

# THE DAVID EVANS GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Town of Evans Historical Society

Published Quarterly.....April, 2018

The purpose of the society shall be to bring together those people interested in history, and especially in the history of the Town of Evans. The society's major function will be to discover and collect any material which may help establish or illustrate the history of the area. The society will provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility...

## **Program Notes**

Programs scheduled for the following months:

Monday, April 30 – School days in old District #2, presented by Ida Catalino Cannavo. Mrs. Cannavo attended District #2 school as a student many years ago. She will share stories of typical school days in the old schoolhouse which is now our museum.

Monday, May 21 – ‘Navy Seabees in the Antarctica during the Cold War’, presented by Bob Manke.

Monday, June 18 - ‘Indian Artifacts found in our area’, presented by Jim Bucki.

Monday, July 23 – ‘History of Local Boy Scout Troop 528’, presented by Harry Watkins

All programs are held at the School House Museum beginning at 7:00 pm

## **Welcome New Member**

Bob Sutehall

## **Recent Acquisitions at the Museum**

Old “Angola Record” newspaper clippings found in the walls of Hattie Merry’s house on Erie Road near Gold Street.

Book entitled ‘Verses’ authored by Gertrude Kellogg Clarke, donated by Doreen Miller

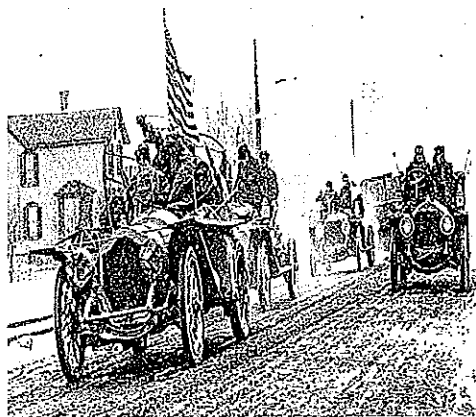
Picture of ‘Ladies of Derby. 1945’, ladies from the estates along Lake Shore Road, donated by Alexandra Esty Stock

## The Great Race Celebration

In 1908 the automobile 'Great Race' took place from New York City to Paris, France. It passed through Evans on a dirt road now known as Route 5. Initially, the race did not have an American entry and was encouraged by President Teddy Roosevelt to enter a Thomas Flyer auto that was made in Buffalo. A gentleman from Springville named George Schuster was at the wheel of the car. To the surprise of many individuals the 'Flyer' won the race after 169 grueling days. Only three cars of the six entries finished the race. Ironically as the "Thomas Flyer" passed through Evans on a cold February 17, 1908 day the car needed a damaged tire replaced. Near Evans Center the tire was changed and the jack used to lift the car was left behind. A farmer found the jack after the snow melted and it is now on display in a museum in Springville.

Of importance to history buffs and Evans residents the "Great Race" will be reenacted this year during the 110th anniversary of its journey. Several cars will pass by our museum on Saturday, June 23. Approximately fifteen 90 year old vehicles will participate in the reenactment. The group will leave the Pierce-Arrow museum in Buffalo at 10 a.m. and it is estimated they will arrive in Evans about 10:30. Unfortunately, they will not be able to stop at our museum because they must arrive in Western Ohio before dusk.

Shown below are photos of the 1908 race. The picture on the right shows the changing of the damaged tire which occurred in Evans



### Trivia

1. In 1939 the Buffalo and Erie Coach Corp. buses stopped daily in Angola. How many buses stopped each day for Angola residents? 1) 12 2) 6 3) 30 4) 22
2. The first movie theater opened in Angola in 1914 and was known as the: 1) Angola Theater 2) Bijou 3) New Angola Theater 4) Star Theater
3. The North Evans Fire District was established by resolution of the Erie County Board of Supervisors in the year: 1) 1945 2) 1928 3) 1921 4) 1950
4. One of the hospitals located in Angola was the Moser Hospital on North Main Street in the village. The number of beds available for patients was: 1) 7 2) 12 3) 20 4) 10

*( Answers on last page )*

### **First Church of Evans Bicentennial Celebration 1818 – 2018**

The First Church of Evans was organized at Jerusalem Corners on **July 4, 1818** by the Rev. John Spencer, a circuit minister. There were 12 original members. In early 1822, the congregation met and organized under the name First Congregational Church and Society, Evans, First Church of Evans. During the early years services were held in two school houses in the area. The first church building was dedicated in December 1835. The church was formally incorporated under the name The First Church of Evans in August 1912. A fire on February 29, 1914 totally destroyed the church building. A new church structure was built and dedicated on February 28, 1915 remaining as a house of worship today. The church campus has been designated a New York State Historical Site as well as a National Historical Site.

On **Saturday, July 7, 2018** a bicentennial celebration will be held at the First Church of Evans on Sturgeon Point Road in Derby. A Service of Remembrance will be held followed by a catered dinner. The public is invited and should call the church office at (716) 947-5419 for additional information.

