Footprints

100 Years ago:

Flu epidemic hits Kokomo

'FLU' VICTIMS IN DIRE NEED OF ATTENTION

Do Not Exact Constant Attendance, But Daily Visits Would Help.

SPREAD OF SPANISH INFLUENZA MENACES OUR WAR PRODUCTION

U. S. Public Health Service Begin tion-wide Health Campaign

HEALTH BOARD AGAIN CLOSES CITY SCHOOLS

Recurrence of "Flu" Epidemic Responsible For Step Being Taken.

OTHER LINES LEFT OPEN

Will Not Be Closed Unless the Conditions Grow Considerably Worse.

Because of the recurrence of the influenza epidemic, the city board of health this morning issued an order closing all schools, both public and parochial, in Kokomo.

The order was issued in time for it to be announced in all the school rooms immediately upon the gathering of the pupils for the day's session. The board's action was as much of a surprise to the teachers as to the pupils, but they

not forget to explain why big the fire. The old Flu is beginning to take its toll

WORST PLAGUE NATION'S KNOWN IN MANY YEARS

Influenza Epidemic Exceeded Only By the Yellow Fever Scourge 25 Years Ago.

EXPERTS GIVE BATTLE

Spread May Continue All Winter, But Could Be Checked By Caution.

In this morning's issue of the Indianapolis Star appears an exhaustive and comprehensive survey of the so-called Spanish influenza epidemic, covering the entire nation. The article

DON'T FLEE! IT'S ONLY FLU VEIL!

This look's like a hold-up, but it's only a flip, flu fashion!

This is positively the latest edition of the flu mask, and it is worn in the full glare of the public eye and called a VEIL.

It's made of white silk finine veiling with a seven-inch double chiffon border, impervious to germs and guaranteed to catch nothing but the fixed gaze of all beholders!

INFLUENZA BAN MAY BE LIFTED BY NEXT SUNDAY

Health Officer Inclined To Think This Will Be Made Possible.

NO CERTAINTY AS YET

The Situation Appears To Be In Hand Here—Not So Promising Over the State.

If conditions progress favorably from this time forward it is probable that the present ban on certain business enterprises, due to the prevalence of influenza, will be lifted Monday next.

Dr. T. C. Cochran, city health officer, indicated this in an interview today. While no figures were submitted, it is taken that the Kokomo situation is well in hand. Dr. Cochran said:

"The original closing order was expected to remain operative until Monday, October 21. Unless untoward conditions should arise, the ban will be

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From the executive director

How will you begin?

As tellers of the tales of history, we naturally gravitate toward the big events and big names. The gas boom, the first car, Monroe Seiberling and Elwood Haynes all come quickly to mind. Those are the bigger-than-life events and people who capture our imaginations. But that means we end up with a collection of stories mostly involving well-to-do white men and their accomplishments, stories from the upper socio-economic layers.

The people who weren't in positions of power or wealth, who didn't live in big houses, own companies, and/or have education, don't appear nearly as often in the histories.

The role of women was hidden in the early years, and as a result is often overlooked today. The people who worked in the factories, manned the railyards, ran the sewing machines and laid the bricks were generally treated like a commodity and also overlooked. African Americans suffered under slavery, then institutional discrimination and their skills, hard work and contributions have been denied.

The Seiberling Mansion itself is an example of the bias in our community narrative. It's an architectural beauty that I love and have promised to protect, but for much of its existence, it was the house of a rich white man. We know almost nothing of the women who lived there, the people who worked there, kept the horses, tended the flowers or cooked, served, and cleaned. Their lives are a mystery.

The African-Americans who live in Howard County have stories of courage, accomplishment, leadership and commitment that you've probably never heard. They have had the wisdom to keep the stories alive through their churches and families, but they aren't well-represented in the county museum or local history books. For the historical society, there can be no good excuses for such an oversight. Nor is there a good reason to continue such willful blindness.

How do we begin? We find ways to step beyond our comfort levels. We engage with new people and new ideas. To those who work with us, we offer our experience in preservation – of buildings, artifacts, documents, photographs, oral histories – as a catalyst.

Dave Broman

In this issue:

Celebrating the season with 'Christmas Around the World'

By Linda Ferries
HCHS Publications Committee Chair

Thousands of people from around Indiana and far beyond added an international flavor to their holiday celebrations by visiting "Christmas Around the World" at the Seiberling Mansion.

The 2017 edition of "Christmas at the Seiberling" took guests on a global tour of festivities, courtesy of the many volunteers, working under the direction of chairman Peggy Hobson, who decked out the mansion from top to bottom. From American flags to Mexican piñatas, from Caribbean shells to Scandinavian carvings, from nested Russian dolls to kilted Scottish Santas, countries around the world were represented.

