



SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1984

Newsletter Fall 2022

259 Main St.—P.O. Box 102

Sugar Grove, IL 60554

Email: sugargrovehistory@att.net

www.sugargrovehistory.org



We received this lovely framed painting of the Sugar Grove Depot by Lois S. Roe from the family of Audrey Claesson. It is a watercolor that was painted in 1970. We are not sure what era it is supposed to depict. It hung on the wall in Audrey's home and now hangs on the wall at Bliss House.

If you are interested in purchasing some prints of historic Sugar Grove please contact Dave Frantz at (630)999-3620.

The quilt for our December raffle is here and it is stunning!

Sugar Grove quilter, Vickie Frantz, has created a French Braid design and measures 89" X 80.5".

You can purchase tickets by either stopping by Bliss house on Tuesday from 1-4, buying through PayPal on our website at sugargrovehistory.org or by mailing a check.

\$5 for one ticket or \$20 for five tickets



The SGHS lost our dear friend, Sue Jacobson, on June 28th. The contributions Sue made to the historical society and our community would take this entire newsletter to mention. Sue was a tireless volunteer and was always the first one to lend a helping hand to anyone who asked for help. We received many donations in her memory and cards sharing stories of Sue's kindness and generosity. Whether it was offering someone a cup of cocoa on her door step, collecting fabric for quilts, visiting someone in need or volunteering with a variety of organizations, she was always willing and able to help. We sure will miss you, Sue.

It was wonderful having the Sugar Grove Corn Boil return this July. We would like to thank those who helped out at the SGHS booth at the Corn Boil:

Liz Chalberg

Dave Randall

Clif Frantz

Terry Jensen

Nancy Wilkinson

We also want to thank Carrie Frantz, owner of Raised Expectations, for donating a beautifully refurbished dresser which we raffled off at the Corn Boil. Thank you so much, Carrie!

Here is the update to go along with the picture of the large boulder in our last newsletter. Through a very generous donation from Jim and Susan Martin we were able to install a plaque honoring Will A. Johnson as well as the early settlers of Sugar Grove Township. The boulder and plaque are at the site of the Johnson family homestead on Main Street just south of Bliss House. Will A. Johnson operated the livery stable just north of Bliss House.



From the 1982 S.G. News:

W. R. KECK - MR. SUGAR GROVE

Trying to tell some early memories of "Spive" was hard to put into words - one did not know where to start - there is so much.

So many people have wondered where the name "Spive" came from. The story told me was that when he was young, he was such a good looking young man and always dressed so "Spiffy" that the name just seemed to fit and then was shortened to "Spive." This may not be the true story but sure seems to fit. He loved to dance and was such a good dancer even to the present time.

He grew up in the store, helping his father, they saw the need for a grocery route to the farmers. Spive would take his groceries and meats to the farmers and exchange them for eggs. He was the one to start the Hardware Store.

It would be impossible to numerate all the young people he employed. There was always work for any child that asked - stocking shelves, sorting screws and bolts, even screwing the nuts on the bolts, sweeping floors, dusting cans and stock and if there was no other job they could take out all the stock and wash the shelves. If you were short on "cash" you could always get a little work at the store. Many a young man or woman got their start at the store.

The Keck family gave the land for the first Fire Barn and Spive served as one of the first Commissioners even to the present time he was still very interested and President of the Fire District Trustees. In the old days the Fire phone was at the store and he would always go over and set off the alarm.

He was very interested in the town, serving as one of the earlier Mayors and doing a fine job. He was truly a Civic leader, even building a new post office.

In later years after his retirement one could see him taking his walk every morning, always stopping at the D & J and Wendling's for his coffee and visiting with the other coffee cronies. He enjoyed a good joke even if it was a little risque and could always add one himself.

He loved his little dog, it was hard to picture "Spive" taking his dog for an ice cream cone, but this he did most everyday. We'll always have the memory of Spive going up the street with "Lansy".

** ** ** ** **



In August we had such a lovely visit with members of the Shields family. Pictured above from left to right are: Tom Deshefy, Ann Deshefy, Jan Shields, Vic Shields, Sandy Cornelius and Jerry Cornelius.



