



THE FINIAL

SPRING 2016

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN
COMPLETE!

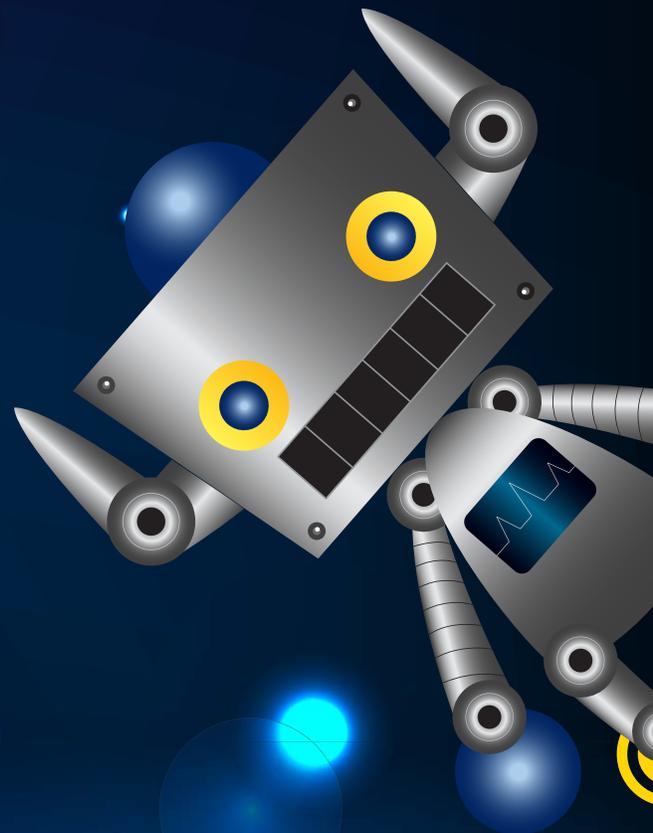
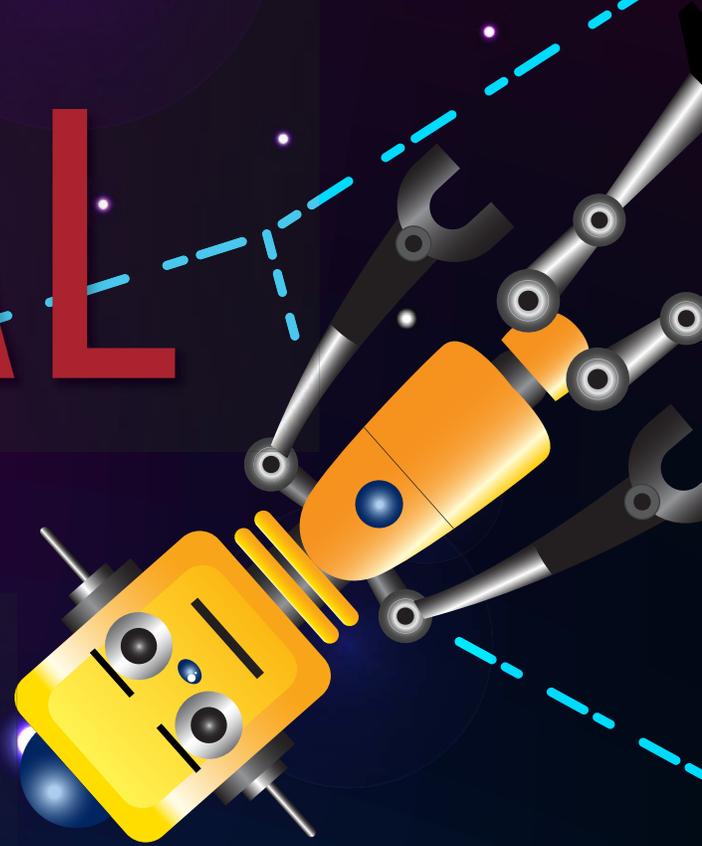
TOYS@PLAY IS OPEN

TALLMAN ARTS FESTIVAL 2016

CHECK OUT OUR NEW
WEBSITE!

HISTORY HUNT PUZZLE

ROOTS IN ROCK COUNTY:
RYAN INCORPORATED
CENTRAL



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DIRECTORS COLUMN

A worn teddy bear. A vintage Nintendo. Countless historical miniatures. These are just a few of the toys that have kept me entertained from my childhood. Toys are a common bond that link us together as people. They relieve stress, establish traditions and bring happiness into our lives, like little else can.

Our new exhibition, **Toys@PLAY** is the core experience around our 2016 theme, RCHS@PLAY, that sets our campus and its site to present more educational, yet entertaining experiences for all. From Nerf guns to space toys, Toys@PLAY has something for the kid in all of us, regardless of our age.

Another part of our Strategic Plan is to broaden the Society to a larger audience. **Toys@PLAY** is a small step in

this direction and helps RCHS to become a social and cultural cornerstone of the Rock County community.

The new **Campus Master Plan** is designed to better our campus, seeking to improve visitor experience, while continuing to respect the unique character of our historic sites. The general public can view the Campus Master Plan in its entirety on our new website- www.rchs.us/campus-plan.

Come, PLAY with us at the Society and share your toy stories with us.

See you on campus!

Michael Reuter
Executive Director

FIRST ANNUAL HISTORY MAKERS GALA IS A GREAT SUCCESS



By Nancy McDonald • Development Manager

The Rock County Historical Society celebrated its first annual History Makers Gala on March 12th at The Venue in beautiful downtown Janesville. The inaugural event featured cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, the culinary expertise of Chef Rafe, an awards program recognizing four amazing individuals for their contributions to Rock County, an update on the RCHS Campus Master Plan, a live and silent auction with incredible items, and hours of dancing to the swinging 1940s tunes of Jack Farina's Big Band.

History Makers at the event were: **Cori Olson, Jackie Wood, Anda O'Connell,** and **Maurice Montgomery** (awarded posthumously). These four individuals were selected for their selfless endeavors to preserve and promote history in Rock County.

Mike Reuter, RCHS Executive Director, gave attendees a comprehensive update on the RCHS Campus Master plan, highlighting the status of the Carriage House renovation, the move of the Frances Willard Schoolhouse to the campus, and planned activities moving forward.

