



# Grayslake Historical Society

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

# UPDATE

September 2017

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

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## FROM THE PAST

The Grayslake Historical Society has hosted some interesting programs since 2017 began. Here are the reviews:

**February 18, 2017** - For the winter Reminisce Session the Grayslake Historical Society led a discussion about the Grayslake Outdoor Theater. Among the attendees were several former employees of the theater who added many details to the discussion.

Construction on the theater, located near the southeast corner of Routes 120 and 83, began on June 25, 1948 and it opened in May of 1949. It was originally called the Family Outdoor Theater. The theater was owned by Jeff Han and Tom Rhyan, who also owned theaters in McHenry, Antioch, Lake Zurich, Dundee, Libertyville, Zion, Gurnee and Crystal Lake. A farmhouse across the street from the theater served as the office. Eventually the theater had two screens because cinemascope required a bigger screen which was placed over the original one. At one point the staff had to paint the screen.

Movies shown were usually rated "G", "PG", with an occasional "R" if it was a very popular movie. The *Rocky* had the largest attendance with 1489 people. *Jurassic Park* and *Batman* were also well-attended. Special nights, such as "antique car night" and "pajama night", were held.

The box office opened at 6:00 with movies beginning about 8:30 and managers working from 5:30 to 3:00 A.M. Three movies were shown each night. If the start of the movie was delayed, the customers started blowing their horns. The concession stand served cheeseburgers, hamburgers, nachos and hot dogs, along with candy, popcorn and soda. On busy nights there would be twenty to twenty-five workers there and they were paid \$1.20 an hour.

Problems included customers who started to drive away with speaker still attached and broke their window. Also, some customers cut the wires and took the speakers. The staff might have to replace between zero and fifty speakers in a night. Even after the advent of digital sound when customers could listen on the car radios, the speakers were kept because the weather sometimes interfered with the sound. Later, as the size of cars and trucks increased, the stand of the speakers were color-coded to make it easier to park cars. Mosquitoes were also a problem and sometimes

trucks would pass through during the movie while spraying. Customers would have to quickly roll up their windows.

Problems with customers at the theater were limited because the owner hired Graylake policemen and later Lake County sheriff officers who could inspect cars and handle problems with patrons sneaking in or with underage drinking. At times a customer might try to back in the exit.

The sign for the theater often was used to advertise local events in the area. Other events were held at the location, such as the United Protestant Church Easter sunrise service and a flea market.

Attendance fell as the availability of movies at home increased. The theater closed on September 6, 1998 with the showing of the movies, *Saving Pvt. Ryan* and *Black*. The price was \$5.00 per person.

**March 8, 2017** - Society board member Jim Rockwell presented "Twenty Seconds to Live" in the Heritage Center Community Room. He began his presentation with a general review of the characteristics of the B-47, the first swept wing, turbojet powered strategic bomber. With an absolute ceiling of 40,500 feet and a maximum speed of 589 miles per hour, the bomber, crewed by three, normally operated at 35,000 feet and a speed of 350-400 miles per hour. For a fictionalized account of the aircraft, aircrew and mission he referred to the movie, "Strategic Air Command," starring Jimmy Stewart and June Allyson.

Shifting to April 28, 1958, Rockwell focused on a practice bomb run that evening in Binbrook 16, piloted by Major Graves, Co-pilot James E. Obenauf, Navigator-bombardier; and Instructor-Navigator, Major Maxwell. With only three seats, the instructor sat on a folding chair in the crawlway that led from the copilot position, forward to the navigator-bombardier position in the nose of the aircraft. He further reviewed emergency egress by ejection seat from the three crew positions. After ejection, the instructor would proceed down the crawlway and exit the aircraft from the navigator ejection hatch. The focus of the presentation was on James E. Obenauf.

