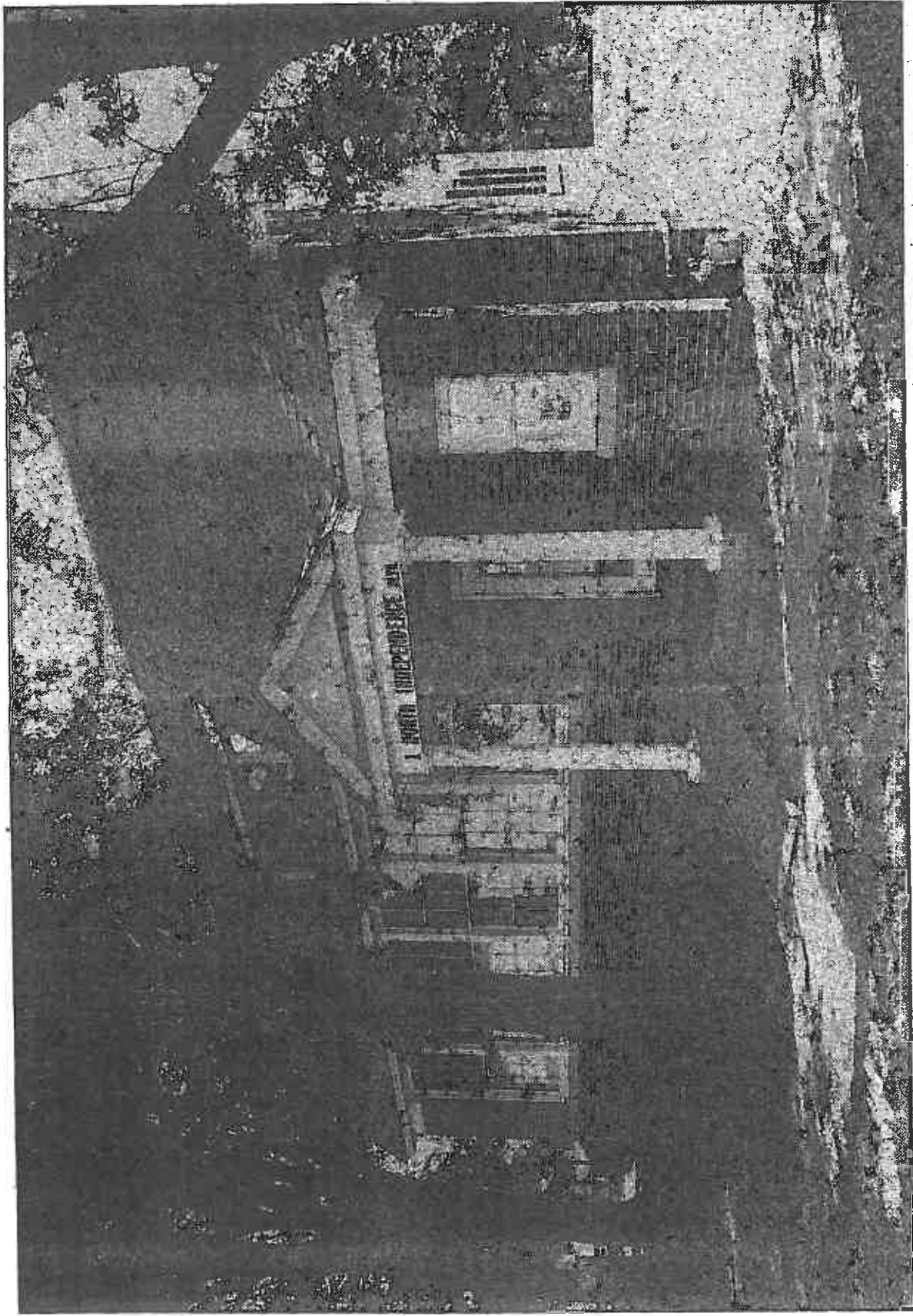
and is therefore entitled to this Diploma which admits the
 holder to any High School in the State.

