

# Footprints

*A publication of the Howard County Historical Society*

Volume 2, Issue 4

November 2013

The Miller Family at the Seiberling:

***Just how did they make their fortune?***



In this issue:

Christmas  
at the Seiberling  
Memories  
of the Interurban  
Hamish presented  
with distinguished  
service award

Donations  
matched in annual  
campaign

From the executive director

## A Prescription for Preservation

Howard County as we know it today is built on a foundation of natural gas. It wasn't a strong foundation and collapsed when the gas wells played out. But the factories and workers that remained found new footings in the infrastructure built up during the boom. The roads, rails, buildings, gas lines and workforce all adapted, and our economy grew even larger.

The community's "Prescription for Preservation" called for flexibility, innovation and hard work. If there was a spoonful of sugar with the medicine, I don't know what it was. They took their dose straight up and didn't look back.

The historical society is here to preserve the physical remnants and lessons learned from those times. We're here to share, as well, helping foster a greater sense of community and a better understanding of our connections and contributions to the world outside of Howard County.

To do that, we bear the cost of things like preservation materials and expertise, storage space, climate control, curatorial staff and database management services. We also spend considerable time and money caring for the

iconic Seiberling Mansion, a relic of the boom and a centerpiece of community pride.

The HCHS "Prescription for Preservation" today is one of community support – your support – for our mission. With your financial contributions, we serve the community as stewards of its heritage. This year, your gifts can go even further thanks to a matching grant from James Long. He has offered a dollar-for-dollar match for the first \$15,000 in gifts to our fall campaign. Our first major gift of the year came from Dr. Charles and Alice Simons, the campaign co-chairs. Their \$5,000 donation will be matched, thus giving us a \$10,000 campaign kick-off.

Please join James Long and the Simons in showing your support for the work of the historical society by making a gift to the 2013 campaign. If you have questions about the organization and how we use your support to preserve and share Howard County history, I'd welcome the opportunity to answer them.

**Dave Broman**  
**HCHS Executive Director**

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*Angels are coming!*

**Seiberling Mansion  
Lighting Ceremony  
November 30  
6-9 p.m.**

Carriage rides, Music,  
Wassail, Santa and Angels!

Adults \$10 at the door  
\$7 in advance  
Children 12 and under \$3  
Members free

Advance tickets available online at [howardcountymuseum.org](http://howardcountymuseum.org)

## Something new at 2013 *Christmas at the Seiberling*

**By Dave Broman  
HCHS Executive Director**

There's something new in our stocking this year for *Christmas at the Seiberling* (no, it isn't a lump of coal). The angels are coming to the Seiberling and Scrooge doesn't stand a chance!

Top to bottom, inside and out, the Seiberling Mansion and Elliott House will be decked out for the holidays with trees,

lights and angels – enough to put the Christmas spirit in the grumpiest curmudgeon.

You can start by watching the lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. Nov. 30 as we officially kick off the holiday season. Visitors that evening can meet Santa and take a picture with him (bring your own camera), ride a carriage through the Old Silk Stocking Neighborhood, enjoy live music and warm up with a cup of wassail.

See *Something new* on page 5



# Holiday decorating at the mansion is a community effort

**By Dave Broman**  
**HCHS Executive Director**

For the thousands of people who have enjoyed the Blasius Christmas House on East Sycamore in Kokomo, Darrell and Bruce will be sharing their talent and huge stock of decorations with us on the third floor of the mansion.

Their show home raised thousands of dollars for We Care and the United Way over the years, and we're pleased that they will be part of Christmas at the Seiberling.

Decorating the Seiberling for Christmas is a community effort. It takes many people and many hours to make the mansion look so beautiful, but the results are always worth the effort. All of us owe a big "THANK YOU!" to the 2013 decorators:

**First floor entry way** - Decorating Your Home Small Group of New Life Church

**First floor foyer** - Tri Kappa

**Library** - Kiwanis

**The James Long Gallery** - Todd & Heather Scoggins

**Music Room** - Psi Iota Xi



**Parlor** - Daughters of the American Revolution General James Cox Chapter

**Dining Room**—Altrusa

**First floor restroom and second floor butler's pantry** - Goldie Snavely

**Children's Room** - Laureate Gamma Alpha

**Second floor foyer and Indiana Room** - Ivy Tech

**Kitchen** - Jane Kincaid

**Front stair case first to third floors** - Decorating Your Home Small Group of New Life Church

**Walnut Bedroom**— Symposium

**Indiana Room** - Ivy Tech

**Pioneer Room** - IUK Students

**Glass Room** - Lynn Smith

**Mural Room**—Schick-Donaldson Families

**Globe Stove Room** -

Haynes International

**Back stairway and mural balcony** - Connie Hess

**Ballroom** - Darrell & Bruce Blasias

**Elliott House Santa area** - Patti Host, Host Art & Frame

One room in the mansion will receive the title of "People's Choice" for 2013 – but all of the decorators deserve recognition. Thanks to them, the Seiberling will have one of the most beautiful holiday displays in Indiana.



