

Grayslake Historical Society



164 Hawley Street, P.O. Box 185, Grayslake, IL 60030

UPDATE

Museum Hours:

Thursdays 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Second Sunday of each month

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Group Tours call 847-223-7663

January 2003

Founded 1976

Meeting location is at the State Bank of the Lakes, 50 Commerce Drive, Grayslake, Illinois
7:30 P.M. Refreshments

THE PAST

Two thousand two was a great year for the Grayslake Historical Society and the Grayslake Municipal Historical Museum. The latter part of the year was as busy as the first half.

"Aprons: Ties to the Past" was the special exhibit during the Museum Open House on the second Sunday of September. We cancelled September's monthly meeting so that all could attend the 9/11 candle-light memorial service held at Grayslake's Millennium Tower. The service was high-lighted with the American flag unfolding from the fire department's huge ladder truck. The Yopps, Pat and Ken, drove the Museum's Model T in Grayslake High School's annual homecoming parade. Following the parade the Museum held an alumni coffee. The coffee brought together many alumni from numerous states, who enjoyed the relaxed smoke-free atmosphere. This was the first time the Museum held an alumni coffee and it will not be the last.

The fifth annual Cemetery Living History Tour was held on Sunday, October 6. Although the weather threatened early in the day, the event had great attendance. Mariah Forvor (Charlotte Renehan) welcomed the crowd and introduced Emily Strang (Jane Tiffany-Hansen) who explained mourning customs of the past. Undertaker George Strang (Reverend Zach Turner) led the group to learn about the life of farmer Charles Whitehead (Jack Idstein). Whitehead at one time owned the farm where Grayslake's Central Park is now located. Next Geraldine Wait Owen (Connie Dunbar) described her trip from Ohio to Lake County. Her husband went to the gold fields and never returned. Reggie Godfrey (Bryan Gutraj) recalled his dry goods store and his involvement in St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Banker's wife Mary Robinson (Carol Roselli-Rasmussen) described her life in Grayslake. Elvira Gardinier Robinson (Mary Lillstrom) told about her brother's part in the Gardinier Hotel. Eighteen year-old John DeGraff (Chris Froseth) explained that his father was a farmer, his uncle a barber and his nephew a postmaster of Grayslake. The Society is appreciative that Strang's Funeral Chapel once again sponsored the event. The October general meeting of the Society had a full program. Four-H'ers from Lake County told their one hundred year history in play form. They did a good job of researching local history as

well. The play was followed by Rich Varner who told the Lemuel Edwards family. This early pioneer family settled on Rollins Road. Many of you remember Bertha Cremin Johnson, her twin sister Cora Cremin Fricke and their sister Ruth Cremin Varner who were descendants of this family.

The monthly open house on Sunday, October 13 was held in the morning to coordinate with the Exchange Club breakfast at the fire station next door. It was the first showing of the Museum's "Barbies on Parade" exhibit. This exhibit is from the collection of Amy Fassbinder Acker, who is the grand daughter of board member Ken Yopp, and from the collection of Wildwood resident Ellen Dimock. This display has given us front page publicity in both of the Grayslake newspapers. An article was written about it in the Chicago Tribune.

Florence Carlsen, Joanne Lawrence and Charlotte Renehan enjoyed passing out candy and pencils to the Halloween Trick or Treaters. This is just another one of the ways in which the Society and Museum are active in the community. During the month of October school groups from Woodview and Prairieview Schools toured the Museum keeping our docents - Evie Turner, Joanne Lawrence, Connie Dunbar, Dorothy Groth, Florence Carlsen, Lori Baumgartner - busy. Charlotte Renehan gave programs at those schools, plus Avon.

Our November open house was on the tenth. Charlie Nystrom from the College of Lake County faculty spoke at the general meeting of the Society. He compared the life of an 1860 soldier with the life of a soldier from the 1960s and 70s. We learned many details of the Civil War as well as the difference in how the soldiers were treated following the wars.

The Museum's vintage sleigh was used by Santa Russ Christian as he talked with children in front of the Museum. A coloring page was distributed to area kindergarten students who brought them to Santa. The children not only enjoyed Santa but also enjoyed seeing their artistic work displayed on the front window of the Museum.

