



# MCHS News

Sept 2017

Opening Doors to Madison County History

Vol. 5 No. 5

715 N Main Street  
Edwardsville, IL  
62025

**Archival Library  
Hours:**

Wed-Fri 9 am - 4 pm  
Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm  
Group Tours Available

**Museum :**

The museum is  
currently closed for  
renovation

**Phone:**

618-656-7569

**Web Address:**

madcohstory.org

**E-mail:**

info@madcohstory.org

**About Us:**

The MCHS museum complex, consisting of a modern archival library, a museum in the 1836 Weir House and the Helms Collection Center, is owned by the nonprofit Madison County Historical Society and operated jointly with Madison County.

The Madison County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

## THE WOOD RIVER REFINERY TURNS 100

by Mary Z. Rose, Assistant Curator  
Madison County Historical Museum

The Wood River Refinery celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. The refinery accounts for nearly 2 percent of the total U.S. petroleum processing capacity.

Industry experts predict that the world's energy consumption will continue to increase and will mostly be satisfied by fossil fuels. According to Chet Thompson, President and Chief Executive Officer of American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers: *"Petrochemicals are the building blocks of modern day life... Fuels and petrochemicals make the world a better place."* (Keynote speech, Wood River Refinery Annual Community Leaders' Dinner, 2017.)

EPA regulations have steadily mitigated the adverse impacts of gasoline on health and the environment. The refinery invests in innovative equipment and processes to reduce air pollutants in its gasoline and meet these evolving standards. Still, no one can really predict the future of petrochemical manufacturing or the Wood River Refinery.

But 100 years ago a scrappy young company on the leading edge of an energy revolution came to town.



*The Wood River Refinery, 2017. (Courtesy of the Wood River Refinery.)*

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

**2 P.M.**

**MADISON COUNTY ARCHIVAL LIBRARY**

**STEEL & SOLIDARITY  
IN GRANITE CITY**

**Presenter: Gary Gaines**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1**

**2 P.M.**

**MADISON COUNTY ARCHIVAL LIBRARY**

**ILLINOIS WOMEN OF 66**

**Presenter: Cheryl Eichar Jett**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

**2017 DINING IN HISTORY  
WOOD RIVER REFINERY  
(INVITATIONS COMING SOON!)**

**REMINDER**

**The Historical Museum  
Remains Closed for Renovations**



**The Archival Library is  
open regular hours.**

## ABOUT US

### MCHS BOARD

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Jon Parkin  
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Mary Westerhold  
Archival Research Mgr.  
LaVerne Bloemker  
Archival Research Asst.  
Carol Frisse  
Archival Research Asst.  
Jenn Van Bibber  
Curator  
Mary Z. Rose  
Asst. Curator

### VOLUNTEERS

There are abundant and varied opportunities for volunteers at either the museum or the archival library. Please call if interested.

### MEMBERSHIPS

Several membership levels are available to those interested in supporting the work of preserving Madison County history through an MCHS membership. Memberships run on the calendar year, Jan 1-Dec 31. Applications are available on our web site, at the MCHS Museum or at the Archival Library.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### MCHS NEWS