## *Old Silk Stocking Carriage Rides*

Visit the magnificent  
Seiberling Mansion and take a  
romantic horse-drawn carriage  
tour of the historic district

Two Evenings:

Nov. 30 from 6-9 p.m. following the mansion lighting ceremony

Dec. 6 from 6-9 p.m. during First Friday

Reservation only - call (765) 452-4314 for information

### *Something new, continued from page 3*

Also new for this year, visitors can vote for the People's Choice Award by dropping a few coins in the ballot bucket in their favorite room of the Seiberling Mansion. The title goes to the room with the most money in its bucket, and proceeds support the mansion. Plus, kids can guess how many angels are decorating the mansion. There's a prize for the person who comes closest to the actual number.

Admission on Nov. 30 is free for historical society members who show their membership card. For non-members, advance tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for kids 12 and younger. Advance tickets are available at [howardcountymuseum.org](http://howardcountymuseum.org). Tickets on the night of the event are \$10 for adults and \$3 for kids.

Carriage rides are available by reservation only. The price is \$50 per carriage, which includes up to six people. You can fill the carriage with family and friends for that one price – or make it a romantic ride for just you and your sweetheart. On Nov. 30, your carriage ride also includes a photograph. To reserve your time, please call (765)452-4314. Reservations are first-come, first-served.

On Downtown Kokomo's First Friday, Dec. 6, the mansion will be open for special hours. We'll also have a second evening of carriage rides available by reservation.

To keep up to date on all of the holiday activities at the Seiberling, join us online at [howardcountymuseum.org](http://howardcountymuseum.org) and at [facebook.com/hchistory](https://www.facebook.com/hchistory).

# Mrs. Cora B. Miller Gives A Fortune

## She Will Spend \$50,000 In Giving Medical Treatment Absolutely Free to Suffering Women

### Will Be Sent To Every Woman Who Is Ailing.

#### A Million Women Bless Her Name

Grateful Letters From All Over the  
World Tell of Wonderful Cures  
With Mrs. Miller's Mild  
Home Treatment.

Over a million women have already accepted Mrs. Miller's generous offer to give free to every sufferer a regular treatment of her mild home remedy. From every civilized country come thousands upon thousands of kind, grateful letters from ladies whose hearts overflow with gratitude because this pleasant vegetable remedy has restored them to old-time health and strength.



Mrs. Francis M. Harris of Dover, La., writes: "I feel like a new woman and can do my work without having that old, tired feeling. I am happy to know that I am well again."

"It has relieved me of my constant suffering and I have not words to express my gladness. It was surely a Godsend to me, and I thank Him that there is such a wonderful medicine on earth for suffering women."—Mrs. Carrie Bailey, Pickneyville, Ala.

Mrs. Miller's remedy is the surest in the world. She asks no one to take her word, but only wants to prove it to any sufferer. Mail the coupon if you are a sufferer from any female complaint to Mrs. Cora B. Miller, Kokomo, Ind. Prove for yourself at Mrs. Miller's expense that this marvelous remedy should cure you. Do not delay; send the coupon now.

#### There Is Some One Near You Cured By Mrs. Miller.

There is hardly a country, city, town or village in which there does not reside some grateful lady who has been relieved after years of suffering and permanently cured by Mrs. Miller's mild home treatment, even after doctors and physicians refer you to ladies in your own locality who can and will tell any sufferer that this marvelous remedy really cures women. Only bear this in mind. Her word will not last long, for thousands and thousands of women who are well will take advantage of this generous means of getting cured. So if you are ailing, do not wait another day, but send the free coupon to Mrs. Miller without another day's delay.

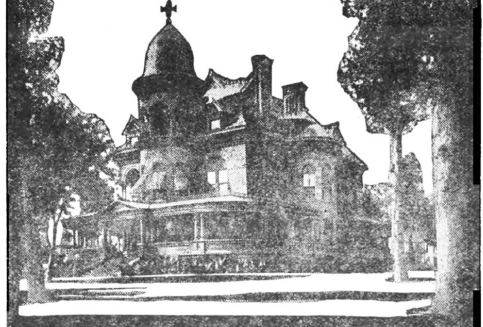
#### Send No Money. Just Your Name and Address, If You Are A Sufferer From Any Woman's Disease or Piles.

In the past few years Mrs. Miller has given \$125,000.00 in sending medicine to afflicted women.

Several years ago Mrs. Miller learned of a mild and simple preparation that cured herself and several friends of fe-

those who are suffering and unable to find relief.

Mrs. Miller's wonderful remedy is especially prepared for the speedy and permanent cure of leucorrhoea or whitish discharges, ulceration, displacements or falling of the



Mrs. Miller's Home. From Here She Directs the Distribution of Her Medicine to Those Who Suffer.

male weakness and piles. She was besieged by so many women needing treatment that she decided to furnish it to those who might call for it. She started with only a few dollars capital, and the remedy, possessing true and wonderful merit, producing many cures when doctors and other remedies failed, the demand grew so rapidly she was several times compelled to seek larger quarters. She now occupies one of the city's largest office buildings, which she owns, and almost one hundred lady clerks and stenographers are required to assist in this great business.

Some time ago it was announced that she would give to women who suffered from female diseases another \$10,000.00 worth of her medicine. She has fulfilled this promise, but as she is still receiving requests from thousands upon thousands of women from all parts of the world, who have not yet used her remedy, she has decided to give away \$50,000.00 more to

womb, profuse, scanty or painful periods, uterine or ovarian tumors or growths; also pains in the head, back and bowels, bearing down feeling, nervousness, creeping feeling up the spine, melancholy, desire to cry, hot flashes, weariness and piles from any cause or no matter of how long standing.

