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Hinsdale, Illinois

Echoes

A Publication of the Hinsdale Historical Society

From the President

Dear Society Members,

A milestone has been reached in the Society's history! Thanks to many of you, the laborious and detailed renovation of Immanuel Hall is complete. This issue of *Echoes* went to print before October 5th, but on that date a celebration is planned at the Hall, and we hope you were able to attend.

We are waiting for the official occupancy permit from the Village so we can commence offering the use of this beautiful facility to a wide variety of groups and people. It is truly a gem to be shared with the community!

There are not enough pages in this newsletter to thank all those who made this long process successful. Many persons are to be especially noted at the ceremony on October 5th, and, of course, a donor's plaque will be prominently displayed inside the Hall.

Sandy Walton

President
Hinsdale Historical Society

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Introducing the New

Hinsdale Historical Society Women's Board

Over the past five years, the Hinsdale Historical Society has experienced tremendous growth in the scope of its properties and programs. Today's Society has grown well beyond its cornerstone property, the Hinsdale History Museum, to include both Historic Immanuel Hall and the Zook Home and Studio. Additionally, Immanuel Hall now houses the new Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center. Indeed, the purview of the Society's responsibilities is extensive, and the possibilities for these entities are numerous. Supporting that work is the charge of the newly formed Women's Board, as stated in their mission:

The Hinsdale Historical Society's Women Board is a volunteer service organization. Its members are dedicated to support the Society and its mission 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.

The Women's Board will support all entities of the Society, and additionally will offer some of its own programming to Society members. Forthcoming plans include educational activities for schools and the community, a winter luncheon, associate enrichment events, and the Kitchen Walk.

The first event of the Hinsdale Historical Society Women's Board will be a new member reception on Wednesday, October 8th at the newly rehabilitated and renovated Immanuel Hall. For more information, please call the Society at 630-789-2600.

Hinsdale Historical Society Women's Board Executive Officers

Laurel Haarlow, President

Julie Elmore, Vice President

Laura Johnson, Secretary

Mary Foster, Treasurer

Hinsdale Historical Society

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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

The current main exhibit at the Hinsdale History Museum is entitled *Hinsdale Artists*. This exhibit is especially interesting because all of its contents are works of art (paintings and sketches) which were done by Hinsdale residents; some from the past, some of the present. It is amazing the quality of work that these artists produced and that Hinsdale produced these artists! A majority of the artists featured had a formal art background with many of them attending training at the Art Institute of Chicago. The artists include: Aletha Hiatt, Paul Proehl, Ruth Leatherman, Chester Bratten, Charles Heatherington, Hugh Ditzler, David Schofield and Jim Pinto.



Since the artists span many periods in time, the exhibit consists of a wide range of artistic styles, so everyone is sure to find something they like. Hinsdale subjects are also a theme in many of the paintings, making the exhibit particularly interesting to residents of the Village.

Hinsdale Artists will be on display through October, so be sure to stop by the museum to check it out!

Anne Swenson

Museum Manager, Hinsdale Historical Society

News from the Board of Trustees

The following Executive Committee Officer positions were elected at the Annual Meeting held at the Hinsdale History Museum on Sunday, June 8, 2008.

President, Stanley Walton
Vice President, Shannon Weinberger

This notice is provided to the membership according to the Hinsdale Historical Society By-Laws revised June 8, 2008, Article V Section 2-B, which states:

'Only members of the Board of Trustees are eligible to be Officers. The Officers shall be elected by the members of the Board from a slate presented by the Nomination Committee (see Article V, Section 6-B) and shall serve staggered two-year terms. Officers are limited to three consecutive terms.'

The Board of Trustees acknowledged Bob Saigh for his "above and beyond" dedication to the Board of Trustees and Society, as he has stepped down from his officer position of many years. Bob will remain on the board as a Trustee.

The Board of Trustees also gratefully acknowledged the dedicated work of Susan Olsson, long-time Trustee. Susan has stepped down from the board, but will continue to work with the collections at the Hinsdale History Museum.

Also at the Annual Meeting, the revised by-laws were approved, as well as a staggered three year term slate for all Trustees.

