

# 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

Winter 2011

### 15 years of CHHS

*Never doubt what a small group of people can do when they put their minds and hearts and hands to work together.*

Page 1

### Annie's Diary

*Anna Morris Mc Kee taught at Carbon Hill School for many years ---- read what her life was like day to day.*

Page 2

### Cars of the Past

*A neat little list of car owners in town.*

*And watch for future info on car shows in our park!*

Page 2

### News and Views

*Guest contributors are a great idea!*

*What do you want to read about?*

*What photos interest you most?*

Page 2

### Identifying Miners

*Do you know who the miners of the '20s were in Coal City? These look like Goose Alley men but we need help in figuring out just who they are.*

Page 3

### About our Society

*Your membership in the Society keeps the school museum thriving.*

Page 4



## Celebrating 15 years

During Carbon Hill's centennial year, 1992, efforts began to save our school for use as a museum.

One very important strategy was to form a licensed not for profit organization, an historical society, which began in 1995. Our society writes grants, holds fund raisers, conducts research, organizes both items and information, and offers programs to the public throughout the year. It also cleans and bakes and lifts and carries. The society's generous members and friends have gathered a strong collection



on our local mining, government, immigrants, education, families both past and present, many local businesses, so the museum has become a center of civic pride.

The Carbon Hill Historical Society has grown from just 5 members in

1995 to nearly 300 in 2011. Now a large number of groups visit each year: car clubs, Scouts, women's clubs, societies, nature groups, families, vacationers, historians, genealogists, writers, researchers, and students of all ages. Each year more than 1,000 people pass through the old school doors.

The celebration of our 15th year at our annual Holiday Open House was a big success in spite of the harsh winter weather. Many past students of the school as well as descendants of village families stopped in and stayed to greet old friends, see new faces, share our stories, the cake, and lots of good cheer. *Thanks to everyone who helps to keep our dream alive.*

## ANNIE'S DIARY

*Anna Morris McKee is known to most of us as Melbourne McKee's mother. She and her family lived in Carbon Hill for awhile and young Annie taught in Carbon Hill school in its early years at the primary levels, and only until her marriage. Annie was a formidable lady whose only child, Melbourne, became chemist for Northern Illinois Coal Corp. He had a keen interest in local history and saved many treasures for our museum. One is Annie's diary for 1907--- a few selections:*

*January 11 -- Heard today of the terrible explosion in Wilmington last night. Saw a runaway on the Harrisonville road.*

*January 12-- Did a little work on my black broadcloth skirt today.*

*January 16 -- More snow! It came hard and fast and thick from the east this morning... a great deal. Hard walking.*

*January 24 -- Received a postal from M. yesterday. Diptheria has broken out in Urbana.*

*Febraury 2 -- Walked to Coal City today and had my tooth filled. Finished marking exam papers and report cards.*

*February 8 -- At the meeting after school, I was given the topic of "NY in War" for the Teacher's Meeting to be held in Coal City.*

*February 9 --Bought Carbon Hill postcards today which I shall give to my pupils on Valentine's Day.*

*February 10 -- wore my new red eiderdown dressing sacque which was made yesterday.*

*March 5-- Aunt Ollie came for ma to go to Wilenou's.*

*March 6-- I telephoned to Annie Williamson tonight from the store.*

*March 7-- Maggie and I called at Moore's tonight. Jennie came for Frances. They are going to sing at Mr. Henderson's funeral.*

*March 8 -- Ma returned from the country this evening.*

*March 11-- Bought two placards to be put up in Carbon Hill announcing the concert of March 19.*

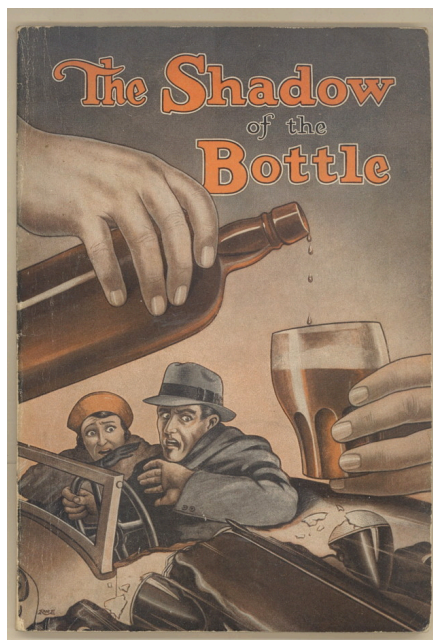
## Vintage Cars

Talk of a car show this summer in the Carbon Hill Park prompted me to investigate who owned the kinds of cars we now enjoy seeing restored at these popular car shows. I dipped into 1940 personal property tax records on my last visit to the courthouse. Here's the scoop:

Carbon Hill, 1940 --- Owner and Value:

Bill Brown	\$20
Alex Balbinot	\$10
William Bonucci	\$20
John Enrietto	\$40
Bartho Ferrari	\$20
Clarence Hutton	\$20
Jake Jacklich	\$10
Martin Korelc	\$20
Oliver Rossio	\$30
Frank Testa	\$20
Frank Toschi	\$20
Al Vanderhyden	\$30
Stu Waymire	\$20
Joe Vacca	\$20

And Reeves' Funeral Home had vehicles valued at \$380 : Don't Drink & Drive!