Memorials

Janice Carnes, Mary & Irv Ochsenschlager, Bill & Ruth Anne Hartman, Bob & Lori McCaffrey, Rick & Becky Johnson, Nancy Wilcox Daniels, Mary & Gary Hauge, Alice Zittel and Joan Perrin all made donations in memory of Sue Jacobson.

The family of Frank J. Merrill made a donation in his memory.

Donations

Jack & Terry Shouba	William Lye
Doug & Dianne Frantz	Kane County HEA
Thomas & Donna Frantz	Ceryl Benson

Supporting Memberships

Ted & Norrain Phelps



SUE JACOBSON

COMMITMENT AWARD

The Kaneland CUSD #302 Hall of Fame hereby recognizes Sue Jacobson in the category of commitment for her generosity and dedication to preserving the Kaneland community's history.

Sue has been surrounded by schools her entire life. Born next door to a rural school which she and her brothers attended, Jacobson grew up within the same school district where she would teach for 40 years. She gained her first experience in teaching by helping teach young school children at school and later working on playgrounds and camps.

After being encouraged by her first teacher, her mother, and later by her rural school teachers and her own love for children, Jacobson pursued a career in education.

Jacobson assumed her first teaching job at Sugar Grove Elementary School when it was in temporary quarters at the Sugar Grove Community House. Joseph Wolf, a 1989 board of education member, said Jacobson has seen the district make many advances in the area of education and has been an active and loyal participant during those changes.

"She was a dedicated teacher and dedicated to her community," said Wolf. "She's dedicated her life to the school and the community."

When Jacobson taught first grade at Kaneland Elementary, Walter H. Duy, the principal at the time, said each day he was reminded of her dedication, observing that she was one of the first teachers in the building everyday and one of the last to leave. During her elementary teaching years, Jacobson always kept up with the latest techniques and educational philosophies, going to workshops and conferences and bringing ideas from them to use in her curriculum. She was also one of the first in the district to adapt to learning the benefits of using a computer in the teaching field from a workshop the district offered.

Jacobson continued her dedication to teaching children even after her retirement in 1992. Since then, Jacobson has given presentations to Kaneland elementary students on local history, including the Lincoln Highway and the Oregon Trail. She has also given presentations about local history for other school districts, clubs, senior groups and other organizations.

Students have also learned their Kaneland history from tours she has given at Sugar Grove's historical buildings and cemeteries. Other community involvement has included being a board member of the Kaneville Historical Society, Sugar Grove Township Trustee, board member of Garfield Farm Society, Secretary of Sugar Grove Historical Society, member of the National Lincoln Highway Association, member of the Northern Illinois Tourism/Coalition/Lincoln Highway group, co-chair of the Sugar Grove Senior Citizens, secretary Sugar Grove Unit of Homemakers Extension Association, member of the committee researching Kaneland District's history, Hall of Fame committee member and a visitation greeter for Conley's Funeral Home.

During the late 80's Jacobson received the Kaneland Elementary and Kane County Elementary teacher of the year award, the Kane County Distinguished Educator Award and the Illinois State Board of Education "Those Who Excel" Award of Merit. Jacobson has also received community awards including, in 1996 the Farming Heritage award for service (Lincoln Highway); in 1998, the Service Award Illinois State Chapter-Lincoln Highway and, in 2000, the Exemplary Friend of the Lincoln Highway Award.

THE ORIGINS OF THE AMERICAN SCARECROW

The American scarecrow is a combination of scarecrow traditions from all over the world. The Pennsylvania Dutch brought their scarecrows (bootzamon and bootzafrau) from Germany. These German scarecrows were the images of a man and a woman. Together this team would guard the fields. The legend of the bogeyman grew from stories that the bootzamon could move around at night. The English colonists added the idea of using worn out clothing to dress the scarecrow. Modern American scarecrows no longer guard our fields in the spring and summer, but are works of art used to celebrate the fall harvest and Halloween.

