

The

NOW 'n' THEN

Preserving the ♥ of Romeoville

The official newsletter of the

Romeoville Area Historical Society

(815) 886-0146 historicalromeoville@yahoo.com

FALL ISSUE 2015

The Special Recreation Association needs to expand into the entire building that we share. Therefore the Board has been searching for a site for the museum. We have narrowed down the few available choices. The officers are meeting as needed between the membership meetings while we plan for the upcoming move. More information will be in the next newsletter.

Clint Garrett shared his experience on the Honor Flight with us. He still works at his insurance office daily.

At our August meeting, it was decided that we need monthly meetings. Therefore we are meeting the fourth Wednesday of every month except December. Newsletters will continue to be sent quarterly.

This newsletter is following the theme of the Summer issue. Most of the ads and short articles appeared in the *Beacon* during the 1950s. Some of the shops are still active, others have changed their names, but many are gone. Information and memories of those that have closed would be appreciated for the upcoming book.

Events of Interest:

Wed. Nov. 11, 10:00 AM	Veterans Day Program at the McCartan Veterans Memorial: we present a wreath
Wed. Nov. 18, 2:00 PM (Third Wed.)	Historical Society Annual meeting, Election and Installation of officers

EDITORIAL

ASTUTE POLITICS

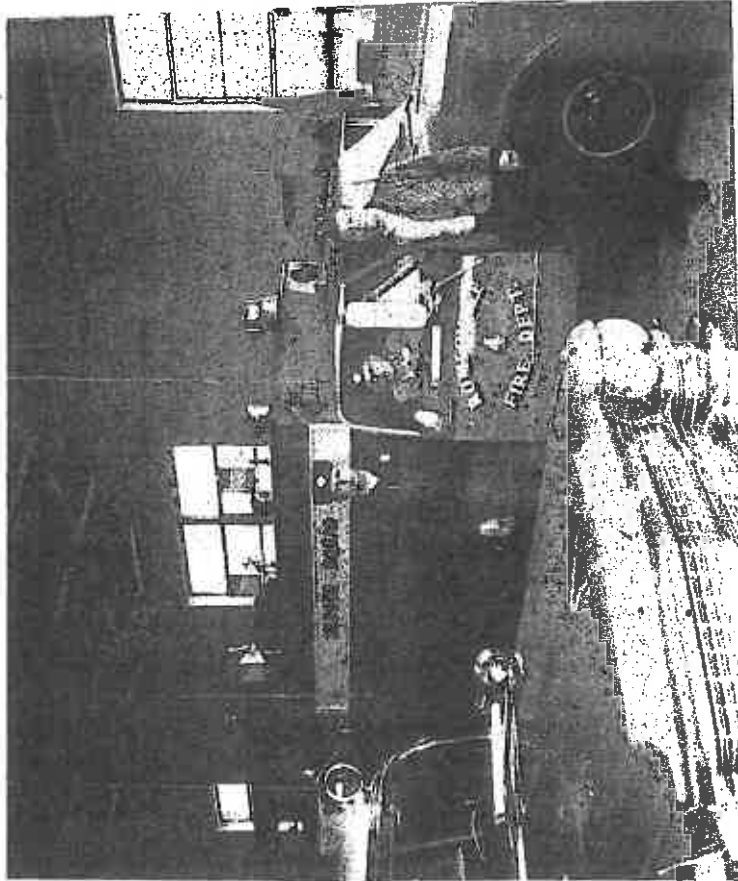
Neal Murphy, who has gathered a great deal of political savvy in his almost forty years as president of the Romeoville Village Board, put it to good use last week. His dropping of a bomb was so maneuvered that it didn't even create a waver or the slightest ripple. Mr Murphy's bomb was the formation of a human relations committee.

This vital, but politically explosive committee, was very much needed. But Mr Murphy has not been sympathetic to, nor understood the need for such an entity in the village. His purpose in creating this committee was expediency, not a turn about of viewpoint. He knew that the three newly elected trustees and George Ketchmark were committed to work for the formation of such a committee--and that he couldn't stop it. So rather than have it forced on him, he beat them to the punch.

In naming the members of the committee he again showed political shrewdness. The members named are Osborne, Betzel and Ketchmark. If there are recussions from those citizens who fear that a human relations committee is an open invitation to integration, Murphy can keep his skirts clean--and strike a blow against his "political enemies" -- by pointing a finger at the members and saying "they're the ones who wanted it". On the other hand, if it proves beneficial, as we suspect it will, Mr Murphy intends to take full credit for it.

In other committee appointments the village president revealed his sense of humor. Leo Osborne, an executive accountant with a knowledge and interest in finance, was made chairman of the streets committee. Harry Betzel, a journeyman plumber, who felt his professional knowledge could best be used as a member of the water committee, was named to the financial committee.

THE NEW RESCUE TRUCK IS HERE



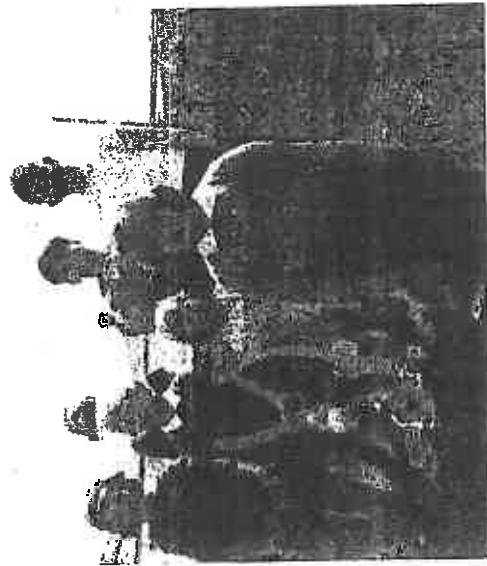
Just arrived, the new Romeoville rescue truck. It is in the process of being fitted out with spot lights, stretchers (for emergency ambulance use) and the many other items which may be needed in the various types of rescue work the volunteers may be called upon to perform.

Posing with the 4th unit are Fireman Frank Michuda, Fireman James Padecky and Lt. Joseph Welsh.



The birthday and anniversary lists are discontinued until correct information is received.

2



FIRE KIDS HUNT EGGS

The Stadelmaier back yard, at 512 Concord, was the scene of a frantic Easter egg hunt with the children of the Romeoville V. F. D. acting as the huntees. The gala event was planned and organized by Rose Braasch of the R. V. F. D. Women's Auxiliary and her committee, Rita Raisor and Rose Dorretti. The 38 children were divided into age groups for the hunt. Pictured above are the winners; Ronnie, Suzie and Linda Bekielewski, Kathy Prokopec, Pat and Steve Clancy and Lynn Raisor. Albie Stadelmaier was too shy to get into the picture.

