

St. Charles Heritage Center

THE CHARLEMAGNE

215 E. Main Street ✧ St. Charles, Illinois 60174 ✧ (630) 584-6967

Volume XXIV ✧ Issue 2 ✧ Summer 2007

Miss Pike's Progressive Camp & School *by Emily Olson*

With the summer season here, many parents are considering what to do with children who will soon be out of school and who will undoubtedly have much more free time. In the past, many parents looked to Miss Pike's Progressive Camp in the Fox River Valley to keep their children active and entertained during the summer months.

Miss Pike's Progressive Camp began in the 1930's and was located at Pinelands on Route 25, north of where Little Woods School is today. The camp was directed by Dorcas and Stella Marie Pike, both graduates of the Pestalozzi-Froebel Teachers College in Chicago. Charles Pike, the brother of Dorcas and Stella, also worked at the camp, serving as athletic supervisor for the boys' sports and golf lessons. In addition, the camp had many counselors to offer guidance and give special attention to the needs of the campers.

Enrollment in Miss Pike's Progressive Summer Camp typically lasted eight weeks and was available to boys and girls ages three to fifteen. The camp focused on developing the physical and social health of each individual child with activities such as horseback riding, tennis, golf, twice daily swimming lessons, hayrack parties, picnics, nature excursions, and after-dinner movies. Private tutoring was also available to students for an additional charge. To ensure the healthy development of campers, the Pikes kept daily records of the campers' weight and hired a University of Chicago clinic specialist to supervise their diets. The Pikes also strove to balance relaxation and outdoor activity within their camp, and they placed all campers on a regular sleeping schedule which included naps for the younger campers. Finally, the Pikes ensured that the children were surrounded with experienced counselors who provided instruction, supervision, and friendship for the campers.

In addition to a focus on healthy activity, Miss Pike's Progressive Camp staff also strove to enhance the character of the campers by emphasizing high ideals, good sportsmanship, and self-control along with instilling the campers with a sense of loyalty and cooperation as well as respect for the rights of others.

The campgrounds included a large assembly and dining hall, a tennis court, a bridle path, a water slide, and a wading pool. There were sleeping cottages separated by age and gender that were equipped with electric lights and iron cots. The tuition for a single



Every child at the camp was taught to swim and swim well.

Pike's Camp, continued page 4

Take a walk through time in downtown St. Charles

Did you know that St. Charles had the **first medical college in the state?**

Or that the rock band **The Who** once preformed in town?

Have you ever wondered where the **oldest brick home in St. Charles is?**

Or where the **first hospital was located?**

Would you like to visit the place **Mary Todd Lincoln** stayed?

Or discover where some of the **stations on the Underground Railroad** were?

Are you looking for something fun and entertaining to do this summer with the whole family?

If you want to hear the interesting stories behind some of St. Charles' historic places, get the scoop on the yarns you've heard, or just want to spend the day downtown with family and friends—**then join us on Saturday, August 25**, for a fascinating **ST. CHARLES HISTORY CRAWL** through historic downtown.

Modeled after the wildly popular walking tours of London and Dublin, the **St. Charles History Crawl** will lead participants through the story of our town. Heritage Center guides will be stationed around town ready to share the stories, legends, and tales about St. Charles, its well-known past residents and famous visitors.

Along the way participants will have the opportunity to stop, look through some of the buildings, visit the shops, enjoy refreshments and activities and take in the beauty of St. Charles. The self-paced tours will begin at Noon and will be available until 6 p.m.

Tickets for the event are just \$10 for Heritage Center Members and only \$15 for non-members. **No charge for any age children when accompanied by an adult. Tickets will be available at the beginning of August.** For more information visit the website at www.stcmuseum.org or stop in at the History Museum.