Some of the amazing auction items featured this year were a Harley Davidson package including a behind the scenes tour of the Harley Davidson Museum in Milwaukee and a museum gift certificate, and a Boardtracker Harley Davidson artwork and t-shirt, a Rusty Wallace Driving Experience at Chicagoland Speedway, and a spectacular getaway at the Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells.

Jack Farina's Big Band proved to be a hit with Gala attendees. "It was the right mix of music for our 1940s-themed event," said RCHS Development Manager and event organizer, Nancy McDonald.

The Rock County Historical Society was blessed by the overwhelming support of the donors, volunteers, and attendees who made the first annual History Makers Gala the success that it was. We would also like to thank our event sponsors, BMO Harris Bank, Prent Thermoforming, and Whiton House Consulting for their generous support of this new endeavor. We look forward to another year of making history with our partners and cannot wait to see you all at our next event.



JACKIE WOOD
The Organizer

"Jackie has a strong commitment and dedication to the welfare of the Janesville community, its culture and heritage."



ANDA O'CONNELL
The Ambassador

"Anda's gift to the community lies in her unique ability to promote Janesville's built environment, mixed with a passion for making Janesville home to so many."



CORI OLSON
The Visionary

"Cori made this place (Milton House) interesting...she wants people to hear and know what the actual history was."



MONTY MONTGOMERY
The Historian

"You could ask Monty anything from Janesville's past...and he always knows."

Campus Master Plan Complete!

By Mike Reuter • Executive Director

After eight months of creativity and collaboration, the Rock County Historical Society staff & board are proud to unveil the Campus Master Plan to the Rock County community!

In June 2015, the RCHS created a task force of community stakeholders to undertake this important work in partnership with Vandewalle & Associates, an architectural and landscape design firm from Madison.

After the release of the Society's Strategic Plan at our gala last April, we were quick to work in developing our Campus Master Plan, a design plan that illustrates specific design changes to the Society's campus. The Campus Master Plan focuses on improving or creating essential elements on campus that enhance the visitor experience and campus aesthetic, while maintaining the historical integrity of the landscape and historic sites, like the Lincoln-Tallman House.

With these changes we hope to:

INCREASE parking & accessibility

PROVIDE clear wayfinding signage

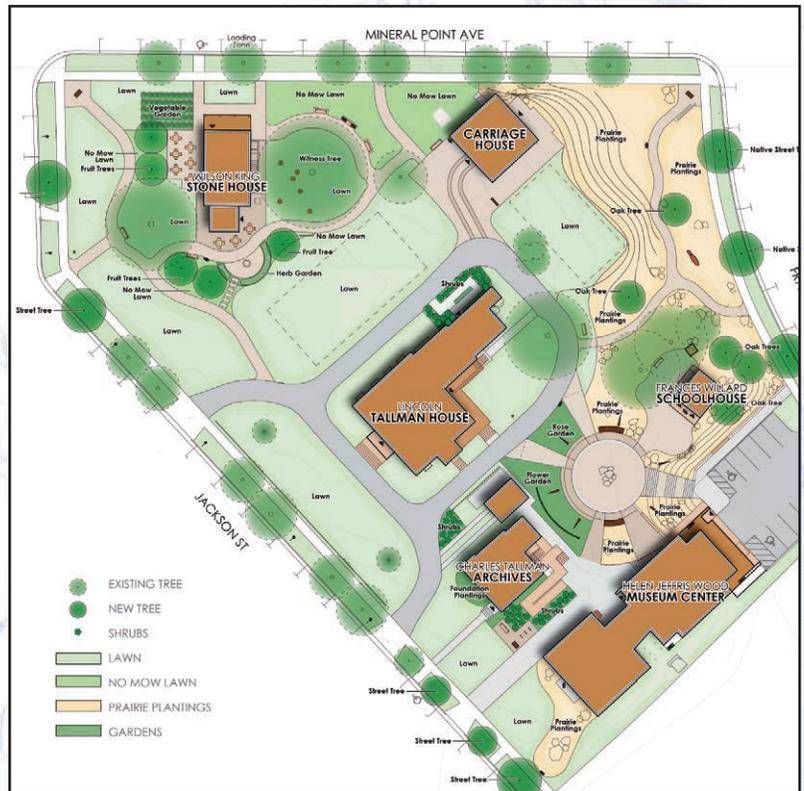
INSTALL exterior lighting

IMPLEMENT a palette of historic materials

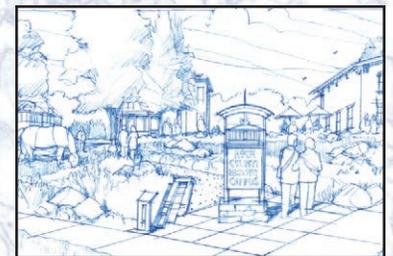
Overall, the Campus Master Plan is composed of six layers or overlays, that address campus-wide treatment. Several of the historic sites' adjacent landscapes were assessed in more detail, including lighting, landscaping and the inclusion of unique features such as historic statues. The Campus Core, Carriage House, Wilson King Stone House, Frances Willard Schoolhouse and Museum Center are given detailed treatment recommendations as central components of the campus overall.

An online, digital version of the Plan is available for viewing on the Historical Society's new website- www.rchs.us/campus-plan.

For more information, questions regarding details about the Campus Master Plan or to schedule a meeting, please contact Michael Reuter at mreuter@rchs.us or 608-756-4509 x301



The Core



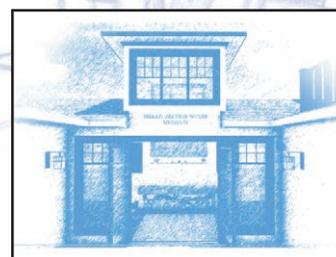
Tallman Carriage House



Frances Willard Schoolhouse



Wilson King Stone House



Museum Center First Floor



Get ready to relive your childhood and kick start your imagination as our new exhibit "Toys @ Play" officially opens in April 2016! Embracing all decades and encouraging playtime, this brand new exhibit features toys past and present, and offers many unique experiences unlike you have ever seen in a museum exhibit.

