Hinckley Historical Society News

2021, volume 5

How the Mosaic Mural Took Shape

The beautiful mosaic mural on the west wall of the South Moon BBQ shows many scenes from Hinckley's history. A pamphlet and soon to be released book describe each piece and its significance.

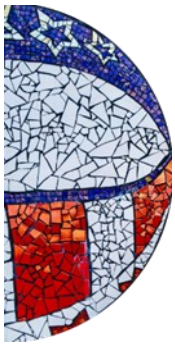
This story shares how the mural took form and the many people who over 24 months invested 1450 hours to make it a reality. Back in 2018 the Hinckley Village Board received a grant from the DeKalb County Community Foundation to create a plan for making the community a more desirable place to live, do business and visit.

The Village Board selected three community members to lead the planning effort. These members then recruited a team of 30 residents to work with the NIU Center for Governmental Studies to develop the plan. Among the ideas that surfaced was a large mural that would attract visitors and community excitement. A team of eight residents volunteered to work on the mural and they commissioned mosaic muralist Danielle Casali (third from left) to create the artistic designs for each mosaic scene.

A core group of Ardith Trumpy, Catherine Bartels, (Casli), Jennifer Klambauer and Karen Yaggie set about learning to score and cut glass and tile with hand tools. Each piece was laid on top of Danielle's drawings and taped together. As Ardith relates, there was a long learning curve and dozens of band aides were needed to cover the cut fingers from the glass pieces.

The work started in the Stripes Plus More building until COVID-19 hit in the spring of 2019. Work stopped until fall when the group figured out how to continue working while following health guidelines and social distancing. They relocated the project to an art studio created in Cathy Bartels' garage. Danielle commented that she had never seen someone so enthused about a project to remodel their garage as a studio. Danielle was kept abreast of the work by computer meetings but the core group boldly charged forward adjusting the drawings to make them easier to tile and show off the natural edge of the glass. Sharon Langdon Bauer joined in finishing a piece related to her father and the Hinckley Review.

Meanwhile the Hinckley-Big Rock Junior and Senior Hi art students worked at the middle school to create a piece related to the Globetrotters. Their work reminds of the first game the world famous basketball team played in the Hinckley High school in 1927. And Danielle's father Dale Dobies, was recruited to mortar and grout several pieces in his garage.



As each picture took shape, the taped pieces were lifted like a sheet of tiles you may use for a shower wall and placed on a concrete board cut to shape and covered with mortar. Each piece of glass and tile chip was pressed into the mortar and then the tape was removed. Grout was mixed and applied around each piece of glass and tile. After the picture was allowed to dry, the surface of each piece of glass and tile had to be rubbed clean of the grout.

(continued on page 2)

(**Mural,** continued from page 1)

At last a picture was ready to mount on the wall. The tall corn plants were first. Jordan Bickford provided a scissors lift for Kelly Chada, Mark Trumpy, and Frank Yaggie to lift each picture into place on the South Moon wall. The back of the cement board was coated with liquid nail caulk and then the piece was screwed to the wall.

The finished mosaic mural was dedicated on October 23 and celebrated by the community with an arts festival. The project has already achieved part of the objective set for it by attracting people to visit Hinckley and its businesses, to marvel at the mural, and take their own picture standing by a section of the mosaic.

The tired and sore creators of the mosaic certainly agreed with one of the mural scenes taken from quotes in the Hinckley Review Newspaper social columns: "And a good time was had by all."

The book explaining each component of the mural is available for $20 by sending your name, address, and a check to the Hinckley Festival Association, P.O. Box 657, Hinckley, IL 60520.

Time to Renew Your Membership and Support

The Hinckley Historical Society has been working to preserve and share the histories of Hinckley and Townships of Pierce and Squaw Grove, but we can't do this alone. Our museum and programs are funded largely by your membership and donations. So as we end 2021, please consider renewing your membership and add a little extra to support the museum's operation and programming.

Besides the five newsletters distributed to members that are chuck full of stories, HHS has sponsored three programs with speakers sharing the backgrounds of notable personalities for the community. You will continue to see Facebook posts about the businesses in our area and a website with valuable links to aid in your genealogical research.

