



Wheeling Historical Museum

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1984

VOL. 1 NO. 2

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

251 NORTH WOLF ROAD
WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090

AL FANTL..SUPERINTENDENT OF HISTORICAL SERVICES
SANDY ALTIERI..PROMOTION COORDINATOR

A WORD FROM AL FANTL

Thanks to all those who helped make our first issue such a huge success. Our publicist Sandy Altieri and husband Tony worked hours on end and even collected enough advertising funds for printing and mailing. Thanks to our sponsors who's enthusiasm helped make it possible. And to our volunteers thanks, thanks, thanks.

Now we are asking you to join us in a variety of rewarding ways, such as helping in our programs. We need writers, interviewers, designers, researchers, catalogers, office aids, filing, guides, instructors, advisors, we could go on and on. Please devote a minimum of four hours per week while meeting new friends and a world of interesting subjects that can add many pleasures to your life. Ages from high school senior to our seniors and inbetweens. A telephone call can show how you can benefit from these programs.

E. Albert Fantl
Supt. of Historical Services

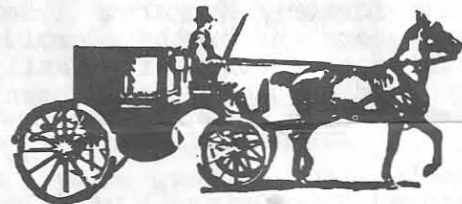


LOLLIPOP LANE

The Wheeling Historical Society and Wheeling Park District will host Santa and Mrs. Claus at Lollipop Lane at the Community Church, 251 North Wolf Road, from December 8 thru December 18. They will greet children from 6:30 to 8:30 PM on weekdays and from 2 to 5 PM on Saturdays and Sundays.

Admission is free and parents are urged to bring their cameras to take pictures of their children sitting on Santa's or Mrs. Claus' lap. Homemade cookies and cookbooks will be on sale at the church.

See you at Lollipop Lane!



HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

On September 19, about 25 Society members attended the Deerfield Area Historical Society's September Fest. We toured all of the historical buildings, had a delicious lunch while enjoying the entertainment.

Our most recent trip was to Naperville, where we toured the historical buildings at the 12 acre Naper Settlement. Afterwards, we enjoyed dinner at the Landmark Restaurant in town. We're planning more trips -- Join us for a really "fun" day!

One of our members, Betty Barrie, was recently released from the hospital after being hit by a car several weeks ago. She is recuperating at home and doing very well. Keep up the good work!

The Society members are very excited about our newest project. Several carriages in mint condition and two coach houses have been offered to us free of charge. We have a committee, Bob Buerger, Sam Dattilo, and Tony Altieri, looking into the feasibility of moving the coach houses to Wheeling. With enough community support, we hope this project will be successful.

A new group has been formed, the Northwest Historical Council, with members from many of the suburbs in the area. Al Fantl was elected chairman and Sandy Altieri is our Society's representative. The purpose of the group is for exchange of ideas, problem solving, etc. Best of luck to this new group!

Any questions in regard to the Society, please call President Frank Schnaitmann at 520-4254.

USE

IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL HISTORY

JOHN H. FORKE 1914 - 1984

Wheeling lost a valued member of one of the pioneer families when John Henry Forke passed away July 13th. He was a former trustee of the Village of Wheeling and former chairman of the Police and Fire Commission as well as a volunteer fireman. He was a member of the Wheeling Historical Society, the Chamber of Commerce and a charter member of the Wheeling Amvets. He is survived by his wife, the former Margaret Seiler, daughter Barbara and brother Harold. He was the third generation of a family who were involved in the establishment and growth of Wheeling.

John Forke's grandfather, also named John, married Dora Grinsell of Niles in 1859 and in 1873 they moved to Wheeling with their first four children. He was instrumental in incorporating Wheeling in 1894 and was one of the first trustees. He lost the election for president of the Board by only a few votes. The tavern owners opposed him because he was "dry."

John's father, Frank, bought his father's 100-acre farm, located on both sides of South Milwaukee Ave. in 1896. He raised crops of corn, wheat and oats as well as cows and chickens. The area is now bounded by Jeffery Lane and Manchester Drive and the river. Frank Forke was on the Village Board from 1900 - 1931, and on the School Board for 21 years, six years as President. As was John, Frank Forke was also a member of the volunteer Fire Department. In 1905, he had a horse drawn commuter service to trains and school. He married Tillie Strueve of Bensenville the same year. He also built the first funeral home in Wheeling.

John Henry Forke took a great interest in the Wheeling Historical Museum which is housed in the original Village Hall where he, his father and grandfather all served as governing officials of Wheeling. The entire village has reason to mourn the passing of a great citizen, but the Wheeling Historical Society and Museum have special reason to miss his knowledge and guidance.

Barbara McIntyre



One of the most enriching experiences a student can have is to have contact with his own local past. A truly great resource that seems to never be utilized is right outside our doorstep - local history. It is a "living" history which is such a valuable resource. Visiting the local museum, graveyard, or an old home can have a lasting impression on our students.

For so long, history has become synonymous with a textbook. What a mistake this has been. While math and science have become emphasized more and more, we have relegated the arts and history to a lower level. In effect we have to sell history just like math and science are sold. Local history is one great selling point. Let's utilize and bring history to its rightful level.

Dennis Hague
Wheeling High School

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Wheeling's founding fathers were prepared for anything. Well, almost anything. For example, Boy George the rock star wouldn't have been welcome. Village Ordinance No. 2, Section 10, proclaims that no individual shall appear in public in dress not belonging to his or her sex. Such is described as a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than \$3 nor more than \$100.

