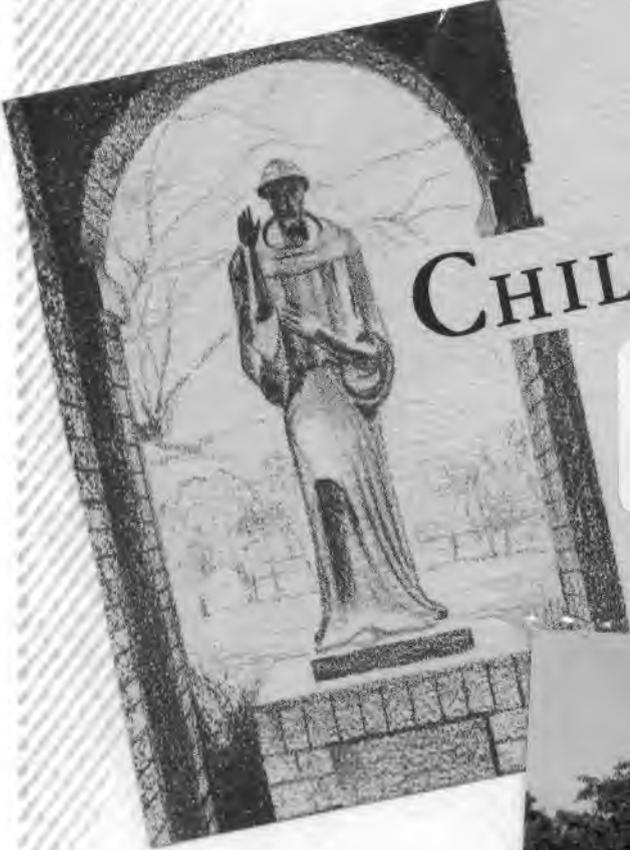


WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
3.



# CHILDERLEY

CHILDERLEY PARK PURCHASED BY WHEELING PARK DISTRICT THROUGH 1977 REFERENDUM











WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
CHILDERLEY ACQUISITION  
PARTICIPATING AGENCIES  
STATE OF ILLINOIS / DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION / DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
WHEELING PARK DISTRICT



CHILDERLEY PARK  
IS HEREBY DEDICATED TO THE  
RESIDENTS OF THE  
WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
THIS 2ND DAY OF JULY 1929  
BY THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
WHEELING, ILLINOIS



# Childerly relics accent religious retreats

by JEANNETTE DEWYZE

In north Wheeling, just west of where Elmhurst Road meets McHenry Road, is a 10-acre tract of orchard and meadowland called Childerly.

Motorists speeding along McHenry Road can barely see its small sign, hidden among the heavy trees and shrubbery.

The rambling property hidden behind the wall of trees contains huge old houses and rustic chapels, crammed with ancient books and priceless art treasures. The history of the place and the story of the people who made that history is perhaps the most remarkable part of Childerly, however.

The story of Childerly begins around the turn of the century, when a Dr. and Mrs. Frank Lillie purchased a 600-acre farm located roughly where Childerly now stands.

The Buffalo Creek farm, as it was called then, was a dairy farm handling "everything from the cows in the pasture to the milk delivered to people's doorsteps," according to M. O. Horcher, former Wheeling police chief and a member of the Calvert Foundation which now owns Childerly.

THE LILLIES purchased the property for their four daughters and three adopted sons "to learn country life in a practical way," according to a short written history of Childerly. In 1906 they built a small residence for a farm superintendent on the property.

In 1910, however, another significant aspect of Childerly was begun. According to Horcher, Mrs. Lillie is the real key to Childerly. A sensitive and socially-conscious woman, she was a close friend to the Hull House founders Ellen Starr and Jane Addams.

In 1910 she began discussing the establishment of a complex on the property for widows and children of her father's factory, the Crane Plumbing Co., then one of the largest in Chicago.

As the years went by, the complex was gradually established on the approximately 40 acres where the Addolorata Villa now stands. It bore the original name of Childerly, meaning children's meadow. The complex contained housing for the widows and children, as well as a school, gymnasium and swimming pool.

Another house was built on the 10 acres across McHenry Road from the complex for the superintendent. The farm superintendent's quarters also were soon enlarged to serve as a summer home for the Lillie family, who helped run the complex.

This function of Childerly continues today. According to Horcher, around 25-30 groups use Childerly every year, arranging retreats through the Calvert Foundation members.