Beacon 4/17/63

Robert and Rosalie (Zaledir) Braasch recently celebrated their 60th Anniversary at a party given by their children. They were married on October 8, 1955.

Snack attack *Person 4/22/64*

Will County Board member
Ann Dralle, R-Lemont, was on an
important mission when she
marched into Will County Chief
Executive Officer Joseph Mikani's
office last week. She was
desperately seeking chocolate.
Seems Mikani is known for
keeping munchies on hand get-
ting him through the long grueling
days of government work.

Mikani was in Washington, D.C.,
at a third airport meeting so his
desk was food-free. But that didn't
stop Mikani's wife, Lynn Mikani, and
his executive administrator, Laurie
Smith, from rummaging through
Mikani's credenza.

They found Cheese Nips, Girl
Scout cookies, cranberry juice
and bottled water. Makes Pulse
long for the days when politicians
hid booze and shoeboxes full of
money in their drawers.

BOEHM TO OPPOSE HOWARD HASSERT

Charles Boehm of Colonial Village
will be running against incumbent
Howard Hassert as Republican Commit-
teeman for precinct #1 in the April
primaries. Boehm is the Twshp Civil
Defense Supervisor, a more or less
honorary title, since no C.D. organ-
ization has been established in the
Township. He is also Vice President
of the CVCO.

Mr Hassert, with a long history of
service to the area, & a participant
or interested observer in most com-
munity activities, is owner of the
Hassert Tree Farm on 66-A & a prof-
essional engineer.

Person 1/8/64

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICES:

President: Nancy Hackett

Vice President: Shirlee Pergler

Secretary: Cathy Bouley

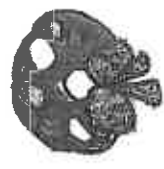
Treasurer: Rita Bazzell

Trustees: minimum of 3 required

Art Arellano

Joe Miraglia

Tom Rednour



Person 4/22/64

I would like to express my thanks
to the voters who supported me in
the April Primary.

Steve Glancy

Sincere thanks to all those who
voted for me both for Alt Delegate
& for Precinct Committeeman. I very
much appreciate your confidence and
support.

James Bingle

Two local men were entered in Dist-
rict wide contests, and as expected,
lost. Geo Bilodeau, running for Dele-
gate to the Republican Nat. Convention
got 15,113 votes in the District and
239 in the Township. Jim Bingle seek-
ing the Alternate Delegate role did
much better, receiving 30,644 District
wide & 561 in the Township.

3

OUTCOME OF PRECINCT ELECTIONS FOR LOCAL CANDIDATES

Several surprises & upsets enlivened
last week's local precinct races. The
largest and least expected upset was
that suffered by the H.P. Democratic
organization. In Pct 3, what was to
have been a close race, turned into a
route as 'Chuck' Costa gathered 101
votes to 68 for 'Hank Mertz.

Everybody but Virginia Shannon fig-
ured Gene Wetherford had Pct 4 sewed
up. Everybody but 'Ginny' was wrong.
She won, 61 to 39.

LeRoy Farmer, unopposed in Pct 3, re-
ceived 93 votes.

As expected, the Kruck machine won
in Pct 1. In spite of the fact that
some Republicans voted the green bal-
lot in an effort to unseat the incum-
bent, the combination of hard working
Kruckites and uniformed deputies en-
gaged in hauling voters to the polls
was too much for the opposition. Of
the 439 votes cast, Kruck got 218,
Write in Joe Morgese 107, Bud Slansky
94.

On the GOP side an upset was scored
by Steve Glancy over Pct 4 incumbent
Len Tomany, 48 to 46 with 4 votes go-
ing to Seef. Ron Breyne in Pct 3 was
unopposed with 126 votes.

Incumbent James Bingle of Pct 2 was
better than 3 to 1 over Chuck Common
with a 132 to 41 score.

In Pct 1, the Old Fox, Howard Hassert
walked away from his combined opposi-
tion 2-1. He received 206 votes. Bill
Cotal made a respectable showing with
53, Bob Peklo got 30 and Chuck Boehm
21. There were 3 write in votes for
Morgese and two for Guertin

Beacon

VILLAGE FUNDS TO BE INVESTED

After the business of the minutes, bills & requisitions at the Jan. 8th Romeoville Board Meeting, the first order of business concerned depleting the police fund used for boarding prisoners and dogs. The source of revenue for this had been the fines for off street parking violations. Since these had fallen off the Board was requested to replenish the fund. The Board agreed to set up a permanent fund with the stipulation that hereafter the parking fines go into the general fund and that an accounting of the fund be made monthly.

The new liquor ordinance was gone over and passed after discussion.

The issue of trimming and topping the Village trees came up again when a letter was read from two local residents, proposing to do the job for \$3.00 per tree. Trustee Rawson again reiterated that this work should be done, both in the interests of future economy and in saving the trees and enhancing the appearance

of the Village. President Murphy restated his position that the expense of such an operation was unnecessary if each Villager would trim & top the trees in front of their property. Several suggestions were offered on methods of finding out the reaction of the residents to this, but no action was taken.

Board Secretary Mark DeLay read a requisition list of over 50 gallons of various colored paints and other related items. Mr Murphy stated that this would be used to repaint the interior of the Civic Center & the fire department. He said that by using the part time help available during the cold weather to do the job, a savings of \$1,500 would be realized. The requisition was OK'd.

The plan to invest Village funds in 90 day call bond government securities was reported on by Trustee Wilson. The recommendations was to invest 25 thousand from the building fund and 50 thousand from the water fund. He stated that the average yield on these securities was 3 1/2%.

Editors Note: The latter part of the meeting was given over to an esoteric conversation between President Murphy & Engineer Lovejoy about some engineering fees and projects. The BEACON inquired into this matter & found it related to the building of a trailer camp on the other side of Rt 66-A. See A Politico's comments.

BEACON 12/21/67

"PROBABLY"

NO BRIBE WAS OFFERED

President Jack Leonard and Village Trustee Terry Droogan met with Isher Jacobson, a representative of Citizens Utility Company, in a private session Thursday. Also present at the meeting was Mr Marlin Smith, attorney for the Village of Bolingbrook. The meeting was all but impossible for other trustees to attend, and the press was deliberately excluded.

A formal meeting with Jacobsen had been scheduled for that Thursday, with all board members to attend. However, Leonard announced to the board and the public the day before—that this meeting had been cancelled because Jacobsen was leaving town the next morning. He was asked when this meeting would take place. He said he did not know.

At least one other, and possibly more trustees, were notified of the meeting ten minutes before it took place. It was held at a restaurant that is not in the village.