This fall docents Joanne Lawrence and Dorothy Groth have given numerous tours to scout groups. The groups were from Grayslake, Green Oaks and Lindenhurst.

The Museum participated in Grayslake's Winterfest on Saturday, January 18 by helping with the quilt walk. Member Charles Groth made the standards on which the vintage quilts were hung in downtown store windows. Member Kent Rich loaned the Museum his grandmother Dora Rich's wonderful quilt collection. The workmanship of these quilts is outstanding. Children of the community created quilt squares to be made into a quilt.

THE FUTURE

Plans are underway for another busy year. A new temporary exhibit will be shown to the public for the first time on **Sunday, February 9** from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at the Museum, 164 Hawley Street. "Scrapbooks: Pages from the Past" will feature scrapbooks from the Rockenbach Family. Member Cynthia Lee will loan us scrapbooks from her family. There will also be travel scrapbooks, postcard scrapbooks and special topic scrapbooks. Maybe some of you remember when your grandmother's recipes were cut out and pasted in an old book making it her scrapbook of recipes. We are asking the Sisters Scrapbook Store to take part in the exhibit. Do you have any scrapbooks to share?

On **Wednesday, February 12** at 7:30 pm in the Community Room of the State Bank of the Lakes, our Society and Museum volunteers will be recognized. Larry Fish will tell "The Fish Family Story". Larry's father, Lawrence Fish, was a Meadowgold Milkman while his mother clerked in the local grocery store. The family lived at the northeast corner of Slusser and Hawley Streets for several years. This *Update* editor is sure we will hear

local history as well as family history during the presentation.

Don't forget to Shop and Share on **Monday, February 17, Tuesday, February 18 or Wednesday, February 19** at your local Jewel-Osco.

"Scrapbooks: Pages from the Past" will continue to be the temporary exhibit on **Sunday, March 9.**

It seems like only a few years ago that the Lake County Fair celebrated fifty years of existence. However, time flies and this year the Fair is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary. On **Wednesday, March 12** Libertyville-Mundelein Historical Society member and past president, Dean Larson will tell the story of our popular county fair. The first fair was held in Waukegan, September 22, 1852 at the McKay Track. The second fair was held in Libertyville. Through the years the fair has also been held in Antioch and Wauconda until Grayslake became its permanent location. This meeting will also include the election of officers and two board members.

Betty Schlosser Vares and her daughter Linda Robbins Markham will be at the Society's meeting on **Wednesday, April 9** to talk about the Schlosser and Waters families. How are the families related? Is Mike Schlosser, the former town marshal, related? Come and listen to Betty and Linda to find out.

The "Scrapbooks: Pages from the Past" exhibit continues and can be viewed at the Museum on **Sunday, April 13.**

The law firm of Churchill, Baumgartner and Quinn will be one hundred years old this year. It was established by R. W. Churchill in the old bank building in 1903. The firm's story will be told on **Wednesday, May 14** by John Baumgartner, grandson of the founder. John made history when he argued before the United States Supreme Court.

Sunday, May 11 is the last Sunday that the temporary exhibit "Scrapbooks: Pages from the Past" will be on display. It can be viewed on Thursdays only for the rest of the month.

The regular monthly open house for **June** will be **Sunday** the **8th**. The special exhibit, "With This Ring" will make its debut at this time. This exhibit will feature wedding memorabilia. If any of you have a veil, cake topper, wedding napkins or any related wedding item you are willing to loan the museum to be included in this display, let a board member know.

In addition to the above mentioned dates the Museum is open **every Thursday** from 9:00 to 2:00 or by appointment. Look for us at the Memorial Day Parade, Grayslake Art Festival, Farmers Market, Great Times in Grayslake and Summerdays. Check the local newspapers for the dates of these Grayslake events.

In **October** the Museum will be one decade old. It has not been decided if something special will be planned. If anyone has an idea and is willing to do the task of implementing the suggestion, let a board member know.

The Historical Society Board meets the first Wednesday of every month in the upper level of the Museum at 7:00. The meetings are open to the public.

WILLIAM GRAY STORY

The Grayslake History Book was compiled and written in honor of the Village's Centennial in 1995. At that time a secondary source was used to gather information about the village's namesake - William Gray. Time has passed and more research has been done. This later information shows that there was more than one William Gray in the area. The wrong William Gray was recognized in *Grayslake: A Historical Portrait*. The Grayslake Historical Society is correcting the error.

