
WHITE COUNTY HISTORIAN

Volume 23, Issue 3

July - September, 2017



"Preserving and
Promoting our History"

2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CORN DAYS
CORN TASTING &
MUSEUMS OPEN
OCTOBER 13 & 14

PIONEER DAYS FOR WHITE
COUNTY 5TH GRADERS
WITH THE RETIRED TEACHER'S
ASSOC.
MATSEL CABIN
OCTOBER 24 & 25

FALL DINNER MEETING
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 13, 6 PM

MUSEUMS OPEN DURING
WHITE COUNTY CHRISTMAS

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow White County Historians,

Fall is here and it is 90 Degrees, hopefully it will cool down soon and feel like Fall. The Society has a busy Fall with Corn Days, Pioneer Days and the Fall Dinner Meeting. I hope all of you can find time to volunteer to help or at least attend one or more of these events

Corn Days is Oct. 13th & 14th. The annual Corn Tasting will be at the Ratcliff Inn on Sat. the 14th from 11 AM to 1 PM. Bring a corn based dish to the Inn after 10 AM on Sat. or stop by after 11 AM to sample all kinds of corny foods and help out the Society. While you are downtown bring out-of-town family and friends to the L. Haas, Ratcliff and Robinson-Stewart Museums. Check our Facebook page for hours. What good does maintaining these buildings do if nobody visits and enjoys them?

On Oct. 24th & 25th, the 5th graders of White County will visit "Pioneer Days" as presented by the Society on the West lawn of the Matsel Cabin. As always volunteers are needed as 5th graders today are as "rambunctious" as they were in "Pioneer Days." Contact Gene Jordan at 618-383-5330 to volunteer.

The Fall Dinner Meeting will be held Nov. 13th at 6 PM at the First Christian Church in Carmi. The speaker will be Michael McNerney and he will acquaint us with "The migration of the necked discoid grave marker in Southern Illinois." Please see the article in the newsletter for more information. Mr. McNerney's visit to White County is a cooperative arrangement with the Carmi Public Library as he will be holding a book signing at the Carmi Library at 4 PM as well as sell & sign books at the Dinner. This cooperative effort with the Library is similar with the cooperative effort we have with the Retired Teachers Assn. who help with "Pioneer Days." We can't do this alone! I have it from good sources that Mr. McNerney is an excellent speaker. Contact Paula Pierson at 618-382-7633 to make reservations. As the weather is more agreeable and the leaves are turning colors this Fall it might be a good time to visit that old cemetery where your ancestors are buried and reconnect with your history. While you are there make a note of gravestone (as I would call them) shapes & styles, as it might make Mr. McNerney's presentation more interesting.

David Brown, President

NEWS FROM THE MARY SMITH FAY GENEALOGY LIBRARY

by: Librarian Diane Waggoner

PO Box 121, 203 North Church St., Carmi, IL
618-382-8425 email: w.c.h.s-genealogy@hotmail.com
11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Tuesday - Friday

Carmi Times, October 15, 1963

First Corn Day Celebration Interesting, But Different

Carmi's First Corn Day Celebration was nearly 35 years ago . . . November 24, 1928 to be exact . . . and even though it was it had none of the modern frills of present-day celebrations. . . it attracted more than 5,000 persons for an all-day celebration devoted to games, contests, and agricultural exhibits. Many of the first participants are deceased.

Microfilm files of old Carmi newspapers for the year 1928, available at the Carmi Public library, revealed this interesting story of the first Corn Day.

The big event was sponsored by the Carmi Kiwanis Club, W. J. Appel, president, with the following committees: Publicity—Farm Advisor C. W. Simpson, Roy Clippinger, C. S. Conger; Finance—W. R. Archer and E. W. Haas; Entertainment—George Sweazey, Louis E. Ude, Herman Vaught, and Charles Wehrle.

The big day started off at 10:30 a.m., with a huge crowd on hand to see the performance of the Egyptian Drummer girls drum and bugle corps from Crossville, composed of Misses Bernice Sheridan, Margaret Stanley, Virginia Stokes, Anna Hill, Wilma Endicott, LaVerne Brown, and Helen Endicott. The young ladies wore "white sailor pants and tiger sweaters".