James Obenauf was the youngest of nine siblings of Fred and Helena Obenauf. Located at 126 Nebraska Road, the family farm was located on the present Erhart Road, south of Saddlebrook and adjacent and then part of the Ray Lake Forest Preserve. An indifferent student, Obenauf graduated from Ela-Vernon High School in 1953. He always wanted to fly and took a couple of flying lessons while he was in high school. He enlisted in the new Air Force, planning on completing two years of college later to qualify for flight school. Needing pilots, the Air Force waived the college requirement and James Obenauf took, and passed a qualifying examination. Off to flight school, he completed training and received his wings in 1955. On leave on the way to his first assignment, the 10<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, 341<sup>st</sup> Bomb wing at Dyess Air Force Base, he married Pat Connor of Chicago. On the night in question, he was the father of 10 month old David and Pat was pregnant.

After a successful "bombing" of Dalhart, Texas, Obenauf called a fire on the starboard wing and Pilot Graves ordered, "Eject, eject, eject. Both the pilot and co-pilot Obenauf cycled through seat ejection: Aircraft depressurized, canopy blown, seat bottomed, control column stowed and ejection triggered. Both ejection seats failed to function. (The navigator, Cobb, ejected successfully). Graves dropped into the

crawlway, proceeded forward and left the plane through the navigator ejection hatch. Both navigator and pilot parachuted safely, with minor injuries.

Obernauf repeated the ejection procedures. Air turbulence and dust and debris in his eyes degraded his vision. He was proceeding down into the crawlway when he noticed Major Maxwell, unconscious, helmet and oxygen mask off, at the back of the crawlway. He decided to return to his position and either bail out or fly the airplane. His status: No canopy, no forward vision, failing eyesight, dead engine and a now-groggy instructor. He began an emergency descent to 10,000 feet to restore Maxwell. He noted that the fire was limited to the outboard jet engine, which he secured. Finally making contact with Altus AFB, he decided to return to Dyess and, with limited vision received radar determined vector, speed and altitude. He successfully landed about one hour later. Rockwell noted that professionals held the view that landing the B-47 from the co-pilot position was very, very difficult. To do so with failing eyesight, at night, with guidance from the Dyess tower was incredible.

Listening on the radio, the SAC commander in Omaha called the Chief of Staff at midnight. James E. Obenauf was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross the next day. He was also awarded the Cheney Award. Press coverage was extensive, including Life Magazine. Dramatizations included Goodyear Theatre and the Alcoa theatre. His exploits were the subject of a book, *Twenty Seconds to Live* by Elizabeth Land and he was featured on "This is Your Life," where he was given a 1959 Edsel station wagon.

Four of many cousins were in attendance and shared memories. Lt Col James E. Obenauf retired from the Air Force in 1974. He resides in Tucson, Arizona, now in his 81<sup>st</sup> year.

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017** - The annual meeting of the Grayslake Historical Society was held with the following officers elected for a two year term: President - Charlotte Renehan; Vice-President - Linda Willhite; Secretary - Jackie Hansen; Treasurer - Nancy Reed. Directors are Chris Brenner, Adrijana Bisevac, Connie Dunbar, Daniel Graham and Ken Lenzen. During the program, seven Society members shared family history and artifacts. Lori Guenther first displayed her grandfather, Pink Murrie's WWI discharge papers. He enlisted in the war in 1917 at the age of twenty-five and served as a trench messenger. He was discharged in 1919 and later served as postmaster from 1921 to 1934 and Avon Township supervisor from 1933 to 1963. Lori also shared a beat-up roasting pan that her father, Bud, had found in the attic under a roof leak. Bud gave it to her as a wrapped present and then took it back and used it over to give her other gag gifts, such as a well-used scouring pad, all of which reflected his depression-born frugality.

Chris Brenner showed the Society members his father's cane collection and explained the hobby of cane collecting. Some of the most interesting canes were ones that were used to hide weapons.

Darlene Dorfler brought a frame with paper dolls with real human hair, believed to be from a family member. The dress and slip were made from material from her mother's wedding dress. The heirloom hung in her family's Fremont Township farmstead and now hangs in her Grayslake home.