Leonard will doubtless report on the results of the meeting. What he reports may or may not be the truth. The rest of the board and the public will never really know. Whatever the outcome of the dealings of Bolingbrook for the purchase of the water company, the public will always wonder what took place at this meeting. Was some kind of "deal" offered to Leonard and Droogan? Probably not—but who really knows?

The history of politics is replete with bribes and deals for the personal gain of the politicians involved. That is why there are laws requiring open and public meetings. Leonard (and several other public officials in Beacon-land) choose to evade this law, if not technically than at least its spirit. Why?

We do not believe for one minute that any bribe or deal was offered to Leonard or Droogan. But on the other hand, we couldn't really bet on it, could we?

(This editorial was shown to most of the board, including Droogan and Leonard, prior to publication. Droogan and Walden phoned the editor later and said the article was false and should not be published. When asked what part of the editorial was untrue they could not answer, other than to say it implied that Leonard and Droogan had accepted a bribe. We do not believe the article implies any such thing, nor was it meant to. We offered to print whatever they had to say about the purpose of the get-together. Droogan said they just talked about the weather, Denver, and about Jacobsen's mother's arthritis. Walden said all the trustees knew that this meeting was to take place the day before.

Trustee Robert Schanks said the article was 100 % correct and that he had no prior knowledge of the meeting.)

*HILARIO VALE

A "COMPANY TOWN"

Beacon 5/14/67

We had been under the impression that the "Company Town" no longer existed in the United States. For the uninitiated, a Company Town is a community, owned lock stock and barrel, by the employer for whom all or most of the residents of the community worked. These employers ruled like feudal barons, since they not only owned the homes of their employees, but also the stores, saloons, banks, newspapers, etc.

Well, we were evidently laboring under a false impression. With Murphy as the "Mayor", and Alexander and McKool controlling both home and industrial building, and having a finger in the retail businesses and one of the newspapers, the Village of Romeoville may well become a "Company Town" if these gentlemen also gain control of a local bank.



BRIEFS

by Joan Watters

Call 739-5507

CUB SCOUT PACK 36 won the Round Table Traveling Trophy for the 4th consecutive time. It is now theirs to keep. Pack Night, this Friday at North View at 7:30, is the Christmas Party. The boys will present the gifts they have made for their parents and the Webelos perform in full costume. All invited.

ROMEOWILLE RECREATION reports that the ARTS & CRAFTS program is in its 3rd week. This Saturday they will be working on Xmas gifts under the direction of Mrs Georgia Wilson and Mrs Bernice Shampahon. BASKETBALL is in its second week with 13 teams under the direction of KEN KURTZ, assisted by BOB PARKER and GARY WILSON. No sessions are scheduled for either group for December 23rd. Next sessions are the first Saturday in January.

EXPLORER POST 20 has challenged their sponsoring organization, the BOLINGBROOK LIONS, to a basketball game. Date to be announced. The group held a dance at the HAROLD RUDY Garage recently.

You can say "MERRY CHRISTMAS" to all your friends and acquaintances in Beacon-land by having your personal Christmas Card published in the BEACON. Each card will be different and may be designed by you or can be made up by the Beacon. Prices are reasonable, \$5.00 and up, depending on the size you want. It can even have a picture of your family or children on it. For information call the Beacon at 739-1732.

JOHN KNUTH of Romeoville was slightly injured when his car was forced against another auto by a passing motorist on I-55 near Bolingbrook. He was treated at Silver Cross Hospital.

CADET TROOP 340 will hold its investiture, badge presentation and Christmas Party Dec. 20 at North View.

HAMPTON PARK LADIES OF THE LIONS hold their Board meeting December 21, 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs SWEARINGIN. On the 23rd their annual Christmas Party will be at the Martinique. Their guests will be Mr and Mrs CHARLES GREER, visiting from Dumas, Arkansas.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 345 holds its Christmas Party Dec. 16th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. First they go caroling then return to decorate the tree, make table decorations, and exchange gifts.

ROBERT D. SMITH, 109 Arlington, Romeoville, recently toured the 275-acre Amway Corp. industrial complex at Ada, Michigan. He distributes Amway products in the Beacon-land area.

BROWNIE TROOP 353 will hold its Christmas Party and 50¢ grab bag on December 23 at the home of Leader MARY WOOD. SANTA will also be there. Next meeting Jan. 6th.

Pvt 1/C JOHN LOVETT, 20, of Romeoville was recently assigned to the First Battalion of the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam as a light weapons infantryman. He arrived in Vietnam November 23rd. His parents are Mr and Mrs JOHN T. Lovett, 712 Geneva. His wife, JOYCE, lives at 720 Geneva.

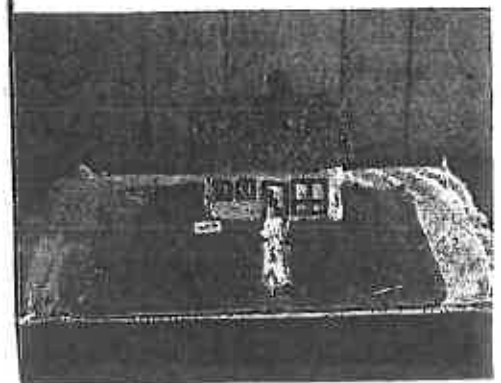
CUB PACK 31 held their recent planning meeting at the home of Mr & Mrs EDWARD KIK. Next Pack Night at North View Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. This will also be the Christmas Party. The Pack received a belated National Summertime Pack Award at the December 7th Joliet Round Table.

FRED HAYES, Romeoville Chief of Police, was elected 3rd vice-president of the Police Administrators Association of Greater Will Count. The organization meetings was held at Cobb's Restaurant near Bolingbrook.

Beacon 1/13/66

Thirteen local girls enrolled in the new junior drill team of the Juliettes last week. They will be known as the Juniorettes. It is open to all 10 thru 12 year old girls within District 96. This month has been designated as registration month for the group. They meet every Wednesday at Park View School from 7 to 9 p.m. For further information call 838-3612.

Membership in the Juliettes, the senior drill team, stands at 31 girls. No new enlistments will be accepted.



FRIENDS SAY FAREWELL TO KARL & MARGE WALTER

A farewell party in honor of Karl and Marge Walter was held at the home of Hank and Ruth Mertz last Saturday. Friends of the popular couple presented them with a going away gift and a cake, pictured above, a replica of their present home in Romeoville.

The Walters will make their new home in Chicago, where Karl is an officer on the Chicago Police Dept. Marge was a candidate for village clerk of Romeoville on the Citizens First Slate in the 1965 election and has been active in various civic affairs. Karl was a member of the Romeoville Police Force.

Present at the gathering were Mr and Mrs Jerry Capps, Mr and Mrs Arnold Martinez, Mr and Mrs Robert Cosgrove, Mr and Mrs Robert Drdak, Mr and Mrs Paul Drdak, Mr and Mrs Marcel Levesque and Mr and Mrs George Ketchmark.

