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Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society
306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439
lemonthistorical@gmail.com
www.lemonthistorical.org

NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER
NOV 26 – 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S
ASSASSINATION
GUEST SPEAKER Dr. Gordon
NEW EXHIBIT
NOV 26 – LAHS ELECTION
DECEMBER 8 – CHRISTMAS CHORAL
& COOKIE FEST DOORS OPEN AT
1PM. SANTA IS COMING!!!!!!

NOVEMBER 26 AT 7PM.
Noted Guest Speaker, Dr. Gordon,
will help us to focus and highlight the
historic event of the 50th Anniversary of
the Assassination of President Kennedy.

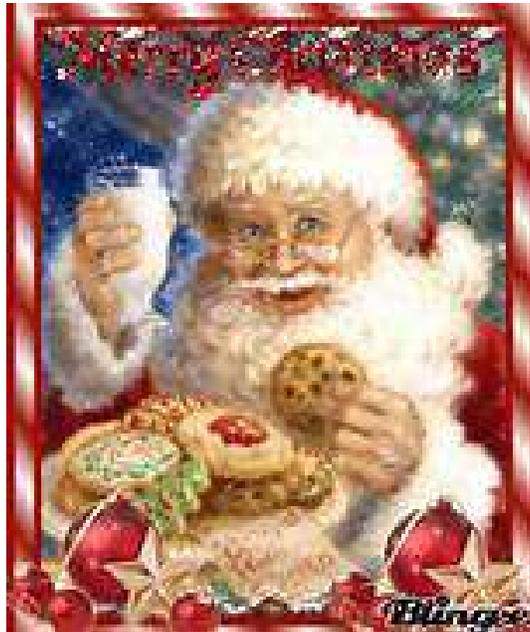
MISSING OUR FAVORITE MC
THIS YEAR AT THE CHORAL
FEST – MR. TOM LUDWIG R.I.P.



ART WORK RAFFLE

Tickets now on sale for an original
painting by well known Lemont artist,
Joyce Affelt. Tickets are: 1 for \$3 or 2 for
\$5. Raffle will be held on December 8th.
A beautiful addition to any home's
surrounding. Raffle ticket/tickets image
in newsletter can be printed out and
raffle money sent in with name etc.

“CALLING ALL BAKERS!!!”



**SANTA IS HAPPY SINCE HE KNOWS THE
LAHS BAKERS
WILL BE CREATING THEIR SPECIAL TREATS
FOR
THE CHRISTMAS CHORAL AND COOKIE FESTIVAL
DECEMBER 8, 2013**

2 DOZEN OR MORE SMALL COOKIES

DROPOFF DATES:

FRIDAY, DEC 6 FROM 10AM-2PM.

SATURDAY, DEC 7 FROM 9 – 12 NOON.

**DON'T DISAPPOINT THE JOLLY MAN
OR COAL IN YOUR STOCKING YOU MAY FIND ON
CHRISTMAS MORN!!!**



**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZE
DECEMBER 8, 2013**

Lemont Area Historical Society Raffle

"Hometown Steeples"

Original Framed Watercolor (18" x 24")
by acclaimed Lemont artist Joyce Affelt, a montage of
Lemont's historic skyline steeples.

Tickets \$3 each or 2 for \$5

Drawing at Christmas Choral Program - December 8, 2013

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Telephone No. _____

E-Mail _____

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Name _____

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E-Mail _____

President's Message.



Gary and Sue Roy
Fright Nite 2013

November 1, 2013

Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that this is the last newsletter for 2013. This year has just flown by!

At this time, the Board and I would like to give a special thanks to Thuy-Van Becker. Thuy-Van has been volunteering at the Historical Society this last year. She has left us all with something very special as she created an interactive children's activity book for the Museum. Thuy-Van and her husband, Sebastian, are expecting their first child in March and will be returning to their home in Germany. We will miss them both, as well as their passion for history, and wish them all of God's blessings as they start their new family!

We would like to thank all of those who attended our Street Fair and Fright Night! We had fun at the Street Fair with Rick Meyer's trivia contest and look forward to next year. Again, Fright Night was scarier

than ever! Joe Deskovich was the winner of our Scary Story Contest. Congratulations Joe! Thank you for contributing to the success of these two events.

Also, we had some excitement at the Old Stone Church with the cast and crew of "Anguish" filming there last week. We would like to thank "Soon to Stardom Susan Donahue" along with Patricia Camalliere for sitting at the Church all day while the filming took place. Susan will be making a cameo appearance in the film.