*Submitted by Kathy Allen*

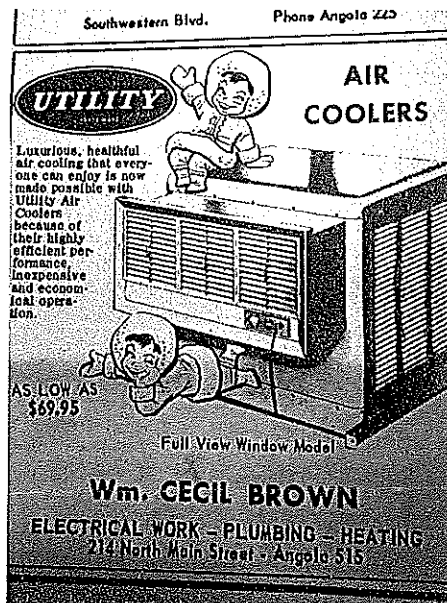
## Dear David

Q: Bennett Beach located on Old Lake Shore Road is a county owned park. Do you know any of the history of that park?

A: In 1939 the park was known as Buffalo City Park. It was a 50 acre parcel formerly known as the Bennett farm. The beach was staffed by 5 lifeguards and had a bathhouse that contained 2,000 lockers for the bathers. Diving platforms were also available. Two softball diamonds and a tennis court were open to all visitors. Picnic tables, benches, gas hotplates and shelters were available for picnickers. A parking fee of 25c entitled visitors to all facilities at the park.

## Cool Off This Summer??!!

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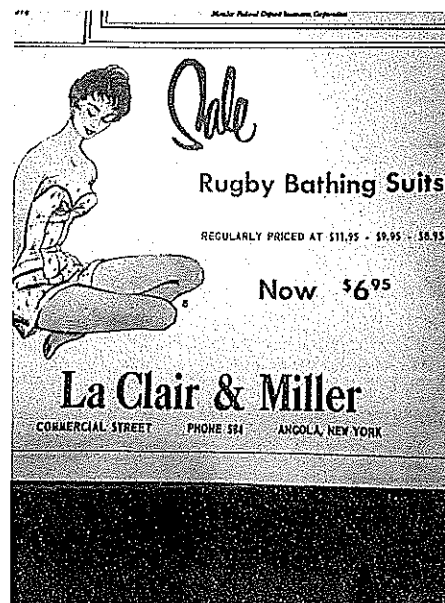
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Yes! You certainly could cool off in the hot summer of the 1950's. Just visit Wm. Cecil Brown on North Main Street in Angola for the finest of air coolers. This equipment was an inexpensive alternate to air conditioners.

Or go to the beach for the day at the Evans Town Park with this beautiful swimsuit. Only cost \$6.95 on sale at LaClair and Miller on Commercial Street in Angola.

## Do You Remember?

*Editor's Note: While reviewing old copies of the "Evans Journal" we noticed advertisements of many businesses which no longer exist.*

Baldwin's Record and Hobby Shop, 11 North Main Street, Angola, phone 610. Advertises a coupon worth 89c with the purchase of 5 records at the store.

Lake Shore Playhouse – now playing, "The Moon is Blue". Admission \$1.35, Reserved seats \$1.80, Start time: 8:15.  
Located on Old Lake Shore Road, Derby.

Stocker's Auto Sales, 41 Commercial Street, Phone 106. Get a new Plymouth for \$1926.

Riker's Red and White, Evans Center, Phone 608-R,  
Campbell's Tomato Soup 10c, Scott Tissue 10c

## News From the Past

State approves funds for Evangola State Park...one of the last acts of the state legislature was the appropriation of \$140,00 for the development of the park. (Source: Evans Journal, 3/25/1954)

From North Evans – Mr. Spittler now carries the mail by horsepower.  
(Source: Angola Record, 11/12/1885)

Wm. Bolton of Evans Center has lately burned a large kiln of bricks for his many customers. (Source: Angola Record, 9/23/1886)

Froehley and Friend are building an addition to their furniture store to be used as a casket room. (Source: Angola Record, 4/15/1886)

**Trivia Answers:** 1.(3) 2.(4) 3.(2) 4.(1)

### Membership

If you haven't had the opportunity to renew your membership for the year 2018, please complete the application below and mail to: Evans Historical Society, c/o Evans Town Hall, 8787 Erie Road, Angola, N.Y. 14006. Dues are \$15 for an individual and \$20 for families. **Please note that the membership year runs from April 1 through March 31 with annual payment due by April 1.** New members are always welcomed.

#### Application for Membership

Name _____			
Address _____		Phone _____	
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	
E Mail _____		(check one) Individual ___ Family ___	

#### Historical Society Officers

President: Giff Swyers

Vice President: Dennis Kingan

Treasurer: Caryl Youngers

Secretaries: Mary Jayne Ginnitti, Brigitte Boyer

Board of Directors: Kathy Allen Jim Dinkuhn Rick LaClair Charlotte Moss  
Shirley Pfalzgraf Judy Groh Smith Keith Young

Editor of Newsletter: John Claghorn II

Town Historian: Keith Young

*Evans Historical Society, Chartered by the Board of Regents 1972*  
*NY State Department of Education*  
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