

The

# NOW 'n' THEN

## Preserving the ♥ of Romeoville

The official newsletter of the  
Romeoville Area Historical Society

### SPRING ISSUE 2014

We have sold about 500 of our books. Since we paid for our copies in October, each sale nets us \$17 on member purchases and \$19 from others. In addition, we received royalties of \$600 for books sold through other outlets. As mentioned before, we receive \$1.47 per book in royalties.

The Society received an award from the Illinois Historical Society for the book. It was presented during a lunch at the Executive Mansion in Springfield on April 26. Jerry Capps read about the awards and encouraged us to apply. I include a photograph on page 15. Mayor John Noak recognized us at the Village Board meeting on May 7 by presenting the award again for Romeoville residents to see.

On April 29 and 30, we had a display at Joliet Junior College, North Campus, for 2 hours each day. We also participated in U.S. Representative Lipinski's Senior Fair on May 12 from 10-12 in the morning at Giovan's Restaurant in Crest Hill. At both of these and the upcoming Canal Days, we highlight our activities and books, demonstrate some artifacts and invite everyone to visit the museum. At JJC and at the Canal Days, we can sell the books to interested readers.

Thanks go to the White Oak Library District for the bookcase and display case they gave us. Both of these are wood and are more attractive than the metal utility shelves they replaced as you can see from the pictures on page 15. Art Arellano and Joe Wojcik, and library Director Scott Pointon moved them from the old Crest Hill library to the museum.

Note that the next meeting is JUNE 11, not at the end of May as it normally is held. We will be planning the display for Canal Days and elect officers for the next year.

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS:**

June 7 Delores Molnar  
 June 8 Alfie Rodriguez  
 June 13 Jim Nona  
 June 18 Sonny Zdancewicz  
 June 23 Jean Kwirant  
 June 25 Jodi Smilie  
 June 29 Shirlee Pergler

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:**

June 11 Bill & Brenda Ward  
 June 12 Jean Kwirant  
 June 21 Annette & Keith Eichorst  
 June 28 Mary & Kelby Briddick

**JULY BIRTHDAYS:**

July 4 United States  
 July 8 John Greenberg  
 July 10 Chris Arellano  
 July 19 Keith Eichorst  
 July 14 Christopher Benigno  
 July 16 Bob Polis  
 July 17 Sara Martin  
 July 19 Rita Bazzell  
 July 18 Bob Morales  
 July 25 Linda Sanfilippo  
 July 29 Dr. Bernice Holloway  
 July 29 Joelle Sisto

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:**

Aug. 3 Mary Jane Alexander  
 Aug. 3 Richard Cordero  
 Aug. 5 Len Heeg  
 Aug. 6 Ruth McCartan  
 Aug. 6 Ruth Mertz  
 Aug. 17 Gerri Frost  
 Aug. 17 Scott Lager  
 Aug. 18 Assunto Goldman  
 Aug. 18 Rick Gougis  
 Aug. 19 Brenda Ward  
 Aug. 22 Deborah Halley  
 Aug. 28 David Hassert  
 Aug. 31 Mary Ann Trent

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:**

August 2 Joseph Scamardi  
 August 19 Assunta & Steve Goldman

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Mon. May 26 Memorial Day wreath presentation ceremony at 10:00  
 Wed. June 11 Society meeting at 2:00: election of officers, final plans for Canal Days display at Lockport's Old Canal Days  
 June 14-15 display at Lockport's Old Canal Days  
 Wed. Aug. 27 Society meeting at 2:00

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We would like volunteers to help at our display for the Old Canal Days. The area along the canal will not be open in the evenings. If you can help us for an hour or two on Saturday or Sunday, please contact us at either of our email addresses.

