

# Byron Forest Preserve District

## Newsletter

### Board of Commissioners:

Dr. R.M. Jarrett, President  
Margaret Adams, Secretary & Treasurer  
Grant Bullock, Commissioner

Gene Paquet, Commissioner  
Gene Wilmarth, Commissioner  
Jack F. Philbrick, Director

1989 Vol. 2

(815) 234-8535

FALL ISSUE

Byron Forest Preserve District

7993 River Rd.

Byron, Illinois 61010

### Golf Course, Yes! 4.4 Million, No!

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board authorized its director to initiate contract negotiations with a leading architect after holding architect interviews and viewing, in person and on film, courses built by Mr. James Spear.

Spear, a 30-year resident architect in Illinois, has given the board initial indications that the course will be constructed for less than \$3 million. The board has gone on record that they will not build a \$4.4 million course as proposed by their master planners.

The board has studied a plan, proposed by Director Jack Philbrick, that permits the cost of the course to be funded without taxation. Only income from golf would be used to pay for the course. "Only in the event of an individual bad year, such as a drought, would general funds be used until paid back," Director Philbrick said. Director Philbrick's plan will be presented, with board modifications, to their bonding firm this month.

Some of the highlights of the proposal include the following:

1. Reduction of initial clubhouse cost of construction from \$410,000 to \$200,000.
2. Elimination of season passes for all golfers during the first two years.
3. Retaining control of all income from carts, food, and pro shop in place of subcontracting initially.
4. Providing reduced fees to district residents.
5. Providing resident and non-resident reservation service for minimal fees.
6. Providing landscaping with Byron Forest Preserve Staff.

If the board adopts all points proposed and initiates the construction document with a successful bidder by April 1990, the course is expected to open completely in spring 1992.

### HANDI-FOAM DONATED TO DISTRICT

Over the past three years, the Byron Forest Preserve District Staff has been constructing the Maintenance Service Center for the district. The building, a foam-insulated design, had its final application of sealing done this past month using Handi-Foam, donated by Fomo Products, Inc., Norton, Ohio.

This product permits the building to reach an R-30 insulation rating in the walls. Our thanks to Fomo Products, Inc.

### MASTER PLAN COMPLETED

After six months of many meetings, public hearings, and revisions, the Byron Prairie Preserve Master Plan commissioned by the Byron Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners is finished.

Woolpert Consultants delivered the report in August.

The report includes an analysis of the site's soils and ecological conditions, a development feasibility for returning much of the site to a pre-farming, natural state, and an evaluation of facilities and services for the site.

Based on the study's proposals, the Byron Forest Preserve

Board will now use the report as a guide to developing the site. As in any long-term proposal, certain elements will be able to be developed easier than others. Some, due to funding, may not be quickly attainable, and others will have immediate quick attention because of the limited cost and high demand.

The following major capital improvements were recommended by Woolpert:

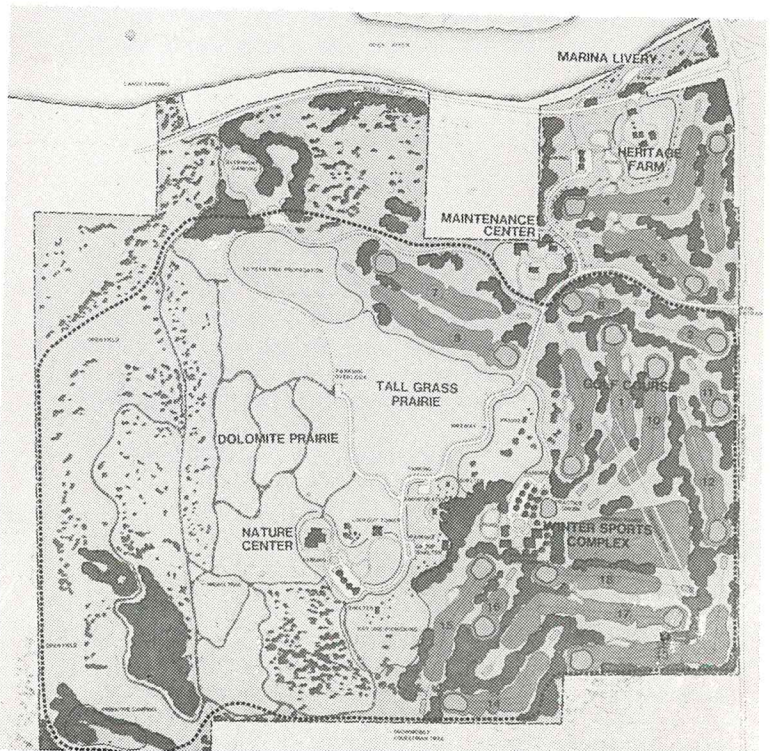
1. Develop the western site by interpretative and passive recreation area.
2. Construction of a nature & education center.
3. Construction of an 18-hole golf course.
4. Development of a Heritage Farm.
5. Development of winter sports facilities.

