



ROSEVILLE HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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LOOKING BACK AT OCTOBER BY PAT CHOWNYK

Following in the footsteps of famous writers such as Steinbeck, Michener and Lamore, our speaker Dan Grajec told us about his life as a hobo. He and a friend traversed the country by hitchhiking, walking and living in the rough. The famous hobo, Lil Jay Litzner was from Macomb Township. He died in 2006 from a train accident.

The hobos have a whole alphabet of symbols scratched on buildings close to where they would congregate. A cross would signify a religious talk and a free meal. A woman with a cat would indicate a friendly woman with a cat. The annual August Hobo Convention has been held for 117 years in Britt, Iowa. There is much to see in Britt including the Hobo Hall of Fame, the National Hobo Memorial and cemetery and the Hobo Museum.



Find-A-Grave Will Change Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.

Findagrave.com has announced that the website soon will change. Some changes are cosmetic, while others are functional. A map feature has been added.

The home page, formerly just a list of over thirty choices, will become a photograph with a few menu selections across the top. That page will be dominated by the search panel, which will function largely as it has in the past and with the same options for every search box except those related to location.

The current search panel specifies location via pull-down lists for country, state, and county. The new search panel offers a single box for location, in which you are supposed to type the name of a place. As you begin to type a city, county, state, or country that box auto-fills with suggested place names which you can select with a mouse click. Use the American English equivalent of a country name; *Germany* works but *Deutschland* doesn't.

The new home page's menu bar goes across the top of the screen. Clicking *CEMETERIES* takes you to a page that lets you hunt cemeteries in either of two ways. Near the top left of the page is a search box where you can type a cemetery name. This auto-fill box works as above. When you select a name, you see a hit list of cemeteries with that name. Each entry on the hit list displays some facts about that cemetery, and a link to its information page.

That page contains a search box that you can use to hunt for a person's name. The new home page's menu bar goes across the top of the screen. Clicking *CEMETERIES* takes you to a page that lets you hunt cemeteries in either of two ways. Near the top left of the page is a search box where you can type a cemetery name. This auto-fill box works as above. When you select a name, you see a hit list of cemeteries with that name. Each entry on the hit list displays some facts about that cemetery, and a link to its information page. That page contains a search box that you can use to hunt for a person's name. This auto-fill box works as above. When you select a name, you see a hit list of cemeteries with that name. That page contains a search box that you can use to hunt for a person's name. Instead of using that cemetery-name search box, you can use the cemetery-place search box to its right. Clicking a place name produces a map of cemeteries near that place. You can zoom the map in or out, and can pan it in any direction. (If the map doesn't display any marker pins, zoom in.) After a name is in that search box, clicking *Search* leads to a hit list of cemeteries near that place. Use this hit list the same way you use the other cemetery search box.

To see and experiment with all the planned changes, go to <https://findagrave.com/> and then click *preview now* near the top center of the screen.



GRANDMA'S SHOES

By Janice Carter



My sister is in the process of moving from a 2500 sq. foot condo to a 1500 sq. foot home. She lived in her condo for fourteen years and like all of us accumulated things that we at one time had to have but have a hard time getting rid of. My niece Julie came from North Carolina, my nephew Randy came in from Maryland to help with the move. My nephew Rob lives locally and just a short distance from his moms new home. My sister has been dreading the day that she would move and her children would have to help her. We laughed about it and mimicked her children and what they would say when they went through box after box wondering why in the world their mother saved things like; Julie's hair from her first hair cut and flyers from her first ballet dance recital, Randy's baby teeth and Rob's first drawings of things he learned in Kindergarten. It's a mom thing. I was there to help with the move. My job was to help her pack things and decide what should go to the Salvation Army, what she should keep and what should be thrown away. Big mistake. I would put things in the Salvation Army box and Linda, my sister, would say "oh wait a minute, I want to keep that". Also in the throw away pile was a two tiered shelf. It looked rather battered so I tossed it, only to be retrieved from her saying "I made that in Woodshop class in the 7th grade at Eastland Jr. High".(Yikes). Or she would have things in a pile to be taken away and I would say "why are you throwing that away"? Some of the things to be tossed ended up in my car, which at some point when I end up in "the home" my niece and nephews will come to clean out my house and they will say "wasn't this stuff at mom's house when we helped her move"?

