

A Newsletter of the
Lisle Heritage Society

Lisle, DuPage County, Illinois

Volume XXXVI No. 5

September 2016

September General Meeting and Program

“The Station Master”

Thursday, September 29th, 7:00 PM, Depot Baggage Room

By Bea Bennett



Who would think that Lisle's 1870s depot, retired long ago as the biggest shipper of milk on the CB&Q line way back when DuPage was a rural county, would now be the literary setting for murder? Lisle author and Lisle Heritage Society member Luisa Buehler not only thought it, but wrote a book on it, weaving into her story familiar sights in Lisle and fact checking details with local authorities.

Join us for a look at Lisle in an entirely unexpected way!

Luisa Buehler (pictured left) has been a Lisle resident for 32 years. She is a graduate of Rosary College (now Dominican University) in River Forest where she majored in English.

She was first published in 2003, but has been writing since the early 80s. “It took five years to sell my first book,” the tenacious Luisa tells us.

“The idea for The Station Master came from the Heritage Society story about how the Depot was dismantled, moved, and reassembled. I thought it fascinating, and began to think, ‘what if?’ For most mystery writers, that is how the story begins.”

32nd Annual Lisle

Depot Days 2016

Saturday & Sunday

September 17 and 18

Noon to 5 pm

Museums at Lisle Station Park

Popular Attractions

- Miller’s Petting Farm
- Maggie the Milking Cow
- Hayrides
- HO Gauge Model Train
- Historic Automobiles
- Heirloom Gardens
- Gift Shop – 35th annual ornament
- Local Author Luisa Buehler
- Friends of the Library Book Sale
- Story Time

- Wheelmen Antique Bicycle Club
- Morse Telegraph Club

Pioneer Craft Demonstrations

- Blacksmithing
- Wood Lathe
- Baking: Beehive Oven
- Bobbin Lace Making
- Cider Press
- Quilting
- Knitting
- Leather Working
- Rug Hooking
- Spinning & Weaving
- Natural Dying
- Beekeeping
- Soap Making
- Ottawa Log Saw
- Mini Hay Baler

Square Dancing

1 pm to 3 pm

Watch / Participate!

Metropolitan Chicago
Association
of Square Dancers

Games, Contests

Pie eating contest (1:30 pm), sack race, jump rope, bubbles, tug-o-war, croquet, candy in the straw

Straw Bale Maze

We're Still Counting on You, Connie Vodicka!

Connie Vodicka is among our most dependable volunteers! We are most grateful for her work as Corresponding Secretary on the Board these past years. Connie's service was recognized at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in June where she received a commemorative plaque. She continues to contribute to our initiatives, most recently at the Ice Cream Social in July, and this month at Depot Days. Thank you, Connie!



The Lisle Heritage Society Welcomes Bill Smith to the Board of Directors

Bill Smith was installed as Corresponding Secretary at our June general meeting.

Bill and his wife, Pat, are Life Members of the Society. Bill has been a very active volunteer over the last three years. The couple resides in Lisle Township. You may have seen Bill running the wood lathe or passing out hot dogs at one of our events. He will occasionally play the harmonica as the need arises.

Starting at a young age Bill has been a volunteer, as was his father before him. He became a volunteer fireman at the age of 13 and served for 10 years, first as Chief of the Junior Department and then as a lieutenant as an adult.

He attended Ohio Buckeye Boys State sponsored by the American Legion. He was sworn in as a law enforcement officer on his 21st birthday and served as a Special Deputy Sheriff and Village Deputy Marshall, working special events and traffic during his weekends home from college. He completed the Ohio Peace Officers Training Course. He is an alumnus of Morehead State University, Morehead, KY, with a BBA in Business Administration. He is a graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

Bill retired after serving for 41 years with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as a Commissioned Bank Examiner.

Bill served as a board member of the Naperville Youth Football League; he served on his homeowners' association board, and was an officer on the Naperville Area Homeowners Confederation board which represents all the homeowners associations in Naperville. In addition to the Museums at Lisle Station Park, Bill also currently volunteers at Naper Settlement and at Kline Creek Farm. He is a supporter of The Morton Arboretum, Naper Settlement, and the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

We are delighted to welcome Bill, and look forward to him learning to play more tunes on his harmonica. He tells us this is a very slow process!

website:

www.LisleHeritageSociety.org

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Lisle Heritage Society Board Meetings

are the second Tuesday of every month except December, and are open to the general membership.

