



Echoes

March/ April 2010

Volume 18, Issue 2

Hinsdale, Illinois

A Publication of the Hinsdale Historical Society

From the President

"Volunteers are seldom paid: not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

~Author Unknown

I work with some amazing people; talented people that have decided to take time out of their busy lives to help the Society meet its mission to collect, preserve and promote the history of the village that many of us call home; Hinsdale. Just about every accomplishment the Society has seen in its thirty-five years has been initiated, organized, led and supported by a volunteer. Without volunteers, there would be no Hinsdale Historical Society.

Many of our volunteers have worked with the Society since its early years, and their dedicated work has brought us to where we are today; a vibrant organization that has grown to not only house an extensive collection of Hinsdale artifacts, archives, photographs and stories, but to be the owner of three historic properties in the Village. With these unique buildings in our care, we have needed to increase our volunteer base. Each building has its own committee working toward goals to preserve, operate and promote Hinsdale history to the community. Other volunteers work toward marketing, fundraising, outreach, membership, and programming to increase awareness of the Society and its mission as well as support its work. The Roger and Ruth Anderson Center volunteers continue to supply the community with fantastic children's and adult programming as well as a wealth of architectural resources. The Women's Board, now on its second year, has brought in even more volunteers to run programming and events to support the mission of the Society. The members of the Board of Trustees work endlessly to ensure the future of the Society and its mission.

The gifts of all these volunteers can seemingly go unnoticed, as so much work occurs "behind the scenes." I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you that tirelessly works for the Society. From huge jobs to small jobs, each and every one of you plays an important role in the success of the Society. There are so many of you that do so much each day. Please know that your work is greatly appreciated, and we wouldn't be here without you! Thank you!

If you find yourself reading this and wishing to join this amazing group that I work with, please drop me an email at sweinberger@hinsdalehistory.org, and I would be happy to talk with you! We do have a lot of fun!

Shannon Weinberger

President, Hinsdale Historical Society

Making a Difference

At our last printing in January, the Society's Annual Fund donations were at \$14,710.00; very close to this year's goal to raise 50% more than last year's amount. Thank you to those of you that responded to the call! The Society Annual Fund is now at \$16,725.00! We have just under \$2,000 more to go to reach our goal of \$18,000. If you have not yet participated in giving, we would love for you to join those of us that have chosen to support the mission of the Hinsdale Historical Society! If you would still like to give, visit www.hinsdalehistory.org and click on MAKE A DONATION to donate online or print out a donation form to mail to the Society.

Hinsdale Historical Society

P.O. Box 336
Hinsdale, IL 60522-0336
630.789.2600
www.hinsdalehistory.org

The mission of the Hinsdale Historical Society is to collect, preserve and promote the history of Hinsdale, Illinois, and to foster an awareness and appreciation of its history and architecture through education, programs, exhibits and the maintenance of historical resources and properties in the Village.

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From the Museum Manager's Desk

"Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer true.
I'm half crazy all for the love of you!
It won't be a stylish marriage,
For I can't afford a carriage,
But you look sweet,
Upon the seat,
Of a bicycle built for two!"
-Harry Dacre, 1892



This spring, the Museum is opening two great exhibits! We are focusing on transportation in Hinsdale's early years. Our first exhibit, on the second floor of the Museum is "The Wheel." In this exhibit visitors will experience life in Hinsdale with the introduction of the bicycle, or the "wheel" as it was called. The recreation and freedoms the wheel gave to all, but most of all women and the social implications that go along with it make this a fascinating time in history! Come and see a traditional bike-riding costume and Hinsdale bike license plates. In conjunction with the opening of this exhibit, we have revamped our historic biking tour of Hinsdale. Drop into the Museum to get your map and be on your way!

The second transportation exhibit opening this May is "Sunday Drive." The addition of automobiles changed the Hinsdale landscape forever. Imagine what it must have been like to see, or better yet, own one of the first automobiles in town! See photos and driving outfits from the early 20th century.