Beacon 11/23/67



GIRL SCOUT NEWS

Jr. Girl Scout Troop 339, which meets at the Church of the Nazarene in Bolingbrook, has initiated a unique service project. They have sent letters to all Bolingbrook churches offering a day of their services to clean the church. Adult leaders of the group are Mrs Margaret Vojtech and Mrs Ester Figler.

A dozen Brownies of Troop 134 will be receiving Year Membership Stars. Their service project is making notebooks to be taken to the Chicago State Hospital on March 1st. Mrs Edward Kryzan and Mrs Stanley Rea are leaders.

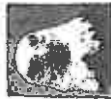
Girl Scout Cookie Time is here again. It started last Friday. Most of the profits will be going toward further development of the 250 acre Camp Pokonoka site near Ottawa, Illinois.



Promotion ceremony held at Ramstein AFB, Germany from left: 5 Star Admiral James Stravitis, Commander of NATO for Europe
Commander Andrew Carlson, USN - Will Captain U.S.S. Higgins (DDG 76) Destroyer on 12/2011
Captain Heidi Carlson, USAF
Petra Irene Carlson, 4 months old
David Carlson, Grandpa
Information from David Carlson, retired Principal RHS

February 22/66
CARNIVAL OF FUN NEARS

The Community Club is getting ready for its big 'Third Annual Carnival of Fun. The very successful 'Country Store', the 'Cake Walk' as well as games of skill and chance for adults and children, promises to make this carnival the best ever. The date is May 2, from two to eight P.M. Place: Valley View School. The entire community is invited.



DUPAGE RED CROSS MEET.—The 1958 Red Cross fund raising campaign in DuPage Township will be under the direction of Mrs. Kenneth Spangler. Pictured are some of the DuPage volunteer workers. Seated, left to right, are Mrs. Howard Hawes, Mrs. Robert Dotstall, Mrs. Howard Hassert and Mrs. John Koniczek Jr., while standing are Mrs. Kenneth Spangler, chairman; Mrs. Lloyd Eichelberger and Lloyd Eichelberger.

Beacon 1/8/64

Why worry about a Baby Sitter? The best of care by week, day or hour. \$15/wk, \$3.50/day, 45¢/hr with meals. DAYCARE CENTER of the C.V. Church of Nazarene CL 7-5992

Expert Alterations, Dress Making, Tailoring and Fur Repair. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Mrs G.E. Burkholder, 208 Redwood CL 7-5044

BEACON CARRIERS WANTED for Westbury College View and Hampton Park. Call CL 7-2732 for consideration

For Sale: 6 ft Thermopane Sliding glass door and frame; Bar & 4 stools; Xmas decorations, inside & out. CL 7-5781

Will watch children in my home for working parents, from 6:15 A.M. to 7:15 P.M.-Monday thru Friday.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Sunday Bible Study - 1:00 P.M.
 Worship - 2:00 P.M.
 Tuesday Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.
 144 Lawton Lane CL 7-5700

Give Mom a break! Get one or more of Don's famous HOME RUN IN PIZZAS AT ONLY 1.50 each. Call Don at CL 7-2619 (No deliveries)

You can receive, absolutely free a beautiful fi

You can receive, absolutely free, a beautiful gift for yourself or for your home, by being a STANLEY HOME PARTY HOSTESS For Information Call: 838-5886

WINTER SPECIAL
 Double Hung 3 track storm windows \$9.50 delivered. Also; Sliding storm doors for your patio doors Phone Ed Roth 312-968-7263

Wanted; Good home for Beautiful tri-colored Collie-Female-2½ yrs Papers available CL 7-5065

For Sale: Fiat-economy car, 30-35 mpg, White, 4 dr W/W tires, in excellent condition. 4 forward speeds on column Series 1100 C.T. 7-7468

BEACON CLASSIFIEDS BRING RESULTS

Five Lines or Less-----75¢

CL 7-2732

For Sale: 6 ft Thermopane Sliding glass door & frame. Bar & four stools. Xmas decorations, inside and outside. CL 7-5781

Will watch children in my Home for working parents, from 6:15 A.M. to 7:15 P.M.-Monday thru Friday... Children must be brought to me in the morning & picked up by 7:15 P.M. (I have no car, as yet)

1-child-9.00 wk; 2-children-17.50-wk; 3-children-25.00-wk. Prices include warm lunches & afternoon snacks. Breakfast 50¢ extra per wk. Those interested can come & see me Mon thru Fri from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm & on Sat & Sun from: 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
 Mrs Elizabeth Kaup 197 thornhurst

For Sale: Club Chair, beige design; Green T.V. chair; Blonde corner table, ex. cond. Verticle Venetian Blind-8' X4'; LazySuzan; Chrome napkin holder. 838-7182

If anyone took some cloths from the H.P. Laundromat by mistake on Mon. Dec 23, please return to the laundromat or call CL 7-2619

Ride or riders wanted between - Colonial Village & Western Elect. (22nd & Cicero) 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CL 7-5644

For Sale. 1957 Ford Convertible. V-8 Eng. 3 speed floor shift. Best offer CL 7-5395

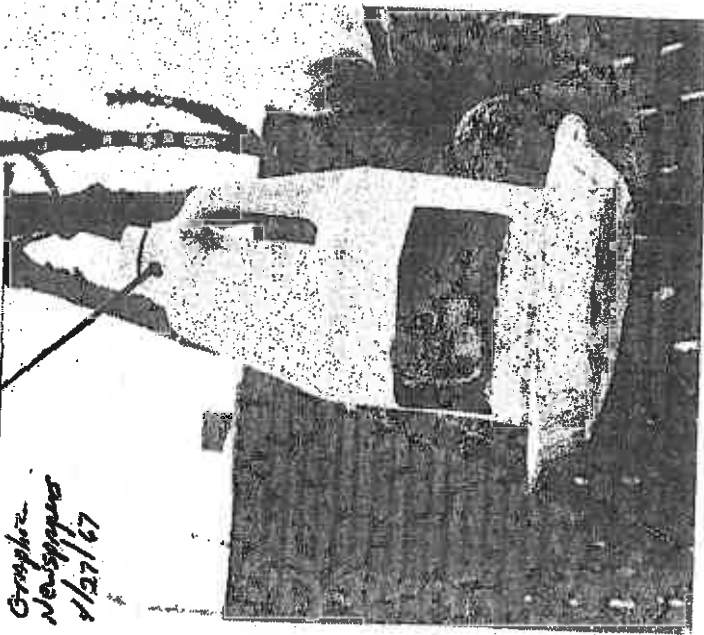
For Sale: 5 pc yellow & chrome 'Howell' breakfast set. Good condition. \$25.00 TE 8-4738

Wanted; Ride to Ogden & Harlem, or Zenith plant, Austin & Dickens Must leave by 6 A.M. or earlier. CL 7-5036

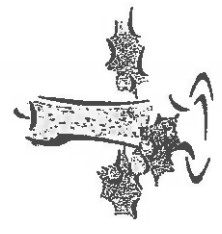
Ride wanted, leaving 7 A.M. & Pulaski. CL 7-5372

For Sale: Portable sewing machine with all attachments CL 7-5573

*Grapher
Newspaper
1/27/67*



COVER PICTURE of the Hampton Park Herald of Mar 9th, won an Honorable Mention Award for staff photographer Pat Callahan in the National Press Photographers month contest for District 5, an area that covers five state CongratulATIONS Pat and 'friend'.