In Witness Whereof, We hereunto affix our signatures and seal at Joliet, Illinois,
 this 27th day of May 1954

Earl Meisinger
 President
Delbert Britton
 Secretary

Board
 of
 Education
 District
 No. 96

Reginald L. Hermon
 Principal
Gene E. Crocker
 County Superintendent of Schools



STEVE SUMNER/HERALD-NEWS

Historic Taylor School has been renovated into offices. The outside of the building has been restored to its original look.

Someplace special, then and now

Couple renovates old school with respect for its historic past

By Scott Koeneman
HERALD-NEWS WRITER

ROMEDEVILLE — When the red brick building on Illinois 53 acres from Romeoville High School was put up for sale, John and Pat Prehn knew they had to buy it.

Without seeing it, they paid full price and were the new owners within two weeks.

"There was a sense of urgency to buy it," said John Prehn Sr.

The building is old Taylor School, considered the most modern rural one-room school house in Will County when it was built in 1923. Now it's one of very few historic buildings left in the Romeoville area.

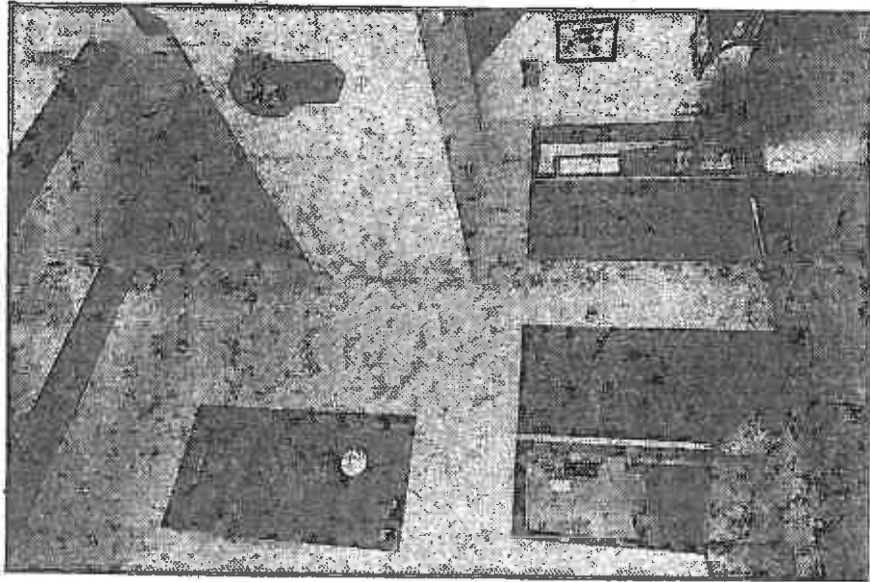
"Romeoville doesn't have a lot left to save," said John Prehn, referring to what he called post-war renewal, when many old buildings in the village were torn down.

"We were going to save this and the (19th century) farm house next door," said his wife, Pat Prehn. The question then was: What to do with them?

The building operated as a school from 1923 to 1954. It had been built to replace the original Taylor School that a tornado destroyed on the same site. The school was somewhat of a marvel in 1923.

It had indoor plumbing, electric lights, separate cloak rooms for boys and girls and a furnace in a separate room rather than a stove in the center of the school.

Built-in bookcases lined the walls, and individual



STEVE SUMNER/HERALD-NEWS

The old school now holds five offices: three on the floor of the one-room school house and two left offices in what used to be the school's attic.

desks were lined up on hard-wood floors.

The school was designed originally with windows only along one side so that light would come in only over students' shoulders.

After 1954, the school was remodeled into a five-bedroom home. It became rental property, and by 1989, when the Prehn's purchased it, it was run down.

Shortly after purchasing the old building, the Prehns took their first tour of the old building, trying to decide what to do.

"There was an old bathroom upstairs. We stood up there and said to each other, 'Can this be done?'" said Pat Prehn. "We need an architect."

The architect said the school could be turned into offices.

Contractors gutted the building to original walls and started over.

Now, restored maple floors shine, sun comes through the restored eight-foot high windows on the west side, and tokens of the old school line the walls.