The Museum is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10am-2pm. Please come visit us this spring!

Anne Swenson

Museum Manager, Hinsdale Historical Society

Transportation Exhibits

Opening this spring, the Hinsdale History Museum will offer a glimpse into the past of Hinsdale's modes of transportation. Please visit both of our rotating exhibit spaces to learn about Hinsdale's early days of cars and bicycles. The first floor exhibit space will hold "Sunday Drive" while the second floor space will show "The Wheel." We will also be offering pamphlets with a self-guided historic bike tour of Hinsdale. So dust off your bike and pedal on over today!

Volunteer Spotlight

Cindy Klima

Historical Society Board Member Cindy Klima continues to devote a significant amount of time and energy to our organization. Her initial involvement started with the 2005 Immanuel Hall fundraising campaign, after which she joined the advisory board of the Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center. Cindy joined the Society's new Women's Board in its first year, serving with Danielle Tuck as Co-Chairs of the 2009 Kitchen Walk. Cindy created the first Kitchen Walk website, which greatly increased the event's exposure.



After the 2009 Kitchen Walk, Cindy joined the HHS Board as a vice president, but she remains deeply committed to the Women's Board. For the 2010 Kitchen Walk she is organizing a wedding-themed luncheon at Immanuel Hall, upgrading the KW website to raise more awareness of the event, and assisting with the Program Book layout. Current Kitchen Walk Co-chairs Tracy Anderson and Donna Mittlestadt feel especially fortunate to have Cindy involved with many aspects of the event.

Cindy is a lifelong resident of Hinsdale, who attended Madison, Hinsdale Middle School and Hinsdale Central High School. She is the founder of CWK Management Services, marketing and communications consultants, and as such brings much needed expertise to the Hinsdale Historical Society. Aside from countless hours devoted to the HHS, Cindy enjoys biking, skiing, and volunteering for the Hinsdale Junior Women's Club, of which she is a past president. She recently completed work on the HJWC 2010 Benefit, which raised over \$100,000 for Almost Home Kids of Naperville, IL.

Cindy has an enthusiasm for volunteering that goes above and beyond. The Society is truly favored to have her talents and depth of experience at work preserving and sharing Hinsdale's history.

Hinsdale Drives!

Coming this fall... the Hinsdale Historical Society Women's Board presents...*Hinsdale Drives!*

Come celebrate some of the world's rarest cars as well as one-of-a-kind classic automobiles from right here in Hinsdale. Dining, dancing, and private rides in high end cars are sure to make the evening spectacular! Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 18, 2010. More details to follow. If you are interested in helping out, please contact us at newsletter@hinsdalehistory.org.

Hinsdale Historical Society Members' Corner

New! Member E-Newsletter

The first issue of our E-Newsletter with bonus Collections articles and updates on Society functions went out this past month! This brand-new publication is ONLY available through email, so if you missed it, please be sure to send us your email address at newsletter@hinsdalehistory.org!

Volunteers Wanted

The Society is always in need of volunteers. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact the Society at 630-789-2600 or email us at newsletter@hinsdalehistory.org.

Administrative Assistant - The Society is looking for a volunteer who would be interested in helping out in a variety of office related jobs. Computer and email skills are a must.

Museum Docents - The Hinsdale History Museum is always looking for energetic volunteers to lead group tours through the Museum. To learn more please contact us at 630-789-2600 or at info@hinsdalehistory.org.

Wish List

The Collection and Archives Departments have had some problems with their computer in the last few weeks and will need to add one to be sure we keep our archival and collection information safe. If you would like to donate to help fund our new laptop, please contact Anne at 630-789-2600.

Ask An Architect

Due to the popularity of our Ask An Architect event, the Roger & Ruth Anderson Architecture Center is expanding this to a monthly program. Beginning May 1st and continuing the first Saturday of every month (other than holidays), local architects provide free one-on-one consultations on home additions, zoning requirements, attic/basement conversions or other renovation projects. To maximize your session, please bring a photo of your home and a survey, if possible.

