

The

NOW 'n' THEN

Preserving the ♥ of Romeoville

The official newsletter of the
Romeoville Area Historical Society

WINTER ISSUE 2014

This year we are really experiencing winter with temperatures below zero, and colder wind chills along with constant snow storms. This is the first winter in my 30+ years here when we have had both freezing cold and regular snow.

I gave talks about Romeoville's history for the DAR at Romeoville Rec Center and at the Gladys Fox Museum in Lockport to the Lockport Park District men's breakfast group. Brian Clancy and I talked about our history for the second grade classes at R. C. Hill School. All of these were accompanied by Power Point slides.

Books continue to sell. Thanks to a recommendation by Jerry Capps, we entered our book for an award by the Illinois State Historical Society. They requested supporting materials to show community involvement. The cover letter described the assistance provided by the village staff, the library, and the Chamber of Commerce. Donations of photographs, writing of chapters and captions and other assistance by many residents were mentioned as well. Included in our packet were the recent newsletters, copies of newspaper articles, copies of the press releases requesting information and photos and announcing the publication, the order form, a list of the dignitaries invited, a sample invitation to local dignitaries and to our contributors, the RPTV and Bolingbrook TV interviews about the book, and RPTV's program of the book release event. We were recently informed that the book will receive an award at a luncheon in April.

This issue highlights some of our long-time residents. The pictures are from our archives and were not used in Mabel Hrpcha's book or the new one.. Many could not be used in the book because of poor quality or because the people were not identified. If anyone can identify these, please let us know.

The next meeting of the society will be Wednesday February 22 from 2:00-4:00 at the museum.

Nancy Hackett

Mayor said 'get involved' and Paul Drdak listened

by Valerie Vondrak

When he first moved to Romeoville 22 years ago, Paul 'Pops' Drdak told the man who was then the mayor, Neil Murphy, that he didn't like the way he was running the town.

"He told me, if I didn't like it, I should do something about it," 'Pops' said, taking time out last week from working at the Golden Agers garage sale to discuss what has led him to take such an active part in Romeoville activities throughout the years.

'Pops' clearly followed the mayor's advice. Recently appointed by the Senior Services Center of Will County to the Will County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame, 'Pops' has served the Village as its clerk, as a trustee, and on the recreation board, his first love.

It was in recreation that 'Pops' decided to work after his little talk with the mayor.

"When we first started recreation out here, we worked out of schools, out of garages, out of trunks of cars," 'Pops' remembered. "There was nothing here. We as residents weren't allowed at that time to use the schools. They felt people should pay. We opened the schools to everybody. We had to use them in order to have recreation."

Donna Rickman, Romeoville's director of recreation, was one of the people working with 'Pops' in those days, trying to get a recreation program going in

Romeoville. Joining 'Pops' for the interview, she and he reminisced together over the days when they used to go out seeking donations for their improvised programs.

"We were scroungers," Donna confessed with a smile. "People would see us coming and shut their doors. We were always looking for donations. For our arts and crafts classes, we would have 400 or 500 kids in one day. We even made our own molds."

'Pops,' who happily admitted that he has done a lot of "hollering" at school board meetings, said that once the schools finally agreed to open their doors for after-school recreation programs, the first thing they got going was a roller-skating program for handicapped children.

"It was on the gym floor at West View School," 'Pops' said. "Fifteen years ago. The school's gym teacher would cringe every time the kids got out on that floor."

Donna quickly added that the children's skates all had plastic wheels, but she too admitted that their program caused controversy at the school.

"We've come a long way," Donna said, and 'Pops' agreed. "I think I did what I tried to do," he said. "Still, even today, you have to devote yourself to it. I was involved with the youth movement even before I was married. When I was a youngster, on the west side of Chicago, I was involved in lodges."

'Pops' helped organize baseball teams in Romeoville for boys 12 to 17 years old at what was then Romeoville's only baseball field, located across from his home at 1 Belmont. Later, when he felt he was getting too old to work with youngsters any longer, he managed an adult baseball team.

"You can always talk with 'Pops' and his wife, Lillian, into helping out," Donna said affectionally. "Whenever I need help, I call them. I can depend on them."

Donna said that when she began the Golden Agers Club seven years ago, only five people showed up for the meetings. She decided to call the Drdaks.

"'Pops' said he wasn't old enough, he was too busy," Donna recalled. "They both told me they would get involved once the group started going, after the officers were elected." She smiled: "He served as vice president, then as president for two years."

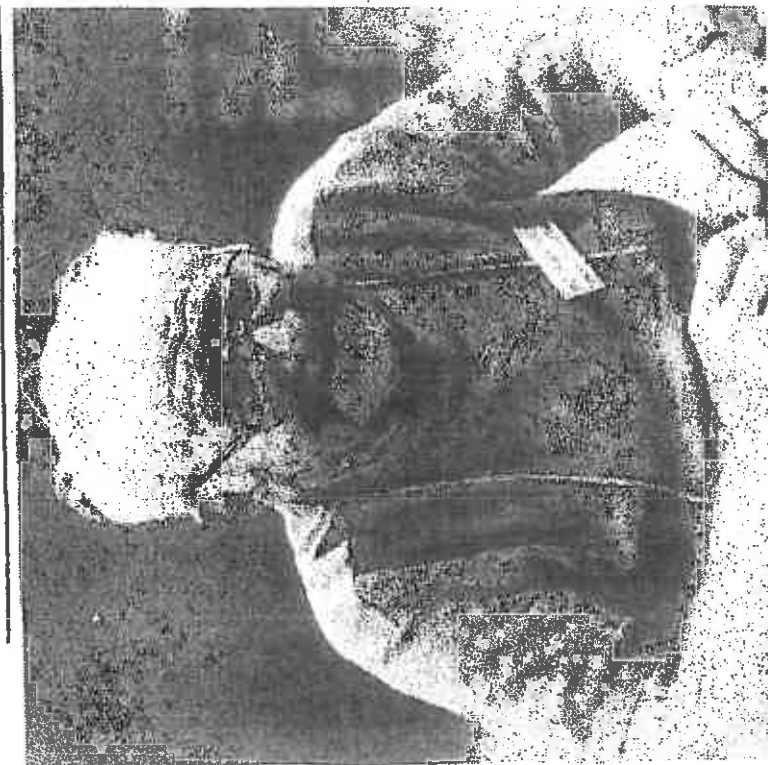
'Pops,' who likes to golf in his spare time, serves on the township's senior board of recreation, and is also on the senior bowling league. His hopes for Romeoville's future are to see it continue to grow, to double its size, and to continue developing recreation programs for youth.