Community leaders share New Year's wishes

With 1985 about to end, the SUN decided to go out into the community and find out what some Village leaders are expecting for the new year, both for themselves and for the community.

Each of them were asked to share their hopes for the town and their own personal new year's resolutions.

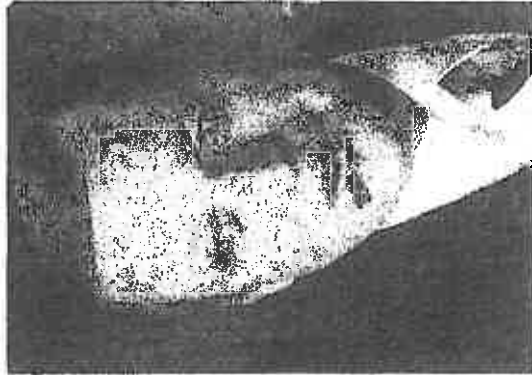
Here is what they had to say:



John Strobbe, Village President

I would like to see the board and mayor work together better to solve some of our problems, especially those concerning sewer and water. I would also like to see beautification programs continue on both entrances to the village. I'd like to see better entrance signs and landscaping. My personal resolution is to keep my good health and keep off the 42 pounds I gained this summer.

For the village, certainly I'd like to see increased development activity on all levels. It's very important to keep the village on an even keel and moving. We've been very satisfied with the results we've seen in Marquette Park, Sante Fe Industrial Park and the new developments pending in the Romeoville Industrial Park. Personally, I have two things. One is to quit smoking. Two is to avoid legal no-



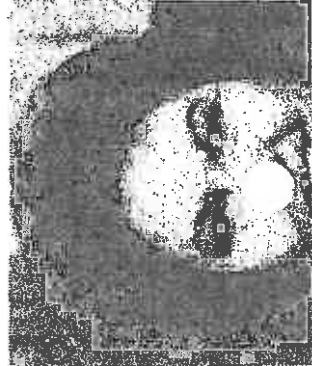
David Carlson, Romeoville High School Principal

If there was one change I'd like to see affecting the 2,150 kids here, I'd like to believe that the majority of kids living in our school district have dinner at night with their father at the table. "Research has shown that one of the reasons kids succeed in school is accountabil-



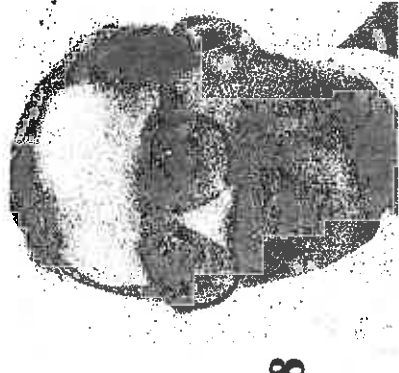
Robert Starke, Romeoville Chief of Police

I'd like to see a three-fold increase in my budget and see all my personnel needs and equipment needs realized. I'd also like to not worry about budgetary factors. On a serious note, I certainly would like to see the safety and the maintenance of law and order continue in the community. Personally, I hope my kid passes all of his finals and I hope my life continues as nice and happy as it is with my family and friends.



Robert Stoppenbach, Romeoville Trustee

I'm very pleased with the way the board is starting to work together. I don't see any reason why it should change for the next year. We've crossed the barrier of having everybody try to stand on their own pedestals so I feel it's working out good. For my personal resolution, I like to try to play a better game of golf.



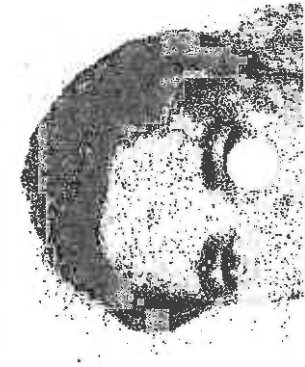
mentary, middle, and high school, a principal and a team leader can tract through the needs of each individual student.

"I don't know that enough of the people in our community realize that there are some very strong management skills used in the schools.

"In the next two years, if we can teach our students to write effectively, we will have made a major step. We will then see some major gains in all areas.

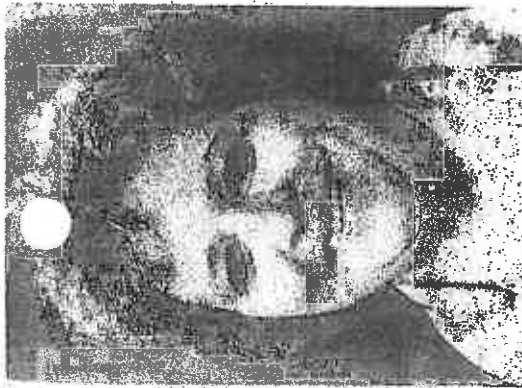
"One thing that I'd like to see continued next year is the combined activities by the two high schools, such as the madrigal dinner or the spring musical, that will bring the community and the students from the two high schools and the two communities closer together

"My own personal new year's resolution is to be funny and personal. It's easy to be impersonal, it's tempting to be impersonal, a district administration center distant from most of the schools, a lot of people in layers of different kinds of jobs and roles."



at home? This is possibly more a description than a wish for the new year.

"My personal resolution is to maintain my current weight for the rest of my life. I've lost 20 pounds and I've got another 20 to go. The chances are probably 'slim' that I'll do that — to use a pun.



Sandy Golden, president of the Romeoville Chamber of Commerce

First of all, I'd like to become more organized. I've promised that to myself and a lot of other people. For the town, I would like to see residential growth and business growth and more support by the townspeople of the businesses that are in existence now.



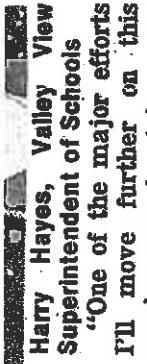
Frank Koehler, Romeoville Economic Development Director



Harry Hayes, Valley View Superintendent of Schools

"One of the major efforts I'll move further on this coming year is giving more people in both communities more information about the schools. I think that came through very strongly at the School Board workshop on Dec. 16.

