



Grayslake Historical Society

164 HAWLEY STREET ❖ P.O. BOX 185 ❖ GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS 60030-0185

UPDATE

Museum Hours

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

Second Sunday of Each Month: 1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

By Appointment: Call 847-223-7663

Founded 1976

September 2005

Membership Meetings are held at the State Bank of the Lakes, 50 Commerce Drive, Grayslake, Illinois.

7:30 P.M.

Refreshments

OUR IMMEDIATE PAST

The first item on the agenda of the Grayslake Municipal Historical Museum in 2005 was a tour by a Girl Scout troop in January. The last Thursday of the month the Museum volunteers removed the doll house and boys' toys exhibit and replaced it with a doll display and a PEZ exhibit.

February proved to be a very busy month. The Prairie Pioneers Questers group toured the Museum and a program about Grayslake's history was given to the Grayslake Woman's Club. The regular monthly meeting of the Society was replaced with a slide program, "Grayslake Then and Now: A Pictorial Presentation" for which admission was charged. Downtown Grayslake's annual Winterfest kept members of the Society occupied. Society members installed and took down the quilts which were on display in the windows of merchants. A quilt display and explanation by Jill Martin of the Warren Township Historical Society was held in the upper level of the Museum. On the first floor children decorated cloth squares to be fashioned into a quilt. They were aided by members of the Grayslake High School National Honor Society. Third graders of Prairieview School in Hainesville toured the Museum after seeing a slide presentation at their school the day before.

Election of officers was held at the March meeting. Officers for the next two years are: President Charlotte Renehan, Vice-president Lori Baumgartner, Secretary Kathi Starzec, Treasurer Connie Dunbar and Board Members Charlie Groth, Bill Leider, Mary Lillstrom, Ron Roselli, Bob Russell and Ken Yopp. The program for the meeting featured Jean Hastings of the Libertyville-Mundelein Historical Society speaking on "Great Lakes Lighthouse Lore." Two Cub Scout groups toured the Museum. Father Robert Beaven of St. Gilbert Church detailed the "Seventy-five Year History of St. Gilbert Church" at the April meeting. During April the confirmation class of the United Protestant Church were given a historical walking tour of their church's past. The Museum was open an extra Sunday because of the Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast in the Fire Station next door. The Old Plank Road Questers organization held their meeting in the Museum. The Society was represented at the quarterly meeting of the Lake/McHenry County Historical Alliance in Lake Zurich. At the annual meeting of the Illinois State Historical Society in Skokie, the Society received an Award of Excellence for publishing "The Canning Factories of Grayslake".

Seventh grade students of the Grayslake Middle School saw a slide program on Grayslake's History in May. The May meeting of the Society was a substitute program, "Central Park was Once a Farm: A Family Remembers." Tours of the Museum were given

to Miss Mary's Peppermint PreSchool and St. Gilbert School's first graders. Members of the Society Board with the help of Grayslake High School National Honor Society students did spring cleaning in the Grayslake Cemetery. The Museum was represented in Grayslake's annual Memorial Day Parade. The doll and PEZ display was replaced with a three displays: Memorabilia from World Wars I & II, Star Wars and 100 Years of the *Grayslake Times*.

In June members of the Society Board traveled to Winfield, Illinois and toured DuPage County's Kline Creek Living History Farm. To be more visible the Museum added open hours by being open Wednesdays from 3:00 to 7:00 during downtown Grayslake's Farmers Market.

During July children were able to participate in Games of Yesterday at the Museum. The Society hosted a display in the Grayslake Library during the Month of August. The theme of the exhibit was "Grayslake Houses-Historic and Now". The 1954 Grayslake Fire Truck was driven in the Summerdays Parade. Members of the Board walked the parade route and passed out Society and Museum information. The Museum was open following the parade.

In addition to the previously mentioned occasions, the Museum was open the Second Sunday of each Month and every Thursday. It was also open selected Wednesdays from 3:00 to 7:00.