Wrap up a summer day in downtown St. Charles and join us for the **ST. CHARLES HISTORY CRAWL!**



St. Charles Heritage Center & History Museum

Office & Museum (630) 584-6967
Fax: (630) 584-6077
www.stcmuseum.org
info@stcmuseum.org

–St. Charles History Museum–

215 E. Main Street
Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Sunday, noon–4 p.m.

–Dunham-Hunt House–

304 E. Cedar Avenue
Thursdays & Sundays, Noon–4 p.m.

–Archives–

Call for Appointment

–Officers–

Laura Haule, President
John Dickens, Vice President
Mary Ellen Segraves, Secretary
Melvin Peterson, Treasurer

–Board of Directors–

Jack Brens
Charles Brown
Cliff Carrignan
Nancy Cox
Brian Henry
Allen Landmeier
Steve Martin
Bob Matson
Martha Miller
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Jerry Swanson
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–Staff–

Julie Bunke, *Registrar*
Natalie Gacek, *Educator*
Emily Olson, *Intern*

News, Events & Noteworthy Items

Thursday Evening Lecture

The Heritage Center, in conjunction with the St. Charles Public Library, will be presenting the third installment of the **FREE** Thursday Evening Lecture Series on September 13. The program will be held in the **Carnegie Room** at the St. Charles Public Library and will begin at 7 p.m.

September's topic will be "**How to Research your Historic Home.**" Mary Turner from the *Illinois Association of Museums* in Springfield will provide helpful advice on where residents can go to look for the history of their homes and property and what type information they may find. We look forward to seeing you at this interesting lecture. If you have any questions, please call (630) 584-6967.

All committee meetings are held at the History Museum unless otherwise noted.

July

- 4 Museum Closed for 4th of July
- 4 15th Annual Glow Stick Sale, Pottawatomie Park, dusk until beginning of fireworks
- 18 Education Committee meeting, 10 a.m.
- 25 Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m.
- 27 Fundraising Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m.

August

- 15 Education Committee meeting, 10 a.m.
- 22 Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m.
- 24 Fundraising Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- 25 St. Charles History Crawl, noon-6 p.m. See page 2 for details and ticket sales.

September

- 13 Thursday Evening Lecture, St. Charles Public Library, 7 p.m. **FREE**
- 19 Education Committee meeting, 10 a.m.
- 26 Board of Directors meeting, 5 p.m.
- 28 Fundraising Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m.

Program dates and times are subject to change, please call to confirm all events (630) 584-6967.

75th Anniversary Endowment Campaign Donations (as of June 1)

\$1,000-\$2,499

Edward and M. Louise Anderson
Charlie and Diane Brown
Nancy Fiebelkorn
Bob and June Henningson
Fred T.L. Norris, Sr.
Bill and Nancy Warner
Dale and Gale (Brigham) Willcox

\$250-\$999

Raymond and Angelyn Agrella
Lynette and John Arthur Anderson
Merle Anderson
Lincoln School in honor of Jeana Hilligoss
Anthony and Helen Karam
Don and Helene Yurs

\$50-\$249

Jack and Jean Larson
Dave and Judy Pierson
Sandra Scott

We Thank Those Above & Encourage All To Help
Preserve Our Rich History!

Our goal is to raise \$250,000 during the year-long campaign culminating with the center's 75th anniversary in January of 2008. Former St. Charles Mayor Fred L.T. Norris and Charles Brown believe there are at least 200 or more long-time residents, like themselves, who will also contribute \$1,000 to help collect, preserve and present the rich and wonderful history of St. Charles.

Throughout the next six months the Center has a variety of activities planned, such as a time capsule sale and history walk and tour of St. Charles.

For more information on how you can help with this campaign please contact us at (630) 584-6967.