Every woman suffering, unable to find relief, who will write Mrs. Miller now, without delay, will receive by mail, free of charge, a 50-cent box of her simple home remedy, also her book with explanatory illustrations showing why women suffer and how they can easily cure themselves at home without the aid of a physician.

All that is necessary is to cut out the coupon at the bottom of this page, fill in your name and address and send it to Mrs. Miller, Kokomo, Ind. The medicine and book will be sent to you at once. Send now before the \$50,000.00 worth is all gone.

#### How To Cure Any Case Of Piles.

I want to tell you fully and plainly that any woman, or man either, for that matter, who suffers from any form of piles, may place their faith absolutely in my treatment. They won't be disappointed. It's intended for piles as well as the diseases peculiar to women. It treats diseased mucous surfaces, no matter where located,

and I verily believe that this remedy has cured more bad cases of piles of all kinds than all the so-called "pile cures" and doctors in the country. A cure with my remedy is speedy. It's safe and it's lasting. The intense torture, the burning, smarting and itching stop at once and you feel better right from the start. Send for my free treatment at once and see for yourself.

#### Why Men Desert Their Wives.

Eighty Per Cent of the Wife Desertions and Divorces Due to Female Weakness.

I should have taken better care of myself, I suppose. I was sick and suffering. No one but a woman can ever know how I suffered. I was irritable, I couldn't be to my husband the wife that I ought to have been. He, being a man, couldn't understand. He drifted apart. He sought his pleasures elsewhere. Finally there was nothing but the divorce court that could settle our differences.

That's the sad story that eight out of every ten women who have passed through the ordeal of the divorce court, as well as the countless thousands of deserted wives who are not divorced, know deep down in her heart was the real cause of her trouble.

A sick wife, a neglected home, and the publicity and disgrace of the court room to end it all. There wouldn't be half as much talk of the divorce evil in the world if only every wife and mother would realize her duty to preserve her health and strength.

No woman has the right to expect her husband to devote his leisure hours to his home and her when she is leading a dragged-out, hopeless, down-in-the-mouth existence that would discourage the greatest optimist on earth.

Mrs. Cora B. Miller's marvelous home remedy has done more to prevent divorce than all the messages to congress and resolutions in the world. The woman who is bright and cheerful and well has a home that reflects her own good feeling and discontent finds no place therein.

Mrs. Miller's aid and advice is as free to you as God's sunshine or the air you breathe. She wants to prove to you her common-sense home treatment will cure you just as surely as it cured her years ago in her humble cottage.

If you are a sufferer from any female trouble, no matter what it is, send the coupon below to Mrs. Cora B. Miller at once.

Put Your Faith in Mrs. Miller.

My word that my home treatment should unfailingly relieve you of female diseases or piles doesn't necessary mean anything. But when my word and medicine is backed up by over a million ladies, that's evidence you cannot doubt. There is hardly a county or small village in the land that does not number some poor sufferer cured. I didn't force them to use my medicine. They took it of their own free will and it cured them. You can put your faith in that sort of a remedy every time. Just cut out the coupon, send it today and prove what this marvelous treatment will do for you.

This Noted Divine Says:

"I am personally acquainted with Mrs. Cora B. Miller. I most cheerfully and voluntarily testify that myself and family have been greatly benefited by the use of Mrs. Miller's home remedies and heartily recommend them to the general public."—Rev. P. G. Roscamp, D. D., Presbyterian Minister.

No not delay. Send the coupon today.

Free Treatment Coupon.

This Coupon is good for a full-sized regular 50-cent package of Mrs. Miller's Mild Home Treatment. Just fill in your name and address on dotted lines below and mail at once to Mrs. Cora B. Miller, 7135, Miller Bldg., Kokomo, Ind., and you will receive the remedy in plain package at once.

Name .....  
Address .....  
City ..... State .....

# Mail order scheme funded grand lifestyle at the mansion

By Judy Lausch  
HCHS Publication Committee Member

Well respected in the Kokomo community, the Franklin D. Miller family enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle and a home at the Seiberling Mansion from 1905 to 1914.

However, the source of the Miller fortune was not quite as respectable as the family name.

Using his wife, Cora, as a front, Miller concocted a potion advertised as a cure-all for feminine complaints ranging from sagging female organs to hemorrhoids to husbands with wandering eyes. He then marketed the potion through a mail-order business advertising in magazines.

According to a 1909 article in *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Mrs. Cora B. Miller:

“learned a mild and simple preparation that cured herself and several friends of female weakness and piles. She was besieged by so many women needing treatment that she decided to furnish it to those who might call for it. She started with only a few dollars’ capital, and the remedy, possessing true and wonderful merit, producing many cures when doctors and other remedies failed, the demand grew so rapidly she was several times compelled to seek larger quarters. She now occupies one of the city’s largest office buildings, which she owns, and



Cora B. Miller

almost 1000 clerks and stenographers are required to assist in this great business.”

*JAMA*, the prestigious *Journal of the American Medical Association*, in its July 23, 1910, publication, reported a completely different perspective:

“Kokomo, Ind. has long been known to the readers of not-too-particular newspapers and magazines as the headquar-

ters of a philanthropic lady who for some years has been 'spending a fortune in giving medical treatment absolutely free to suffering women' — Mrs. Cora B. Miller. The scheme was to send a free treatment to all women applying for it, and to urge the prospective victim to take the regular treatment, price: \$1.00. Form letters, "follow-up" letters and the other paraphernalia of the mail-order house were used in the usual way to relieve the gullible sick of their money."