Two areas receiving a lesser priority and included in the study as programs that should be considered for commercial developers were a marina with a livery dock and a trap and skeet range.

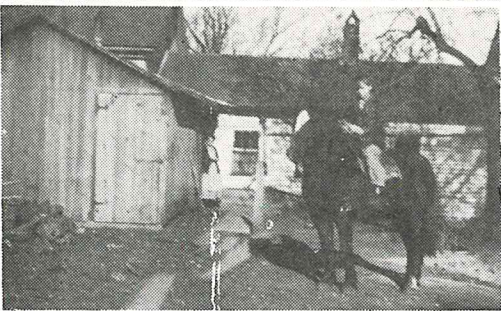
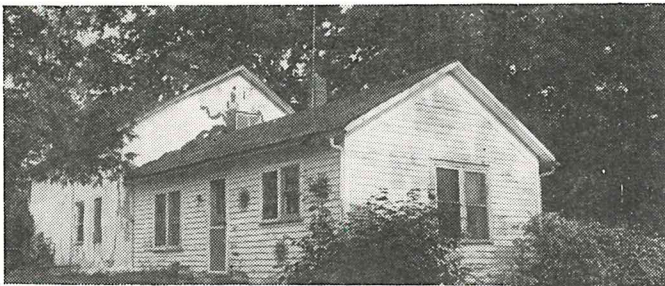
Cost estimates for these projects were developed on totally contracted estimates. Recognizing several projects could not be accomplished immediately. Costs were predictably high.

Much of the report will be used for years to come to insure a coordinated site development guide for the board and staff. Forest preserve board members will adopt many of those programs as funds are available.

Copies of the study may be signed out at the Prairie Preserve office by residents only.

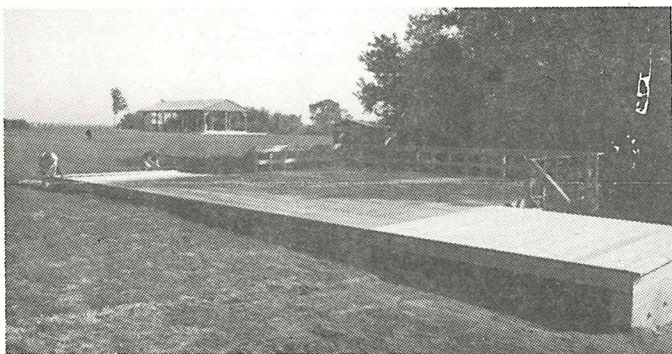






This 1925 photo shows Heritage Farmhouse addition older than originally believed. Horseman shown in below photo is Heritage Farm Committee Member, Stewart Norton.

Photo above was taken in September 1989.



### PRAIRIE PRESERVE STAGE EXPANDED

The stage will accommodate large bands, plays, and is available for not-for-profit, fund-raising activities. It's next major use will be in June for the community picnic.



## PLANTS TO AVOID WHEN LANDSCAPING FOR WILDLIFE

Almost all plants provide some type of food or shelter for some form of wildlife. However, even though this is true, there are many plants we should avoid planting because they are serious degraders of natural communities. The following should not be planted:

#### Species

Purple Loosestrife  
Japanese Honeysuckle  
Glossy Buckhorn  
Amur Honeysuckle  
Multiflora Rose  
Autumn Olive  
Burning Bush  
Silver Poplar  
Crown Vetch

#### Natural Community Threatened

Open Wetlands in North  
Forests & Barrens in South  
Bogs & Wetlands in North & Central  
Forests in North & Central  
Woods & Prairie Everywhere  
Woods & Prairie in Central & South  
Woods in Central  
Woods & Prairie Everywhere  
Prairies and Dunes Everywhere

If you want to plant a wildlife area, you don't need a large area. The Byron Forest Preserve has several demonstration

plots in Byron that you can see.