One of the things I ended up with was our grandmother's shoes because no one in the family wanted them. She was born in Germany in 1883 and came to Michigan settling in Detroit on Russell Street. She used to talk about the walks to Eastern Market with her family. As a young woman my grandmother loved to dance and the story that was told through the years was she would sneak out her bedroom window, grab her dancing shoes and go dancing at one of the ballrooms not far from where she lived. Eventually they moved from Detroit in 1920 to Maple Street in Roseville to the home my grandfather built. The house is still there. I donated the shoes to the Crocker House Museum where they are on display.

Sights and Smells of Growing Up in Roseville in the 50's/60's

by Barbara (Chownyk) Cervantes

As a baby boomer of the mid 1950's, growing up in Roseville was a little like being Ralphie in "A Christmas Story". Like all of our friends, we walked everywhere, bundled up for the cold with our leggings, boots, mittens, hats, and warm woolen coats. In fact, I can still recall the smell of damp wet wool in the cloak room of Sacred Heart Grade School, where we shook off the snow and hung all of our winter layers to dry by the radiator heat. Saturdays generally encompassed a much anticipated trip to the Roseville Show on Gratiot and Utica Road (also known as the Utica Junction). While we looked upon this as a very special treat, I'm sure my mom viewed it as a way to get most of us kids out of her hair for a few hours. Not that she used the time to rest, as I recall coming home to a kitchen with freshly hand-waxed floors, covered with brown craft paper to protect the floor from our wet, muddy feet. After all of her toils of the week and washing/waxing the floors Saturday afternoon, mom's Saturday dinners were generally very casual – hot dogs served with mac 'n cheese or the dreaded fish sticks (yuk!). However, being a member of the dinner cleanup crew, the easy meal also meant an easy cleanup. Looking back it seems like most moms in the neighborhood were on the same schedule – send the kids off to the movies, get the big household chores done, with nobody underfoot, and then a light meal in the evenings. At least that seemed to be the plan for most of my friends in the neighborhood!

No trip to the Roseville show would have been complete without a stop at Suburban Drugs to stock up on candy for the show. As we headed out the door, Mom passed out the requisite 25 cents for the movie, and another 25 cents for goodies. Unfortunately, on one occasion our candy stop proved our undoing. We spent every penny of our goody allotment at Suburban Drugs and arrived at the Roseville show only to discover that particular show was a "Disney" movie, and the admission was raised to 35 cents! Foiled again! I'm not sure who was more disappointed when we arrived back home – mom, who lost her precious few hours without us, or we kids who had to miss the movie! (But the candy sure was good!)

Sharing the same building, right next to the Roseville Show was the Roseville Department Store. Brothers, Harry & Harvey owned the store, and we visited there several times a year – mostly for shoes. Dark haired Harry was my favorite – he always had time to laugh and tease with us as he gently moved our sock clad feet into the little shoe measuring guide. Then box after box of white shoe boxes would descend upon us, and he'd place one after the other on us to try out, pressing his thumb down on our big toes to ensure we'd have "room to grow." The store was small and stuffed with clothes and shoes, but I remember it as a place of delight and treasures, and a wonderful smell of fabric and leather.

Utica Junction also held another treat – the Roseville bakery. Just thinking about it makes my mouth water with the recollection of those delicious smells of fresh baked bread and donuts. There was something magical about purchasing a fresh loaf of bread, watching it go through the slicer, and then be wrapped in bakery strength waxed paper, and tied with thin string, suspended from a spindle above the counter! My neighborhood girlfriend, Mary Lou's grandmother worked at the bakery. If the shop wasn't terribly busy, we'd hang around for a long, crunchy pretzel, which her grandmother would carefully select from the jar on the counter – her treat!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 7, 2017 6:30 PM · Roseville City Hall · Roseville, Mi

Join us for the 31st Annual Tree Lighting & Sing-A-Long at Roseville City Hall. Families can enjoy donuts, hot cocoa, hot and cold cider and a s'mores station while awaiting Santa's arrival on a Roseville Fire Truck! Families are then invited inside to visit with Santa in his Winter Wonderland at which time each child will receive a special gift. Children's activities are also set up inside City Hall to keep them occupied while waiting in line to see Santa. This is a free event for all who attend.

**29th RHGS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2017 5:00 P.M.**

Roseville Public Library Erin Auditorium

The Roseville Historical and Genealogical Society will host its 29th Annual Dinner featuring guest speaker
TSGT Daniel Heaton

He will speak on the history of Selfridge Field

Reservation Form

Name _____ No. of Tickets _____

Street _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Cost per person \$20.00

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ Check # _____

Deadline for reservations is Friday, November 10, 2017

Register in person at the library circulation desk or mail your check with reservation form to:
RHGS Annual Dinner

c/o Roseville Public Library
29777 Gratiot, PO Box 290 Roseville, MI 48066

*Dinner service at 6:00 pm. Catering provided by Apple Annie's.