The *JAMA* article goes on to report the financial success of the scheme. Gross receipts of the business were in excess of \$100,000 per year. The postmaster of Kokomo testified that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909, more than \$81,000 was paid via money orders alone.

But was it Cora B. Miller doing business? The advertisements and circulars imply that Mrs. Cora B. Miller was in charge of the business,



Franklin D. Miller

originated the "treatment" and directed the medical treatment of people writing to the business. The circular letters were signed "Mrs. Cora B. Miller" and every effort was made to convey the impression that a woman was running the business.

In fact, the government showed that the business was conducted by Frank D. Miller, who started it under the name of the Kokomo Medicine Company and conducted it under this name from 1890 until after his marriage, when it was reorganized and incorporated in his wife's name. According to the report, Mrs. Miller had nothing whatever to do with the conduct of the business and had no training that would allow her to prescribe medication for women's ailments. Her name was evidently used only as an advertising gimmick, in much the same way as the Lydia Pinkham advertisements.

The investigation showed that the medicine was compounded by the clerks and stenographers employed by Franklin Miller, the same clerks who also answered, via form letters, the inquiries sent in by the victims of the fraud. Miller claimed that his business employed a consulting physician, Dr. Chancellor, but the investigation showed that he was rarely consulted.

The attorney general ordered a chemical analysis of the product, which was described as a suppository. It consisted of

Boric Acid	30.96%
Tannic Acid	5.79%
Cocoa butter	54.03%
Carbolic Acid	trace

Of course, the advertisements were full of testimonials on the "amazing" curative powers of the product. The assistant attorney general summed this up in his report:

"Because of its antiseptic and astringent character, [the treatment] will undoubtedly palliate certain symptoms, and it is plain that the patients who have given these testimonials have been troubled only with conditions that the medicine will help ... This is, in fact, one of the most pernicious characteristics of this business; the company is aided greatly in its efforts to foist this remedy on



Franklin D. and Cora B. Miller made the Seiberling Mansion their home from 1905 to 1914.

**PHOTOS FROM  
THE HCHS  
COLLECTION**

the public by these statement which are, no doubt, truthfully quoted, but which are the result of self-deception and known to be so by the promoters of the business."

In view of the evidence, the assistant attorney general declared the business to be "a scheme for obtaining money through the mails by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations and promises" and recommended that a fraud order be issued against the Mrs. Cora B Miller Company. The order was issued.

In 1912, Miller closed his medicine company and devoted his energy to real estate, both commercial and residential.

The disclosure of the fraud order did not diminish Miller's stature in the community. In 1924 he was listed in *The Kokomo Tribune* as one of the 10 Greatest Citizens of Howard County.

And Miller was an influential resident of Kokomo. Some of his contributions included the

donation of 15 acres of land to the city of Kokomo in 1931. This land was developed into Foster Park.

He also was responsible for building the Isis Theatre on South Main Street in 1913, and he founded the Kokomo Memorial Park Cemetery in 1918.

Miller was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, the real estate board, the YMCA and the Kokomo Park Board.

He traveled widely, making two trips around the world, touring extensively in Mexico and Guatemala. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and horticulture.

After living in the Seiberling Mansion for several years, the Millers had another home built at 801 West Sycamore Street, where they moved in 1914.

Miller died in 1946 at the age of 80 years. The youngest of 14 children born in Pennsylvania to Dr. and Mrs. A.G. Miller, he moved with his family to South Bend in 1878. In 1890, he settled in Kokomo and established his "patent" medicine business. A patent for the Cora B. Miller remedy could not be located.

# New distinguished service award presented to namesake

**By Linda Ferries**  
**HCHS Publications Committee Member**

A new recognition for outstanding contributions to the Howard County Historical Society – the Mary Ellen Harnish Distinguished Service Award – was presented for the first time at the society's 2013 annual meeting to a very worthy and appropriate recipient – Mary Ellen Harnish.

For Mary Ellen, the Seiberling Mansion and the Howard County Historical Society have been a way of life for more than 40 years, so it's only fitting that she be honored both with the naming of the distinguished service award and as its first honoree.

The award was presented by HCHS Execu-

tive Director Dave Broman at the annual meeting on Oct. 15 at St. Joseph Hospital.

"We wanted to honor Mary Ellen for all her efforts – from the renovation of the Seiberling back in 1972 through her important ongoing work today in organizing our collection of artifacts," Broman said. "There may never be another volunteer who will have given so much time, effort and commitment to the society, so the board of directors agreed that creating an award for outstanding service named in her honor was very appropriate. And who else would be the first recipient but Mary Ellen herself?"

In making the presentation, Kelly Karickhoff, who served as HCHS executive director from 1992 to 2012, outlined Mary Ellen's history with the historical society.

"Mary Ellen has been involved in the Howard County Historical Society for the last 40 years," Kelly said. "She has held virtually every volunteer and leadership position in this organization and the institutional knowledge that she possesses just can't be taught."