"Some time before 1840 William Gray, his wife Lucina and their daughter Mary Jane came from New York. It is assumed that they came from Allegany County, New York as other settlers of the immediate area were related to Lucina Fuller Gray and came from Allegany County. These people were squatters due to the fact that the land in Northern Illinois was not available for purchase until about 1840. On July 1, 1842 William purchased a quarter of a quarter section that included the south shore of a yet unnamed lake. Then on March 25, 1844 he purchased an additional quarter of a quarter section immediately south of his first purchase. Another forty acre parcel was purchased by Lucina in 1849, this one north of the lake. By the time of the 1850 census the Gray family had grown to include a boy and three more girls. The last known record of William and Lucina Gray and their family in Lake County is a land deed stating that they sold their last land holding in the area in 1853. The lake had become known as Gray's Lake.

"The Grays were in Iowa when a son was born in 1855. From Iowa the family went to Minnesota and another daughter was born. William Gray, Grayslake's name sake died April 14, 1871 in Blooming Grove, Waseca, Minnesota."

The above paragraphs replace the last paragraph on page 11 and all of page 12, *Grayslake: A Historical Portrait*, Copyright 1994 by Grayslake Historical Society, ISBN 0-9643103-0-9.

Can you believe? After the Society announced the mistake, a descendant of William Gray came looking for information about him. We obtained the information in the last paragraph from her. We still lack information on his ancestors and need to find out where he was in Iowa.

MEMORIES OF LAKEVIEW SCHOOL

Several people have said, "I should have written a memory. I remember when....". It has been decided that if fifty more people write a memory, volume two of *Memories of Lakeview School* will be published. Until that time all memories received will be put in a special booklet in the Museum archives.

DONATIONS

The Collections and Accessioning Committee of the Museum reviewed and accepted the following artifacts between August 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002: Melva Kerry - Kerry farm picture, F. C. Wilbur Lumber Company souvenir; Ed Glatfelter - Rouse Dairy milk bottle; Chuck Tonies - Software Engineering book by Chuck Tonies; Fred Schaffer - Grayslake Development Corporation files; Daisy Bacon - Grayslake Grade School souvenir spoon; Forrest DeGraff - DeGraff Family picture; Jim Ellingson - 1954 diary; Grayslake High School - 2002 yearbook; Estate of Bette Davis - three pictures of early Grayslake, copy of Congregational Church history, 1956 American Legion membership list, Grayslake Trading Post Certificate of Registration, Grayslake Jubilee memorabilia, American Legion uniform; Fred Stone - four Grayslake Grade School pictures; Estelle Sikes - four Grayslake newspapers; Ron Roselli - Atwater-Kent radio; Marion Clow - Village Hall dedication invitation and program, phone book cover, American Legion poster, Loftus family picture, Jubilee bumper sticker, 1962 Lake County Reference Book, several business souvenirs; Marlene Badgerow - ten school and village pictures; Kathi Starzec - Larry Leafblad cap; Village of Grayslake - village sign, Illinois Senate Resolution honoring former Mayor Ed Schroeder. There were also donated items that were not made part of the permanent collection.

Placed on permanent loan were scrapbooks and minute books of the Grayslake Garden Club.

The Museum received a grant from the Esper A. Petersen Foundation. A monetary donation was received from the Grayslake Woman's Club.

The candy for Halloween trick and treating was donated as was the candy and Polaroid film used at the Christmas Open House. Various members of the Society donated the cookies for refreshments at the general meetings. The Museum and Society is grateful for all these donations - monetary and otherwise.

MEMORIALS

The last issue of the *UPDATE* failed to mention the death of member and faithful supporter of the Society, Phil Hildebrand. A memorial has been established in his name. A memorial has also been established in memory of life-member Paul Smyth who died this fall. We extend our sympathy to their family members.

SHOP AND SHARE

Enclosed with this issue of the *UPDATE* are two shop and share coupons, one for you and one for a friend. The next Shop and Share dates are Monday, February 17, Tuesday, February 18 and Wednesday, February 19. Remember to sign a coupon and turn it in when you shop at any Jewel-Osco on the above dates. The Grayslake Historical Society will receive five percent of each receipt excluding taxes. With everyone's help we can continue to expand this fund raising program.