OUR GENERAL PLANS

The Society and Museum have several exciting plans for the coming months. Before detailing the specific plans, everyone is reminded that the Society Board meetings, which are held the first Wednesday of each month, are open to the members and the public. This is where all major decisions pertaining to the Society and Museum are made. The meetings start promptly at 7:00 pm in the upper level of the Museum and are usually completed by 8:30. The regular meetings of the Society are held in the Months of March, April, May, September, October and November. They are held in the Community Room of the State Bank of the Lakes, 50 Commerce Drive, Grayslake and start at 7:30 pm. An admission-charged program is offered in the month of February. The Museum is open the Second Sunday of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. It is open every Thursday from 9:00 to 2:00. This is the best time to bring in donations, ask research questions or just stop in to chat. During the months of September and October the Museum will also be open during selected Wednesdays from 3:00 to 7:00. The Museum is also open during community events, such as pancake breakfasts in the fire station next door. Now for the specifics:

OUR SPECIFIC PLANS

Sunday, September 11 - This is the last month of the very popular Star Wars exhibit. This display by a local collector, Ellen Dimock, has brought in numerous people who saw the sign advertising the exhibit. If you are a Star Wars fan, this is a must see exhibit.

While we are in turmoil in Iraq, we must not forget previous conflicts. The World War I & II exhibit conjures memories of these wars. The quotes by veterans are very powerful and add a great dimension to this exhibit. The DeGraff family has loaned the Museum their interesting collection of family artifacts. Other contributors to the exhibit are Helen Thielen and Alex Rasmussen plus items from the Museum's collection which are not on permanent display. Several oral histories are also available to be read.

There is a display honoring the centennial year of the *Grayslake Times*. It is interesting to see how the front page look and news have changed over the decades.

Wednesday, September 14 -The program scheduled for last May had to be postponed. The Society had an amazing amount of phone calls inquiring about the program. The Society is grateful that it can be presented at our September meeting.

Wayne Munn will entertain and inform the audience about "The 1939 Hidden Apartment". This recently uncovered apartment is a time capsule. Can you imagine finding an apartment which was closed for decades and then being found! It is like a Hardy Boys or Nancy Drew mystery. Spread the word to your friends that this program is again on our agenda.

Saturday, September 24 - The Museum will be open for "Coffee and Chat" immediately following the annual G. C. H. S. homecoming parade. All Alumni, spouses and friends are invited to the Museum for free coffee. It is a great time to relax and reminisce with former classmates.

Sunday, October 2 - The eighth annual living history tour of the Grayslake Cemetery will take place at 1:30 and again at 3:00. It is suggested that people attend the second session as it is less crowded. Parking will be available at the school next door. There is not admission charge but donations are cheerfully accepted. Maria Forvor will again welcome the audience and introduce Susie Whitehead who was born on the farm which is now Grayslake's Central Park. Susie will talk about coffins. After that Reverend Cruea, a long-serving minister of the Grayslake Methodist Church will escort the audience to the various grave sites. This year the following people will be reenacted.

Stephen Marvin was the father of Matthew Marvin who we met two years ago. Stephen was a school teacher and taught at Gilbert School. He was also an Avon Township supervisor.

Laura Harvey Gilbert was a daughter of the early Harvey family. She also taught at Gilbert School and ended up marrying a Gilbert. Her husband had an untimely death.

Wm. B. Parker was a janitor at the Grayslake Grade School after he retired from farming.

Viola Lester Kapple was the village's midwife. She assisted Dr. Herbert Struthers in bringing many babies into the world. It is said that she was responsible for nearly 1000 births.

Nancy White Harvey was the daughter of the first mayor of Round Lake. She married into the pioneer Harvey family. Her first child died at birth and Nannie followed her in death.

It is not known at this time if Mr. or Mrs. Augustus Bradway will tell his story. Gus lost his father at age six and went to work on the Erie Canal at age thirteen. He eventually came to Illinois and settled first in Spring Grove and then in Grayslake.

The Grayslake Cemetery Living History Tour promises to add to one's knowledge of local history in an interesting way. Strangs Funeral Chapel and Barb's 21 Florist will again be sponsoring the event. In case of rain the event will take place in the Community Room of the State Bank of the Lakes.

Sunday, October 9 - This will be the unveiling of a new temporary exhibit, "Sports Memorabilia". This display is still in the planning stage. It will focus not only on baseball, football and other major sports but will also include such items as fishing lures. Anyone with interesting sports memorabilia is asked to share it with us.