A Gold Medal Dairy milk bottle and milk box were the artifacts brought by Tim Fish. His grandfather was a long-time milkman who worked for a variety of dairies in Grayslake.

Sewing and needlework were shown by Jackie Hansen. The pieces were done by her grandmother who was born in Denmark, and they were found in the attic of her house. Jackie's grandparents were married in 1910 and lived on Slusser Street. Jackie's grandmother also made wedding hankies for Jackie and her sister.

Jim Richardson demonstrated his great grandfather's miter box which was dated 1909. His grandfather, Orlando, was a master carpenter and though born in Volo, was a signer of the Grayslake incorporation papers. Jim showed pictures of houses his grandfather built, most of which are on Park Avenue and were built between 1890 and 1900.

Last of all, John Potter shared his Potter Farm sign and discussed the indoor swimming pool at the farm which was used for polio victims. The 900-acre farm was at the end of Curran Road near Campbell's Airport.

**Wednesday, May 9, 2017** - The scheduled program about the Edwards Family by Society member Linda Willhite, was postponed so that Society members could attend the visitation and services for former Society board member, Ken Yopp. The program will be rescheduled.

**Saturday, August 19, 2017** - A reminisce session was held on the topic of Gray's Lake. Charlotte Renehan started the discussion with a short history of how the lake was named. William Gray settled on land by the lake before 1840 and when people traveled here, they would refer to it as Gray's Lake even though Gray moved on and is buried in Minnesota.

Karen Rich talked about the lake management. They meet once a year and it is run by the Grayslake Park District. They mainly deal with weeds in the lake and the weeds are treated as soon as the ice is gone so as not to disturb the natural growth. The weed control is paid for by the Park District and the Village. She also shared that Moore's subdivision owns twenty-six acres of the lake. The properties along the lake go into the lake and there is a sand bar from Route 120 to the other end of the lake.

Terry Norton told that his family had a row boat on the lake and he went swimming and fishing with his dad. He remarked that once where they were swimming a herd of dairy cattle came splashing into the lake. At one time Jones Island was used to pasture cattle.

Jackie Hansen told about the subdivision started by her uncle on the west side of the lake, north of Belvidere. Her great grandmother lived in a house there. Her dad built an ice sailing boat and hand-sawed the sails. She went on it with him.

It was shared that the Jackson farm was south of Belvidere and there was a marsh there and the water flowed under the road into the lake, which eventually drains into Mill Creek. After the 1938 flood a tile was put in that runs down Park Avenue so it could control the level in the lake.

Nancy Reed shared that she used to ice skate at Jones Island and that she liked going to the warming house for hot chocolate. She mentioned they used to play ice hockey on the lake also.

Charlotte mentioned that use of the lake has changed over the years and rowboats have become kayaks and paddle boards.

Karen shared that there is a group that works out by swimming across the lake and back.

Terry talked about "Pete's Park" which was mostly used by out-of-towners partly because it cost to get in. Porter Duell managed the park. When Pete decided to sell it in the 50's, there was talk about the Village buying it, but it was voted down. Parkway Foods was built on part of the land.

The community did use the park for Doug Getchell Day and sometimes for school picnics.

Charlotte shared that as a child they would take a large inner tube and go to the lake. With her own children she took the rowboat. When she parked at the end of George Street, she got a ticket. Some people drove their cars on the lake in winter.

Chris Brenner mentioned that he lost his wedding ring at the beach and even though he and his children searched the sand, it was never found.

At one time the owner of the Last Chance Saloon said he was going to build a "grand marina" or a "yacht club" on the lake and even the newspapers covered it. He went so far to have a drawing and plans to show, but it was a joke.

### IN THE FUTURE

Here are some dates to mark on your calendar. It is hoped that you can attend many of them.