*Romeoville*, by Mabel Hrpcha is out of print. Slight revisions are being made and an index added before we reprint it locally. If you know of any errors in it, please email [Historicalromeoville@yahoo.com](mailto:Historicalromeoville@yahoo.com), [nancy.reader@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nancy.reader@sbcglobal.net), or write to the address on the last page of the newsletter, before the end of May so they can be corrected. We will print extra copies of the index for those who want to add it to your copies.

While using Mabel's book as a reference for our new book, we realized that, as it stopped in the 1950s with the beginning of Hampton Park, 50 years of our history are missing. Therefore we plan to write a second volume in the same style, with a page or two for the history of each family and business. If your family moved here in the 1950s-70s, we would like you to write your memories and history and send pictures that we can use to illustrate it. Families that were in the first volume are invited to reply with your continuing history in the area. These memories can be written in a narrative or in outline form that we will complete. It is important to have the names for people in the photos, from left to right and front to back.

Kyle Eichorst, our youngest member, has just attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

# Hospice volunteer honored for service

by Jolene Kremer

When Joyce Kinder received a phone call asking her to attend one of the recent Romeoville Village Board meetings, she prepared a speech of defense.

Mrs. Kinder thought maybe the new trustees on the board wanted to know more about hospice, her volunteer job helping the terminally ill and their families and friends.

Each year, the Village Board allocates some money to help defray expenses assisted with the Joliet Area Community Hospice and its Romeoville work.

"I got myself psyched up to defend hospice work in the community," she said. "I told my director that I was going to the board meeting ready to explain how we spend the money they give us."

In that frame of mind, Mrs. Kinder was more than surprised when Village President John Strobbe presented her with a community service award "for compassion to your fellow human beings during their important hours."

Mrs. Kinder has worked on 16 cases in three years as a volunteer helping terminally ill people in the last six months of their lives, providing them with care and support. As a volunteer, she is part of a team of people in the hospice program, which includes doctors, nurses, physical therapists and spiritual advisers.

are choosing to die at home. Either that, or they're forced into that situation because hospitals don't keep terminally-ill people for more than 30 days anymore," she said.

Family members faced with taking care of a terminally-ill person are usually frightened, Mrs. Kinder said.

"My family was the recipient of hospice in another state when my husband's brother was terminally ill. We were faced with the situation of having to take him home. We were frightened because he was immobile. We overrode our fears, though, with the help of the hospice. I said to God that if He would help us get through this ordeal, I would help someone else get through it," she said.

Soon after that, Mrs. Kinder signed up for the first class for hospice volunteer training at Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet. In the summer of 1982, she was assigned her first patient.

"I try to become an extension of the family -- become an aunt, sister or cousin. I provide whatever the family needs -- guidance and support or taking the night shift to watch and take care of the patient," she said.

Her job is not an easy one. "When I meet my patients, I know they are only going to live for a short time. You know that you're going to lose this friend," she said. "It's a very emotional job, but a very fulfilling one. I

know the needs of hospice because I needed it myself. I don't know the fear of the patient and I don't pretend to know that."

Mrs. Kinder's job doesn't end, however, when the patient dies.

"Hospice provides support to family in bereavement for 18 months after the person has died. Some people can put up a good front at the workplace. But then they go home and they are without that person and they have a hard time. They can call me then and I'm there to let them know that I don't expect the hurt to be over," she said.

In today's society, she said, people are expected to get over deaths too quickly.

"Companies give employees three to five days to take care of funeral arrangements and deal with their bereavement. In the olden days, people were given a one-year mourning period when they weren't expected to entertain or lead a normal life. Nowadays, once the funeral is over, you're supposed to pick up and go on."

Out-of-town relatives, coworkers and immediate relatives and friends provide emotional support for the first few weeks after the death, she said, but then

they tend to drift away. "You can't grieve any more. People don't want to hear about it. People need someone to confide in, and maybe even relive the last six months and resolve the guilt and grief they are feeling," she said.

Because of the highly-emotional and depressing aspect of her job, Mrs. Kinder said she does not bring her work home with her.