Enjoy our themed areas of the exhibit:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Superhero | Fad Wall |
| Farm Toys | RCHS Space Academy |
| Dolls and Teatime | "Outdoor" Activity |
| Living Room | Board Games |
| Soap Box Derby Racing | |

Color on an entire wall, watch vintage commercials in our 60s living room, or shoot aliens in our space academy!

The exhibit runs from April 1st, 2016 to December 30th of 2016. Don't miss your chance to play at the RCHS museum campus in 2016!

59th ANNUAL TALLMAN ARTS FESTIVAL
ART @ PLAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2016

10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

The time has come to start sending in registrations for the 59th Annual Tallman Arts Festival!

With our annual themes, we explore the many ways art can speak to us or can be represented. This year's theme is Art @ PLAY and we will celebrate the fresh, fun and whimsical side of art.

Here are a few great things you can expect at the Tallman Arts Festival!

- Great artist hospitality
- Live music
- Fine art & fine crafts
- "PLAY" stations for children
- Delicious food from a large variety of food vendors
- Silent auction and pie smash

For the first time ever, we will also be hosting a Gallery Night on Saturday, August 6th at the Tallman Carriage House on the Rock County Historical Society grounds! Watch for more details on how you can attend this new event and see inside the newly restored building.

Early Registration for the 59th Annual Tallman Arts Festival is now open and you can register today for the discounted price of \$60.00/booth. To register, please visit www.rchs.us/event/tallman-arts-festival/ or contact Amanda Strobel Wise at astrobelwise@rchs.us.

Date: Sunday, August 7th
Time: 10:00am-5:00pm
Cost: \$5.00 at the gates





WHITON HOUSE CONSULTING

STRATEGY

Everything we do must be well reasoned, not a matter of habit or convention.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Here we look at organization development not as a time for training and classes but as a detailed plan of execution of how we are going to get from Point A to Point B by building sustainable capabilities.

COMMUNICATION

Good communication is above all else authentic and purposeful.

GET IN TOUCH

Main Office
1000 E. Milwaukee St.
Janesville, WI 53545
oakleigh@whitonhouse.com



Address: 819 E. High St. in Milton
Phone: 608-580-0530
Web: www.charmingbcoffee.com

Connecting through history: Charming B's Coffee Shop

By Keighton Klos • Operations Manager

Do you start each morning by sipping on a piping hot mug of your favorite roast of coffee?

If you are like most Americans, your answer was a resounding “yes!” In fact, according to a Gallup* poll conducted in July of 2015, 64% of Americans say that they drink one or more cups of coffee a day. Did you know that your craving for a cup of joe is almost as American as Mama’s Apple Pie? In fact, Americans fondness for coffee can be traced back to the American Revolution. Before the United States became an independent country, it was a British colony. Almost no country loves their tea more than Britain, so it was natural that American Colonists also favored tea over coffee. However, as unrest began to grow over a tax on tea that American Colonists saw as unfair, many Colonists began to boycott British tea, choosing instead to

drink coffee. In fact, this unofficial boycott of tea became so popular, that drinking tea was seen as a betrayal to the Colonies. Therefore it will come as no surprise that by the time the American Revolution ended almost 10 years later, Americans had lost their taste for tea, instead predominantly preferring a cup of coffee.

Just like our Revolutionary predecessors, Americans still love a good cup of coffee. Charming B’s coffee shop in Milton has been serving quality coffee to the residents of Rock County since it opened in 2011. This quaint coffee shop is located in the sanctuary of the former United Methodist church. The building retains many of the charming features of the 1883 church, such as the stained glass windows and even the altar. Along with steaming cups of coffee, Charming B’s also offers gifts and food, and even wine and beer on special events. So the next time you are

looking for your coffee fix, consider taking a drive out to Milton to visit Charming B’s, where you are sure to enjoy a unique experience while savoring a tasty cup of coffee.



18th century London coffee house - c/o lookandlearn.com

*<http://www.gallup.com/poll/184388/americans-coffee-consumption-steady-few-cut-back.aspx>

SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS

APRIL - DECEMBER



Details available at
www.rchs.us/exhibits/toys/

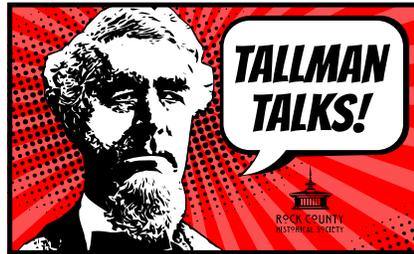
Get ready to relive your childhood and kick start your imagination at our new exhibit, "Toys @ Play!" Embracing all decades and encouraging playtime, this brand new exhibit features toys past and present, and offers many unique experiences unlike you have ever seen in a museum exhibit.



APRIL

21 - Tallman Talk:
Wisconsin 101 with special guests Thomas Broman, PHD and Adam Mandelman
6:30pm-8:30pm. Free.
426 N. Jackson St.

Join us as we host Wisconsin 101: Our History in Objects, a collaborative public history project that includes both an interactive online exhibit and programming on Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR). Special guests from UW-Madison will be on hand to talk about how local objects each tell a set of interconnected stories about Wisconsin's history, people, and places.



27 - 67th Annual Meeting
6:30pm-8:30pm. Helen Jeffris Museum Center (Lower Gallery)
426 N. Jackson St.

Using history improve the quality of life in Rock County is central to our mission! We want to share with you how we intend to transform our venue into a welcoming, interactive history campus!

Join us at for a glimpse of our future with our Campus Master Plan. Executive Director Michael Reuter will showcase new lighting, parking, pathway and educational features that will make the Rock County Historical Society campus a destination for residents and visitors to Rock County.

MAY

8 - Mother's Day Tour
10:00am-3:00pm. Tours begin every hour on the hour.
Moms tour for free!

Bring mom for a tour the Lincoln-Tallman House for free! Tours run every hour on the hour from 10am-3pm. Tickets may be purchased at the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center at 426 N. Jackson St.



12 - Uncovering Tallman's Treasures: The Art & Furniture of the Tallman Family
5:00pm and 7:00pm. \$15.00.
426 N. Jackson St.