6 issues annually  
Cindy Reinhardt, Editor

## ARCHIVAL LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

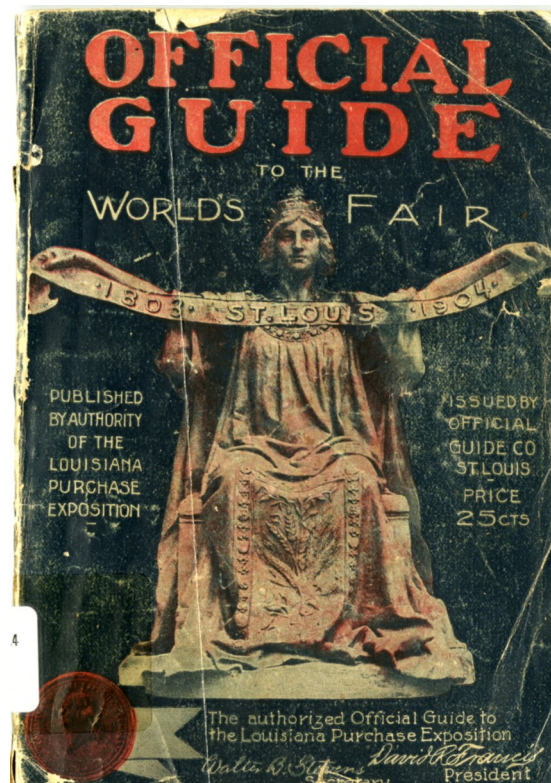
By Mary Westerhold

A recent question in a Facebook group was a reminder of the Archival Library's collection of memorabilia from the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. The World's Fair (aka the Louisiana Purchase Exposition) was open from April 30 through Dec. 1, 1904 and was a marvel in its time. Originally designed to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase in 1903, it became evident that the buildings would not be ready in time, and an extension was given for the Fair to begin in 1904. The Fair not only included exhibits from various countries and U.S. states, but also exhibits on the technological advances of the day such as electricity, automobiles, and advanced firefighting equipment, to name a few.

The Archival Library's collection includes souvenir booklets, postcards, an "Official Guide," prints, and books. One of the more fascinating items is a library edition of the "The Official Photographic Views of the Universal Exposition Held in Saint Louis, 1904." This large book sold for \$4.75 when it was published sometime after the Fair and contains over 300 pages of photos and descriptions. Another unique item is a personal photograph album donated by an individual that contains photos of the wrecking of the fair, including the wrecking of the "Great Observation Wheel." Because many local individuals were involved in the Fair, there is also a book recalling the participation of Illinois at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

With electricity lighting the evenings and the excitement of the exhibits and amusements, it was a magical seven months for area citizens. When the Fair ended, it was time to return to the normal workings of the

city. The process of removal of the fair buildings and structures started on Dec. 2, 1904, the day after the closing of the fair. The Dec. 3, 1904, edition of the *St. Louis Republic* described the feeling in St. Louis on Dec. 2:



"A day of somberness, so bereft of cheer and sunshine that it seemed perfectly attune to the mental attitude of all St. Louis at the end of the Fair."

But not everything was destroyed. Some buildings and items were sold and repurposed.

*Continued page 8*

## MUSEUM SPOTLIGHT

By Jenn Van Bibber

At Highland's St. Joseph's Hospital, Gray Ladies preformed numerous duties such as greeting patients and administrative functions. The Madison County Chapter of the American Red Cross sponsored the Gray Ladies who volunteered eight hours a month at the hospital.

An *Edwardsville Intelligencer* article from September 1963, stated that 30 women from Edwardsville, Highland, Marine, and Alhambra participated in the service. All volunteers had a probationary period following mandatory training. After completing the requirements, the new Gray Ladies received their

caps and certificates.

Elsie Rotter Leuschke [1916-1995] volunteered as a Grey Lady in the early 1960s. Her uniform, cap, and name badge were donated to the museum in July of this year.



*Uniform donated to MCHS by the estate of Ralph Joseph Leuschke.*



## FALL PROGRAMS FROM MCHS

### Steel and Solidarity in Granite City Sunday, Sept 10, 2 p.m.

Madison County Archival Library

According to presenter Gary Gaines, steelmaking in Granite City was almost an accident. The Niedringhaus brothers started their business across the river. But St. Louis leaders didn't like the noise, dirt or the smell of the factories so suggested they look for another location. This is the story of how they built their small enamel cookware business into a sprawling steel mill that, unfortunately, today sits partly idle.

It is also the story of how the men they hired brought their old craft guild skills and values to the job and formed union lodges. When Andrew Carnegie, Henry Frick and Elbert Gary were destroying unions in their mills – the lodges flourished in Granite City – with the blessing of the Niedringhaus family. The union men took over city government and “socialism” ruled for nearly thirty years.

