

# Grayslake Historical Society



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

## 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

## UPDATE

September 2001

Founded 1976

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

### FROM OUR SCRAPBOOK

The 2001 year for the Grayslake Historical Society and Museum started in February. This was the first month that a collection of motto-grams was on display at the museum. The motto-grams, which are framed poems with pictures honoring mothers, friends, etc., dated from about 1910 to 1950. On February 14 a Society board member used a slide presentation to detail the Historical Society's twenty-five year history to the Grayslake Woman's Club at its monthly meeting. That evening Greg Koeppen from the Lake County Farm Bureau gave an informative program to the Historical Society. It was noted that although very few farms still exist in Lake County, agriculture is very visible in the form of nurseries and related businesses.

The Society's twenty-fifth anniversary dinner on March 14 was a great success! Over sixty people enjoyed the catered chicken dinner from Pik Kwik Foods in Grayslake and the beautifully decorated cake from Somethings Brewing. Darlene Craig treated us to a special musical program. Using narrative, solos and group singing she took us on a tour of our nation's history. During the month of March a scout and a senior group visited the Museum.

In April Larry Lenzen enlightened the Society members when he told about the Lenzen family's involvement in Grayslake. Members of the audience remembered shopping at Grandma Lenzen's store on Belvidere. In addition the Lenzens had a hardware store in downtown Grayslake. Also in April, Society President Charlotte Renehan gave her annual costumed historical presentation for the Grayslake Middle School seventh graders. She led the confirmation class of the United Protestant Church on a historical walking tour of the church's background.

On April 28 at the annual awards luncheon of the Illinois State Historical Society held at the Radisson Hotel in Lincolnwood, the Grayslake Historical Society received a **Certificate of Excellence** for its project "Restoration of the Grayslake Cemetery". Charlie Groth and his committee are to be thanked for this work. This is the first time the Society has received a state award. In the past two members of the Society have been so honored.

In May the Museum docents were kept busy giving Museum tours. Miss Mary's Peppermint Preschool and St. Gilbert's first graders were among the visitors. The Society board member volunteers did the annual spring cleaning of the Grayslake Cemetery. Pat and Ken Yopp represented the Society with their red, white and blue star-studded vehicle in the Grayslake Memorial Day parade.

The Museum in June put up a special display of photographs of Grayslake. These photographs were the work of Layton Plyman exhibited during Grayslake's Centennial. A slide presentation was given to the seniors of St. Gilbert Catholic Church. The Museum was open during the Grayslake Arts Festival on June 18. The Society partnered with the Grayslake Park District on Sunday, June 24 to put on a "Games of Yesteryear" afternoon. Participants made jump ropes, played marbles and learned jacks and other activities of the past. On June 26, at a meeting of the Grayslake American Legion Post 659, the Society received a **Certificate of Appreciation** from Post Commander Charles Lucas for its community involvement, particularly for its work at the Grayslake Cemetery. Also during June the Museum was a field trip for the Peppermint Stick Summer Camp.

The Grayslake Downtown Steering Committee hosted an Ice Cream Social on July 8. Three members of the Society, dressed in period clothing, informed the public of Grayslake's past with a pictorial display. The Society was also at a Farmers Market.

August brought the summer season to an end. During the month the library had a Historical Society display, "Some Noteworthy Grayslake Residents". Those people highlighted in the exhibit were: John Baumgartner-lawyer, Jay Hook-Major League baseball player, Charles Longabaugh-artist, James McMillen-Chicago Bears football player and wrestler, Charles Miccuci-children's author and illustrator, and Willadene Nicholas-poet. Kathy Starzec produced this outstanding exhibit. We again were present at a Grayslake Farmers Market. The Society was visible during Grayslake's Summer Days. We had an entry in the parade, held an open house, and shared a booth with the Chamber of Commerce. Our entry in the parade included three generations of the Yopp Family playing children's games.

In addition to the usual second Sunday of the month open house and being open every Thursday, the Museum was also open Tuesday afternoons this summer. This was to accommodate those children who were participating in the Passport to Adventure program sponsored by the Grayslake Public Library. So far the 2001 year has been a very busy one for the Grayslake Historical Society and Museum.