The Newsletter is published January, March, April, June, September, October, and December.

LISE HERITAGE SOCIETY GUILD 35TH ANNUAL ORNAMENT

By Carol Carls



We hope you will enjoy this unique and charming hot air balloon, the 35th in our Heritage series of collectible ornaments. The *Windy City Wood Turners* crafted the solid wood piece. *Lisle Heritage Society Guild* members Cathy Cawiezel, Joan Lavin, Gerry McNellis, Juli Riedl, and I hand painted and embellished it using a design I created.

The ornament commemorates the history of hot air ballooning. Joseph Montgolfier, a Frenchman born in 1740, and his brother, Etienne, began their quest for flight in November of 1782. This can be considered the birth of aerostatics.

Their first attempt rose 30 meters. The first flight with passengers was September 19, 1783 in Versailles when they launched the balloon with a duck, a cock, and a sheep on board. The brief flight proved that living creatures could fly safely.

Pilare de Rosier was chosen to be the first man to fly in the balloon. This took place about two months later, on the 21st of November. The flight above Paris took approximately 28 minutes and reached an altitude of 3,000 feet.

After this achievement, hot air ballooning rapidly became fashionable. But it was not until the 1960s that the development of modern hot air ballooning was seen, thanks to the invention of new materials and especially the use of on board propane burners. An American, Ed Yost, was the first man experimenting with the new hot air model as it still looks today.

The following news clippings apropos ballooning are from The Writer's Guide to Everyday Life in the 1800s, Marc McCutcheon, c 1993

- An advertisement in the *Connecticut Courant*, June 9, 1801:

“Vertical Aerial Coach . . . begs to inform the Public that the Machine erected near Mr. John Lee’s is now strengthened and supported in all its parts – rendered perfectly safe and secure, and elegantly painted and redecorated – system and regularity established, so that voyagers may be treated with slow and steady or more rapid movements as they may order; so that persons of a timid cast will enter with assurance and be much delighted; others may progress 500 yards per minute. Attendance daily from 3 o’clock till dark. Parties of 2, 4, 8 or more will be waited on at their call at any hour of the day.”

- From the *Massachusetts Spy*, November 3, 1819

“Father and I have just returned from the balloon – all nature was there, and more too.”

By the Garden Gate

By Heidi Otto

It has been a wonderful year for weeds! Ann Patt has fought nasty thistles the entire growing season. The four square garden behind the Netzley/Yender House suffered a rabbit invasion after heavy rains washed away dirt and mulch that secured protective chicken wire at the base of the picket fence. Beans and cabbage were lost to the critters, but have since been replaced with Dragon's Egg cucumbers and radishes. Dragon's Egg is an heirloom cucumber cultivar that produces white, egg-shaped fruit. Hopefully we will have something green in the garden in time for Depot Days.



There is a brand new garden under construction on the Museum grounds. Informally we are referring to it as the "Moms' Garden." It is located along the walkway that leads to the Depot Museum from the north. Joan and Bob Ross, dear friends of my mother, Shirley Otto, made a monetary gift in her memory. They asked that it be used to create a living memorial. We decided that the money could be used to create an educational garden dedicated to all of the mothers who have worked so hard to establish and maintain the Museums at Lisle Station Park.

The garden will feature items that would have been transported via the railroad. The mail bag post was already in place. A small gravel path was added between the sidewalk and the post. The soil was prepared for multiple peony plants that were donated by Ruth Yender from her family's Lisle home, and others transplanted from elsewhere on the grounds. The peony patch that was at the southeast corner of Main St. and Ogden Ave. in Lisle provided flowers to Chicago florists for many years, and plants from that patch are found in many yards in Lisle today. A milk canister is being retrofitted to cover an electrical outlet in the garden. It will honor the dairy industry that once thrived in Lisle and the surrounding areas. We are still working on a way to include items that reflect Lisle's farming history in the garden, but that will come in time.

Jim Fousek and Bill Smith are in the process of building a bench by the garden using stone from the Yender family. Ruth Yender says, "The bench will be a good place for tired moms, and tired daughters of moms, to rest and enjoy the new garden and the Museum grounds."

Even though it's still under construction, please stop by to see the new addition!



Straw Bales for Sale!

You will have an opportunity to buy both mini and full-size straw bales at Depot Days!