Pike's Camp, continued from page 1

summer season was normally \$240, but a \$40 discount was offered if the camper enrolled by the first of May. This charge covered all of a camper's expenses including lodging, daily activities, instruction, food, and laundry. The Pikes did allow parents to send sums of money for incidentals like postage and stationary materials, but they limited the amount a parent could send to \$10 in order to keep the children's expenditures under control. The Pikes also discouraged parents from sending boxes of edibles so that the campers' diet would be maintained or from visiting within the first two weeks of camp so as to avoid disrupting the schedule of activities. Despite these restrictions, the popularity of Miss Pike's Progressive Camp was evident because membership applications typically exceeded the camp's capacity.



Evening story hour at Pike's Camp.

The regular summer season for Miss Pike's Progressive Camp ran from June 20 to August 16. When the summer camp ended, however, parents often wished that their children could remain at Pinelands and continue in their education. Aware of this demand, Stella Pike and her husband, Clifford Kelly Nelson, bought a large house at the southeast corner of Main and Seventh Streets in St. Charles and in 1932, the Miss Pike's Progressive School was opened.

The combined boarding and day school initially offered instruction for boys and girls in the elementary grades, but it soon began to offer high school level courses as well. Instruction covered a range of disciplines including music, art, drama, home economics, French, swimming, shop, and horseback riding. Class sizes were kept small, with no more than 25 children assigned to every two teachers, and individual tutoring was available at no extra charge.



Daily camp weigh-in.

Parents also had the option to have their children only board at Miss Pike's while receiving their education at a St. Charles Public school or at a parochial school.

Much like the summer camp, Miss Pike's Progressive school aimed to teach children social graces like discipline, courtesy, consideration, responsibility, and promptness. Different forms of after-school recreation were also offered, all under the supervision of counselors, so that children would remain healthy and active during the school year. Overall, the Pike's strove to incorporate an academic curriculum with a home-like, familial atmosphere so that the children would become polite, well-rounded individuals within society.

Each year Miss Pike's Progressive School opened the second week in September and closed around the first of June. Tuition for one school year was approximately \$950 and included everything except piano and voice lessons. Enrollment was open to girls of all ages and boys up to twelve. The sleeping quarters and all recreational activities were separated by gender, but boys and girls did eat together to enhance the home-like feeling of the school.

As more students entered the school, the Pike's felt the need for more space and decided to build an addition to their house in the late 1940's. The school continued at this location up until the late 1960s when Stella and her husband retired. At the time of its closure, the school was nationally renowned and had housed children from across the country. When Stella and Clifford Nelson passed away in the 1970s, the schoolhouse went to their two children, Cornelius and Glory. The two heirs decided to turn the house into retail space rather than tear down such a significant and meaningful landmark.

New Donations

by Julie Bunke

New donations to the History Museum include several advertising and trade cards given by **Liz Safanda** for businesses located in St. Charles at the turn of the century. Among them are the *Dietsch and Melville City Bakery*, *D.L. Zabriskie dealers in Drugs, Medicines, Books, Stationary, Wall Paper, Fancy and Toilet Articles* and *S.B. Huls & Son Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots & Shoes* located on West Main Street St. Charles.

The **Elgin Area Historical Museum** gave a *Hotel Baker* placemat from the 1940s and an advertising card for the *Chris K. Madsen Dairy Dealers in Milk and Cream* located at First and Cedar Avenues.

Also donated were several photos of the *DuKane Mfg. Co.* including employees of the drafting and design department. These were given by **Willard and Lorraine Kautz**. Many of the photos feature Albert Kautz, father of the donor, who worked as a draftsman at the company for more than 35 years. The Kautz' also gave the drafting equipment used by Albert while he was employed at the DuKane Company.

Sheila Parochka, of VanBuren, Arkansas, stumbled across a tool at her local flea market known as the "*Marvelous Tool*" manufactured by the *F.M. Mosedale Company* of St. Charles in 1937. This tool was used as an attachment to a paring knife and boasted that it "will save time, thumbs, and vegetables."