If you want a good pamphlet on the subject, write to:

Natural Heritage Division  
Illinois Department of Conservation  
524 South Second Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Simply ask to be sent the pamphlet called "Landscaping for Wildlife." It is provided by donations to the Non-game Wildlife Conservation Fund.

## PHEASANT & QUAIL RELEASE

Illinois Department of Conservation officials expanded the Byron Forest Preserve release program this year.

In approximately 15 days, over 350 quail and 250 pheasants will be released throughout the district as a part of the state's program to use funds provided by hunters to maintain hunting bird populations.

This will be the fourth year the forest preserve has assisted by providing a raising pen, food, and maintenance to ensure the birds are available.

Ranger Rick Club members will participate in the release. In all fairness to the birds, release locations will not be announced.



Kirk Severson, a summer staff member, shown releasing the first 30 quail at the Prairie Preserve.

## PLEASE PLANT A TREE

Each year we cut more and more trees with little thought of what effect it will have on the future. As custodians of our children's earth and not owners of the land, we can do our part.

Recently, we have heard the sad news of what the destruction of the rain forest is having on our air and climate. Rockford is having trouble handling waste, and we have our own area pollution.

It takes at least 90 years to regenerate a hardwood grove and still not be in brush.

Closer to home, in the 1977-1988 period, a total of 4.1 million board feet of lumber has been removed in Illinois. This equals over 61,070 acres of land cleared of hardwoods, most from our Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois.

So, let's plant a tree!!

## RONNIE RACCOON NEWSLETTER BECOMES BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board has re-named the newsletter to eliminate any confusion.

The board's action included the establishment of By-Ronnie Raccoon as the district's by-line for feature articles. Much of his light commentary will focus on activities of the Ranger Rick Club.

The staff has announced that By-Ronnie Raccoon is a male; therefore, efforts to select a female spokesperson will be initiated if his opinions do not adequately express the female readers' views or needs.



## HALLOWEEN ON THE PRAIRIE

The Byron Forest Preserve District is planning to host Halloween on the Prairie on October 28, 1989, between the hours of 5:30 and 8:30 PM.

Halloween on the Prairie is designed for children from 6 years old thru 12 years old.

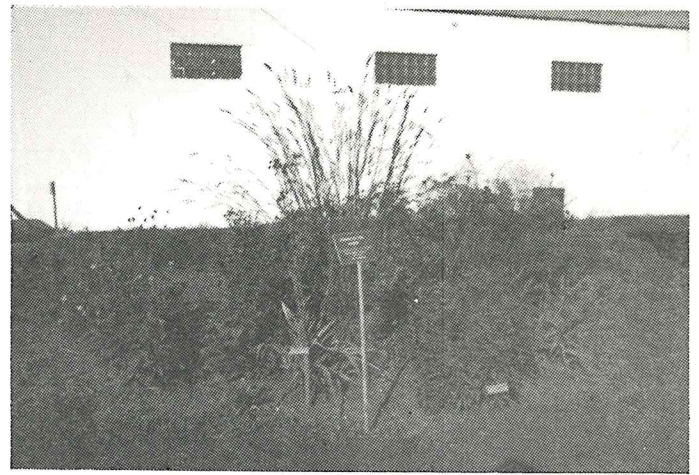
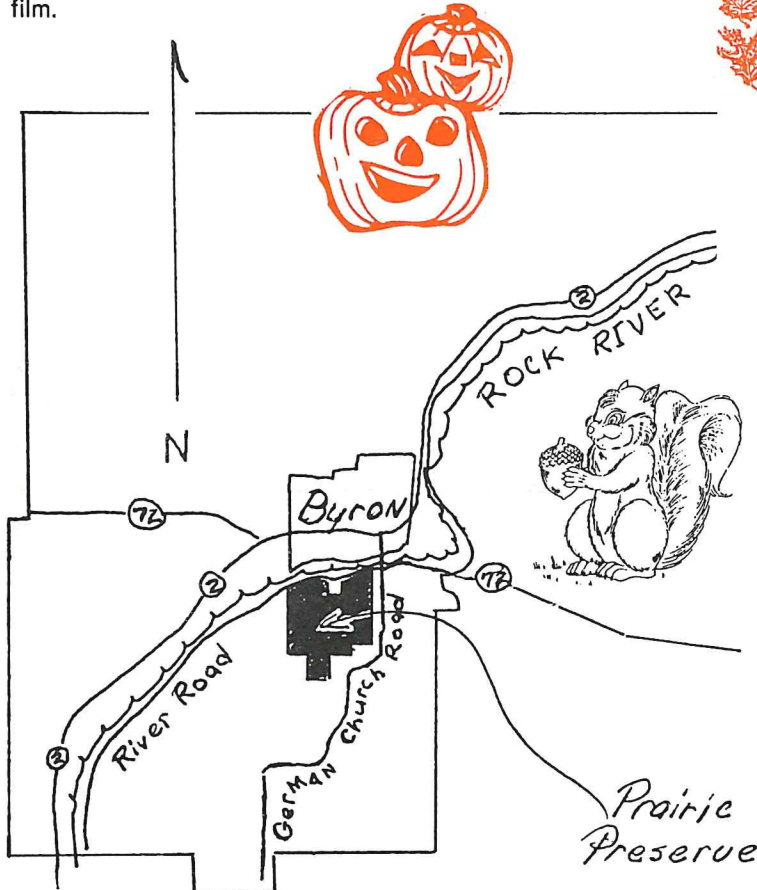
The program includes roasting marshmallows, games, a pumpkin hunt, and a Disney movie. This year's film is "Cinderella."