Saturdays, May 1; June 5; August 7; October 2; November 6; December 4, 2010

Location: Anderson Architecture Center, lower level @ Immanuel Hall, 302 South Grant, Hinsdale

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Registration encouraged, drop-ins welcome. Call 630-654-9500 or email info@hinsdalearchitecture.org.

Sears Catalog Homes

Another program, Mail Order Homes 1906-1945, is scheduled for Sunday, April 18 at 2:00 p.m. Join architectural historian and author Rebecca Hunter discussing catalog mail order homes in Hinsdale and the Chicago suburbs. Funding assistance for this program provided by Illinois Humanities Council. Immanuel Hall, 302 South Grant Street, Hinsdale. Suggested donation \$5. Call (630) 654-9500 or email info@hinsdalearchitecture.org.

Animal Architects



Children build kid-sized burrows at the Architecture Center's "Animal Architects" program.

The Anderson Architecture Center invited children to think like "Animal Architects" at last month's family drop-in program. Various creative "stations" encouraged participants to become architect engineers, developing home design plans for imaginary creatures and creating habitats for animals with Keva blocks.

Children's program coordinator, Pam White, developed the program. "The kids had a great time while thinking about basic architectural forms. Animals are amazing engineers and their homes reflect that...spider webs, beaver dams, ant hills. The kids picked up on that and created some really thoughtful and terrific structures themselves."

Historic Immanuel Hall

Bridal Open House

Thank you to Tina Anderson and Maureen Gaffney of Gem Events, and Barbara Gilleece of Barbara's Elegant Touch Staffing for volunteering to represent the Historic Immanuel Hall in a Bridal Open House, March 7, 2010.

The Hall was transformed with a beautifully appointed table round designed by Gem Events, inclusive of their fine china place settings, silver, crystal and floral design, graced by a tasty cupcake tower on crystal tiered cake plates, featuring pearl edged cupcakes donated by Kirsten's Bakery of Burr Ridge. Classic Party Rental supplied the table round and elegant table linens. We are entirely grateful to Mary Beth of Sass-N-Class Stationery for her fondness of this historic landmark and for guiding visitors our way with beautiful paper products and invitations.

Barbara of Barbara's Elegant Touch Serving featured beautiful table linens from Classic Party Rental and provided delicately packaged cookies for visitors to the Hall. Barbara has been invaluable to the Immanuel Hall Committee for her support, advice and efforts in booking events, bringing business to the Hall and volunteering tours during the Open House.

Neighbor Colleen Dove volunteered to complete our new rate sheets within the brochures, greet visitors and graciously act as our in-house photographer! Thank you, Colleen!

Chris Minnella's graphic design touch on all marketing materials and the *Hinsdalean's* placement of her Bridal Open House Ad are acts we are extremely grateful for!

Remember Immanuel Hall for any special event and look for another transformation of the Hall during the *Hinsdale Cooks*, Kitchen Walk, May 7, 2010! www.hinsdalehistory.org, click on Immanuel Hall.



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Upcoming Events

The Hinsdale Historical Society has been very busy planning programs and events for this spring and summer. Check out our list of programs below!

April 18, 2:00 pm: Mail Order Homes at the Anderson Architecture Center

Join architectural historian and author Rebecca Hunter in discussing catalog mail order homes in Hinsdale and the Chicago suburbs. Funding assistance provided for this program by Illinois Humanities Council; www.prairie.org

Please visit www.hinsdalearchitecture.org for more information.