In Memoriam

Bernadine “Birdie” Sheahan

October 19, 1925 – June 16, 2016



Bernadine “Birdie” Zelek was born in Chicago in 1925, the fifth of six children. Her parents, Frank and Mary, immigrated to the United States from Europe.

Birdie was graduated from Maternity BVM Elementary School and from Kelvyn Park High School, both in Chicago. She worked at a beer factory where she tested the percentage of hops in the beer.

Birdie and John Sheahan exchanged nuptials on February 15, 1947 at Maternity BVM Church. The two had known each other since grade school. They made their home on Harding Avenue in Chicago until moving with their five children to Lisle in September of 1961. The two celebrated 57 years of marriage before his passing in 2004.

The family belonged to St. Joan of Arc Parish. The school children there called Birdie “the Hot Dog Lady” because she volunteered during the weekly school hot dog lunches.

Birdie and John volunteered preparing and serving sweet corn at the Lisle VFW booth during 4th of July festivals. The couple delivered for Meals on Wheels. In 1999 they were jointly awarded the Lisle Rotary Club’s Distinguished Service Award in the Senior Citizen category “in recognition of unselfish and outstanding contributions to the community.”

Birdie was a long time member of the Ethyl Marshall Unit of the Homemakers Extension Society. She was well known for her love of and skill in crafting, especially making colorful wreaths, baskets, and flowered hats. She was dubbed by many as the “Sunshine Lady” because of the joy she spread by gifting her crafted creations and by unfailingly remembering and acknowledging people with greeting cards. She was an exceptionally caring and generous woman.

Birdie served nine years on the board of the Lisle Heritage Society both as VP of Membership and as Corresponding Secretary. She and John hosted the committee who made floats for the 4th of July at their home, and made arrangements for the floats to be pulled in the parade. Birdie was an active member of the Heritage Guild during most of her more than 30 years of membership in the Society.

Bernadine was preceded in death by her parents and her husband. She is survived by her children Tom (Jo) of Arizona; Jim of Lisle and Australia; Patricia (Butch) Hartman of Aurora; John (Susan) of Champaign; and Dan (Kim) of Lisle; 10 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Arrangements were handled by Adams-Winterfield & Sullivan Funeral Home. Mass of Christian Burial was June 21 at St. Joan of Arc Church, followed by interment at Lisle Cemetery.

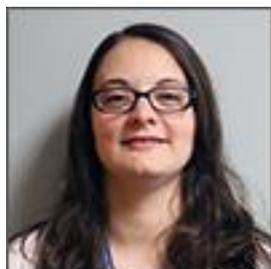
Condolences

Our sympathies are with members **Nadine and Fred Filipiak**. Nadine’s brother, Cecil A. Norton III, died August 28. Cecil worked as a trucker. He served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He is predeceased by his wife, Norma Jean. He is survived by his siblings, Nadine and Shawn, two children, two step children, and six grandchildren.

Lisle Park District Hires New Museum Curator

Best Wishes, Buddy Avila!

This talented and ambitious young man was Curator of the Museums at Lisle Station Park altogether too short a time. He is now at Bowling Green State University in Ohio where he received a scholarship to work on a Ph.D. Buddy proved himself to be knowledgeable, hardworking, personable, and professional. We are confident of his future success.



We extend a warm welcome to **Concetta Gibson** who started work as Curator, the Museums at Lisle Station Park, in August.

Ms. Gibson is a native of Philadelphia. She worked for the Calvert Marine Museum in Maryland where she did archival work for the Tom Wisner Collection. She also developed an interdisciplinary educational training program for teachers and families that focused on the collection.

Concetta recently joined the Board of Directors for the Aurora Regional Fire Museum.

She will be giving a co-presentation at the Illinois Association of Museums Annual Conference in Oak Park this month.

Concetta and her husband perform with the Fox Valley Orchestra. She volunteers for a local greyhound rescue organization. She and her husband own a retired racing greyhound, Sydney.

Welcome, New Members!

Carl Barley
199 Park Ln.
Sulk Village, IL 60411

David Broz
3115 N. Kenmore
Chicago, IL 60657

Bea and Chester Grabowski
4374 Arborview
Lisle, IL 60532

Wayne Hoppenrath
4512 S. Cross St.
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Matthew Koberstine
3207 Plantation Ct.
Naperville, IL 60564

Dick Overton
1700 Robin Ln., #256
Lisle, IL 60532

Sheila Verkamp
2258 hidden Creek Ct.
Lisle, IL 60532

Lisle Heritage Society members **Bill Smith** and **Jim Fousek** generously volunteered to keep the museums open and give tours during regular hours for the several days in August between when outgoing Curator Buddy Avila left and new Curator Connie Gibson started.

