

Carbon Hill School Museum

Welcome to the old Carbon Hill School, now a public museum, owned and operated by the Carbon Hill Historical Society, a registered not-for-profit Illinois organization, dedicated to collecting, preserving, and displaying our local history.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2016

Grand Marshall

Jeff Veronda has lived his adult life here in Carbon Hill. His 100% willingness to help has not gone unnoticed.

Congratulations, Jeff, and THANK YOU!

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Homecoming Notes

Museum open June 22-26 for 2 programs and browsing.



Porky's

What a long winding interesting history on the site of our old hotel! Read about who took a turn owning Porky's Tavern.

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Veronda Family

Carbon Hill's second postmaster.

Reunion Palooza
in the Carbon Hill Park
Saturday, July 23
noon til midnight

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Books

We keep a supply of great local books on hand for sale. New ones added all the time.

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About our Society

Your membership in the Society keeps the school museum thriving.

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Grand Marshall Jeff Veronda

Born July 16, 1960, Jeff is the second born son of Tony and Helen Kaiser Veronda. He grew up along Route 113 bordering Diamond, Eileen and Coal City. The original Veronda family lived in Eileen; when Jeff married in 1982 he and his wife moved into grandma Veronda's old brown house there. In 1983 their first born son arrived and in 1986 a second born son was born. They outgrew the Eileen house so Jeff bought a new home built in Carbon Hill by Richard Jurzak. When Jeff bought and moved into the house on First Street, he had a water leak out by the street. The town volunteers fixed the leak but left a mound of dirt. Jeff called the Mayor

Jolly Skubic about getting that mound flattened. Jolly said "grab a rake". This was Jeff's introduction to life in Carbon Hill. In 1989 the new mayor,



John Jensen, asked Jeff to be on the village board. Jeff wasn't too keen but John cajoled him to just come to the next board meeting. Once there John swore Jeff in by appointment. Jeff became a 'write in candidate' and notes, "I didn't even vote for myself." Jeff became our fixer of leaks. He would be told by Jensen to go to

Donna's Beauty Parlor and Bum's to tell them the water would be off for awhile. And Jeff has worked all the Homecomings — parades, flipping hamburgers, selling tickets, etc. etc.

Jeff came to Carbon Hill with his mom and dad for cookouts at Hot Shot & Lorraine Vilt's and also with his Uncle Frank Koca to Frank's Bait Shop to get worms for fishing. "I was probably 10 years old. So now I live a block from where I partied as a kid."

When Ed Pacchetti asked Jeff to be Grand Marshall Jeff said "no, there must be somebody older, someone who does more, is more dedicated." Ed said, "no, Jeff, you are that person." We all agree. Jeff is that person. Join Jeff and his family at the Carbon Hill School Museum Sunday, June 26, at 4 pm at the museum to share more stories and refreshments. Bring a few stories and photos of your own.

PORKY'S TAVERN

In 1935 Albino "Porky" **Farrero** and **Delmo Niani** (with silent partner Charles Santini) bought the property which had been the site of the village hotel. The hotel burned down in 1913 and the property was vacant. Porky and Delmo built La Spagnola and put a horse head sign with a lucky horse shoe above the outside door. A race horse and a song about a Spanish Lady inspired the name even though "Porky's" is a more recognized label. With the mortgage paid in 1953 the bar continued to be owned by Porky until he died in 1976. Early on the Meister Brau Club headquartered there and inspired using our park for ballgames, picnics and carnivals.

As Porky aged others ran his bar: Chuck Hansen, Wayne Gabehart, Steve Rittorf, Jolly and Ray Skubic, among others. Porky died September 17, 1976. Nephew Candy Ferrari sold the property in 1977 to **William Gilchrist**. Gilchrist had others run the place too, like John and Ruby Curts. Gilchrist sold to **Charles Strabel et al dba DARM** who named it The Carbon Copy in 1978. **Strabels - DARM, Inc** sold to **Jack Riley** in 1983. Riley's Backyard Pub ran under many managers and other names until he sold in 1995 to Paul "Krunch" Kuehn **Overtime Enterprises, Inc.** who held the property 1995 - 2001 as Overtime Pub, Blondie's Overtime Pub and Blondies.

In July 2001 the property was bought by the **Shains** and became Barb's Place. In 2006 Barb was out of the business and Billy and Mary Jo Shain, Linda Maland and Ricky Caldwell opened as owners of the Big Four Inn. In 2015 Bruce Barr held the liquor license and opened Isadora's.