Much of the artwork pieces in the house are original to the Tallman family and have their own unique story to tell! Come enjoy a glass of wine or other beverage while learning about the art in the Tallman collection. From statues to paintings this tour is sure to satisfy the art lover in everyone!

15 - Uncovering Tallman's Treasures: The Art & Furniture of the Tallman Family
1:00pm and 5:00pm. \$15.00.
426 N. Jackson St.

Much of the artwork pieces in the house are original to the Tallman family and have their own unique story to tell! Come enjoy a glass of wine or other beverage while learning about the art in the Tallman collection. From statues to paintings this tour is sure to satisfy the art lover in everyone!

JUNE

**Historic Walking Tours Begin
Lincoln-Tallman House Tour
Season Begins**



**19 - Father's Day Tour
10:00am-3:00pm. Tours begin
every hour on the hour.
Dads tour for free!**

Bring dad for a tour the Lincoln-Tallman House for free! Tours run every hour on the hour from 10am-3pm. Tickets may be purchased at the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center at 426 N. Jackson St.

JULY



**21 - Night @ The Museum
7:00pm-9:30pm
\$2.00 for children
www.rchs.us/event/night-the-museum/**

Come dressed in your bunny slippers and pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed animal, and enjoy an evening of family fun in the Toys@PLAY Exhibit! Please note that this is not an overnight, and families with children of all ages are welcome!

AUGUST

**6 - Gallery Night
Details available soon on
www.rchs.us/events/**

Partake in our new Gallery Night event, the evening before the Tallman Arts Festival, which highlights the work of artists, while enjoying wine and appetizers with fellow art enthusiasts.

59th ANNUAL TALLMAN ARTS FESTIVAL
ART @ PLAY

**7 - 59th Annual Tallman
Arts Festival
10:00am-5:00pm. \$5.00.
440 N. Jackson St.**

Immerse yourself and your family at Wisconsin's oldest arts festival! The art lover in your will discover over 80 local and regional artists selling one-of-a-kind treasures, available for purchase. Enjoy our family activity "PLAY" stations, food trucks, live music, and more!



**20 - Historic House Gala
Details available soon on
www.rchs.us/events/**

Start the Historic House Tour weekend off with a great social at a local residence! Enjoy quality food, beverages, and meet some of the home owners and members of the community involved in the 36th Annual Historic House Tour.



**21 - 36th Annual Historic
House Tour
Details available soon on
www.rchs.us/events/**

The 36th Annual Historic House Tour will be visiting the gorgeous Courthouse Hill district! This historic neighborhood boasts a wide range of architectural styles ranging from dramatic Queen Annes to quaint bungalows. Don't miss your opportunity to see inside some of these privately-owned beauties before their doors are once again closed to the public.

**For more info on 2015
Rock County Historical
Society events, visit:
www.rchs.us/events/**

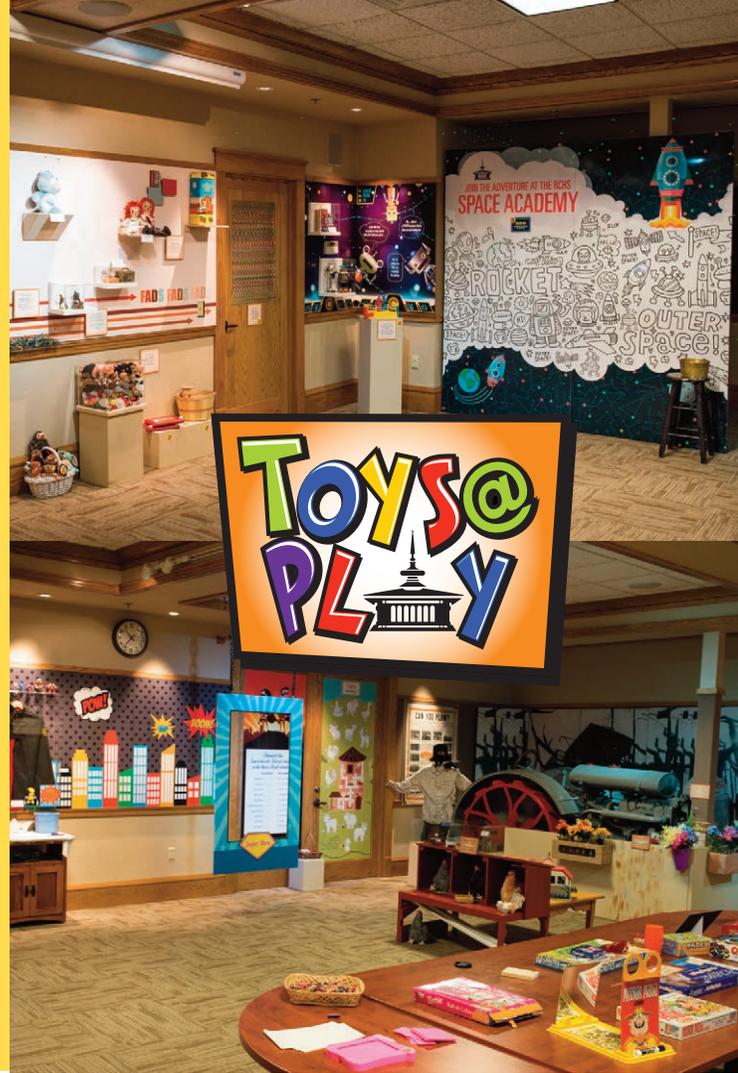


Rent the Toys@PLAY Exhibit!

Does a child you know have a birthday coming up? Consider hosting their party in the Toys@PLAY exhibit!

Start the party off with birthday cake and pizza, and then head into the Toys@PLAY exhibit space to get your Space Cadet badges, create your own super hero masks, serve tea and treats (imaginary, of course) to favorite dolls, watch vintage 60s commercials, play board games, and more!