Presenter Gary Gaines is a life-long resident of the Granite City area and third generation steelworker who was first hired at Granite City Steel in 1970. His grandfather Louis Madsen was a founding member of the union there. His father, an uncle, wife Norma, two brothers, and three cousins have been employed there. He retired in 2008 from the Security Department.

During his employment he also served in every elected position in his local union of security officers and was elected Financial Secretary when five local unions in the plant merged. He also served as a health and safety representative for many years and travelled to other USW sites to train workers. Upon his retirement, he was the senior peer trainer for the entire union.



### Adventurers, Crusaders & Entrepreneurs The Women of Illinois Route 66 Sunday, Oct 1, 2 p.m.

Madison County Archival Library

From the adventurous Gypsy Coeds to the crusading Mother Jones, from hospitality entrepreneurs to theater and ballroom operators, award-winning author Cheryl Eichar Jett tells the stories of women along Illinois's 300 miles of Route 66. A slide show accompanies Jett's stories of the women and their contributions to what we celebrate as the culture of Route 66.



Cheryl Eichar Jett

Jett is a nationally recognized authority on Route 66 and the author of six books on America's favorite highway. She is a regular contributor to several regional publications including *The 66 News*, the *Route 66 Association of Illinois* magazine and a regular column on Route 66 in the *Prairie Land Buzz*. She is currently working on a book about women on historic Route 66 and is presenting programs and producing magazine articles based on her research in advance of the book's publication. She blogs about her travels and research at [www.route66chick.com](http://www.route66chick.com). Jett is also an award-winning writer of short fiction.

Jett holds undergraduate and master's degrees in history from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She lives in Edwardsville and currently serves on the board of directors of Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway and as President of the (Illinois Route 66) Blue Carpet Corridor Coalition.

## RECENT MCHS NEWS

### RENOVATION SET-BACK

There's an old saying "One Step Forward, Two Steps Back" that unfortunately seems to apply to the Museum's renovation schedule. While waiting on bids for the HVAC system, the staff discovered that the newly renovated roof was leaking. This caused additional plaster damage inside the building, but fortunately artifacts had not been returned to the rooms since installation of the HVAC system also requires that artifacts be removed.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MCHS memberships all renew on the first of the year which makes a membership in MCHS a thoughtful Christmas gift. Please keep us in mind when you start those Christmas lists (I know it's early, but you can never start too soon.)

Please keep the Historical Society in mind when planning your holiday shopping by purchasing gift memberships or any of the regional publications available through the Society's Gift Shop located in the Madison County Archival Library.

## NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

May - June 2017 ♦ Thank you for supporting MCHS!

**\$100 James Madison**  
Sarah Smith-Raschen

**\$50 Family**  
David and Kay Werner

**\$35 Individual**  
Bill & Miriam Burns  
Norma Helwig Glazebrook

## BIRTH OF ROXANA

Roxana Petroleum built a handful of homes at the plant for supervisors and several dozen cottages nearby for employees. But most workers lived in Alton. Laborers rode the streetcar to the end of the line in Hartford and then walked another mile to the refinery. In bad weather, some chose to stay the night at the plant.

The community around the refinery started to take off when Raymond O. Hancock & Co. built housing nearby. These "Hancock Houses" lured more laborers to the otherwise unpopulated area. In early 1921, residents petitioned the county and state to incorporate as the Village of Roxana.

The 1930 United States Census counted 1,140 residents in Roxana. Refinery workers living in Roxana included engineers, foremen, pipefitters, fire-fighters, machinists, electricians, welders, and painters. The census recorded chauffeurs, clerks, janitors, and even a gardener and a registered nurse who worked at the refinery.

Over the next decade, the village's population grew by 20 percent. By 1941, Roxana's children attended local schools and could catch a movie at the Roxana Theatre. The village also had its own fire department. The refinery contributed more than 90 percent of the tax revenue funding these amenities.

## REFINERY BEGINNINGS

Wood River was a growing community in the early 1900s. By 1910, Wood River had annexed East Wood River. The expansion left the rough town of Benbow City surrounded on three sides.