The program requires each youth to be accompanied by an adult. Each child will receive five free tickets to use. One for marshmallows and four for games. If parents want to purchase additional tickets for their children, a booth for ticket sales at 10 cents each will be provided.

Families are invited to arrive at 5:00 PM if they wish to have a supper picnic before the program starts at 5:30 PM.

The movie will start immediately after dark.

Participants should bring lawn chairs or blankets to watch the film.



Demonstration prairie, located next to the Tempo office on land owned by Byron True Value Hardware's owner, Robert King, makes a big showing this year.

## FISH BOILS COMING ON STRONG

When you visit Northern Wisconsin Peninsula, you haven't completed your trip unless you have stopped off at THE VIKING RESTAURANT located in Door County.

The history of fish boils seems to go back to early fishing times. It was mainly preserved through church groups, once commercial fishing displaced many of the local fishing celebrations.

Today, even in Rockford, fish boils are moving onto more restaurant menus.

If you want to eat fish at its finest, feel free to use this recipe.

(Serves Eight)

16 - Chunks of 2" slices of Whitefish

16 - Small Red Potatoes, ends cut off

16 - Small Onions (peeled)

1/2 lb. - of Salt

2 - Gallons of Water

Bring water to boil and add 1/4 lb. of salt. Next, add potatoes and boil 16 minutes. Add onions and boil 4 minutes more. Add fish and 1/4 lb. of salt, boil 10 minutes, and drain into colander. Serve with melted butter, lemon, and cole slaw.

Special tip: Use some Half & Half in your cole slaw.

To round your meal off, consider pumpernickel bread, cherry pie, and fruit punch.

## CHRISTMAS ON THE PRAIRIE

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board has added a new winter program to the Prairie Preserve Site.

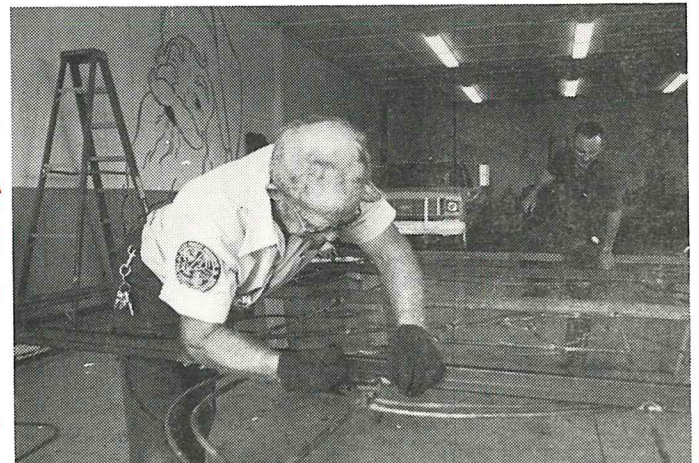
Large, lighted Christmas displays will be constructed in house to provide enjoyment to area residents.