Several times during the day there was a "turkey throw" from

the third floor window of the First National Bank. The newspaper stated that one turkey flew right into the arms of little Bertie Green; another was grabbed by Miss Mary Stokes when it landed on top of a car near her.

When two guineas were dropped the same way in the afternoon one was caught by Mrs. Porter Given of Crossville; the other bird was so uncooperative that it never reached the ground; it landed on the sill of the second story window and was caught by bank cashier E. P. Hubele, who opened the window from the inside and grabbed the bird.

One novel contest was a mule-potato race. The contender was given a mule, a nail keg with 10 potatoes inside and a sharpened lath. The object was to spear a potato while mounted on the mule, ride to the opposite end of the contest area and drop the potato into an empty keg; the first person to transport all ten of his potatoes in this way to the empty keg was the winner. "Jap Pyle and Joe Frazier carried off the honors in that order".

Louis E. Ude was in charge of the ladies' nail-driving contest. Wave Doshier was winner in the class for girls under 16.

Mrs. Henry Holland, Route 4, Norris City was winner of the

(Continued On Page 2)

First Corn Day Celebration Interesting

(Continued From Page 1)

ladies' hog calling contest. Martin Winter, Route 5, Carmi, won for the men.

Cyril Endicott was in charge of the three-legged race. This was won by Sherrill Hillyard and Charles Renshaw. Renshaw, Route 2, Crossville, also topped the 50-yard dash.

A big part of the first Corn Day was the competition from entrants in agricultural and home economics classes: In the "largest ear of corn contest" winners were: John L. Brown, Hawthorne Township; A. P. Newby, Springerton; and Jake Lamont, Grayville.

Mrs. Ed McClure won the prize for the "best apple pie", Mrs. D. Fred Endicott carried off the honors for the "best devil's food cake", and Mrs. Martin O. Winter, Route 5, Carmi, won the top award for "best loaf of bread".

There were dozens of other classes. . . from best bushel of wheat to biggest pumpkin, and they attracted hundreds of entries. Various classes of entries were displayed in the show windows of Carmi business firms. Even without the glamour of a big parade, rides for the youngsters, and the contest for Corn King and Queen, that first Corn Day was a big success.

With all the added features that have "sprung up" during the intervening years, Corn Day has remained the biggest attraction of the year in this locality. Hard-working Kiwanians still team up each year with business men and stage the biggest celebration of the year. That's what you'll see this Saturday at Corn Day in Carmi!