Dorothy's companion from the Wizard of Oz was not the first scarecrow to come to life. In fact, Al Frank Baum's 1899 story, "The Wonderful World of Oz," probably drew from a long history of living scarecrows. Ancient Egyptians frightened birds by yelling and flapping long white scarves. The Creek of North America picked one family from the tribe to live in the fields. This family would watch over the crops.

When people could no longer protect their fields, they put out large carved figures. The tribes of Mexico used large hawk carvings mounted on poles. The ancient Greeks carved fearsome images of the harvest god to protect their fields. However, as the Romans spread the idea of the scarecrows, it took on a more human shape.

The German Vogelscheuchen (meaning bird shoosers) had a sack for a head and metal arms that would clank in the wind. The Japanese scarecrow god, Sohoso-no-kami, also had long arms, but they were made of cloth. In the wind the motion of Sohoso-no-kami would scare birds away.

Although the invention of modern chemical replaced the scarecrow, pesticides are nothing new. The Seneca people of North America spread poison soaked seeds before they planted. Birds that ate the poisoned seeds would fly funny and scare other birds away. The Japanese burned oily rags and fish bones. The Japanese called their repellent Kakshi (meaning bad smell). Many other cultures used natural methods to keep birds out. Wind chimes and long strings tied with feathers are among the many ways to add motion to a garden or field and keep the birds away. All of these methods can still be seen in the many scarecrow festivals that spring up as the leaves fall down.

Summarized from:

Bob Martin, All about Scarecrows Fairfield, CA: Tomato Enterprises, 1990) 9-14.

Officers and Board Members

President

Dave Frantz
(630)999-3620

Vice President

Rick Johnson
(630)383-6394

Secretary

Sue Jacobson
(630)740-9425

Treasurer

Lori McCaffrey
(630)881-4426

Historian

Joan Perrin
(630)917-4435

Directors

Ted Koch
Clif Frantz

**SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP**

Individual	\$10	_____
Family	\$15	_____
Student (17 & under)	\$ 1	_____
Business/Organizations	\$25	_____
Supporting Individual/Family	\$50	_____
Life Member	\$200	_____
Donation		_____

Date _____

Names _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

MAIL TO:
**SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 102
SUGAR GROVE, IL 60554**

THANK YOU!!!

We have had quite a few visitors over the past few month, and we have a new volunteer! Janie Panagopolous is volunteering her time and talents to help us with our ongoing digital archiving project. Janie and her husband, Dennis, moved to Sugar Grove from Michigan. Welcome, Janie!

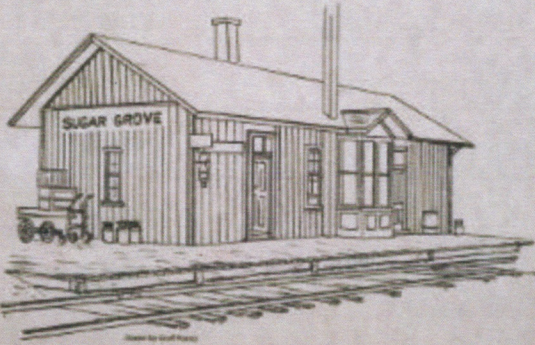
The grandchildren and spouses of John Shields came for a visit. They came from Mt. Carroll, Freeport and Connecticut. It was a wonderful afternoon.

Nicole and Maddie Grueneberg stopped by for a school motivated visit. Sandra Wass from the Kaneville Historical Society stopped by to say hello. Ted and Joan Wujec of Sugar Grove came in to check out Bliss House as well as Scott and Beth Friedman and family.

Bev Pop dropped off some Home Extension files and shared a story about Sue Jacobson and the other members. Back in the day when it was your birthday the group would show up unannounced at your house with all the fixing for breakfast. They would hope to get there early enough to catch the birthday girl in her pajamas.

SIN-QUA-SIP

SUGAR GROVE
A HISTORY of SUGAR GROVE TOWNSHIP
KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS



By Percy Mitchell Paxson

Sin-Qua-Sip

A History of Sugar Grove Township

\$25 if purchased at Bills House

\$30 shipped

SUGAR GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 102

SUGAR GROVE, IL 60554

CAROL STREAM IL 601

19 OCT 2022 PM 10 L



60554-925702