In 1916, Royal Dutch-Shell decided to expand Roxana Petroleum to include transporting, refining, producing, and selling petroleum products in the middle of the United States. The company researched locations in the St.

Louis region. They chose Wood River because of its proximity to main railroad lines and the Mississippi River water source. The company paid just under \$35,000 for a 172-acre tract of farmland a few miles south of Wood River.

Construction on the refinery began in 1917. The refinery's 175 workers started processing crude oil in September of 1918. Processing capacity soon reached **16,000 barrels of crude a day**.



Benbow City Saloon - 1908

Above: Benbow City Saloon, 1908. (MCHS) At right: Wood River Refinery construction, circa 1917-1918. Photo by Mr. Koch. (MCHS)

Benbow City had a bad reputation as a place full of taverns and lawlessness. The city quickly became a problem for the growing area. In 1917, Wood River held an election and annexed Benbow City.

In the meantime, Royal Dutch-Shell sent Marcus Abrahams to Oklahoma to invest in oil-producing properties. The parent company formed Roxana Petroleum in 1912. (Abrahams' wife named Roxana after Alexander the Great's first wife.)



## AMERICA FALLS IN LOVE WITH THE AUTOMOBILE

Automobile sales in America took off in the years following World War I. Increased demand for gasoline led to innovations in "cracking." Cracking used pressurization to break apart molecules in fuel oil and kerosene to increase gasoline yield. C.P. Dubbs patented his "clean circulation" cracking process in 1921. (C.P. Dubbs often went by the name "Carbon Petroleum" Dubbs. His father was responsible for one of the processes that create petroleum jelly – Vaseline.)

The Wood River Refinery began constructing a Dubbs unit in March of 1920. Dubbs himself stayed onsite to troubleshoot implementation. By late 1922, the refinery had worked out

the bugs and construction of six more Dubbs units soon followed.

During the Roaring Twenties, mass production made cars more affordable for the average person. More than 23 million passenger cars zoomed along new paved roads in 1929. The refinery's crude processing capacity reached **35,000 barrels per day**.

The decade also marked the re-branding of the Roxana Petroleum Company. In 1924, the company began selling its products under the Shell name and logo. Roxana Petroleum became Shell Petroleum in 1928.

## THE DEPRESSION HITS HOME

Everything changed in 1930. Consumer purchases of durable goods – including cars – dropped drastically. After over a decade of increasing demand for gasoline, Shell Petroleum faced a shrinking market and plummeting prices. Fifty percent of the company's employees lost their jobs. The Wood River Refinery shut down half its Dubbs units within two years. The Great Depression had just begun.

Shell began exploring new markets to fill the hole left by the automobile industry. Low fuel oil prices made oil burners, which had been developed for home heating during the coal shortages of World War I, more popular. Demand for kerosene, an alternative to coal and wood for fueling kitchen ranges and water heaters, also rose. The nascent commercial aviation industry represented another growing market.

Premium gasoline could command a higher price. In 1927, the Wood River Refinery produced a premium gasoline marketed as "Super-Shell." Consumers paid 3 cents more per gallon for Super-Shell gas. When the Wood River Refinery built a new vapor-phase cracking unit, the resulting 70-octane gasoline matched that of the old Super-Shell gas. In 1933, Shell Petroleum replaced its regular gasoline with this new iteration of Super-Shell, marketing it as

"premium gasoline at the price of regular." Sales skyrocketed.

Technological innovation and savvy advertising kept the refinery busy. In 1935, the Wood River Refinery's 2,300 employees processed **46,000 barrels of crude oil a day**. But the Depression still hit Shell Petroleum hard. The company didn't show a profit for the first half of the decade.

In 1936, Shell Petroleum examined projected demand, anticipated supplies, and facility requirements. The conclusion: invest in the Wood River Refinery. The company decided to build a gasoline pipeline from Wood River to Ohio. The pipeline would vastly and permanently reduce delivery transportation costs. The 450-mile pipeline went into operation in 1938.