RESEARCH FEES

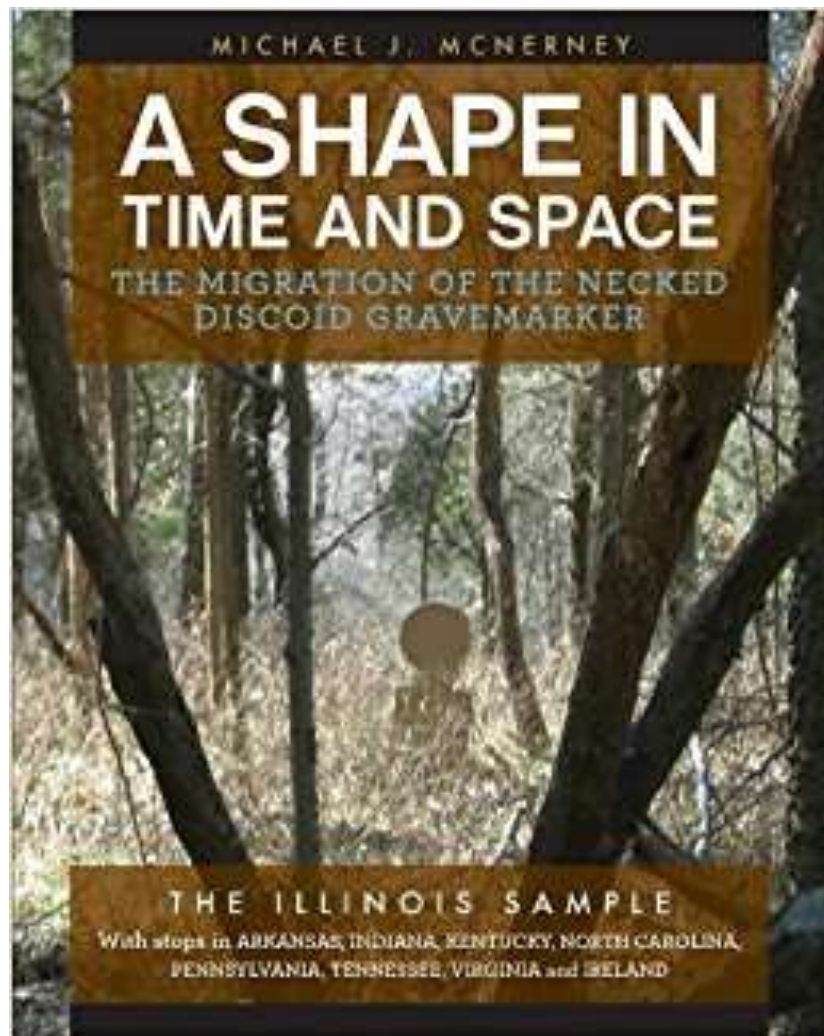
If you would like us to do research for you (White County area only), please contact us. Cost of research is \$15 per hour. Copies are 20 - 25¢ each. Shipping & handling is \$5.

Come and visit us and we will help you do your research at no cost to you, all you pay for is the cost of copies.

FALL DINNER MEETING

by: David Brown

The Fall Dinner Meeting will be held Nov. 13th at 6 PM at the First Christian Church in Carmi. The speaker will be Michael McNerney and he will acquaint us with “The migration of the necked discoid grave marker in Southern Illinois.” This is the story of a uniquely shaped grave marker brought by the first wave of immigrants arriving in Southern Illinois in the late 18th & early 19th Centuries. Most of these grave markers are locally cut Sandstone and hand lettered. Two grave markers of this style are in the Enfield Cemetery, Polly Biggerstaff, died 1831 & Sara Miller, died 1826. I believe any descendent of Polly or Sara or any Biggerstaff or Miller who would have any information on these individuals or their families would be of interest to Mr. McNerney. Pass the word on to the Enfield folks. Mr. McNerney is a past Archaeologist at the Southern Illinois University Museum and has written a book on “necked discoid grave markers in Southern Illinois.”



CORN DAYS HISTORY

Carmi Corn Day King & Queen

Written by: Suzy Hubele, 2000 Corn Queen
Joy Richey, Extension Unit Leader

Crowning of the 4-H Corn King and Queen has a unique history behind it. The first corn King and Queen were chosen in 1930. The king was the adult who had the highest corn yield as checked by the Cooperative Extension Service Farm Advisor. He was not necessarily a 4-H member. The Queen was a 4-H member with the highest project record score.

- ⇒ By the early 1940's two Kings were chosen. An adult and a 4-H member both were selected based on their corn yield.
- ⇒ Beginning in 1959 there was no adult King – only a 4-H member. The Queen was chosen based on combined records of all the years in 4-H.
- ⇒ In the early 1970's the King was also chosen based on combined project records but till had to have a corn project.
- ⇒ During the 1980's the corn project requirement was dropped and the King was chosen based on total records only.
- ⇒ By the 1990's some scores were so close that the committee started an interview process using interview points as part of the total score.

Today both King and Queen candidates fill out an application called 4-H Highlights and go through an interview. 4-H members can begin to apply once they are 14. However, the process for the 4-Her actually begins the first year of 4-H. The members must start keeping records in the beginning so they will have everything they need by the time they are applying for Corn King or Queen.

The Corn King and Queen application asks for a complete list of all projects taken since the first year in 4-H, and their rating at the fair. Next there is a section on club activities and county activities. Years of participation are indicated. These activities include things like award programs, spaghetti supper, public speaking and various workshops.