At least **29 liquor licenses** were held for "Porky's" over the years! A list of leaseholders, managers and tavern names is on display at the museum.

Anton Veronda

our second postmaster

Anton Veronda's father was a successful engineer in the cotton mills of Italy and Anton was well educated in Italy, but at fifteen he emigrated to the United States to become a coal digger in the Coal City mines. He attended night school in Coal City while working in the mines. He went to Michigan and worked in the copper mines until 1890 when he returned to Italy to claim a wife, Mary Configliaro. They returned to Coal City, and in 1891 they moved to Carbon Hill.

Anton became our second postmaster in 1897. He served one term as assessor of Felix Township, was township supervisor for six years, a member of the board of trustees, a county agent for Grundy County, a charter member of the Odd Fellows, the White Tie and the Christopher Columbus lodges.

Mr. Veronda lived in "Dr. Murray's house" on Holcomb St., one of the most beautiful homes in Carbon Hill. The seven Veronda children were Maurice, Frances, Louis, William, Edward, Elsie, and Eva. Frances taught in our school.

Maurice started and ran the Southwestern Military Academy in So, California where Anton lived in his final years. The stately Dr. Murray home then was owned by many over the years: after Dr. Murray and Anton Veronda it was owned by Jacob Jacklich Sr, the Mellen family, and Tony Grosso who currently is living in the home.

MUSEUM program and hours during **HOMECOMING**

June 22, Wednesday — 10 am the program will be held in the Coal City Public Library meeting room.

"**Saloons of the Past**" this will be a virtual tour replacing the annual bus tour. A computer slideshow of photos of old saloons of the area will be narrated. Collection of bar tokens and Xmas give aways will be on display. Stories and history with each photo are welcome. The Coal City Public Library will host this program to accommodate the crowd.

Wed-Sat: June 22-25:

Open 5-7pm featuring display of the Homecoming over 67 years.

June 26, Sunday:

The museum will open at noon before the parade, close during the parade, re open at 4 pm (after the band concert) through 7 pm.

Sunday, June 26 at 4 pm in the museum we celebrate this year's Grand Marshall, **Jeff Veronda**. Come with a story or two and maybe a photo for show and tell. Jeff's family, friends and neighbors all plan to be there. If you live in Carbon Hill and want to meet Jeff, now is the time. Refreshments served. Homecoming displays and photos will fill the museum.

Books and treasures:

items for sale at the museum

We stock an interesting supply of local books, vintage paperweights, children's slates and other items which make great gifts. Proceeds help ensure our museum's future.

We also have the new Assumption Catholic Church Cook Books Other titles on hand include: Black Coal to White Bread by Maurice Marchello; History of Grundy County by Helen Ulrich; Mazon Creek Fossil Flora by TV Testa and Mazon Creek Fossil Fauna by TV Testa; Trapped, the story of the 1909 Cherry mine disaster; 1892-1992 Carbon Hill Centennial; 1897-1997 Goose Lake Township Centennial (Goose Lake is part of the original Felix Township); Mazon Creek Fossil Animals by T V Testa; Cardiff by Jim Ridings; The Promise of a Better Life by Jim Piacenti (Bureau County mines); Coal Dust (Carbon Hill details and stories; and reprints of Wildfeather; Growing up in Goose Lake; and Company Town (Torino, IL). Please continue to help make the Carbon Hill School Museum a treasure for all to enjoy. So many photos, scrapbooks, artifacts, and stories now illustrate our common history. Come see for yourself!

See you at Homecoming? See you at Reunion Palooza? See you soon!



Carbon Hill Historical Society Officers, 2016

Michele Micetich --- President
Ed Nowman — Secretary-Treasurer
Directors:
Dennis Enrietta
Mark Enrietta
John Vacca
Paula Born

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Membership application and newsletters at

www.ccpld.org/museum.htm

Post to:

Carbon Hill Historical Society, 810 N. Fifth Street ,Carbon Hill, IL 60416

Come Visit Us at the Museum!

The Carbon Hill Historical Society is dedicated to the collection, preservation and display of local history. The Society is a registered not-for-profit organization and is the sole owner of the Carbon Hill School Museum. The museum is open Mondays, noon to four p.m. and by appointment. We are at 875 Second Street in Carbon Hill. Dues for membership in the Society is \$15.00 annually.



Carbon Hill Historical Society & School Museum
875 Second Street
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