

SCAVENGER HUNT PART I

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 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 12th, 2021. *Please make sure you get a confirmation email back stating we received your entry.*

- 1. Arcola's Historic Train Depot:** The original wood depot was the first building in the village of Okaw (Arcola) along with the city post office. In 1881, a fire burned almost everything in Arcola including the depot and this structure was built to replace it. So why the change in name? Turns out there was already a town of Okaw, so the name was changed to Arcola. You can still go inside the depot today to learn more about broomcorn, Raggedy Ann & Andy, and more about Arcola's history.
- 2. Arcola's Broomcorn Festival Mural:** The mural was designed by artist Michael Clark. Around 1865, a local gentleman named Col. Cofer experimented by planting 20 acres of broomcorn on his land. The crop did so well that the popularity of broomcorn took off. Soon after, nearly half of the broomcorn grown in the United States came from the Arcola area. And so began the storied history of broomcorn in Arcola. Arcola celebrates its heritage as "broomcorn capital of the world" with the renowned Broom Corn Festival.
- 3. Arthur's Illinois Amish Heritage Center:** Founded nearly 150 years ago, the Amish community in the Arthur area is the oldest and largest Amish settlement in Illinois. Over the last century and a half, the Amish community has grown to become a large and integral part of the Arthur way of life. In the year 2000, two historic Amish houses were saved from destruction and finally, in 2016, five acres of land were secured one mile west of Chesterville and three miles east of Arthur, Illinois. The mission of the Illinois Amish Heritage Preservation Center is to enhance the preservation, understanding, and appreciation of all aspects of the culture and heritage of the Amish people in Illinois from 1865 to the present.
- 4. Arthur's Progress Industries Site:** Arthur Martin and Joel Fitzjarrald were the co-founders of the Progress Manufacturing Co. Arthur Martin started out as a young man helping his father in the Arthur Tile Factory and assumed full management after his father's death. Martin established the first auto service station and expanded to a bulk plant and delivery service. He organized the Arthur Construction Company and the Consumers Coal Company before founding the Progress Manufacturing Company in 1922 with Fitzjarrald. Together they started with their first product, a 10 gallon visible bowl gasoline pump and by the end of the year, they were turning out 25 pumps a day. In 1924, they built their first tank truck mounted on a Model T Ford chassis, which the museum has in their collection. By the 1930's they had developed aeroflow

design for their tanks. The Funeral Supply Division started in 1928 and made a wide variety of caskets and burial vaults. During World War II, Progress turned out hundreds of trailer and truck tanks along with many other products for the Army and Navy, and as a result, Progress was awarded the nation's highest manufacturing award for industrial plants in 1945.

5. **Atwood's Kenneth Tug Wilson Plaque:** Atwood recently added a plaque dedicated to Olympic athlete Kenneth Leon "Tug" Wilson (March 27, 1896 - February 2, 1979). He was involved in athletics through most of his life. Growing up in Atwood, Wilson was a runner in high school and a teacher for country schools for two years. After that, Wilson attended the University of Illinois, competing for them in multiple sports and the Chicago AA. He played football, basketball, and track and field. In track and field, he competed in the discus throw, shot put, and javelin throw. Wilson earned a spot and competed in the 1920 Summer Olympics, finishing tenth in the discus throw. He was invited onto the University of Illinois staff and later became the Director of Athletics at Drake University and then at Northwestern University. Finally, Wilson served as the second commissioner of the Big Ten Conference, the highest position, from 1945 to 1961, and as the president of the United States Olympic Committee from 1953 to 1965.
6. **Tuscola's Wdz Radio (The Vault):** Wdz, the third radio station in the nation, started in Tuscola, Illinois, in 1917 in the office of the James Bush Grain Elevator Company with the intent to broadcast grain prices. On March 17, 1921, the first grain report went out and what was to become Wdz was born. These reports were also the first of their kind in the U.S. In 1929, Wdz started selling spot commercials and varied programming. A whole new purpose would start. Live musical performance dominated the airwaves in the early years. Dramas, comedy acts, children's shows, religious programs, talk and educational programs soon followed. Wdz hired top-notch announcers and entertainment to produce a huge amount of entertainment and programming. The little town of Tuscola was very famous during the 1930's and 1940's. By 1940, Wdz claimed a listenership of some 77,000 homes across East-Central Illinois. The station remained in Tuscola until 1949 when it moved to Decatur. There were many locations for the radio station including a couple places on Main St., one of which was located in the old National Bank building.
7. **Douglas County Courthouse (Tuscola):** Douglas County was formed in 1859, sectioned out of Coles County. Tuscola is the county seat. The current courthouse is the third one. The first was wooden and the second was deemed unsafe before the current courthouse was built in its place over a two-year period, beginning in 1911 and being completed in 1913 costing approximately \$170,000 to complete. Did you know there is a G.A.R. room in the courthouse? Veterans of the Civil War met in that very room!