



# Museum Musings

Stockton Heritage Museum Newsletter  
Summer 2023

## Museum Visitors

On May 26, sixth graders from Stockton Middle School visited the museum. The two classes, led by teachers Tracy Offenheiser and Tiffany Schubert, each enjoyed an hour of time to explore.



Students love looking in the old annuals to see if they can find photos of their parents and family.



A stop at the '70s display made a nice photo op.



The miniature drugstore scavenger hunt is always a popular stop on the visit.



The Kraft exhibit includes a milking machine, as the abundance of dairy farms is one of the reasons that Kraft built their cheese plant in Stockton. These students get to try it out with the help of board member Ann Coppennoll.



Students check out the fashions from the past.



Many students tried typing on an old school keyboard, aka a typewriter.



**Thanks for stopping by.**

We hope you enjoyed your visit and come back soon with friends and family.

<b>Calendar of Events</b>	<b>Aug. 19</b>	Fall into Stockton – The Museum will be open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Museum board and volunteers will be serving lunch at Sullivan’s Brat Stand.
	<b>Sept. 17</b>	Ken and Sally Tucker and Linda Kleckner Semande will share stories and photos from their epic Route 66 cross-country journey. Join us at 2 p.m. at the museum.



**A SUCCESSFUL SEASON OF PROGRAMS (WITH MORE TO COME!)**

Our May, June and July programs were a huge success. Thanks to all who came to listen and learn. Topics included: May – Civil War Clothing, June – Stockton Railroad History, and July – 1970s Movies.

**The many layers required for dressing head to toe in the Civil War era**

Getting dressed in the Civil War era required lots of layers as Karen Brose demonstrated on Sunday, May 7.



There were many layers of undergarments (five) before the dress, collar and accessories were added to the outfit. Karen Brose shows the finished look.

**Railroad presentation draws a huge crowd**

Brian and Joyce Ostberg shared their love of history and research focused on the Chicago Great Western Railroad and the Stockton area with a museum full of railroad fans on Sunday, June 11.



Check out the BeHistoric YouTube channel created by Brian and Joyce Ostberg for more regional history and prehistory videos. <https://www.youtube.com/@BeHistoric/videos>



## Lights! Camera! Action! Let's talk about the movies

We were thrilled to host Alan Wenzel on Wednesday, July 12, for a presentation and discussion about movies from the 1970s and the changes that occurred in film making during this time.



(Above)  
After gathering audience input on favorite '70s movies, Alan showcased the variety of 1970s films.

(Right)  
Check out this list of top films from 50 and 40 years ago.



Alan and Ed Finch co-host a monthly classic film series on the first Wednesday each month at the Lindo Theatre in Freeport, Illinois. Grab a box of popcorn and check out the offerings for the rest of 2023.

**Select Dix**  
Lindo Theatre  
Freeport, Illinois

(2023 Revised Movie Schedule - Based on Availability)

2023

- January 4<sup>th</sup> - "The Godfather II"
- February 1<sup>st</sup> - "Do the Right Thing"
- March 1<sup>st</sup> - "You've Got Mail"
- April 5<sup>th</sup> - "The Last Picture Show"
- May 3<sup>rd</sup> - "A Fistful of Dollars"
- June 7<sup>th</sup> - "Dirty Dancing"
- July 5<sup>th</sup> - "Top Gun"
- August 2<sup>nd</sup> - "The Terminator"
- September 6<sup>th</sup> - "Chinatown"
- October 4<sup>th</sup> - "The Shining"
- November 1<sup>st</sup> - "Thelma and Louise"
- December 6<sup>th</sup> - "On Her Majesty's Secret Service"

Movies are shown at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm and are hosted by Ed Finch and Alan Wenzel who share comments before and lead a discussion following each screening.

Please Note - Films Are Subject to Availability

## Museum visitors delighted with look at family files



James Anderson brought his mother Carol Kehl to the museum on Saturday, May 7. Carol, who now lives in Las Vegas, grew up in the Mt. Carroll area. She and her son were back in Illinois for a family reunion and were out exploring.

While checking out the museum, Carol mentioned her maiden name which led one of the museum volunteers to go to the archive area to check and see if a family file existed for that surname. It did!

Carol was delighted to be able to look through the file and see various newspaper articles, notices and announcements about many of her relatives. Museum staff made copies of some of the materials for Carol to take with her.

The museum family files contain a wide range of family history documents and photographs, often given by family members. Stop by for a visit and we will be happy to search for your family file and let you look through it.

### NEW WINDOW DISPLAYS

*Stop by and see our current displays honoring Vietnam veterans, farming life, fun in the sun, and a tribute to a 1956 toy icon!*

**Keep up to date by visiting us online**

[www.stocktonheritagemuseum.org](http://www.stocktonheritagemuseum.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/StocktonHeritageMuseum/>



# Come explore *Adventures in Stockton*



Cynthia Peterson, Rachael Aziz, Steve Dennis, Ann Coppernoll, Dan Kunz, Kirsten Bell, Terry McGovern, Carol Rowe, Sam VenHuizen

***Adventures in Stockton*** officially launched with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, July 29 in downtown Stockton.