Grayslake's history is dotted with sport heroes. Urban "Red" Fabor played with the Sox before coming to Grayslake to tend bar. Jim McMillen was on the world famous Chicago Bears football team. Jay Hook became a major league pitcher. There are more heroes. Contemporary local youth sports teams are being asked to be a part. Stop in to see what the Museum collects.

Wednesday, October 12 - Warren Township Historical Society member and retired teacher Jill Martin has read diaries and letters written during the Civil War. She has published articles about her readings. She has researched the history of Lake County. Combining the two topics, Martin has created an interesting and informative program "The Home Front: Lake County in the Civil War". This program has been given at other venues and has been well received.

Sunday, October 16 - The Museum will be open during the Grayslake Exchange

Club Pancake Breakfast at the Grayslake Fire Station. Breakfast will be served from 7:00 to 12:30 with the Museum opening at 8:00.

Saturday, October 29 - The Museum will participate in Grayslake's Trick or Treat event. Candy and pencils will be given to children who come to the Museum.

Wednesday, November 9 - The first issue of the Grayslake Times was published on April 20, 1905. Since that time it has been in different locations in the village and has had different publishers. The Schroeder Family has been the publisher for the past fifty years. It is only fitting that retiring editor Wm. R. Schroeder tell its story. Who better to tell about historic events in the village than the person who put the story in print? Perhaps he has some stories he could not publish.

Sunday, November 13 - The "Sports Memorabilia" temporary exhibit continues.

Sunday, December 11 - The Museum will be decorated for the holidays. The vintage sleigh with Santa will be available for pictures.

Sunday, January 8 - The last month for the "Sport Memorabilia" exhibit.

Wednesday, February 8 - A pictorial program on the changing facades and businesses in downtown Grayslake will be presented. Admission will be charged as this is not a scheduled monthly meeting.

DONATIONS

The following items were received by the Grayslake Municipal Historical Museum from January 1, 2005 to July 31, 2005: Marie Caviness - book, *Inside the Grayslake Area Public Library*; Judy Smithson - Market Journal's Collection of Culinary Classics; Joanne Lawrence - School District 127 ground breaking hard hat; Helen Thielen - snapshots of Lake Center Place and Winterfest; Bette Best - Eastern Star quilt, Washburn family pictures, Robert Washburn Navy uniform, Heinemann picture and scrapbooks, McMillen pictures; Eileen Wollmuth - Frandsen pen; Wally Stang - Seabee book; Pat and Ken Yopp - St. Mary's Church plate; Jack Clemens - maps; Charlene Rockenbach - booklet, *Steps of a Pilgrim*; Dorothy Volkert - booklet, *Glimpses of the Old Grayslake Area*, 1952 Fire Protection plaque; Marion Clow - St. Gilbert 50th Anniversary booklet, *Memories of Lakeview School*, hog scraper, husking pin, *Ink Blots* booklet, First State Bank checkbook holder, cloth napkin holder, cloth toaster cover, man's nightshirt, house dresses, vintage postcard, Beckwith school papers; Joy and Forrest DeGraff - white Marine dress gloves, Pratser thermometer, 1860s mourning fan, Grayslake Bowl pen, key holders; Gisela Suski - snapshots of mule barn burn and of centennial parade; Edith O'Malley - woman's hat, electric hair clippers, curling irons, barber's brush.

SHOP AND SHARE

A Jewel/Osco Shop and Share coupon is included with this newsletter. By shopping at the above stores and turning in the included coupon on Monday, September 19, Tuesday, September 20 or Wednesday, September 21, the Society will receive five percent of the bill before taxes. This is an easy way to help the Society maintain the Museum.

MEMORIALS

As time marches on the Village of Grayslake and the Grayslake Historical Society has lost some dear friends. They are people who have spent a great deal of time in Grayslake, if not all of their lives. They have contributed to the friendliness and growth of the community. Memorials have been established in memory of Bruno and Katie Wendt, Ruth Hucker Beck, Ruth Ann Heiler, Bessie Waters Bauman, Edith Rich Lahti, Arnold "Bud" Clausen, Ebbe Prip, Esther Schroeder and Wally Gorr. Our sympathy is extended to their families.