"I love this village," 'Pops' concluded. "No one can talk me out of here. It's going to be one of the most progressive villages. It's going to happen. You'll see."

Demcon 10/7/81

Happy 50th, Mom & Pops

The Beacon-Sun Wednesday, June 5, 1984 • Page 5



(Photo by Paul Burd)

Pops Drdak, recently appointed to the Will County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame, takes a few moments to recall how it all started.



Paul and Lillian Drdak of Romeoville celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday. The couple pose here with the photo of their wedding picture, taken 50 years ago at Blessed Agnes Church in Chicago. The couple hosted an open house at the newly dedicated "Drdak" room of the Romeoville Recreation Center Saturday afternoon. They renewed their wedding vows at a special mass at St. An-drews Church before attending a special dinner in their honor.

Romeoville woman keeps busy

Dorothy Hassert is a busy woman. She operates the Hassert Christmas Tree Farm, cooks for many functions at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Joliet, and spends countless hours working on projects for the Romeoville Historical Society.

In fact, she claims her home has become the unofficial headquarters for the Historical Society.

Currently, she is tracing the history of Valley View School, beginning with its origin as a one room school serving the entire Romeoville area.

The recipes Mrs. Hassert shares for German Potato Salad and Ham Loaf can be found in the cookbook published by the Historical Society.

German Potato Salad (8 servings)

4 lbs. potatoes
3 ribs of celery, chopped
¼ C. diced onion
¼ C. chopped parsley
¼ lb. bacon
3 T. flour
1 C. water
½ C. sugar
½ C. vinegar
salt and pepper to taste

Boil potatoes in skins until done. Peel, slice and season with salt and pepper. Add chopped parsley, celery and onion.

Fry bacon until crisp, crumble and add to potatoes.

Add flour and water to bacon drippings, and stir to make a medium thick sauce. Add sugar and vinegar. Bring to a boil and cook until well-blended. Pour over potatoes and mix well.

Garnish with slices of hard-boiled eggs. Keep warm in oven until serving time.

Ham Loaf (Serves 4-6)

1½ lb. ground pork
2 lb. ground ham
2 eggs, well beaten
1 C. milk
1 C. bread crumbs
dash of pepper

Mix all ingredients together. Blend well, using hands for best consistency.

For individual servings, use ½ C. of the mixture for each loaf. Use the handle of a spoon to score the top.



Dorothy Hassert of Romeoville removes her German potato salad and individual ham loaves from the oven.

Place the small loaves side by side in a 9" x 13" pan. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. If mixture is made into one large loaf, bake for 1½ hours at 350 degrees. While baking, baste occasionally with a brown sugar glaze.

Brown Sugar Glaze

Combine and bring to a boil in a sauce pan:

¼ C. brown sugar
¼ C. water
¼ C. vinegar
2 T. dry mustard

Learning to 'listen' helpful to speaker, says engineer

By Jan Larsen
Living Editor

Howard Hassert missed a few Joliet Mainline Toastmasters meetings here in late winter.

It wasn't like him, and members were concerned. After all, Hassert is the only member who has stuck with the club, through good times and bad, for 26½ years.

It turned out that Hassert, who will be 78 soon, was home recuperating from eye surgery, but he's back at meetings now. A couple of weeks ago, he even gave an impromptu speech on how trees help control soil erosion.

Trees are a subject dear to his heart. He and his wife Dorothy have run a "one-mule" Christmas tree farm in Lemont since 1951, when they bought 5½ acres of cut-over timber land off what is now Illinois 53.

Hassert, a registered professional engineer, is a man of many interests. He was a Republican committeeman for 25 years. He likes to fish, likes to go on long walks and is interested in ecology and history.

He has an open attitude toward life. In his early 50s, a time when most of us cut back on activities, he started on a new tangent -- Toastmasters.

"A bunch of us engineers joined at the same time," he said. "We

'Roast' planned for Toastmaster

What: Howard Hassert will be honored at a recognition dinner and "roast" hosted by Joliet Mainline Toastmasters.

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday at White Fence Farm on Ill. 53 in Lemont.

Tickets are \$10 and all friends and former Toastmasters are invited. Call Irene Dolak at 485-6385 or Carole Borror at (312) 758-4959 for information.

found we weren't getting our ideas across and we needed help."

Through Toastmasters, he has learned, "to listen."

Sure, he's become a better speaker, he said. The purpose of Toastmasters, after all, is to improve public speaking skills.

"But I think he enjoys hearing the speeches more than giving one," said his wife of 40 years, Dorothy. They have three children.

A few years ago Hassert earned his Able Toastmaster status. His jokes about being a "slow learner," aside, Hassert took his time getting to that point. "I was having fun on the way," he said.

He's active in both the state and national Society of Professional Engineers, the Romeoville Historical Society, the Illinois Christmas Tree Growers Association and St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Joliet.

Hassert was born 1/4 mile away

from where he lives now, on land that has been in the Hassert family for more than 150 years, land he bought from his uncle.

"I cut a tree about four years ago, about six feet above the ground" nearby, he said. He said he can tell the "good years and the bad years" from the tree rings.

If the tree could talk, it would talk about Hassert family history. "My grandfather planted that tree," he said. "My dad's sister had a swing on that tree," he said.

His talk when Toastmasters honor him Tuesday won't touch on trees much, he said. Instead, Hassert will present the history of Joliet Mainline Toastmasters. One anecdote came to his mind. "I remember when the ladies came in and the rest of us had to work harder because they were giving better speeches," he said.