Initially, the first display, a 10' x 13' Santa Claus, will be in service this winter with additional units being built each winter, as funds permit. Displays will include various holiday scenes, and some may tell stories.

Members of the Ranger Rick Club have offered to help install over 2000 lights needed to complete this year's display.

The display will be lit from dark to 10 PM, Monday thru Sundays, starting around December 1, 1989, and viewers will be able to view the display from River Road.

Eventually, the added displays will appear in several areas throughout the Prairie Preserve.



Maintenance supervisor, Bob Smith, left, and Shawn Morrison shown building first holiday lighted display for the Prairie Preserve. The project will be expanded annually and is expected to attract thousands of viewers.



## BY-RONNIE RACCOON'S NOTEBOOK

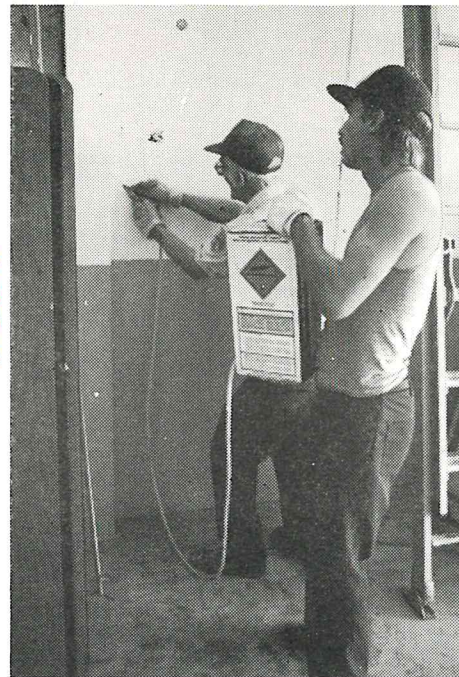
My board has offered me this column to keep in touch with all of you. In the months and, hopefully, years to come, I will keep you informed of activities I sponsor for all ages and items you may not read about in your everyday newspapers.

Some of the activities we support at the Byron Forest Preserve District are unique. That is, as it should be, in the out-of-doors. You should do things you can't do elsewhere.

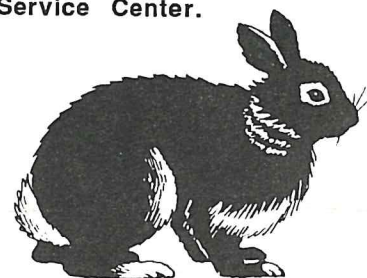
This month, we hope you will bring your kindergarten thru fourth graders to our Halloween on the Prairie on Saturday, October 28 at 5:30 p.m. If you don't bring a young person, you aren't invited.

By the way, our Great Pumpkin Hunt has a better ending than Charlie Brown's hunt. So, I'll be seeing you, and I hope you will be reading my column.

By: Ronnie Raccoon



Finishing touches being applied by Green Thumb worker, Ray Moore, and summer worker, Kirk Severson, to the Byron Forest Preserve Service Center.



## HUNTER ACCIDENT UP-DATE

In 1988, the number of accidents in Illinois came to 27 victims and included 26 shooters, according to recently released information from the Division of Law Enforcement of the Illinois Department of Conservation.

One hunter actually shot two people in one accident.

Here is part of the statistics:

### MONTH

January	-02
February	-01
March	-00
April	-00
May	-00
June	-00
July	-00
August	-01
September	-04
October	-02
November	-11
December	-05
TOTAL	-26

### DAY OF WEEK

Monday	-02
Tuesday	-01
Wednesday	-01
Thursday	-08
Friday	-05
Saturday	-04
Sunday	-05
TOTAL	-26

### TIME OF DAY

12:01 AM-6:00 AM	-00
6:01 AM-12:00 noon	-13
12:01 PM-6:00 PM	-09
6:01 PM-12:00 Midnight	-04
TOTAL	-26

