

Calendar

February 3

GPS Meeting
Galway Town Hall

7:00-7:30
Social Half Hour

7:30 Business Meeting

8:00 Program

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50 Years in Galway

By Don Johnston

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GPS Update

From Virginia Sawicki and Bonnie Donnan

Keeping warm, everyone? This weather makes me feel sorry for the same people I sympathize with in hot, humid, sweltering days in summer; letter carriers, farmers, construction workers, school crossing guards, all those people who work outdoors regardless of the weather. We've experienced some weather related problems that haven't happened for a while.

I spent some time in the cellar with a hair dryer encouraging the water to flow again.

Speaking of weather, our January meeting was canceled. We plan to work Ed Pike into the schedule for next season.

I'm looking forward to our February 3rd meeting. Bob Jones will present "Saratoga County through the Years: A Mapping Project."

It is early, and thoughts of a picnic may produce a shiver, but we are seeking a host for our annual picnic meeting in June.

In our never-ending quest for articles and pictures for this newsletter, give this some thought: Is there a person, no longer with us, which you wish you could have a conversation with? What made this person interesting? What would you ask? What differences in the way we live now, and the way we grew up, could this person point out? All of us are living out what becomes history. Kurt Johnston, our editor, will be pleased to get your story.

50 Years of Galway

By Don R. Johnston

Ann and I moved to Galway in 1961; 2011 was our 50th year here. Recently I've been asking myself, "How much has Galway changed in the past 50 years?"

I've been brought to this line of questioning because I recently obtained a copy of The Encyclopedia of Science and Engineering, =Van Nostrand, 1957. The year, 1957, was the one in which I graduated from college in the fields of chemistry and physics. I know, of course, that the changes in science have been major, but I didn't fully appreciate that in some fields, they have been seismic.

None of the analytical chemistry techniques that were in use 50 years ago are in use today. None of the most frequently used techniques of today are even in "The Encyclopedia". This is a huge change, of course, but the basic understanding of molecules and chemical bonds has not been altered. This is not true however, for the fields of anatomy and geology.

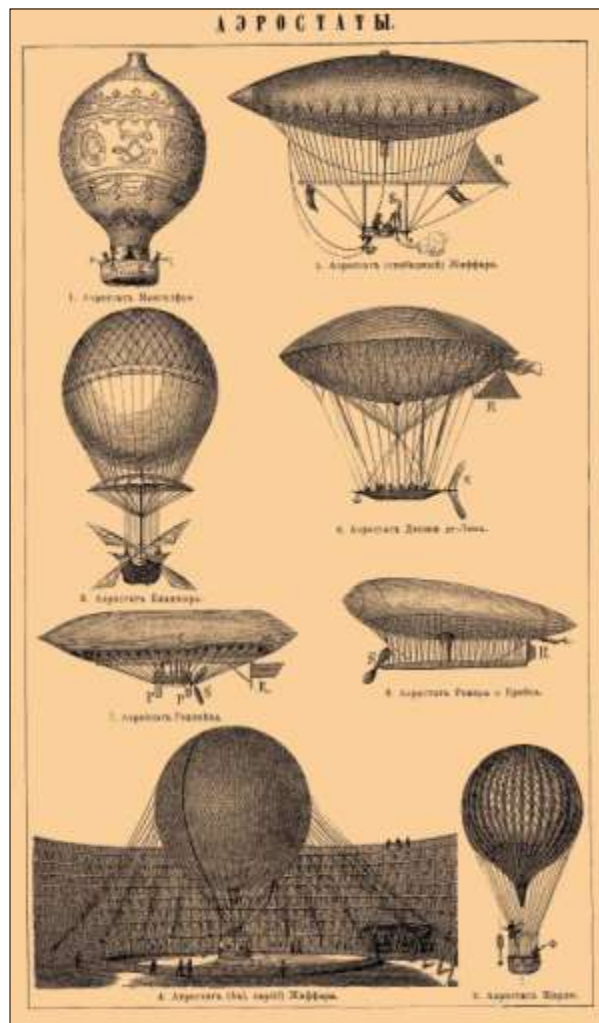
Astronomy not knows that there was a "Big Bang" 13.7 billion years ago, at which time the universe was created. We now know that there are different kinds of super-novae explosions and that one type created the gold in my wedding ring. No mention of any of that in "The Encyclopedia". Neither is there any mention of tectonic plates in my 1957 book. Our whole understanding of earth quakes and volcanoes was "zero"

Compared with these changes, the time-traveler to Galway, would see more houses and fewer cows and, yes, there has been an improved post office, town hall and an expanded central school. But, the people, the

attitudes, and the sense of community are basically the same. That, after all, is the essence of Galway.

What of the future? What will the author of this article say 50 years from now? Predictions are tricky. I have an old postcard from Chester, Vermont on which the artist imagines that the Chester of the future would be a dirigible depot!

I hope the essential Galway stays the same for another 50 years.



Galway Preservation Society

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