Frank and Phyllis Madrigali had their antique vehicle in the 4th of July parade, and promoted our Society with signs displayed on each side of it.

5th Annual 4th of July Ice Cream Social

By Cathy Cawiezel

“Now that was a nice event!” That was the enthusiastic remark made by a man to his wife and children as they were leaving the museum grounds July 4th having enjoyed the Ice Cream Social. Those certainly were welcome words to this weary event volunteer who overheard them!

The Social is a Lisle Heritage Society initiative. Guests are treated to complimentary hot dogs, hand-scooped ice cream sundaes, and lemonade. It is reminiscent of community and leisure activities of days gone by, and it is an opportunity to showcase the Heritage Society and the Museums at Lisle Station Park by drawing over 700 people to the grounds. We welcomed a number of new members as a result of the event. It helps that our VP of Membership, Joan Lavin, is so very charming and works the crowd so effectively!

We cannot thank our volunteers and donors enough. Without them, the event would not take place!

Top: Lisle Community Band members; left: Bill Smith, Jim Fousek; top right: Bea Bennett, Joan Lavin



Left to right:
Bill Smith,
Cathy Cawiezel,
Wayne Dunham,
Donna and Jim Fousek,
Nadine and Fred
Filipiak, Joan Lavin,
Wayne Hoppenrath,
Buddy Avila,
Heidi Otto (kneeling)

(Seen coming and going!)



Thank you, SJA Knights of Columbus!

Ralph Fortino
Matt Zicarelli
Ray Feltes
Marie and Mike Czech
Jason Cadell
Terry and Dave Cascarano
Pat Sarb

Cash Donations

Tina's Closet
University Commons
Honda/Volvo Lisle
Dr. Frank Marchese

All donors are Business Members of our Society

Other valued volunteers not pictured: LHS: Sue Bennett, Megan Degan, Mark Hayford, Phyllis Madrigali, Jay Spitzer, and Bob Vodicka; Knights: Ron and Sandy Lehner, Robert McGuffey

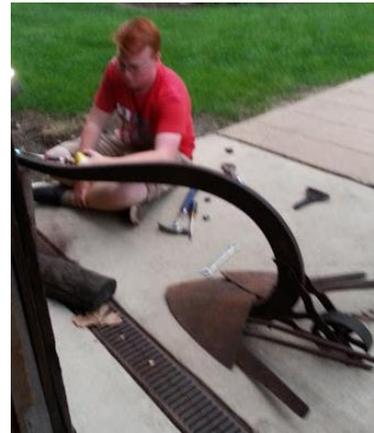
Around the Anvil

Highlights from the Blacksmith Shop, June, 2016

By Mark Hayford, Bob Goodwin, Bill Smith, Heidi Otto, and Jim Fousek
Photos by "Tuesday Evening" Volunteers



Week of June 14: Bob Goodwin opened the shop but soon left to enjoy his out of town visitors. Ron Lavin, Don Ford, Jeff Shoemaker, Gordon Oliver, and Mark Hayford were here on this really hot night. Jim Handzel came later with the commemorative beer tapper handle he made for the 150th anniversary of Palatine. Gordon worked on a knife from an old file with lots of filing. Jeff made a triangular pull handle similar to the handles we have on the bellows. Ron worked on a tool to pull up manhole covers. Don finished a handhold made out of an old pry bar. Mark refined a drift for an axe and started the fold for the axe in preparation for the weld. It is possible he did not have it hot enough, so it may be scrap metal. Ron also helped Luke Pankow, who started work on his Eagle Scout Project to restore the potato digger and hay fork.



Week of June 21: Jeff Lesh and Ron Lavin worked at the forge making a dinner donger and trivet respectively. Bill Smith cleaned up the shop floor.

Week of June 28: Scout Luke Pankow and his father, Jeff, worked on the potato digger disassembly while Mark Hayford worked at the forge on his axe. Joan and Ron Lavin came with out of town visitors who enjoyed a tour of the shops and Netzley/Yender House. Impressed, they left with a Society membership application. Heidi Otto worked in the garden while Bill Smith and Jim Fousek checked over the popcorn popper. Once it was deemed functional, a couple batches of popcorn were produced and enjoyed by those present, including Buddy Avila, who discussed various projects.