April 22: Hinsdale Charity Shopping Day

On April 22nd, participating Hinsdale businesses will donate a percentage of sales to participating Hinsdale charitable organizations. All shoppers need to do is present specific coupons to participating businesses when making purchases on that day. Coupons to support Hinsdale Historical Society will be available closer to the date. Please be sure to check out website www.hinsdalehistory.org

May 1, 10:00 am: Ask An Architect

Bring your questions for local architects the first Saturday of every month for free one-on-one consultations on home additions, zoning requirements, attic/basement conversions or other renovation projects. To maximize your session, please bring a photo of your home and a survey, if possible. Please visit www.hinsdalearchitecture.org for more information.

May 7: Hinsdale Cooks! Kitchen Walk

For ticket information and details on this exciting day, please visit www.kitchen-walk.com



June 12: 3rd Annual Family Croquet Tournament

Join us for another tournament of family fun and competition! Please visit our website www.hinsdalehistory.org for updated information.

Please Join Us May 11, 12, 13th!

The Hinsdale History Museum is partnering with Kramer Foods in Hinsdale to help fundraise for the preservation of our fabulous collection! We need your help! Kramer Foods is donating 5% of your total grocery bill to us while you do your weekly shopping! Please take this coupon with you when you shop on May 11, 12, or 13th. Shop all three days. Forget your coupon? No problem, just tell the cashier you would like to participate. Thank you!

Shop & Share Days

May 11, 12, & 13	Tues, Wed, Thurs 8:00 am–8:00 pm	Group: Hinsdale History Museum
AMOUNT OF PURCHASE		
SIGNATURE:		
PLEASE SIGN THIS SLIP AND TURN IT IN TO YOUR CHECKER WHEN YOU SHOP.		
Hinsdale Historical Society receives 5% of all grocery purchases		

R. Harold Zook Home and Studio

This has been an exciting few months for the Zook Home and Studio. In February, the Studio was prepped and ready for the new old growth wood beams to be literally weaved through the structure to replace to old, rotted-out beams. The new beams and the reconstructed balcony are being hand milled on site to replicate the original woodwork. The work began in late February and is moving along nicely. You can see the carpenters at work and the progress they have made if you are visiting the KLM Park.

We had a spectacular turn out at our Zook home owner event at the KLM lodge on February 27th! Over 80 Zook Home Owners from as far as Kenosha, WI, Elm Grove, WI, Plano, IL, Chicago, Park Ridge, and more joined us for an educational lecture on the life and work of R. Harold Zook. The event generated tremendous energy and excitement for the project. We look forward to continuing to connect with Zook owners!



Crowd at Zook home owner event.

With the completion of the Studio this summer, we are excited to host more events and activities on-site. Significant funds are still needed to complete the Home, so if you haven't already, please consider donating to this great project.

Women's Board

The 2010 Kitchen Walk will take place on Friday, May 7, from 10am-3pm, rain or shine. This year the Walk features five Hinsdale homes, plus stops for check-in and lunch at the Society's own Historic Immanuel Hall. Addresses include:

15 Center Street

728 South Washington Street

319 North Vine Street

536 East First Street

4 Washington Circle

Third and Grant Streets

As in past years, a different theme will highlight every stop on the Walk, and offset each residence's unique attributes. Along the way, patrons will enjoy cooking demonstrations from chefs Paul Virant (Vie) and Didier Durand (Cyrano's Wine Bar & Bistro); nibbles from Chicago Brick Oven, Topaz, Whole Foods Catering, and Sweet Ali's Gluten Free Bakery; and a new cocktail sample from humSpirit mixologist Adam Seger. Boutique shopping will include Ella E Vintage Inspired jewelry, edible herb garden pots by Amy Cox of subURBAN Homesteads, and more. Look for interior design/tablescapes by Suzy Marcus/Michelle Lee, Debi Lilly, Bloomingdales Home, Neiman Marcus, Trousseau, and Jenny Cakes; and urns/floral design by Jayson Home & Gardens, Hinsdale Flower Shop, Mad Potter and Southern Living.

The Women's Board would like to recognize Amy Cox, of subURBAN Homesteads, who has generously shared her contacts with the Kitchen Walk committee, and helped line up Chicago Brick Oven as well as mixologist Adam Seger of humSpirit. Shout out, Amy!

