



Grayslake Historical Society

164 HAWLEY STREET + P.O. BOX 185 + GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS 60030-0185 + 847-223-7663

UPDATE

February 2014

Village Municipal History Museum
164 Hawley Street
Grayslake, Illinois
Hours: Wednesday - Saturday 12:00 to 4:00
Tours by appointment

Grayslake Historical Society
164 Hawley Street
phone: 847-223-7663
www.grayslakehistory.org
e-mail: ChaRenahan@aol.com

PAST HAPPENINGS

As we enter another year, it is time to reflect. The reflections are fantastic.

September was an outstanding month for events hosted by the Society. The Society was represented in the G.C.H.S. homecoming parade and an alumni reception was held for former students and faculty. The 4-H Reminisce session brought forth great memories. The group also learned how 4-H has changed over the years. Those in attendance will not forget the night with music furnished by Larry Leafblad and the Scotch Lads. The courtyard was filled with long time Grayslakers who tapped their feet to the beat of Bill's drums. That night can not be replicated! Many people came to listen to Jerry Helgren talk about the Picket Fence Farms and how he still quarantines cattle before shipment.

Another outstanding Cemetery Walk was held. Every year new stories are told by the talented performers. The audience learned the different ways people died. Featured were Dr. Rickey who committed suicide by morphine, Frank Wilkinson who was killed by a blast of dynamite, Theo Harvey who died from a hunting accident, Agnes Sorenson who died in an automobile accident, Frank Contos who drowned, Seth Turner who was asphyxiated, and Orlando Young who died of disease during the Civil War. The audience also learned much local history. Volunteers once again passed out candy during the Village's Trick or Treat event.

The November program of the Society featured three high school students telling about their history fair projects. Allison Wahmann and Courtney Riesinger spoke about The Dunning Institute which opened in Chicago in 1869. It had formerly been the Cook County Insane Asylum. Dunning closed in 1971 after serving approximately 38,000 people. Sean Smart's project was "Telephone: The Voice In The Wire". The phone was patented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876 and the first long distance call was made in 1892. Herbert Hoover was the first U. S. president to have a phone on his desk. Society member Terry Norton added to Sean's report with information about phone service in Grayslake.

Also in November, the Society hosted a program by Beth Hook, who told her experiences about running in the New York Marathon for the John Ritter Foundation. The Heritage Center was buzzing with activity during the downtown tree lighting event. Vendors were in the Community Room selling their wares and the Upper Gallery was festive with the Giving Tree Exhibit.

The Society's Christmas Open House was well attended. Santa with his "Ho, ho, ho" greeted the youngsters while Mrs. Claus handed out candy canes. The Warren High School Alumni Choir sang traditional holiday songs which everyone truly enjoyed. Children added another link to the traditional tree and all enjoyed the hot cocoa served by volunteers.

FUTURE ENDEAVORS

The Historical Society, the Heritage Center and the Museum have many plans for the coming months.

Wednesday, February 5 - Search & Share Genealogy Discussion Group. 2:00 PM. Society Archives. Free.

Saturday, February 8 - Heritage Center program. 2:00 PM. Community Room. Actor R. J. Lindsey will portray inventor Thomas Alva Edison. Stories will be told and questions will be addressed. Suggested donation.

Wednesday, February 12 - Historical Society program. 7:30 PM. Community Room. 1992 video of Florence Carlson telling about Grayslake's Matrimonial Agency. Hazel White explaining hair styles and telling local history and Kate Hook talking about her band experiences and leading a sing along. Refreshments. Free.

Thursday, February 13 - Civil War Round Table. 7:00 PM. Community Room. Bruce Allardice will look at Hollywood's treatment of the Civil War and separate fact from fiction.

Saturday, February 22 - Museum. "Made In Grayslake" exhibit opens. noon to 4:00 PM.

Wednesday, March 5 - Search & Share Genealogy Discussion Group. 2:00 PM. Society Archives. Free.