Mary Ellen's involvement began in 1972 as a volunteer as the historical society reclaimed the long-vacant Seiberling Mansion – stripping paint off of fireplaces, door knobs, hinges and window latches with her father, Wayne. She was "fast-tracked" to a board position as a result of her enthusiasm for the mansion and her love of history. One of her first assignments as a board member was to write the HCHS booklet that is still being used today by volunteers to share the story of the Seiberling family and the mansion that symbolizes the Gas Boom and what it meant to Kokomo.



Mary Ellen Harnish with Dave Broman.

Since that time, she has served the HCHS as an active volunteer, society member, board member, committee chair, executive board member and president.

"She has contributed unselfishly of her time, talent and treasure and has helped to shape this organization into what it is today," Kelly said, referring to Mary Ellen as the reigning queen of the historical society. "I had the good fortune to work alongside Mary Ellen for 20 years. If something needed to be done, she was our 'go-to' girl. She was always willing to take responsibility and leadership for significant tasks and projects that she knew – and we knew – would change the course of the society."

As an influential elementary school teacher for many years, she used the Seiberling and its artifacts to bring history alive to her young charges. On the occasion of the mansion's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1991, she spearheaded the creation of a time capsule filled with, among other items, works of her Lafayette

Park fourth-graders. Still on display in the mansion, the time capsule is scheduled to be opened in 2041 when the community celebrates the mansion's first 150 years. Donning a pioneer dress and sunbonnet, Mary Ellen has helped youngsters dip unnumbered candles over the years of the annual Koh-koh-mah/ Foster encampment. And these are just three examples of Mary Ellen's many contributions.

"Mary Ellen chaired the effort to draw up the society's first strategic three-year plan back in 1992, an effort that has been replicated regularly since," Kelly said. "She chaired the Collection Management Committee, and under her leadership, we took the museum to a new level ... being recognized all over the state as a leader in museum collection policies and practices."

"Mary Ellen always loved the Seiberling, but she also understood that this organization is charged with maintaining a collection of artifacts that mark a place in our history," Kelly continued. "She understood that our mission is to preserve and share these significant items for perpetuity. We have a special mission and we have been lucky to have such a special lady helping guide us as we have grown over the years. The Howard County Historical Society is what it is today because of the efforts of Mary Ellen Harnish."

The award will be presented as appropriate to people judged to have provided significant long-term service. It will hang in a place of honor in the Seiberling Mansion.



On the candle-dipping crew.



Mary Ellen circa 1990 during "Antiques in Action" on the Seiberling lawn

# Celebrating 100 Years of St. Joseph Hospital

**By Linda Ferries**  
**HCHS Publications Committee Member**

In honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kokomo's St. Joseph Hospital, the Howard County Historical Society chose the landmark at 1907 W. Sycamore St. as the appropriate venue for its 2013 annual meeting on Oct. 15.

Those attending had the pleasure of getting a very personal look at the community healthcare pillar from Sister Martin McEntee, the Kokomo native and Sister of St. Joseph who headed the hospital for more than a quarter of its history.

With her characteristic humility, wit and wisdom, Sister Marty shared a dramatic tale that began in France in 1650 with the founding of the religious order, Sisters of St. Joseph, in dedication to prayer and service to the "dear neighbor." Their mission of ministering to widows and caring for children in orphanages was interrupted by the French Revolution, when five



**Sister Martin McEntee, a Kokomo native and Sister of St. Joseph, headed the hospital for more than 25 years.**

of the sisters were guillotined for refusing to take the oath of allegiance to Robespierre. Re-founded after the fall of Robespierre, they resumed their work with the poor, the widows and the orphaned in France. In 1836, a handful of Sisters crossed the Atlantic at the request of Bishop Rosati of St.

Louis, Mo., and began their service to the "dear neighbor" in America.

The sisters' influence spread as they answered calls to service. In 1888, at the request of the pastor of St. John's parish in Tipton, three sisters moved there to begin a congregation that soon founded what is now known as St. Patrick School in Kokomo. In 1912, spurred by the need to expand healthcare in the growing city of Kokomo, the mother superior joined the pastor of St. Patrick in organizing efforts that resulted in the establishment of the Good Samaritan Hospital, which opened on Feb. 6, 1913.

Caught up in the religious bigotry of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Kokomo spawned a second hospital, the Howard County Hospital, founded by the Ku Klux Klan to offer an alternative to those who spurned Catholic care. As the Klan lost power, influence and funding, its hospital closed in 1930. In an ironic twist many attribute to the workings of God, a bequest from a man who had been offered loving care at Good Samaritan, after having been turned away at the county hospital, allowed the sisters to purchase the abandoned Klan facility on West Sycamore Street. They reopened it as St. Joseph Memorial Hospital on Feb. 6, 1936.

For more details on this fascinating history, please see the February 2013 edition of *Footprints* or access the article on [howardcountymuseum.org](http://howardcountymuseum.org/news/centennial+of+st+joseph+hospital/41) at <http://howardcountymuseum.org/news/centennial+of+st+joseph+hospital/41>

Sister Marty's personal history at St. Joseph Hospital began in 1968. She had grown up in Kokomo, taken her vows with the Sisters of St. Joseph and was putting her education to use as a junior high school teacher in Marion when she received the assignment to go back to school to become a hospital administrator. After four years that included earning degrees in

business and healthcare administration and serving internships and a residency, she came to St. Joseph in Kokomo as an associate administrator in August 1968. Three months later, with the lay administrator off to a new job in California, she became the head of the hospital. Her 28-year service to “the dear neighbor” of Kokomo was under way.