For pricing & availability, please contact Meghan Walker at 608-756-4509 ext. 305 or email her at mwalker@rchs.us



Wise Words: RCHS Book Club

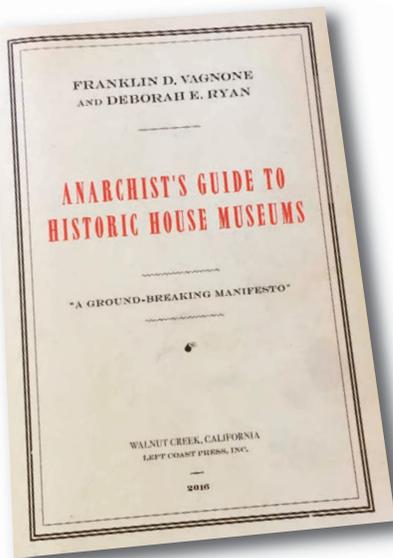
By Amanda Strobel Wise • Volunteer & Internship Program Manager

In this ground-breaking examination of historic homes, Frank Vagnone and Deborah Ryan's recent book delves deep into the current status of Historic House Museums (or HHMs). Through careful assessment, they seek to understand how and why some HHMs succeed and why others fail. They also advocate that it is the responsibility of each institution to look inward and ask the question: "Why?" Why preserve this home? Why is it important? What stories are being told and why do we tell them?

Historic home and museum enthusiasts alike will find this short and punchy read a delightfully challenging piece. Vagnone and Ryan take the traditional idea of the HHM and ask their readers to critically look at every aspect of its presentation to the public; from the hours of operation,

lighting, how objects are placed, and even the very act of preservation. This book also features an insider perspective on daily operations of HHMs all over the world, with what he calls "rants" at the opening of each part of the chapters, written by executive directors, curators, and participants in his studies. What is most compelling is that they chose to combine the perspectives of the museum staff with their own experiences in HHMs as regular guests. The very structure of this book invites us all who work in HHMs to take a step back and to see our homes through the eyes of our visitors.

We at RCHS are excited to bring these challenges to our own planning, and ask the difficult question of why. We hope that through our new tours and programs, we will be able to bring the community of Rock County into the Lincoln-Tallman House, and help them to see that it is just as much their history as ours.



Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums, Franklin D. Vagnone and Deborah E. Ryan. 2016.

**Investing in the community is
not merely our responsibility.
It is our promise.**

BMO Harris Bank applauds the great work of
the Rock County Historical Society.

History Hunt

There are 6 changes made from the original. Can you find all 6?



1. The plate hanging on the top shelf on the left side of the picture is missing • 2. two glasses on the top bottom shelf are missing on the left side of the picture
 3. lamp on the far right of the very top shelf is changed • 4. label on the top of the hanging picture is gone
 5. small plate was added to the right side of the picture on the side of the bottom shelf • 6. the overhang on the side of the business across the street through the window is missing

ANSWERS

STORIES FROM THE STACKS

Start Your Genealogy Adventure Today

By Ruth Anderson • Archives Manager

When I do genealogy, I start with the facts: 1) Birth records; 2) Death records; 3) Marriage records; 4) Children's names; and then repeat the process for each preceding generation. This information builds the skeleton of a family's story. But it can be tedious for family members who only have a slight interest in the family's origins.

The Archives Associates at the Charles Tallman Archives can determine many of the facts of your family's history. Once you know the "when" and "where" of your family, throwing a wider research net can add some interesting details.

For example, Lois "Ividene" Woodstock, daughter of Fred W. and Lillian 'Birdie' (Holbrook) Woodstock, was born May 14, 1905, in the town of Lima. Ividene's parents merged Mormon and 7th Day Baptist heritage. Ividene's father, along with his brother, operated the Woodstock Brothers Feed Mill in Lima Center. These facts were found in census, obituaries, and vital records. But, what activities did they enjoy? How did they play?

Lima Historian, Fred Kraege, donated photograph albums to the research center. Within these albums were found photos that answer the above questions and make the Woodstock family's story much more interesting.

START YOUR ADVENTURE TODAY.

Stop in at 430 N. Jackson Street between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M., Wednesday - Friday, or email research@rchs to see how the Charles Tallman Archives collections can enrich your story. To set up an appointment, please call 608-752-5891, ext. 1, or ext. 2.



When Ividene was older she enjoyed going barefoot in the creek with her girlfriends.



In preparation for Independence Day, and in recognition of the Centennial of the end of the War of 1812, Lima Center citizens raised an immense Star Spangled Banner on July 3, 1915. The Woodstock family was in awe. Fred, Harriet and Ividene enjoyed the parade the next day.



At the train station she was amazed when the big boys carried each other. They had fun showing off.



Was this Fred pulling his daughter Ividene in her wagon?



She probably played Hide-and-Seek when she was young. Did she hide in this barrel? Did these two use this barrel to hide from each other? What fun they would have had.



Ividene enjoyed training her dog, Spot.

