

almanac

from the
Lake County Star

100 years ago

March 9, 1906

Lumberman Root says there are more buildings in prospect for Crown Point the coming summer than he has known since he came here. The residences of Clayton Root, Recorder Jones, Miss Charlton, and others. It is thought that 25 residences will go up here before the snow flies next winter.

If you want Andrew Carnegie to build a \$10,000 library building in Crown Point go before the town board and tell them. If you think \$1,000 is too much for the place to spend in a year to keep it up tell it.

Of course, it is expected that some public spirited citizen will give the site, which the town must furnish.

60 years ago

March 8, 1946

Despite the preponderance of adverse opinion, expressed in the "pro-and-con" discussion and informal voting following Cedar Lake Civic Club's regular session, work will continue to incorporate the town.

The gathering of more than 250 represented residents of both Center and Hanover townships.

A large delegation from Hanover was outspoken in opposition, even though only Center Township is thinking of incorporating.

Although the floor of the meeting was open to anyone the Hanover Township residents confined themselves largely to heckling and in some instances insulting those who had invited them to attend this meeting.

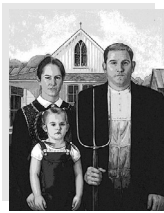
20 years ago

Feb. 13, 1986

Cutting out extracurricular activities in order to keep basic studies strong, along with closing a school, eliminating some electives and cutting teachers were ideas presented to the Crown Point School Board to balance the budget next year.

Do you have a favorite memory or photo for the Almanac? Submit ideas to abuell@post-trib.com

Art Adventure I Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski



We all have childhood memories of playing with our favorite toys. I remember my favorite; it was driving my Big Wheel down a long gravel road during the hot summers in Austin, Texas. Thirty years later, my daughter enjoys the same thrill of racing the Big Wheel down the smooth sidewalks in the neighborhood.



Throughout the '70s, '80s and '90s, the Big Wheel maintained its popularity. In 2003 the Big Wheel was reintroduced to the market place. Recently Disney opened the Pop Century Resort, a nostalgic toy-themed hotel park with a three-story replica of the Big Wheel as a major focal point.

Other large-scale toy sculptures include Mr. Potato Head, Rubik's Cube, Play-Doh can and Foosball players.

The art of painting antique toys and the art of collecting antique toys merge together in passion, dedication, exuberance and perseverance. The art of antique toy paintings is well represented by the Fred Holly and Julie Sklar exhibition "Standing Still," currently on display at the Steeple Gallery in St. John. A

Lake County Election Board news

In the Democratic primary race Lowell Councilman **Al Bachman** tried to get Lowell Police Lt. **Shane Tucker** removed from the ballot and lost.

Tucker gets to stay in the race so people in the town of Lowell will have a choice in the primary in May.

Benjamin Vickers was not as fortunate. He has been removed from the Republican precinct committeeman race in Crown Point District 7. When he voted in his last primary race he voted as a Democrat.

Before any vote was taken by the Lake County Election Board **Nick Gasparovic** withdrew his name from the Winfield

number of paintings contain antique toys as the subject matter. Both Holly and Sklar won awards in the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. Their paintings are featured in a children's art board game produced by the museum.



Holly said, "During World War II there weren't a lot of toys. Toys made of metal were given to the war effort. We had to play with wooden toys or heavy cardboard. The reason I like to paint these now is to enjoy the toys of the past. It's my way of preserving my memories."



Sklar explains, "The old toys have character. They have colors, textures, illustrations and a uniqueness we will never see again. They were often made out of tin and meant to last. Even the illustrations on the boxes of games were an art form. Now, all toys are made with safety requirements and are manufactured and packaged in hard-to-open plastic. There are no new tin toys. Most of the toys I paint are from my

Kitty Conley's

Scratching Post

Township board race.

At the request of incumbent school board member **Judy Katz** one of her opponents **Sharon Fleming** was removed from the Crown Point School Board at-large ballot. Fleming lives in the city of Crown Point and the two city seats are not up for election this time.

... **Jim Hawk** is giving again, when he thought no one was looking. The St. Jude House and YMCA raffle house will once again be in Hawk's Feather Rock subdivision and again built by **Dean Jones** at Mirar Development.

To keep the costs down

own personal toy collection. Unfortunately, these toys are becoming very rare."

The art of collecting antique toys began at an early age for Schererville resident Mike Karberg.

"When I was a kid, Batman was king," he said. "The television show made its debut in 1966,



resulting in a blizzard of Batman-related merchandise. My parents said I only ate food with a Batman endorsement. I only wore Batman pajamas and only ate with my Batman and Robin fork and spoon set. I lived, breathed Batman.

"In the early '70s Batman reruns began along with cartoons featuring bats. This started a new wave of Batman merchandise. Somewhere in this time is when the collecting bug hit me. I started saving my superhero comic books



and soon I had several dozen and

Hawk drastically reduced the price of the lot again this year.

Tickets will go on sale this spring. This year's house is a 2 1/2 car garage, full basement, three bedroom, two bath, 2,200-square-foot ranch house with a market value of \$400,000.

Get your money ready to take a chance on prizes and helping these fine charities.

... **Ed Robinson** is the new part-time director of operations in Cedar Lake. He will run the street department. He was not at the department head meeting on Feb. 28. It was to have been his first day with the town but he has not yet been released from the doctor for work.

was able to call them a collection."

Karberg said waiting for his monthly issue wasn't enough.

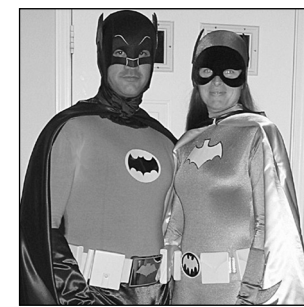
"I began accompanying my aunt to flea markets and antique shows in search of back issues, both plentiful and cheap. I did this for several years and amassed about a thousand comic books. These were banished to the basement when I discovered more important things like girls, cars and motorcycles."

A decade later Karberg met the woman who became his wife. They began visiting antique shows and the collecting bug hit Karberg in the late '80s.

"The dealers were selling the 1960s Batman toys, the same ones I cherished as a child," he said. "Like a crazed toy junkie, I couldn't get enough. My need to obtain every 1966 bat item out there was so great that before long, I was buying and selling all kinds of character toys at swap meets and toy shows all across the county just to support my habit.

"Soon this hobby would inter-

fere with my real job, so I got rid of that and have been a full-time toy and collectible dealer for nearly 15 years. I've been lucky enough to be able to bring the same joy of toy collecting to others by helping them expand their collections."



When Karberg and his wife, Dawn, aren't busy fighting crime, they own and operate Blue Mirror Vintage and can be reached at (219) 201-1640.

What antique toy is your passion? Send Sam an e-mail at samowner@sbcglobal.net, or call her at (219) 365-1014.

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