The same year, the company shut down its refineries in Arkansas City and East Chicago, concentrating mid-continent production in Wood River. An expansion and modernization of the Wood River Refinery completed in

1940 increased the facility's daily processing capacity to **75,000 barrels**.

In 1939, the Roxana Petroleum Company merged with Shell Oil Company out of San Francisco and Shell Eastern to create Shell Oil Company, Inc.



1928 Super Shell visible-register 10-gallon gasoline pump, displayed at the Missouri History Museum April 25, 2017. (Mary Z. Rose.)

## THREE STRIKES

The Wood River Refinery went its first 18 years without a workers' strike. But on July 12, 1936, the Operating Engineers Union walked out when a union member was fired. The strike stopped production for a month.

In August of 1950, the Pipefitters Union and Asbestos Workers Union went on strike when contract renewal negotiations concerning wages failed. Other unions joined them over the course of the strike, which lasted for 33 days.

But the longest strike at the Wood River Refinery began August 18, 1962. Disagreement about pay raises was just one of many intractable obstacles to resolution. The strike involved 2,100 operating and maintenance workers from thirteen different unions.

Acrimony and even violence marked the long strike. An altercation between picketing strikers and company employees ended with a derailed boxcar and a visit to the emergency room. Late one night, someone fired a shotgun into the refinery manager's house. People in a passing car shot at a striking laborer. Someone blew up a 20-inch reinforced concrete water main supplying water to the refinery.

The strike finally ended in February of 1963. It had lasted for over five months.

## THE WOOD RIVER REFINERY AND WWII

About 95 percent of production at the refinery during World War II involved products for the military. Refinery crews manufactured large amounts of toluene for Allied bombs. (Toluene is the second "T" in TNT: tri-nitro-toluene.) They developed and pioneered production of a special anti-rust lubricating turbine oil for the U.S. Navy. They tested engines for the U.S. Ordnance Department and the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

The 100-octane gas that Wood River produced for the U.S. Army Air Corps earned the employees special recognition. The Army-Navy "E" Award for manufacturing excellence

went, for the first time, to one of the nation's oil refineries. In the award ceremony, Navy Commander W.F. Veatch praised the refinery, saying: *"You of the Wood River Refinery are coming through just as much as our soldiers, sailors, and marines. Every time you beat a production schedule, every time you devise a more efficient method of refining, every time you give your individual job that 'extra something,' you are bringing the day of peace that much nearer."* (Page 41, *The Wonder at Wood River*.)

By the end of World War II, the refinery's capacity had increased to **95,000 barrels daily**.

## TEMPORARY NAME CHANGE

In 1973, the Wood River Refinery posted a personal best crude oil processing average of **274,000 barrels a day**. The refinery broke its record in 1977 when it averaged **283,000 barrels**. It broke it again the next year with **287,000 barrels daily**.

But the refinery also had to deal with crude oil supply interruptions during the 1970s. OPEC raised prices and individual oil-producing countries instituted embargoes. In response to the resulting oil crises and gasoline shortages, American consumers made adjustments to their fuel consumption. Demand for gasoline declined by the end of the decade.

Beginning in 1976, the Wood River Refinery began to produce chemical products in addition to petroleum products. The campus' acetone plant went into service in 1980. Acetone customers included manufacturers of such diverse products as fingernail polish, paint, adhesives, pharmaceuticals, and helmets. By 1981, the refinery was running at 69 percent capacity and crude oil processing had decreased to **200,000 barrels a day**.

A name change in 1981 to the Wood River Manufacturing Complex, symbolically affirmed the facility's new direction. However, the experiment in diversification ended in 2000 when the facility stopped producing non-petroleum products.

## TORNADOES, A FLOOD AND TRAGIC EXPLOSIONS

Immediately after World War II ended, Americans lined up at any service stations that had survived wartime rationing. Farmers began using the rust-inhibiting turbine oils originally manufactured for the Navy. Business continued to be good for the Wood River Refinery.

But a flood interrupted the local post-war boom on June 30, 1947. The waters of the Mississippi River breached a levee about ten miles south of the refinery. A few days later, the two pipelines supplying crude oil to the refinery burst. It took pipeline crews four days to repair a line and restore operations.

