

## SCAVENGER HUNT PART II

It's time to go out and explore Douglas County! We have organized this scavenger hunt in two parts. Travel to these specific historic places and take a photo of each place. Please E-mail your name, contact information, and photos to us at [douglascountymuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:douglascountymuseum@hotmail.com) and you will be entered to win a \$50 gift certificate for Joe's Pizza in Tuscola and a second winner will be drawn for a \$50 gift certificate at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur. Complete both scavenger hunts and you will be entered twice! Please contact us with any questions. Photos are due to the museum by Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. *Please make sure you get a confirmation email back stating we received your entry.*

- 1. Camargo / Patterson Springs:** Camargo is the earliest settled portion of Douglas County, deriving from the name of the city of Camargo in Mexico. Nearby Patterson Springs was also the home to many Chautauquas. A Chautauqua was an adult education movement in the United States, highly popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Chautauqua assemblies expanded and spread throughout rural America until the mid-1920s. The Chautauqua brought entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers, and specialists of the day. Many famous people of the time such as 3-time Democratic Presidential candidate, William Jennings Bryan, American educator, author, orator, and political leader, Booker T Washington, American Confederate guerrilla during the American Civil War and later an outlaw with the Jesse James-Younger gang, Cole Younger, former U.S. President, William Howard Taft, and former baseball player and evangelist, Billy Sunday, spoke at the Chautauquas. The natural springs drew people to the unique site and the ruins of fountains and smaller pools are still out back of the residence. It later had a pool and other things for amusement and finally the site of a bed and breakfast and is now privately owned.
- 2. Villa Grove's C&EI Division Headquarters & Roundhouse:** Villa Grove was chartered in 1903 after the area was recognized by the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad (C&EI) as being exactly halfway between Chicago and St. Louis. This made it a desirable location for a steam locomotive repair facility. Villa Grove later became the site of a C&EI division headquarters, shops, and an eighteen stall roundhouse. At one time, there were six to eight passenger trains that passed through Villa Grove each day.
- 3. Murdock's Mine Site:** The Murdock Coal Mine was in operation from 1946 as an Old Ben Coal Company up until the early 1990s, when Zeigler Coal Company acquired the mine, but maintained the "Old Ben" name. Underground portions of the mine were active until 1991. In the 1970s, it was recorded as a shaft & slope mine at a depth of 180 ft. with a coal seam 7 ft. thick and in the 1980s at a depth of 220 ft. There were injuries and even a few fatalities at the mine including Earl Culley, David Jenkins, Donald D. Kurfirst, Harold L. Plumlee and Francis Burl Wilson. The hills are still visible and are visible off Hwy 36 on the way to/from Newman.

4. **Newman's Streibich Blacksmith Shop:** The Streibich Blacksmith Shop is a historic blacksmith shop built in 1870 for local blacksmith Ignatius Streibich. Streibich's shop produced farming equipment and domestic items for residents of the area. In addition, Streibich started the first electric power plant in Douglas County in the shop in 1891. Streibich retired in 1912, and his son Fred purchased the shop in 1916. Fred Streibich operated the blacksmith shop until his death in 1932. Machinist Kermit O. Tucker operated a shop in the building from 1938 to 1969. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. Another place in Douglas County on the list of the National Register of Historic Places is the Arcola Carnegie Public Library which was dedicated in 1905.
5. **Newman's The Newman Independent:** This newspaper was established in 1874. The Newman Independent is a privately-owned, community newspaper located in Newman, Illinois; the oldest independently owned paper in the county. It reports on events important to residents of Newman and the surrounding area and features regular columns written by local citizens. It has been providing these services for more than 130 years. Find the newspaper's mailbox!
6. **Fairland's Methodist Church:** Fairland was a once thriving railroad town. Fairland Methodist Church traces its history back to 1872, when its first location was dedicated. The land was deeded by Samuel Brown to the Methodist Society and was used for church purposes until it was deeded to William Jarman who kept the acre of land and the church building was moved to its current location in Fairland. The church was dedicated in 1891 where Rev. George Frazier of Villa Grove delivered the dedication sermon. The church grew in membership and Sunday school attendance under the pastorate of Rev. Alfred Wicks and Andrew J. Patrick from 1906-1911. Imagine traveling to church in horse and buggy or carriage in the summer and sled in the winter! At the time, sermons were two hours long and about 125 people attended. The old bell on top of the building was pulled so people from miles around could hear it was time for service. The church building was later used as a post office and then a garage.
7. **Hindsboro's High School Building:** The Hindsboro Community High School was established in 1900 when the subjects, Botany, Algebra, Bookkeeping, General History, and English were added to the Grade School curriculum. The old school building was located across from the present Hindsboro Christian Church. In the spring of 1920, a new building was created and an addition was completed in 1921. The new building contained a large auditorium and gymnasium, well equipped laboratories and class rooms. Enrollment had reached 74 by 1946. However, the enrollment was small compared to other nearby schools, and the high school students were transferred to either Arcola or Oakland after the Class of 1948 graduated. The grade school was closed in the 1960's. In 1970, Rev. and Mrs. D.A. May bought the building and opened a shelter-care home that continued in operation past 1989. Several former students of the Hindsboro High School resided with the Mays in their former High School building. After Mrs. May's death, the building went to the Hindsboro Christian Church and was soon sold.