A plaque of the constitution, part of the school's original blackboard, desks, books and a 48-star flag decorate the building.

"We're very proud of it. We've restored something here," said John Prehn.

The building, with the exterior restored to its original design, is now ready for occupants. Two of the five offices have been rented, one to Compu Solve, John Prehn Sr.'s computer consulting business, and one to John Prehn Jr., a lawyer.

As for the three remaining offices, "We want someone who cares about this," Pat Prehn said.

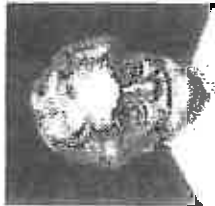
The Prehns' next project is the farm house next door.

"Maybe a shop, with antiques and candles," said Pat Prehn.

Nancy, my aunt, Alice Eichelberger Prewitt, of Olivette, MO, passed away May 31, 2014, at the age of 96. Her parents, Ezra and Elizabeth (Jungles) Eichelberger, were long-time residents of DuPage Township. Alice was raised on their farm just west of Rt. 53 on what is now I-55. Her siblings were Raymond Eichelberger, Evelyn Kolar, and Lloyd Eichelberger, who all preceded her in death. You may be interested in reprinting her obituary in the next newsletter issue.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Kolar Malone



Alice C. Prewitt

Alice C. Prewitt, of Olivette, Missouri, died on Saturday, May 31, 2014 at the age of 96.

Loving wife of the late Lawrence Richardson; beloved daughter of the late Ezra and Elizabeth Eichelberger; devoted mother of James (Rose) Richardson, the late Michael (Nancy) Richardson, Lawrence (Robin) Richardson and Charles (Pamela) Prewitt; cherished grandmother of 8; treasured great-grandmother of 4. Alice is also survived by many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her children, William and Susan Richardson.

Alice's family was most important to her. She loved spending time with her children and grandchildren, and will be dearly missed.

The family is being served by The Baue Funeral and Memorial Center, 3950 West Clay Street, St. Charles, Missouri, where a Memorial Gathering will be held Saturday, June 14, 2014 from 12:00 to 3:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Sierra Club or the Nature Conservancy.
Published in The Herald-News on June 8, 2014

DIANE L. MICHALEC



Age 46, passed away Thursday, March 6, 2014, at Edward Hospital in Naperville, IL after a long battle with cancer.

A lifelong resident of Romeoville, IL, she is survived by her loving husband Robert Michalec; daughter Kara Dorteagan; mother Carol (Ronald) Rhodes and a sister Valerie Harris.

Diane began working for the Village of Romeoville at age 16 as a high school co-op student from 1988 to 1985. She was then hired by the Village as a regular employee in 1985 where she worked with the Building Department as an Administrative Secretary. In 1990 she moved to the Fire Department as the Executive Assistant / Office Manager where she remained until present day. Diane was certified as

Fire Service Executive Support by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. She belonged to several professional organizations, including the Ill Fire Service Administrative Professionals Association where she was awarded the 2011 Administrative Professional of the Year. Diane was invaluable to the Romeoville Fire Department, Romeoville Fire Academy, Village of Romeoville, and the Illinois fire service, and she will be dearly missed.

Visitation Sunday 2:00 to 9:00 pm at the Anderson Memorial Chapel, 606 Townhall Dr. in Romeoville. Funeral Monday, March 10, 2014, 9:45 am from the funeral home chapel to St. Andrew Catholic Church for a 10:30 am Mass of Christian Burial. Services conclude at the church, cremation rites to be accorded.

www.AndersonMemorialHomes.com 815-886-2323

THERESA M. HINCHEY

Theresa "Terry" M. Hinchey, age 61, passed away Friday, August 8, 2014, at Season Hospice in Naperville.

A resident of Romeoville since 1982 formerly of Villa Park and Addison, IL. A member of St. Andrew Parish where she had Harvest Sunday food pantry, CCW, and former Women of the Year, also a former member of the Romeoville Historic Society.