Howard Hassert stands next to the lone white pine on his Christmas tree farm. White pines don't thrive in this area because of pollution, says the ecology-minded Hassert, who will be honored at a dinner hosted by Joliet Mainline Toastmasters.

Herak-News photo

Missionary luncheon scheduled

Ladies Aid of St. Peter Lutheran Church will hold its 55th annual Missionary Luncheon at noon March 21 in Luther Hall of St. Peter School, 308 N. Broadway.

Alfred Ebel of Concordia College, Seward, Neb., will tell of the mission work that is being done among the American Indians. (St. Peter church is built on the site of Fort Nonsense, which was used by the early white settlers for protection during the Fox-Sack Indian War.)

Since March 21 is the 300th birthday of composer Johann Sebastian Bach, special music will be provided by the Suzuki Performing Group from the Joliet Public Schools under the direction of Mary Smeltzer.

Decorations for the luncheon include teepee village scenes, tom tom nut cups, Indian dolls and other Indian artifacts. A Mission Table will offer bakery and hand-made items for sale.

Mrs. Howard Hassert heads the committee, assisted by Mrs. Martin Frenk, co-chairman, and Mrs. Ronald Macmillan, decorations chairman.

Tickets should be purchased in advance from Ladies Aid members, Mrs. Martin Laufer, ticket chairman, or at the church office. The public is invited.



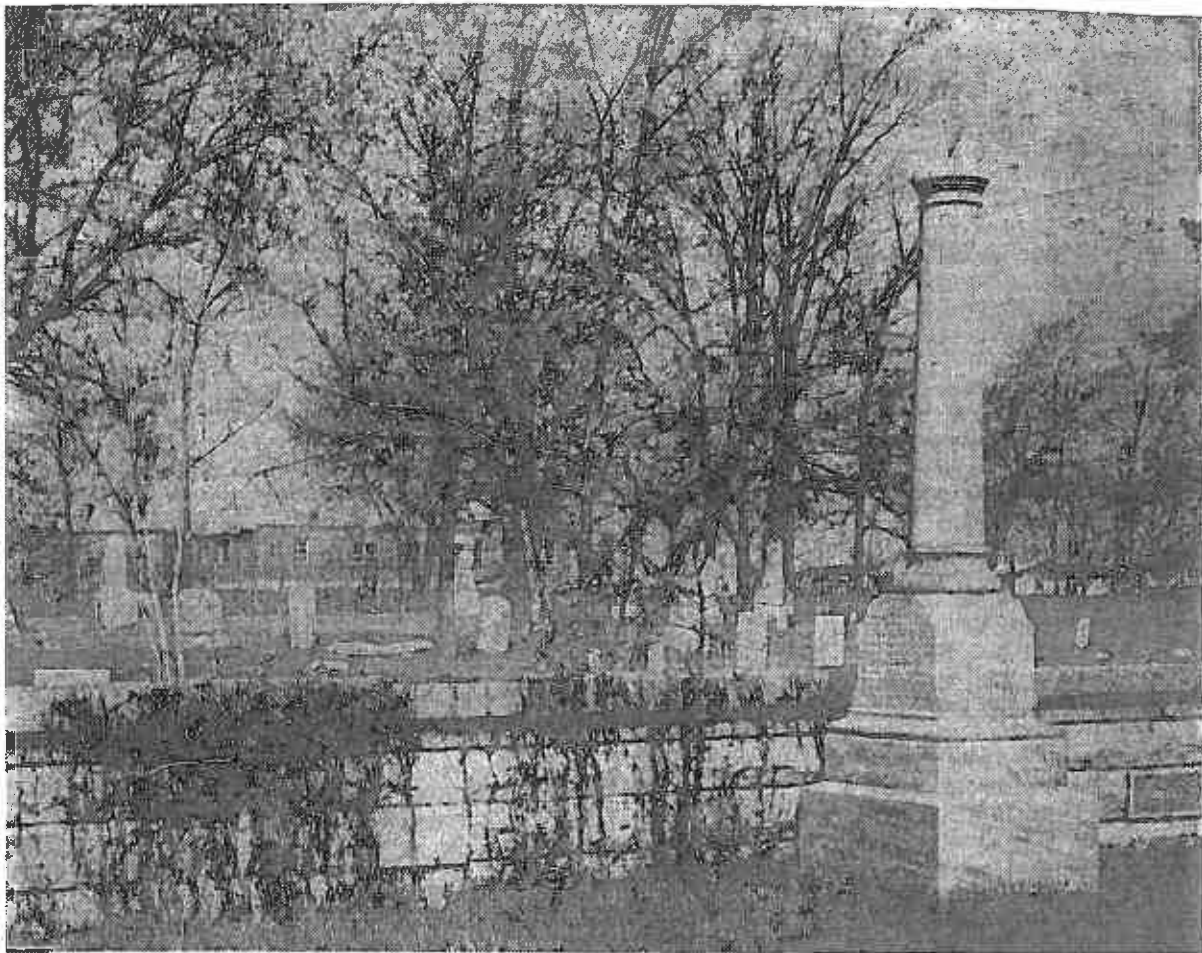
Mrs. Howard Hassert displays Indian artifacts for St. Peter's Ladies Aid Missionary Luncheon. (Herald-News photo)



From left to right are John Healy Alexander, James Lewis Alexander, Herbert George Alexander, and Earl Konicek.



Nurses in 1918 are Elizabeth Startz Wagner and Christine Rodegerio, with Charles Karsten



(Herald-News Photo)

The legislator was buried in the Alexander family plot

The story of two friends and their strange pact

ROMEDEVILLE — Last Sunday's Herald-News "Neighbors" feature on Romeoville recalled to old-timers the death of James I. Alexander in 1913 and a strange pact between two friends.

Alexander, called the most "prominent and picturesque personage" in Lockport Township, died at the Alexander family home near Romeoville.