The museum collection of artifacts is growing so we will be able to share more exhibits and interpretations. HHS is excited to be a resource for elementary and high school classes to share information about the place students call home. The artists creating the beautiful mosaic mural on Sycamore Street relied on the museum to help identify and visualize significant parts of our history.

Stories and artifacts that are not preserved will be lost. Help make our local history come to life and relevant for our times. Send your check and membership form to HHS at P.O. Box 486, Hinckley, IL 60520.

Thank you for helping us serve this community.

Name:_____

Address_____

Phone:_____Email:_____

Memberships: Individual $15, family $25, business $30, Lifetime $500.

Painting Project Completes HHS Outside Work

It's been four years since the HHS board embarked on repairing and updating the museum building. First there was replacing the fascia on the front on the building, then we installed museum quality windows and air conditioning. The roof needed recovering and a liner was installed in the chimney.

The final outside project was painting the cement block on the back of the building to prevent the wall from deteriorating.

We received bids from a number of painters but Pete Geroulis, a member of HHS and the contractor who had installed the windows, gave an offer we couldn't refuse. He had a lift too which made the painting project go easier than working off a ladder.

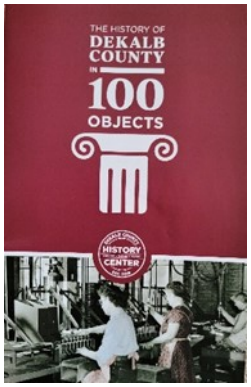
The board thanks all of the members and donors who have helped to fund the repairs and the contractors who provide the work. Stop by the museum and see the results.

Now the board's focus will be on updating the inside of the museum, expanding it into what was the Hinckley Review Newspaper side of the building and organizing some interesting programs.

The board welcomes ideas on how to organize the space and which of the many stories about Hinckley should be presented in the displays.

Stop by the museum and see some of the toys "hoped for" in past Christmas'. Best wishes from the Board of Directors for holidays full of peace, joy, hope and blessings in the new year.

The DeKalb County History Center has a new exhibit that will be available for viewing over the next several months. 100 objects from around the county, including several from Hinckley, were selected because of the object's significant story. Half of the objects are displayed and half are available off-site in communities around the county. Download the app "Out&About DeKalb County IL" to your phone for a map and explanations. One of the objects is the Hinckley Dairy Joy that was voted most popular in a 2020 brackets game. Going head-to-head against the 2021 brackets winner, the Dairy Joy was voted Grand Champion. Have fun learning more about the 100 objects.



HINCKLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

145 E. Lincoln Ave., Hinckley, IL 60520

Events:

- Plan to attend a mouth watering program about Heritage Recipes on January 29, 2 pm at the Community Building.
- Board meetings are at the museum on the second Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m.
- The museum is closed until January 8. Then we will be open Saturdays from 10-2 or by appointment by calling Bob (815-761-4058).
- Visit the Exhibit of DeKalb County in 100 objects at the DeKalb County History Center in Sycamore.

Join us for a Program on Heritage Recipes

Everyone likes to eat and remember foods our grandparents used to make. HHS is teaming up with the Hinckley Library to bring a program on the afternoon of January 29 that will make your mouth water. Our presenter, Catherine Lambrecht, has judged Family Heirloom Recipe contests since 2009 on behalf of Greater Midwest Foodways Alliance.

This presentation offers an opportunity to follow the judging experience with curated histories, recipes and pictures of entries at the Illinois State Fair (2009-2019). We will also discuss the many cookbooks that have been published by local groups and sample a few of these local favorites. Bring your favorite family recipe and stories to share.

The Saturday January 29th program will be at the community building starting at 2 p.m. If nothing else, the program will inspire you to document a family favorite recipe to share with loved ones. Catherine wants to encourage the continued use of these Family Heirloom Recipes so they will live on.

Catherine is currently president of the Chicago Foodways Roundtable and a popular presenter of the Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Speaking Bureau. The **Greater Midwest Foodways Alliance** is dedicated to celebrating, exploring and preserving unique food traditions and their cultural contexts in the American Midwest. Foodways is the study of what people eat and why we procure, prepare and serve the food we do has cultural, sociological, geographical, financial and political influences.

Invite family members and come early for a program that will stir your memory of family foods and make your mouth water.