

Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 15
Batavia, Illinois 60510

Vol. 25, No. 1

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Winter, 1984

Announcing the first general meeting of the year:

DATE: Sunday, March 4, 1984
TIME: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: The Holmstad
(entrance off Fabyan Parkway)

PROGRAM: Batavia Park District Up-date

Three lovely ladies (Betsy Dobbs, Director; Carla Hill, Museum Curator; and Diane Dillow) will talk to us on the past accomplishments and future plans of the Batavia Park District. Special topics to be covered include the spring grand opening-of the Bike Path, the V.I.P. program, and the new displays planned for the Depot Museum.

Refreshments will be served following the program. You will also have an opportunity to pay your Batavia Historical Society dues for 1984.

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Hooray! Hooray! Before our program on Sunday begins, we will have an election of officers - - the current board of directors is pleased to present the following slate:

Co-Presidents: Charles and Bernice Kline
Co-Vice-Presidents: Ray and Helen Anderson
Secretary (recording): May Lundberg
Treasurer: Elliot Lundberg
Trustees: Robert Cox
Ray Patzer

We thank these members for their willingness to serve the Society and ask you to support them in whatever way you can. In addition to the new officers, Georgene Kauth has volunteered to be the corresponding secretary for the Society; Ed LaMorte will remain as chairman of the Plaquing Committee; and Lucile Gustafson and Jeffery Schielke will continue as historians.

DEPOT VOLUNTEER Jean Conde, chairman of Museum Volunteers, has submitted her
LEADER RESIGNS resignation effective January, 1984. In her letter, she writes
“Sometime in 1976 Lucile needed help getting out the monthly
calendar. I volunteered! So it went. Honestly, it has been a rewarding experience working with
so many dedicated, interested men and women – many of them workers from the start, 1975 . . .
Backing me up in the job has been Georgene and Walt Kauth . . . I love them all.” Jean's service
and support of the Historical Society is an inspiration to all who work with her, and her devotion
to her task is greatly appreciated . . . She adds a postscript to her letter – she wishes to remain a
volunteer.

CONGRATULATIONS Another house in Batavia has received a historical plaque. The
proud owners are:

Mr. and Mrs. Safanda
226 North Van Buren

The house dates from 1871. For those of you who remember, the first owners were Buell M.
Kenyon & wife, followed by Edwin Meredith, Mattie Harnish and descendents Timothy J.
Collins and Karl Collins. More recent residents were Charles Workman, Robert Cowan, and
Ron and Nancy Hollmeier.

* * * * *

REMINDER -- 1984 DUES ARE DUE!

RATES

Single: \$3
Tandem: \$5
Sustaining: \$10
Life: \$50

Please keep my membership current. Dues for 1984 are enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Mail to: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail to:

P.O. Box 15

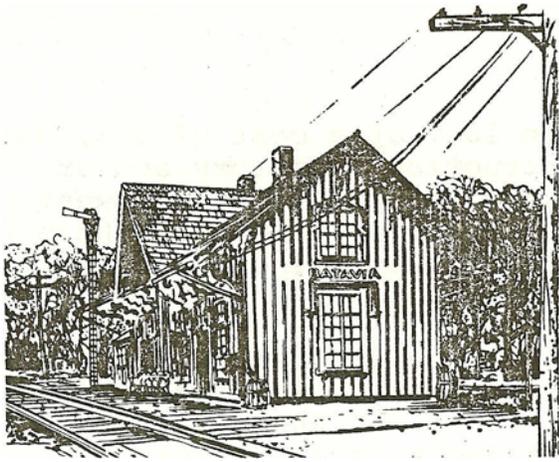
Batavia, IL 60510

c/o Batavia Historical Society

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Pardon the brevity of this newsletter. Your new officers will have new ideas and lots in store for
you in future issues.

Hope to see you all Sunday, March 4!



Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 15
Batavia, Illinois 60510

Vol. 25, No. 2

THE BATAVIA HISTORIAN

Summer, 1984

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE SUMMER MEETING OF THE
BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY -

DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 1984

TIME: 2:00 - 4:00 PM

PLACE: FURNAS ELECTRIC COMPANY - 1000 McKEE STREET, BATAVIA

Mr. R. W. Hansen, President and Chairman of the Board at Furnas Electric, has given us the opportunity to meet in the new Gilbert Hansen employee center. The entrance to the Parking lot will be accessible from McKee Street only. The gates will close at 2:15 PM - so be on time or early. Try not to be late!

PROGRAM: A film will be shown, a history of Furnas Company will be given, and products will be displayed.

Refreshments will be served by the newly elected officers.