In the spring following the flood, a twister touched down in communities near the refinery where many employees lived. The next year another tornado devastated parts of Wood River and Roxana. Finally, in December 1949 and January 1950 two tornadoes found the Shell refinery itself. The damage shut down the lube processing and de-asphalting plants.

A grave tragedy of a different sort struck the refinery on September 17, 1951. As night crew workers prepped the Dubbs 17 cracking unit for routine cleaning, oil trapped in the bottom of the unit ignited. The explosion killed four men instantly. It took more than 100 firefighters to subdue the resulting fire. Blazes reached to 50 feet high and men ran screaming from the scene, their clothing in flames. Initial casualties included 13 deaths and 20 injured. The death toll ultimately rose to eighteen.



*Photo of March 19, 1948 tornado devastation in Fosterburg. This car belonged to Harvey Challengsworth. (MCHS)*

### Another tragic explosion

In the winter of 1984-1985, moisture in an exterior propane gas line near the "D and D" dewaxing and de-asphalting building froze and cracked the four-inch pipe. On January 23, 1985, the sun came out and melted the ice. Gas escaped through the now opened crack.

The cloud of gas found its way into the "D and D" building where a heater pilot light ignited it. The explosion and fire nearly obliterated the "D and D" building, killing one worker and injuring seven others. Flames leapt 150 feet high. Refinery firefighters controlled the blaze within an hour, but it continued to burn for five days. The explosion could be heard eight miles away and broke windows in the South Roxana community.

## OIL BEATS COAL, COMPUTERS ARRIVE AND THE REFINERY INNOVATES

Oil displaced coal as the primary source of energy in America in 1950.

The Wood River Refinery opened the decade processing **140,000 barrels of crude a day** and employing 4,000 people. It owed the increased capacity in large part to a new, 22-inch pipeline delivering crude from Cushing, Oklahoma. The refinery underwent several more major expansions in the 1950s.

A main office for organizational support staff opened in 1955. The office was equipped with a three-ton IBM 650 data processor.

The refinery employed approximately 2,400 workers in the 1960s. An additional 1,000 support staff included about 200 scientists in the research laboratory. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office issued dozens of patents to Wood River employees in the 1960s, the research facility's heyday. The refinery processed **185,000 barrels of crude a day**, converting it into automotive and aviation gasoline, light distillates and kerosene, domestic heating oil and diesel fuel, heavy fuel oils, lubricating oils, and other products.

# POST-SHELL AT THE WOOD RIVER REFINERY



Wood River Refinery construction, circa 1917-1918. Photo by Mr. Koch. (MCHS)

After over 80 years of being run by Shell, the Wood River Refinery became the property of a Shell-Texaco joint venture called Equilon in 1998. In 1999, refining capacity soared to **295,000 barrels of crude a day**. The refinery employed 1,050 people, including 640 union employees.

Tosco Corp. purchased the refinery from Equilon in 2000. The new owner shifted emphasis from diversification back to petroleum product production. It also reduced the workforce from 920 workers down to 700.

In 2001, Phillips Petroleum Co. purchased Tosco Corp. A few months later, Phillips announced its imminent merger with Conoco to form ConocoPhillips.

The Wood River Refinery got authorization from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for a major upgrade in 2008. The three-year, \$3.8 billion CORE (Coker and Refinery Expansion) project equipping the refinery to process Canadian Alberta oil sands crude began in 2009. As State Senator Bill Haine said: *"We'll be buying Canadian oil, not Middle Eastern oil. ... We won't be buying from half-crazed people in the Middle East and shipping our hard-earned dollars over there so they can ship back fanatics over here."* ("\$2 billion refinery work gets OK" by Dennis Grubaugh in *The Telegraph*, Sept. 11, 2008)

Today WRB Refining LP, an equal partner-

ship between Phillips 66 and Cenovus Energy, owns the refinery. The 2,200-acre facility operated by Phillips 66 employs 885 people. The refinery's three crude units process **314,000 barrels of crude daily**. About half of the crude becomes gasoline and a quarter becomes diesel fuel. One eighth of the crude transforms into jet fuel, delivered directly to St. Louis Lambert International Airport via pipeline and fulfilling 99 percent of the airport's needs. The facility also generates asphalt for road surfacing.