For Hobson, who has shepherded the Christmas project for a number of years, the reaction to the 2017 effort was rewarding. "We had wonderful, record-breaking attendance at the evening open houses," she noted. "The size of the crowds and the enthusiasm expressed about the international theme were very exciting for the decorators who made the event possible."

A total of 2,619 guests were counted at the eight evening open houses from opening night Nov. 25 through the end of December – and hundreds more visited during regular daytime museum hours. The Wyman Group sponsored opening night and Duke Energy sponsored the special candlelight tours offered Dec. 9. On six evenings, the museum was open to the community without charge, thanks to sponsors Community First Bank, Financial Builders Federal Credit Union, Ivy Tech Community College, Rudig Paving, Duke Energy and Haynes International.

The appreciative crowds again gave the third-floor ballroom and adjoining Christmas toy train room, extravagantly decorated by Bruce and Darrell Blasius, the "People's Choice" award. Barbara Bothast came in second for her work decorating the first-floor butler's pantry.

A total of 211 youngsters participated in the "Passports" competition organized by HCHS board member Dana Osburn. Osburn reported that nine of the entries had perfect scores.

"Given the challenges offered by this activity to identify the various countries represented throughout the mansion, we were excited that 95 of the competitors scored 15 or more correct answers," Osburn said. "I believe we achieved our goal of educating those who attended that Christmas is universal and is celebrated 'around the world' in many different

See "Christmas" on page 15

Curator Stew Lauterbach presented the prize package to Katelyn Newell, who was winner of the Passports challenge in the Christmas Around the World.

The process was long, but the new roof is on

By Dave Broman
HCHS Executive Director

It started in 2014. Or maybe it was 1991. Or — perhaps 1971.

The slate roof of Seiberling Mansion has been a problem for many years, and for many years the historical society patched and prayed. Some of the patches were ugly — and most didn't work for any length of time. The interior damage from the leaks was becoming more serious with every rain storm. In 2014, we realized that the slate was beyond repair.

We first commissioned a preservation assessment, partially funded by Indiana Landmarks, from a preservation architect. He strongly recommended immediate replacement of the roof. With the report in hand, the "Save Our Seiberling" campaign began in earnest.

Over the course of a couple days in September, the mansion was covered in scaffolding and the beautiful brick and trim were hidden behind pipes, poles, struts and catwalks. The roofing crews moved in and soon the decking planks saw the light of day for the first time in 126 years. In some of the worst areas, the slates crumbled to dust under the hands of the workmen. Some of the better slate has been kept, though, and will be sold to collectors and history lovers this year. The decking wood was in surprisingly good condition, although some repairs were necessary on the south and east towers. We also learned that several dormer windows were so deteriorated as to require replacement, which meant custom fabrication. We also discovered that the decorative finial on the big south tower had been blown out by lightning and gun shots. It required another custom fabrication job.

HCHS Curator Stew Lauterbach, Project Manager Bob Pearson, of Hinshaw Roofing & Sheet Metal Co., and Bill Baldwin check out the roof repairs.

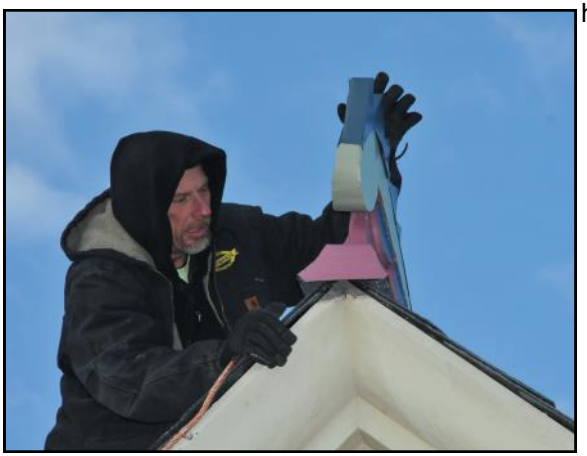
A new, custom finial replaces the bullet-ridden, lightning-fried original.

We've watched in fascination as the copper valleys and gutters were installed, the ice dam laid in place, and the slates nailed down one-at-a-time. The towers took extra care and skill, as each piece was custom cut to fit to the curve and slope. We had hoped to be finished by Thanksgiving, but that wasn't to be. The crew kept working regardless, through cold and damp weather and days you wouldn't expect them to work, gradually getting closer and

closer to the end. We, and our many holiday visitors, had to put up with the scaffold, but the Christmas decorations inside were gorgeous. A couple nice days in January were enough to finally do the trick. The flashing was completed, the lightning arrestors put in place, the decorative cresting and dragon heads reinstalled, and down came the scaffold.