He was serving at the time as state representative from the 11st District, a post to which he had just been re-elected.

Friends from throughout the state came to the funeral.

It was at the funeral that the compact entered into 20 years earlier by Alexander and his younger friend, Leon McDonald, was revealed.

They had agreed that the sur-

vivor would speak at the funeral of the other. In the eulogy, McDonald described how the pact came about. He said:

"It had been my sad fortune to be called upon to say the words of final parting at the funeral of a very dear young friend in whom Mr. Alexander had been very much interested, and after the services, he said to me, 'Mr. McDonald should it be my lot to go before you into the great unknown, I want you to promise me that you will do for me what you have just done for your friend, John. Will you do it?'"

"I will, Mr. Alexander," I answered, "if you will do the same for me should I go first."

The two men renewed the pact often over the years.

In his eulogy, McDonald also

declared:

"The high and the low, the rich and the poor, have all alike been proud to claim his friendship. The world has been, and is, and will be better for this man."

McDonald was the president of the Will County Publishing Co. publishers of the Lockport Phoenix-Advertiser; one-time mayor of Lockport; and general superintendent of the Illinois and Michigan Canal.

Alexander was buried at sundown in the family burying ground only half a mile from the family homestead, which was occupied until just recently by his grandchildren.

The tiny cemetery is adjacent to busy Illinois 53 and near the expanding Hampton Park Subdivision.

"I've learned to listen," 'Red' Chambers promises

Romeoville
Sun 3/20/85

"I've learned silence is golden. My temper is not like it was before. As you grow older, you learn from hard knocks. I've learned to listen."

Former Romeoville Village President Dewey "Red" Chambers expressed these sentiments during a recent interview. As Your Party candidate for mayor, Chambers was explaining why Romeoville voters should return him to his former position in the April 2 election.

"I know I can put the Village back where I had it eight years ago, with the help of the people," he continued. "I was mayor before and the record will speak for itself. I like to finish what I start."

Chambers said that while in office, he took the Village



Dewey "Red" Chambers

out of debt and put it in the black. He said the record will show that he is the only one who had a balanced budget, and that he got rid of abandoned houses in the Village.

He pointed out that the U.S Post Office and the Romeoville Recreation Center were both built during his administration, and that he had the high school's entrance street moved to the spotlight for the safety of the students.

Chambers said that his first project would be to get more industry into Romeoville.

"When I was mayor, we set aside the north end of the Village for industry, the middle of town for homes, and

the south end for commercial businesses and homes," he said.

Another top priority would be to handle the Village's deficit, he said. He wants to find out where it is and what caused it. Other things will then fall into place, he said.

His plan to handle the deficit, he said, would include sitting down with each department's head and covering the pros and cons of each operation.

Chambers said that another major priority will be to repair the Village's streets, sidewalks, and sewer system.

"We have Village employees to repair the streets," he said. "I will give them the right equipment to do the work. I started a long-term plan eight years ago which hasn't been followed through with. I would like to begin it again."

On the odd-even parking issue, Chambers said that he thinks the parking restrictions are an unnecessary inconvenience for all residents.

"Other communities have plans that work without all this confusion," Chambers said. "The plan that makes the most sense to me is putting in the restrictions when the snowfall exceeds two inches."

Chambers said that as for the unionization of Village employees, he himself is a union member and he would not be against unionization.

"I would like to let the people decide this issue by putting it to a ballot," he said. "When I am elected I will represent all of the people. These same people are the ones that would have to pay for a union."

He said he would also look into the possibility of constructing housing for single younger folks — "nice apartments, not real high priced," he said. "During my administration, I was looking into building apartments along Naperville road. I would like to finish some of the things I had planned."

He said he would like Romeoville to get back to being proud, and one of the ways he could help that happen would be by getting rid of abandoned homes.

"I did it before and I'll do it again," he said. "The people of Romeoville are proud of their Village or they wouldn't be here. This little town was an opportunity for veterans; we took it and want to keep it."

He said that he has always believed in being honest with people and communicating

because that's how you do the right thing. Communication and cooperation are the only way any of the Village's problems will be solved. He said teamwork is needed. A good quarterback is no good without a good line, he noted.

"I want the town to go back to the people," he concluded. "It hurts me every time I hear someone say something bad about this town. This town belongs to all the people, not just to certain groups."

Beacon Sept 25, 1980

Kovach remembers Jerry Capps

Dear Editor:

Jerry Capps has been a friend to me for the past 18 years as well as a friend to the youth of the community, the aged, the handicapped, the minorities, the disenfranchised and any other worthy group or cause in need of help. I know of no individual who has a better record of selfless devotion

to his fellow human beings.

Jerry has not had tremendous success either as a politician nor a business man. He was too busy helping others to devote enough time to his insurance business to make it a real success. As a political figure he was too trusting to reach the goals he desired.

It was this trust in his

fellow man which led, I am sure, to his current troubles. I can just picture an associate saying, "Hey Jerry, sign these papers, it will be OK." And trusting naive Jerry signs.

These days, it seems, we are inclined to ask "what have you done for me lately?" when a friend is in need. Well, Jerry is in need. I fervently hope that the hundreds, perhaps thousands whom Jerry has helped now rally to his cause. Especially those who are now in positions of prominence and influence who have been his associates and friends. I hope they have the courage to say, "Yes, he made a mistake. But compared to the good he has done, this mistake is of minor consequence. I will stand by his side privately and publicly."

One does not discard a valuable gem because it has a slight flaw.