Leadership, such as club offices held, is listed. Then there is a page to write in teaching experiences and assistance given. 4-H members also fill out a section where they mark 4-H honors and awards received. The last page deals with community service and school organizations members are involved in.

CORN DAYS HISTORY (CONTINUED)

The members selected all ride on a float in the Corn Day parade, and are then seated near the stage. As the Corn Day parade progresses, each candidate is introduced and a short biography is read about them. At the end, the King and Queen are announced. The King receives a trophy, the Queen receives a unique charm bracelet and both are presented with a \$100 savings bond, all given by Kiwanis.

Being named Corn King or Queen is an honor. It is very meaningful to the recipient. A lot of community service by 4-Hers goes unnoticed and their talents and achievements rarely make the news. Despite this, 4-H members keep working hard at what they're doing. In return, some are able to be awarded with the highest award in 4-H, Corn King or Queen.

Past Corn King & Queen List

	<u>Queen Maiden (Married Name)</u>	<u>King Corn Yield</u>	<u>4-H King</u>
1930	Eloise Reichen (Armstrong)	Wash Pool	
1931	Velma Pollard (Staley)	Augustus Medlin	
1932	Iva Rippy (Morgan)	A.P. Newby	
1933	Elsie Kiefer	Herbert Austin	
1934	Frances Seitz (Ninness)	Arthur Redman	
1935	Beulah Seitz (Bryant)	A. P. Newby	
1936	Alma Doris Nibbling (Staley)	A.P. Newby	Doyle Roser
1937	Norma Deppenmeier (Barber)	Billy Nolen	Ralph Roser
1938	Virginia Veatch (Harms)	A. P. Newby	
1939	Louise Kousick (Mills)	Augustus Medlin	
	Ellen Coe Burlison		
1940	Rosa Jean Hughes (Haas)	Doyle Roser	John Whetstone
1942	Irene Holliman (Gentry)	Emmett McIntosh	Walter Whetstone
1943	Mary Jane Cooper (Hoskins)	Emmett McIntosh	Walter Whetstone
1944	Doris Stephens (Pinkerton)	Emmett McIntosh	Walter Whetstone
1945	Doris Stephens (Pinkerton)	Augustus Medlin	Dale Medlin
1946	Marilyn Hunsinger (Cleveland)	Emmett McIntosh	
1947	Patsy Deahl (Frymire)	Delano McIntosh	
1948	Norma Wagner (Masterson)	Carleton Apple	
1949	Betty Cleveland (Jensen)	James A Walsh Jr	
1950	Laura Lee Myers	James A Walsh Jr	
1951	Lela Mae Hucker (Pierce)	Carleton Apple	
1952	Donna Carney (Kays)	Delano McIntosh	
1953	Wanda Haddock (Gidcumb)	James A Walsh Jr	
1954	Georgia Allen (Friggle)	W. T. Hardy	
1955	Jane Austin (Pushheck)	Hubert Donahoo	
1956	Pat Rodgers (Oldfield)	John Wayne Brown	
1957	Mary Ann Schneider (Sabine)	Randall Brown	
1958	Edith Faye Stephens (Whobrey)	Charles Pfister	
1959	Wanda Young (Sipes)		John Burroughs
1960	Lena Mae Spence (Hake)		Albert "Rusty" Walsh
1961	Janet Williams (Nicholls)		Terry Sturm
1962	Nancy Ackerman (Winter)		Ralph Duvall
1963	Linda Burns (Edds)		Gary Apple
1964	Pamela Rietz (Agan)		Roy Fleck

CORN DAYS HISTORY (CONTINUED)

Past Corn King & Queen List (continued)