The roof project will continue a while longer. The exterior work is done and the house is more beautiful than ever. We'll soon begin repairing water damage inside with new plaster and paint.

When you visit the mansion in 2018, make some time to admire the new roof. Think about all the events the old roof came though, the history it can bear testament to, and think about what the new roof will see in years to come. If the next 126 years are as varied and amazing as the previous, our grandchildren will have some great stories to tell.



In one of the final steps in the project, the freshly painted roof dragons, above, left, are replaced. Above, right, the eyebrow windows in the roof required extra attention for rotting wood. Bottom, slate for the rounded roof sections were individually cut to fit and a new, copper guttering system was installed.

1918 Pandemic

Kokomo closed due to the flu

By Gil Porter
HCHS Publications Committee Member

It started when a young Army private with flu-like symptoms reported to sick call at Fort Riley, Kansas, on March 4, 1918. Within days, Fort Riley was dealing with 500 cases with the same symptoms.

Forty-eight soldiers died; pneumonia was blamed. By March 11, the disease was in New York City. Through early summer, the first wave of what would be known as the 1918 Influenza Pandemic was spreading worldwide.

At first it seemed to be largely confined to military men carrying the disease to other military bases as they were deployed to Europe for the "Great War."

> ***"I had a little bird,***
> ***its name was Enza.***
> ***I opened the window,***
> ***and influenza."***
>
> **Children's Playground Song, Fall 1918**

Human society has had disease and contagion as long as there have been humans, but the medical community had never seen anything like this. Autopsies conducted on returning dead soldiers showed lungs that had turned blue and were soaked with fluid. Identified correctly as a new, particularly virulent strain of influenza, the disease claimed most victims through flu-induced pneumonia. By late summer 1918, the second wave hit; the first civilian deaths were reported in Boston.

For the next two months, the statistics were staggering. In the United States, 12,000 people died in September. In October, 851 deaths in *one day* were reported just in New York. Eleven-thousand people died that month in Philadelphia. With so many doctors and nurses in Europe to deal with war casualties, the intensity of the illnesses rapidly became a public health crisis. Casket-makers could barely keep up with demand, and undertakers routinely resorted to storing surplus pine boxes on the sidewalks and even in the street in front of their stores. As hospital wards swelled, nurses would actually put toe-tags on the living in anticipation of the inevitable. Physicians reported patients dying within 12 hours of being diagnosed. This flu killed with savage efficiency. Death came after raging fever (the victim's hair often fell out) and intense hemorrhaging from the ears and nose. As lungs filled with fluid, victims literally drowned in their own internal tissues.

The imagery was indelible, and incredible. Early 20th-century American cities looked like scenes right out of the Black Plague in medieval Europe, with mass graves and dead bodies left on curbs to be picked up by horse-drawn hearses. Most frightening was who was at risk: everyone. Doctors knew that influenza usually ravaged the old and immunocompromised. Now they were watching healthy 18- to 29-year-old adults literally drop dead in front of them.

In a 31-day span from September to October 1918, 195,000 Americans died, the deadliest 31 days ever in United States history.

There had been a slight frost one morning in Howard County in early October 1918, but the weather was warmer by week's end. School work and business activity was transitioning into autumn. Farmers were either preparing for or were in the midst of harvest.

Local physicians had followed the news of the "Spanish Flu" pandemic since summer and had waited nervously for the first case to appear in Kokomo. Most Howard County physicians (including the 70-year-old former mayor

and Civil War veteran Dr. John L. Puckett) had signed on to the nationwide “Volunteer Medical Service Corps,” to be deployed stateside as needed to assist communities whose regular physicians were overseas. Adding to the strain, the flu had led many communities to create new “public health” positions to help coordinate a response to the pandemic. Kokomo’s city health officer was Dr. T.C. Cochran. Dr. F.N. Murray covered the county.

By that first week of October, the wait was over in Indiana. Public health edicts and news reports about the flu began exploding like artillery fire. Evansville was among the first, when Vanderburgh County officials closed schools, churches, places of amusement and “all public gatherings until further notice on account of the epidemic of influenza.” Dr. J.N. Hurly, secretary of the state board of health, issued an “advisory directive” recommending such closings, and many cities and counties followed suit.