**Wednesday, September 6, 2017-** Search and Share genealogy discussion group. 2:00 pm. Heritage Center. Free. Share your latest family history discovery or challenge the group to help you search for a missing relative.

**Wednesday, September 13, 2017 - Grayslake Historical Society** program. "Heartland and Unity: A Smelly Saga of Sewers and Scrapheaps". 7:00 pm. Heritage Center Community Room. Refreshments. Free. Heartland was the biggest, richest, most hotly argued development plan in 20th century Lake County and Grayslake was at the center of the storm. Jane Trump and Eve Lee will tell the story of this ill-fated plan and William Alter's nearby and equally controversial Unity property. Learn how the legacy of Heartland and Unity lives on today.

**Thursday, September 14, 2017 - Lake County Civil War Round Table.** 7:00 pm. Heritage Center Community Room. Author David Dixon will discuss his book, "The Lost Gettysburg Address".

**Sunday, September 17, 2017 - Lake County Folk Club concert.** 7:00 pm. Heritage Center Community Room. Admission fee. Music by Johnsmith with opener Merv Collins.

**Tuesday, September 19, 2017 - Heritage Center program.** 7:00 pm. Ty Rohrer, Waukegan History Museum Supervisor, will present a program about Jack Benny.

**Sunday, October 1, 2017 - Grayslake Historical Society event.** "Living History Tour of the Grayslake Cemetery". 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm. Donations appreciated. The theme of the twentieth annual Grayslake Cemetery Walk is "Remembering the Past". Themes of previous walks will be recalled. Costumed interpreters will tell about Grayslake events which happened during their life time. The recently installed Grayslake Cemetery plaque will be officially unveiled.

**Wednesday, October 4, 2017 - Search and Share genealogy discussion group.** 2:00 pm. Heritage Center. Free. Share your latest family history discovery or challenge the group to help you search for a missing relative.

**Wednesday, October 11, 2017 - Grayslake Historical Society** program. "Early History of Warren Township High School and Its Sports Teams". 7:00 pm. Heritage Center Community Room. Refreshments. Free. Before Grayslake Community High School

opened in 1946, Grayslake students attended neighboring high schools. One of these schools was Warren Township High School located in Gurnee, Illinois. This year Warren celebrated its one hundredth birthday and alumni Jim Lodesky will share stories that he learned while researching the book he has written about the school. The book will be available for purchase after the program.

**Thursday, October 12, 2017** - Lake County Civil War Round Table, 7:00 pm. Heritage Center Community Room.

**Friday, October 13, 2017** - Waukegan-North Shore Chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of American program. 7:30 pm. State Bank of the Lakes Community Room, Commerce Drive, Grayslake. R. Lindsay will portray R. E. Olds, founder of Oldsmobile.

**Sunday, October 15, 2017** - Lake County Folk Club. 7:00 pm. Heritage Center Community Room. Admission fee. Music by Anne Hills with opener Jim Fine.

**Sunday, October 29, 2017** - Lake County Folk Club. 7:00 pm. Heritage Center Community Room.

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017** - Search and Share genealogy discussion group. 2:00 pm. Heritage Center. Free. Share your latest family history discovery or challenge the group to help you search for a missing relative.

**Wednesday, November 8, 2017** - **Grayslake Historical Society** program. "The Paddock Family". 7:00 pm. Heritage Center Community Room. Refreshments. Free. Daniel Graham is following in the footsteps of his great grandfather Ray Paddock who served in the Illinois State Senate for twenty-four years starting in 1928. Dan, a practicing lawyer with an office in Chicago, will tell about his ancestor while relating the history of the Paddock Family. Those who heard his presentation "No Greater Love Than This" can expect another audience embracing talk.

**Thursday, November 9, 2017** - Lake County Civil War Round Table. 7:00 pm. Heritage Center Community Room.

**Wednesday, December 6, 2017** - Search and Share genealogy discussion group. 2:00 pm. Heritage Center. Free. Share your latest family history discovery or challenge the group to help you search for a missing relative.