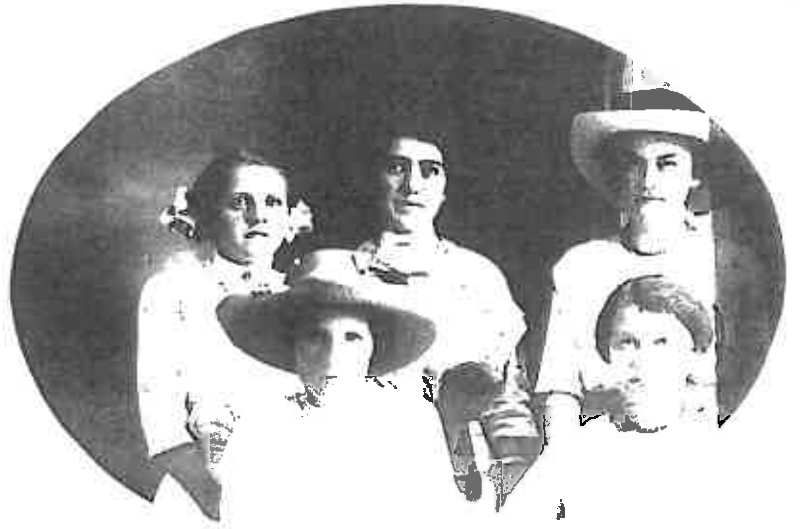
Sincerely
Joe J. Kovach



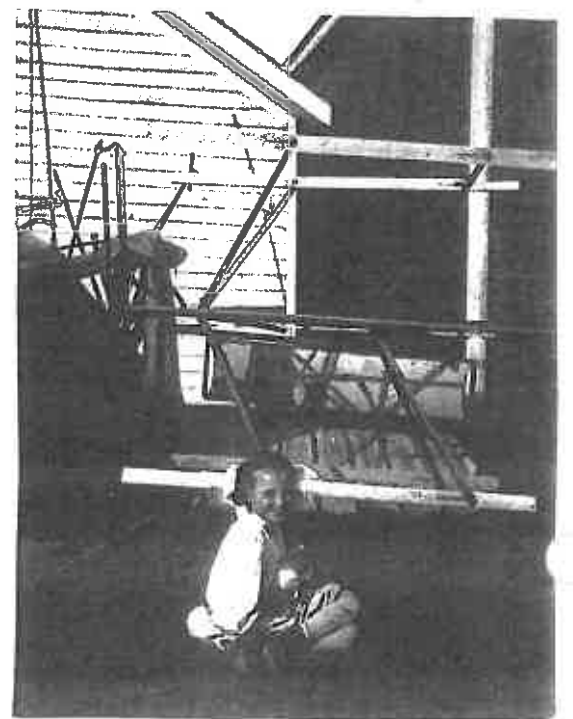
Jerry L. Capps

Jerry Capps continues to serve the community. He was a member of the committee to pass the Des Plaines Library referendum, and is President of the Friends of the Library, is a member of the Downtown (now Uptown) Development committee, coaches 7-8th grade basketball at the Rec Center, works at the Food Pantry, and is an active member of the Historical Society.

These pictures of the Heeg family are nice candid shots. As the people were not identified, they could not be used in the book. If anyone can help us identify them, please let us know.



Aunt Lucy



Foran, Mary Frances

June 16, 1926 - November 15, 2013. (nee Barry)
Entered Heaven's Pearly Gates on Friday, November 15. Greeting her there was her beloved husband, Ed who departed in March 1990. They are once again dancing in Heaven's Grand Ballroom.

Mary is survived by her loving children, Mary (Fred) Dewald, Edward (Steve) Foran, Joanne (Steve) Mason and Daniel Foran. She also leaves behind her treasured grandchildren, Amy Foran, Fred (Stacy) Dewald, Stefanie (Ray) Bazan, Nicole (Owen) Beasley and Casey Foran; along with several great-grandchildren, Tiegan and Gavin Carlson, Logan and Hunter Dewald, Levi and Maeve Beasley and Zaydin, Magnus and Matilda Seidler and baby, Bazan (due in May); loving brother, Peter Barry and beloved sisters-in-law, Theresa (the late Tony) and Pat (Michael) Biggane; several loving nieces and nephews; also her nearest and dearest friend, Gigi Bielinski.

Preceded in death by husband, Edward Foran; parents, Winnie and Peter Barry; brother, Edward Barry and infant sister, Margaret Mary; also several dear sisters and brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews.

Mary was a past employee of Valley View School District 365U. She was a 53 year resident of her beloved Romeoville. A member of St. Andrew Catholic Church and named Catholic Woman of the year in 2003. She was loved by all who knew her, never had a bad word to say about anyone and will be truly missed.

Visitation Wednesday 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Anderson Memorial Chapel, 606 Townhill Dr. in Romeoville. Funeral Thursday, November 21, 2013 9:30 a.m. from the funeral home chapel to St. Andrew Catholic Church for a 10:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial. Interment to follow Resurrection Cemetery in Romeoville.

www.AndersonMemorialHomes.com

Anderson Memorial Chapel
Interment Christian Church
606 Townhill Dr.
Romeoville, IL 60441
www.AndersonMemorialHomes.com

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com



EVA MAE DACE

Eva Mae Dace, age 69, passed away suddenly on Sunday, January 12, 2014, at St. Joseph Hospital, Retired from Osco (Romeoville, Illinois). Attended Joliet Public Schools.

Preceded in death by her parents, one daughter, and two sisters. Survived by her husband, Clarence Sr.; a son, Clarence Jr.; and eight brothers and sisters.

Funeral services Friday, January 17, 2014, at 11:00am, at Holy Cross Missionary Baptist Church, 1310 Curtter Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60432 with visitation at 10:00am - 11:00am at the church. Reverend Victor Flowers, officiating.

Williams, Hazel J.

(nee Shanks) Age 99, formerly of Lockport, Essington Place in Joliet and Rosewood Care Center in Joliet, passed away on Wednesday, November 6th, 2013.

Loving wife of the late Thomas Williams. Preceded in death was her brothers, Justus Eugene (Bertha Little), John Russell, and Clove Henry (Ola Jeffers); her sisters, Marie Cecil (Rollie Chapman), Ellen Rosetta (Bert Price), Cleda Bernadine (William Eise).