A VISIT TO CHILDERLY today is a remarkable experience. The two ivy-covered chapels sit within an orchard filled with apple, pear, and cherry trees. Inside the chapel buildings, paintings and art objects, collected by Mrs. Lillie from all over the world, line the walls. Some of them are priceless, dating back to the 14th and 15th centuries.

Old books are scattered throughout the chapel library and the two main houses. One of the many rare books is a family bible dating back to the 1850's.

With the modern liturgical services, the chapels are used less frequently today than they once were, according to Horcher. Ironically, many liturgical innovations, particularly those of the Catholic Church were first experimented with by religious groups at Childerly, he says.

The Lillies were particularly fond of the Catholic saint, Francis of Assisi. His presence can be felt everywhere throughout the property, in the form of statues, paintings and plaques. The two main

houses also reveal the family's fervent Catholicism.

IN ADDITION TO naming the two houses "St. Joan's" and "St. Jerome's," the family also named every room in the huge houses after some saint, and each door bears its saint's name. Revealing their healthy sense of humor, the family named all the bathrooms in the Lillie house after one of the many St. Johns.

The houses are huge rambling structures, containing enough beds for around 50 people on retreats. Records and guest books, strewn throughout the houses, date back to the 1940s. A look at their contents reveals something of the enormous variety of people who have come to Childerly over the years.

Notes written by students and clergy from all over the world punctuate the books. Many record an inner peace and tranquility rediscovered during a Childerly retreat.

Horcher says the average cost to a student for a three-day retreat, including room, board, and linen is \$17.

"Our whole idea is to try and keep costs down for people who want to use Childerly," he said.

UNFORTUNATELY, however, the income from retreats is never enough to

meet all the needs of the property, he said.

"Usually, we're in debt. But Childerly continues to exist somehow because so many people enjoy it," he said.

Upkeep costs for the property are enormous, although foundation members and volunteers usually manage to handle much of the necessary work on the place, he said. Childerly also has a part-time caretaker, a schoolteacher who

lives on the property, who helps out with some of the upkeep.

Still, the property usually is in need of some repairs, he said.

"It does need to be fixed up, although I wouldn't want to see any major changes made in it. I wouldn't want to see it modernized or made into something which it's not," he said.

"I see Childerly as a place for people who need to get away to something really different," he said.

MRS. LILLIE also was a deeply religious person, and the chapels which now stand on the remaining 10-acre property were set up at her urging.

One of the present chapel structures was being used as a pig pen when the Lillies purchased the farm. Built out of rough-hewn logs, the building is reputed to be the oldest in Cook County, possibly dating back to 1925.

Then in 1927 a more permanent chapel, called The Chapel of St. Francis of the Orchard, was built next to the smaller chapel.

In its heyday, filled with the Lillie family, friends, and the widows and children who lived in the 40-acre complex, Childerly must have been reminiscent of Louisa May Alcott's book, "Little Men." In fact, the book "very early became the Bible of my childhood," Mrs. Lillie once wrote, and its influence apparently was felt on her home in those years.

FINALLY, IN 1939, the Lillies decided to close down the widows and children's home. They relocated the people in the Chicago area and sold the property to the Servite Sisters for a convalescent home.

In 1941 the family decided the remaining 10 acres, all that remains of Childerly today, to the University of Chicago. The Calvert Foundation was established to take care of the property, which Mrs. Lillie specified for use by Catholic University students and alumni for their "spiritual, educational and social uses."

Within a few years, however, the use of the land was expanded to include any religiously-oriented group who wanted to use it for retreat functions.



Childerly lives on today



M. O. Horcher holds one of Childerly's many treasures



'The Chapel of St. Francis in the Orchard'