**Sunday, November 19, 2017** - Lake County Folk Club. 7:00 pm. Heritage Center Community Room.

**Friday, November 24, 2017** - Heritage Center exhibit. noon to 7:00 pm. Giving Tree exhibits opens in the Upper Gallery of the Museum; 5:00 to 8:00 pm Grayslake Chamber of Commerce will host Holiday Market in Community Room; 5:00 to 8:00. Arts Alliance will have an exhibit in the Grayslake Village Hall.

**Sunday, December 10, 2017** - **Grayslake Historical Society** event. 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Museum. Refreshments. Free. The public is invited to the Society's annual Holiday Open House. Santa in the Society's vintage sleigh will pose for pictures. Children may do a craft project. The Warren Township Alumni Choir will perform at 2:00 pm.

**Wednesday, December 13, 2017** - **Grayslake Historical Society** event. Volunteers will gather with Society board members for a holiday potluck supper. Details to be decided.

Check the Heritage Center website [www.grayslakeheritagecenter.com](http://www.grayslakeheritagecenter.com) or the Grayslake Historical Society website [www.grayslakehistory.org](http://www.grayslakehistory.org) for more information about programs and events.

## **DONATIONS**

Numerous people gave a monetary, in-kind or artifact donation to the Grayslake Historical Society between January 1, 2017 and June 30, 2017. Some people gave money when renewing their membership and others donated in memory of a loved one. The donations varied in amount but all are greatly appreciated. In-kind donations include refreshments and office supplies. The donations of these items saves the Society money. Numerous artifacts were donated such as, yearbooks, business souvenirs, personal items, plaques, military clothing, industrial objects, building parts. These items help the Society tell the history of the community and its people

Monetary donations were received from Bob Barton, Janice Basten, John and Lori Baumgartner, Richard & Maureen Blasius, David & Iris Bowman, Barbara Brand, John Brandstetter & Susan Nied, Chris Brenner, Gary Burge, Jack & Sharon Clooney, Myra Cooley, Clarence Collins, Donna Miller Cuilla, Darlene Dorfler, Connie Dunbar, Kitty Flary, Patty Forehand, Marilyn Fraser, Donna Freiburger, Bill & Janice Geiske, Peggy Gray, Marion Grinnell, Groth & Richardson Families, Lori Guenther & Kevin Chick, Michael & Gayle Guillard, Bill & Katy Hall, Jackie Hansen, Lisa Hendricksen, Evelyn Hesper, Larry Herzog, Karen & Mary Hook, Dick & Nancy Johannsen, James & Leslie Kaiser, Roy & Sue Kellogg, Randy & Joanne Kick, Kathleen Kinahan, Gregory Knipp, Ed Krumrey, Deb Lambert & Mary Ann Carpenter, Joanne Lawrence, Cynthia Lee, Ken & Larry Lenzen, Judith Macrowski, Manor Lake Corporation, Marla Merklings, Bill & Kathy Metzler, Miss Mary Peppermint School, Karl & Marci Molek, Michael & Mary Ellen Moley, Ted & Barb Mueller, Paul & Tracey Nielsen, Dave & Sonali Oberg, Deb & Dawn O'Connell, Gary & Theresa Price, Marjorie Rasmussen, Greg & Sandi Reek, Charlotte Renehan, Jon Revelle, Nancy Rinker, Rising Sun Masonic Lodge, Doug Rockenbach, Douglas Rosene, Joyce Rossdeutcher, Patrick & Patricia Shea, Margaret Scheibler, Darwin Schwaderer Family, Richard & Mary Slavich, John Smiskol, Tim & Sandi Smyth, Carol Stoneking, Demetre Stergiou, Helen Thielen, Janet Trieschmann, Jane Trump, Craig & Ann Vogel, Pat Wackerlin, Diana Wagner, Jim & Jeanette Willin, Linda Willhite, Glenn Winters, .

