

Village of Livingston Presidents and Clerks

When a village is formed, it is decided what type of administration will govern the village. When Livingston was formed, it was decided to have a village president instead of a mayor. Listed below are those who served as village presidents and village clerks. Until 1937, these offices were held for two-year terms, after 1937 they became four-year terms.

Year	Population	Village President	Village Clerk
1905		David Livingston	Henry Meyer
1907		David Livingston	
1909		David Livingston	
1911		Joseph Healey, Sr.	
1913		Joseph Healey, Sr.	
1915		Joseph Hebenstreit	
1917		Joseph Healey, Sr.	John Arkabauer
1919		Joseph Healey, Sr.	
1921		Walter Koch	
1923		Walter Koch	Wence Cerne
(in 1924 Koch moved from the Village limits)			
1924		Wence Cerne	Frank Otwirk
1925	1,365	Henry Joshu	Frank Otwirk
1927	1,800	Louis Gori	Frank Otwirk
1929	2,000	Louis Gori	George Kreuter
1931	1,447	David Bononi	George Kreuter
(in December 1931, Bononi moved to a farm south of Livingston)			
1932		Frank Petsche (appointed acting President)	
1933	1,447	Frank Petsche	George Kreuter
1935	1,447	Walter Bernardin	George Kreuter
1937	1,447	Walter Bernardin	Walter Sobut
1941	1,115	Steve Komanecky	Clarence (Peggy) Meyer
1945	1,115	Steve Komanecky	Clarence (Peggy) Meyer
(Komanecky purchased a tavern and resigned as Village President)			
1947	1,115	Anton Karnosky (appointed acting President)	
1949	1,115	Orville Highlander	Louis Moggio
(Highlander died in February 1950)			
1950	1,115	Steve Ruzevich	Louis Moggio
1951	999		
1953	999	Roger Spudich	Louis Moggio
1957	991	Steve Ruzevich	Louis Moggio
1961	964	Steve Ruzevich	George Robertson, Sr.
1965	964	George Wentler	George Robertson, Sr.
1966	964	Aldo Bacca	George Robertson, Sr.
(Bacca appointed to complete Wentler's term until 1967 election)			
1967	964	Charles Oliphant	George Robertson, Sr.
1969	964	Charles Oliphant	N.J. Kovaly
1973	911	John Chalovich, Jr.	Linda Rensing
1977	911	Lloyd Moreland	Linda Rensing
			Louis Moggio
1981	949	Gary Ocepek	Louis Moggio

Year	Population	Village President	Village Clerk
1985	949	Delores Brooke	Louis Moggio
1989	949	Robert Martintoni	Lisa Shearlock
1991	928		Shelia Felchner
1993	928	David Gasper	Elizabeth Augustine
1997	928	David Gasper	Elizabeth Augustine
2001	825	Miles Dudley	Elizabeth Augustine
2004	825	Brent Pfeiffer	Elizabeth Augustine
2005	825	Jerry Zeller	Elizabeth Augustine

List of Village Presidents and City Clerks found in *Illinois Blue Book* and *Staunton Star-Times*

Population of the Village Of Livingston (1910 – 2000)

Census reports from 1910 – 1980 are taken from the Blue Book of the State of Illinois.
Census for 1990 and 2000 taken from website <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

1910.....	1,002
1920.....	1,365
1930.....	1,447
1940.....	1,115
1950.....	999
1960.....	964
1970.....	916
1980	949
1990.....	928
2000.....	825



Above, City Hall, 2005



At left, Second City Hall and Firehouse

Memories

Living 1 1/2 mile east of Livingston on a small farm, I can remember that going into Livingston was a big adventure. I was born in 1918, as the Great War was ending and road conditions in the winter and early spring meant mud.

One hill had a spring in it and even travel by horse and wagon was impossible to get through. Traffic had to cut through the field in order to get to town. When Fords were beginning to be the mode of travel, many times my father had to hitch up his team and pull the car out. Sometimes this happened at night.

William Tabor, who was in the nursery business, had owned the farm, which my grandparents bought in 1908. So there were peach, pear, apple, and cherry trees on the hillsides and also a grape arbor. In the summer and fall we had more fruit than we could use, so some was loaded into the wagon and taken into town where the miner families were eager to buy. Sometimes I went with my father and mother.