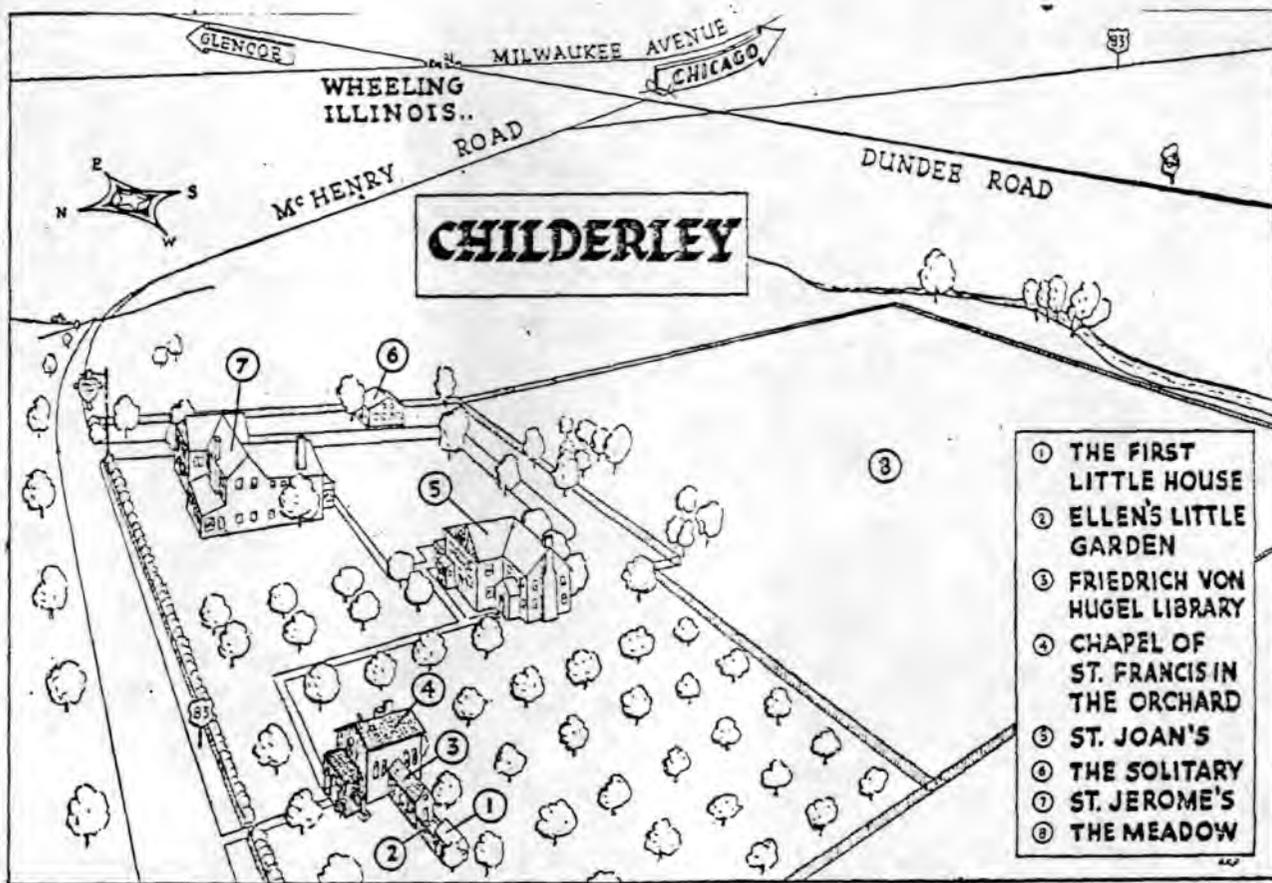


8-14-73

**CHILDERLY HOUSE**, a retreat site in Wheeling, houses many surprises, including a number of beautiful art and religious objects. Above, M. O.

"Syke" Horcher, a member of the Calvert Foundation, which now operates Childerly, sits in the library adjacent to Childerly's two chapels. Below is

a Bible that dates to the 1850s, one of many rare books housed at Childerly. Story and photos on Page 4.



- ① THE FIRST LITTLE HOUSE
- ② ELLEN'S LITTLE GARDEN
- ③ FRIEDRICH VON HUGEL LIBRARY
- ④ CHAPEL OF ST. FRANCIS IN THE ORCHARD
- ⑤ ST. JOAN'S
- ⑥ THE SOLITARY
- ⑦ ST. JEROME'S
- ⑧ THE MEADOW





# Restorers bring spirit of chapel back to life

by Elida Witthoef

*Herald staff writer*

Set off in a grove of fruit trees at Wheeling's Childerley Park, the small red-brick chapel is hard to spot from the parking lot. At dusk, the only indication that there is life in the chapel are the patches of yellow light from the windows, showing through the trees.

The peace of this medieval-looking place is deceptive because, inside, there is a boisterous group working to restore the building.

Scaffolding dominates the main room of the chapel where all the chairs and kneelers have been removed from the uneven stone floor. A painter perched on top of the apparatus is carefully staining the large beams that lace the ceiling. The wall niches that once held religious statues are silent and empty.