### TYPE OF ACCIDENT

Fatal	-02
Non-fatal	-25
TOTAL	-27

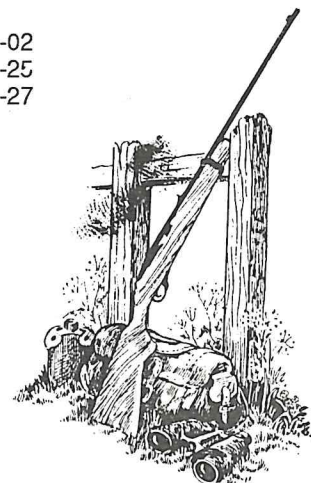
### Accident By Age Group

#### SHOOTER'S AGE

0 - 9	-00
10 - 19	-06
20 - 29	-07
30 - 39	-02
40 - 49	-03
Over 50	-05
Unknown	-03
TOTAL	-26

#### VICTIM'S AGE

0 - 9	-00
10 - 19	-04
20 - 29	-08
30 - 39	-05
40 - 49	-02
Over 50	-08
Unknown	-00
TOTAL	27



A total of 214,629 hunting licenses were sold in 1988.

Please help us make this year a better and safer hunting year. If you know someone who needs hunter safety training, ask them to take a course.

The Byron Forest Preserve District teaches Hunter Safety.



## BYRON PRAIRIE PRESERVE EDUCATION & NATURE CENTER UNDERWAY



Since the board's formation in 1981, they have made plans to provide the district a facility that will house their offices and provide an interpretive center and education facility for their services to the district.

This month, the board concluded interviews of several architects.

Based on recommendations by their master plan consultants, staff proposals, and public input, the board has decided to initiate construction of the facility in March if possible.

The center will be scaled down from the proposed \$1,129,000 recommended by their consultants. It will include the ability to be expanded in the future if the need arises.

The recommended 17,000 plus square foot building will be 8,000 to 10,000 square feet.

A few of the unique features desired include a working weather station, apiary, and environmental science classroom. The facility will permit preservation and outdoor education groups of all ages with a place to learn, develop, and practice new skills.

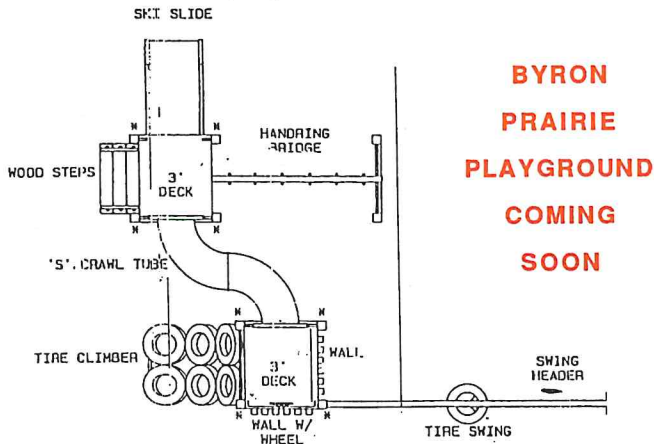
Preliminary plans include an exhibit area that may produce some supporting income from tourists and non-residents.



One of the first projects of the Heritage Farm Committee will be the re-roofing of this quaint carriage barn.

## PRAIRIE PRESERVE PLAYGROUND

The Byron Forest Preserve District Board has authorized the construction of a small playground on the north side of shelter #1 at the Prairie Preserve. Construction will start this fall, completion by late spring.



BYRON  
PRAIRIE  
PLAYGROUND  
COMING  
SOON



The following poem was given to the Byron Forest Preserve District by Mr. Buck Hogan and written by Mr. Glenn Sunderman, a former Byron drama teacher, presently living in Waukegan.