Funny stories, sad stories and poignant stories took place in those 28 years that, Sister Marty said, “will always warm my heart and make me forever grateful that I was privileged to minister with the board members, physicians, volunteers and staff of this remarkable institution.”

There was the time a distracted wife of a recently discharged patient threw her car into the wrong gear and plowed into a large statue of St. Joseph at the front of the hospital. Not only dethroned, St. Joseph was decapitated. In a bit of insider humor, hospital staffers came to Sister Marty’s office holding St. Joseph’s head on a tray and offering two suggestions: Rename the hospital “St. John the Baptist” and remind folks that at St. Joseph Hospital, “heads DO roll!”

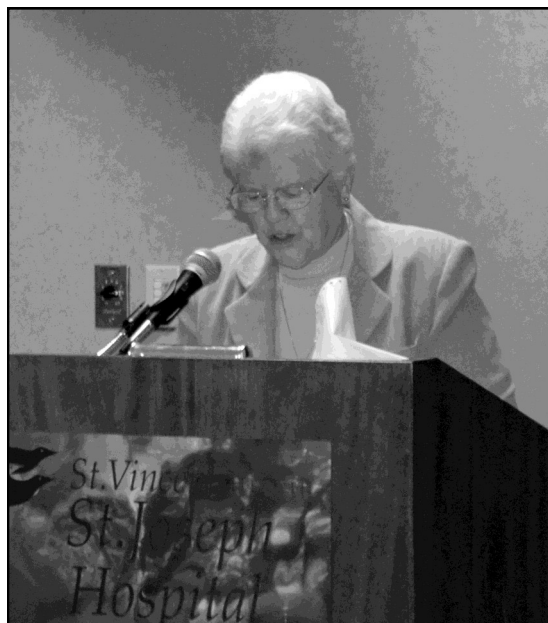
There was the time staffers placed a large yellow blinking sign with the legend “Honk ... Number 1 at SJH is 50 today” across the street in honor of Sister Marty’s 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

“Across the street” meant in front of “The Filling Station,” a pub that coincidentally faced the hospital’s drug and alcohol treatment program.

There were other times with good-natured pranks, like the evening she came home from a much-deserved vacation to find a “sold” sign in the front yard.

And there were sad times. Sister Marty’s eyes still fill and her voice still catches as she talks about the pain in 1986 when federal legislation aimed at curbing healthcare costs resulted in the layoff of nearly 100 employees.

Her most proud accomplishment? The founding of the Clinic of Hope in downtown Kokomo to provide healthcare to the city’s needy.



Sister Marty shares memories at the HCHS annual meeting

“It was a very great privilege to serve as one of the leaders of St. Joseph Hospital,” she said. “The hospital has always been blessed with wonderful and caring persons ... board members, physicians, volunteers, staff members and others who continue the mission and ministry of those very early Sisters. It is the ministry of healing ... and healing as Jesus did, with great love for all, without distinction; with heartfelt compassion for those most in need of care ... care provided with deep respect for the person, this child of God whom we are privileged to serve.”

In the business session of the annual meeting, the following members were elected to three-year terms on the HCHS Board of Trustees:

Continuing members: Judy Brown, Linda Ferries, Cathy Stover

New members: Amy Russell, Lynn Smith, Shelly Wyman

Returning members: Mary Ellen Harnish,



## Interurban station plans spark memories

**By Dave Broman**  
**HCHS Executive Director**

**I**nterurban rails and routes criss-crossed Indiana during the early 1900s.

Before the cost of automobiles dropped and their popularity skyrocketed, interurban companies provided the primary mode of transportation between Hoosier towns and cities.

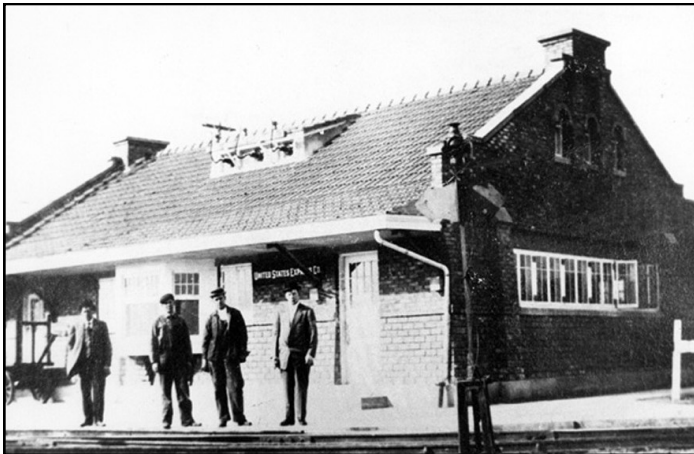
Most of the buildings and tracks associated with those light rail systems have vanished. The Union Traction building in downtown Kokomo was razed a couple years ago when the walls apparently became unstable. That location will soon be the site of a new YMCA. There are some train barns still standing near the Markland and Park intersection, as well as on E. Sycamore across from Crown Point Cemetery..