In particular, officials kept a close eye on the Army installation at Fort Benjamin Harrison, northeast of Indianapolis, which was heavily involved in wartime support and training (some 10,000 railroad specialist engineers trained at the base in 1918 alone). Roughly 12,000 soldiers and civilians were stationed there. The first case was reported on Sept. 26, and by Oct. 8 the Army reported 31 victims of influenza (10 died in one night). In one 24-hour period, 180 patients were admitted to the base hospital. At the peak, some 1,500 patients were being treated for the flu and flu-related pneumonia.

The virus had spread so rapidly thanks largely to one conveniently opportunistic characteristic: multiple hosts congregating in close quarters. Troop transports took the flu to Europe and beyond. In small towns, the local “moving-picture” theater was the ideal incubator. This strain of flu was an airborne disease-causing organism that loved crowds. In some cities, masks were required by law. It was insidious; virtually anywhere humans gathered, the virus joined them. And spread – fast.

In Kokomo, by mid-October 1918, Drs. Cochran and Murray had wasted no time trying to set up a perimeter against the airborne invader. On Monday, Oct. 7, Kokomo citizens were formally informed that by official decree "every place in Kokomo and Howard county where the public are in the habit of congregating must close and remain closed until further instructions are issued” (*Kokomo Daily Tribune*, Oct. 7, 1918). So as to leave “no doubts or misunderstandings regarding who or what businesses are affected,” the Tribune listed the following that were now officially off-limits for public health reasons until further notice:

Memorial Park Cemetery began in 1918 in Kokomo during the time of the flu epidemic. The 11 men above are building a road in the cemetery.

The prevalence of influenza in Howard County was reflected in the society and "goings-on" reports from the Kokomo newspapers of the day. Here are excerpts from township updates in* The Kokomo Daily Tribune*, Friday, Nov. 22, 1918:

GREENTOWN

Mrs. Sarah Speck is at the home of her son, Charles Speck at Hemlock, nursing her daughter-in-law, who has been very sick with influenza.

Mrs. Mary Reed and daughter, Miss Myrtle Morris, are very sick at their home on Main street. Mrs. Reed is suffering from a severe attack of heart trouble and Miss Morris has had a relapse from an attack of influenza.

Miss Merle Manring, one of our local telephone girls, and Miss Ruby Smeltz, employed at Renbarger's grocery, are confined to their homes with influenza.

Mrs. Loyd Mast and Miss Lelia Warnock are among the latest victims of influenza.

Mrs. Jane Freeman is recovering from a severe attack of influenza.

Loren McQuiston and family are recovering from the influenza, all the family having had the disease.

Miss Nelda Jarvis, who has been attending high school at Kokomo, is attending the Greentown high school while the Kokomo schools are closed.

Roy Doster went to Wabash Wednesday to attend the funeral of his nephew, Ozro Doster, who died from influenza.

HEMLOCK

The Friends Quarterly meeting which was to have been held here Friday and Saturday, has been postponed on account of the outbreak of influenza.

Mrs. Richmond Pickering of Kokomo is here caring for Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Pickering and three children, who have the influenza.

NEW LONDON

School closed again Monday indefinitely, on account of sickness.

- All churches
- All theaters, including movies
- All pool rooms
- All schools, including private, parochial and the Kokomo Business College
- All places where soft drinks are dispensed, including soda fountains and candy kitchens
- All lodge buildings or rooms
- All club rooms

Sweeping and unprecedented in scope, but realistic in intent, the good doctors were in effect trying to quarantine the town from within.

Other officials similarly leapt into action. Superintendent of City Schools C.V. Haworth met with Dr. Cochran that very afternoon and swiftly ordered all city schools closed, dismissing teachers and pupils and encouraging them to stay at home. A.F. Hutson, county superintendent of schools, was likewise quickly informed by Dr. Murray. Hutson immediately closed county and township schools.

Drug stores were allowed to stay open, but were prohibited from selling soft drinks, so patrons wouldn't gather and mingle. Rural and neighborhood groceries were permitted to remain open at their own discretion, but were instructed to not allow any "loafing on the premises."

The *Tribune* noted that in a great many instances "the order will work hardships," especially so in terms of businesses "being at a standstill" and that "some hundreds of employees will be idle." It was uncertain not just how long the order would stay in effect, but also how it would affect workers' wages and salaries. Regardless, what the *Tribune* writer called "the most drastic order of the kind that ever struck this city" was in large measure an understandable response, given the deadly nature of the pandemic.