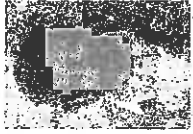
Aunt of many nephews and nieces with longtime friends of many members of the Christ United Methodist Church in Lockport. She performed many duties, being a Sunday school teacher for many years, shoveling snow and doing the maintenance of the church. She was a member of the Sunshine Guild and had hobbies making crafts, aghans, collected clown dolls and an avid bowler on the Lockport Senior League in the mixed teams. She was employed by Silver Cross Hospital in the cafeteria.

Family will receive friends at Goodale Memorial Chapel, 912 S. Hamilton Street, Lockport, IL 60441, Sunday, November 10th, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and again on Monday, November 11th, 2013, at Christ United Methodist Church, 224 Bruce Road, Lockport, IL 60441 from 9:30 a.m. until time of funeral service at 10:00 a.m. Interment, Woodlawn Memorial Park, Joliet. In lieu of flowers, donations to Christ United Methodist Church would be appreciated. For information, 815-838-1533 or www.goodalememorialchapel.com.

Sign Guest Book at www.chicagolandobits.com

OBITUARIES 1/25/14

ANTONY J. ANTON



Antony J. Anton, age 88 of Romeoville, IL, was a proud WWII Army Air Corps Veteran; beloved husband of Evelyn nee Pecca; loving father of Ralph (Gail), Gary (Nancy), Glenn (Debra) and Marijane Anton;

devoted grandfather of eight grandchildren and great grandfather of five; dear brother of Gust (late Bonnie) and the late Nick and George Anton; numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services Thursday, January 30, 2014, 9:30 a.m. from the Anderson Memorial Chapel, 606 Townhill Dr., Romeoville, IL to St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, Romeoville, IL for Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m., visitation Wednesday, January 29, 2014 from 2-9 p.m. at the funeral home. Interment Resurrection Cemetery, Justice, IL.

In lieu of flowers donations to St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church would be appreciated. www.AndersonMemorialHomes.com 815-886-2323

ANNA D. BUDZINSKI

Anna D. Budzinski (Nee: Dorich), age 100, late of Lockport, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, January 27, 2014 surrounded by her loving family.

She was born in Romeoville in 1913 and was a lifelong area resident. A member of St. Mary Nativity Church, Joliet for the past 100 years. She was an avid gardener with an amazing green thumb.

Preceded in death by her husband, William (1983); her parents, Gaspar and Mary (Lesh) Dorich; four siblings in infancy; two brothers, Nick and Julius Dorich; and a sister, Frances Gecan.

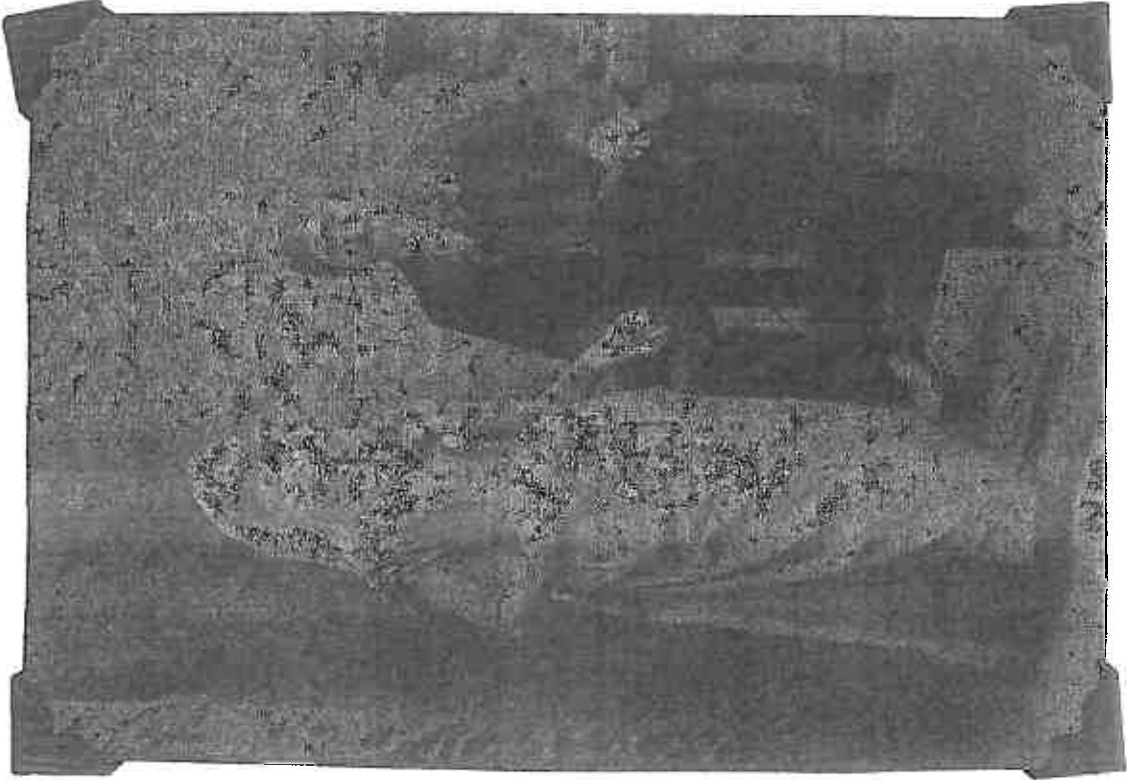
Survived by her two loving children, Judy (Tom) Ristau and James Budzinski; three grandchildren, Matthew Ristau, Jaime (Lisa) Ristau and Kelly Ristau; three great-grandchildren, Peyton and Bella Ristau and Ryan Ristau. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Budzinski family, which will be donated to various local charities, would be appreciated.

Funeral services will be held Friday, 9:15 am from the O'Neil Funeral Home Chapel, 1105 E. 9th St. (159th St.), Lockport to St. Mary Nativity Church, Joliet for Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 am. Interment St. Mary Nativity Cemetery, Joliet. Visitation at the funeral home on Thursday, 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

The Romeoville Historical Society lost several long-term members: Mary Foran and Hazel Williams in November and Anna Budzinski in January.