Volunteer Spotlight



This issue puts the spotlight on three active volunteers at the Hinsdale Historical Society. Hinsdale residents Chris Minnella and her daughter and son-in-law, Liz and Frank Gonzalez, each bring a special talent and area of expertise to the Society family.

Chris enjoyed many years as a graphic designer in Detroit's advertising/studio world. Her move to Hinsdale was completely based on being near her son, daughter and grandchildren, now numbering five. Besides exercising her Mimi's Enrichment Program, she has found many ways to freelance and to volunteer her design skills-and now has designed the Society's logos for the Hinsdale History Museum, Historic Immanuel Hall, and the R. Harold Zook Home and Studio. As an advisory member of the newly formed Hinsdale Historical Society Women's Board, she is looking forward to continuing her creative advocacy of historic Hinsdale.

"Not all small towns have such a sense of place as Hinsdale, although my old home town, Grosse Pointe, certainly shares it. So it was with interest that I observed my son-in-law's involvement with the Hinsdale Historical Society. A combination of unique architecture, a history that is driven by the desire for life beyond the busy city, a town with character and many people interested in preserving it. Here it is four years later, and I have the opportunity to do what I do- put words and pictures together to express a point of view- in this case, to show the growth of the Society and its responsibilities and to enjoin others to share in the work and fun."

After nearly two decades in global corporate banking and now a local realtor, Liz Gonzalez has been an active community volunteer through her membership with the Hinsdale Juniors for four years. When asked about serving on the Society's Women's Board, Liz did not hesitate. "I'm a banker who appreciates art and architecture. I grew up in the historic town of Grosse Pointe, a community that cherishes its quaint traditions and celebrates its heritage. I was President of my condo home in New York, an 1887 Landmark Brownstone on the Upper West Side, and enjoyed researching its secrets at the New York Historical Society in my 'spare' time. I have a very strong sense of appreciation for the subtle significance that the history of our unique neighborhoods have on the integrity of life within them." With their eldest child now entering kindergarten in District 181, Liz will serve as co-director of the Education Committee for the Hinsdale Historical Society Women's Board.

It was a natural that Frank Gonzalez, a licensed architect, found himself a volunteer of the Society. He had relocated with his family from Manhattan, where he was a restoration architect working on landmark buildings. He began volunteering at the Society shortly after coming to Hinsdale on 2004. Frank ran children's workshops on the Introduction to Design, which introduced architectural elements found in the Village. Frank served a three year term on the Hinsdale Preservation Commission, and is now beginning a term on the new Design Review Commission. He is also on the Advisory Committee of the Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center.

The Society is honored to have found this wonderful family of dedicated volunteers!

Hinsdale Historical Society

Members' Corner

Welcome New Members

Ms. Carol Feagler

Attention All Members

The Society is in the process of collecting member emails. Please send your name and email to newsletter@hinsdalehistory.org. Your information will only be used for Society-related messages.

Help Wanted

The Society is always on the lookout for energetic volunteers to do a variety of jobs. If interested, contact us at 630-789-2600 or newsletter@hinsdalehistory.org

Suggestions or Comments

If you have any suggestions or comments regarding articles in the Society's newsletter, email newsletter@hinsdalehistory.org

Need Space for an Event?

Very soon, Immanuel Hall will be available for rent. Immanuel Hall would be the perfect place for a small gathering or event! For more information, contact Bob Saigh at (630) 887-9110 or bsaigh@aol.com

We need your support!

December is traditionally the time that the Board of Trustees mails out the Society's Annual Appeal. More than ever, we need your support! With three buildings to carefully maintain, every dollar counts! No donation is too small. Please consider supporting the Society in your year-end giving!

R. Harold Zook Home and Studio

The Latest Happenings at the Zook Home and Studio

There has been a fair amount of action at the Zook Home and Studio in the past year, but it has been confined to the work covered by the original 2007 demolition permit from the Village. Exterior brick restoration and minimal site improvements have been accomplished. During this past year, the members of the building committee have been involved with a very extensive, and expensive, permit process with MWRD of Cook County. This permit is needed to define the water retention of the site and must be presented to the Village before a building permit could be issued.

