



251 North Wolf Road • Wheeling, Illinois 60090

# WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2011

## Wheeling's First and Only Hospital

Wheeling's first and only hospital was established by Dr. Edward Larson in 1927. It had 9 hospital beds and was in operation until 1945.

The hospital stood at 203 South Milwaukee Avenue; the Larsons lived next door at 189 South Milwaukee.

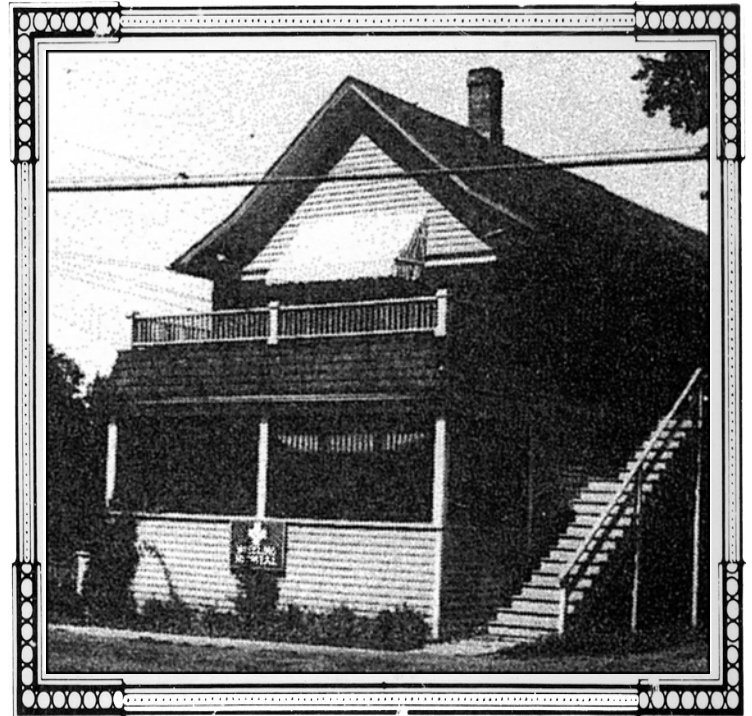
Dr. Larson had 3-4 nurses; Mary Flynn was the R.N.

The hospital began in the doctor's house, which was enlarged until he finally built a new home so the entire building could be used for treating his patients.

The closest hospital otherwise was at Highland Park. Some Wheeling people used Chicago hospitals when the situation was not one of emergency.

While the hospital was built to serve the community, it also provided emergency facilities where Dr. Larson could patch up automobilists who survived the many accidents that occurred—especially on summer weekends along heavily-traveled Milwaukee Avenue.

Frances Moeller explained in *Wheeling Through the Years*, "During the influenza epidemic of 1918, Dr. Larson was so busy visiting his patients that he had people drive him on his calls and he slept in the car between stops. During the epidemic some people at the Chicago House had the flu. There were no nurses around so the girls who worked at the hotel took care of them. Dr. Larson was against the use of alcohol, but he told us to take a small shot of whiskey before going into the room, and another after coming out. We never caught the flu, and Dr. Larson didn't lose a patient during the epidemic." ❧



### Meeting Dates

March 2011

Board meeting  
**Wednesday,  
March 16**  
7:00 p.m.

General meeting  
**Wednesday,  
March 23**  
7:00 p.m.

### March 2011 Calendar



March 13 – Daylight  
Saving Time begins

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

March 16 – Wheeling  
Historical Society Board  
meeting at 7 p.m.

March 20 – 1st day of Spring

March 23 – Wheeling  
Historical Society General  
meeting at 7 p.m.

April 1 – April Fools' Day

**WHEELING  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

Located in the  
Wheeling Park District's  
Chamber Park  
251 Wolf Road  
Wheeling, Illinois 60090

**Museum Hours**

April through October  
Sunday 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**2010–2011  
OFFICERS**

**President**

Joan Wiener

**Vice President**

Bill Hein

**Treasurer**

Marilyn Chromy

**Secretary**

Charles Vallas

**DIRECTORS**

Barbara Forke

Patti Hancock

Becky Vogel



**Curators**

Patti Steilen, Curator  
Donna Vallas, Assistant

**Web Site**

Terry Steilen

**Newsletter Editor**

Donna Vallas

This newsletter is  
published monthly as a  
benefit of membership



**Wheeling Park District**

**Liaison**

Cheri Klumpp  
Commissioner



## Message from the President

**Dear Friends and Members,**

Again, time is going fast and spring is around the corner. Happy St. Patrick's Day to those who are Irish and those who are Irish only on that day. The White Elephant Auction was a great success and I want to thank all those who donated so many things for us to auction. We had a lot of non-members who donated items, and 49 people attended the auction. Thank you to our members who put it all together: Bill Hein, the auctioneer; Becky Vogel, co-chair of the auction; and all the other members who helped out with the food and assisted in the kitchen with preparation and clean-up.