MICROFILM PROJECT

The Museum is proud to announce that it has received microfilmed copies of the Grayslake Times from 1905 to 1955 although some years and some issues are missing. The film is housed at the Museum but can be taken from the building to a library for viewing until the Museum obtains a microfilm reader. There is a refundable deposit fee plus a nominal rental fee. During the coming year the Society plans to send more years of the paper to be copied. This project is being accomplished through the generous support of organizations and individuals. Since the last issue of the *Update* the following individuals have contributed to the fund: Ursula Hildebrand in honor of Joanne Lawrence, Lori Bearinghaus, Clarence Collins, Gayle Cinke and Anonymous.

grayslakehistory.org

The Grayslake Historical Society has a registered web-site. However, it cannot be accessed. We need someone to volunteer his or her time and expertise to create and maintain it.

VOLUNTEERS

Some were docents; some helped with refreshments; some portrayed decedents at the annual cemetery walk; some shared their talents or knowledge. They all helped to make the Society and Museum valuable assets to the Grayslake community.

Amy Acker, Marlene Badgerow, Ruth Baker, Lori Baumgartner, Betty Best, Irene Bishop, Edna Brock, Phillip Bruno, Leonard and Mary Burge, Florence Carlsen, Florence and Phil Chard, Russ Christian, Gayle Cinke, Jill Clemens, Marion Clow, Ellen Dimock, Sue DeVillez, Therese Douglass, Connie Dunbar, Bill Dunn, Vicky Duren, Linda Fassbinder, 4-H Club Members, Emily and Hannah Frank, Marie Franzen, Mary Friis, Rich Gaddis, Grayslake Area Library, Grayslake Community High School National Honor Society Members, Grayslake Junior Woman's Club Members, Charlie and Dorothy Groth, Bryan Gutraj, Vivian Gwaltney, Kathi Hansen, Carl Heiler, Karen Hook, John Idstein, Nancy Johannsen, Jean Korell, Chris Froseth, Alice Landrum, Joanne and Dick Lawrence, Bill Leider, Mary Lillstrom, Leila Lynn, Rob McClasky, Chuck Miccuci, Willadene Nicholas, Charlie Nystrom, Nancy Pease, Sally Raymond, Carol Roselli-Rasmussen, Doug and Jim

Rockenbach, Bob and Ginnie Russell, Reverend Ruth, Mary Lou Schlintz, Estelle Sikes, Tim and Sandy Smyth, Kathi and Mike Starzec, Phyllis Stickels, Dave Strang, Helen Thielen, Ian and Karen Thoms, Evie Turner, Rich Varner, Sharon Wells, Harriet White, Ruth Woodruff, Hazel Wurth, Ken and Patty Yopp. To the above, the Grayslake Historical Society and the Grayslake Municipal Historical Museum say, "Thank you!"

SOME STATISTICS FOR 2002

Two thousand one hundred sixty-nine people visited the museum.

Thirty-five people gave 120 pictures and artifacts for the permanent collection.

Historical programs were given at five schools and one church.

Five schools and preschools came to the museum, a total of seventeen classes.

Eight girl and boy scout groups toured the museum.

A PAGE FROM THE PAST

In November of 2002, the grocery store at the corner of Lake and Center Streets in Grayslake closed. This location, which had previously been Grayslake (Pete's) Park, became a grocery store in December of 1962. On January 31, 1963 Lakeland Publishers published the "Parkway Herald" which was at that time the largest advertisement ever produced by the Lakeland Publishers newspapers for a local advertiser. The special eight page section took nearly two months to produce. The following article appeared in the "Parkway Herald".

ED'S DREAM BEGAN IN GENERAL STORE - - -

"This has been a long dream over the years-you might even say a boyhood dream--of having a store of this magnitude," Edwin "Ed" Hall, Sr., told this Parkway Herald reporter. "I never thought there would be a time my dream would materialize. The people of Grayslake and surrounding community helped! Without them I couldn't do it."

Ed's dream began, "so long ago I almost forgot--Nov. of 1918 or 19," he said. His first job was in a general merchandise store (an old-time store) in McHenry. He began his merchandising career by clerking.