Now that the Society has received both permits, the project is truly underway. This summer, the project work focused on the original steel windows of the home and studio. During the past year, much research has been conducted to find the best way to restore the original windows and have custom windows made for those openings that have lost their original Fenestra Steel windows. The project has hired professional restorationist, Peter Morava, to tackle the many original steel windows. Work has begun and the first window was recently returned to the home and has been set back in place. For those window openings that were reopened and needed new windows made, custom steel windows have been ordered.

What was once old is now new again. This saying is not only for the Zook windows, but for the front stoop of the home. Painstakingly re-laid in the original chevron design, the brick stoop once again celebrates Zook's attention to detail, thanks to the careful work of restoration masons.



Window after restoration



Window before restoration

Although the permit hurdle has been cleared and the exterior of the home should be complete soon, there is much more to be done before this architectural treasure can be open to the public. Funds are still greatly needed to complete the interior of the buildings. With your support, Zook's legacy will be preserved and shared as a unique venue for a variety of community activities and events.

If you are interested in supporting the Zook Home & Studio Preservation Project please contact the Hinsdale Historical Society at info@zookhomeandstudio.org.

Zook Project Receives State Grant

With assistance from Hinsdale resident and state representative Patti Bellock (R-47), the Society obtained a \$10,000 grant this past summer from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to help fund restoration of eight original leaded art glass panels and 13 original steel frame windows in the R. Harold Zook House.

Morava Studios, of Oak Park, was selected for the restoration project, which involved removal of the individual windows; securing their individual openings; repairing, glazing and painting each window; and reinstallation of the windows.

The art glass panels were located in the foyer and living room of the house. The steel frame windows were in other rooms of the house. The windows contained a total of 133 individual panes of glass, each of which was re-glazed in the restoration.

The total cost of the restoration project was approximately \$58,000. Costs beyond the \$10,000 grant will be covered by private contributions, but more contributions will be needed to fund the completion of the home and studio.

From the Collections: Caring for Your Treasures

We are in the process of drafting a housekeeping policy for our 1874 museum interior and collection. There are many aids available in the museum world to guide caretakers in the handling, cleaning and repair of various materials. In addition to the books the Society received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services "Connecting to Collections: The Bookshelf," we also have a network of museum professionals we can turn to for advice regarding care of our various artifacts.

All of the objects in our collection, including the house, were personal or family treasures before they became museum treasures. One of the books in our collection, *Caring for Your Family Treasures*, is specifically geared for the care of objects in our homes. Here are some general guidelines to help us care for our personal treasures.

- Your objects fair best in the environment you find most comfortable. Try to maintain a relatively stable temperature (72°F.) and level of humidity (50%) inside your home. Fluctuations in humidity are more damaging than fluctuations in temperature.
- Limit light exposure. If you are concerned about the potential for light damage, there are several inexpensive ways to test for damaging light. Textile fading cards are a standard museum method for testing the effects of light on objects on display. They can be purchased for around \$16. A much less expensive way to test is to place a piece of construction paper, folded in half, on an object located near a window. Open the paper and compare the two halves over a period of days or weeks to see if your object is being damaged by light exposure. If you notice fading you can take action by moving the object or installing UV filtering film on your windows.
- Clean your objects in the gentlest way possible. (More details about this in the next issue.)
- Use caution when repairing an item yourself. Make sure repairs or alterations to an object can be reversed. Consult a professional conservator whenever possible.
- Create micro-climates and use protective covers. For example, use chemically stable boxes to store a treasured wedding dress or family photos. This will protect objects from dust and pollutants.
- Inspect items regularly and respond promptly to problems. Early detection lessens damage and reduces treatment costs.

Jane W. Long and Richard W. Long, "An Ounce of Prevention Is Worth a Pound of Cure," in *Caring for Your Family Treasures*, (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Incorporated, 2000), 20-21.

Eagle Scout Project Transforms Museum's Lower Level



The Hinsdale History Museum has undergone a transformation in the past few weeks. Eagle Scout candidate, Kevin Mohl of Boy Scout Troop 10 from Union Church, has been working hard in the Museum's Lower Level, updating the décor.

Kevin approached the Hinsdale Historical Society asking if we had service projects that he could complete to earn his Eagle Scout status. While thinking this over, it came to our attention that the Lower Level was in need of an update. Kevin was more than willing to take on the project.

Kevin has worked hard planning the renovation of the Lower Level which includes stripping the wallpaper and painting the walls, along with removing the old and installing new carpet.