"The principals and team leaders were demonstrating and showing the board how instruction is managed. That sometimes sounds bureaucratic when we use words like that. But one of the major points that came out was that with all the students we have, 13,500, they saw how in each school, ele-



John Annerino, Will County Board Chairman and president of the Bolingbrook Park District Board

"For the next year, I'd like to see a lot of economic development. I'd like to see people and businesses and government all pulling together.

"For Bolingbrook, I'd like to see the people get together and start being proud of their town, because they really don't know what they have. I'd like to see Bolingbrook start to go forward again."



THE MANAGING EDITOR of The Bolingbrook SUN and The Romeoville SUN, Frank Gist, when asked about his wishes for the new year, said "I'd like to see a little more maturity among all of our leaders and residents as well. I'd like to see us develop a true sense of community pride. Personally, I'm going to do my very best to be here next new year's (day)."

APPROVE FULL-TIME POLICE FOR ROMEOVILLE

Over the objections of President Neal Murphy the Romeoville Village Board gave tentative approval to a full-time police department, approved the leasing of two squad cars, to give the village a total of three, and approved the purchase of a new pumper for the fire department at a cost of \$32,921.00 with \$11,450.00 worth of equipment for the pumper to be purchased at the next meeting.

A letter, signed by Police Chief Fred Hayes and by the secretary of the Police and Fire Board, Don Wold, recommended the hiring of six full-time policemen at a starting salary of \$6,700 annually. Five of them, the letter stated, would be supervisors and one would be a juvenile officer.

Murphy stated that the village could not afford this expense. He was not against a full-time department, he said, but that such a move would cost the village \$70,000 a year and that the total taxes that came into the village last year only amounted to seventy thousand.

Jerry Capps and George Ketchmark defended the move and said the proposal for full-time police had been "kicked" around for several years, that they had met with the Police and Fire Board and knew what the cost would be. Capps said there was a moral as well as financial obligation to afford proper police protection to a community of fourteen thousand people.

The motion to solicit applications for six full-time men was made by Ketchmark. All voted yes.

On the P-F Board recommendation that cars be leased Murphy again objected, saying that the City of Joliet had tried the lease plan and abandoned it as being too expensive. Ketchmark noted that Joliet had its own maintenance facilities and Romeoville did not. The findings of the police chief, it was noted, indicated that the cost of leasing

and outright purchase was about the same, since maintenance on leased equipment would be taken care of by the dealer at no additional expense.

The motion to lease two Dodge Polaras at \$175.00 per month each, with the dealer purchasing the older squad car for \$1,125.00, was approved unanimously.

Murphy again noted he was not against better fire protection when the Board acted on the purchase of a pumper for the fire department. He again cited the cost as being more than the village could afford and said there would be no place to house the additional equipment. He suggested that an addition be put on the fire barn before such a purchase was contemplated.

Decker said he had been associated with the fire department for some time, and that he would be proud to make the motion to purchase the pumper and the accessory equipment. Ketchmark asked that the purchase of the equipment be held off till the next meeting. Decker agreed and the board voted unanimously to purchase the pumper.

Approval was also given to furnish free vehicle stickers to all retired firemen with five or more years of service. At present there are eight retired firemen who qualify.

Action on another recommendation by the P-F Board was temporarily tabled at the request of Ketchmark. This was to permit the police department to participate in the Illinois Police Training Act. Ketchmark said he did not know what this entailed and he wished to give it further study.

Beacon 12/14/67

AN ILLEGAL MEETING THAT WASN'T THERE

An illegal meeting of the Romeoville Zoning Board of Appeals was not held as scheduled last Monday, not only because it was illegal, but also because they (the board) did not show up.

The meeting was to be a hearing on a variance requested by the Alexander Construction Company. A notice of the hearing was published in Sunday's Joliet Herald--announcing the date of the hearing as being the following day.

A hearing on a variance request before a zoning board requires that a public notice of the meeting be published no less than 15 days prior to the hearing. Thus, even if the meeting had been held, it would have been illegal. However, the board was saved this embarrassment since one board member was sick and one could not get off work--so it was called off--but no one remembered to notify the interested public.

Beacon 10/14/64

ON THE TARGET



Romeoville's finest out on the new pistol range limber up their trigger fingers. Chief Capican hopes to form a pistol team for police competition.

Season 12-23/65

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod

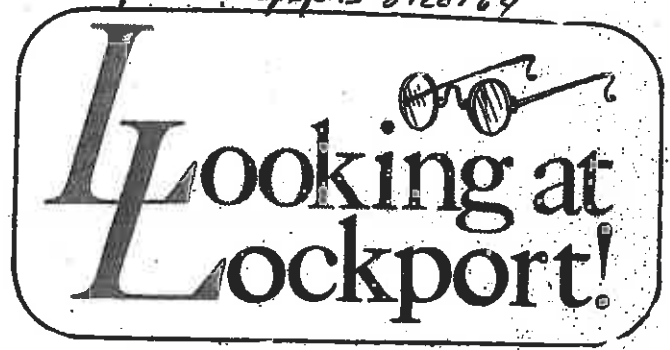
Welcomes You!

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00a. m.
CHURCH SERVICE 10:30a. m.

All Purpose Room at Park View School
Hampton Park

Pastor Milton C. Markworth
838-8711

Graphic Newspapers 8/20/64



The News (Worth 2/17/65, New Civic Org.)

INSPECTION

A preview of the new Saint Dominic Church was held last Sunday afternoon by the pastor, Father Gregory, who explained the facilities of the new edifice to seven nuns from Saint Andrews parish and other interested visitors.

In addition to every necessary religious appointment, the new building has a good sized meeting room for parties and gatherings, adjacent to which will be a kitchen. As plans for additions to the building materialize in future years this meeting room will be made into school rooms and replaced with additional facilities.

All those at the preview were impressed with the beauty and functional qualities of the building.

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH MOVES LOCATION

The Bible Baptist Church of Hampton Park has out grown its present meeting place at 424 Everette and will be holding services at the north gym at Park View School on Sunday, Oct 4th.

Sunday School will start at 9:45 instead of 9:30. Evening service starts at 7:30 p. m.

This will also be Rally Day with special music at both morning and evening services.

Pastor of the church is J. O. Purcell, who may be called at 838-3228.

Season 10/14/64

MOST CONTROVERSIAL subject these days is Lake Shirley in Hampton Park. According to the last report of the village meeting, a referendum is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 22. Residents of Romeoville will vote on whether they want to support the lake or not.

According to the release from Alexander for March 12 issue of this paper, the new Lake Shirley Park was to be donated to the community for the use of residents upon its completion in early summer of this year. It has not been completed yet.

If the lake is donated to the village, residents will have to support it if they wish to use the facility.

