



Historical Society

Dwight Historical Society Newsletter

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Dwight, Illinois 60420-1321
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Facebook: Dwight Illinois History

Upcoming Events at the Dwight History Museum.....

August 3: Opening of New Exhibit *“From Deutschland to Dwight, Celebrating our German Immigrant Families”*

On August 3, a new exhibit, *“From Deutschland to Dwight”*, will open at the Dwight History Museum. To kick-off this exhibit the Historical Society will present a program featuring local families of German descent, sharing stories of their families’ arrival to America and of family traditions.

Visitors are invited to explore the exhibit, which showcases artifacts, photographs, and personal stories highlighting the journeys and contributions of German immigrants in Dwight’s history. These family histories will provide a unique opportunity for community members to connect with and celebrate the diverse roots of Dwight.

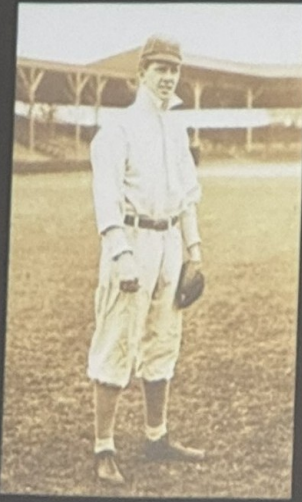
Following the program, attendees will be treated to music from the German band, “The Happy Wanderers” and to refreshments. (There is rumor of German beer!) The program will be from 2-3 p.m. followed by music from 3:00-4:30.

August 25: Program: *“An Overview of Travel and History of Route 66”* At the Dwight History Museum 7:00 p.m.

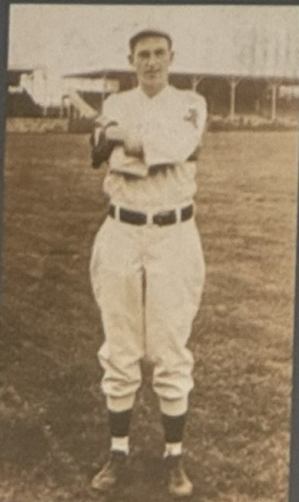
With the 100th Anniversary of Route 66 approaching in 2026, we are pleased to welcome John Wille as our program speaker. His presentation will offer a historical overview of the renowned highway and examine the impact that its decommissioning had on the communities situated along its path. While many of you may know John from his 32 years of teaching history at Dwight High School, he is also the curator for the Route 66 Museum and Hall of Fame in Pontiac, as well as a board member of the Route 66 Association of Illinois.



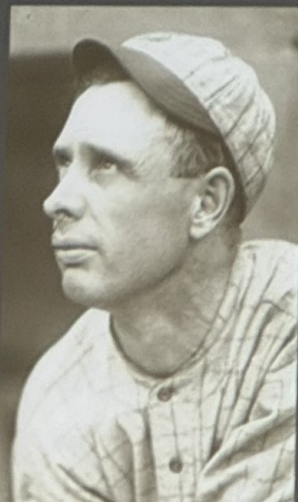
Burt
Keeley



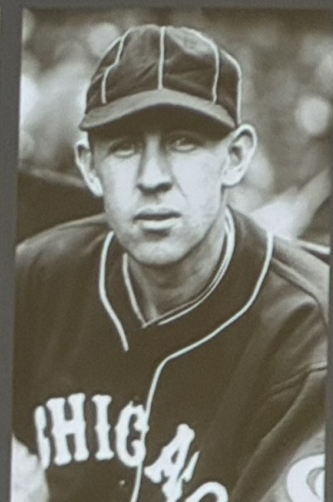
Eddie
Higgins



George
Cutshaw



Bud
Clancy



Where Big League Talent Met Small Town America.

Baseball enthusiasts filled the seats at the museum to hear Bill Pearch's presentation, *Dwight, Illinois: Where Big League Talent Met Small Town America*. Bill's stories brought to life a golden era of America's favorite pastime in small town Illinois, when major league teams like the Chicago Cubs and the Detroit Tigers barnstormed through the country playing against local semi-pro teams. The excitement in the museum lingered as visitors admired Bud Clancy's bat and jersey, looked at baseball cards and reminisced about games they remembered.

A special guest in attendance was Patti Clancy, the great niece of Odell's Bud Clancy. She brought with her Bud's baseball bat and his 1924 White Sox shirt that the team wore on their European tour and during their meeting with the King of England. After the program, Patti mentioned that after her mother passed away, Bud's shirt was stored in a box at her house and largely forgotten. However, the enthusiasm of Bill Pearch and Kim Drechsel for these items rekindled her interest in them.



The Chicago White Sox met the King of England on their 1924 European tour. Bud Clancy's shirt that was on display at the program is the one he wore at this meeting,



Bill Pearch with a warm-up jacket from Frank L. Smith's team.



Vintage Baseball Game

On Sunday, May 4th, the Dwight Historical Society sponsored a vintage baseball game between the Blue Island Brewmasters and the Red River Grinders. Eighteen fifty-three rules were played which included underhand pitching, no called strikes, an out on a one-bounce catch and different terminology.

About 75 *cranks* (fans), turned out to yell *huzzah* (hooray) when a *striker* (batter) made a good hit or when a runner scored a run and put a tally on the board. Or *shame* (self-explanatory) was yelled when a ball was dropped, or a player didn't *leg it* (run hard).

It was an action-packed game with many hits and a final score of Brewmasters 17, Grinders 5.

While there were no vendors yelling "Ice cold beer here!", the weather was too chilly for the cranks to mind. However, the cranks were treated to a bag of Cracker Jacks, courtesy of the Kim Drechsel family.



Historical Wanderings.... Karen (Von Qualen) Finley provided us with a *Kankakee Daily Journal* photo from January 4, 1962, that gives context to the dress that we have on our mannikin

“Matilda”, featured in April’s newsletter. Karen’s mother, Mrs. Vernon Von Qualen, is wearing the dress that graces “Matilda”. I’ll bet “Matilda” would also like to don the fur coat that Mrs. C.J. Ahern is wearing in the photo.



Roaring 20s Revue At Dwight Jan. 13

Miss Karen Von Qualen, foreground, a pert sophomore and band student in Dwight Township High School, shows the proper stance for a portion of the forthcoming Roaring 20s revue and party to be staged Jan. 13 by the Band Parents of Dwight. The event in the high school gym will feature a “speakeasy” atmosphere

with dance and floor show for benefit of the band fund. Decked out in costumes of the period and watching the younger generation show how it’s done are, from left, Mrs. Vernon Von Qualen, Mrs. C. J. Ahern Jr. and Mrs. Robert Brumbach. (Journal photo)

Historical Society Meeting Dates: August 25 and October 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the museum

Docents needed for: July 12 & 26; August 9 & 23; September 13 & 20. Hours: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Contact Mary Flott at 815-584-2107 if interested.

Become a member: Sign-up on our website: dwighthistory.org or pick up a form at the museum. Individual Memberships \$15 Family Memberships \$20