ACQUISITIONS

The outstanding Sesquicentennial Quilt, given to the Batavia Historical Society by the Tau Alpha Guild of the First Baptist Church on December 12, is now on display. It was presented at the Christmas Meeting of the Tau Alphas to Penny Tracey, then President of the Batavia Historical Society. The quilt is made up of individual embroidered blocks, depicting the history of Batavia from 1833 to 1983.

A display cabinet of birds native to this area - from the Alice Gustafson School (originally at the Blaine Street School) has been given to us. It includes an extinct carrier pigeon. It formerly was the property of Dr Hubbard, a physician in Batavia. Dr Hubbard obtained the cabinet from a patient in payment of services. This will be refurbished and displayed in the Museum as soon as possible.

NEW DISPLAYS

The pictures in the free standing display rack have been changed and now include interesting photographs of the moving of the depot building from its original location to the present location, as well as the dedication of the building, the Newton Monument, newspaper articles of the 100th birthday and 150th birthday of Batavia. Also the windmill companies, Newton Wagon Company, Newton family, and area architecture.

The electric lighting has now been installed in the Elaine Cannon miniatures cabinet and adds greatly to the viewing of these interesting artistic displays.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors met Thursday, May 3, at the home of the President - Charles and Bernice Kline. Another meeting was held Tuesday, June 5, at the Museum - also attended by Carla Hill, Curator. Lengthy discussions were held. Carla informed the group that the caboose was newly painted and displays hung, and would now be open for Sunday viewing when hosts are on duty.

CABOOSE

Did you know this about our caboose?

The caboose was built by the CB&Q at their Aurora car shops in May, 1907, at a total cost of \$1,151.37. It was of all wood construction with a truss rod under frame.

CB&Q Caboose 14662 served as a main line and local caboose until 1970 when it was assigned yard duty in the Chicago - Eola area. This caboose was last used at Eola in November, 1973, when it was written up for retirement at Eola repair track. It was officially retired and removed from BN records on January 25, 1975, at which time it was donated to the Batavia. Ted Schuster was able to acquire the caboose as a gift to the Museum. The car was moved to its present location by the Iseinghausen Derailment Service, who donated men and equipment to transfer the car from the Northwestern track to the track on which it now rests.

During the 67 years this caboose was in operation, it underwent many modifications and improvements. A list of significant items of modification and improvement, etc, is shown in literature in the caboose - as well as dimensional drawings and interior diagrams. Note this caboose was never renumbered to a BN number following merger of the Chicago Burlington & Quincy, Great Northern, Northern, and Pacific Coast Railroads in 1970.

THANKS

Special thanks to Shirley Hoover for mending, washing and ironing all the linen in the Mrs. Lincoln Room at the Museum. It really looks nice - and we appreciate her efforts.

Also, special thanks to the hosts and hostesses who regularly come to greet and talk with our visitors.

LAST CHANCE

The remaining Sesquicentennial cookbooks and mugs in our possession (great gifts for friends or for yourself) will be available at the museum. Better hurry!

CONDOLENCES are extended to the families of:

John Gustafson, our beloved Historian and co-founder of the Batavia Historical Society, who has done so much for all of Batavia in recording and preserving our city's history.

Vic Anderson, a well-known member of our community who was involved in many civic and church activities, and was an early member of our Society.

Joanne Kane, another early active member of the Historical Society and prominent in First Baptist Church and Mooseheart activities.

Catherine Schielke, mother of Jeff, an active member of the Historical Society and former President, now Mayor of our city.

FUTURE MEETINGS September 16: Potluck picnic at Fabyan's cabin down the hill from the Windmill. From 12:00 Noon on. A letter will be sent prior to this meeting as to the rundown of the food category.

December 2: Christmas meeting at Bethany Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, from 4: 00 PM on. Another is a planned potluck dinner - and a special program of music will be presented.

Mark these dates on your calendar now - and plan ahead for them. We hope for a large turnout for all our meetings. They are only successful if fully supported. Show your support for our new officers and the Society.

REMINDER - 1984 dues are due.

RATES

Single: \$3
Tandem: \$5
Sustaining: \$10
Life: \$50

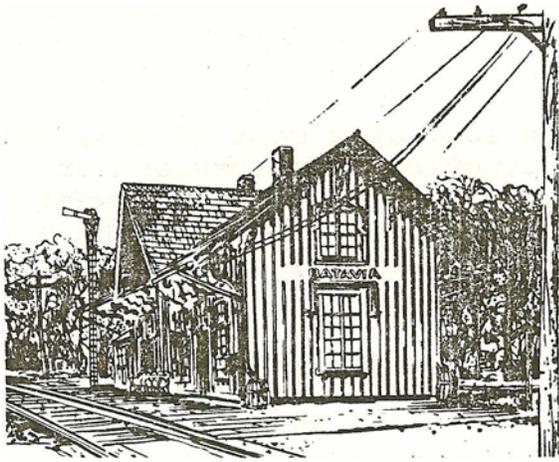
Please keep my membership current. Dues for 1984 are enclosed.