The board meeting is Wednesday, March 16th, at 7:00 p.m., and the regular meeting is on Wednesday, March 23rd, at 7:00 p.m.

We are having two speakers: one from the Pavilion Senior Center to talk about the Foundation, and one from Indian Trails Library to speak about donating a brick for the Reading Garden wall.

There will also be a round table discussion on the past and present businesses in Wheeling. I would like input from everyone, so bring your memory and thinking caps.

Sunday, April 3rd, is the opening of the museum and we need volunteers. The hours on Sunday are from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

In April we'll have Evie Weber and her sister Norma again. This time they have gone on a bike trip through New England. Hope to see you all at the meeting.



**Historically Yours,**

**Joan Wiener, President**

## March and April Programs

At the Wheeling Historical Society Meeting on March 23, we'll introduce two speakers, one from the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Foundation and one from Indian Trails Library: Eileen Halleck, a Wheeling resident for 17 years, volunteers at the Pavilion and is a member of the Pavilion Senior Advisory Council and the Senior Net Learning Center Board. She'll speak about the Wheeling Pavilion Senior Foundation.

Our speaker from Indian Trails Public Library will talk about the engraved bricks from the Foundation for the Indian Trails Public Library District. The Foundation Reading Garden is meant to honor all those who have an interest in literacy, or the community, or who have touched your life in a special way.

Following this, we'll have a round table discussion to collect our memories of businesses in Wheeling, from past to present.

In April we're inviting the Cycling Sisters, Evie Weber and her sister Norma Witherbee, to talk about their tour by bicycle through New England. ☘

★ Visit our website at [www.WheelingHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.WheelingHistoricalSociety.com) ★



## Way Back When

March 17, 1950

### C-Day causes nosey business to boom, first time in 10 years

April 1 is more than April Fool's day in 1950—it's C-day.

On that day, a census-taking will begin in Cook and DuPage counties and in every county and state of the nation.

Sometime in April someone's coming to your house—and coming, moreover, with about 60 questions for every family and householder to answer as the questioner counts noses.

One hundred forty thousand enumerators, fact-finders for the nation, will canvass 45 million American dwelling units and six million farms to get the name, address, age, sex, and dozens of other statistics about every resident of the United States. Basic purpose of the census, decided upon by the country's founding fathers and written into the United States Constitution, is to decide how many Congressmen shall represent each state in Washington. The 1950 poll is the Seventeenth Decennial Census of the United States.

Thousands of people have moved to the Far West, so California and some other western states will elect more Congressmen when they vote in 1952. Never before in any ten-year period have so many people been married and so many babies been born as in the years since the last census in 1940. The mushrooming of these vital statistics have upset every calculation which school, health, and housing experts have made; and not until the census is completed will it be possible to make new calculations and plans based on an actual count of those millions of small—and large—noses.

Actually, 200 questions make up the census questionnaire, but not every one will be asked of every citizen. Some of the queries that will be asked from the Mississippi Delta country to the Arctic circle, from the Maine lobster pots to the smudge pots of California orchards concern place of birth, education, type of employment, salary, number of times married, number of children. There will be questions about housing: number of rooms, number of people living in house, kind of sanitary facilities, value, state of repair, year in which built. You may even be asked if



Forget about my age, Bub: just COUNT me!

you own a television set.

Ever since great great great grandmother was first called away from the breakfast dishes in 1790, to tell the "gub'ment man" how many males and females lived in the household and whether they were slave or free, women have answered most of the questions for the Bureau of Census of the United States Department of Commerce. However, it makes no difference to the census-takers who is home when they call, provided the person can answer the questions.

No one need stay home waiting to be caught in the count. Even if you'd happen to be abroad, the enumerators would find you. If you don't know the answers for other people in your household, a government representative will check back to find out. All the answerer must do, in other words, is spare the necessary fifteen minutes—and answer truthfully.

The Census Bureau has this word to reticent or suspicious citizens: its employees are as close-mouthed as the Sphinx; tell them how old you are or how much you earn, and they won't tell another soul.