The scrappy young company of 1917 has matured into a sophisticated industry competitor. The story of the Wood River Refinery continues to unfold.



The Wood River Refinery, 2017. (Wood River Refinery.)

## REFINERY TOWN THE GOOD AND BAD

Supported by refinery tax revenue, the village of Roxana prospered. In 1957, Roxana treasurer W.R. Armes boasted of its amenities:

*"[T]here are now three large grocery stores, two garages, dry goods store, lumber yard, hardware store, two coal and ice dealers, service station, two cabinet and wood-working plants, real estate and insurance offices, two electrical and appliance dealers, dry cleaners, bicycle shop, a general fix-it shop, several beauty shops and numerous small enterprises. There is also a large theater and two photo shops."* (Section 3, p. 6-7 of *The Journal (Wood River)*, vol. 38, no. 3, Thursday, Sept. 19, 1957.)

The 1960 census counted 2,090 Roxana residents. Living near the refinery meant tolerating frequent noxious odors and occasional dangerous explosions. Lightning strikes posed the greatest threat to the Wood River Refinery's "tank farm" of petrochemical storage tanks. Explosions shook the homes of refinery neighbors.

But automation eventually rendered many refinery jobs obsolete. Employment at the refinery dwindled to 1,800 employees by 1985. Roxana's population declined and aged. By the end of the first decade of the 2000s, people over the age of 54 accounted for 26% of Roxana's 1,542 residents.



## Madison County Historical Society

*Opening Doors to Madison County History*

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### WOOD RIVER REFINERY MUSEUM

The Wood River Refinery Museum will be a part of the Dining in History tour in November, but if you are unable to attend, the museum is located at 900 S. Central Ave in Roxanna. Hours are Wed.-Thurs., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free (618-255-3718)

Established in 1986 by a group of refinery retirees, the museum opened in its current location in 1993. This gem of a museum is a bit off the beaten track, but worth a visit. A documentary film and well organized displays showcase over a thousand artifacts and photographs from the former Shell Refinery. An archive of refinery newsletters provides a record of employee accomplishments over the years for those interested in family history. A highlight of the museum is a modified 1924 Chevy that for many years held the fuel mileage record in the Shell Mileage Marathon: 168 mpg.

### 1904 WORLD'S FAIR (CONT. FROM PAGE 2)

The book "Still Shining" by Diane Rademacher describes this process and relates the locations of some of the salvaged items and buildings. Many buildings throughout the area claim to have parts of various World's Fair buildings, although tracing the smaller pieces is difficult if not impossible. But the memories have been preserved to show current generations that the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair was indeed a marvel!



*A scene showing demolition of the 1904 World's Fair from an album donated to MCHS in 1972 by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Nicolaides .*  
(MCHS)

### MARY'S RESEARCH TIP

#### FamilySearch.org Wiki

Have you ever searched the FamilySearch Wiki? While the thought of a Wiki may bring to mind Wikipedia and unreliable information, the FamilySearch Wiki can answer many genealogy questions. For example, have you ever wondered about the various rules and requirements for Naturalizations over the years? I googled "Naturalization Laws" and scrolled down the page through several Wikipedia articles until I saw the FamilySearch.org Wiki result. I had forgotten about this resource!

The Wiki concisely listed the basic requirements of each U.S. Naturalization Law from 1790 through 1990. (Fun Fact: The Act of March 3, 1903 prohibited anarchists from obtaining citizenship.)

To access the FamilySearch Wiki directly, go to FamilySearch.org and select Search from the menus above the photo on the main page. Click on "Wiki", the bottom option in the drop down menu. This brings you to the search page for the Wiki. Type in your search and select from the results. There is a wealth of information just waiting to be found!