SIGNS AND MORE

The Grayslake Historical Society Board is working at making the public more aware

of the Society and the Museum. The Museum has added a new OPEN sign. It is of neon that will be lit when the Museum is open. Members of the Board passed out information about the Society and Museum during the Summerdays Parade. In August bookmarks were handed out by the Grayslake Area Public Library telling about the Museum. Also during August the Museum had a display at the library showing houses of Grayslake. The old and new look of several houses was featured. The best advertisement is word of mouth. Everyone can help by telling friends and neighbors about us.

TOURS

Each year the Museum gives tours to school, scout and clubs. In addition tours can be arranged for family groups. If your relatives or friends from out-of-town come to visit, call the Museum at 847-223-7663 and a special tour will be arranged.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

Have you looked for a postcard of Grayslake and not been able to find one? The Museum has postcards of Grayslake for sale. Also available in the Gift Shop are Grayslake note cards. The Grayslake throw makes a wonderful gift for any occasion. For reading material the Gift Shop sells *Grayslake: A Historical Portrait*, *Memories of Lakeview School* and *The Canning Factories of Grayslake*. Children can purchase a kit to make a clothes pin doll.

MEMBERSHIP

If your address label does not say "06 or later, your membership fee is overdue. We need everyone's support to continue to present programs at the local schools, to publish this newsletter and most importantly to maintain the Museum. Individual dues of \$5.00 should be sent to Membership Chair Dorothy Groth, Grayslake Historical Society, P. O. Box 185, Grayslake, Illinois 60030-0185.

LAKEVIEW SCHOOL IS SOLD

For many Grayslake residents it was sad news when it was announced that on Tuesday, June 28, 2005, West Lake Christian Academy purchased the former Lakeview School owned by Elementary District 46. The building was sold at public auction for \$1.9 million. The building ceased to house public school children in 2002 when Prairieview School in Hainesville opened its doors. The following is a little history of the Lakeview site.

Although the corner of present day Lake Street and Belvidere Road had been used for school purposes for several years as shown on an 1861 map, the property was not formally deeded as such until June 11, 1870. The land was deeded from Lawrence Forvor and his wife to the Trustees of School. The deed, which was recorded in July of 1870, gave the legal description and the price of one hundred dollars. In addition it stated, "It is expressly agreed and understood that the party of the second part was to have the premises above described as long as they are use and occupy it for for school purposes and whenever they abandon it the same shall revert back to the party of the first part to have and to hold the same as though the deed had not been given, but said district shall have the right to remove the school house and retain it as their personal property."

Land was added on the the school property in 1909. An article in the April 8, 1909 *Grayslake Times* gave the details.

"It has been proposed to extend the school campus by buying the Wicks' property in back of the school house on which a price has been set. It extends from the schoolhouse east to the proposed extension of Slusser street and north to the south line of the cemetery. This will probably be voted on at the coming school election, Saturday, April 17th. The piece comprises about two or two and one-half acres. This is a good time to buy the property as it can be purchased at reasonable terms, and it is considered a good

investment by those who have been approached on the subject.”

The Wicks were the daughter and son-in-law of Lawrence Forvor. They sold the land for eight hundred fifty dollars.

More information about the Grayslake Grade School aka Lakeview School is found in *Memories of Lakeview School* published by the Grayslake Historical Society. The book is available for twenty dollars at the Grayslake Museum.

MEMORIES OF A FORMER RESIDENT

Former Grayslake resident Russell Ewing resides in California. In his retirement years he participates in a writing group and writes stories for a California newspaper. He has consented to share his stories with us. The following story contains Grayslake history and more.

REMEMBERING RED FABER

I was thirteen years old when I got my first regular job - pin boy in my hometown's four-lane bowling alley. The job didn't amount to much and required very little skill. The pin setting equipment was a simple mechanical rack for each lane. A pin boy's job was to pick up the knocked down bowling pins and place them in the rack. Two of my friends, Bud and Walt Stang, also worked as pin boys while I was there. The Stang boys were excellent bowlers, much, much better than me.

Occasionally the job got dangerous for the pin boy. That was when an especially skilled bowler was doing the rolling, or bowling. A good hit would send the solid maple pins flying and the pin boy could easily get hurt if one struck him, which happened more than I like to remember. A pin boy's pay was five cents per line. If I were lucky and there was a shortage of pin boys, then I would set pins in two lanes at the same time, at double the pay.

