



The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

"Celebrate Rotary"

Fairburyrotary.com

2003 - 2004 Officers

President John Strong
 Pres. Elect Mike Petersen
 Vice President
 Sec/Treas Leroy McPherson
 Editor. Leroy McPherson



DATE/TIME/

PLACE: August 24, 2004 - 12:00 Noon at McDonalds

ATTENDANCE: 24 plus Arnold Natzke

LOTTO: K. Bahler & Tracy Taylor (gave back to polio fund)

ACTION ON THE AVENUES

CLUB SERVICE

Programs:

8/31 **State Representative
 Shane Cultra (R)
 105th District**



9/07 P.C.
 9/14 Bud Gerber
 9/21 P.C.
 9/28 Steve Weeks

Bits & Pieces

Always be prepared to take advantage of an unexpected opportunity.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Pick-A-Winner at the Fair went well thanks to Denise, John, Mike and the kids

AREA CLUB MEETINGS

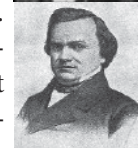
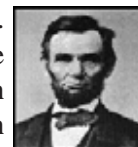
Bloomington	12:00 Noon	Thursday	Elks Club
Gibson City	6:15 p.m.	Wednesday	Bayern Stube
Gilman	6:05 p.m.	Tuesday	Gilman Lounge
Lincoln	11:50 a.m.	Wednesday	Elks Country Club
Normal	12:00 Noon	Wednesday	Bone Student Center
Piper City	6:15 p.m.	Monday	Azz Izz Tavern

Livingston Co. History

Arnold Natzke

Arnold is our retired Co. Clerk. He was glad to be here. Arnold was a Fair Judge for flowers at the Fairbury Fair. He commended the Fair Board and carnival on the cleanest and neatest fair around. Arnold was born 75 years ago in Pontiac. He graduated from P.T.H.S. in 1947 and I.S.N.U. in 1951. He taught in Cullom 4 years. In 1955 he taught at Pontiac H.S. until 1976. In 1959-60 he went to Turkey with the Air Force and taught. He has one son and his 43rd wedding anniversary is next week. In 1976 he was elected to the county clerk's office by the Central Committee and served until 1988. In 2000 he ran for the county board and is Vice Chairman of the board and on the nursing home committee. In 1837 the first marriage license was recorded in Liv. Co. to William Spence and Mary Darnell - the Clerk was William Baird. They have a lot of birth certificates with no name. Doctors would take them and file them in the first county they would come to. They have a lot of death certificates for hobos that fell off trains, etc. They have one stating the man tried to kill himself with a razor, did not succeed so shot himself in the mouth and head with a shotgun. He has a deed for \$600.00 in 1861- not paid in money but 1 barrel of whiskey, 1 barrel of bourbon, 2 lbs of Opium, etc. It was an interesting 23 years. Livingston is the 66th county of 102 in 1837. Liv. Co. was originally part of Vermillion, then McLean and then LaSalle Co. Jesse Fell actually named this county. Of the 759 people, 450 lived in Pontiac. It is the 4th largest county. McLean is largest, second is LaSalle and third - Iroquois. In 1852 legislature tried to break it up into Prairie Co. In 1859 they again tried to put the S.E. part in Ford County. Ford County was the 102nd or last one formed. It was a swamp area. In Liv. Co. we have 17 drainage districts, in Ford 80. The first church in the county was in 1832 at Avoco- Methodist church. In the 1900s they had 299 school districts - now 17.

For every 4 sections they had a school. The only transportation was the river or railroad. In 1837 Henry Weeden and Jesse Fell started the first post office and the town of Pontiac was born. The original swinging bridge was built to get employees back and forth. This was the S.E. corner of Pontiac. Henry Weed built a cabin there that served as the court house in 1841. The Popejoy Trial was the first. Lincoln & Douglas were attorneys then. The jury sat on a pile of logs and found for Lincoln. The judges and attorneys would stay in the hotel with 2 beds/room. They would put 4 attorneys per room. In 1840 Lincoln and Douglas would debate outside the court house. They built a statue on the lawn outside the court house of this. In 1860 Lincoln ran against Douglas and won. In 1861 Douglas died. In 1862 Lincoln appointed David Davis as Supreme Court Justice. President Theodore Roosevelt visited Pontiac June 3, 1903 to dedicate a monument. They first attempted to dedicate this monument in 1886. In 1899 the state passed a resolution to build it. It was 56' tall, weighed 168 tons and dedicated by T. Roosevelt.



In 1936 F.D.R. visited and in 1976 - Ford. On May 2, 1865 Lincoln's funeral train visited. It was noted all were there but the young males. We had 2000 men at war from Livingston Co. In 1843 Long John Wentworth ran for Congress. In 1857 he became Mayor of Chicago. Arnold ran out of time and concluded with The Ten Commandments of Lincoln's Can Nots.

BITS & PIECES

Really Live Your Life

Live all you can; it's a mistake not to. It doesn't so much matter what you do in particular, so long as you have your life. If you haven't had that, what have you had?