### **OUR CRYSTAL BALL**

The Museum will be open **Sunday, September 9** for its monthly open house. September will be the last month that the special display of Grayslake pictures will be featured.

The Grayslake Historical Society will start its fall season with an outstanding program. For this meeting the group will deviate from its usual program format of presenting the history of local citizens and businesses. Instead the audience will hear about Historic Route 66. Tom Teague, executive director of the Illinois State Historical Society will be the speaker. Mr. Teague is the founding president of the Route 66 Association of Illinois and editor of *The 66 News*. He has published the book, *Searching for 66*. This program is funded by the Illinois Humanities Council. The

Society Board is looking forward to having a large audience so that the state organization will see what a great local group we have. The date is **Wednesday, September 12**; the time is 7:30 p.m.; the place is the State Bank of the Lakes. Grayslake High School's annual homecoming parade is September 29. Look for the Society's entry.

October's general meeting of the Society will be held **Wednesday, October 10**. At that time Terry Norton and Jerry Smith will delight the audience with information about the Harris Family. Harris Road divides Prairie Crossing. A member of the Harris family worked in the Grayslake Post Office for thirty-nine years. Members of the family have served on the Grayslake Fire Department. Come and find out what other contributions the family has made to Grayslake.

The monthly open house of the Museum on **Sunday, October 14** will be the opening of the new exhibit of toys. The toys will be from private collections. Bring in your children and your grandchildren and share your memories of playing with toys...before Nintendo. The open house will have different hours that day from - 9:00 to 1:00 - as there will be a pancake breakfast by the Exchange Club at the Fire Station and our Cemetery Walk will be in the afternoon.

The fourth annual Grayslake Cemetery Walk on South Lake Street will be held **Sunday, October 14** at 1:30 and 2:30. In case of rain the event will be held in the State Bank of the Lakes, 50 Commerce Drive, Grayslake. The following decedents will be featured: Orlando Young - a young lad who died of disease as a Union soldier; Eugene DeVoe - a former village clerk; Susan DeLap Washburn - the mother of the Washburn brothers, who built houses in Grayslake; Helen Hendee Wheelock - the daughter of an early pioneer and wife of a local saloon keeper; Cyrus B. Harvey - an early farmer, stock buyer, village trustee and township supervisor; and Ella Stout - the mother of a former publisher of the *Grayslake Times*.

The toy exhibit will continue at the **Sunday, November 11** open house of the Museum from 1:30 to 3:30.

Linda Lowe will be the speaker for the Society's **Wednesday, November 14** meeting. Harvey's Subdivision, Harvey Street, Dr. Earl Harvey are familiar places and names to long-time residents of Grayslake. Ms. Lowe is an amateur genealogist who has spent considerable time researching the Harvey Family who came to the Grayslake area from Burton, Ohio in the 1850s. She will tell about the family and display family artifacts and pictures. Come and learn how the Harveys are related to the Barrons for whom Barron Boulevard is named.

The **Sunday, December 9** open house will feature Santa in the Museum sleigh. Bring your grandchildren to the Museum to receive a picture of them with Santa. Students from local preschools will receive a free picture with Santa when they bring in a special picture they have colored.

Break the winter doldrums by stopping in at the Museum on **Sunday, January 13** during its monthly open house. Perhaps we can share some hot chocolate as we reminisce or learn something new about Grayslake's history. January is the last month for the toy exhibit.

If you have a suggestion for a historical program during our regular meetings, inform Program Chairman Joanne Lawrence.

The Grayslake Historical Society Board meets the first Wednesday evening of each month at the Museum. These meetings are open to all. The Board is planning to take a field trip to a local museum before the end of the year. In this way they see what other museums are doing and get ideas to help improve ours. The wallpaper by the museum's pump organ and the manequins in the Neville sleigh are a result of a previous Board field trip.