News release also stated that the park would be open in winter for skating, tobogganing and sledding. Development program is to include three, eight to 10 acre school sites, three additional parks of three acres each and sites for churches as well as a neighborhood type shopping center.

IT SEEMS LIKE the residents of Romeoville are doubtful that Alexander will donate the lake and park to the village. Evidently the village does not have a written agreement but Alexander's news release states that he will donate this recreation area to the residents.

SINCE WE HAD a couple of typographical errors in a recent high school board story, we get kidded at meetings and board members want to know if we heard everything correctly.

ANSWER TO that was that if the board members would speak up a little louder we might get the drift of the conversation. We reporters are trying to talk them into giving agendas to the public so we might follow the meeting a little better.

I might add that nearly all boards are the same. It almost seems like they don't want you to know what they're talking about.

One of the worst offenders I encountered was the Ludwig-Reed board but I must admit they've come a long way. Board members speak up and the president of the board, Bill Heninger, keeps the meeting in good order. Of course, receiving an agenda does help so you are aware of what's coming up.

I think it would be common courtesy for all school boards and city councils to provide agendas for interested persons and reporters. That's food for thought boys and it would certainly make a hit with your audience.

HIGH SCHOOL referendum is not too far off - date has been set for Sept. 19 in case you've forgotten. Board will vote on an educational tax increase of 21¢ raising the rate from 65¢ to 86¢ per \$100 assessed valuation and a transportation tax increase of 8¢ from 2¢ to 10¢.

Board decided to set the date early this summer in order to give them sufficient time to prepare literature on why they need the additional funds. Wonder why there haven't been any news releases regarding the referendum.



Beacon 4/22/64

EDITORIAL

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

Some misconceptions and attitudes concerning this Saturday's school referendum are a source of amazement and disgust. One of the most common of the misconceptions is that if the referendum fails, only the new North View School will be hurt. Not so. This referendum is not only for the new school. If it fails, all three schools will be equally damaged.

The attitude is exemplified by the remarks of a young man, one of the community leaders, who stated he would vote no on the transportation referendum because his children were close to the school. In the same breath this man asks the entire community to help in a project which would help only those youngsters in his immediate area.

Unless we stop thinking of only that which affects us directly, unless we have regard for every child's education and safety, our community will deteriorate--and deserve to.

APPOINT PATROL OFFICERS

Patrolman William Barsevich of the Romeoville Police recently announced the appointment of three Valley View youths as patrol boy officers. Bob Conrad has been designated Captain, and Leonard Goers and Jim Goers are Lieutenants. Their duties are to check the patrol boys at their posts daily.

Barsevich, who was put in charge of this detail by Chief Cepican, said that plans are underway to inaugurate 'patrol boy of the month' and a 'patrol boy of the year' awards. Credit for the success of the patrol boy program, he stated, should go to Dr. Widen, Principal of Valley View, Mr. Stefanich, Dean of Boys at the same school, the mothers who have been co-operating in the program, and Messrs G. Clair and M. Hall, representatives of the Chicago Motor Club, Joliet branch.

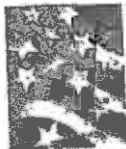
Beacon 10/14/64

The reason Bernard Ward missed his first school board meeting in many a moon is that he was visiting with his son, Pvt. William Ward, who is stationed with the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army at Fort Riley.

Beacon 10/14/64

Hold Fourth N.H.S. Ceremony At West High

Graphic News papers 4/22/64



Fourth Annual National Honor Society Induction Ceremonies were held at Lockport West High School on April 18th and forty new members were inducted.

Nine seniors and thirty-one juniors are now members of the NHS they include; seniors, Rose Aguilera; Donna Batusich; Laura Betzel; Ivy Cumpston; Joyce Hill; Anne Jurca; Bonnie Sedlak; Antoinette Winterkamp and Jeanette Winterkamp.

Junior members are; Sara Alexander; Janice Anderson; Michael Bessler; Linda Cayoretto; Sharon Chambers; Gloria Churan; Richard Churnovic; Kristine Coats; Joseph Cusimano; Robert Dunn; Karen Grandstaff; John Hancock; Robert Lee; Paul Linsner; Debra Manning; Linda Meinke; Lorenz Merfeld; Judy Pahl;

Joanne Rawson; Joseph Reedy; Larry Restaino; Lawrence Riegel; Joseph Sanders; Carole Schott; Karen Smith; Rudolph Stimac; Jackie Strle; Cathy Throckmorton; Sam Wason; Sandra Whalen and Donna Worch.

Provisional Sophomores were Mary Baldazzi; Jeanette Fantozzi; Barbara Hudson; Joseph Maino; Amy Perin; Cheryl Robertson; Melanie Schwartz; and Lilli Williams.

Freshmen ushers were Kenneth Grisham; Randy Lynn Hancock; James Maxwell and Kathleen Tendall.

Present active members in the NHS are; Andrea Ginnetti; Susanne Thomas; Lawrence Fiarman; William Hayes; Janet Linsner; Gail Gilmore; Connie Backhaus; Joann Elchelberger; Fred Harms; Barbara Heggerty;

Providence Imburgis; Catherine Legan; and Annemarie Lewis.

Also Shirley Lorenz, Debbie McMillan; Jeannie Redding; Rita Riordan; Jerry Robbins; Marie Simunovich; Sharon Swinarski; Gerry Tendall; Judy Truax; Thomas Ward and Robert Youngquist.

Music for the ceremonies was provided by the Lockport West High Band under the direction of Tom Drake. Special speeches were given by Susanne Thomas; Lawrence Fiarman; William Hayes and Janet Linsner. Andrea Ginnetti, NHS vice-president led the pledge to the flag and the administration of the NHS pledge to new members. Rev. Arthur Maher of St. Andrews' Church gave the invocation and benediction. Charles Whalen, principal at West welcomed the honored students and guests and called the roll of new members.



"My Honor Flight Chicago Experience"

Clint J. Garrett



It was yesterday, June 30, 2015 that I went on an "Honor Flight" to "The Wall" in Washington D.C.

Besides observing "The Wall", I was able to take in the Korean museum and the airplane museum. We then came back to Midway airport, where it was unbelievable the number of people who were there to welcome all of us World War II Veteran's back home. There were marching bands, the Chicago Fire Department and also the Chicago Police Department. I did not envision all of this to be taking place to honor us. My whole family was there to greet me. It was a very emotional experience. Although, when I look back, all of this should have happened 70 year's ago when the war had ended, when I was an 18-year old Marine who helped secure the island of Iwo Jima.

I have never spoken to my family about combat, but now they are interested and would like to hear about it. So, I opened up and gave them a thumbnail sketch of what it was like to be in the battle, to secure a piece of volcano rock that has no monetary value, is a mile wide and 4 mile's long, with very little vegetation and a strong smell of sulfur.

