

# The Henry County Historian



## The Newsletter of the Henry County Historical Society

The Henry County Historical Society – Bishop Hill, IL  
61419 – 309-927-3528

**Spring 2018**

### HCHS Held Annual Dinner & Meeting!

On Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, the Henry County Historical Society held its annual dinner and business meeting at the Old Colony School in Bishop Hill. It proved to be the perfect kick-off for the 2018 season.

The attendees were treated to a delicious meal of chicken casserole or grilled chicken salad. Assorted fruits, nuts, cheese, bread, and desserts were also served. P.L. Johnson's catered the scrumptious dinner.

Following the meal the business meeting was held. The officers for 2018 were introduced: Co-Presidents – Dick and Kathy Edwards, Vice President – Linda Owens, Secretary – Jean Mann, and Treasurer - Patty Varner.

John Butte presented the program, "Gypsy Coeds of Bradford, Illinois." Back in the 30's and 40's young women toured the US, Canada, and Mexico in a Model T. Mr. Butte's mother traveled with the gypsies in 1939 as did his aunt in 1936 and 1937. Mr. Butte wrote a book about their experiences, Darlene's Silver Streak and the Bradford Model T Girls and signed copies.



At the end of the meeting guests were offered the chance to join the Henry County Historical Society or renew their memberships. This opportunity is still available. We hope to see your name on our membership roster. The event ended with a chance to tour the museum.

A special "thanks" must be extended to Patty Varner, Sue Schulz, Roger Anderson, and Dan Dauw. Their hard work made this years' kick-off meeting a mega success!

### 2018 Special Events

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> – DOLL APPRAISAL

Bring your antique dolls and Ellen Tsagaris, writer and speaker about dolls, will evaluate and appraise your dolls for \$5 per doll. **10am - 4pm**

#### TUESDAY, JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> – MARG ROGERS

Marg Rogers will entertain with stories about her family, the HENNEBERRYS, and their adventures in show business. They performed in the Shrine and Emmett Kelly Circuses, at the White House, played in circus bands, and travelled to state and county fairs with their calliope, juggling, and unicycles. **7pm**

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup> – DAN DAUW

Dan Dauw will give a presentation on World War 1. **2pm**

#### SATURDAY, SEPT. 22 & 23 – AGRICULTURE DAYS

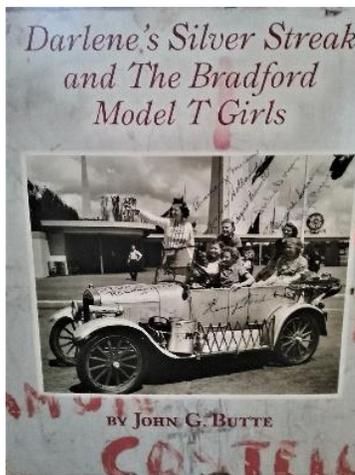
Jordbruksdargarna displays, demonstrations, and tractor show will take place here at the Henry County Museum.

## **GYPSY COEDS AND THE “SILVER STREAK”**

History was made on April 29, 2018, as John Butte entertained at the HCHS Annual Meeting and Luncheon. This two-part story told of Bradford, Illinois coeds, also referred to as Gypsy coeds, who enjoyed ambitious adventures in an old Tin Lizzie. Every summer, from 1934 – 1942, the girls would climb into their Model T and travel, sometimes cross county, to enjoy parts unknown. John’s mother and aunt participated in the gypsy fun!

The second part of his story is equally intriguing. After the passing of his mother, John began a search for that notorious Model T. The girls affectionately called the car “Silver Streak.” John found the car and purchased it in 2012.

John’s passion and research merited two positive outcomes. The first is John’s book, “Darlene’s Silver Streak and the Bradford Model T Girls,” which was published in 2015.



The second is equally impressive. The Silver Streak was chosen to be featured in a debuting television show on the Discovery Channel. As of now the show has the code name, “Garage Gold.” It aired on April 30th.

The Gypsy Coeds and the Silver Streak have provided us with a rich history. It is a history that is continually shared in print, on the silver screen, and in narrative orations. The Gypsy

Coeds and Silver Streak remind us that summer is a time for adventure and fun! It is a time to make history!