To complete this project in a timely and cost-effective manner, Kevin went out into the community to gather donations of materials for the renovation.

The planning stages of the project took a great deal of time, which Kevin approached with strong dedication. Over the weekend of September 5th -7th, Kevin and his team of volunteers worked hard to complete the project. They did a wonderful job and the Society is thankful that Kevin and his volunteers put forth such a great effort.



Immanuel Hall Timeline

1900 – German immigrant tradesmen, many of them members of the new Immanuel Evangelical congregation, volunteer their labor to construct a simple, one-story, frame “carpenter-Gothic” style church, at 302 S. Grant St., from materials that cost approximately \$3,000. The building was constructed in eight weeks.

When construction is complete, the congregation, then numbering some 30 families, begins using the building for religious services (conducted in the German language) and social activities.

1920 – A full basement is dug beneath the building, which is raised approximately four feet to a new grade. The basement accommodates the congregation’s increased numbers and activities.

A small, two-story, frame American four-square style house is constructed immediately west of the church and is used as a parsonage.

1923 – A six-rank pipe organ (402) is purchased from M. P. Moller Pipe Organ Company, Hagerstown, Maryland, and installed.

1924 – Ten stained glass windows are purchased from Flanagan & Biedenweg Studios, Chicago, and installed.

1930s – The congregation joins a new denomination and becomes the Immanuel Evangelical and Reformed Church. Services in the German language are discontinued.

1950s – A one-story brick building with full basement is constructed immediately south of the church, and is used for religious and social purposes of the still-growing congregation.

1964 – The congregation, numbering some 160 families, relocates to what is now Burr Ridge United Church of Christ, at County Line and Plainfield Roads, Burr Ridge. Their former church buildings are used as a regional office by the United Church of Christ.

1982 – The church buildings are sold to a private party, who operates a Montessori school for 18 years.

Historic Immanuel Hall

Preserving Historic Immanuel Hall

Ten years ago this fall, a resident informed the Hinsdale Historical Society that the former Immanuel Evangelical Church, 302 S. Grant St., which at the time housed a Montessori school, had been sold to a private party and was likely to be demolished so a new home could be constructed on the site.

For months, the Society led residents and Village officials in seeking ways to preserve the small frame building, whose unique features were largely originally intact, in good condition and a vivid reminder of Hinsdale’s beginnings.

With the aid of a state grant – secured by state Senator Kirk Dillard and state Representative Patti Bellock, both Hinsdale residents – the property was purchased by the Village from its private owners, and later deeded by the Village to the Society.

The Society began the long process of assessing an appropriate rehabilitation of the building, which it renamed Immanuel Hall, and wanted to continue serving the community as it had throughout its 100-year plus existence as a church, office and school.

Various events and activities, including concerts, receptions, exhibits, meetings, rehearsals and a wedding, were held at the Hall to test its viability as a multi-purpose venue, and each was successful. Also, the Hall’s historic significance was enhanced by its listing on the prestigious National Register of Historic Places, designation as a local landmark and receipt of several preservation-related awards and citations.

Preservation architect Charles Pipal was hired. A concept plan for a rehabilitation of the Hall was created, and a fund raising committee was formed, with Mary Martha and Ted Mooney as honorary chairmen and Penny and John Bohnen as chairmen.

In nine months, the fund raising campaign raised sufficient funds from private sources to make the rehab possible. The largest contribution came from the family of Roger and Ruth Anderson and helped found the Society’s Anderson Architecture Center, located in the Hall’s lower level.

Approvals for the work were obtained from the Village, project manager Dan Ruzic was hired in the fall of 2006, and groundbreaking finally occurred in May 2007.

Not surprisingly, the rehab of the Hall was a near-total “gut job” of the lower level and featured the following: a 17x21-foot rear addition to improve access to the building, add new space and free existing space for other uses; a completely rehabilitated lower level for the above-noted Anderson Center and Society archives, as well as washrooms, a mechanical room and storage areas; a new, fully-equipped kitchen on the upper level of the building’s original rear room; and an extensively refurbished main floor on the upper level.