	<u>Queen Maiden (Married Name)</u>	<u>King Corn Yield</u>	<u>4-H King</u>
1965	Nancy Kay Stephens (Daugherty)		Tim Sturm
1966	Judi Britton (Bondrachek)		Donald Duvall
1967	Alice Ann Chapman (Moore)		Archie Duckworth
1968	Carolyn Schneider (Hoskins)		Dale Winter
1969	Martha Stephens (Goin)		Stan Mayberry
1970	Lou Sailer (Keil)		Kevin Williams
1971	Brenda Mitchell (Brackett)		Alan Ray Barbre
1972	Barbara Elliott (Hagler)		Jim Whetstone
1973	Jan Sailer (Bryant)		Bill Cross
1974	Leah Coston (Clark)		Bruce Armstrong
1975	Kim Rountree (Iglehart)		Reed Rountree
1976	Karen Basinger (McKinney)		Jim Stephens
1977	Sherry Young (Talbert)		Jeff Spencer
1978	Janice Whetstone (Hutchison) & Trudy Sturm (West)		David Doshier
1979	Renee Young (Fellowes)		Clint Spencer
1980	Ruby Matz (Schuster)		Roger Green
1981	Cindy Hays (Effinger)		Greg Armstrong
1982	Regina Knight (South)		Ray Bingman
1983	Carolyn Ackerman (Horwatt)		Chip Walsh
1984	Mary Jo Basinger (Murphy)		Troy Mayberry
1985	Sharon Gates (Douthitt)		George Johnson
1986	Sherry Bingman (Bingman)		Kerry Sutton
1987	Debbie Walsh (Whetstone)		Shane McCall
1988	Amy Bryant (Dixon)		Chris West
1989	Robert York (Biggs)		Derek Price
1990	Sandra Gates (Bryant)		Jay Herring
1991	Beth Pierson (Hafele)		Derek Lawrence
1992	Kim Price (Touchstone)		Torrey West
1993	Leslie Ledford (Prince)		Brad Gates
1994	Heather Bramlet (Crowell)		Wade Ackerman
1995	Kim Lamp (Early)		Matt Lawrence
1996	Rebecca Nolan		J. R. Hubele
1997	Susan Beam		Ben Westfall
1998	Holly Lamp (Davis)		Tyler Wooten
1999	Holly Linder (Healy)		Chris Greene
2000	Suzy Hubele (Tomm)		Matt Garner
2001	Amy Baumgart		Bob Bierman
2002	Megan Denbo		J J McKinney
2003	Jessica South		Arthur Bohleber
2004	Chanda Linder Sauls		Allen Denbo
2005	Anna Baumgart		John McKinney
2006	Gena Johnson		Dan Bierman
2007	Melinda Warrick		Wil Bingman
2008	Amber South		Andrew McKinney
2009	Christine South		Cole Fechtig
2010	Molly Musgrave		Bryce Williams
2011	Mallory Hammell (Thompson)		Dylan Price
2012	Shelby Hammell		Aaron Harrington
2013	Adrian Lamp		Jacob Hubele
2014	Eva Nelson-Ochs		Griffin Hart
2015	Riley Price		Alec Garner
2016	Josephine Hubele		Jace Carter

CORN DAYS HISTORY (CONTINUED)



Queens of years ago--This photogra appeared in the Oct. 9, 1952 issue of The Carmi Tim It was provided by Helen R. Sturm of Grayville.

The caption: "1927 Kiwanis Corn Day queen and attendants. Top row, left to right, Mrs. Carl Robinsor Mt. Carmel (former Letha Dean Huber). The que Mrs. M. L. Armstrong (formerly Eloise Riecken) and F Waller. Second row: Mrs. Norman Boehringer (forme Norma Lynn Miller) and Mrs. Wayne South Libertyville (formerly Gloriana Wetzl)."