Saturday, March 8 - Heritage Center program. 2:00 PM. Folk musician Mark Dvorak will perform. Suggested donation.

Wednesday, March 12 - Historical Society program. 7:30 PM. Community Room. Annual meeting. Election of Society directors and volunteer recognition. John Potter will present the story of the Potter Family. This intriguing story contains a chapter on Potter's Pool. Learn why it was built and about its beneficial use. Refreshments. Free.

Thursday, March 13 - Civil War Round Table. 7:00 PM. Community Room.

Wednesday, April 2 - Search & Share Genealogy Discussion Group. 2:00 PM. Society Archives. Free.

Wednesday, April 9 - Historical Society Program. 7:30 PM. Community Room. Nancy Plotz Reed and Lisa Plotz Androus, who are the daughters of Grayslake's former Postmaster Ernie Plotz, will tell about Grayslake's postal history and their father's role in it. They will display part of their father's stamp collection. Refreshments. Free.

Thursday, April 10 - Civil War Round Table. 7:00 PM. Community Room.

Saturday, April 26 - Historical Society Reminisce Session. 10:00 AM. Community Room. "On The Street Where You Live...Slusser". Coffee. Free.

Saturday, May 3 - Heritage Center Program. 2:00 PM. Community Room. Author Marty Brounstein will discuss his book "Two Among The Righteous Few". Suggested donation.

Wednesday, May 7 - Search & Share Genealogy Discussion Group. 2:00 PM. Society Archives. Free.

Thursday, May 8 - Civil War Round Table. 7:00 PM. Community Room.

Wednesday, May 14 - Historical Society Program. 7:30 PM. Community Room. Three life-long members of Grayslake will tell about early businesses of the community. Refreshments. Free.

Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day Parade. Watch for the Grayslake Historical Society's firetruck.

Summer - Concerts and other events will be announced in local newspapers, in the village newsletter and on websites and facebook.

VOLUNTEERS

A successful organization needs volunteers. The Grayslake Historical Society is grateful for and appreciative of its many volunteers. Each gave time and service to the Society and Museum during 2013. If your name or you know of a person who was inadvertently left off, please contact a board member so the mistake can be rectified.

The 2013 volunteers are: Domanique Andrews, Lori Baumgartner, Sue Bethke, Samantha Bohner, Evan Brandes, Chris Brenner, Philip Bruno, Connor Casey, Doris Craig, Jim Crofton, Connie Dunbar, Darlene Dorfler, Amy Edwards, Virginia Fitzgerald, Kitty Flary, Carroll, Cory & Harold Flood, Marie Frandsen, Richard Gaddis, Colleen Goodson, Daniel Graham, Grayslake Fire Protection District Firemen, Grayslake Public Works Employees, Marion Grinnell, Judy Haga, James Hassert, Harold & Kay Holden, Krista & Tim Holst, Amanda Johnson, Gemma, Jared, & Tim Johnson, Kyle Kuloultz, Joanne Lawrence, Kendra Laughlin, Cynthia Lee, Bill Leider, Polly Machak, Karl Molek, Joyce & Terry Norton, Corey & Kristen Pearson, John Potter, Josh Raven, Chase, Joel & Nancy Reed, Charlotte Renehan, Charlene Rockenbach, Ron Roselli, Orrell Ruth, Michael Saine, Ethan Schoenbom, Robin & Violet Shuemate, Kirk Smith, Nick Smith, Jessica Spencer, Kathi Starzec, Phyllis Stickels, David Strang, Jane Tiffany-Hansen & Ken Hansen, Ian, Karen & Sean Thoms, Shawn Vogel, Gene Wells, Westlake Christian Academy Students, Linda, Megan & Mark Willhite, Angela Zmuda