And bartenders had to watch their step, too. Not only was it a crime to sell liquor to an intoxicated person, but also to a person in the habit of becoming intoxicated. Penalty: fine of \$20 to \$100.

They knew how to balance the budget in those early days. Wheeling Ordinance No. 1 of August 3, 1894, required a license to sell intoxicating liquors of any kind in the village. The fee was \$500 per year, an astronomical sum translated into 1984 dollars. Maybe that's why they soon cut it to \$250. Nevertheless, dram shop license fees financed the early village government.

These and other little nuggets came to light in a search of Wheeling's first ordinances and the minutes of early meetings of the Village Board. Such data will provide the framework for tracing the evolution of our town's government in the History of Wheeling now being researched by a crew of volunteers.

Robert L. McIntyre
Editor

VOLUNTEERS

The Wheeling Park District and the Wheeling Historical Society have put backing behind the Wheeling Historical Museum and its director, Al Fantl, whose dreams and hopes include making the present museum building an historical landmark; the development of self sustaining workshops and learning opportunities for which a museum can best provide; and the nurturing of pride in our heritage by publication of a book. Volunteers are needed to achieve these lofty goals.

Anyone who can offer his/her services, who can see the worth of the dream and wants a share in making the dream a reality, is welcome. Tell us what you can do, and we will do our best to fit your ability and sacrifice to the needs of the museum's projects. Be aware, as we are, that the value of the volunteer lies not only in his work and his ability to give time regularly and dependably at the time he chooses, but also in the time/money value that can be placed on that work, in all reports made by the director, of work accomplished and tax money saved by volunteer efforts. Our immediate need is for persons who can talk to others, gather valuable information about the past and bring it back to the office staff and the writers for use in the Who's Who and the history book. Guidance and training are available to help the volunteer. We need your head, your hands, your feet, your capabilities and a small share of your time. Most of all we need your heart.

Geri Swan
Volunteer Coordinator

THINGS I NEVER KNEW.....(until I started researching local history):

Sandy Altieri discovered a pamphlet in the Chicago Historical Society library written Oct. 4, 1830 in Wheeling, West Virginia. It described a utopian, future working men's community based on equal rights and opportunities to be located in Illinois and named, "Wheeling, Illinois."

Bea Moore of Lincolnshire gave us still another origin of the name, "Half Day." It seems there was an Indian chief in the region whose name was Aptakisic which translates into "high noon" or "half day."

June Stewart says the old Essanay movie studios in Chicago used the local forest preserves and bridle path as locale for shooting outdoor scenes.

Barbara McIntyre
Writer

WHO'S WHO

The Who's Who of Wheeling is progressing very well. Our interviewers from the Wheeling Historical Museum are busily getting interviews. Our main objective is to get the interviews from the older citizens and the people who have lived in Wheeling the longest.

The purpose of the Who's Who is to get the background of the people who have contributed to the growth of this town. The information we are asking for includes each persons birthdate, birthplace, how long in Wheeling, family members, and outstanding achievements or accomplishments while in Wheeling.

Right now this project is in its early stages, but by the time it is completed we will have hundreds of important names. This important information will benefit people twenty years from now. They may have access to it at the Wheeling Historical Museum at anytime.



Barbara LaHay
Who's Who Chairman

Seniors' Thanksgiving Pot Luck

You are invited to join the Wheeling Park District family for a Thanksgiving feast! We will be having all the turkey you can eat, along with some fun and great entertainment. We ask that everyone bring their favorite dish to compliment the dinner and complete a good Old Fashioned Thanksgiving Pot Luck. Come one-Come all-The more the merrier.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1984 12:00 - 2:30
CHAMBER PARK 55 years and better
FEE: \$2:50 (Deadline is Nov. 14)



We invite you to become a member of the Wheeling Historical Society and encourage you to take an active part in its efforts to keep our cultural heritage alive for our upcoming generations.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE _____

___ \$5 - FAMILY ___ \$3 - SINGLE

Make checks payable to:
Wheeling Historical Society
Mail to: P.O. Box 3
Wheeling, Illinois 60090



MFC MORTGAGE CORPORATION
 AN EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
 A SUBSIDIARY OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WHEELING

Nicholas R. Fanella
 President

125 McHenry Road
 Wheeling, IL 60090

(312) 459-8123

Jiin's
 Beauty Salon



537-5052

761 W. DUNDEE ROAD
 WHEELING, IL 60090

JOE'S PIZZERIA

57 North Wolf Road, Wheeling, Illinois

OPEN 7 DAYS HOURS:

Monday to Thursday 4 p.m. Till 1 a.m.
 Friday & Saturday 4 p.m. Till 2 a.m.
 Sunday 4 p.m. Till 12 a.m.

CALL 537-8110 or 537-1477



LYNN PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER

538 DUNDEE RD.
 WHEELING, IL 60090

J. EDWARDS MEN'S SHOP

541-0729



ad-gift specialties

Specialty & Gift Items for
 Business-Clubs-Sales Promotions
 JOAN KARGE • ERNIE KARGE

526 St. Mary's Pkwy.
 Buffalo Grove, IL 60090

(312) 541-5041

GRANNY ANNIE'S
 WAFFLE & PANCAKE HOUSE



831 W. Dundee Road
 Wheeling
 541-0230



First National Bank of Wheeling

George J. Peterson
 Senior Vice President

125 McHenry Road
 Wheeling, IL 60090

(312) 459-4000

WHEELING HISTORICAL MUSEUM
 251 NORTH WOLF ROAD
 WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090

EVERGREEN PRESS, INC.

*Serving this community since 1951, Call with an order or
 quotation and receive a Free Gift.*

309 NORTH WOLF ROAD, WHEELING, ILLINOIS 60090

(312) 537-0575