NAME _____

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Mail to:
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Batavia, III 60510
c/o Batavia Historical Society



Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 15

Batavia, Illinois 60510

Vol. 25, No. 3

August, 1984

DID YOU REMEMBER TO SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATE FOR THE PICNIC MEETING OF THE BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

TIME: 12 NOON

PLACE: FABYAN'S FOREST PRESERVE, EAST SIDE, DOWNHILL FROM THE WINDMILL IN THE CABIN BORDERING THE BICYCLE PATH. THIS IS AN ALL-FAMILY PICNIC. BRING A DISH TO PASS. MEAT AND COFFEE WILL BE FURNISHED BY ALL BOARD MEMBERS. BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE AND CUP. A VERY INTERESTING PROGRAM HAS BEEN PLANNED.

WINDMILL FESTIVAL Recently, at the Windmill Festival Days, the Batavia Historical Society had a table near McDonalds manned by Batavia Historical Society volunteers, seeking new members. We were successful in getting nine new members and are happy to welcome the following into our group:

Jean Shanley, Dr. J. R. Roman, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Baker, Karl Bruhn, and James & Carol Auer - all of Batavia; and Dan and Michele Kline of Geneva.

SPECIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE Batavia Special Service Committee needs volunteers to record citizen events for preservation purposes. These volunteers will work through the Multi Media Co. for filming. Please contact Elsie Smith, Alderwoman, phone 879-2529, if interested.

CARLA HILL From Carla Hill, the Batavia Depot Museum Curator, we have the following items:

Beginning the first week in September she will conduct on-the-job volunteer training programs - personally conducting each individual volunteer through the various phases of acting as a knowledgeable museum guide. Any new volunteers will be given the same personal on-the-job training.

Soon she will announce the date and destination of another bus trip for volunteers. The one held last year to the Chicago Historical Museum was very enjoyable - and we know the one she has planned will be also.

BUDDING AUTHOR We have a budding author in our midst - Bill Bodell from Woodland Hills has written a book with the story setting in Youngstown, New York. The title of the book is "Immortal Spirit" and is now available in book stores and soon will be available in our Batavia Library.

RECENT
MUSEUM
VISITORS

Recent visitors to our museum were from such far away places as Germany and Belgium - and Washington, California, Florida, Maryland, Virginia - and Batavia, New York.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

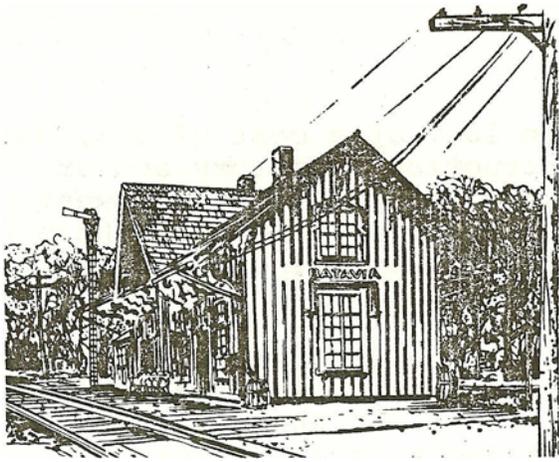
to Monsignor William J. Donovan, Holy Cross Church, who has been one of our most beloved citizens for generations, on the occasion of his 100th birthday on August 8. It is most fitting that the Wilson Street Bridge has been renamed the William J. Donovan Bridge in his honor. We of the Batavia Historical Society add our appreciation and admiration for his long years of dedication to his church and community.

BOARD
MEETING

The Board of Directors met Thursday, August 9, at the home of the President - Charles and Bernice Kline.

OPEN
HOUSE

On Thursday, September 13, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM, there will be an Open House at Batavia Depot Museum for Batavia Bank employees and its Board of Directors. All Batavia Historical Society Board members will be on hand to act as hosts.



Batavia Historical Society

P. O. Box 15

Batavia, Illinois 60510

Vol. 25, No. 4

November, 1984

THIS IS YOUR REMINDER TO HOLD THE FOLLOWING DATE FOR THE CHRISTMAS MEETING OF THE BATAVIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1984

TIME: 4:45 PM - PROMPTLY

PLACE: BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 8 S. LINCOLN ST., BATAVIA. USE THE LINCOLN ST. ENTRANCE TO THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. BRING A DISH TO PASS, AND YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE. MEAT AND COFFERR WILL BE PROVIDED (WE'LL PASS THE HAT FOR DONATIONS TO COVER THIS COST.