Receipt

**Roseville Historical and Genealogical Society
Annual Dinner with guest speaker TSGT Daniel Heaton
Wednesday, November 15, 2017
Erin Auditorium, Roseville Public Library**

Name: _____

Circle one: Cash Check # _____ Total pd: \$ _____

*Library clerk please initial when accepting payment in person: _____

Thanks for joining us for this enjoyable evening!



Roseville Historical and Genealogical Society
Membership Application or Renewal

Name _____ Business Name _____

Street _____ Membership Directory Listing? Yes ___ No ___

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Membership Type _____

E-mail Address _____ Amount _____

Make Checks payable to:
Roseville Historical & Genealogical Society
c/o Roseville Public Library
29777 Gratiot Ave.
Roseville, Mi 48066

Membership Types:
Individual \$10.00
Family \$15.00
Contributing, Business, Institutional and Professional \$25.00
Lifetime \$100.00

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Wild Lights at the Zoo

Christmas lights rock in general, of course, but they're particularly punchy when they sketch out something recognizable — like a giraffe, say. This year "Wild Lights" at the Detroit Zoo features more than five million LED lights on trees and buildings, and over 100 animal light sculptures you'll encounter while following a trail through the front half of the zoo.

But that's just the start. There's also holiday entertainment for kids of all ages, including a musical light show, ice carving, the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition and "The Polar Express 4-D Experience," a 14-minute adaptation of the Tom Hanks film that will be shown exclusively during Wild Lights at the Wild Adventure Zone's 4-D Theater.

Tickets are \$8 in advance for anyone 2 or over, and \$10 at the gate. The "Wild Lights" will be sparkling Fri.-Sun., Dec. 5-7, Dec. 11-14, Dec. 18-23 and Dec. 26-31. Tickets are available at detroitzoo.org/events/wild-lights, at the zoo's main admissions gate, as well as at all Kroger stores. (248) 541-5717, detroitzoo.org.

Historic mansions lit up for holidays

Two of Metro Detroit's most historic auto mogul mansions are decorated and open for special holiday events. The 1928 Edsel & Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores presents a "Winter Wonderland" 5-8 p.m. every Friday and Saturday in December, with its outdoor gardens illuminated by luminary candles and thousands of lights for an especially cheerful walk. Guests can take a break at one of several fire pits to sip hot chocolate or mulled wine and listen to the estate's storytellers. Santa Claus is in his workshop greeting young visitors, and children can make holiday crafts to take home. Cost: \$10 per person; for an extra \$5 you may tour the decorated interior of the Ford estate, where holiday music will be performed. For information and tickets: www.fordhouse.org.

Meadow Brook Hall in Rochester opens Friday for daily Holiday Walk tours, during which you can explore the luxurious 1929 mansion and see how the Wilson and Dodge families celebrated the season. Also offered: Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 7 and 14; Supper with Santa Dec. 7; a Holiday High Tea on Dec. 9 and 16 in the Christopher Wren Dining Room; a Starlight Stroll through the grounds Dec. 11, including a strolling supper; and much more. Call 248-364-6263 or go to meadowbrookhall.org.

The Nutcracker To many, missing "The Nutcracker" would be akin to Christmas without a tree. Tchaikovsky's 1892 ballet confection about a little girl named Clara and her Christmas Eve adventures comes to the Detroit Opera House with BalletMet Columbus kicking up its heels in five performances. Matinees will be especially sweet for kids, with live reindeer, photos with Santa and the Nutcracker as well as a Sugar Plum Parade. A kid-friendly buffet (\$11) precedes the show. With the Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra. Fri.-Sun. \$25-\$83. 313-274-SING, michiganopera.org.

Members of the Macomb Ballet Company turn into dancing mice, snowflakes and sugar-plum fairies in four performances of the beloved ballet at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. Dec. 12-13, \$12-\$15. 586-286-2222, macombcenter.com.

Roseville Historical and Genealogical Society
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If you would like to receive your newsletter through e-mail instead of postal service, please contact the Roseville Historical Society at Roseville.RHGS@gmail.com, attn: Janice Carter. We will be happy to make the change for you.

Books for sale by RHGS:

The books make great gifts
Roseville Airport Book
Wartime Memories of a Tin Can Sailor
Images of Roseville
Please help support RHGS
Books can be purchased at the Roseville City Treasurer's Office

The Roseville Historical and Genealogical Society officers would like to wish all of our members a Happy Thanksgiving