Collections Corner

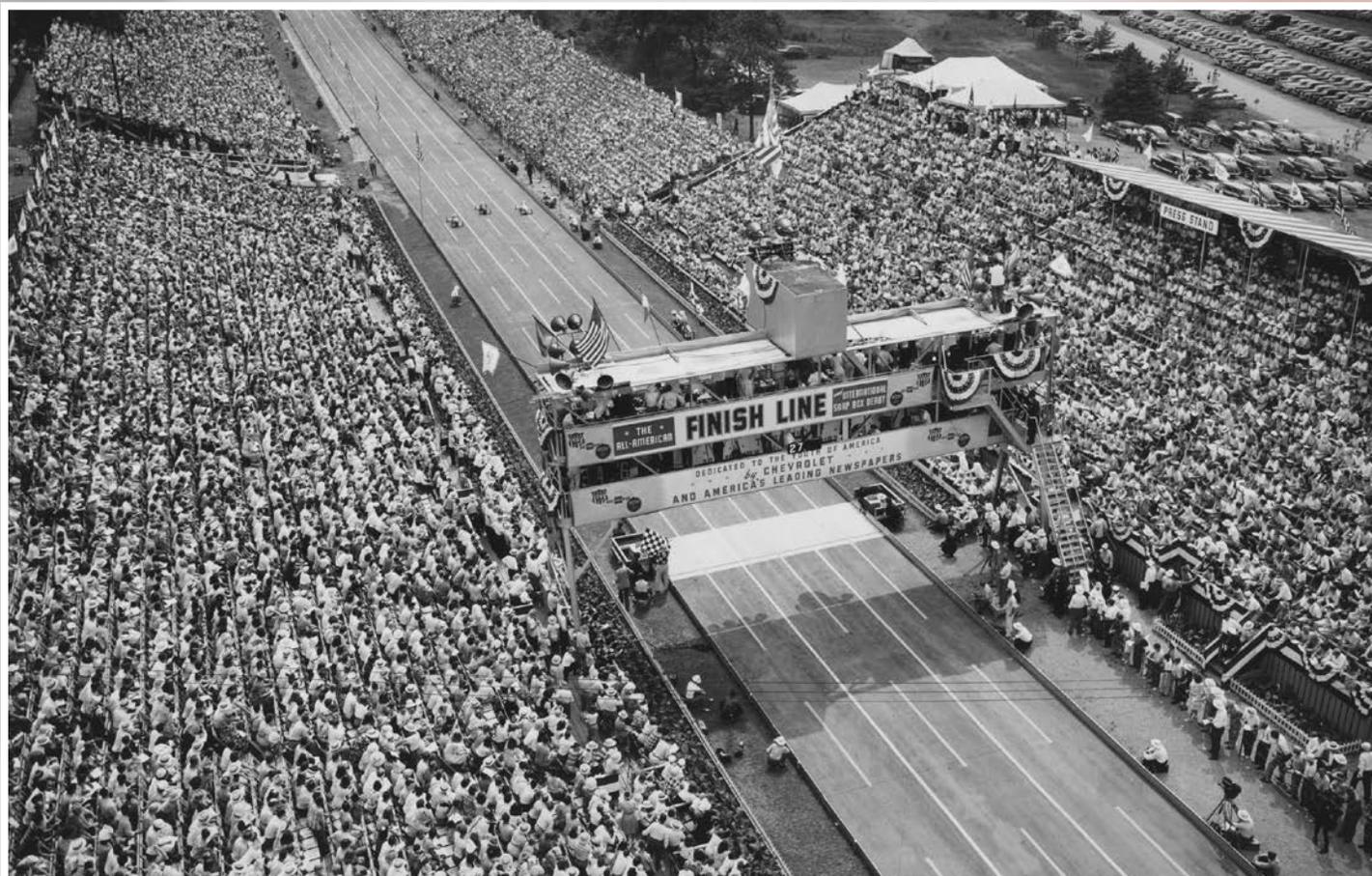
Soap Box Derby in 1946

By Laurel Fant • Collections Manager

One of the two Soap Box Derby cars in our collection is featured in the new "Toys@PLAY" exhibit. Both cars were sponsored by the Janesville Gazette and the one that went to the 1948 National Championship in Akron, Ohio was built and driven by Carliss H. Shuler. In addition to the car, we are also showing memorabilia from his trip, such as a coupon book for meals, a souvenir tire shaped ashtray and a photograph with Jimmy Stewart. Gerald Wells donated his 1949 car and has loaned his helmet and a pennant for the exhibit.

The Janesville Gazette carriers of Edgerton held their first Soap Box Derby in 1946. Janesville's first race was the following year with a maximum cost of building the car set at \$6.00. A 1948 newspaper clipping shows the cars speeding down Janesville's Monterey Bridge hill and 43 boys were entered.

The first "All American Derby" of gravity racing took place in 1934 in Dayton, Ohio with cars built with wheels from baby buggies and wagons and from orange crates, sheets of tin or other scrap items that could be found. Akron offers a more central location, along with more hills, so the event moved there the following year. In 1938, the Works Progress Administration built "Derby Downs" as a permanent track site. The race has run continually since 1934 except for the four years during World War II. In Washington D.C., 224 boys aged 11-15, entered the race in 1938. Girls were allowed to compete beginning in 1971.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Tammy and Mark Boufford

By Amanda Strobel Wise • Volunteer & Internship Program Manager



Anyone who was on the RCHS campus last summer saw our wonderful planters that flank the entrance to the Lincoln-Tallman House. We have those lovely, welcoming planters, in addition to several others around campus, because of the dedication and support of Tammy and Mark Boufford!

Tammy and her husband Mark both volunteer at RCHS in a wide range of roles; and they love to share the rich history of old homes on our Historic Home Tour, as well as the Lincoln-Tallman House. They have helped at special events, such as our Light the Way kick-off event last summer, in addition to tending to the planters here on campus.

Tammy says that: “We both work over 50 hours a week so we do what we can and when we can.” Mark and Tammy also volunteer for other Janesville organizations, and we are happy to have them on our team!



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS – EVENTS

Volunteering at an event is a great way to continue your support of RCHS. We have an entire year of exciting, educational events planned for our community. Help us to reach our goals by helping guests find their way at our HorsePLAY event, teaching lessons in the Frances Willard Schoolhouse, spending an afternoon at the Tallman Arts Festival’s Silent Auction tent, or serving refreshments after our October tours.

By volunteering at our events, you get an inside peek into our organization and meet all of our wonderful guests! Event volunteering is flexible and allows you to pick and choose which dates work best for you.

Consider being an event volunteer this summer and help us to provide great programs and experiences to the families of Rock County.

As always, there are many other exciting volunteer opportunities in addition to events!

Visit our volunteer page at: <http://www.rchs.us/volunteer/>

Or to see how you can make history today contact:!

Amanda Strobel Wise at astrobelwise@rchs.us
or call 608-756-4509 x313.



THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT

Through our Annual Business Sponsorship program, the Society is able to connect our slate of fun, educational and engaging tours, exhibits and programming to clients and employees of businesses from throughout Rock County!

Thank you for your support of our mission!

As we continue through 2016 with an emphasis on RCHS@PLAY, we aim to bring a higher level of interaction to all who visit our campus. Please consider being a part of our 2016 sponsors!