PROGRAM: A MUSICAL PROGRAM WILL BE CONDUCTED AT 6:30. FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM A SHORT BUSINESS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE (INCLUDING ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1985) AFTER WHICH WE WILL HAVE A CHRISTMAS CAROL SING.

BOARD MEETING

At the Board of Directors' meeting held at the museum on October 18, the Board nominated the following officers for election to serve in 1985:

Charles and Bernice Kline	- Co-President
Ray and Helen Anderson	- Co-Vice-President
May Lundberg	- Secretary
Elliott Lundberg	- Treasurer

The following trustees for two-year terms:

Jean Conde - William Wood

Ed LaMorte to continue as Plaquing Chairman.

Georgene Kauth as Corresponding Secretary.

Lucile Gustafson and Jeff Schielke as Historians.

Robert Cox and Ray Patzer were elected as Trustees for two-year terms at the March 4, 1984 election.

At the December 2 meeting, nominations will also be taken from the floor for the slate to be voted on.

BOARD MEETING

On September 13 a successful Open House was held at the Batavia Depot Museum for Batavia Bank employees and Board Members and their families. This was done between the hours of 4:00 and 7:00 PM to allow a private viewing and explanation of the museum. In appreciation for this special open house, a donation of \$250.00 was made to the museum by the bank president, Robert Riley. Anyone knowing of a business or organization that would like this same privilege can contact any member of the museum board to set up a date.

RECENT MUSEUM VISITORS

Recent visitors to our museum included a large group from the Chicago Chapter of Women in Railroading; Hong Kong, Australia, Wyoming, Ohio, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, and Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Werneke's third grade students from the J B Nelson School. Also of note, Frank and Lois Payne of Dundee, Illinois. Frank is the great, great grandson of Christopher Payne.

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSEUM Old metal name plates attached to Challenge Company products were presented to William Wood by Austin Runde, in memory of Phil Becker.
Framed photographs of Mrs. Bert Johnson, Sr., were given by her son, Bert. The dress being worn in the photographs has been previously presented to the museum.

Miscellaneous memorabilia such as old patriotic buttons, 1933 World's Fair literature, photo albums, a prescription box from M. M. Kinney, Druggist, etc, were presented by Vie and Florence Rudolf.

Keith Wendlund gave to the museum four old photographs.

VIET NAM WAR MEMORIAL Batavia was well represented at the dedication Wednesday, September 26, of the handsome new Viet Nam Memorial, which is located between two flags at the Government Center. Veterans from the surrounding area attended, as well as representatives from Batavia VFW and American Legion posts, and the Fox Valley chapter of Viet-Now provided the color guard. Speakers included Alderman Ken Ramsey, a Viet Nam veteran; Rev Truman Hazelwood, Mayor Schielke, State Senator John Grotberg. The Junior High School Band opened the program with a stirring rendition of The Star Spangled Banner. The dedication ceremony was impressive and touching - and we are proud to belong to a community that has (although belatedly) honored the Viet Nam veterans in this manner.

CHRISTOPHER PAYNE STONE The Christopher Payne Stone and Plaque were relocated from next to the city well on East Wilson Street to its new (and hopefully permanent) location on the city property between the new and old government centers. This ceremony took place on Monday, October 1. Eight hundred grade school children attended this historic dedication. A time capsule was buried in front of the stone, containing the grade school children's signatures and other memorabilia. Several articles were contributed by the Batavia Historical Society relating to the history of the museum and society.

A letter was sent out by Mayor Schielke to the Society (as well as to other organizations) asking for contributions to help defray the expense of moving the stone. The Board responded, in the name of the Society, by sending a contribution of \$250.00.

FROM CARLA HILL Arrangements for the field trip for Museum volunteers are being completed. We will go to the Museum of Science and Industry for the Christmas Around the World exhibits - on Monday, December 3. The bus will leave at 9:00 AM from the Civic Center, with coffee and donuts served at the Center starting at 8:30. On the return trip we will stop for lunch. Letters will be sent to the volunteers soon with complete information about this trip.

On-the-job training for volunteers is still continuing and will also cover week-end volunteers.

ANNIVERSARY January 17, 1985 will mark the 25th: anniversary of the formation of the Batavia Historical Society. Special recognition of this occasion will be made at the first meeting in 1985.

THANK YOU again - to all Museum Volunteers, Carla Hill our Curator, and the Batavia Park District. We are grateful for your many hours contributed to the successful operation of our museum.

REMINDER

Did you pay your 1984 dues? Check with Elliott Lundberg if you are not sure.

Rates

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Singles: \$3

Name _____

Tandem: \$5

Address _____

Sustaining: \$10

Life: \$50

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