*When I was young I walked to  
school;  
I walked five miles each day.  
When I got home it was so  
dark.  
I had no time to play.*

*When I got older I got smart  
And rode a bike to school.  
I was the envy of my class  
And not the village fool.*

*And I became the richest man  
The town had ever seen.  
No more walking-no more  
biking.  
Nothing but my limousine.*

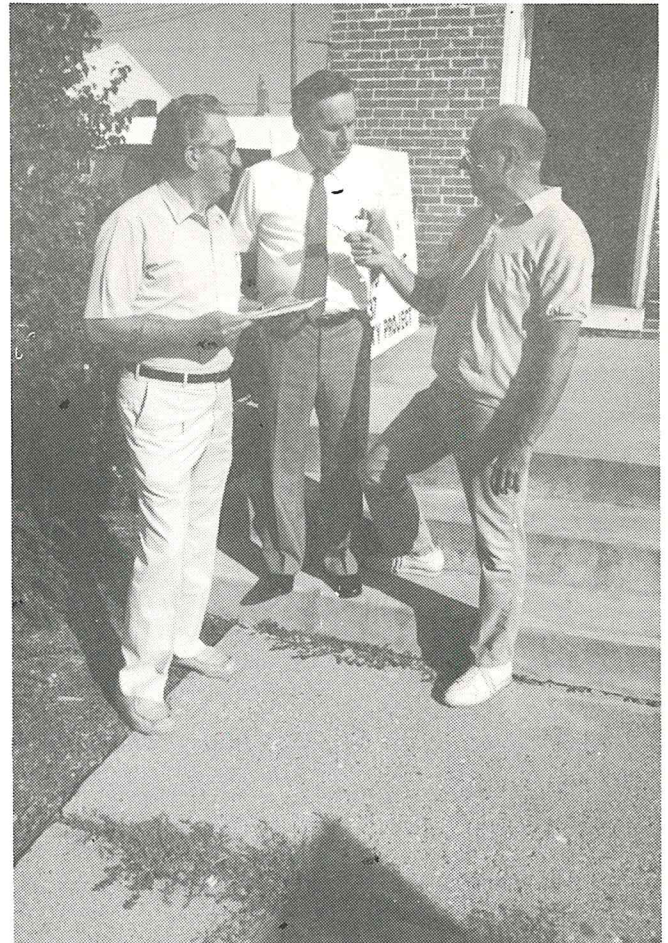
*And then one day I got a pain  
And my good doctor said,  
"You pay me when you're  
living.  
I get nothing when you're  
dead."*

*"So listen to me carefully.  
And take my wise advice.  
You may not like it very much  
To you, it won't sound nice."*

*"Forget about your limousine.  
Get off your butt and walk.  
And don't stop at your  
neighbor's house  
And stand around and talk."*

*And so my pile of money  
My silver and my gold  
Don't help me one darned bit  
because  
My doctor said, "You're old!"*

*And so I walk and walk and  
walk.  
I'm too tired to play.  
My doctor knows I'm walking.  
He drives past me every day.*



Left to right, Mayor Lyle Blanchard, Representative Myron Olson, and Museum Board Member, Chet Kobel, meet on the steps of the Historic Read House to acknowledge receipt of House Bill 115 which will, if adopted by referendum, save the Read House for generations to come. The bill was written by the Forest Preserve Director Jack Philbrick.



POSTAL PATRON  
Byron, IL 61010



Byron Forest Preserve District  
7993 River Rd.  
Byron, Illinois

CRP

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BYRON, ILLINOIS  
PERMIT NO. 50

## WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND US

Many agencies provide activities we, in Byron, would like to try. Please note a few occurring in November:

### Morton Arboretum

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| November 1  | Nature Study & Camera Club Meeting<br>Topic - Yellowstone in Winter |
| November 4  | Ski Volunteer Orientation<br>Ski Trail Patrol Training              |
| November 5  | Introducing the Arboretum - Walking Tour                            |
| November 11 | Saturday Ramble<br>Introduction to Bird Observation                 |
| November 19 | Chamber Concert<br>The Silk and Bamboo Ensemble                     |
| November 27 | Bonsi Society Meeting - Visitors Welcome                            |

### Men's Garden Clubs

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| First Tuesday  | Rockford MGC  |
| Third Tuesday  | Mendota MGC   |
| Fourth Tuesday | Belvidere MGC |

### Northwest Illinois Audubon Society

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| November 7 | Solid Waste<br>How Naperville Residents "Got Off Their Cans" |
|------------|--|

### Byron Forest Preserve

- |            |  |           |
|------------|--|-----------|
| October 28 | Halloween on the Prairie<br>Byron Prairie Preserve | 5 PM-9 PM |
|------------|--|-----------|

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Third Tuesday<br>of Each Month | Byron Forest Preserve Preserve District<br>Board Meetings |
|--------------------------------|---|