In-kind donations were received from Marie Frandsen, Mary Friis, Jackie Hansen, Nancy Reed, Charlotte Renehan, Linda Willhite.

People who donated artifacts were Marlene Badgerow, Robert Brown, Phil Bruno, Tim & Kim Burgess, Amy Chapin, Shirley Christian, Evonne D'Agostino, Linda Fassbinder, Rich Gaddis (Dave Strang estate) Grayslake Central High School, Diane Hall, Jane Tiffany Hansen, Cara Lahti, Quin O'Brien, Dawn Rathunde, Nancy Reed (Virg Vasey estate), Jon Revelle, Doug Rockenbach, Village of Grayslake, Richard Wilkening, Patty Yopp.

Thanks to all!! If these lists have omissions or are incorrect, please inform the Society. The Flood of 2017 was not kind to our records.

## **EXHIBITS**

The Grayslake Museum has two outstanding temporary exhibits. The Charlotte K. Renehan Gallery on the first floor of the Museum proclaims "A Good Time Was Had By All".

This exhibit is divided into sections including the outdoors, places, events, organizations and family fun. The great outdoors features parks, paths and beaches while places include the Grayslake Outdoor Theater, the opera house, a wrestling ring

and dance halls. Through its 100 + years Grayslake has hosted numerous events like Winterfest, rodeos, Grayslake's Centennial and the nation's Bicentennial. People have enjoyed homecoming bonfires and various parades. Citizens have joined bands, veterans groups, women's organizations, youth clubs and bowling leagues. At home the family activities range from board games to video games. In past years barn raising provided entertainment and many small groups still have card parties. While in the exhibit visitors may play Atari or be challenged with trivia questions and a matching game. Children may play golf or ring toss. They can pretend to camp or create a puppet show. Everyone can stuff paper napkins into chicken wire to build a float and watch videos. This exhibit tells the history of entertainment in Grayslake and also provides entertainment.

"The Lure of the Lake" is the exhibit in the Upper Gallery located on the second floor of the Museum. It opened on June 24 with over 100 visitors. The exhibit features a rubber raft full of fishing gear and a drone video of the lake as well as artifacts related to lake activities. A section of the display called "Fish Tales of Gray's Lake" allows the visitors to sit at a picnic table and read about lake-related topics, such as drownings, subdivisions, Pete's Park and more. This area also shares the lake memories of residents from the early days of the village. Information on everything from lake wildlife and fun facts to early Chicago visitors and lake management is presented along with about twenty picture postcard views of the lake. A 3-dimensional display of lake depth is also of interest. A small hands-on area is also available for children.

### **SOME MEMORIES**

As part of the "Lure of the Lake" exhibit, people were encouraged to submit memories about the lake. Roger Weichman submitted the following which has great local history.

"Described here are some recollections of growing up on the west side of the lake in Grayslake. When our family moved to Grayslake in the Summer of 1950, the area was not part of the village per se in that there were no water and sewer lines. Many people pumped water from the lake to meet their needs. Drinking water was available at a community hand pump located where Getchell Avenue intersected Bluff Avenue.

We had lake rights by virtue of an easement which went down to the lake just past the pump. We kept a small wooden rowboat there and used it to enjoy the lake. In 1950 there was a raft that was anchored some distance from shore in deeper water. I don't know why, but the raft disappeared after a year or so. Thereafter swimming was mostly done off the boat. Sometimes we rowed across the lake and swam at the beach at Grayslake Park. The absolute best swimming spot was at the Rickert home on Lake Street. They actually had a diving board (wow!) off a deeper portion of the shoreline.

The lake provided some of us entertainment along the lines of mock naval battles. In those days you could buy fireworks in the form of small round balls which, when thrown against a sidewalk or other hard surface, would explode with a bang. (I think they were called torpedoes.) Bouncing the balls off the side of the other pirate's boat with WHAM-O sling shots made for a fairly realistic battle encounter. The use of a carbide cannon was also employed on occasion. Although I wasn't present at this activity, I have it on good authority that a rubber raft was sent to "Davy Jones Locker."