I was there about a year when a new owner took over operation of the bowling alley. He was a big man about six four inches tall with a thick crop curly dark red hair. I had heard a rumor that he was a former major league baseball player, but I didn't know his name until the day he showed up and introduced himself.

The new owner was Urban "Red" Faber, one of Chicago's most famous baseball players. Red, as he wanted to be called, was kind of standoffish. He was probably that way as a result of his celebrity status. Strangers were constantly coming into the bowling alley to meet him.

Red was a star pitcher for the Chicago White Sox for twenty seasons: 1914 to 1933. In 1919 he was a member of the famous (infamous?) Chicago Black Sox team in which several of his team mate accepted bribes to throw the 1919 world series in favor of the Cincinnati reds. Fortunately for Red and his career, he was not involved in the fix scandal. A result of the scandal was the team was renamed the White Sox.

In 1964 Red Faber was elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame. He died in 1976, about the same time his old bowling alley burned to the ground. The bowling alley was never rebuilt.

Editor's note: The Grayslake Bowling Alley stood at the southwest corner of Seymour and Center Streets, the location of the memorial to the four men who perished in the lift station catastrophe. The Grayslake Museum has a dollar bill that was scorched in that historic fire which occurred in 1970.

A CENTENNIAL BUSINESS

Congratulations to the *Grayslake Times*. One hundred years ago on April 20, 1905, the first issue of the *Grayslake Times* was published. It was not Grayslake's first newspaper but it was the one which stood the test of time. Throughout the years the paper has had several publishers/editors and numerous locations. More information about this paper and other Grayslake newspapers can be found in *Grayslake; A Historical Portrait* published by the Grayslake Historical Society in 1994. The book is available for purchase

at the Grayslake Municipal Historical Museum. Microfilm of the early newspaper is housed at the Museum and available for public use. The Museum hosted a display of the *Grayslake Times* this summer showing how its front page had changed in looks and in content during the ten decades.

A new chapter in the history of the *Times* was added in late July. Lakeland Media, which publishes the Grayslake newspaper, was sold to the *Daily Herald* by the Schroeder Family who had owned and published the paper for fifty years.

A PAGE FROM THE PAST

The following article appeared in the *Grayslake Times* on February 8, 1912.

MET IN REGULAR SESSION

The Village Fathers Allow Usual Bills and Transact Other Business.

At the village board meeting at the Hall, Monday evening, little more than the regular routine of business was transacted.

Trustee (William) Brandstetter called the attention of the board to the fact that there was no red light or other sign at the exit of the Grayslake opera house. Mr. (David) White, one of the proprietors, who was present at the meeting said that the required sign would be laced there before the Firemen's dance. (Editor's note: Today this is the second floor of the building housing the Dance Connection and Angulo's Restaurant.)