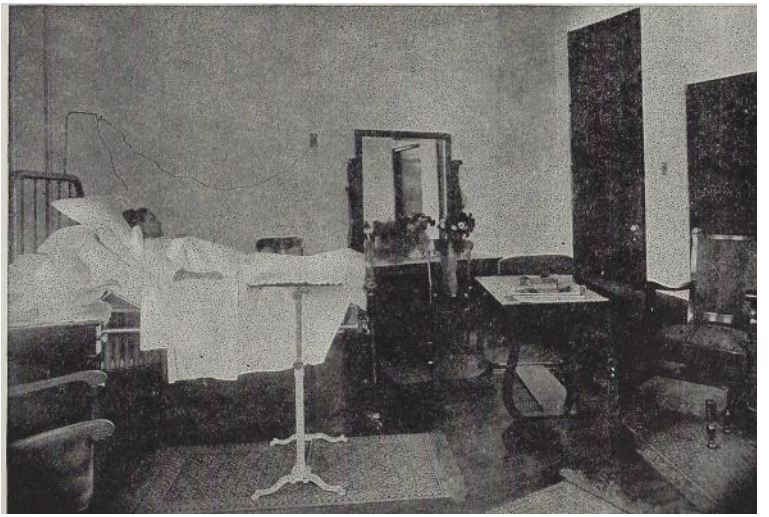
Curiously, for a time, there was "scarcely any influenza" in Kokomo, the *Tribune* reported. It even presented Dr. Cochran as the very authority "for the statement that the disease is on the decline here." Typhoid fever, the *Trib-*

une went on to say, was "prevalent to an alarming degree in the city."

Merchants and citizens alike nevertheless adhered to the order, and "no violation or attempted violation of the order" was reported. "The public is comporting itself with calmness," the *Tribune* said on Oct. 16, acknowledging that a "general spirit of co-operation" was evident in support of a public health department "acting in the best interests of the city." The closings order was amended shortly thereafter, and rescinded altogether by the end of the year.

When World War I ended on Nov. 11, the influenza pandemic appeared to abate as well. It's thought that the flu simply "ran out of fuel" as immunities hardened and efforts like quarantines and restrictions on public gatherings deprived the virus of new hosts. The effects of those terrible months though were long-lasting, and the memory of a modern-day plague-like illness that at times all but destroyed social cohesion surely stayed with the generation that lived – and survived – it.

Howard County did suffer the loss of many good citizens – about 200 victims, the *Tribune* reported on Dec. 31 — but fared better than other parts of Indiana. By mid-October 1918, nearly 22,000 influenza cases had been reported to the State Board of Health. (Marshall County, about 60 miles north of Kokomo, had the most reported cases at 2,453. White County, 50 miles or so northwest of Howard County, was particularly "distressed" by influenza; a general call was issued from



One of the memorial rooms in Good Samaritan Hospital ca1920, close to the time of the flu epidemic in Howard County.

***Sister Thecla wrote about Good Samaritan Hospital in Kokomo during the flu epidemic of 1918 in* The History of the Sisters of St. Joseph:**

During the flu epidemic of 1918, the "Sisters responded to the challenge by going into the flu-stricken homes to render the much-needed nursing care. This they did despite the great demands for help within the hospital itself. These arduous days found Sister Blanche isolated in a Galveston home; Sister Martha quarantined with a patient in the pest house; Sister Fidelis alone on the hospital's second floor with 15 patients; Sister Berchmans on the third floor with all the patients; and others, like Sister Monica on night duty.

No trained help was available. Patients were dying in their homes. St. John's Mission and St. Patrick's Sisters were quarantined with some of the Sisters' patients. There was no one to turn to for assistance. 'Only the Tipton gals,' as grandma Fiant used to say, 'came gallivanting around.' Nevertheless, their services were gladly accepted. They helped with the laundry, carried bed pans, fed patients, went on special duty, and they were even invited to serve in surgery. No diplomas or degrees were needed, just a willing spirit and a helpful hand, and you were hired."

the health department for extra nurses to be sent to help in the area. By the end of the scourge, Marion and Lake counties had reported the most influenza-related deaths.)

"I believe the disease is subsiding" in Kokomo, Dr. Cochran told the *Tribune* Nov. 26, noting that "there were not so many new cases being reported nor nearly so many deaths." However, for many more weeks, physicians, the city Welfare Department and many volunteer groups continued to provide care and comfort as the sick required.

The personal physical and mental toll of the experience was most vividly detailed by the story of William Riley, who lived with his family at 119½ West Elm Street on the north side. Seven members of the Riley family were confined to their beds with influenza, and the father had come to the *Tribune* office Nov. 26 to report the death of his daughter Florence. The four-year-old child had died that very midnight, another victim of the epidemic.