DONATIONS

The Grayslake Historical Society wishes to thank the following people for adding to its collections between August 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013. Cynthia Lee - Grayslake High School Homecoming and Wilbur Fire DVD; Carl Heiler - Louis I. Behm playing cards; Greg Hangebrauch - book, *Spider Lake*; Jon Revelle - Grayslake Gelatin labels, envelopes of gelatin, small box of gelatin, interior photos of former Gelatin Factory; Elsie Schroeder - newspaper clipping; Cheryl Whitford - items from Barbara Guenette Whitford who taught at Druce Lake School; Lake County Discovery Museum - fence stretcher which belonged to Jake Pech; Douglas Rockenbach - Behning outdoor thermometer; Joanne Lawrence - 4-H pin; Katy Hall - Scotch Lads photo; Lee Anderson - carpenter's tools; Olga Hankins - *The Barn Book*; Sally Hall - Hook family photos and documents; Ron & Terri Barnardi - Brandstetter quilt & bed linens, books & photos; David Bethke - stereoscope pictures; Stephen Shinnars - woman's dress hat; Ron Roselli - Sanborn map of Grayslake; Tracey Nielsen - student handbooks, Grayslake restaurant menus; Nancy Yuki - collection of black capes, collection of lace in frame;

Kent Beauchamp - Grayslake Coca Cola bottle cap. The stated items follow the collections policy of the Grayslake Historical Society.

Monies are received as donations to the Archives and in memory of a loved one. Donations have been received from Pete & Lisa Androus, Shirley Christian, Kristen Dahl, Wm. Freitag, Larry Herzog, Kevin & Katherine Johnson, Doris & George Lawrence, Evan C. & Patricia Lawrence, Roland & Amy Miller, Diane & George Nordling, Nancy Wightman Pease, Kathi Popenski, Joel & Nancy Reed, Charlotte Renehan, Eva Sebestyen Trust, Virginia Vasey, Wally & Marilyn Walz, Ken & Pat Yopp.

In-kind donations were given by Lori Baumgartner, Chris Brenner, Sue Bethke, Connie Dunbar, Harold Flood, Mary Friis, Ken Hansen & Jane Tiffany-Hansen, Harold Holden, Joanne Lawrence, Joyce & Terry Norton, David Oberg, Nancy & Joel Reed, Charlotte Renehan, Ron Roselli, Kathi Starzec, Linda Willhite.

Without these monetary and in-kind donations, the Society could not function and fulfill its mission. Anyone wishing to help the Society to continue its work can send monetary donations to the Grayslake Historical Society, P. O. Box 185, Grayslake, Illinois 6003.

ANNEX PROJECT

There is constant change at the Grayslake Heritage Center and Historical Society Museum. The latest huge change is happening in the Annex. Heritage Center Director Oberg obtained a \$154,000 grant to upgrade the Annex to museum quality. This fall Society volunteers, with help from Village public works, moved every item from the Annex into storage. The items are stored at various sites in the area. The major construction part of the project (lighting, insulation and air conditioning) was done by a general contractor hired by the Village. Next the Society received a \$15,000 grant from the Village. With this money, the Society hired local contractor Harold Flood to add storage and display areas to the building. Displays will now be created, and items will be moved back into the building. This will take time and manpower. When all is completed, the Annex will become an attraction, a great place to visit and learn Grayslake's history. The opening date will be announced in the spring.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

On January 25 a new exhibit opened in the Upper Gallery. It displays over twenty-five books by past and present local authors or books that mention Grayslake. There are books for all ages and books for all tastes. In addition local bands are highlighted. Chevelle is well-known by the younger crowd while the older generation fondly remembers the Scotch Lads. The list of authors and bands is long so come and see these products.

While the new Upper Gallery exhibit opened on January 25, "Farms: Seeds Of Our Community" closed. It will be replaced with "Made In Grayslake" on February 22. The new exhibit will highlight products made in Grayslake during its history. Most people have heard that gelatin was produced by the Grayslake Gelatin Company but how about some other products? Pasteurized milk and Coca Cola were bottled here. Other products made in our community include safety goggles, violin strings, scales, rugs, cabinets, detachable cabs and the list continues.