"If I brought death and dying into my home every day, it would be like my family is at a wake at all times. I have to separate my job and leave it at work. It was difficult at first, but I had the support of other hospice people," she said.

With that support, Mrs. Kinder has taken on a difficult, but much appreciated, volunteer position. The award given to her at the board meeting is displayed prominently on a wall in her home's living room as a constant reminder of that appreciation.

Joyce Kinder, one of the founders of the Romeoville Historical Society received an award in October 1985 for her volunteer work with Joliet Area Community Hospice.



Joyce Kinder displays the award given to her recently for her hospice work in the community. (Photo by Paul Burd)

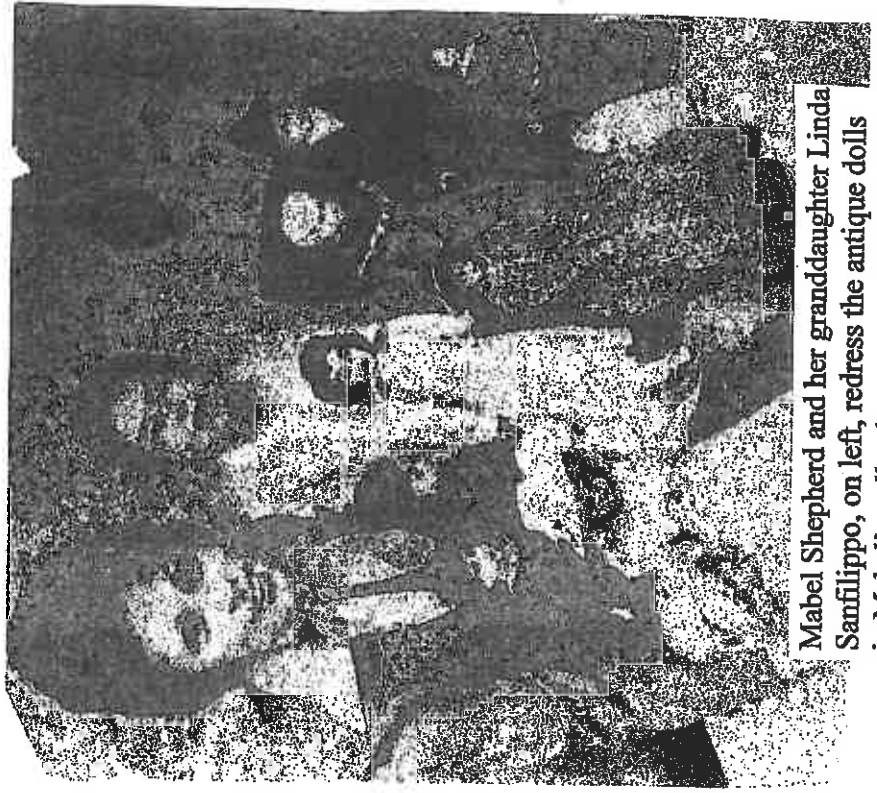
Photo about 1940.  
 Front row: Edward  
 Heeg Jr., John Rocks,  
 John Kijauski,  
 Edward Heeg Sr.,  
 Leonard Heeg.  
 Back Row: Mildred  
 (Heeg) Schrader,  
 Florence (Heeg)  
 Rocks,  
 Marie Schrader, Louise  
 (Schrader) Heeg.



The Heeg Family

RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
 Rose Pounovich, 79, (left) has been a lifelong friend of Mabel Hrpcha. Pounovich lives in a house on 135th St. that was part of "Old Romeo." The house as well as her family is featured in Hrpcha's book about the history of Romeoville.

Kolo dancers from the Croatian Cultural Club included Ann Pounovich on the left. 1981.



Mabel Shepherd and her granddaughter Linda Sanfilippo, on left, redress the antique dolls in Mabel's collection.