It was 36 days of combat that had left 22,000 Japanese dead, and 25,000 American's killed or wounded, 75 percent did not make it. My buddy, on the 28th day took a bullet to the abdomen. I then began to cradle him in my arm's, he knew and I knew that he was going to die. There is no way at this point that we can get medical help, so he asked me to tell his family that he loved them and to let them know that he wasn't going to hell. A short time later he died and I had to leave him as our platoon had to push forward, taking out pillboxes of the Japanese war. It was the next day, and I crawled back to take a look at him, there were green flies in his eye's and coming out of his mouth. So, I took his backpack and poncho off and covered him up. About a week later we had secured the island. After a few days had passed, I walked back in the hot sun, to the place from which we started and I see the poncho, I proceeded to lift it up and underneath was his body that had been covered in maggots. I decided that it was best not to tell his family this when I went to visit them.

When visiting with my buddies family, I asked them "Why would your son tell me to tell you that he wasn't going to hell"? Per the family, when he was 11 years old he started a bonfire and took the family Bible that had dates of birth and dates of death for other family members, and he tore out pages and set them on fire. They then told him that he was going to hell for desecrating the family Bible. At that moment the parents held each other's hand and began to cry. To this day I wish I never had asked.

Combat can be pushing a M1 rifle in front of you, but the bigger combat is the memories left with you. You can have nightmare's or cry in your sleep and the thing is, they stay with you and follow you wherever you go, day and night, they don't go away.

Clint J. Garrett

OCTOGENERANIAN TELLS HOW IT USED TO BE IN THE OLD DAYS

by ELIZABETH EICHELBERGER

Just want to add a little on the item which was in the Beacon a few weeks ago on the Chapman School.

I have resided in the vicinity of that school district for over eighty years. My father, Peter Jungels, and his neighbor Marshall Ayers donated the ground where the school was built, so I attended school there from 1st thru 8th grade, as did my brothers and sisters and my children and several of my grandchildren.

In my school days, the pupils had to carry the drinking water from the nearby farms at recess and noon, also carry in the corn cobs and coal from the woodshed to feed a pot bellied heater and sometimes when the stove pipes would get filled with soot, it would puff and run us out so we would then get a day's vacation until the pipes could be taken down and cleaned out. Our toilet facilities were two out houses back of the school; one for the boys and one for the girls.

The teachers were from Joliet and had to stay in the country with one of the farm families from Sunday till Friday night, then take the old street car from Romeoville. I had teachers stay with my family for several years.

There were three men serving on the board as school directors and my dad served for many years. Later my husband and son Lloyd were school directors for Chapman School.

The last teacher who

taught at Chapman School was Mrs. Irene King, now a teacher in Valley View District.

In about 1955 all the one-room schools were sold. The extinct Chapman School was sold and moved to a site next to Barbers Corner on the Gordon and Mae Koncek farm, where Mr. & Mrs. Val Flores now reside. Several other schools were remodeled.

The Ricken School was purchased by Dwight Andrus, now deceased. It is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Saks. The Barbers Corner School was purchased by Carl Rott and made into a beautiful home. A few years ago he sold the land and moved his home to a site west of Barbers Corner.

The Gordon School is now the home of Matthew Featherstone family. The Taylor School, on Rt. 66, was purchased by Stephen Ward and remodeled and is now the home of his son-in-law

and daughter, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Koch.

The Hillside School on Naperville Road was purchased by Hampton Park American Legion and converted into a Club House. This was destroyed by fire a few years ago.

The Orchard School was moved to a wooded site on Lemont Road and more classrooms added. It was later named Bromberek School in honor of Leo Bromberek, now deceased, who served on the school board for many years. I think the Graves School and Sprague School were demolished.

Teachers who taught in the one-room schools included Elleen Ward, Irene King, Claire Gehrke, Frances Morgan, Lillie Eneix, Margy Meisinger, Louise Nelson, August Nellis, Arnold Hillenberg, Dorothy Allen and Kenneth Hermansen, the present superintendent. Alice Spangler was school treasurer.

Beacon 4/22/66

NOW THAT'S A CAT

The James Bingle family of Hampton Park are the proud possessors of a cat that has twenty six toes, seven on each hind leg and six on each fore paw. No telling how many lives.



OFFICIALS ATTEND TREE BURNING

Over 2000 Christmas trees were burned at Hampton Park Shopping Center last Saturday for the Tri-Twsp Republican's Annual post holiday conflagration. Performing the job of setting fire to the pyre was State Senator Harris Fawell.

Other dignitaries on hand were County Superintendent of Schools Boyd Bucher, County Board Chairman Roy Hassert, and Robert Bell, YR District Governor.

Romeoville's Volunteer Fire Department was on hand to provide fire protection. Hot coffee was supplied to warm the chilled firemen and spectators. Following the burning, the officials present enjoyed a snack and coffee at the home of Mr and Mrs Richard Hamilton of Romeoville.

Beacon 11/3/66



Beacon 5/13/69



Gail Buckley, far left, and friends with their fine assortment of scavenged bits of trivia.

A SCAVENGER HUNT BIRTHDAY PARTY


Many Hampton Parkers were probably puzzled last Saturday when they noticed pairs of youngsters running through the Village with such unlikely objects as ice cubes, diapers, old tires, fish bowls, Sears catalogues, green tooth brushes, etc. It was all part of a scavenger hunt in conjunction with Gail Buckley's 13th birthday party.

Miss Buckley and her friends had a list of 20 items to gather within a two hour period. Top scavenger pair were Polly McDowel and Dan Ramel with 14 items accounted for. Donna Kitica and Judy Linsner were a close second. The prizes were records. A booby prize was awarded to low scorers Patty Wood & Gail Prchal-- a package of sour lemon drops.

After the hunt the gang enjoyed pizzas and refreshments from the kitchen of Mr & Mrs Don Buckley.

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ALL SET TO GO

Work has started on the new Cobb's Restaurant and Gift Shop to be located behind Reichert's Service Station at the junction of Rtes. 53 and 66. Earl Meisinger, owner of the property, turns the first spade-full of earth as Ed Oehmen (right) lessor of the Restaurant, and contractor J. Carr look on.



Beacon 1964
 The Cozy Cottage was later known as the Colonial Restaurant.

Beacon 5/11/67



the Beacon
 ROMEOVILLE - HAMPTON PARK -
 BOLINGBROOK - MIKAN
 COLLEGE VIEW - LEMONT

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Beacon 2-4/22/64

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Please use this form to join or to renew your membership. The NOW 'Y' THEN

The newsletter is the official publication of the *Romeoville Area Historical Society* for its members. Mail check and membership application form to the address at the right.

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