In Russiaville, the siding on an apartment building at the east edge of town has been hiding one of the very few original interurban stations left in Indiana. The town government and Russiaville Historical Society have recently received a \$252,500 grant from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs to

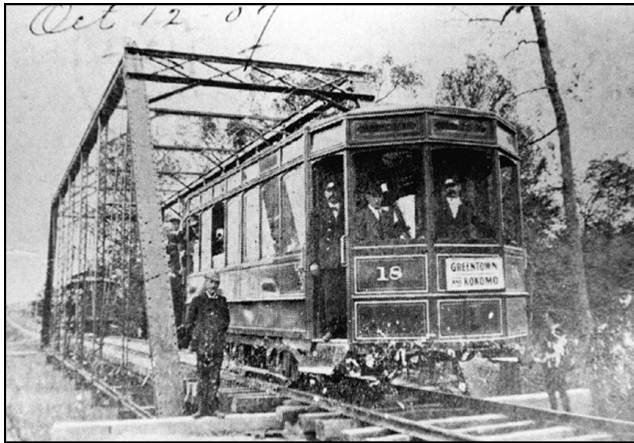
**By Judy Lausch**  
**HCHS Publications Committee Member**

**R**ecent discussions at the HCHS about the Interurban Station in Russiaville brought to mind an oral history interview conducted by Allen Safianow, retired Indiana University Kokomo professor and HCHS board member, in November 1982 with Charles William "Bill" Franklin about his memories of early transportation in Howard County.

Franklin was born July 24, 1908, in Crystal Falls, Mich. As a young boy, his family moved first to Clinton County, then later to Howard County. A 1925 graduate of Kokomo High School, he briefly attended Muncie Normal School (now Ball State University), and then taught elementary school in Russiaville. He then returned to Muncie to complete his licensing training, and began



Plans are underway to restore the former Russiaville interurban station, above, to it's original appearance.



begin restoring the station to its original appearance. Historical society president, Marsha Berry, says they hope to qualify the structure for the National Register of Historic Buildings, and they've been working with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology to ensure that the restoration is accurate and meets the requirements for inclusion. She says they hope to have the exterior work done by the fall of 2014.

If you've driven by in the past year or so, you may have noticed that some work has already begun.

Jon Russell of Russell Design restored the station's big bay window to its original location in the building. It had been moved to different part of the building, probably in the 1940s, when the station was turned into residential apartments. Jon and his team removed the framing and sashes piece by piece, in the process finding written notes on the woodwork proving that it was the original window from the station.

The ultimate goal of the restoration is to provide a museum and meeting place. Once complete, the station will be a point of great pride for Russiaville – and for all of Howard County.

teaching in the Kokomo school system. He taught at Columbian, Meridian, Palmer, and Washington elementaries and Kokomo High School. He earned a bachelor's degree from Ball State in 1938 and later a master's degree from IU. He also served in the Indiana National Guard.

Upon his retirement from teaching, Franklin managed the Kokomo Public School Employees Credit Union. He was active in many local organizations, including the Main Street Methodist Church, Boy Scouts, Masonic Lodge, Kiwanis, Meals on Wheels, and the literacy program.

In 1937 Franklin married Elizabeth "Betty" Bailor; they had three children. Franklin died in Kokomo on Feb. 27, 1993.

While growing up, Franklin lived with his parents in Forest. His father was a blacksmith, but sold his business as newer modes of transportation became popular and started a family farm.

The following is taken from the interview with Bill Franklin in 1982. Blanks represent undistinguishable portions of the audio recording.

"Forest is southwest of Kokomo on what used to be, at that time, an urban track, interurban, the electric car that covered Indiana at that time that went from Kokomo to Frankfort, at a diagonal, between Kokomo and Frankfort. And it sits south of (Highway) 26... It was a small farm community at that time and my father was concerned about the advent of the gasoline engine and automobile, and he felt that he ought to be getting out of the horse shoeing business and find something so we moved to this farm.... I was about 11 years old in 1918-1919. We lived right along the edge of the railroad. That was when there were troop trains going through down to \_\_\_\_, the beginning of WW."

Later that year the family moved from Forest to West Middleton, and then to a farm south of Kokomo on Alto Road. Later they bought a farm in Center.

When he was questioned about how he got to school, Franklin gave a fascinating account of the transportation situation:

"No. That was a time, that was before buses. By

the way, when I went to Center School, I lived west of Center, probably, oh, about two miles, and the way you got to school there, you rode what they called a kid-hack and a kid-hack was a horse-drawn wagon that was like a bus body and the kids rode in it to school. And we had a hack driver and I suppose the word 'hack' comes from the English version from \_\_\_\_, they drove a hack around town to haul people around. That was what this was. And it was a wagon and we had a little stove in it to help get you warm in the winter time.

"And then you had to provide your own transportation if you went to high school, and there was no hack or bus or anything like that so if some in the neighborhood, if somebody in the neighborhood had an automobile, sometimes they drove, but those were only the wealthy farmers that had that car that could drive and most of the children, the students in the western area of the township, went on what we would call the interurban, which was an electric line and the line that came up from Indianapolis was known as the Union Traction Line and it went from Indianapolis to Noblesville through Tipton and up to Kokomo and on to Logansport, one division. The other division went up to Peru and on up to Fort Wayne.

"That was the Union Traction Company, and they would run two kinds of interurban. They were electric cars and were self-propelled by electricity and electric current by the way.