**Eileen Ward, 48-year Valley View teacher wife of Bernard J. Ward**



**William 'Bill' Ward was honored by the Dixmoor police for his psychic aid in locating a murder suspect in Nov. 1987.**



**Joyce Thoresen, on left, leaving for Hollywood in 1948 with her mother and aunt Evelyn Lindberg on right. Joyce's father Sig. Thoresen started Hampton Park in the 1950s by selling his farm to developers**



**Joyce Thoresen was voted Miss Photo Flash in the 1950s.**



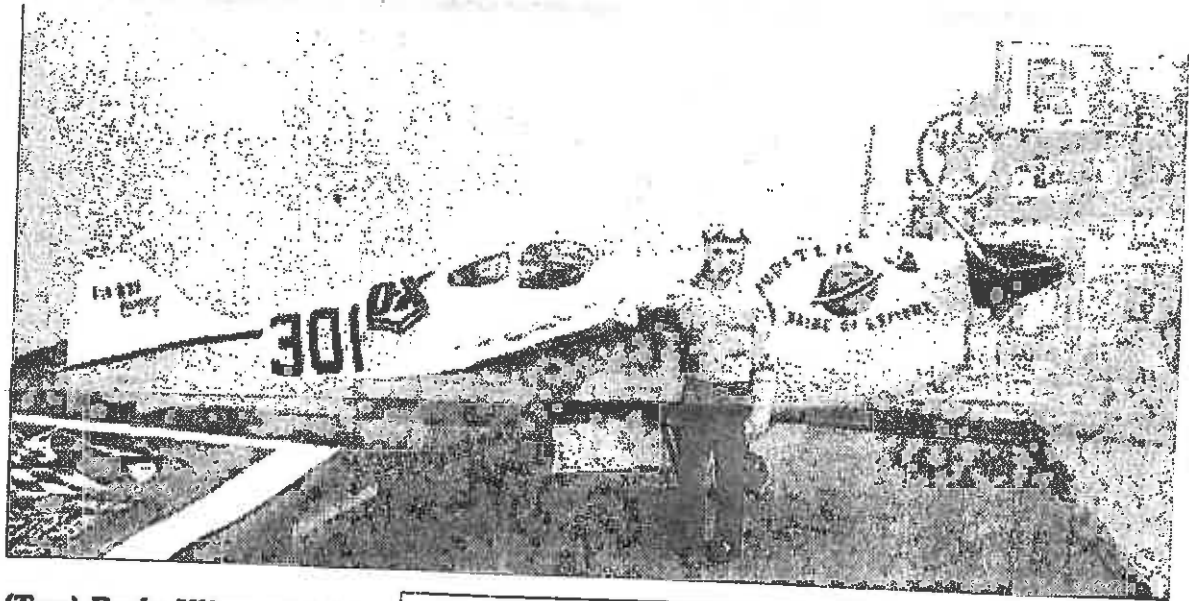


**A GOOD MECHANIC AND PROUD OF IT**  
Rudy Kling at work in his Lemont garage.

Herald and Examiner photo.



**SPEED KING IS HAPPIEST AT HOME WITH FAMILY**



**(Top) Rudy Kling and his wife Theresa celebrate his victory in Cleveland. (Middle) A model of The Jupiter is on display at the Lemont Area Historical Society. (Bottom) The real Jupiter on the grass in Cleveland.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEMONT AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