The downtown revitalization initiative aims to boost tourism and help tell Stockton's story.

Many groups worked together to put the program in motion, including the Village of Stockton, Stockton Heritage Museum, Stockton Chamber of Commerce, Galena Country Tourism and the creative agency All Together.

The museum is proud and thankful for Ann Coppernoll's role in the success of this project. Ann is the Community Relations Liaison for the museum and provided valuable insight and research for the walking tour project.



The walking tour includes 21 stops. Visitors can use a smart phone to scan QR codes to learn more about the history and stories that are part of Stockton's past.

Stops 4 and 5 give you a glimpse of history related to the Stockton Heritage Museum. Come inside to pick up an *Adventures in Stockton* brochure and learn more about the people and places that shaped the Village of Stockton.



# Members of Stockton High School Class of 1963 visit the museum during their 60th reunion celebration

Sixteen members and one former teacher of the Stockton High School Class of 1963 gathered for socializing and lunch at Chestnut Mountain Resort on July 1st to celebrate their 60th class reunion.

Some members of the group met up again on Monday, July 3, as current superintendent James Bunting gave interested alumni a tour of the high school as it is today, along with a sneak peek at the school addition currently in progress.

Tom Heidenreich, a Stockton Heritage Museum volunteer and Class of '63 alumnus arranged for the group to visit the downtown museum for another look back at the past.

We are always happy to host class reunion groups. The Class of 1978 visited the museum on Saturday, July 1, before their 45th class reunion gathering at Stella's. We are looking forward to hosting the Class of 1968 when they celebrate their 55th reunion on Saturday, September 30.



Front row: Gayle Lyden Lingle, Dave Folkens, Teacher Tom Lindahl, Bev Schultz Kloss. Second row: Ruth Dick Knauer, Diane Katzenburger Bradley, Winie de Veyra Pierson (AFS student), Bob Winters, Glenn Heller. Third row: Karen Olthoff Boyer, Tom Heidenreich, Jerry Townsend. Fourth row: Mary Elyn Groezinger Gibbs, Ann Borsdorf Martin, Karen Luning Schubert. Back row: Lynn Heller, Jerry Hayes.

If you and your class are interested in making a museum tour part of your reunion celebration,

send us an email at [info@stocktonheritagemuseum.org](mailto:info@stocktonheritagemuseum.org),

call us and leave a message at **815-947-2220**, or

[message us through Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/StocktonHeritageMuseum/) at <https://www.facebook.com/StocktonHeritageMuseum/>



The Class of 1963 enjoyed checking out the Stockton timeline, exploring the business displays, and reminiscing about their history at Stockton schools.



We wouldn't be able to open our doors if not for the wonderful people who greet visitors and staff the museum on Saturdays and Sundays.

**April – July docents included:**

- Denise Albrecht
- Leslie Bonvillain
- Ernie Brose
- Karen Brose
- Ann Coppernoll
- Pauline Craig
- Peggy Drane
- Lori Ertmer
- Dan Ertmer
- John Fischer
- Linda Gerlach
- Sandy Groezinger
- Payton Haas
- Judy Hammer
- Judy Hedder
- Melody Heidenreich
- Tom Heidenreich
- Jan Kitazaki
- John Kitazaki
- Sharon Madden
- Victoria McKenzie
- Jackie Meli
- Violet Naese
- Mary Nagel
- Nancy Rice
- Shirley Toepfer
- Elaine Townsend
- Pat Westaby

A special shout out to Elaine Schlichtning, Shirley Toepfer, and Jan and John Kitazaki who coordinated the staffing calendar for the past four months.

**Stockton Heritage Museum**  
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[www.stocktonheritagemuseum.org](http://www.stocktonheritagemuseum.org)

## Artifact Donations

The museum is honored to receive donations from individuals and families who decide the museum is a good caretaker for their treasures.

In April 2023, the museum received a call from Mike Thoren, who grew up in the Stockton area, left for awhile, then returned, and was in the process of making a move back to Arizona. Mike had three items he wanted to donate to the museum.

Two items were handmade for Mike. The barn, painted with his birth year and made by his grandpa Emmert Thoren was a gift celebrating his birth. The small child's chair with a cane seat was also made by hand by his grandpa. The drawing of Dale's Opera House is an original drawing by Dixie Heller.

We are grateful to Mike for thinking of the museum when looking for a home for these items. Mike moved back to Arizona in April of this year. We were sorry to hear that Mike passed away on May 26, shortly after his move.

Rest in Peace, Mike; we'll take good care of your treasures.



**2023  
Board of Directors**

**Executive Board**  
 Terry Buske  
 Warren Dixon  
 Peggy Drane

**Treasurer**  
 Leslie Bonvillain

**Secretary**  
 Deb Huso

**Community Liaison**  
 Ann Coppernoll

**Member at Large**  
 Jan Steffens

**Museum Hours**

We are open Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. These hours continue through October.

In the meantime, if you have a question or a donation, give us a call at **815-947-2220** or email us at **[info@stocktonheritagemuseum.org](mailto:info@stocktonheritagemuseum.org)**

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