Chicago Home & Garden magazine is generously promoting the Kitchen Walk, and will donate \$5 of every \$10 subscription submitted through URL: www.chicagohomemag.com/sub, Promo Code: COOKS. More details about the Kitchen Walk can be found at www.kitchen-walk.com.

Historic Highlights

From the Archives: The History of Hinsdale Trees

Before Hinsdale came to be, most of the original territory was treeless. The only trees were a belt of oaks across the county line extending northward along the moraine into Walker's farm (south of the tracks). The plot south of Flagg Creek was mostly bare except for patches of tall prairie grass. In the same year he laid out the lots in the northwest quarter of his section (1866), William Robbins hired WG Cleveland, a noted landscape gardener, to mark off the streets and plant trees along their borders. Apparently, thousands of trees were planted.



Luckily, all of the other Hinsdale subdividers followed his example, so that Hinsdale became home to many types of hardwoods. These trees not only beautified but they served a utilitarian purpose: in parts of the Village where no improvements had been made and no houses built, the trees served to outline the undeveloped streets. It was generally understood that you didn't drive to the left or right of the saplings, but between them.

The Woodlands was developed in the early 1920's. At that time some 200 English elms were planted. English elms are similar to American elms, but are taller with a more rounded crown. By the mid 1930's the trees had grown to over 16 inches in diameter.

By 1934, The Doings noted that most of the large trees in Hinsdale were 55 to 75 years old, and needed care or culling to maintain the look of the village. An inventory noted that there were approximately 20,000 trees in the village. Some 375 trees had been removed and new ones planted to replace them.

One citizen took the time to write to The Doings in 1937 noting that the southwest section of town was still mostly treeless. He called it "16 blocks of no man's land." Apparently in the fullness of time Hinsdale got around to planting this area, too.

Museum Collection

Collection Communication

This space has been previously dedicated to interesting artifacts found in the collection. This month I would like to introduce you to the growing group of volunteers helping to care for the artifact collection. Each room of the museum holds a variety of artifacts requiring regular attention, from light dusting and vacuuming to artifact inventory and condition assessment. For over a year, Bob and Linda Paulsen have been monitoring the front parlor and keeping everything looking its best. Karen Barnard volunteers her time in the maintenance of the master bedroom, a seemingly simple room until you realize that every drawer holds a variety of objects from gloves to bloomers to hair art. You would be amazed at what can be stored under a bed! Our newest volunteer, Nancy Wance, will be helping to assess and further catalog our very large textile collection. Returning to our roster of collection volunteers is Janet Urban, the Society's first curator, who will return the sparkle to our dining room.

New people bring new ideas and extra hands to collection care as well as exhibits and programming. With a long range plan in place, we are excited to begin work on an inventory and basic assessment of the textile collection, the bulk of which is clothing. This initial assessment will culminate in an exhibit with programming in the spring of 2011. Fundraising through programming and grants will allow us to hire conservation professionals for more detailed assessments and future conservation of the textile collection. If fashion is your passion, please join us. Call 630-789-2600, or drop in any Friday between 10a.m. and 2 p.m.

Life in the Past Lane: Hinsdale - 1935

☞ Two Hinsdale men experienced an unpleasant thrill on the Louisiane, a crack New Orleans train, when it was robbed just before it reached Kankakee. The two men were on their way to enjoy a fishing trip in Tennessee when more than forty passengers in the five cars were relieved of over \$700. One passenger was shot in the leg when he thought the men were fooling and reached for their gun.

☞ Petitions have been filed with the Hinsdale school boards calling for an election on the proposition of furnishing free text books. The question will be put to the voters at the April school election, and if a majority of the votes cast are in favor, the school boards will be required to supply free texts. The boards maintain they are faced with a limit on expenditures and whatever is added in one place must come out of another.