# ROMEOVILLE PRESIDENTS & MAYORS

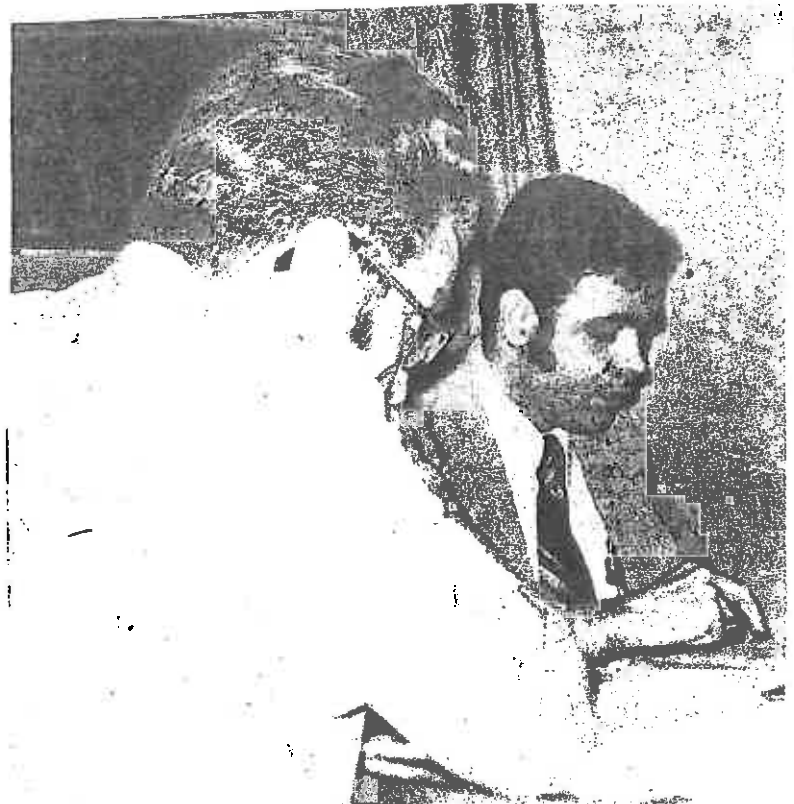
<u>Term</u>	<u>President/Mayor</u>
1895-99	Louis Hamann
1899-1904	John Keig
1904-07	Henry Brockman
1919-21	John Mitchell
1929-69	Neal Murphy
1969-73	John O'Hara
1973-77	Dewey 'Red' Chambers
1977-81	Donald Kennedy
1981-85	Howard Trippett
1985-97	John Strobbe
1997-2001	Sandra Gulden
2001-2009	Fred DeWald
2009-	John Noak



*John Keig*



**ROMEOVILLE'S NEAL MURPHY**  
*(Herald-News Photo)*  
 Vacates post after 40 years

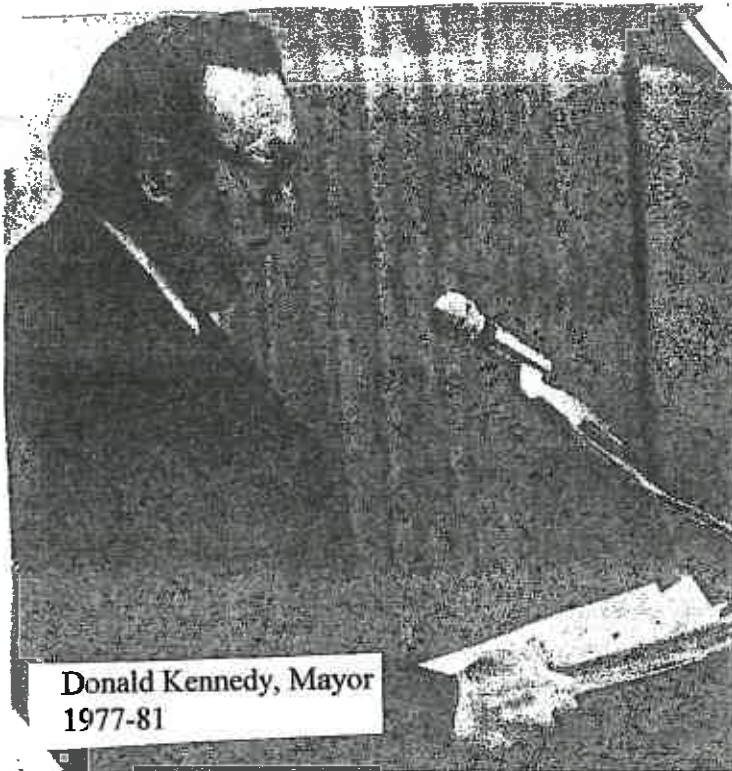


**ROMEOVILLE** mayor Dewey Chambers listens glumly as auditor Ronald C. Gans explains the village's financial indebtedness.