## **DONATIONS**

The Museum has received the following artifacts which were reviewed and accepted by the Collections and Accessioning Committee between January 1, 2001 and July 31, 2001: Lynn Ann Thomas - two Story Hour Readers, ten postcards; Dr. Alex DeStefano - one hard cover book of newspapers; Ray Rockenbach - Hook and Co. wooden hanger; Mildred Haisma - snapshot of Prairie Crossing Farmers' Market; Anonymous - Jubilee Booklet, Smoothies Club Jubilee button, Jubilee bow tie; Kent Rich - cart from Pester's grocery store, painted saucer from Higley and Riel Store, four RNA buttons, ten year RNA pin, Grayslake National Bank rubber stamp, Thomas P. Walsh creamer, Louis I. Behm letter opener, Louis I. Behm mechanical pencil, Pester's Standard Service checks, dust pan from Walsh store with Walsh logo; Grayslake Fire Department - red, white and blue banners, hand-hooked fire department shield; Scott Baltic - aerial photo of St. Paul depot; Bill Henkel - snapshot of Alice Thomson McGuire, Henkel family history; Dave Jorn - Wright Acres plot map and restrictions; Marlene Badgerow - cup and saucer from Higley and Riel Store; Marion Clow - Elect Marv Smith notepaper, one American Legion poster; Police Chief Larry Herzog - police chief picture in frame; Dorothy Volkert - 1967 G.C.H.S. year book; Tom Lyons - World War II picture; Jim Cesaroni - clamp-on ice skates; Bob Wegge - ice tongs, milk pail, milk stool, bakery bowl; Pete Vole - two sections wooden water main; Duane Andrews - 1948 G. C. H. S. class ring, ten issues G. C. H. S. Rambling Ram, G. C. H. S. picture; four Comi Color Ads of E. J. Bidinger. The Society and Museum are grateful for these many donations.

Placed on loan were organizational items from the former Jaycee organization. Dave Jorn placed on temporary loan the dairies of his Great Grandmother Pester.

## **SHOP AND SHARE**

Our second Shop and Share fund raiser in February of 2001 earned the Society over seventy dollars which was more than our first participation in this event. With everyone's help the next Shop and Share can do even better. Our next Shop and Share will be Monday, September 17, Tuesday, September 18 and Wednesday, September 19. Sign the enclosed coupon and turn it in when you shop at any Jewel-Osco during those dates. The Grayslake Historical Society will receive five percent of your bill excluding taxes. Every little bit helps!

## **MEMORIALS**

The list of names on our memorial plaque is growing. Monetary donations have been given in honor of the following members who have left us: Wally Fritz, Jim Davis, Harry Lusk, Jr., Herbert Perkins and Helen Smith. Anyone who wishes may add to any particular memorial and the deceased family will be informed of the contribution. It is

the policy of the Society to inform the family of the contributor's name but not the amount of contribution.

### **MICROFILMING PROJECT**

The Grayslake Historical Society is embarking upon a new project. Most communities have their local newspaper on microfilm. Grayslake does not. Newspapers are a valuable resource for genealogists and historical researchers. The *Grayslake Times* has released its archives to be microfilmed. However, this process is expensive. The Society is seeking donations to fund this project as the Society will not be using its general fund to finance the microfilming. If you wish to help with this preservation project, your donation is tax-deductible. Just note your check "Microfilm Fund".

### **G. C. H. S. YEARBOOKS REQUESTED**

The reference room of the Museum has a collection of yearbooks from Grayslake Community High School but the collection is not complete. The following years are missing: 1952, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, and 1999. Before you discard that part of your life or your child's, remember the Museum.

### **ROOF REPAIR**

If you have been in the Museum during the past year, you know that some of the exhibits have been covered with plastic. The flat roof in the rear of the main Museum has been leaking. The roof has now been re-roofed and the cat walk reinstalled. The ceiling in one room will also be repaired. The Village of Grayslake arranged for the repairs as they own the building and are responsible for the structural upkeep.

### **NEW VOLUNTEERS**

Grayslake High School students Melissa Smyth and Nick Fassbinder have taken over the task of making jump ropes for the Society. Melissa, who is the President of the Grayslake High School National Honor Society, has offered its services to the Museum. It is great to see the younger generation help to preserve history.

### **A PAGE FROM THE PAST COMMITTEE MET TO PLAN ROADS**

Plans of Concrete Road construction are being rapidly worked out  
A meeting held at the Merchants & Farmers Bank, in Grayslake last Friday was attended by the following men:

J. B. Eger, Libertyville.  
C. Richards, Grass Lake.  
Chase Webb, Antioch.  
Frank Hamlin, Lake Villa.  
George McCredie, Lake Villa.  
A.T. White, Grayslake.