Hopefully, you will be able to attend our November 26th program "Where We Heard the News". We will have Kennedy researcher Dr. Jack Gordon lecturing on the 50th Anniversary of the JFK assassination. We will also be opening our 50th Anniversary Exhibit of JFK's Assassination on that evening. Please feel free to bring any Kennedy memorabilia you would like to share. Light refreshments will be served.

Also, again by popular demand, we will be presenting our Annual Christmas Choral Concert and Cookie Sale on December 8th. Please come and enjoy the beautiful voices of St. Patrick's and St. Al's choirs.

The Board and I wish you and your families all the very best for a peaceful and blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Best regards, Sue

ATTENTION LAST CALL -

If you have any memorabilia concerning the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of President Kennedy please bring it in a.s.a.p. The Exhibit Com. will be starting to focus on this new exhibit within the next few weeks. We promise to give your items TLC. Thank you Gail August and John Quinn for your recent items on loan for this special exhibit.

Genealogy Corner



By Barb Bannon

Humor From the Grave

In the weeks prior to Halloween I drove past a number of homes with "cemeteries" in their front yards. There were tombstones scattered among the leaves and cobwebs strategically strung, waiting to startle the next little trick or treater. The headstones had cleverly worded epitaphs like, "Here Lies Roger Black, choked to death on his favorite snack" or "Here Lies Nate... He brought my daughter home, way too late".

These humorous writings reminded me of some of the real gravestones I have seen on the internet while doing research. Grave humor is rare but there are some in cemeteries that offer a small amount of levity, comedic relief you could say, amid messages of tragedy. These are from websites that had photos of the markers, a number of which were very intricately sculpted or had detailed etchings. Some are humorous, curious or just really strange.

There are some that are a sign of the times in the 1800's:

In a Silver City, Nevada, cemetery: *"Here lays Butch, We planted him raw. He was quick on the trigger, But slow on the draw."*

And this one in Boot Hill Cemetery in Tombstone, Arizona: Lester Moore was a Wells, Fargo Co. station agent for Naco, Arizona: *"Here lies Lester Moore Four slugs from a 44 No Les, No More."*

You can tell that some messages were meant as a way of remembering the wit of the deceased as in this self written epitaph: *"When people's ill, they come to I, I physics, bleeds, and sweats 'em; Sometimes they live, sometimes they die;*

What's that to I? "... I Letsome

And the wit continues with this couple commenting on overcrowding in D.C. the marker of Katherine and Sterling Ivison: *"We finally found a place to park in Georgetown!"*

Sometimes they are a playing with names, John Penny's epitaph in the Wimborne, England, cemetery: *"Reader if cash thou art In want of any, Dig 4 feet deep And thou wilt find a Penny."*

And this one in Ruidoso, New Mexico, cemetery: *"Here lies Johnny Yeast, Pardon me For not rising'.*

The widows get their say in these tombstone epitaphs: In a Vermont cemetery: *"Sacred to the memory of my husband John Barnes who died January 3, 1803 His comely young widow, aged 23, has many qualifications of a good wife, and yearns to be comforted."*

Also this one in Colorado Springs, Colorado, of a woman who was married to a Texan buried in Texas: *"I'd rather be here than in Texas"*.

There are subtle epitaphs that you have to let sink in but you still don't know if they were meant to be humorous.

From Belturbet, Ireland: *" Here lies Bernard Lightfoot, who was accidentally killed in the 45th year of his age. This monument was erected by his grateful family."*

Take a minute with this one also: *"Here lies the body of Thomas Vernon, The only surviving son of Admiral Vernon, Plymouth, Mass."*

There are some that sound like a consumer tip: *"The grave of Ellen Shannon in Girard, Pennsylvania: Who was fatally burned March 21, 1870 by the explosion of a lamp filled with "R.E. Danforth's Non-Explosive Burning Fluid."*

Or a safety message: In a Uniontown, Pennsylvania cemetery: *"Here lies the body of Jonathan Blake, Stepped on the gas Instead of the brake."*

I read an article a while ago about Eleanor Herman, an historian and author. She feels most people take death far too seriously; that death is the final joke in this long-running sitcom we call life.

She is determined to have the last laugh. She purchased a gravestone for an Uncle whose grave had gone unmarked for 17 years, in remembering the cigar-chomping lady's man who was married six times she wrote:

*"Uncle Walter loved to spend.
He had no money in the end.
But with many a whiskey,
And many a wife,
He really did enjoy his life."*

When you are not used to this type of inscription it can seem to be a very strange way to memorialize a loved one. But the inscriptions have fans, including the people who work at the cemetery. "They were all waiting there to shake my hand," Eleanor said of her visit to the cemetery. They told her that whenever they get depressed at work, as they are around death all day, they walk up to her family plot to raise their spirits.