CORN DAYS HISTORY (CONTINUED)

Carmi Times, October 7, 1999



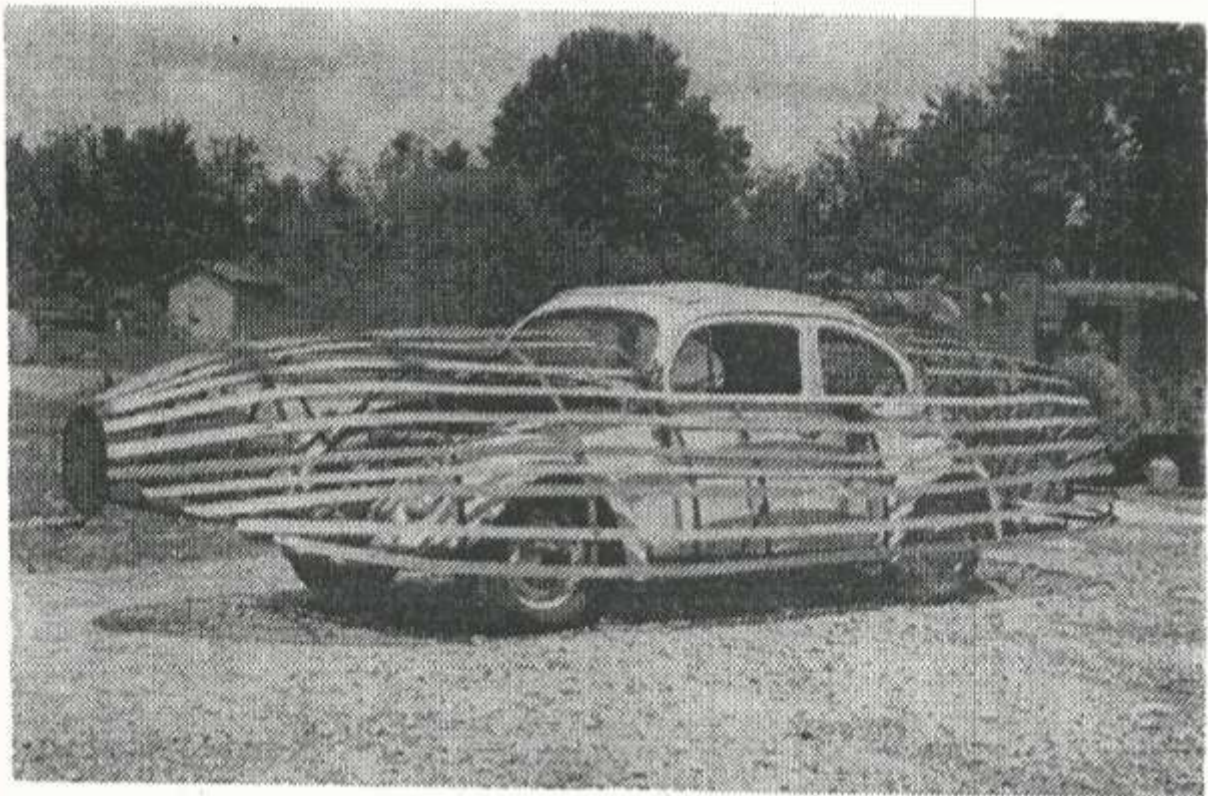
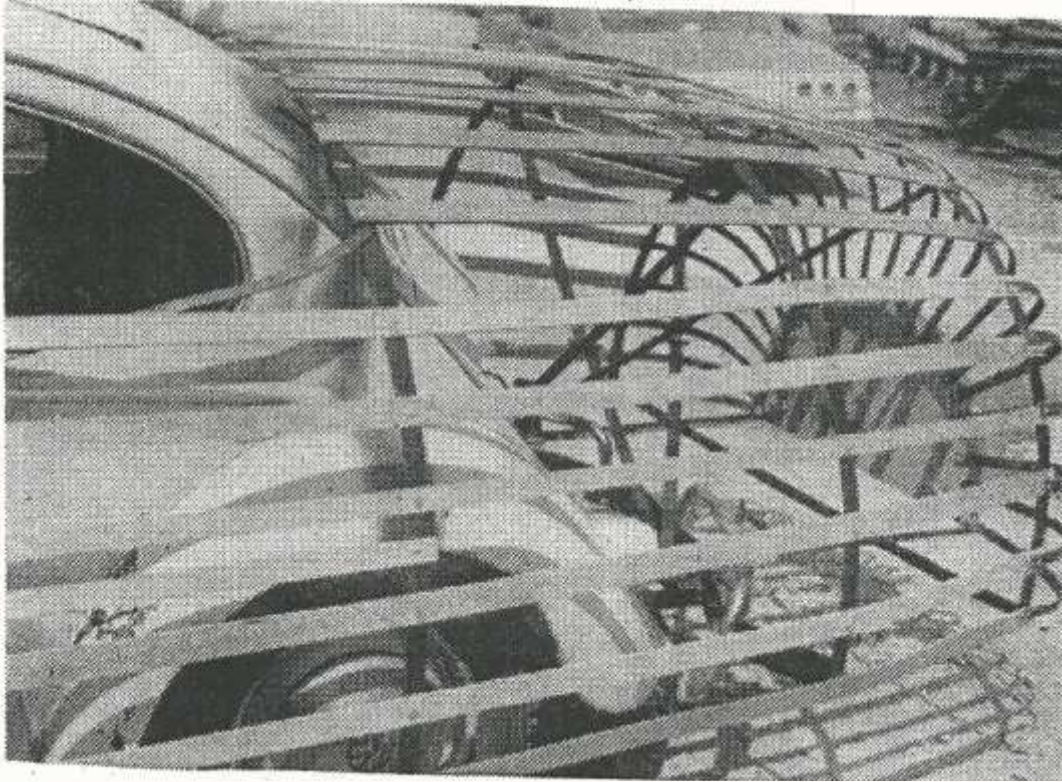
The Corn Car