These men were delegated to meet here by the Lake County Good Roads Association, and the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the problem of the best north and south road to be built by the state aid-in fact, the first north and south road to be built. This committee threshed the matter out and will report back to the Association, which will in turn report to the State committee on the work and the location of the road will be finally decided upon and established. While this is only preliminary work it is all necessary.

There was a lengthy discussion, pro and con, but the final conclusion of the meeting was reached on the basis of the most direct route north and south, avoiding all the turns possible, therefore we might look to the Lake Villa road from the school house north. This is provided the recommendations of the committee are recognized.

The state aid law is not specific in the designation of roads. The following is what the book of rules says about the route in question:

"Beginning in a public highway in a general northwesterly direction to the Wisconsin state line, affording, Chicago, Libertyville, Antioch and intervening communities reasonable connections with each other."

From the above paragraph our readers will see that it is the purpose of the authorities to take the most direct route and include as many towns as can easily be included. It is fair and no doubt Avon (Township) will get what is best for it. The route proposed, and to be recommended by the committee, leaves Milwaukee Avenue at the first turning north of Libertyville, thence running west to the township line and straight north to the Old Plank Road (Belvidere/Route 120) intersecting at Gages Corners (Route 45). Here it will meet with the bond issue road which will be this fall completed.

Mike Wirtz, the road commissioner from Fremont (Township) later suggested that the road lead west of Libertyville on the Butler Lake road, through Area (Mundelein) and to Ivanhoe, thence north to Ed. Kapple's corner in the village limits. Mr. Wirtz urged that in this manner Fremont would be included in the route and the people of that town (township) could build to it and that it would afford them an outlet twelve months a year. It would also take the route thru Area and Ivanhoe where more or less population is centered. It was not thought that state authorities would look upon his with much favor, as it would necessitate the crossing of four railway lines. The plan is always to avoid railway crossings unless there be viaducts. This latter mentioned route would also require several more miles of road, this however would not cut much ice as long as it creates an outlet for people. It must be borne in mind, however, that these first roads are planned to be the main connecting trunk lines. Later other important roads will be built.

The Butler Lake road is the one on which Senator Swift is located and Mr. Wirtz says that the senator is going to be with him in making a fight to have the first state aid road over that route. They have a good argument, and both the senator and Mr. Wirtz are scrappers for what they want.

Mr. Eger of Libertyville who has a reputation for getting all he can while he is out after anything, suggested that Grayslake get as much of the permanent road built by the state aid as possible. He suggested that if he was fighting for Avon he would aim to have the north and south road start from the Plank road at the turn east of the Kapple home, running to the Barron corner thence west through the main street of the

village to the corner at Brandstetter's garage, thence north. The plan was not looked upon with much favor by the committee and was discussed but little. People in the village, especially the business houses, would be in favor of that. No better reason for this need be given than one look into the street at this time. It is quite unlikely that anything will come of this route for the further reason that it will cause to be constructed a mile of road parallel with the Plank road and not more than a half mile from it.

The Times believes that the natural route is north from the school house and that all of our people should boost for that.

We might also remind our readers and property owners that a duty rests upon us before this road can be built. It is quite likely that the state will require all connections to water and sewer mains to be made before the road is laid. With eighteen foot cement road the property owners on the east side of the street will probably not be troubled so far as concerns the water line, but as the sewer passes down the center of the street all connections for lots will have to be made in advance. It is most likely that everyone will be glad to make a connection and have a paved street in front of their property paid for by the state.

We should all get settled on the route and then push for it.

The preceding article appeared in the *Grayslake Times* on Thursday, January 23, 1919. The game (politics or problems) never changes just the names of the players.

## MEMBERSHIP

There are still some members who have not paid their dues for this year. The membership year is from March 1, 2001 to February 28, 2002. If your address label does not say "02", "03", "04" or "life", your dues are due. Due to increasing postal rates, this newsletter can only be sent to dues-paying members in the future. Your membership helps the Society preserve the past for future generations.

-----cut here-----

### 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



Grayslake Historical Society  
P. O. Box 185  
Grayslake, IL 60030