**Mayor O'Hara**





**Donald Kennedy, Mayor  
1977-81**

*Former Mayor Don Kennedy at the microphone at last Wednesday's board meeting.*



*Romeoville Village President Howard Trippett at his press conference announcing his candidacy for re-election in April, 1985.*

**Howard Trippett, Mayor  
1981-85**



**John Strobbe, Mayor  
1985-97**



**Sandy Gulden, mayor 1st Party**



**Fred Dewald, mayor H.O.P.E.**





*Kenneth L. Hermansen*  
1924 - 1999

Kenneth Hermansen  
first principal of Valley View School  
Valley View School District Superintendent  
for 20 years  
Romeoville Village Board  
Fountaindale Public Library Board



Georgia Wilson, Director of Special Recreation Association, 1972-.



Georgia Wilson was Grand Marshall for the Founders Day Parade, 1977.



Vito Martinez — himself, nearly a Valley View institution, a legend in his own time.

Vito Martinez, President  
Lockport High School #211  
Valley View School District  
1972-1987

Robert Shanks  
Bolingbrook Mayor, 1969  
later DuPage Township Supervisor



Mayor Shanks





Romeoville Jaycee president Jerry Capps says a "funny" as he presents Jaycee of the Year award to Vito Martinez. To the left of the rostrum is Jaycee V.P. Chuck Muller and to the right Dr. and Mrs Ken Pangle.

Jay Knepp was instrumental in starting Safety Town. After it opened, he coordinated visits by school and Scout groups.



## 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 teachers aid, Valley 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 3:00-8:00p.m. at the funeral home. Cremation rites to be accorded.

815-886-2323  
www.AndersonMemorialHomes.com

## 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 Donegan; 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 1983 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

## CHARLES MASKERI

Born: March 21, 1930; in Chicago  
Died: March 3, 2014; in Naperville



Charles "Chuck" Maskeri, age 83, passed away on March 3, 2014, at Seasons Hospice in Naperville.

A private service at Chuck's request was held on March 6, 2014, at Resurrection Chapel in Romeoville, IL.

He is preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth, and survived by his wife Donnie Maskeri (Spears), three children, Chuck (Judi), Cindy (Bill) Brummel, and Ronald (Linda), seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## AUDREY B. HALVORSEN

Audrey B. Halvorsen, nee Wallhofer, 92, passed away Thursday, April 17, 2014, at Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital, late of Romeoville, formerly of Chicago.

A member of the Romeoville Golden Ager's, Audrey is survived by her loving children, Jackie (George) Lipp, Thomas (Paula) Halvorsen and Trudy Tekiela. Cherished grandmother of five, great-grandmother of one.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Byron Halvorsen; also her parents, George and Elsie Wallhofer.

The visitation will be from 4 to 9 p.m. Monday, April 21, at the Anderson Memorial Chapel, 606 Townhall Drive, in Romeoville. The funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 22, at the funeral home chapel. Interment to follow Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

For information, call the funeral home at 815-886-2323 or visit [www.andersonmemorialhomes.com](http://www.andersonmemorialhomes.com).



The James Williams family, from the left, James, Helen, Martha holding James Jr., Thomas, Alice, Kate, Maud, and Jane.