Young and otherwise in good shape, the *Tribune* reported, Riley looked "pale, haggard and utterly worn-out." As the only healthy human in his home, he said, he was providing all the nursing care himself. For two weeks, he had been so busy caring for his family that he hadn't even bothered to change his clothes.

SOURCES

"Influenza 1918." American Experience. PBS. 2 Jan. 2018. Television. Kokomo Daily Tribune, various dates, October-December 1918. Wikipedia.

Good Samaritan Hospital at the corner of S. Bell and E. Vaile in the Kokomo (the block between Apperson and Bell, where Terrace Towers is now located).

Preservation, conservation and restoration:

Saving our cultural and historical treasures?

By Jonathan Russell
Howard County Historian

Whether the treasure is an old building, a monument, painting, an historic stained-glass window or a park or natural wilderness, it links us to our heritage as a people and gives us a foundation upon which we will build our future. Once it is gone, it is lost forever, and we lose a piece of our heritage and our culture that cannot be replaced with any form of substitution.

Long ago, there stood a magnificent library in Alexandria, Egypt. It housed the most significant collection of manuscripts in the ancient world. It disappeared, completely. Most believe it was sacked or destroyed by barbarians, but the reality is much different — and far more tragic — it simply rotted away, the victim of neglect. The greatest repository of knowledge in the world lost forever. Just imagine….

Sadly, the danger of losing historic artifacts and places survives. Too often our culture is focused on the here and now. Artifacts and buildings are often considered simply "old stuff" in the way of our quest for "renewal".

How can we find it essential to preserve a "useless artifact" in an increasingly virtual environment?

While it may not be "logical" to preserve historical artifacts, the logic for preservation comes in the form of nostalgia. And nostalgia is beneficial to our families, our communities and ourselves as an antidote to the stresses of our ever-changing world.

"Nostalgia" was once the medical term used for the anxiety soldiers exhibited on the battlefield, the root words meaning "an aching for home". It was noted that the only known cure for the problem was to send the affected soldier home. The results were surprisingly beneficial.

As we have become a more mobile society, the symptoms of homesickness, or nostalgia, have lessened. Today, the term seems more appropriate in defining those pleasant feelings we have as we wander through an historic district, admiring the old homes with their front porches and tree-lined streets. It's a motivating, inspiring and unifying force that makes us feel connected with the people around us.

Cultural heritage has long been known for its effects on social well-being. When it wasn't enough for an army to defeat its enemy in battle, the conqueror would then destroy those institutions such as libraries, museums and historic sites in order to demoralize the people and destroy their culture.

We recoil today as ISIS lays waste to the historic sites of ancient Mesopotamia and Assyria, yet individuals and developers lay waste to historic and cultural sites every day. A Civil War battlefield or aging mansion here, a natural forest there. And, somehow, that's considered progress?

Many years ago, I found a pamphlet entitled "Ode to Aluminum Siding." In it were cartoon drawings of some of the nation's most treasured monuments, covered with "a protective covering of aluminum siding." Hilarious, but also disheartening. How many once-beautiful structures have been given the treatment that "modernizes" and makes them (somehow) more useful? Or at least, "maintenance free".

In the next few articles, I will focus on the tangible and intangible assets of preservation and the celebration of our history.

Some will focus on architecture and how historic preservation and community renewal benefit one another. Later ones will explore the burgeoning interest in genealogy, the arts and the importance of quality of life in respect to our cultural well-being and heritage.

Monroe Seiberling: Life after Kokomo

By Dave Broman
HCHS Executive Director

Follow Prospect Road north out of Peoria, Ill. and you'll eventually cross a once-busy thoroughfare called Seiberling Avenue. It was near the corner of Prospect and Seiberling where Monroe Seiberling built the Peoria Rubber and Manufacturing Company in 1895.

Seiberling arrived in Peoria after a tumultuous experience in Kokomo. He had moved to Indiana from Ohio in 1887 to take advantage of the Indiana Gas Boom, becoming the first entrepreneur in the region to use gas for manufacturing. He started with the Kokomo Strawboard factory, but was enticed to build another plant by the offer of free land, a direct railroad line to Chicago and free gas. Thus was born the Diamond Plate Glass Company in 1889, the country's largest and most sophisticated maker of plate glass at the time. The demand in Chicago for the large sheets of glass produced in Kokomo was strong enough that Seiberling built an even larger factory in Elwood. He was also instrumental in establishing a strawboard factory in Noblesville, a tin-plate manufacturer at Montpelier, a rubber company in Jonesboro and a window glass plant at Hartford City. In 1889, Seiberling also began construction of a beautiful brick mansion for his family in Kokomo – now the home of the Howard County Historical Museum.