+++++

## Homecoming Dates

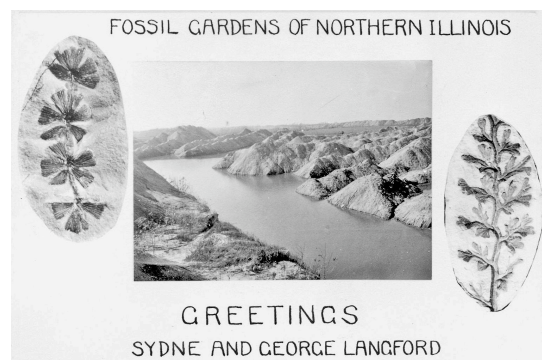
June 22-26, 2011

Mark Your Calendars !!

+++++

Former "moonscape",  
now an area club!

George Langford was one of the first fossil and Indian remains collectors for this area. His fossil books are at the museum for your reading pleasure as are his rare Vanishing press publications.



## News for the Museum

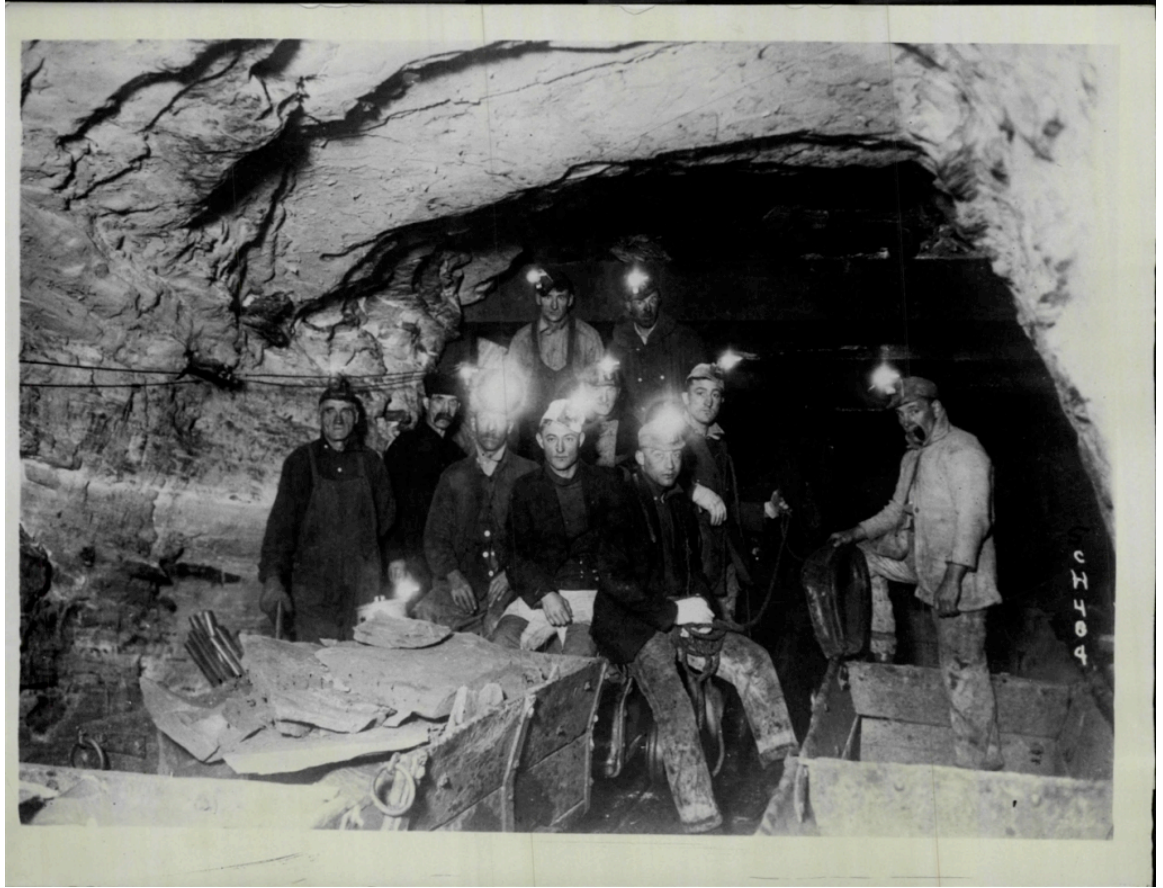
Last Fall, my personal obligations took over my life for a bit and I got behind on writing the newsletters . I apologize. I did take the photo for the neat little postcard that we sent for our Holiday Open House instead. It was a big hit. A few things occurred to me from this experience:

- 1) I welcome anyone to send in bits of info, or write full articles, send along an old obituary, or anything you'd like to read about in the newsletters. It would be great to have a few more contributors.
- 2) The postcard makes me wonder if we created sets of postcards to sell if there'd be any interest. RSVP



## April 30, 1922--- Coal City Striking Miners

If you know who is in this local photo which was taken for a Chicago newspaper in 1922, or have any clues, any ideas, please contact Michele @ 815-634-4213



## Carbon Hill Historical Society Officers, 2010-11

**Michele Micetich** --- President  
**Linda Bradley** ---Vice President  
**Louise Jensen** ---Secretary-Treasurer

## Public Relations

Michele Micetich ---- [mmicetich@comcast.net](mailto:mmicetich@comcast.net)

Michele --- 815-634-4213

Louise --- 815-634-8413

Museum information at:

[www.coalcity.lib.il.us/museum.htm](http://www.coalcity.lib.il.us/museum.htm)

**Carbon Hill Historical Society**  
**Louise Jensen**  
**630 Judson Street**  
**Carbon Hill, IL 60416-7018**

# 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. --- or by appointment. We are located at 875 Second Street in Carbon Hill. Dues for membership in the Society is \$15.00 annually. Thank you!*



Carbon Hill Historical Society & School Museum  
630 Judson Street  
Carbon Hill, Illinois 60416-7018