The winter provided ice skating and some hockey. Really smooth ice covering the entire lake was a rare occurrence. On one such occasion my brother took his Model A Ford out on the lake and spun it around and around. I also remember a very cold winter when the snow messed up the ice so much that skating was all but impossible. A pathway was cleared all the way around the lake with a village snowplow. A great skate! The best sledding on the lake was a toboggan slide at the Fricke place, which was at the intersection of Bluff Avenue and Route 120. The Fricke boys shoveled snow as necessary and maintained a long continuous path down to the lake and onto the ice beyond. "

### **A PAGE FROM THE PAST**

In the summer of 1938 the heavens opened up and rain soaked Lake County. In Grayslake one could row a boat down the main street where carp were seen swimming in the water. The farm which is now Grayslake's Central Park became an island with the farmstead completely surrounded with water. Train service through the town ceased. The Grayslake Fire Department pumped water from the basements of businesses along Center Street. Tools were floating in the water which entered the Grayslake Gelatin Company factory. That was the Flood of 1938. Then came the Flood of 2017.

### **FLOOD OF 2017**

The Flood of 2017 will leave a lasting impression on the Grayslake Historical Society as well as others who had flooded basements or were detoured by flooded streets. Six feet of water in the lower level of the Grayslake Heritage Center caused devastating consequences to the Society, which lost its office. The flood affected archives and collections which were stored in the lower level. The Society was proud of its clothing collection, historic artifacts, microfilm collection, scrapbooks, maps, family histories, historical documents, vintage furniture and more. Through the valiant effort of the Heritage Center staff, Society members and community volunteers some has been saved. Office equipment was damaged and discarded. At the present time the Society is awaiting a condition report of archival materials and artifacts which were sent out to be freeze dried. We do know that there was no flood insurance. Therefore some form of fund raising will be done. Society members and the Grayslake community will be informed as decisions are made. Money already received has been placed in a special Flood Recovery Fund.

In addition, we do not presently know where the Society office will be or where collections will be stored. Again, the Society board will keep you informed. We do need e-mail addresses.

Items in the Annex or on display in the galleries were not affected.

The recovery will continue for a very long time. To keep the Society vibrant, we need volunteers and moral support. We will survive and continue to preserve and promote Grayslake's history.

### **CONDOLENCES**

During the past few months, the Grayslake Historical Society has lost several valued members: Ken Yopp, who enjoyed taking care of Wilbur, our fire truck; Terry Rockenbach, who donated numerous items from his father's collection; Matt Brandstetter, a descendant of the family who started businesses in Grayslake before 1900; Forrest DeGraff, who donated the family barber chair and weaving loom and

Charlene Rockenbach, who was the first president of the Grayslake Historical Society. They will be remembered as memorials have been established in each of their names.

### CONTACTS

The Grayslake Historical Society strives to keep its members and friends informed. The newsletter is published twice a year but things happen between publication dates. The Society has an outstanding website at [www.grayslakehistory.org](http://www.grayslakehistory.org). Its facebook page at Grayslake Historical Society is active. Members can contact the Society via the e-mail address [ChaRenehan@aol.com](mailto:ChaRenehan@aol.com). The Society would like to contact its members by e-mail. However, not all members have shared their e-addresses. Although the Society lost its office temporarily, the Society can still be reached at 847-223-7663 as all calls are automatically forwarded to a Society board member.

The Graylskae Heritage Center also has a website [www.grayslakeheritagecenter.com](http://www.grayslakeheritagecenter.com). It's facebook page is Grayslake Heriage Center and Museum while its phone is 847-543-1745. E-mails may be addressed to [doberg@villageofgrayslake.com](mailto:doberg@villageofgrayslake.com).

*"Saving the past for the Future"*

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