To join, or for more information on our Annual Sponsorship Program, please contact Nancy McDonald at nmcdonald@rchs.us

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2016 SPONSORS

LEGACY LEVEL



We're here to help.™



HISTORIC 100 LEVEL

- Hufcor • Gilbank Construction •
- Anda O'Connell • Johnson Bank •
- Boardtracker Harley-Davidson •
- First National Bank • [maryterrydesign](http://maryterrydesign.com)

WISH LIST 2016

We're looking for a few items for the Toys@PLAY exhibit, and for the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center. If you are interested in donating either one of these items, please contact Laurel Fant at lfant@rchs.us or 608-756-4509 ext. 302.

- Shag rugs
- A stove (if you really love us!)

We are also in need of some help in volunteering for our special events! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Amanda Strobel Wise at astrobelwise@rchs.us or visit www.rchs.us/volunteer/

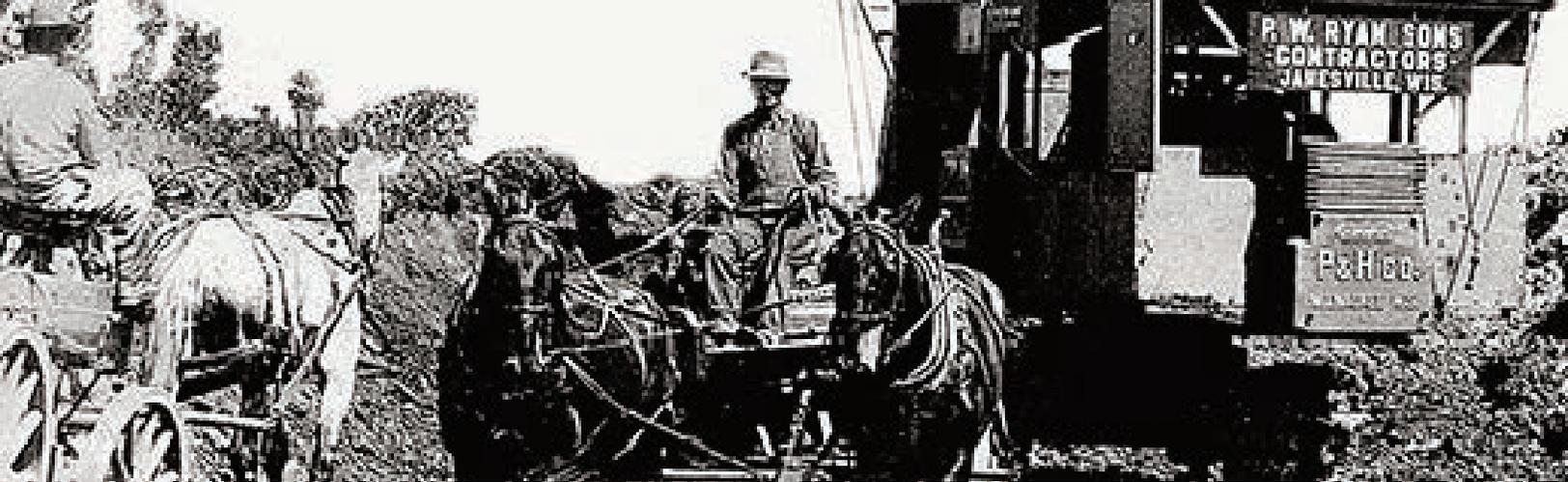


RCHS Launches New Website

Since June of 2015, the Rock County Historical Society has been working with a task force of marketing and web design experts from throughout Rock County. This effort has resulted in the launch of a new website providing a portal to all that the Society's campus has to offer now and in the future. The new site has doubled in size and provides increased functionality for users.

The site's template and design was led by Eric Kuznacic & Mary Terry, respective owners of Why the Fuss? Technical Solutions and MaryTerryDesign. The website's design is a unique, one-of-a-kind entity, much like the Rock County Historical Society campus and includes an online gift shop, online membership registration, the ability to log volunteer hours digitally, beautiful imagery, and--coming soon-- Members-only content!

www.rchs.us/



ROOTS IN ROCK COUNTY: Ryan Incorporated Central

By Meghan Walker • Marketing and Outreach Coordinator

When brothers, James and Patrick Ryan, began hauling crushed rock for railroad beds with a wagon in 1884, they probably did not predict that they would be creating one of the nation's premier mass excavation and site-work contractor businesses. They were sons and Irish immigrants to the United States were usually handy with physical work and building railroads. This type of labor was something many of them did, but usually for someone else's business. It was in 1884 that James and Patrick began their own railroad business--the P.W. Ryan Company.

Building and shaping the earth is a Ryan family trait. In 1952, the grandsons of Patrick Ryan—William, Thomas, and Donald, expanded the business to include road development in order to better serve the growing popularity of cars and trucks for highway mobility. They named the company Ryan Brothers Company, and it became one of the first road-building organizations in Wisconsin. Eventually the company expanded into other Midwestern states, and since there was already a Ryan Brothers Company in Indiana, the name officially changed to Ryan Incorporated of Wisconsin. The current generation formed Ryan Incorporated Central in 1985.

Today, Ryan Incorporated Central is still owned by the Ryan family and has completed projects in over 25 states in residential, commercial, entertainment, energy, transportation and environmental work. They deeply value providing the highest quality work that their 130 years of experience can offer in ash disposal, energy and power site development, full-service golf course construction, new landfill construction as well as remediation and closures of landfills, preparing rail yards, residential site development and wetland construction.

With a company name recognized in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions, Ryan Incorporated Central is a business that has helped to put Rock County, WI on the map where innovation happens and good ideas are formed.



FUN FACT:

Ryan Brothers Company did the grading of the first runway at O'Hare Airport in 1955.



Toys throughout Time

By Nathan Fuller • Education Curator

As long as there have been bored children, there have been toys. Toys are an integral part of our human culture, serving as both engines for the imagination and fun ways to escape the tedium of life. Toys come in all shapes and sizes, and can be low or high tech. Some toys come directly from nature, while others are artificially manufactured from composite materials. Regardless of these differences, toys are, above all else, entertaining and they too have a fun history.