My mother churned butter and had customers in town or sold it to the store. Usually, being the youngest at that time, I got to go along. One customer I remember was Mrs. Thomure, wife of the druggist. The drug store was on the corner of South Second across from Busker's furniture and garage. Today both corners are empty lots.

Scanzoni Brothers had a grocery store where the telephone building is now. Next to it going south was Wray's dance hall where a lodge had an annual 'fruit' dance. All kinds of fruit would be hanging from the ceiling with a bunch of grapes in the center of the ceiling.

The object of the game was to dance and gather a piece of fruit without being caught. Lodge members would be walking around watching people to catch them stealing fruit. If the thief was caught, he had to pay a fine according to the size of the fruit. My parents enjoyed going there.

Our first car was a Model T Ford touring car. As you can see, Bridget liked to drive and I was thrilled to even sit in it. The second car was a Studebaker. I don't hear of any cars by that name now. It didn't have any windows. It had curtains that buckled on some way for rainy days or when it was cold, but the car wasn't used very much in the winter because of the roads. My dad would take the battery out and put it in the basement. (I don't know why.)

There were many two-story buildings in various places in town. Many of them were stores on Main Street that are gone now.

We had two doctors at the time I was born, Dr. RC Berry and Dr. Teize. Dr. Berry's office was on the street next to a grocery store on the corner. He delivered my two brothers, Harry in 1915 and James in 1933. Dr. Tieze had his office where Marion Martinoni lives now. Both had an office as part of their homes. Dr. Tieze moved to Edwardsville.

After road conditions improved more cars were bought and many gasoline pumps were in use; Livingston Cooperative Store, Mitchelar Hardware, Bike's Garage, Busker's Store, Dave Bononi gas station, and at the south end of Livingston Avenue were Warlock's on one side, and across from it Sandrin's Standard Station. Much later, there was one across the street from the Big Four Hotel.

When I started High School in 1932, I first became acquainted with homes and streets in Livingston.



The picture above shows the author, Frances (Rausch) Perne, as a passenger in her father's Model T Touring Car with her sister Bridget (Rausch) Kopuster driving.

My folks had decided to sell raw milk and deliver it to homes in Livingston, so before school I had to help deliver milk to people's homes. We weren't alone, because another farmer decided to do the same thing. This came to an end at the death of my mother in 1935. The other man kept it going for several years after we quit.

I left the farm in 1956 when the twins were ready for high school. My brother James and family moved from Chicago to run the farm.

Frances Rausch Perne

Historic Route 66

Livingston is located on that very historic road that extended some 2400 miles, going through eight states and three time zones. It started in Chicago, Illinois and ended in Santa Monica, California. Route 66 was designated as a federal highway in 1926. In 1990, Congress passed a law, "The Route 66 Study Act", which recognized Route 66 as one of the earliest examples of the 1926 National Highway System Program.

Perhaps more than any other American highway, Route 66 symbolized the new optimism that pervaded the nation's postwar economic recovery. For thousands of returning American servicemen and their families, Route 66 represented more than just another highway. It has come to represent the essence of the American highway culture to countless motorists who traveled its course during the more than 60 years of its lifetime. (From the Special Resource Study by the Department of the Interior).

In Illinois, alternate routes were used. From 1926 to 1930, Route 66 followed Illinois Route 4 from Springfield to Staunton. From 1930 to 1940, the Mother Road as it was called was relocated south of Springfield through Litchfield, Mount Olive and west of Livingston, using the Williamson road to join Route 4. From 1940 to 1970 Route 66 was relocated to pass through the southeastern part of Livingston on its journey to the West.

On November 15, 1995, the Illinois Department of Transportation held an informal meeting to discuss possible plans and programs for the preservation and enhancement of Route 66. Following that meeting, road signs were placed to mark the route of Historic 66; however, the route from 1940 to 1970 went unmarked. It was called to the attention of the head of the Illinois Department of Transportation who then looked into the matter. As an interested party said "George Washington was the first President of the U.S.—that can't change and neither can the location of Route 66 between the years from 1940 to 1977."

With the help of the Village Board of Livingston and the persistence of other interested and concerned parties, approval was given to place signs to mark the 1940 to 1970 route. In the summer of 2000, the signs were erected. The road marked was the west frontage route that runs from Hamel to Livingston, through Livingston via Henry and Church, to the east frontage route which runs north from Livingston to the Staunton Y.



Anne (Perne) standing next to the marking at the intersection of Route 4 and Historic Route 66.