For most a standard Epitaph will be the choice, but for those who were always known for their sense of humor, a funny headstone may be quite appropriate. Dog portrait painter with clients such as Oprah Winfrey, also purchased a marker with the following inscription:

*"To the victor go the spoils.
Christine painted well with oils.
Painted dogs both big and small.
All the canines short and tall.
Oodles of poodles, mutts and schnauzers.
Shepards and spaniels and furry bow-wowers".*



Mailbox

If you have a general genealogy question or comment please send it via regular mail or email to lahsgenes2@yahoo.com with "Genealogy Corner Mailbox" in the subject and we will do our best to have the answer in the next newsletter.



Connecting Branches

The Genealogy Committee has been made aware of the following new family names being researched:

Joseph R. Weimer – researching Andrew & Mary Weimer family

If you are doing research and would like to contact these or other genealogists, please let us know by leaving a message at the Museum 630-257-2972 or by e-mail to lemontahs@sbcglobal.net



Barb Bannon, Rose Yates, and Pat Camalliere feed the ghosts and goblins Treats at "Fright Nite"– 3 Wise Ladies!

This is a letter reprinted from the Sept 2013 Cornerstone and was submitted by Patricia Knight, Life Member:

The Bruno Schustek Memorial Fund
30 West 600 Sunrise Road
Naperville, IL 60563

Dear Friend of Aviation:

A hero of early aviation lies forgotten in an unmarked grave in Elmhurst, Illinois. We want to change that. Will you help us?

On July 6, 1930, a young woman dangled for two hours above Stinson Airport in what is now McCook, Illinois, her parachute caught on the wing of the jump plane.

Patent medicine heiress and budding pilot 'Madcap' Merry Fahrney of suburban Oak Park had set out that Sunday morning to learn parachuting. It was her first jump ... and things went badly. As her plane circled 1,000 feet above the airport, other aviators saw her dilemma and tried various rescue strategies, all without success.

Finally, two local pilots, Bruno Schustek and Charles 'Bud' Geiger, formed a different plan. Schustek, who had been a German pilot during WW I and had emigrated to the U.S., where he flew gliders, was also an expert parachutist. He knew well what kind of danger Fahrney was in and what he himself risked. As Geiger flew their plane and positioned it above the immobilized Fahrney, Schustek climbed down a rope and attempted to free her.

Somehow, Fahrney's chute came free and she fell safely to earth – but as her rescuer tried to climb back up, his strength failed him and he fell 600 feet to his death before horrified airfield spectators and surprised motorists on nearby Route 66. The story was picked up by wire services and ran in newspapers throughout the country. That a former enemy combatant would perform such a selfless, dangerous act of courage was news.

The young heiress forgot her rescuer almost as soon as she left the airfield that day, but his fellow aviators did not. Schustek was buried with honors in Elmlawn Cemetery:

30 planes flew overhead during a ceremony at his gravesite and dropped flowers to honor him. Any trace of a gravestone, however, vanished over the years (as has the record of one), and both the deed and the man have fallen from memory. He is buried in an unmarked grave. That kind of courage shouldn't be forgotten. You can read more about the Stinson Airport tragedy here:

<http://www.il66assoc.org/content/route-66-history-aviation-tragedy-route-66>
<http://curioustraveler66.wordpress.com/2012/10/25/route-66-stinson-airport-tragedy-socialite-goofs-pilot-dies>

or listen to our podcast about it here:

<http://illinoisgeographicalsociety.podbean.com/2012/06/19/a-midair-rescue-attempt-over-route-66/>

Why we're writing to you: We are three historians – two geographers and a journalist – engaged in research on Route 66 who came across Schustek's story and are determined that he be remembered. A memorial fund has been created to purchase a headstone in tribute to this brave aviator. Our goal is to raise enough funds so that his grave marker can be dedicated on or before the 75th anniversary of his death in 2015. Any leftover funds will be used to cover the cost of a public dedication ceremony. Your donation will help.

Unfortunately, you can't send your contribution via credit card or by PayPal, because both of those cost money to process – and we're trying to direct every penny we get toward the cost of a headstone. For now, the fund administrator can only accept checks (by mail) or cash donations (in person). Won't you help us commemorate this brave man who paid the ultimate price?