Also, a completely new roof, new gutters, a reconditioned bell tower and spire, a replica of the original finial atop the spire, new siding and trim to replace damaged areas, and new stucco on the exposed foundation; a complete interior and exterior painting, with the latter in a scheme close to the original; and state-of-the-art HVAC, fire detection and suppression, and safety and security systems; damp-proofing of the entire original foundation; insulation of the attic; and upgraded utility services.

A few jobs are needed to finish the rehab completely. They include landscaping, for which some funds are available, and installation of a sound and projection system, additional replacement of damaged siding and trim, insulation of the Hall's walls, and certain equipment and furnishings, when funds become available.

The projected current cost of the rehab is nearly \$1,000,000, which is exceeded when numerous in-kind contributions of services and materials are factored in.

The real bottom line: Immanuel Hall is fit to serve the community for another 100-plus years.

We've Come a Long Way...

Where to begin? Well, people, of course. Get people involved.



Local German immigrants built Immanuel Hall as a church and meeting place. It was the center of their neighborhood. Once again, Immanuel Hall will become a community gathering place. To make it a reality, people needed to become involved. Immanuel Hall neighbors and friends worked tirelessly along with the Society to build awareness of the landmark building. The Immanuel Hall Auxiliary was formed to help plan and participate in a full schedule of fundraising events to assist in the funding of the restoration of the Hall. Hinsdale residents participated in a Hinsdale History Walk, Oktoberfests and a White Elephant Sale.

Society volunteer, Alice Mansell, procured a grand piano from Joy Collins, owner of Beautiful Sounds of Burr Ridge. Holiday Concert Series began; *Hinsdale Sings!* The series featured the best local talent including vocalists, instrumentalists and even ballerinas from the Salt Creek Ballet. Local women attended annual luncheons with interesting educational speakers. Immanuel Hall's kitchen walk, *Hinsdale Cooks!* is now celebrating its fourth successful year. This event brings approximately 600 people touring and enjoying charming homes in Hinsdale neighborhoods. Glorious Gardens of Hinsdale dedicated the proceeds from one of their bi-annual garden walks to help the Society complete the landscaping at Immanuel Hall.

While all these events were taking place, a group of loyal preservationists were out in the community asking for donations.

We feel very fortunate to have our beautiful building restored by the hard work and generous donations of so many of our community residents. The spirit of the tenacious group of German immigrants lives on! Immanuel Hall, community gathering place for all of Hinsdale, lives to see another day-another century. Hinsdaleans of all ages, all faiths and all backgrounds now have a special little meeting place to once again call their own. Come visit us and step back in time, back to a simpler, gentle time when friends took the time to gather and enjoy each other's company. Welcome to Historic Immanuel Hall!!!

Immanuel Hall Timeline

1999 – The Montessori school owners sell the property to another private party, who plans to demolish the church buildings.

Hearing about the sale from neighbors, the Society works successfully with Village and State officials and residents to save the church building from demolition. The parsonage and the brick building are demolished as part of the purchase agreement.

2001 to 2006 – The Society takes ownership of the property, and renames the building Immanuel Hall. A variety of events and activities are hosted at the Hall to test its use by the community. The Society retains a preservation architect to develop plans to rehabilitate the Hall. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is designated a local landmark, and receives numerous preservation awards and citations.

2005 – The Society embarks on a major fund raising campaign for the rehabilitation of the Hall, and in nine months attains its fund raising goal, with contributions coming entirely from private sources.

The largest contribution, \$500,000, comes from the family of Roger and Ruth Anderson and helps establish the Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center, a long-planned preservation and construction resource service of the Society, which will be located in the lower level of the Hall.

2006 – Applications for the rehabilitation of the Hall are approved by the Village of Hinsdale, and a construction manager is retained.

2007 – Ground is broken on May 11 for the 17x21-foot rear addition that is the most obvious exterior feature of the rehabilitation project.

2008 – The extensive rehabilitation project, which completely remodeled the lower level for the Anderson Architecture Center and refurbished the original features of the upper level and the exterior of the building, draws to a close.

The Society expects to welcome the public to the "renewed" Historic Immanuel Hall in the fall.

Historic Immanuel Hall

Rehab Update

Finishing work in recent weeks in anticipation of an opening this fall of a rehabbed Immanuel Hall included installation of carpet and lights on the upper and lower levels; spot carpentry, painting and electrical work; new sidewalk and walkways on a higher grade for easier access; and clean-up, filling, grading and seeding of the exterior grounds in preparation for additional landscaping in the spring.

