



Grundy County
Historical Society

NEWSLETTER Volume 1, 2010

Grundy County Historical Society

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

March 23, 2010

History of the Grundy County Sheriff's Dept.
7:00 PM At the Museum

April 27, 2010

Celebration of the 130th Anniversary of the Morris Daily Herald
Presentation will be at the Paper—1804 N. Division Street at 7:00 PM

May 25, 2010

ANNUAL MEETING
Program & Location
To be announced.

Museum

510 W. Illinois Ave.
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-4880
grundyhistory@
sbcglobal.net

The weather has reduced attendance here at the Museum but we are pleased with 1062 visitors we have received since our opening in May. The Museum volunteers, however, are busy working hard on several things.

Photos are now sorted by subject. While doing this project we found many photos with no identification on them so we are in the process of contacting Elliot Manor, Walnut Grove, etc. for appointments to bring in 3 books we have called "Who Am I?". These binders contain all the photos we have yet to identify and we are hope the traveling books at the various senior centers will allow us to identify more of the photos.

Our gift shop has now been set up thanks to Walmart donating the shelving and framing required. Now visitors know that the things on display are for sale. Previously we had the sale items in display

cases and people assumed they were display only. The open shelves are a great improvement for a gift shop.

We are now starting to view all the 8mm and 16mm films that we have (that is if we can figure out how to thread the film in the antique projector we have). These films will be reviewed and if they are found to be Grundy County information and history, we will convert the films to DVD's for use by visitors.

What do we need: a new display unit for cabinet photos. We are hoping a retired woodworker or a group would be interested in creating this item for us. Our current one holds 96 photos and is a free standing unit so you can understand that this is a large project. We cannot afford to have it custom made, but we can afford to pay for supplies to make it. If you know of someone who

loves to work in wood and might be interested in this project, please give them our phone number and we will be happy to explain in detail what we need.

If you have time and wish to volunteer, we will soon be cataloguing all the items in the Museum—I expect this could take as long as 4-5 years. This may entail computer data entry and if you would be interested in doing something like this, please contact us.

Donna Scroczyński

Member Ginny Bellamy is putting up a Boy Scout display in the cases at the Courthouse in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in Grundy County. It will include local photos and the uniform worn by Judge Malmquist.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM—Debbie Steffes

"So, where's the Tully Monster?" That's been the embarrassing question for the Grundy County Historical Society Museum since the day it opened. The Illinois State Fossil was discovered in 1958 by Lockport fossil hunter, Francis Tully, at the Braidwood Strip Mines nearby, but the Museum didn't have one. Jake & Pat Jacobsen heard the plea for the fossil over the radio, purchased one over the internet and gave it to the Historical Society. It's a fine specimen, but these fossilized worms are hard to visualize. They

have a segmented body, a long scout with teeth, eyes protruding from the body on stalks and a wide flat tail. So local artist, Brian Nolan, made a life sized model to display along side the fossil. The full story of Tullimonstrum gregarium is now on special display at the Museum of the GCHS through the end of April, which includes a cartoon design of a Tully Monster. Dan Tully, son of Francis, paid a visit to the Museum and brought a picture of his father holding a life sized model of the Tully Monster.



Pictured from left are, Brian Nolan, Jake and Pat Jacobsen. Pat is holding "Tully" while they compare it with the model that Brian created.