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

Ruth Brown Allen

This winter brought the passing of one of our Carbon Hill School graduates, as well as her cousin, John Born

Page 1

Genealogy surprises

Each family story is a new connection!

Page 2



Page 2

Good Reading The Medicine Cabinet

Before Medicare had a donut hole and before Sam Walton created Walmart, we had our wonderful remedies.

Yuck!

Page 2

Issue # 1 Winter 2010

About our Society

This year's dates are Your membership in the June 23-27, 2010. We Society keeps the school will once again staff the museum thriving.

Homecoming, 2010

food stand. Hope to see

you there!

Page 3

Page 4



Ruth Brown Allen

.... I am back in the Coal City school cafeteria smelling those huge warm rolls made by our own Ruthie Brown Allen. What a cook!

Ruthie was born in Carbon Hill to William Brown and Margaret Vacca Brown. She and both her younger brothers, Bill and Leroy, attended the Carbon Hill School where Ruthie graduated at the top of her class in 1936.

Ruthie had only 3 classmates--Alice Haldorson, Lillian Baudino, and Marcella Novak. But on their



graduation night the whole school (that would be Room 1 & Room 2) with teachers Marguerite Walker and Mary Enrietto put on a big program. Rudy Jacklich played an accordian selection. Alice and her sister Helen, accompanied by their dad Charlie on his accordian, tap

danced and sang a song. The day before had been the school's annual picnic at White Tie Park. This is a simple story of both hard and happy times gone by.

The Class of 1936's motto was "Tonight We Launch, Where Shall We Anchor?" Lucky for us, Ruthie anchored close to home and we all got the benefit of her talents.

Like her Vacca family cousin, John D. Born, who also passed away this winter, we will always remember them for their service to community, steadfast friendship, and ability to do it all well.

Good people, good times, and good food-- nothing will ever beat that combination! Rest in peace.

Carbon Hill Historical Society

SCOTTISH CONNECTIONS

THE TALLMAN BROTHERS, OF CARBON HILL OK'S & THE COAL CITY MAROONS FAME & THEIR COUSINS, THE CARDWELLS

There are numerous Scottish families who made up the original population of Carbon Hill. In fact, the village was first known as Scotch Hill. because the mine managers, and engineers, and bosses were mostly of Scottish descent. One such family was the Cardwells. Henry Cardwell married Mary Rowan in Scotland and came to Braidwood for the coal boom in the 1860's. It is their two children, Andrew and Jean, who ended up in Scotch Hill (Carbon Hill). Andrew Cardwell married Ellen "Nellie Bly" Watson of Braceville. Their children included Ora Beatrice who married a Brooks, Orville Henry, nicknamed "Jeff", who ended up in Joliet, and Eva Bell, who married a Nichols of South Wilmington. Eva was a teacher here in Carbon Hill school for awhile in the early years.

Andrew's sister, Jean, married William Tallman and they had a big family: George, Henry, Mary B, William, Sarah, Andrew, Stewart Rowan, Margaret, John and Hugh, (the last two being twins). This is the family of soccer fame. George', the eldest, lost his first wife, Mary Querio, after only 1 year into their marriage. She died following childbirth here in Carbon HIll. Andrew was killed in WWI. All the boys played soccer and are written up in Chicago papers regularly for their strength on the field.

It is said that if all the brothers had been on the field that day for the 1909 game against the Pilgrims of England, we'd have won and not just held the English to a tie.

Jean Cardwell Tallman, mom to all these strapping soccer players, spent many hours in her summer kitchen on Third Street during the hot months baking bread and preparing meals for her husky sons.

Now the descendants come to our museum to tell stories and to learn more about their ancestors. As with all our families, they are spread across the USA.

Growing Up in Goose Lake

by Wm. S. Miller

Stop in and read through this wonderful memoir

The forward to this narrative says:

"When I, a young man, left the farm in 1923 I did not realize that an era was coming to an end, and that life on a farm in this region would no longer be the same."

True words. In 1928 strip mining began and the land went through many stages -- other things changed as well:

Mr. Miller writes: "during the seven years that I graced Jugtown School there was quite a parade of teachers. My first teacher was a stern disciplinarian, really a tyrant. She kept available in the chalk trough a buggy whip at whose butt end most of all the leaded weight remained, although the tip with lash had been removed. When something happened in class which caused that teacher's face to flush up red you could be sure the threefoot whip was about to exact a toll. Sometimes it would be a single stroke, but the main object was to produce tears, at which idea some of the older boys rebelled and by dint of great fortitude would not cry or cry out, and so would receive greater punishment. When the teacher finally realized she was becoming the spectacle and was losing stature, she abandoned the whip."

Then there was a fine, idealistic young woman who had absorbed all the normal school theory but had no seasoning or experience....parents were quick to object to this new fangled teaching. She was gone by mid year.

Then we had the glamour girls who wanted to make a little money and "look the market over" before they married. Dog-gone, they were nice to look at. Three of my teachers found husbands while teaching at our school.

There were career teachers, most of whom had that happy faculty of

pounding knowledge into us in a way that provided us enjoyment. My teachers were a wholesome cross-section of the Americana of the time, bless 'em. A teacher faced a tremendous task, conducting eight grades in one room. "

Mr. Miller recounts stories on recitation benches, double desks, spitballs, learning to dance -- regarding double desks he says, "seatmates tended to whisper and when the teacher learned we had files of "I should not whisper in school" available, she changed the after-school punishment assignment. "

There was a barn at school and some kids drove rigs or rode ponies, which made for popularity among the others. A precar phenomenon.

Seventh grade marked the time when all students throughout the county had to take "Finals" at the County Seat on a Saturday in April. It was a fearsome moment, repeated in eighth grade when not all graduated. In Mr. Miller's class of eight only 2 made the grade.

THE MEDICINE CABINET ----

With all the talk about health care, we made a display this winter of the home remedies that got us through our colds and other aches and pains. You may have a shock when you see opium and heroin on the ingredients labels. Water bottles, crutches and corn plasters, pine tar, cod liver oil, and oil of wintergreen. Smith Brothers Cough Syrup? And we added a bottle of good old Fernet to remind you of what Grandma might give you if you said your tummy was upset.



Carbon Hill Historical Society

Another Homecoming Approaches

Once again this year, the Carbon Hill Historical Society will volunteer to work in the food stand during the annual Homecoming. This year's Carbon Hill Homecoming dates are June 23 – June 27, 2010, (Wednesday through Sunday). Our historical society receives a donation from the Homecoming committee for doing this work which really helps to pay the bills at the museum. If you are willing to volunteer for a few hours, there is plenty of fun and plenty of appreciation that come along with the time given.

Volunteers often work as a family or with a group of friends and enjoy seeing each other as well as seeing other old friends, neighbors, and classmates from years gone by. With each passing year we become more aware that time marches on. As we lose loved ones and so many good friends, willing workers and happy faces, we are reminded that the time to enjoy each other is now. To this end, we embrace the idea of a homecoming, working and playing together while we can.

Join us for another year of celebration! Call 815-634-4213 for details.



Carbon Hill Historical Society Officers, 2009

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

Public Relations

Michele Micetich ---- mmicetich@comcast.net

Michele --- 815-634-4213

Louise --- 815-634-8413

Membership application & information at:

www.coalcity.lib.il.us/museum.htm

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

Carbon Hill Historical Society

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