



Look Into the Past
To Discover the Future

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Issue 3

The Historian -- Keeping the Public Informed

Thank You!

Thank you to the Kirkland Lions Club for allowing us to work bingo on Saturday, July 4th. By working bingo we were able to keep the profits earned during those four hours.



Volunteers Needed

Workshop every Monday from
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the building,
309 South Fifth Street
Join us!

Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.



Join us September 13th at 2 p.m. where you will discover the history on a multitude of fires in Kirkland. Two of our trustees, Connie Worden and Linda Fett have put together a PowerPoint presentation on numerous fires that have occurred in our area.

Following the PowerPoint presentation, Chief Chad Connell of the Kirkland Community Fire District will talk about the resources available to fight fires today and how the department runs. Chief Connell will also talk about fire safety.

Saturday, November 14, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

In honor of Veterans Day, we are pleased to welcome Nostalgia Entertainment and their World War II Radio Hour, a nostalgic musical and theatrical performance that recreates the golden age of 1940s broadcasting.



**This program is courtesy of
the Friends of the Kirkland Public Library
and the Kirkland Public Library**

Kirkland Historical Society, 309 South Fifth Street, Kirkland, IL 60146
kirklandhistoricalsociety.com
Also visit us on Facebook at Kirkland Historical Society

Many thanks to all who made our annual fundraiser such a success!

Event Sponsors:

Marvin Bernhardt in memory of Wanda
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Poynter Stock Farms (Jared & Family)
Red Brick Inn Bar & Grill
Red Farm Antiques (Al and Lindakay Ebel)
Resource Bank
White Oak Dental
Larry and Connie Worden

Thank you also to Don Banks, who once again did a wonderful job as our auctioneer, to Hump's Haven Backyard BBQ who catered the event, to Helen Davis who showcased the items, to Peggy Stuntz whose advice and leadership has long been invaluable, and to Kerry Williams and Jackie McBride for clerking the event..

Auction Item Donors:

Jon Aves
Basketcases
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Cory Cravatta
Crooked Horns
Helen Davis
Lindakay Ebel
Family Health Center, Sycamore
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Pizza Pros
Ralph's Car Wash
Resource Bank
Sandwich Fair
Sheep Shop
Sky Carp
Lora Stevens
Carol Stiegman
Peggy Stuntz

To all who enjoyed the evening and hopefully made some great purchases, the Board of Trustees thanks you for your support and we hope you'll join us for our upcoming programs highlighted on the front page of this newsletter.

Gary, Lindakay, Carol, Becky, Linda, Sally, Jean, Jim and Connie

Dear Friends –

On Sunday, October 11, members of the Smith and Kavaney families will gather in Kirkland for a Celebration of Life for our mother, sister, and friend – Marlene Judith Smith Kavaney. Judi was raised in Kirkland and graduated from Kirkland High with the class of 1957. Judi passed away at her home in Albany, New York, on January 27, 2026, after a long struggle with pulmonary disease.

We would like to invite you to join us in honoring Judi's 86 years of servitude, adventure, and compassion. Proceedings at Maple Cemetery will begin at 1:30 pm with personal remembrances, spontaneous farewell recollections, and song. A reception with refreshments will follow at the Kirkland Historical Society, 309 S. 5th St, a project near and dear to Judi's heart. Please help us give Judi a hometown goodbye. RSVP to Becky Lamont at 815-978-5388

Pamela Smith



2026 Dinner/Auction Fundraiser Photos



The Historical Society has been reorganizing and updating our collection. We have moved display cases and bookcases, finished filing thousands of newspaper clippings and photographed accessioned items. We will still gladly accept donations that will enhance our collection, but no longer take loans as of July 8, 2026.

Many thanks to Steve Heinson for his donation of John McQueen's desk and chair to our organization. It is a wonderful addition to our collection.



Frank Hunter

Written by Helen Lamont

If you were around downtown Kirkland, much in the fifties, I'm sure you'd recognize the picture of Frank Hunter with his western style garb and big hat and, oh yes, that Cadillac. There weren't many such fancy cars on Main Street in those days so you would notice his car. I knew his name and that he lived in that mansion-like house on Annie Glidden Road. My friend Pam Smith told me that her grandmother, Elsie Smith, had lived and been a housekeeper at that house. Little did I know the story behind the man, so at a suggestion from Allan Aves, I interviewed Art Driscoll along with his daughter, Sue, and Lyn Tindall at Northwoods in Belvidere where he then lived. Art told the following story of Frank Hunter.

The well-to-do gentleman of comfortable means had started in much the same style in a town in Missouri. He successfully traded in cattle but then the Depression came along. Frank lost his fortune. He seemed to owe everyone in town, so he felt he needed to take drastic measures. He put his belongings in his car, drove to the Missouri River, parked his 1925 car, left his wallet with identification and a ring on the seat, and left his car. He hoped people would decide he had committed suicide. Instead, he hitchhiked to Chicago. He had no money so lived in a YMCA and spent his days hanging around the Chicago Stockyards. He became acquainted with Gene McAdams who dealt in cattle at the yards. McAdams offered him room and board and work in the Kirkland where his base of operation was. He boarded with Mrs. Shandlemeyer whose house was near the Methodist Church.

When McAdams went to South America on business, Frank was left to manage the 4-5 pens of cattle north of the tracks in Kirkland. At that time, the government made available corn stored in bins for 20 cents a bushel to farmers to help them feed their livestock. Frank managed to buy up all the corn in the area -- he then turned around and sold it to farmers for 50 cents a bushel. Art and two of my uncles, Harry and Marshall Tindall were hired to scoop it from the bins. Frank found the loophole in the program and made a fortune.

Frank took his profits and returned to Missouri to settle up to those he owed money. While there, he drove by his brother's farm and was seen by a nephew who said, "Vest is outside". (Frank's original name was Albert Vest Miller). All rejoiced that Frank was not dead and he paid what he owed to everyone.

Back in Kirkland, Frank and McAdams started buying and selling cattle and farms. They bought farms on Baseline Road, Route 72, and Annie Glidden Road. Art said that Frank bought the sheep yards from the railroad and later sold them to Brennans.

I didn't realize his colorful past was maybe common during the Depression, until my sister-in-law, Melody, related a similar story told by her grandfather on leaving Virginia for Florida.

Frank Hunter died of leukemia in 1959.