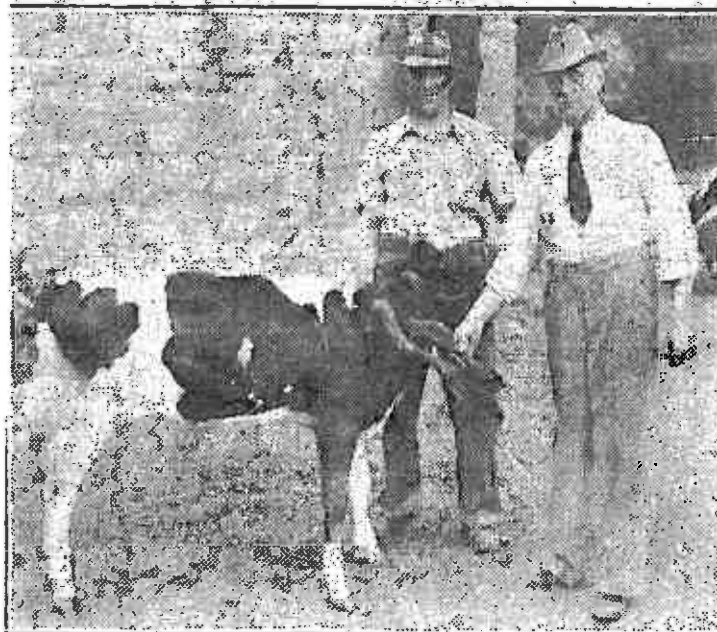


—Herald-News Photo  
 These two hunters, Bernard Ward and Harold Grabow, of Lockport, tramped, they estimate, about 100 miles before they brought down this gray timber wolf, near Romeo.



Harold Grabow with a coyote he shot.

## Calf Has Six Legs



'Bessie' was born with two legs growing from her shoulder. She was owned by Robert Shepherd in 1936.



O'HARA BAGS FOX

Mayor Jack O'Hara shot a red fox while hunting birds on the George Hassert Farm.



Arrival of Thomas Shepherd Jr., R. 1, makes up the fifth generation in the family of Arthur Stafford Sr., aged 87, of Minooka. Left to right are Young Tommy seated on the lap of his grandfather Darrell Shepherd Sr. of Homer; Thomas Shepherd Sr., the baby's father who is serving in the army at Vietnam as a chaplain's assistant; Arthur Staf-



Three sons of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Shepherd, of Lockport Route 2 are now serving with the Armed Forces. Pfc. Charles W. Shepherd (left) is stationed at Ben Wal., Vietnam. He received his basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., and Ft. Benning, Ga. Sgt. Daniel T. Shep-

herd (center) is stationed at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. His wife resides in Florida. John Shepherd (right) entered service May 14 and is currently at Ft. Leonard Wood. All three brothers are graduates of Lockport Township High Schools.



Airman Curtis R. Shepherd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon R. Shepherd of 2651 Debbie Ct., has completed basic training at Lockland Air Force Base, Tex. and will remain there for training as a security policeman.





**In the Illinois Executive Mansion garden with our award.  
From left: Art Arellano, Nancy Hackett, Shirlee Pergler.**



**New display cabinet with our parade trophies**



**Left, before: shelves with cartons of local newspapers. Right: New shelving unit holds books and display items, including 1-Room schools and Valley View School District.**

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

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. *Romeoville Area Historical Society  
10 Montrose Drive  
Romeoville, IL 60446*

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## ALL MEMBERSHIPS \$7.50 PER YEAR

Please print. Birthday and anniversary (month & day only) are optional:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

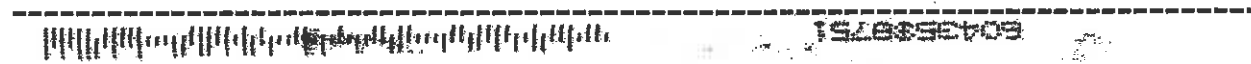
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

ANNIVERSARY: \_\_\_\_\_

DUES: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



*Bruce Lehen  
3408 Brittany Dr.  
Toliet, IL 60435*

*Romeoville Area Historical Society  
10 Montrose Drive  
Romeoville, IL 60446*