Seiberling's plate glass operations were dangerous places to work, not only because of the glass but because of the possibility of flames escaping the fires in the kilns, occurrences that destroyed several buildings and necessitated at least one major rebuild. In spite of that, the plants were so efficient and prolific that they saturated the market with their output, causing an over-supply and drop in prices. Kicked off by "the Panic of 1893," the national economy collapsed at about the same time. Diamond Plate Glass was shut down temporarily and ultimately absorbed into a large syndicate from Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh Plate Glass.

With the loss of the Indiana glass factories, Seiberling decided to move his family and business operations closer to Chicago. He left Kokomo in 1895, just four years after moving into his showpiece home on West Sycamore Street. In Peoria, he set up the Peoria Rubber and Manufacturing Company and was instrumental in establishing the Prospect Heights Street Railway and the Peoria Heights Waterworks. His company manufactured bicycles and rubber balloon tires, which led to a relationship with the Duryea brothers. He built 18 of the Duryea's first gas-powered vehicles before the brothers split up and the Duryea company moved to Pennsylvania. A few blocks north of Seiberling Avenue in Peoria Heights, close to Seiberling's factory, motorists travel daily on Duryea Street.

Monroe Seiberling in 1900 while in Ottawa, Ill.

Also in 1895, Seiberling visited Ottawa, Ill., looking for a location to build another large glass factory. The fine white sand he needed as a raw material was abundant in the area and the Chicago market was nearby. The Ottawa Development Association gave him $100,000 and 43 acres of land to build the plant and construction began in 1899. Once

See "Seiberling" on page 14

Seiberling was involved in the early production of the gas-powered Duryea.

Monroe Seiberling opened a bicycle and rubber tire factory, among other endeavors, during his years in Peoria, Ill. This bicycle was one of those produced by that company.

The Seiberling Children

Most likely the children of the successful industrialist were also bright and interesting. But, as was typical of this period of time, little is known about Seiberling's daughters other than who they married and the success of their husbands. Here's a look at what we know:

Emma was born in 1864 and married Charles Butler on June 4,1893 in the Seiberling Mansion then lived in Marion. Charles started work as a banker in Akron, Ohio. He worked for Monroe Seiberling at the Indiana Rubber and Insulated Wire Company in Jonesboro, Indiana and was secretary and sales manager of the Peoria Rubber Company and secretary of the Seiberling Plate Glass Co. in Ottawa, Illinois. He also was vice president of the United States Rubber Company and managed manufacturing at four of its plants.

Alton was born in 1865, married Anna Tate on July 5,1889, and lived in Kokomo. He was treasurer of most of Seiberling's companies, worked for the Apperson Brothers Automobile Company and for Haynes Automobile, where he served as general manager and then vice president.

Katherine ("Kate") was born in 1868 and married Frank Kryder of Akron, Ohio in the Seiberling Mansion on Oct. 17, 1892. The couple lived in Akron. Kryder was a director of the glass factory in Ottawa, a purchasing agent for the Peoria Rubber Company factory and the Peoria auto plant. Frank received a patent in 1921 for his process for reclaiming rubber waste. He incorporated American Tire and Rubber in Akron to manufacture and sell rubber materials including tires.

Charles was born in 1870.

Ella was born in 1872.

Frederick was born in 1874. He became the director and assistant manager of the Seiberling Glass Factory in Ottawa.

Continued on next page
(cont.)

Laird was born in 1876. He became the

secretary of the auto plant in Peoria and treasurer of Western Drop Forge Co. in Marion, Ind.