"But they would run a local and a limited. And the locals would stop at every crossroad if there was somebody there and you could flag it down. But the limited you couldn't flag. The limited sometimes wouldn't even stop at small towns. But you would walk from where you lived to the town where the interurban stopped

and this interurban came in at seven o'clock in the morning and it would be in Fairfield [now Oakford] at seven o'clock, so all of the kids in that neighborhood went to high school would be there to get on the interurban.

"And we rode it into Kokomo, and it would take about 15 minutes to get into Kokomo, and then to the high school. Your class didn't begin until eight o'clock, but you had that much time for yourself or around school there at that time. Then of an evening, you'd head back the same way you came, but of an evening the interurban that you was trying to ride back was a local and you could get off at the intersection of the interurban track and the road that you lived



A vintage postcard shows an interurban heading south on Main Street in Kokomo.

on, and you'd walk from there to your home.

"So, we lived, our home was probably, oh, a mile and a half, a mile and three-quarters, from the town of Fairfield and \_\_\_\_, powered at the time I was \_\_\_\_, to get over there in the morning. \_\_\_\_, interurban didn't wait for anybody to get to school on time. And it was an hour before the next one. The next one would make you about five minutes late for school. And besides that, when you worked on the farm, we had what we used to call "chores" to do. You had to milk, feed, get the harness cleaned for your father to go ahead with his work during the day."

## Update:

# The Railroad Watchman's Tower

**By John Morr**  
**HCHS Publication Committee Member**

The February issue of *Footprints* told of plans to renovate and have some fun with the railroad watchman's tower in downtown Kokomo.

The watchman's tower is the tiny wooden house on top of a pole between Walnut and Mulberry, on Buckeye Street. For years, this one-of-a-kind building provided shelter for railroad watchmen surveying up and down Buckeye Street and housed the controls for various safety signals at the crossings on east-west thoroughfares such as Sycamore, Walnut and Mulberry streets.

The Watchman's Tower had some primping done back in 1994. This year we are excited to report that it has been further renovated, bringing it back as close as possible to its appearance when it was originally installed — but with some additions.

A fresh coat of paint, in what is believed to be its original colors, has been applied by the City of Kokomo Traffic Department, with paint donated by a local Sherwin-Williams store.

The most fun? An historic-appearing mannequin of a watchman has been created and donated by Bob Gollner. It can easily be seen in the tower, looking as though a watchman is hard at work.

And if you pass the tower at night, you can see that same watchman thanks to dusk-to-dawn LED lighting installed by Jeff Larson and JML Electric.

The only remaining tasks are the replacement of one window sill and the addition of a "story board" at sidewalk level to tell the tower's tale.



Thank you to the many people who have helped to bring yet another historic landmark back to its glory. This legacy is just another example of Kokomo and Howard County's belief that our past helps define who we are.

**Beth's Main Street Folkart**  
and  
**The Howard County Historical Society**  
present the eighth annual  
**Winter Woolen Workshop**

**Saturday Feb. 22, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Sunday Feb. 23, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**In the Seiberling Mansion & Elliott House  
1200 W. Sycamore St., Kokomo, IN 46901**

Come and enjoy the all-day workshops and demonstrations in early samplers, colonial painting, traditional and primitive rug hooking, needle felting, hand quilting, wool applique, crazy quilt stitches, tatting, spinning and weaving, oxford rug punch, tatting, punch needle embroidery, knitting, crocheting and silk ribbon embroidery.

Bring a project from home to work on or try something new and enjoy our many vendors selling their wares.

**Proceeds benefit the Howard County Historical Society**

Two-day admission — \$10

Advance sale tickets available at [howardcountymuseum.org](http://howardcountymuseum.org)

Contact: Beth Notaro for more information 765-236-1000

[bethsmnstfolkart@aol.com](mailto:bethsmnstfolkart@aol.com)

[www.picturetrail.com/bethsmainstreet](http://www.picturetrail.com/bethsmainstreet)

# Membership

**Thanks to all who joined the Howard County Historical Society  
or renewed their memberships in August through October**

Home Builders Association  
Dr. Alan & Phyllis Adler  
James & Karen Alender  
Tedd & Deborah Armstrong  
Don & Gail Beaton  
Marilynda Bennett  
Kappa Kappa Kappa Inc.  
    Beta Lambda Chapter  
Glen Boise A.I.C.P.  
Jim & Jan Briscoe  
David Broman & Joyce  
    Cylkowski  
Larry & Mildred Brown  
J. Herbert & Barbara  
    Buchanan  
Don & Ann Button  
Henry & Phoebe Carter  
Janice Chase  
D.A.R. General James Cox  
    Chapter  
Steve Daily  
Joe & Diana Davis  
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Pat DiSalvo  
Gail Dresser  
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    Farmers Bank & Trust  
John & Connie Floyd  
Greg & Sharon Foland  
Bob Gollner  
Mayor Greg Goodnight  
Cheryl Graham

Beryl & Jacqueline Grimme  
Beth Harshman  
Jeff & Cassandra Hauswald  
BethAnn Heuermann  
Jeff Himelick  
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Craig & Janine Huffman  
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Dr. David & Barbra Jarrell  
David & Janice Kellar  
Patrick & Kathy Kennedy  
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Jerry King, King's Heating  
    & Plumbing  
Dale & Grace Kingseed  
Phillip & Diane Knight  
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Judy Kruggle  
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James Malone  
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    Mike's Sewer Service  
Margaret Miles  
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**Howard County  
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