Newly elected Heritage Center Board Member **Bob Matson** gave several St. Charles High School yearbooks for use in the archives. He also donated a unique poster that was advertised as a "souvenir of our vacation on [the] Fox River." This poster lists all of the summer camps and cottages that lined the Fox River in the 1920s and was an advertising piece issued by *Van Rockwell Groceries and Meats* located at East Main and First Street in St. Charles, Telephone 53.

Special thanks also goes to **Bob Henningson, Ron Ziegler, Lorraine Tredup, Chuck Peterson, Jeanne Schultz-Angel, Sandy Chalupa, Jane Peterson and Joanne VanBogaert.**



Grave Reminders Cemetery Walk

Mark your Calendars! Call your Friends! Save the Date!

The 16th annual **Grave Reminders Cemetery Walk** will take place at the North Cemetery, Route 25, from **1 – 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 6** during Scarecrow Fest weekend. This is a fantastic interactive presentation by our talented volunteers as they portray past community leaders and share a bit about the lives of the St. Charles residents.

Characters from previous years have included "Maro the Magician," Titanic survivor Alice Berg Johnson, Civil War Nurse Lucy Kaiser, Businessman Bela Hunt, Teacher and Principal Alice Davis and Civil War General and Statesman John Farnsworth.

As always, this event is **FREE** to Heritage Center Members. The program cost to non-members is \$3. We invite you to make this a family outing. Bring your friends, work associates and neighbors to this enlightening and captivating program.

Education Update... *by Natalie Gacek*

Another year of the Junior Historical Society is wrapping up, and once again it was a fantastic season!

As always, I am amazed at the interest and dedication of the members, and I am thankful beyond words for the support of the parents and Heritage Center volunteers who help month after month. With interest in the program ever increasing, I am hoping to expand this program next school year and possibly offer more sessions each month to accommodate more members. Information about the Junior Historical Society will be available during the summer at the History Museum as well as on our website at www.stcmuseum.org.

Thank you to all of the JHS members, parents, and volunteers who helped make this the best year yet for the Junior Historical Society! See you in the fall.

Just as things are winding down for the JHS, school groups are also finishing up their trips to the Museum. Most of the third grade classes visit the St. Charles History Museum while they are on their walking tour of Downtown St. Charles. The tour that the students take at the Museum is one of the popular stops during the day. Tours and programs are not just available for school groups though; scout and camp groups can also take advantage of programs offered by the Heritage Center over the summer. For more information on these programs visit the website or call (630) 584-6967.




Dunham-Hunt House Open for 2007 Season

The Dunham-Hunt House is now open with summer hours on Thursdays and Sundays, from noon to 4 p.m.

We invite you to see the exhibits at the oldest brick house in St. Charles and owned by one of the founding families for more than 140 years!



16th Annual
PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE
A Guide to the Museums & Nature Centers
in Kane & DuPage Counties
2007



The popular summer program **PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE** is back. This program runs Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. Participants are encouraged to visit museums and nature centers in Kane and DuPage Counties. Free booklets are available to keep track of the places visited and prizes are awarded for participants who visit **SEVEN** or more sites. For more information please call us at (630) 584-6967.

St. Charles Heritage Center
1933 - 2008
75th Anniversary

Visit the Center's Website at
www.stcmuseum.org

for the latest updates on the exciting Diamond Anniversary celebrations and the Endowment Campaign that will help the Center
"Bring Our Past Back to Our Future."

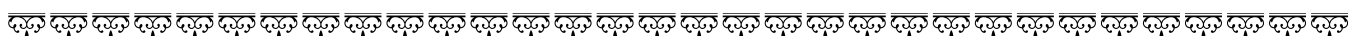
Museum Gift Shop News



During the last two weeks of July (July 17 through the 31), the Heritage Center will be hosting our popular "Christmas in July" ornament sale.

All previous years' ornaments (2007 excluded) will be marked half off for this once-a-year sale. While you're in, see what other St. Charles items are available, such as pint glasses, shot glasses, ceramic crocks, coffee mugs and much more.