Do you have a collection you are willing to share? The lobby cases are available for individuals or groups to share their passion. One of the three lobby cases displays recent acquisitions.

COMMUNICATION

The Grayslake Historical Society board is happy to announce that the Society's new website is active. It is a treasure trove of information. By navigating the site, one can learn hours, programs, about exhibits, what can be found in the Archives and more. The site is at grayslakehistory.org. The Heritage Center also maintains a website.

The Society also has a very active facebook page at Grayslake Historical Society. It had daily Lincoln trivia during the Lincoln exhibit and more recently farm trivia during "Farms: Seeds Of Our Community". If you have not already done so, please Like the Grayslake Historical Society facebook page.

A MEMORY

Cheryl Rinker contributed her memory of the Grayslake Gelatin Factory for all to enjoy. Many of our readers will remember the Gelatin Company while others will learn more about this important part of our village's history.

My Father Earl Rinker worked at Grayslake Gelatin from the late 50s till his retirement in the late 70s. He worked in the boiler room under Bernie Waters, also from Grayslake. During that time Grayslake had a volunteer fire/rescue department and all the emergency calls came through the Gelatin Company. The engineers would answer the calls and then announce where the emergency call was to all the volunteer fire/rescue squad members through a radio system.

During the evening hours the volunteers would keep a radio in their bedrooms. They always knew when my Father was on duty since he had the loudest voice that would echo through the volunteer's radios awaking them from a night's sleep. In addition to answering emergency calls the engineers would blow the whistle that was also housed at the Gelatin Company. At 8 am, noon, 1 pm and at 5 pm the whistle would blow on schedule telling not only the Gelatin Factory workers but many other factory workers in town when they should be at work, to lunch and when to go home. Neighboring children out playing knew when the 5 pm whistle blew it was time to go home for dinner.

I graduated from Grayslake High School in 1970 and started working in the Gelatin Company office that year. The office manager was Alta Neville. Mrs. Thompson was the accounting manager during those days with Thelma Olsen the office supervisor. John Epstein was president until his death. As a young girl I knew that when the 8 am whistle blew I had best be at my desk working until the the noon whistle blew for lunch, only to return by 1 pm. We all waited till we heard the 5 pm whistle to blow to go home for the day!

Cheryl's memory will be stored in the Historical Society Archives. The Society would like others to submit stories so that future generations will know what life was like in Grayslake during different times.

A PAGE FROM THE PAST

The following article appeared in the *Grayslake Times* on September 9, 1956.

Cory Closing Puts 260 Out Of Work

Workers Hunt Jobs As Dismantling Operations Begin

A skeleton crew continues to dismantle manufacturing facilities at Fresh'nd Aire Co., Division of Cory Corp., after the firm announced it is leaving town.

About 35 office personnel and shop employees are on hand for mopping up operations. Two hundred sixty employees received notes in their pay envelopes last Thursday that Cory is shutting down operations in Grayslake after four years.

At one time the firm that made a name famous in the manufacture of air conditioning equipment was west Lake County's biggest employer with 450 persons on the payroll during the peak period of employment. The largest percentage of workers lived in Round Lake with others making their homes in Grayslake, Waukegan and surrounding communities.

Lewis W. Seil of Grayslake, plant superintendent, estimates it will take 30 to 45 days to clear out inventory and production equipment.

A note to each employee over the signature of J. W. Alsdorf, president of Cory, explained that manufacturing facilities will be moved to Chicago to be closer to distribution points. Employees were asked to indicate if they would be willing to work in Chicago, but it is doubtful if many will take the offer.

Earlier this year Cory took over the Mitchell Manufacturing Co. of Chicago which makes a similar line of merchandise. It is assumed operations will be continued at Mitchell.

Seil said the Fresh'nd Aire name will undoubtedly become a brand model at Mitchell. Key managerial personnel are expected to be retained. On the final day, employees received pay due and vacation pay if coming. Some eligible employees receive severance pay.