This vehicle was seen in area parades for many years before being retired. Photos provided

Inside it is a 1955 Volkswagen, which the Kiwanis Club of Carmi purchased "used." It took club members about six months to make a metal frame with wooden slats, which was covered with canvas, coated with airplane glue and painted to resemble an ear of corn. Club members drove it in area parades to advertise the club's annual Corn Day celebration.

CORN DAYS HISTORY (CONTINUED)

A CARMi ORIGINAL



TIDBITS

by: Kathleen Rister

The 1930's saw our country hit hard by the Great Depression. Our neck of the woods was no different. My parents grew up in this era, and I've heard lots of stories of "making do" such as putting cardboard in your shoes, or not wearing shoes in the summer to make them last throughout the winters. My mother lived on a farm, so they always had plenty to eat; it just might not have been what you wanted. She remembered one boy from their one-room school house whose parents could afford bananas. All of the kids would stare at him as he peeled his banana and ate it. Oh, what we take for granted today!

This was also the era of Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency. Immediately upon inauguration, FDR began working to break the strangle of the Depression and introduced the New Deal, including the Civilian Conservation Corp, or CCC, started in 1933 and aimed at addressing two urgent needs, putting young men to work and preserving natural resources damaged by erosion and timber loss. Remember too, this was the era of the Dust Bowl caused by poor farming and conservation methods. So, soil erosion was a huge problem then.

CCC camps were set up all across the country, and White County had two. One was in Grayville, and the other in Norris City. Grayville's company 694 originally formed at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri in July, 1934. After working in the Metropolis, IL area, the camp was moved to the Jolly farm on Oxford Hill at Grayville in May, 1935. It rained for weeks upon arrival, and the area around the tents was a muddy mess. Portable buildings began arriving in July. Ultimately, barracks, mess hall, recreation hall, an educational building, and an infirmary were at the camp. Approximately two hundred workers and engineers were housed in camp at any given time.

Besides men from urban areas in need of work, local residents enrolled in the CCC, too. The Grayville newspaper of June 28, 1934 reported that only boys from families on "relief" could apply and had to be "18 to 25 years of age, inclusive, single, unemployed, physically fit, have dependents, and willing to allot to their dependents a substantial portion of their salary", being \$1.00 a day. Which, if your parents were struggling, would have been a big help.

Men from the Grayville camp participated in softball games against local teams, held boxing matches, read at Grayville's Carnegie library, and participated in classes such as bee culture. There's even a picture of them engaged in acrobatics!