Earlier in the summer, gutters and downspouts were installed, as was the mechanical lift between the lower and upper levels of the Hall. A connection was made with a new Village water line that will provide reliable water flow and pressure to operate the Hall's new fire sprinkler system.

Well over 200 persons visited the Hall on the Fourth of July (the Hall is on the Village

parade route) for "sneak peeks" of the rehabilitation. Virtually all of them were enthusiastic about the rehab and wanted to return for an event or activity soon. Many of the visitors had new suggestions for uses of the building.

Several individuals and groups have inquired about using the Hall, which will occur once an occupancy permit is issued by the Village. An extensive late-summer inspection of the Hall basically approved the building for use once some exterior tasks, such as the aforementioned sidewalk and initial landscaping work, are completed.

For more information on use of the Hall – whose features include a completely refurbished 30x60-foot open main floor (occupancy 125 persons), 20-foot high vaulted ceiling, kitchen, washrooms and other amenities; call Bob Saigh at 630-789-2600.



Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center

Since saving Immanuel Hall from demolition, the Hinsdale Historical Society has been planning a special resource center to be housed on its lower level. With the generous support of the family of Roger Anderson, the dream has come true.

On Sunday, October 5th, we will celebrate that dream and the opening of the Society's **Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center**, located within the newly renovated Historic Immanuel Hall, 302 South Grant Street. This celebration marks the creation of a valuable community resource for Hinsdale and its residents.

"We are very pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this treasure to the community," states Sandy Williams. "The resource center will be Hinsdale's architectural heart, offering archives that focus on the history of Hinsdale's unique structural heritage and resources to guide future construction within the community."

The recently completed Architecture Center has been named as a tribute to Roger and Ruth Anderson. Mr. Anderson, who passed away in 2005, was a successful area builder and staunch Hinsdale advocate. His wife, Ruth, and the Anderson family cumulatively donated \$500,000 to the Immanuel Hall Campaign to establish the Center. A progressive architectural archive, it is fittingly located within Immanuel Hall, a historic building that has been nationally recognized for its structural design.

The Center houses the Society's architectural archive collection which includes blueprints, house histories, photographs, information on Village development, and architect biographies/catalogues. In addition, the architecture section of the Society's lending library has been moved to the Anderson Center and continues to expand. Within these collections, visitors will find reference books on building styles, interior elements and architects as well as material on home maintenance, "green" housing, and related new products.

Based on its educational mission and the results of a village-wide opinion survey, the Anderson Center plans to offer a variety of architectural tours and educational programs. The Center has already established itself within the public schools, authoring lesson plans on local architecture for the grade school's "Art Awareness in the Classroom" segments and arranging visiting architects for high school drafting classes. For the entire community, new architecture tours of downtown Hinsdale and the north side have been written; docent groups are forming. (Visit the web site below to volunteer!) Architecture experts and speakers have been identified and the Center looks forward to offering public programs at the newly rehabbed Immanuel Hall. The Anderson Center will also be bringing together a host of local professionals - architects, contractors and preservation commissioners - to volunteer to assist homeowners with opinions and options on building projects, remodeling, or land marking their property.

The upcoming celebration is not only to introduce this wonderful new community resource, but also to thank the people who have made this project a reality. Our many volunteers and donors have committed endless amounts of time, talent and resources to make this a unique community asset. For more information about the Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center's programs and opportunities, contact the Hinsdale Historical Society at 630-789-2600 or visit our web site at www.hinsdalearchitecture.org.



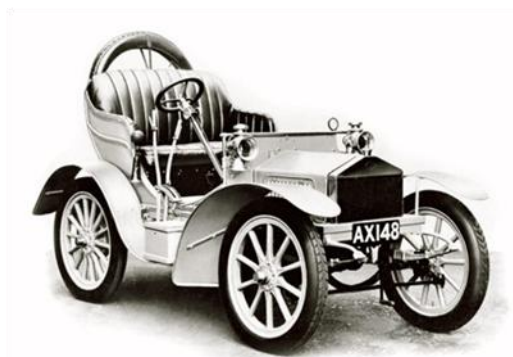
Anderson Center Board Members Bruce and Linda Ritter, Sandy Williams and Ruth Anderson preview the new facility.