She is survived by her loving son Jesse; siblings Maryanne Hinchey, Eileen Higgins, Catherine (James) Riley, Patrick (Cheryl) Hinchey, Joanne Schmidt, Robert (Ulla) Hinchey, Anthony (Joellen) Hinchey and Michael (Nidia) Hinchey, aunt Dorothy Lavezzi and uncle Frank Lavezzi also numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents Harold and Catherine Hinchey and a brother Billy Hinchey. Visitation Tuesday, 3 to 9 p.m. at the Anderson Memorial Chapel, 606 Townhall Dr. in Romeoville. Funeral Wednesday, August 13, 2014, 9:30 a.m. from the funeral home chapel to St. Andrew Catholic Church for a 10 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial. Interment to follow Resurrection Cemetery in Romeoville. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory to your local food pantry appreciated.

Arrangements by Anderson Memorial Chapel, 815-886-2323 www.andersonmemorialhomes.com



NORMA H. MARTINEK

Norma H. Martinek, nee Eichelberger, age 89, of Lemont, passed away on July 19, 2014.

Preceded in death by her husband Joseph, a brother Arthur Eichelberger, sister Mildred Eichelberger, and her daughter-in-law Heidi Martinek.

She is survived by her children Glenn Martinek, Russel Martinek, Bruce Martinek, and Norma Jean Martinek; 6 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Lying-in-state Wednesday, July 23, 2014, from 10 a.m. until time of Funeral Services at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew Ex. Lutheran Church, Lemont. Visitation Tuesday, July 22, 2014, 2 - 8 p.m. at Markiewicz Funeral Home, P.C. 108 Illinois St. Lemont, IL 60439. Interment Clarendon Hills Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Matthew Ex. Lutheran Church would be appreciated.
Info: www.markiewiczfh.com or 630-257-6363

JOHN E. RUTKOWSKI

John E. Rutkowski, age 86, of Lemont.

Preceded in death by his loving wife of 58 years, Angelina, nee Benac. Rutkowski.

Survived by two daughters, Susan (Richard) Beavers and Deborah (Richard) Scheible; dearest grandfather of Nicholas (Dawn), Christopher (Natalie) and Stephanie Scheible, and Kegan, Garrett and Deanna Beavers; his great-grandchildren, Amber, Nathaniel, Franklin, Clarabelle and Priscilla; and a sister, Gladys Togliatti.

Funeral services Tuesday, May 27, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. from the Markiewicz Funeral Home, P.C., 108 Illinois St., Lemont to St. Cyril & Methodius Church for Mass at 10:00 a.m. Interment St. Cyril & Methodius Cemetery Visitation

In Loving Memory of
 Marianne U. Kozlik
 August 22, 1947-March 16, 2014
 Funeral Service held at
 Bolingbrook-McCauley
 Funeral Chapel
 Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:00 A.M.

Obituary not available
 Information from prayer card provided by
 Judy Bredeweg

JOAN L STOPPENBACH

Joan L. Stoppenbach, nee Serafin, age 78 of Romeoville, IL, passed away Friday, February 28, 2014. Beloved wife of Robert Sr.; loving mother of Robert Jr. (Carolyn), Robyn (Lloyd) Kranz and Randy; devoted grandmother of Keith, Gordon, Eric, Matt, Kati, Michael and Maxwell and great-grandmother of Robert, Rayna, Deegan and Kemper; fond sister of the late Flory Serafin and Peggy Pollina; numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Joan was a retired teacher and Vailey View School District 365 U after 29 years, a member of the Beautification Commission of Romeoville and also a member of the Golden Agers.

Funeral services Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 9:30 a.m. from the Anderson Memorial Chapel 606 Townhall Dr. Romeoville, IL to St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, Romeoville, IL for Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m., visitation Monday, March 3, 2014, from 3:00-8:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Cremation rites to be accorded.

815-886-2323
 www.AndersonMemorialHomes.com

MARGARET F. MIRAGLIA

Margaret F. "Marge" Miraglia, nee Sniogowski, of Romeoville, loving wife, mother and grandmother.

Memorial Mass Saturday, May 31, 2014, 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrew the Apostle Church, 505 Kingston Dr., Romeoville.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society in Margaret's name would be appreciated.