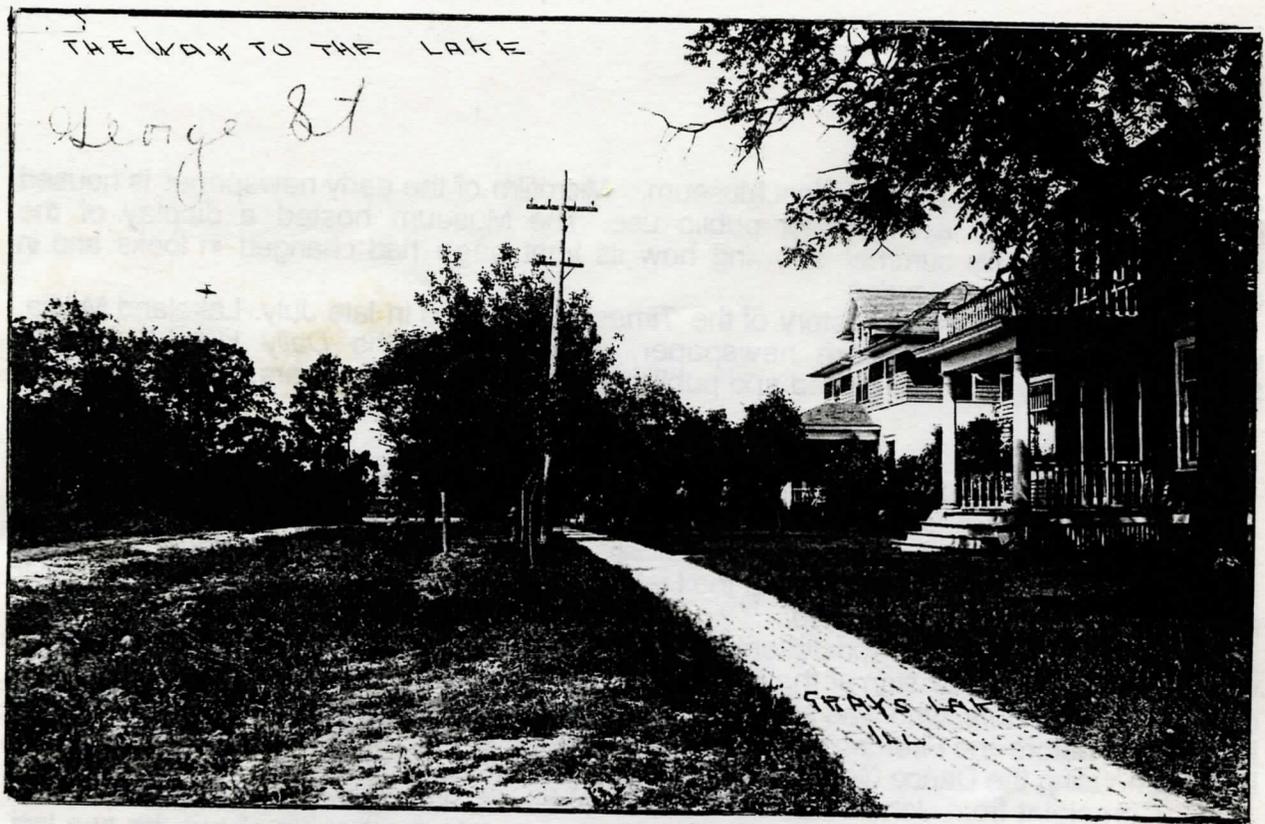
Complaint from John Washburn that his sidewalk hadn't been scarped (sic) of the snow was made. The marshal stated that he has gone to the trouble all but the two last times and that it would be scarped each time if it was in any condition for a snow plow to run on. It is a piece of walk that should be replaced by cement or repaired. At the present time there is a dangerous step at this point. Washburn's walk being of brick, leading to Palmer's, which is on the grade and about six inches lower. The fact that there is a step does not cause the danger, but the bricks at the end of Washburn's walk are loose and the footing is uncertain. Besides, the writer might be going home some night and forget that the step is there - you can imagine the result. While on the subject we might add that a walk should be put down there early in the spring that extends from Dr. Palmer's barn to the lake, as there is considerable travel on this street during the summer months. (Editor's note: This refers to present day George Street.)

Another important act of the council was the purchasing of a gun for the marshal. Mac (Allen McMillen) had a gun, wich (sic) he carried twelve years ago when he was marshal, but it had outgrown its usefulness (sic) and refused to discharge the shells. In this condition he had carried the gun for many months, but had be been called upon to use it, he could only use it as a "billy." We might add that it will stand all rowdies and bums in hand to keep cool as Mac is no doubt anxious to try the new gun.

Spectators at the meeting said that they came with the expectations of hearing something about the water works - that is to be. Quite a lengthy discussion took place and the general indication was that everyone was in favor of it. But the real "sticker" was where to get the money, this was soon settled, but it remains to be seen just how the voters stand on the proposition. A member of the board who had inquired about water systems in other towns he chanced to be stated that a man gave him a rough estimate on the cost of a system such as Grayslake needs, and it was less than \$20,000. Even at this price we would be fortunate in securing it. There will be more definite information regarding this as soon as the well at the condensing plant is tried out from which source water may be secured. (Editor's note: The Gelatin smokestack marks the location of the former milk condensing factory.)

If this is possible it will mean a saving of from four to six thousand dollars.

The question of catch basins also came up and it was decided that within the near future an ordinance would be passed, prohibiting the installation of any basins other than those of solid concrete.



John Washburn built these two houses on George Street. The house to the right is a duplex.



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