The ornament for 2007 is in. This year's design is a silver glass bulb with an image of the **Mount St. Mary's Academy**, which stood on Route 31. The school was started in 1907 in the former home of Civil War General John Farnsworth. The Museum Gift Shop is open during regular museum hours.



Memberships are important to the St. Charles Heritage Center! Your support is vital! The Heritage Center derives a majority of its operating budget from its annual memberships. Please tell a friend about the St. Charles Heritage Center and use the form below to invite them to become a member. The many benefits of being a member include 10 percent off in the museum store, free admission to the history museum and Dunham-Hunt House as well as other special events throughout the year.

Membership

Check the Yearly Membership Level of Your Choice

- Grantor *\$5,000+
- Benefactor *\$1,000 - \$4,999
- Corporate *\$500 - \$999
- Patron *\$250 - \$499
- Sponsor \$100 - \$249
- Family \$40
- Individual \$25 *Your company may match your gift.*
- Senior \$10 *Please contact your employer for details!*
- Student/Junior \$10

**Your Name will be on Wall Recognition Plaque in the Museum*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

•We do not rent or sell our private mail list.

**Clip & Mail to: St. Charles Heritage Center
215 E. Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174**

Membership Benefits

- ❖ Free admission to the St. Charles History Museum, Dunham-Hunt House and various programs yearly.
- ❖ Reduced admission to lectures and programs.
- ❖ Free quarterly publication, *The Charlemagne*
- ❖ 10% discount on Museum Gift Shop items.
- ❖ Reduced fee on local history research services for home or family.
- ❖ Knowing that your membership, participation and support helps the Heritage Center to collect, preserve and present our history.

I would also like to be involved with the following...

- 4th of July Glowsticks Sales
- Appraisal Weekend Fund-raiser
- Grave Reminders Cemetery Program
- Tour Docent
- Museum and/or Dunham-Hunt Docent
- Office Assistance
- Gift Shop Assistance
- Special Events
- Other (please tell us your special talents)

Congratulations, Natalie!

We are proud to announce that our Educator, Natalie Gacek, is the 2007 recipient of the Illinois State Historical Society's Malkovich Award for Young Museum Professionals.

The **Malkovich Award** is given in recognition of outstanding accomplishment of a full-time museum professional under the age of 30 who shows leadership in the field exemplified by holding office or serving on a committee of a professional organization; presentations at workshops or conferences; publications; contributions to research in an area of expertise; and creativity and vision as it relates to his or her current position. Natalie was presented with her award at the Illinois State Historical Society's Annual Awards Luncheon in Grafton, Illinois.

Natalie has been at the Heritage Center since her graduation from Northern Illinois University in 2002. In her five years here, Natalie has worked closely with the local schools to develop in-class and on-site programs that supplement the third grade local history unit, she has been involved with local museum organizations, and revived the Junior Historical Society – a group for youth interested in local history.

Natalie has been honored in the past with **Awards of Excellence from the Illinois Association of Museum** for her Junior Historical Society programs. She has also spoken about the Junior Historical Society at conferences and written an article for publication in a museum association newsletter.

We congratulate Natalie on her latest accomplishment and look forward to her future successes.



215 E. Main Street
St. Charles, IL 60174

Please vote for YOUR Heritage Center!

The St. Charles Heritage Center has entered a newsstand in the *Kane County Chronicle* newsstand competition. Organizations from around Kane County were asked to design a newsstand to celebrate a special event. The staff at the Heritage Center decorated a *Chronicle* newsstand with copies of historic images from the museum collection to celebrate the upcoming 75th anniversary of our museum.

The Heritage Centers' newsstand can be seen on display at **Rookie's All American Pub and Grill**, 1545 West Main Street throughout the summer. You can vote for the Heritage Center by clipping the ballot out of the *Chronicle* and mailing it to the *Chronicle* office or go online at www.kcchronicle.com/color to see our creation and place your vote for YOUR Heritage Center.

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