Cremation Society of Illinois is handling the arrangements. For information: 1-800-622-8358.



Capt. Ed Panzer shows the first prize trophy for the top team in the annual fire fighters bowling tournament.

R.V.F.D. HOSTS BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Romeoville's Volunteer Fire Department hosted their 9th annual bowling tournament at the Lemont Bowling Lanes recently, hosting 70 teams from Illinois and Indiana.

Captain Ed Panzer of the local department was chairman of the tournament, which not only provided bowling competition, but also entertainment by the "The Lighters", a local band.

The local bowling team finished far down on the list, the Itasca Volunteer Fire Dept. taking first.

DID YOU EVER HEAR ABOUT THE TWO FIREMEN?

Did you ever hear the story of the two firemen who met on a street corner? Well, it seems Lt. Joe Welsh and Fire Fighter Harris Fox of the Romeoville Volunteer Fire Department were on their way to the fire station in response to an emergency call. They met at the corner of Arlington and Fenton.

Damage to the Welsh car was \$600, to the Fox car, \$800.

Beacon June 18, 1969

LIVES IN DANGER FROM DYNAMITE

Houses Wrecked at Romeoville by Mysterious Explosion

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

Of Several People - Work

That of Either Some One

Bent on Revenge or of

Drunken Man - Arrests

Expected Today.

A most mysterious case of attempting to blow up a house with dynamite, took place on the island near Romeoville, about 9 o'clock last night. It was a miracle that no lives were lost.

It is believed that it was a case of pure maliciousness or else the freak of a man crazed with drink.

The windows of all the houses in that vicinity were blown out, shingles blown off of one house, and the force of the explosion felt as far as the tracks of the Chicago and Joliet electric line over a mile away.

The little daughter of Oscar Wenberg was thrown from a chair on which she was sitting, at the Wenberg home, 300 feet from where the explosion took place.

People who heard it from a distance supposed it was a heavy quarry blast. The houses that were damaged the most were the Mason home and the Dr. Brownling home.

Some 25 or 30 people live on the island in the colony of houses built there during the drainage canal construction period. They were put up by Mason Hodge and Co., the contractors. They are still owned by the contracting firm, whose agent is J. J. Keig. They are occupied largely by retired farmers.

Some people had retired for the night, and when shortly after 9 o'clock a terrific explosion shook the houses, some thought an earth quake had visited this section and they tumbled out of bed and rushed out, partially clothed.

Men in the saloons over near the street car tracks ran all the way to the scene of the explosion.

A large quantity of dynamite had been placed within about ten feet of the corner of the Mason building, where a family named Hattendorf lived. The dynamite was there for some time, and it is believed that the contractor, who recently started a suit for divorce against Hattendorf, and there was some talk of a



Taylor School 1954 Last year of the school.

First row, left to right: Wally Cargle, Tom Weinhold, unknown, Jack Alexander.
 Second row: Mrs. Haggerty, Eva Sauerland, Dennis Paisley, William Prueter, Richard Cotter,
 Judy Collier, Marge Nystrom. Third row: Jo Ann Rezel, Jack Brassal, Hans Sauerland, Kay
 Underwood, Bill Peterson, Gordon Eiper Elizabeth Alexander.

RED SKELTON'S PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In light of the recent decision by the court of appeals, Red Skelton's lesson on the Pledge of Allegiance has been heard often. He first heard it when his class was doing a lackluster Recitation in school. It was then that his Principal stepped forward to help the class understand why the pledge was so important.

- I** me, an individual, a committee of one.
- Pledge** dedicate all my worldly goods to give without self pity.
- Allegiance** my love and my devotion.
- To the Flag** our standard, Old Glory, a Symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.
- Of the United States of America** that means we have all come together.
individual communities that have united into 48 great states. 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.
- And to the Republic** a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people, and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.
- For which it stands.**
- One nation** so blessed by God
- Indivisible** incapable of being divided.
- With liberty** which is freedom and the right of power to live one's own life without threats or fear of some sort of retaliation.
- And justice** the principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.
For all which means it's as much your country as it is mine."

"Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been add to the Pledge of Allegiance: 'under God'...
Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, 'That's a prayer' and that would be eliminated from our schools too?"

H. Hayes Alexander Decorated World War II Vet

April 27, 1916 — Dec. 5, 1998

MONTROSE — Longtime Montrose resident, H. Hayes Alexander, age 82, died following a sudden illness on Saturday, Dec. 5, 1998, in St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center at Grand Junction.

H. Hayes Alexander was born on April 27, 1916, on the family farm (Endwood Farm) in Lockport Township, Will County, Ill., the son of Healy H. and Helen (Baker) Alexander. He graduated from the Lockport Township High School.

Following his high school graduation, Mr. Alexander worked on the family farm until entering the United States Army Air Corps in 1942 during World War II. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant, and flew 25 combat missions over Europe as a B-17 bombardier with the 390th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. He held an unflinching belief that the United States of America is the greatest nation on Earth and our freedoms must be continually defended.

After his return to the United States in 1944, Mr. Alexander married the former Dorothy Mae Miller of Big Spring, Texas, and served as an instructor bombardier. He separated from the service in 1945 and later retired from the United States Air Force Reserve as a lieutenant colonel.

After returning to the family farm in Illinois, Mr. Alexander formed the Alexander Brothers Partnership with his brother, John. In 1968, the farm was sold and the family headed west to Montrose where they purchased a ranch and built a home on Spring Creek Mesa. The ranch was later named "e lo hi," the Cherokee name for "Heaven."

Mr. Alexander served as a director of the First National Bank of Lockport, Lockport, Ill., for many years. He also served as a board member and secretary-treasurer of the Chipeta Water Company and was an associate board member of the Project 7 Water Association. He was a founding member and life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5788, Lockport, Ill., and a member of The Retired Officers Association (TROA).

Mr. Alexander will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor, his positive outlook on life and his incredible ability to fix almost anything and find a solution to most problems. He conducted business on a handshake and always delivered more than was expected of him. He had a simple philosophy of life, "live and let live" and "everything always happens for the best." The design, construction and modification of farm machinery and solar heating systems were among his many accomplishments and he was the owner of two patents. He earned blue ribbons at the Montrose



County Fair for his crafts and photography. He was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather and will be greatly missed by those who had the good fortune to share his life.

Survivors include two sons: Robert W. Alexander, Colonel, USAF (Retired), of Springfield, Va.; Colorado State Senator Ben L. Alexander, of Montrose; one daughter, Sara Alexander Martin, of Colorado Springs; and four grandchildren: Second Lieutenant Scott E. Martin, of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Brooke A. Martin and Lyndsay S. Martin, both students at Colorado State University in Fort Collins; and Haley M. Martin, of Colorado Springs.

Other family survivors include two sisters: Ruth Durrer, of Joliet, Ill.; Margaret Eaton, of Hatboro, Pa.; many nephews and nieces including Marianne Hamrick, of Cory; Carol Wicburg, of Delta; and many grandnephews and grandnieces.

Mr. Alexander was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 52 years, Dorothy M. Alexander; and four brothers and sisters.

Public visitation for family and friends is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Crippin Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral Services in remembrance and to honor Mr. Alexander's life will be officiated by The Rev. Steven Warren on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 10 a.m. from the United Methodist Church in Montrose.

Interment will follow the service in the Grand View Cemetery west of Montrose, with arrangements being handled under the direction of the Crippin Funeral Home of Montrose.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to: Montrose County Home Health Service, In Memory of H. Hayes Alexander, 300 N. Cascade, Suite 2, Montrose, Colo. 81401.

clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

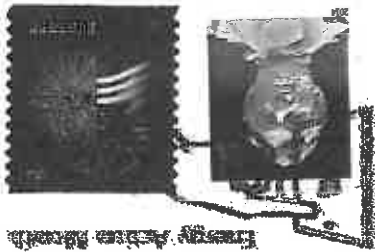
Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana.

In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?



Energy Action Month

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10 Montrose Drive
Romeoville, IL 60446

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