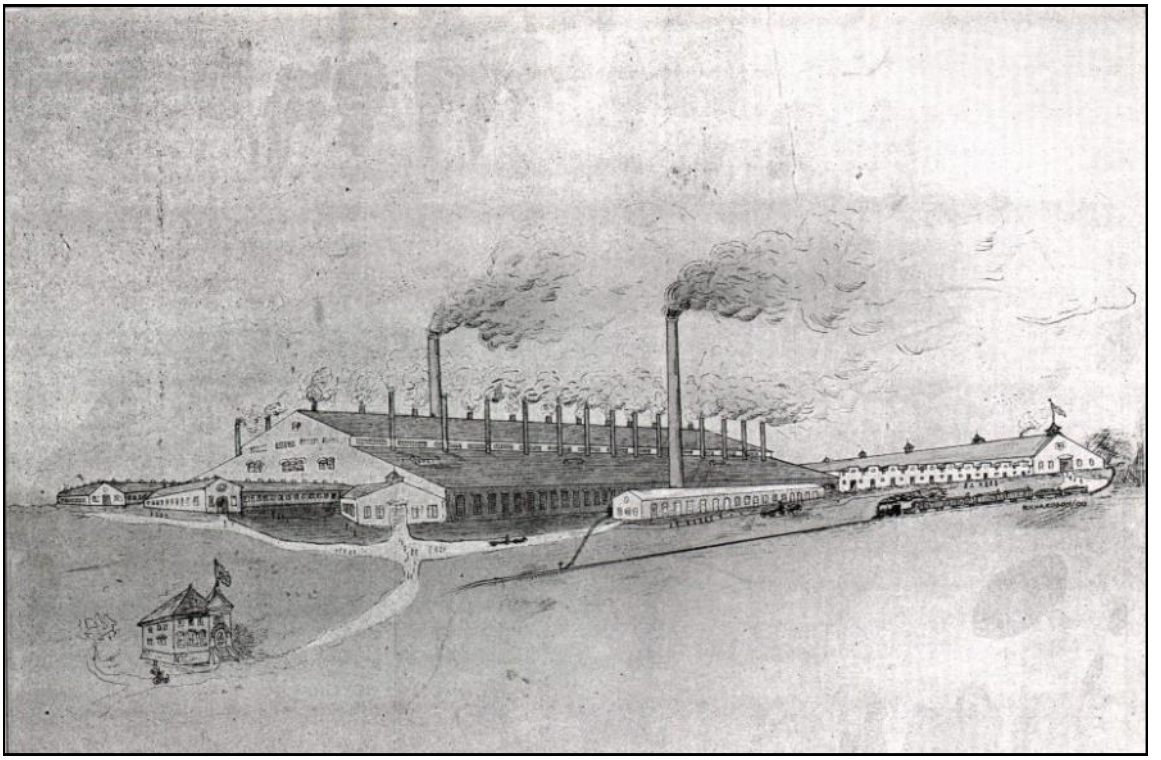
George was born in1878. He went on the work at the Seiberling bicycle and auto plant in Peoria.

Grace was born in 1883.

again, the glass operation was short-lived. Pittsburgh Plate Glass bought the plant from Seiberling in 1901 and tore it down to eliminate the competition.

In 1907, Monroe became actively involved in a mining project in Blair, Nev. He became ill while working there and returned home to Oak Park, Ill., where he died in February 1908. The mines in the Blair area played out a few years later and Blair is now listed as a ghost town.

Although little remains of his many businesses, Seiberling was one of the most active industrialists of his time, whose fortunes swung often between success and failure. His legacy includes his Kokomo mansion, the industrial development he brought to many communities and the business leadership and acumen carried forward by his descendants.



A drawing of the Seiberling glass factory in Ottawa, Ill.

Membership

Thanks to all who joined or renewed their memberships through Feb. 1st

Ann Abel
Evan Barker
Andrew Barker
Kappa Kappa Kappa - Beta Lambda Chapter
Dr. Robert & Sally Bratton
Jan Briscoe
Phillip & Victoria Conwell
Dorothy Dague
Ken & Linda Ferries
H. Lee Fritz
Joshua Gottemoller
Mona & Charles Graham
Kent Kauffman & Jan Halperin
Bill & Jody Harter
Darrell & Amy Henderson
Sue Hight
John & Mary Ann Holmes
Noel & Kaylee Horvath
Medora Kennedy
Wayne & Jane Kincaid
Don & Gloria Martin
Marshall & Donna McCay
Thomas & Linda Miklik
John & Cindy Morr
Joe & Drenda Myers
Kyle & Lisa Rayl
David & Melody Rayl
Cinda Rutherford
Conrad Stougell
Rheld & Lorina Tate
Jacquline Valentino
Carl & Helen Webb
Jeff & Kathy Young

'Christmas', continued from page 3

ways."

Katelyn Newell, a home schooler who says social studies is her favorite subject, was the lucky winner in the drawing from the names of the nine perfect scores. The prize package included a Children Around the World Christmas gift puzzle; Passport to Culture, Monopoly and Ticket to Ride games; two 2018 Winter Olympics mascot dolls; a miniature world globe; and several books.

Plans are already under way for the 2018 event – which will feature a winter wonderland of sparkling snowmen in the Seiberling. Anyone interested in decorating should contact Hobson at mpzhobson@gmail.com or 765-271-0039.

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Kokomo, Indiana 46901

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