Lower Level before renovation

From the Archives: Drives About Hinsdale

The following excerpt is taken from the Doings written in 1904. The style is unique.



1904 Rolls-Royce
<http://www.channel4.com/4car/gl/gallery/gallery/596/2>

“Hinsdale is an ideal town for driving. Not only are her streets broad and well paved, be she is set in the midst of a beautiful farming country, where rolling hills are covered with waving grain, comfortable farms houses are hidden under branching trees, and a bit of forest occasionally borders the roadway...

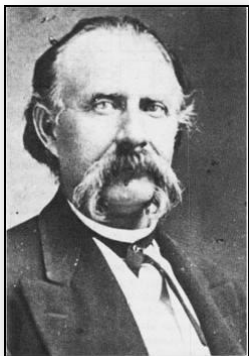
There are no sylvan lakes nearby to put the romantic touch to the scenery, but a drive to Salt Creek will repay the lover of the picturesque. It is a pity so beautiful stream should be burdened with so unromantic a cognomen.... For a short drive, a visit to its banks is delightful, and if one can trust his horses' strength for a longer drive he might continue his course to Mammoth Springs. ...

The drive through Sedgely Farm with a continuation to Lyonsville or the more distant Willow Springs possesses fascination, besides offering one an opportunity to see one of the modern treats of modern engineering in the drainage canal.

If one goes west he must pass through the pretty little village of Clarendon Hills, thrifty East Grove on the right and sleepy, old fashioned Downers Grove on the right (I had almost written Grave), a pleasant place to turn and drive home again...

Would you drive east, you at once encounter Western Springs and LaGrange, both enterprising little towns that Hinsdale sometimes feels like adopting into suburban relationship, but this is only at moments of her most gracious condescension. ... Should you arrive at these towns through the much traveled and dusty thoroughfare known as 47th Street, we implore you to come back by way of a less frequented but most charming road which lands you at Brush Hill from which you can easily find your way back to 'Hinsdale the Beautiful.'”

House Histories: The Home of Hinsdale's First Village President



Prolific author, noted lawyer, respected judge, and inventor, Joel Tiffany was the first president of the Village of Hinsdale. Tiffany moved from New York to Hinsdale in 1870, the year in which his home at 133 North Washington Street was built.

The building was restored by a North Shore real estate executive with the idea of bringing the home back to its former glory. The restoration being complete, the home was sold recently to a Hinsdale family.

Hinsdale Historical Society president, Sandy Walton, commented during a recent Society board meeting that Tiffany's legal opinions are still being quoted today. A recent position paper of the U.S. Supreme Court quotes Tiffany several times in its treatise on the gun-control issue.

An *Echoes* House Histories volunteer is working with the current owner of the home to complete a pictorial feature about the current interior of the home for a future issue of the newsletter.

More about Tiffany and his home can be found in the January, 2007 issue of *Echoes*. Visit the Society archives at the Hinsdale History Museum to view back issues of *Echoes*.



Life in the Past Lane: Hinsdale 1933

☞Summertime moviegoers at the Hinsdale Theater fortunate enough to attend “King Kong” with Fay Wray in the starring role, were treated to the most unusual feature of the year. Another popular performance that same summer of 1933 was that of Mary Pickford and Leslie Howard, teamed together for the first time, in “Secrets.” And for the younger set, “Black Beauty” made its debut.

☞The extremely dry and hot summer weather presented a dangerous situation insofar as prairie fires on vacant lots and prairies in and around the Village were concerned. All citizens of Hinsdale were advised to use extreme caution in burning off fields and igniting refuse, and parents were urged to instruct children not to start unsupervised fires.

☞Hinsdale, presumably a “dry” community, went “wet” by a large majority in the vote for delegates to consider the repeal of the 18th Amendment. 708 votes were cast favoring repeal, with 223 cast against repeal of the amendment.

☞Motorists on Ogden Avenue didn’t quite know what it was all about when they were abruptly stopped by the display of machine guns in the hands of determined police officers. A force of some 250 policemen, deputy sheriffs and federal agents, with planes, squad cars, machine guns and bombs created a trap near Mannheim Road and 22nd Street to apprehend two kidnapers, supposed to be in the vicinity. The kidnapers, however, managed to escape ...