Announcement of the shut down came at 7 p.m. as employees were preparing to leave for home. Some veteran workers began to cry. Most took the news disheartedly and then turned thoughts to finding a new job. Half the personnel are women.

News of the closing spread quickly through Grayslake and Round Lake. At first many persons thought the move was another temporary lay off. Because of its seasonal nature Cory discharged most of its working force in the summer months, reaching the peak during early winter.

Merchants in Grayslake and neighboring communities expect noticeable drop in retail sales, although any slackening was not yet apparent earlier this week.

No apparent attempt was made to sell the plant as a going concern, it was learned. The plant contains 52,000 square feet and is located on a 14-acre site. It adjoins the Milwaukee Road but there is no spur into the plant.

Richard Best, president of the Grayslake Chamber of Commerce, said no meeting on the shutdown has been held. He said he informed a chemical firm that was eyeing Grayslake for a home that the plant might be available.

Seil discounted reports that labor troubles caused Cory to leave town. He said the firm enjoyed its stay in Grayslake but could not continue to operate profitably far from distribution points. It was reported Cory was forced to discharge some employees several years ago when attempts at union organization were made.

Cory is an international firm. Its brand name include Autopoint, Flavor Seal and Nicro, a stainless steel product. General offices are in Chicago.

The firm came to Grayslake four years ago, taking over the plant from National Video, which operated a short time in this area. The factory was constructed by Libertyville Textile Co. after World War II.

MEMBERSHIP

Unless you are a life member, your annual membership dues are due. Your address label tells when your membership expires. Kindly fill in the enclosed form and send as directed. Compared to other historical societies our dues are inexpensive. Please consider an extra donation to help pay for phone service plus archival and other supplies.

Clip Here _____



Grayslake Historical Society Membership Form

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

		Quantity	Total
Individual Annual Membership	\$ 10	_____	_____
Individual Annual Senior (65 years and over) Membership	\$ 5	_____	_____
Student Annual	\$ 3	_____	_____
Individual Life Membership	\$ 250	_____	_____
Couple Life Membership	\$ 400	_____	_____
Annual Business Membership	\$ 50	_____	_____
Please accept my additional donation		_____	_____
Total:		_____	_____

Annual Memberships are from
March 1 to February 28

Make check payable to:
Grayslake Historical Society

To become a member of the Grayslake Historical society, please print this form and mail the completed form to:

Membership Chair
 Grayslake Historical Society
 P. O. Box 185
 Grayslake, Illinois 60030-0185

To receive your membership card, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

SEARCH AND SHARE GENEALOGY DISCUSSION GROUP

Novice and experienced genealogists are invited to join a new genealogy discussion group. It meets the first Wednesday of the month (unless that day is a holiday) at 2:00 PM in the Society Archives. There are no dues and no officers. It is a group of people who share their frustrations if they have hit a brick wall in their family search and who share their joy when they make an exciting find. The participants help each other in their quest to fill in the gaps in their family history. For more information, call the Society office at 847-223-7663.

NEW DISPLAY CASES

Visitors to the "Made In Grayslake" exhibit will notice new display cases, well almost new. The Grayslake Chamber of Commerce and Industry gave the Society the wood pedestals, that had been the bases for ice sculptures during the former Winter Fests. Master carpenter Harold Holden added plexiglass tops to protect artifacts on display. The cases are on casters and easily moved to various locations in the Museum. The Heritage Center and Historical Society are constantly working together to upgrade various items in the Museum.

MEMORIALS

There are numerous plaques on the west wall of the Upper Gallery. Several of them have name plates in memory of deceased Grayslake Historical Society members and friends. Recently money was donated to the Society in memory of Russell Christian, Jack Davis and Leonard Burge. Persons wishing to donate in memory of these or other loved ones should send checks to Memorial Fund, Grayslake Historical Society, P. O. Box 185, Grayslake, Illinois 60030-0185. Donations are tax deductible.

"Saving the past for the future"

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