But they worked hard, too. One of the camps final work reports in the Grayville paper notes "demonstration[s] of erosion control methods have been established on 146 farms, comprising 19,150 acres", including "terraces, 60 miles protecting 770 acres; dams, 122 permanent type, 5,939 temporary structures; contour cultivation, approximately 2,000 acres; planting, approximately 2,525,000 trees and shrubs planted on 1,015 acres for erosion control and wildlife conservation." I would say those young men definitely earned their \$1.00 a day!

The CCC camp was moved from Grayville to Shelbyville, IL in 1939 to help with erosion problems in Shelby County. If you would like to learn more about the CCC, the Groff Memorial Public Library in Grayville will be hosting author, songwriter, and filmmaker, Bill Jamerson, as he presents Dollar-A-Day Boys: A Musical Tribute to the Civilian Conservation

Corps. The program will be held Monday, October 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in the Wabash Theatre in Grayville. The program is free and open to the public.

Research for this article can be found in newspaper archives and the book *Official Annual – 1937: Jefferson Barracks District, Civilian Conservation Corps*, housed at the Groff Memorial Library in Grayville. ✍

Photos from: http://www.cclegacy.org/Archives_Illinois.php



ESTATE GIFTS - SIMPLER THAN YOU THINK

If you would really like to help the White County Historical Society but are not inclined to do so during your lifetime, you may be pleased to know that there are some simple ways to make a gift to the Society through your estate. Following are a few of the simplest and most popular ways to do so.

1. Simply instruct your attorney to name the White County Historical Society as a beneficiary in your will or trust using the language below.
2. List the White County Historical Society as a beneficiary of an insurance policy, retirement account or tax-deferred annuity. Simply request a "change of beneficiary form" and use the language below to fill it out.
3. Fill out a Transfer of Death (TOD) form where you hold your investments using the language below.
4. Request a Totten Trust form from your bank and list the White County Historical Society as a beneficiary of your account(s), once again using the language below.

"_____to the White County Historical Society to be used in the ongoing stewardship of its buildings and grounds, the conservation of its artifacts and the continuation of its educational programs."

GENEALOGY QUERY

If you have a query, please send it to the Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library and we can add it to the next newsletter.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

We know that many of you have stories about a historical event of White County. We would welcome having your story to include in future editions of the White County Historian. Write your story, include your name, and mail it to Mary Smith Fay Genealogical Library at P.O. Box 121, Carmi, IL or email to rshous@gmail.com. Then watch for it in future editions of the newsletter.

MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve and promote the historical interest of White County through our stewardship of its artifacts and the historic sites and education programs and exhibits that we provide for its people

VISION STATEMENT

To make the history of White County come alive for the people of White County

MUSEUMS



Ratcliff Inn
218 E. Main Street



The L. Haas Museum
219 E. Main Street



Robinson-Stewart House
111- S. Main Cross Street



Matsel Cabin
East Robinson Street

Our museums, located in Carmi, Illinois, are open on advertised dates or by appointment only:

CONTACT INFORMATION

- ✉ Mailing Address: White County Historical Society
Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library
PO Box 121
203 North Church Street
Carmi, Illinois 62821-0121
- ✉ Email: rshous@gmail.com
- ✉ To make an appointment to visit our museums, contact the librarian at the Mary Smith Fay Genealogy Library: call 618-382-8425 or email w.c.h.s-genealogy@hotmail.com
- ✉ If you have an item you are interested in donating to the society contact Gene Jordan, 618-383-5330.
- ✉ Comments, suggestions or contributions for the newsletter can be mailed to the address above or to rshous@gmail.com. Please include "newsletter" in the subject line.

AFFILIATIONS

The Society maintains memberships in the following:
 Southern Illinois Association of Museums (SIAM)
 Illinois Association of Museums (IAM)
 American Association of State and Local History (AASLH)
 Illinois Historic Preservation
 Carmi Chamber of Commerce

MEMBERS OF THE 2017 BOARD:

President – David Brown	Marjorie Brown
Vice President - Paula Pierson	Cindy Birk Conley
Secretary – Ranelle Hubele	Kathy Fridley
Treasurer – Jeff Bohleber	Lecta Hortin
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