☞Definite assurance of Wednesday afternoon closing of the stores in Hinsdale was gained at a special meeting of the Hinsdale Commercial and Civic Association when the merchants’ committee presented the proposition to the membership. The vote to continue the closings was sought for the dual purposed of adhering to the NRA (National Recovery Act) and giving employees a half holiday during the week. All members were urged to abide by the hours proposed in order to maintain conformity.

☞With the county’s allotment for September funds reduced by more than two-thirds, relief activities in DuPage County approached crisis stage. The 11,000 or so residents on relief rolls were forced to face the grave fact that grocery orders might no longer be available. However, since other sections of the state felt the pinch equally, rumors persisted that a special session of the legislature would secure more funds. The HTHS concert band gave a 45 minute music program in the Hall of Science at the Century of Progress World’s Fair in October. Small groups of Hinsdale children who met at the railroad station were given guided trips to the Fair, and -- while visiting the World’s Fair, former President and Mrs. Herbert Hoover were guests at the Third Street home of Alexander Legge. The Hoovers became close friends of Mr. Legge when

the latter served as chairman of the federal farm board during Mr. Hoover’s presidency.

☞With the authorization of land purchase came an official guarantee that Fullersburg would be the site of one of three Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps to be located in DuPage County. A second camp will be located near the northwest limits of Elmhurst and a third in the western section of the county east of St. Charles. Reconstruction of the dam, cleaning and dredging of Salt Creek, creating an island, building a boat house and other projects are all scheduled to be part of the work included in this ambitious government venture. The property, located about a mile north of the Hinsdale business district, was purchased for \$22,000 to be paid for in 10 installments, with the first one not due until 1935. The person hired to oversee the 200 men expected to arrive in December for the six months duration of the CCC camp will receive \$200 per month, and local contractors will bid for construction of barracks to house the forest army during winter months. The barracks are to be paid for by the federal government with local labor doing the work. Old-timers in Hinsdale who remember the days before the dam broke at Fullersburg are joyous over the announcement that the project is going forward.

☞The world of baseball, a world of friends and a devoted family joined to mourn the sudden passing of William L. Veeck, Sr., who died October 5th after a short illness. As a resident of Hinsdale for many years, Mr. Veeck endeared himself in the hearts of his friends and neighbors with his kind words and caring ways.

☞Nationally, FDR ordered an outlay of \$75 million to feed and clothe the jobless. Ring “You Know Me, Al” Lardner died, and Wiley Post returned to New York after setting the record for round-the-world flight in seven days, 19 hours. Robert Chesebrough, the 96-year-old chemist who invented Vasoline in 1870 also died. He attributed his longevity to the fact that he ingested one spoonful of his product -- which he considered a virtual cure-all -- every day of his life. And millions of satisfied customers would have agreed.



The official poster for the fair, designed by George Petty

<http://www.chicagohs.org/history/century.html>



HINSDALE
HISTORICAL
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2008 October/November Programs

Cemetery Walk

Saturday, October 25th
3:00 – 5:00 pm
Start at Hinsdale History Museum
All ages
\$5 per person (\$10 per family)

Join us for a walk through Bronswood Cemetery to stroll into the past and learn a little about a few of Hinsdale's founders such as William Robbins, William Evernden, and Oliver Stough. We will meet at the Hinsdale History Museum for a brief overview and then proceed to Bronswood Cemetery.

Please register by calling 630-789-2600

Money, Mom, and Me Tea

Saturday, November 22nd
Session 1: 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Session 2: 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Start at Immanuel Hall
Girls ages 4-14
\$20 per person

HHS is partnering with the Economics Awareness Council for their annual *Money, Mom, and Me Tea*. Girls have the opportunity to have tea with historical figures at Immanuel Hall and learn what it was like to work and manage money in the past. After tea, the girls will go for a tour of the Hinsdale History Museum and decorate their own piggy banks and purses while learning about budgeting and saving their money.

Please register at www.econcouncil.org

Hinsdale Historical Society's

Hinsdale History Museum
15 South Clay Street
Hinsdale, Illinois
630-789-2600

The Museum is open
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Fridays
&
Saturdays
or by appointment