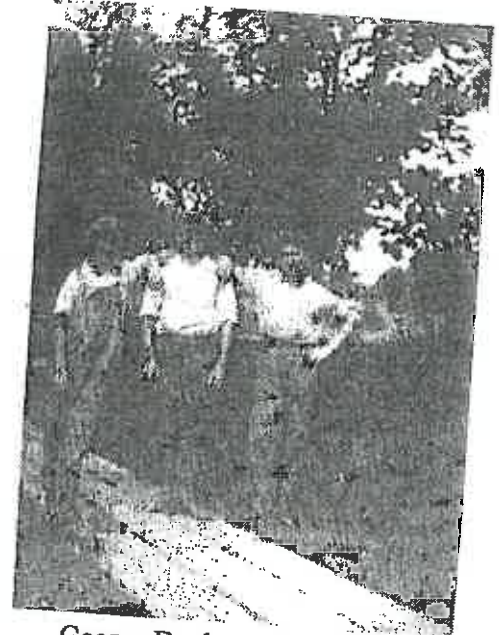


In front of the tree which stood in the middle of the road, east of the I&M canal bridge are, from left to right, Gramma Boehme holding Fritz II, Carl, and Mary Bachmann Boehme. Fred Boehme, Sr. stands behind them.



Wedding of Mary Bachmann and Fredrick Boehme

Pictures from reunions of Old Romeo residents:
Top: Frank and Alex Bonkalski in 1988
Bottom: Frank Bonkalski and Eva Karel in 1990



George Boehme, Ed Young,
and 'Firecracker man'



Fritz and Tillie Boehme hold twins Freda
and Fred in front of the old hotel



Violet, Juanita, and George Boehme

Sept 8 1966

Name Eipers Means Plowman

By JOHN G. MILLER
Staff Writer

Every year all over the United States men sit on tractors, and for the pure pleasure of it, plow a piece of land.

They are awarded points for their efforts and the winner gets a trophy and sometimes a few dollars besides.

A name synonymous with plowing contests in Will, Kane, Grundy and surrounding counties is Eipers.

Today there are three members of the Eipers family that enter most of the contests in the area.

Usually one of the three brothers comes out with top prize.

Among them, the Eipers brothers have amassed 38 prizes for plowing. It is certain that the number will increase when contests start again next year.

Earl, 27, and Lloyd, 37, are in the top Prizewinner Class and Gerald, 24, is in the Men's Class, just below his brothers. Gerald hopes next year to win his first prizewinner's class trophy.

But to do that he will have to beat his brothers as they usually enter the same contests.

Thirteen trophies and one medal are stored in the Earl Eipers farm home in DuPage Township, 13 trophies and a watch have a place in the Lloyd Eipers farm home in Lemont, and Gerald keeps his 10 trophies at the home of his parents in Lockport.

Earl started plowing for trophies when he was 13. At 15 he won the sweepstakes trophy at Wheatland against top competition.

Lloyd started plowing in 1948 and has won all the top prizes in the area contests. Gerald has been plowing only nine years but still has managed to garner his share of the top prizes in his class.

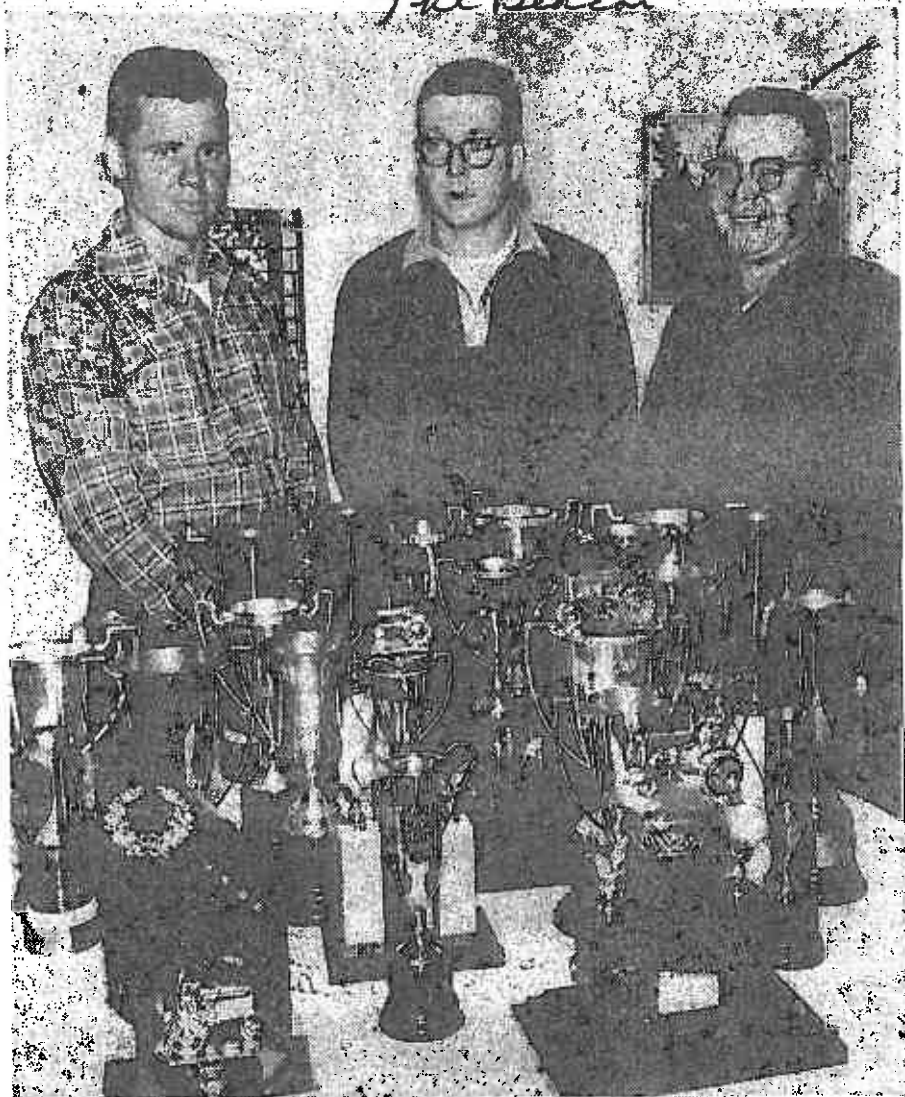
The Eipers' brothers are sons of Mr. and Mrs. William Eipers of Lockport.