Please send your contributions to:

The Bruno Schustek
Memorial Fund
30 West 600
Sunrise Road
Naperville, IL
60563

You can read more about the Bruno Schustek Memorial Fund at:

<http://curioustraveler66.wordpress.com/2013>

[/07/09/memorial-fund-is-up-for-stinson-airport-tragedy-hero-schustek/](#)

We also hope that given your group's interest in aviation and in aeronautical history, you might help us publicize the fund campaign and help us accomplish our goal in that way. We would appreciate any publicity that you can offer concerning the fund and would be thankful for any monies raised or offered by your organization. For more information, please contact Joe Kubal at jdrk4715@aol.com.

Help us to honor the memory of this forgotten American hero. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith Yearman, Joseph D. Kubal, and Maria R. Traska

Organizers of the Bruno Schustek Memorial Fund

Co-authors of The Curious Traveler's Guide to Route 66 in Metro Chicago

Book blog:

<http://curioustraveler66.wordpress.com/>

Lemont Street Fair 2013



“The Greatest 50 Years”

By Richard H. Lee

This year, 2013, marks the 50th anniversary of 3 or more historically important events that have changed the world dramatically. I was dreaming about this one night as a kind of nightmare that woke me up early at 5 a.m. These events are the American Civil Rights movement, assassination of President Kennedy, and the rise of the real threat of nuclear war.

The civil rights movement or more accurately human rights or dignity movement started transforming the southern states that opposed it. This resulted in killings of rights advocates and intense hatred of racists or radical fanatics – including burning of Christian churches and lynching. I guess this was a kind of a modern Christian persecution since the movement was based on the teachings of Jesus and non-violence.

President John Kennedy's assassination brought the shocking realization that communism had become a national threat with secret terrorists.

Not long after, Robert Kennedy was shot and killed with unknown motives and then Dr. Martin Luther King by a racist who thought he was doing a righteous deed. Now we have terrorists in our country free to kill anyone they choose with easy access to guns that can kill many. The Cuban missile crisis showed us the bold determination of President Kennedy, who stopped nuclear weapons just off our eastern shores, but a movie in 1962, “Fail Safe” showed us in dramatic fashion that nuclear war could begin any day, even driven by accident. Countries like China, North Korea, and North Viet Nam were actively trying to take control of Asia and with access to nuclear materials that meant power.



SOCIETY NEWS
BY SUSAN DONAHUE



Sebastian and Thuy-Van Becker at the Baby Shower held by Board. Best Wishes and thank you, Thuy-Van for volunteering.
“Bis wir uns wiedersehen!”

TOURS:

In the last few months we have had a few group tours, which we totally appreciate. One tour was of the quarries by a group of boy scouts. It was actually my first tour as a guide of the quarry area, but it turned out well.

In fact I was complimented by one of the boys at the end of the tour. He said, “That was fun and I learned something too.” His mom immediately pointed out to me that this was a big deal coming from him. You see at the age of 9 he wasn’t quite sure as they were driving here that it might be too long a walk for him.

The other tour was from a group of school students from a Christian School in Chicago. They had been here two years ago and their teacher decided that learning about Lemont would fit perfectly with the lesson on Illinois history that they were studying. They parked their yellow bus on Lemont Street, maybe you saw it there. They did the downtown walking tour, had a picnic in the backyard, and finished with the museum tour.

They also found having to walk downtown interesting but commented, “Wow, I am exhausted.” The downtown tour took an hour, then they screamed with wonder and fright at the ants and bees that dared to invade their picnic. The teacher said to me, “You have to understand these are city kids.” I nodded, although in Chicago they do have parks I guess it is not quite the same as sitting in grass in the wild, nature settings of the suburbs.

They were well behaved. The teacher had two aides with her. I enjoyed it and each tour is an adventure that makes you appreciate being adaptable. It also was the first time that a tour saw the new mural on Lockport Street.

SCAVENGER HUNT:

This is the second time a teacher, Mrs. Ercoli, LHS Foreign Language, has arranged a “Scavenger Hunt” with the museum as one of the destination spots. She came in to view some of our exhibits to glean her questions from and, of course, the questions centered on the different ethnic groups that first settled in Lemont. She had asked quite a few questions last year not realizing that the students would want to do it again – some repeaters so she needed new questions – and to put a smile on all our faces she said they asked her to include that small, cute museum in town in the hunt.”

The students were in teams as an after school extracurricular experience. Prizes awarded without counting as a grade. There were about 25 students in teams of 2 up to 5. They in some cases used their smart phones or called their grandparents to see about translations. All were enthusiastic by degrees. It was a competition that some took very seriously, while for others it was laid back. My telling them “Hot” or “Cold” was their only clue at the museum. Hope this becomes a tradition



STEPPING BACK IN TIME

By Susan Donahue

The program on Nov 26 deals with the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of President Kennedy and asks the question, “Where were you when you heard the news?”

