



## Frankfort Area Historical Society of Will County, Illinois

P.O. Box 546 • Frankfort, IL 60423 • (815) 469-6541

January – February 2022



### Happy 50<sup>th</sup> birthday to the Frankfort Area Historical Society!!!



Throughout the year we intend to celebrate and invite you to join us! Past residents from years ago will “return” to downtown. Various activities are planned. The museum will tell Frankfort’s story through exhibits and artifacts. We celebrate our history and honor those who founded the Frankfort Area Historical Society.

- FAHS/FPF Board

Pictured left: Ralph Eisenbrandt, Marie Tewes, Judy Eisenebrandt, and deputy village clerk Leora Batson. (Photo *Joliet Herald News*, 1973)

#### FOUNDING THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Ralph Eisenbrandt

In 1958 when the NYCS (New York Central System) said they intended to close the Frankfort MCRR (Michigan Central Railroad) station, I suggested to a couple of people that we should form a historical society and save the station. There wasn’t much interest by anyone back then.



The MCRR station was built in either 1879 (per newspaper story) or 1855 (per railroad records).

Photo courtesy Ralph Eisenbrandt

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*At the turn of the century, Constable Knippel had the dual job of law enforcement officer and lamp-lighter. Each evening just before dark, he would make his rounds lowering each lamp, lighting it, then raising it back into position. The lamps were hung on pulleys over the intersections. To conserve on tax payers' money, he would make the rounds once again at 1:00 a.m. and turn out all of the lamps.*