Week of July 5: July 4th Ice Cream Social: Megan Degen, Mark Hayford, Ron Lavin, and Bob Goodwin gave demonstrations in the blacksmith shop. Bob also spoke with visitors in the woodshop. Many were interested in our three lathes. Some of the visitors were former third graders who have visited the museums on their annual field trip. They remember us and bring their families back to visit. Tuesday: Temperatures were warm and humid and everyone was still recovering from the 4th of July Ice Cream Social. Don Johnston and Jim Fousek reassembled the spring pole lathe. Don and Bill Smith tested it. Bob Goodwin, Joe Bennett, Tom Both, and Ron Lavin spent considerable time discussing the proposed barn addition. Many options were hashed out and layouts done to provide a sense of the size of what is being proposed. Heidi worked on the gardens.



Thursday: With Luke Pankow making great progress on his Scout project to restore the potato digger, Bob Goodwin, Bill Smith, Ron Lavin, and Jim Fousek made some repairs that required the forges. They welded the broken plow blade and fabricated a new hold down clamp and potato/dirt tines. Luke, his father, Jeff, and Scout leader, Kevin Fox, and Kevin's son, Jake came to observe. To complete the disassembly of the potato digger the hitch assembly was unbolted and the drag wheel freed up and it now spins freely.

Week of July 12: Bob Goodwin acquired an old metal fire pit and did some repair work by fashioning supports for the legs. This will be handy to use once the weather cools off. Heidi Otto worked on creating a garden by the north steps of the Depot platform. Bob cut out the bottom of a milk container that will be used to hide the electrical outlet by the new garden.

Week of July 19: Bob was the only volunteer present and he worked to strip the many layers of paint and varnish from the railroad bench slats.

Week of July 26: Jeff Lesh and Ron Lavin were at the forge. Jeff worked on a dinner triangle and Ron practiced his skills making "ball" ends and scrolls. Bill Smith and Joe Bennett discussed Society business, and then came to the garage where Jim Fousek worked on stripping the railroad bench wooden slats. Eventually they decided to contract out the stripping.

Bill and Jim also looked over the doctor's buggy and have created a plan to get the project moving forward again. Jim cleared out a number of wasps nests that were being constructed around the Tavern, Waycar, and Yender House, but not before the wasps were able to retaliate with a couple of stings to Jim's arm.

Tom Goodwin, Bob's brother, while taking down an old barn, discovered a hay trolley/track and donated it to the Heritage Society. It was manufactured by the F.E. Myers Bros. Co of OK. We will need to make some repairs, but it all seems to be there and will make an interesting demonstration piece once we get the time to fix it up and learn how it operates. A big thank you to Tom for this generous donation.



Week of August 2: Ron Lavin forged tongs. Bill Smith, Bob Goodwin, and Jim Fousek brought in a load of cedar shingles and kindling wood donated by Ruth Yender. They also assisted Heidi Otto with some details for the new memorial garden. Joe Bennett discussed administrative matters.

Week of August 9: Ron Lavin worked at the forge on various projects. Bob Goodwin, Joe Bennett, and Tom Both inspected and made plans to replace rotten siding on the waycar. Vito Cacucciolo stopped by to catch up on progress in the shop. Heidi Otto and Donna Fousek worked on repairing the seat cushion for the cutter.

Thursday: Bob and Jim took the wooden railroad bench slats to Wehrli Woodworks for stripping.

Friday Fred Filipiak, Bob Goodwin, and Jim Fousek received the new cypress porch swing Ruth Yender ordered to be hung on the porch of the Netzley/Yender House. The swing needs to have a finish applied and some assembly is required. Fred volunteered to work on this project.

Week of August 16: Mark Hayford, Ron Lavin, and another gentleman (whose name was missed by this humble scribe) worked at the forges. Heidi Otto painted a milk can for the new memorial garden. She then turned her attention to a wobbly wood bench which Joe Bennett and Bill Smith assisted her in cutting off the jagged end, replacing the support stumps, and creating a solid bench.

Ice Cream Social Photo Album



Clockwise from top left: Bob Goodwin, Roger Olson, Ralph Fortino, Anthony Capetta, Fred Filipiak, Ron Lavin
Pat Cawiezel, Joe Bennett, Connie Vodicka, Wayne Hoppenrath, Wayne Dunham

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