I would like to start a little further back than that and give you a personal glimpse into when he first came on the scene and I heard about him.

I remember sitting by the tv with my parents and hearing the news about this young, vital man who was going to run for President. I asked my dad that night, “What do you think about that?” He paused and said, “Well, he has two strikes against him going into it?” “Two strikes, what do you mean?” I said. “He is Irish and he is Catholic,” was his reply. “Dad, I am surprised at you.” He replied, “You see there was someone who also tried running for President and his name was Al Smith and he had problems because of those two factors that I mentioned.”

Later after the debates on tv I asked him, “What do you think now?” Dad said, “He came off well, he might just do it.” My mom felt she could vote for him.

Well, he did win and much to all our surprise the nuns at St. Patrick’s decided it was history in the making and had the janitor Polly Hanrahan bring in a tv to watch the Inauguration. I don’t know what surprised us more, us watching tv in class, or the fact that the nuns not only knew tv existed but owned one.

Fast forward to November 21, 1963 and I am in study hall and suddenly from the relative quiet over the PA comes this announcement, “Attention we have just heard an unconfirmed

report that the President has been shot. If we hear anything further we will let you know. “ I sat there stunned and the girl sitting across from me said, “Susie, did you hear that? It can’t be true, right?” I said, “The last assassination was President Lincoln. We are in America we don’t shoot people in office we disagree with we just don’t reelect them.” “So you think he will be ok?” “ I don’t know.”

The bell rang and we switched classes and it was the last class of the day. The halls never quiet no matter how often the nuns warned us about talking were deadly quiet.

It was English class and the nun, Sister Dorothy, was a very good teacher who ran her class by the book. We were talking among ourselves trying to make sense of what we had just heard when she firmly said, “This is English class and you were supposed to have read this chapter and we will be discussing it.” We started class and then there was another announcement over the PA, “It has been confirmed that the President has been shot.” We said a prayer for him and then Sister continued asking those she knew would be prepared and then she called on me and I started to read but my voice kept cracking as what I had just heard was sinking in and suddenly from the back of the room a student stood up and shouted, “Don’t you understand the President has been shot – this isn’t a normal day, or class!” The nun was stunned a little by what had just taken place and slowly said, “The President believes in education,” and then she stopped and really looked around the room at us and it was like she finally understood the impact the news had on us and said, “Let us say another prayer for the President’s recovery and finish the class in silence.”

We moved on to homeroom and Sister Josephine, who said, “Let’s first say a prayer for the President and then let’s share how we are feeling hearing the news and what it means to each of you and America” and we did.

When I went home my mom had the news on and it was announced that the President had died. We watched countless newscasts, the funeral, catching a suspect, his being shot, the uncertainty of what was going to happen next.

My idealistic, youthful believes were shattered by those bullets and even now so many years later I still feel the sting recalling that fateful day when to me innocence was lost

Lemont Area Historical Society Membership

Student

Senior Citizen:\$10.00 -----

Individual: \$15.00 -----

Family: \$25.00 -----

Corporate:\$50.00 -----

Life Member:\$200-----

Old Quarry Club:\$250.00 -----

Friends of Keepataw:500.00 -----

Athens Marble Club:\$1,000.00 ----

Additional Donation _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Mail to:

LAHS

306 Lemont Street

Lemont, IL 60439

Lmeont Area Historical Society

In the Old Stone Church at

306 Lemont Street Lemont, IL 60439

630-257-2972

www.lemonthistorical.org

Museum Hours

10 am to 2 pm Tuesday, Friday

10 am to 1 pm Saturday

1 to 4 pm Sunday

Library Committee

Meets 10 am to 12 noon on Wednesday.

Visits by appointment only.

The main floor of the museum is available for weddings, meetings, and events.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Cornerstone newsletter of the Lemont Area Historical Society, a not for profit organization as set forth by the provisions of the State of Illinois. *Cornerstone* is published six times a year with a circulation of 200 issues. Issues are mailed or emailed to members of the Lemont Area Historical Society. Complimentary copies are available. Publication offices for Cornerstone are located at 306 Lemont Street, Lemont, IL 60439. Contact the editor by writing to the Lemont Area Historical Society, 306 Lemont St, Lemont, IL 60439, or leaving a message at the museum at 630-257-2972. Contributions to the newsletter are welcome, although acceptance of copy does not imply that the article will be published. Opinions expressed are that of the author and not of the Society. We reserve the right to edit and rewrite to comply with our style.



Chainsaw Quinn

Haunting the Nite



Mysterious Jackie U

Lemont Quarries



Doris and Mr. Mum Stepping Out