## **HCHS SAYS “FAREWELL” TO TREASURED VOLUNTEER**

Cinda Anderson, a faithful and valued member of the Henry County Historical Society, died on February 16, 2018 at the age of 67. She lived in rural Bishop Hill and enthusiastically served that community.

She was survived by her husband, Robert Anderson, her son, Jeffrey Jones, and two daughters, Joy Amundsen and Tracy McNamara. They have our sincere sympathy.

Cinda enjoyed antiquing and volunteer work. HCHS was a recipient of her magnanimous spirit. She served as a volunteer at the museum, as well as treasurer for the Henry County Historical Society. Her dedication will long be remembered. Farewell Cinda, you are greatly missed!

## **FOLLOW THE SIGN**



Lost? Well, not anymore! There is a new sign on the G-A Blacktop. Roger Anderson and Eldon Menken are shown here putting the finishing touches on the new museum sign on the Galva – Atkinson Blacktop. All efforts were coordinated with Kathy and Dick Edwards and the Doss family. The signage is a welcome addition to the countryside. A big “Thank You,” to the HCHS and all those who worked to make clarity possible.

## WELL, HELLO DOLLY!

Dolls are an important part of history. They are figures of human beings, children's toys, and even have been involved in religious rituals and magic. Their reputation is one of being a member of the oldest known toys, having been around for thousands of years.

Dolls have evolved and changed with time. Their progression is as follows: wooden paddle dolls, inuit dolls (soapstone and bone, dressed in fur), apple dolls (heads made from dried apples), corn husk dolls (didn't have faces), Pennywoods (carved wooden dolls and ragdolls made by settlers), Matryoshka dolls (Russian hollow dolls that stacked inside each other), clay dolls, Peg dolls, Porcelain dolls (of the industrial era), paper dolls, stuffed dolls, black dolls, fashion dolls, action figures, Bobbleheads, and the customizable dolls of the 1990's.

Individuals who love dolls range from young children to senior citizens. For some it is all about pretense and play, for others it is about décor and collections. Some dolls are treasured and passed from one generation to the next, others are merely disposable.



Today, many of us own dolls and value them for sentimental reasons or monetary reasons. These dolls, that are very valuable, usually have historical value, are collectables, or are family heirlooms. Sometimes it is just hard to know the value of our treasures.



The Henry County Historical Society (202 Park St., Bishop Hill, IL.) will host a doll appraisal on June 9, 2018 from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The elite appraiser, Ellen Tsagais, will be on site helping you to know your doll's dollar value. She is a renowned author of many books and will appraise the dolls for \$5.00 per doll.



Don't miss out on this opportunity! If you need more information contact Sharon Peer – 309-944-3839.

## HCHS IMPORTANT 2018 TIDBITS

1. Linda Owens recruited Carter Bates and his mother, Melissa Bates, as weekend workers at the museum with Jennifer Piester.
2. Shawn Piester will continue as the museum cleaner.
3. Terri and Dan Wigant will continue mowing the lawn this year.
4. HCHS is interested in acquiring Rose Sandstrom's scrapbooks.
5. Richard Carlson is donating toy farm equipment to the museum.

The Henry County Museum operates with ease because of the above mentioned individuals. Mind you, there is a host of volunteers, dedicated board members, generous donors, and other hard working individuals who are striving diligently to guarantee a successful 2018 season. Be sure to stop in this summer and enjoy the fruits of their labor!

**HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
202 Park St.  
P.O. Box 48  
Bishop Hill, IL 61419

**Be a part of history. . .**

**SUPPORT THE HENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Henry County Historical Society and its museum exist solely through memberships, donations, and the support of its volunteers. We hope you'll join us in supporting our efforts to preserve and promote the history of Henry County. Memberships are due starting March 1 of each year. **Remember to Visit: [www.historichenrycounty.com](http://www.historichenrycounty.com)**

**SINGLE: \$20**

**FAMILY: \$25**

**SPONSOR: \$50**

**PATRON: \$100**

**Please provide the following information and send with your payment.**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

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