### Remembering Doris Elizabeth Ashe, owner of Doris' Tree Top Inn of Wheeling

Doris Elizabeth Ashe (nee Vipond) passed away on February 16, 2011. She was born February 18, 1924, growing up on the family farm in Kalkaska, Michigan, and enlisted in the Navy as a Wave in 1944. She married Wayne Ashe, whom she met while stationed at Pearl Harbor. Together they owned and operated the Redwood Inn in Mount Prospect and Doris' Tree Top Inn in Wheeling for over 30 years. When her husband died in 1972, she became an instant bar owner, taking over all the duties her husband had once handled. Doris lived to be the mother of 5 children, 17 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. ☞

—newspaper ad from June 1970

Grand Opening  
DORIS' TREE TOP INN

JUNE 19, 20

DORIS'  
TREE TOP  
INN

SPECIALIZING IN LUNCHEONS  
784 So. Milwaukee Ave.  
Wheeling

Doris and Wayne Ashe  
Formerly of Wayne's Redwood Inn  
in Mt. Prospect

Phone 537-9599

**50 years ago,  
in 1961:**

Jack London school opened and the Wheeling Park District was created.

**75 years ago, in  
1936:**

Royal Blue store opened, and the Country Club name changed to Bon Air.

**The Museum opens Sunday, April 3, 2011  
2 to 4 p.m.**

**We're calling for volunteers –  
will you be one?**

## Things to do and Places to go

☞ **Wilmette Historical Society** presents the lecture, “Illinois Fights the Civil War” with guest speaker, Robert I. Girardi. **Sunday, April 17 at 2:00 p.m.** Free for members; \$5 for non-museum members.

Kick off the 150th anniversary of the Civil War with acclaimed historian Robert Girard, who has authored or edited eight books on the subject. The Wilmette Historical Museum is located at 609 Ridge Road in Wilmette.

☞ **Arlington Heights Historical Society’s** exhibit, “On the Move in Arlington Heights,” is open **through April 24**, at the Heritage Gallery, 112 West Fremont Street.

☞ **Park Ridge Historical Society** presents, “Preservation Snapshot: The Legacy of Richard Nickel, and the Complete Architecture of Adler and Sullivan,” with guest speaker, Ward Miller, on Sunday, **April 10 at 2:00 p.m.** Park Ridge Nonprofit Center, 720 Garden Street.

Richard Nickel, an early proponent of historic preservation, attended the Chicago Institute of Design while living in Park Ridge. He was working on a photography project begun in 1952, when he died in a tragic accident 20 years later at the Chicago Stock Exchange building. As the conservator of Nickel’s photographic archive, Mr. Miller has worked for years to complete that project begun many years ago. Signed copies of his book will be available for purchase after the lecture. ☞

## Cook's Kitchen



### German Potato Salad

7 medium sized potatoes  
 1/4 lb. bacon, cut in small pieces  
 1 small onion, chopped  
 3 T. vinegar  
 1 T. water  
 2 T. sugar

Boil potatoes, then peel them as for potato salad. Fry bacon and onion until crisp. Pour off all except approximately 1 tablespoon grease. Add vinegar, sugar, and water.

Simmer for about 10 minutes with bacon and onion. Cut up potatoes. Add to above mixture and mix. Then simmer for about 10 to 15 minutes more. Add salt and pepper to taste. If too dry, add more bacon drippings.

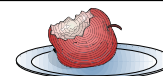
*-Contributed by Sharon Schomer to Wheeling’s 1994 centennial celebration cookbook, “From Restaurants to Recipes.”*

## Jog your memory ...

These businesses were here 30 years ago—how many are still here?

### **GOODYEAR** Checkpoint Tire Centers, Inc.

<b>J. EDWARDS MENS WEAR</b>	<b>JOE’S PIZZERIA</b>
<b>VILLAGE DECORATING SERVICE</b>	<b>Chandler’s, Inc.</b>
<b>The Palwaukee Bank</b>	<b>COUNTRY DAIRY</b>
<b>PARK MANOR CLEANERS</b>	<b>Rock 'n Records</b>
<b>Sauer’s Bake Shop</b>	<b>Kolssak of Wheeling</b>
<b>FOUR STAR RESTAURANT</b>	<b>COST PLUS 10</b>
<b>VILLAGE BEAUTY SALON</b>	<b>Baskin-Robbins</b>



### Know Your Apples

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a church elementary school for lunch.

At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note and put it on the apple tray:

“Take only ONE. God is watching.”

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table, was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A child had written a note: “Take all you want. God is watching the apples.”