Earl is married and he and his wife, Beverly have three children, Kevin, 6, Christine, 5, and Randy, 3. Lloyd and his wife, Joan, do not have children. Gerald is the bachelor of the family.

In September Earl won the sweepstakes trophy at Big Rock beating out by one half point Tom King of Plainfield.

Earl now can keep the attractive sweepstake trophy as it was the second year in succession he had won the prize.

Brother Lloyd also was in the Big Rock contest and he scored 97 points but was not eligible for the sweepstakes trophy.



Earl (left), Gerald (center), and Lloyd Eipers with some of the trophies they have won.

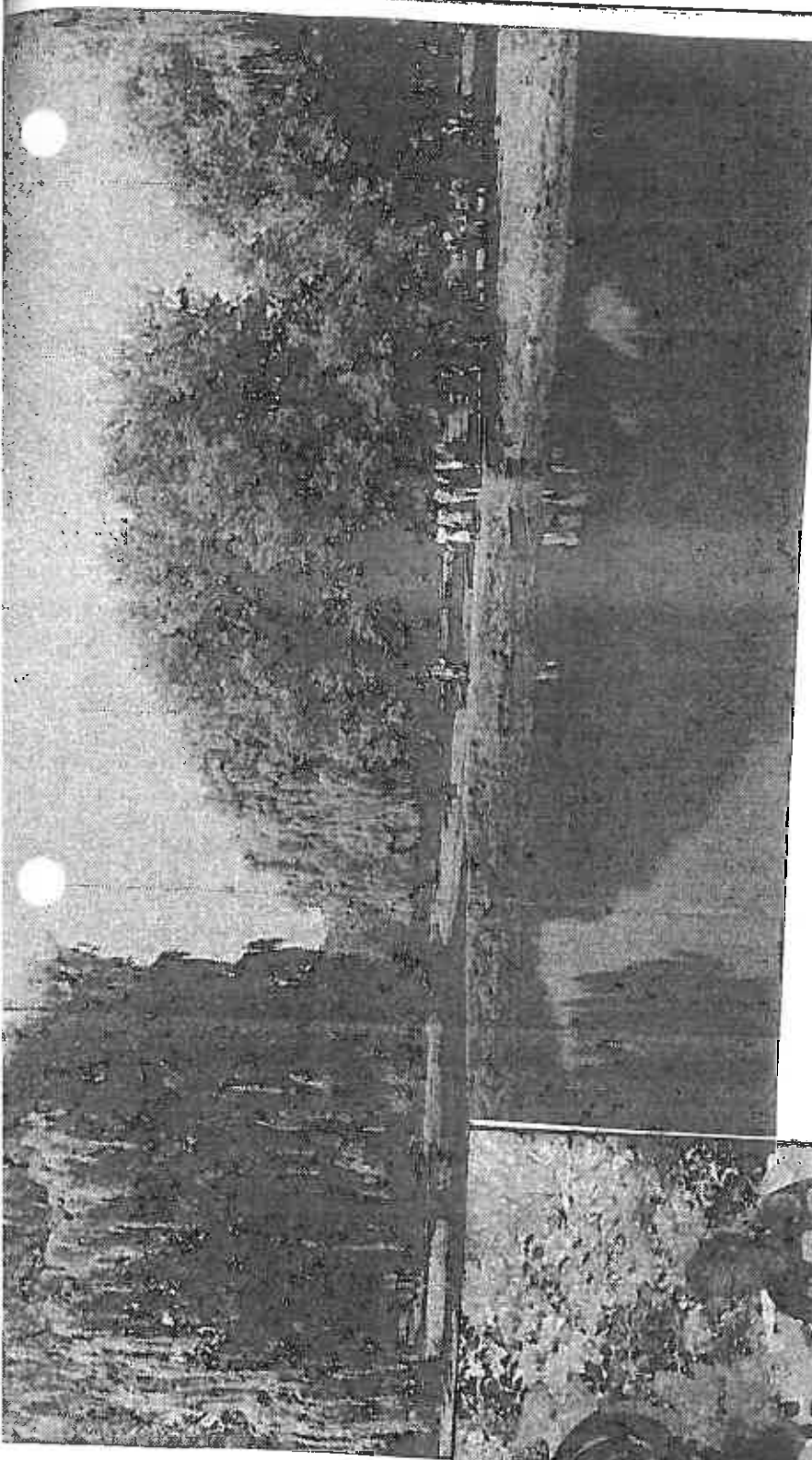
Earl has won two sweepstakes prizes at Wheatland besides the two at Big Rock. Lloyd has won three times the Wheatland sweepstakes prize.

Judges score points for straightness, neatness and evenness of furrows. Each contestant must plough three quarters of an acre in a match.

The international contest this year will be held in Canada but neither of the Eipers brothers are entered. They said they have too much work to do on their farms.

But one of these years, if they can afford to take the time away from their farms, the Eipers brothers may go to an international meet.

And if they do not one in this area will be surprised to see the Eipers name high on the list of winners.



Herald-News/Bob MacDonat

BOLINGBROOK HOOKS A TROUT FARM The Bolingbrook Park District recently hooked a trout farm as an addition to its recreational offerings. Dedicated Thursday, the site was renamed Hidden Lakes Historical Trout Farm. The site was recently purchased by CorLands, a division of the Open Lands Project, and will be leased to the park district until funds can be raised to purchase the site. Attending the ceremonies were Rose Helix, the sister of the prior owner, and Dorothy Hassert of the Romeoville Historical Society Herald-News July 29, 1988



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*

No information may be reproduced without the permission of the archival chairman.

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: \$ _____

Leah

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