The first toys ever to be played with were probably the stick and rock; a stick or a rock in a child's hand can become any number of things. Other items like shells, pine

cones, and bones were also likely used by kids for play, especially when it came to games of chance. Archaeological evidence suggests musical instruments, like flutes and whistles, were utilized by prehistoric children. In addition, doll artifacts have been found all over the

world and were arguably the

most easily obtained amusement for children. Dolls could be made from plant husks, wood sticks, rags, stone, or clay. Particularly popular in Greece and Rome, dolls made of wood and wax were a sign of female childhood, and were offered to the gods as a burnt offering upon their wedding day, signifying their transition to adulthood.

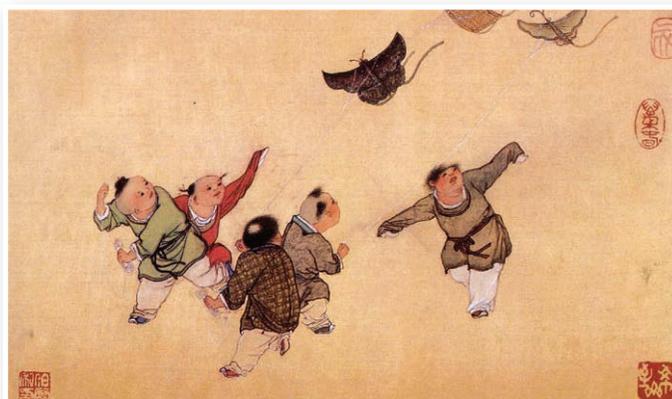
Kites were popular in China where paper, silk, and bamboo were readily available. Balls were common in the ancient world, being made of materials such as inflated animal organs and stitched animal skin. These were then used in young male athletic competitions, a typically violent affair that served as an early form of military training. Rubber balls were used in Mesoamerica, where youths played a physically demanding "ball game" which involved using one's hips to score points in a stone court. There were even yo-yos! A 500 BC Greek vase illustrates a young boy playing with a terracotta disc, attached to a string, essentially an ancient yo-yo; this too was offered to the gods, this time by boys, upon reaching adulthood.

Medieval children were a particularly noisy bunch, preferring to play with drums, rattles, tambourines, whistles, and bells. Those more inclined to fight could play with wooden swords and hobby horses, while others could play with tops, hoops and sticks, dolls, and puppets. Jigsaw puzzles were invented in 1767 as a way to teach children geography. Later, many Victorian age toys served a moralistic purpose in teaching children Bible stories. Optical toys, such as the kaleidoscope, magic lantern, and zoetrope, were invented in the 1800s, with metal toys becoming more and more popular, including tin soldiers and building sets.



The dawn of the atomic age ushered in the modern toy era, with all of the fads that came along with it. The advent of plastics meant that toys could be created cheaply and distributed more freely to an ever growing number of interested children, meaning a wider array of toys and accessories. There was a huge explosion of toys available in the 1950s and 1960s. Despite these advances, many of these new toys were just variations upon the older ones that came before them (SEE Barbie, View-Master, etc.)

Toys, both young and old, serve as the answer to our boredom, and in the process spark our imaginations. It is our sincerest hope that the new exhibit Toys @ Play will help you reconnect with your inner child, and that you have fun in our exhibit, exploring the world of toys. At the very least, we promise you won't be bored.





Uncovering Tallman's Treasures

The Art & Furniture of the Tallman Family

Tour Details: Have you ever wondered about all of the beautiful antique artwork that resides in the Lincoln-Tallman House? Many of the artwork pieces in the house are original to the Tallman family and have their own unique story to tell! Come enjoy a glass of wine while learning about the art in the Tallman collection. From statues to paintings this tour is sure to satisfy the art lover in everyone!

Tour Schedule & Cost: This is a very limited tour only offered on the following dates in 2016:

- **May 12th:** tours begin at 5:00pm and at 7:00pm and last approximately 90 minutes.
- **May 15th:** tours begin at 1:00pm and at 5:00pm and last approximately 90 minutes.
- **September 15th:** tours begin at 5:00pm and at 7:00pm and last approximately 90 minutes.
- **September 18th:** tours begin at 1:00pm and at 5:00pm and last approximately 90 minutes.

The cost of the tour is \$15.00 per person and includes one beverage (wine or non-alcoholic) to enjoy while taking the tour.

Tour Information

Uncovering Tallman's Treasures is able to accommodate up to 10 guests. RCHS Members may sign up for the tour one week before the tour opens for public sign-up. Become a member today!

All tours begin at the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center, located two doors down from the Lincoln-Tallman House at 426 N. Jackson St. in Janesville.

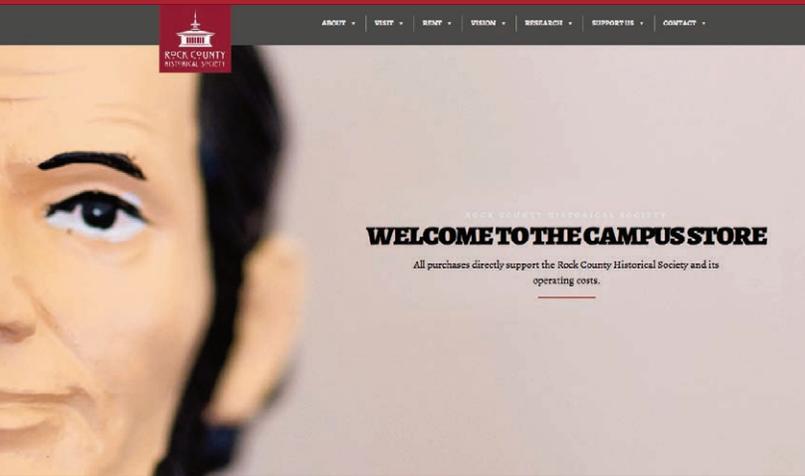
Please arrive 10 minutes before your tour begins. All tours last approximately 90 minutes. For more information go to: www.rchs.us/tallman-tours/



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Welcome to our online Gift Shop

By: Keighton Klos • Operations Manager

"With the new RCHS website, we are excited to be offering a select number of our gift shop items online! You are now able to shop the RCHS gift shop from the comfort and convenience of your own home. Currently, there is a limited number of items offered online, however, we will be adding items, and almost all gift shop items will be available for purchase both on our campus and through our online shop.

Don't forget to stop by the gift shop in the Helen Jeffris Museum Center to see our new toys for sale!"