In his first store he used to dig butter out of a tub and scoop sugar from a barrel. Because farmers didn't have electricity they would come to the general store for kerosene. In those days of politics around the pot-bellied stove deliveries would be made by horse and wagon.

From that first store in McHenry young Ed moved into position of manager for the A & P store in Maywood during 1923. Two years later he and his wife, Maude came to Grayslake to open a store. He left that store in October of 1948 and opened a store known as Pester's Food Market which he eventually bought out.

Ed told the Herald he moved into his "dream come true" and officially opened business Dec. 1, 1962.

While food markets have changed from the old-time general store to the modern supermarket of today, Ed's philosophy has not. "One of my 'firsts' is that the customers always come first," said the father of three, "The customer is the foundation of business--he is given the first consideration. I believe that the customer should be satisfied 100 per cent.

"I also believe in the old-time idea of friendliness to the customer," he said. "I never found I didn't have time to greet customers." Ed's philosophy could be summed up with the statement that he is trying to maintain the friendly spirit of the small store in the large supermarket.

Making the customer satisfied is the job of 22 people employed at Parkway Foods. You can see Ed's philosophy carried out in the way the store is designed for the comfort of

the customer. As Ed spoke he sat in the ultra-modern coffee corner-an idea of his son, Ed, Jr. With this addition the women have the opportunity to sit for a moment and rest with talk and a cup of coffee.

Working with Ed (who used to have the nickname Grandpa) are his two sons, Ed, Jr., and Bill. His other child is Mrs. Bert Hagglund. Ed is also proud to tell you of his 11 grandchildren. Ed's son, Bill, is a graduate of Northern Illinois University. Ed, Jr., served four and a half years with the Marines after his graduation from Warren Community High School.

You might say Grayslake's "new look" supermarket resulted from the dreams and ideas of all of them over the years. Their ideas of better ways to serve the customer were collected over the years and used to advantage in Parkway Foods.

Ed has had no formal schooling in the field of merchandise-just years of experience. His first experience with chain stores was in 1923.

When asked what his feelings about "bonus" stamps he told the Parkway Herald: We feel in our store that people at the present time are paying too much for the stamps. It's common knowledge that they pay six percent more for the food to cover the cost of the stamps. "Here we are striving to give the customer lower prices."

When Ed reminisces about his career in the merchandising field he will tell you of the changes that have come about during those years since the general store. "Today there is more variety of merchandise and mostly self-service," said Ed. "Years before you had to wait on the customer and wrap up his purchases. Because there were no such things as cash registers you had to figure with a pencil. Self-service stores originated in the '30s," he added. (continued on back page)

MEMBERSHIP

The Grayslake Historical Society's membership list grew to 266 individuals and businesses in 2002. Whether we maintain and even exceed that number depends on you. If your address label does not say 03, 04, 05 or life, your dues are due.

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Membership Form
GRAYSLAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Individual Annual Membership \$5.00 Student Annual Membership \$1.00

Business Annual Membership \$25.00 Individual Life Membership \$100.00

Make checks payable to the **Grayslake Historical Society**.

Mail to: Membership Chairperson
Grayslake Historical Society
P.O. Box 185
Grayslake, Illinois 60030-0185

During the years of 1926-31, he used to handle car loads of feed, potatoes, etc. Now everything is trucked into the store. With speed and transportation today Ed can offer the customer a large selection of foods.

In the old A & P store Ed had to cope with two robberies and a flood in 1937 when there was five feet of water in the basement of the store.

Ed will tell you he thinks the ideal store of the future will measure 10 to 12 thousand square feet rather than 15-20,000 which presents a problem with increasing cost of overhead.

Ed maintains individual service to customers if they wish it. There are men in the produce and meat departments to serve customers.

"We think the store is a big asset to Grayslake," said Ed who served on the school board for 20 years. He was secretary of the first Chamber of Commerce in Grayslake.

Also numbered in his "firsts" was his being one of the first members of the Lions Club. At one time he was director of the Citizen's Assn. in Grayslake."

The Hall Family sold their grocery store but not the building. In 1984 the store became Jerry's Parkway and then in 1998 it became Pik Kwik Foods.



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164 HAWLEY STREET.
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