☞ With the adoption of a constitution, the formation of the DuPage County Historical Society was achieved at a recent meeting at the Memorial building in Hinsdale. Restoration of the Old Mill, the society's initial project, is counted upon to arouse public interest and provide a needed stimulus for fund raising. A tentative budget for the restoration work was discussed.

☞ An excerpt from a letter written by a former Hinsdale resident born in the early '70s to whom "these things" were related by Morrell Fuller: "We were told when we were small children that Lincoln and Douglas had a debate there (referring to the tavern on Ogden Avenue). On the left side of Washington Street, on the top of the hill north of Ogden Avenue, were several Indian dugouts that were used by the Indians, roofed over by their teepees. What would be about Lincoln Street, just east of the Hemshell place there was a cleared space that was used for the changing of horses in the stage coach days on the Plank Road. When we children were small there were still many planks there. Our place on the north side must have been an Indian battle ground for we could always pick up flint Indian arrowheads."

☞ Motorists were reminded of the new Village parking lot available on Washington Street just north of the tracks. The area has been fenced in, a cinder surface provided and lights installed for night parking.

☞ And all thoughts of an early spring were frustrated when a belated April snowstorm hit Hinsdale, causing bluebirds and robins to seek shelter.

☞ Promising 18-24 miles per gallon, the "new big Dodge" was the star of an open house at the Dodge showroom, 24 West Hinsdale Avenue. The two-door model was available for \$670 while the four-door sedan could be purchased for under \$740.

☞ At the A&P spring leg 'o lamb was selling for 21 cents per pound, while Village Market was asking 39 cents for their calf's liver. Jewel offered a tall can of red salmon for 19 cents, Miracle Whip for 24 cents a pint and asparagus at just 19 cents per pound.

☞ All candidates of the Non-Partisan party were elected by a wide margin in the township election. The election brought out one of the largest votes in the history of township balloting and it was apparent that the well organized campaign of the Non-Partisan group was instrumental in their landslide victory.

☞ National Notes: Increasingly severe dust storms hung like black clouds over nearly half of the United States. Crop damage was staggering in the "nation's breadbasket," with little relief in sight, and "dust pneumonia" was on the rise in children as well as adults. In Texas even the birds weren't flying Persia was renamed Iran In March, 1935 England announced a new beefed-up defense policy because of Germany's "aggressive spirit" and because "all over the world armaments are being increased" And New York limited autos to three passengers in the front seat.



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Upcoming Programs and Events

Sears Catalog Homes

Sunday, April 18th

2:00 pm

Anderson Architecture Center

302 South Grant Street

Suggested donation: \$5

Join architectural historian and author Rebecca Hunter discussing catalog mail order homes in Hinsdale and the Chicago suburbs. Funding assistance for this program provided by Illinois Humanities Council.

Contact the Anderson Architecture Center at 630-654-9500 or

info@hinsdalearchitecture.com with questions.

Hinsdale Cooks!

Kitchen Walk

Friday, May 7th

10:00 am – 3:00 pm rain or shine

Historic Immanuel Hall

302 South Grant Street

\$35 in advance, \$40 day of event

Register at www.kitchen-walk.com

Tour the Hinsdale Historical Society and five of Hinsdale's most fabulous kitchens showcasing the latest designs, products, and innovations. Proceeds to benefit the Hinsdale Historical Society.

Boxed lunch (\$15) will be available to order in advance and will be served from 11am-2pm.

Transportation Exhibits Open

Saturday, May 15th

Drop in between 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Hinsdale History Museum

15 South Clay Street

Join the Hinsdale History Museum to see catch a glimpse into the past of Hinsdale's transportation – and see how much of it is still present today! Our exhibits focus on the introduction of the automobile and the bicycle. So dust off your bike and take a ride to the Museum!

We also will have pamphlets on self-guided historic bike tours of Hinsdale.

Questions? Contact the Museum at 630-789-2600 or info@hinsdalehistory.org