The small library adjoining the chapel has been stripped of its books. An arched window lies on a table in the middle of the room, surrounded by small bottles of colorful stains. A woman carefully applies the stain to the windows with an eyedropper. Around her, three men equipped with paint brushes are standing on chairs, painting more ceiling beams.

**THE WORKERS**, mostly members of the Wheeling Park Board and their families, are devoting much of their free time these days to restoring the chapel, originally built in 1926. The restoration is a project of the Wheeling Historical Society, but the park district



has done its share of work on the site, having acquired the chapel as part of a park in 1977.

Alberta Klocke said she's never done this kind of work before, but the restoration of the chapel has become an obsession.

"It's like a cancer that eats at you," said Klocke, who heads up the chapel's restoration committee. "You can't wait until you get the next bit of information."

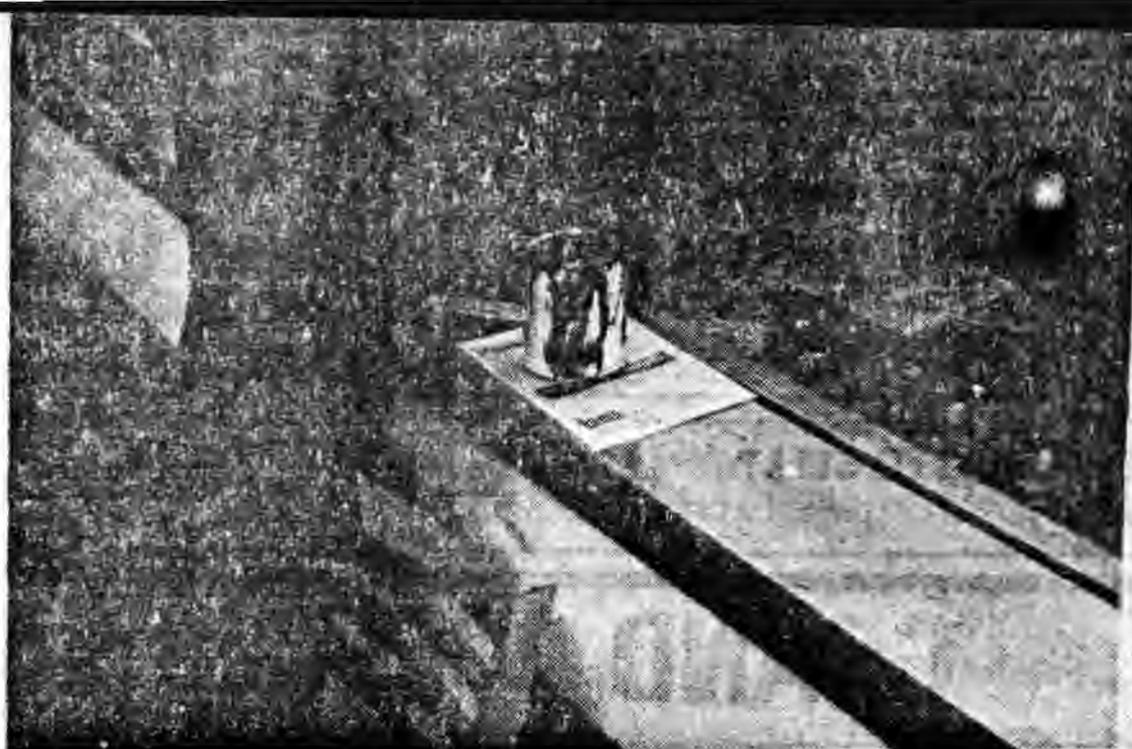
She estimates that she's spent about six months researching the project, though the actual work has only gone on the last five weeks. Her search for information about the original furnishings of the chapel, and the older cabin connected to the building by a small garden, have taken her all over the Chicago area, including the dusty manuscript rooms of the Chicago Historical Society. There she found 22 boxes of information on the Crane family, the original owners of the land and chapel.

**ASIDE FROM HER** interest in the historical value of the site, Klocke admits the restoration is a labor of love. Later in the spring, when work on the chapel is complete, it will be renamed the Lorraine E. Lark Chapel of the Orchard, in honor of the late park commissioner who died last year.

Klocke, who is the Wheeling village clerk, and Lark were good friends and Klocke says it was partly through Lark's work that the park district acquired the chapel. And she often smiles, thinking that Lark is "watching" the work at the chapel with approval.

All of the restoration work at the chapel is being done on a voluntary basis and historical society officials are depending on the individual expertise of the volunteers to accomplish each step of the restoration.

Klocke, along with Park Board President Shirley Mueller and Park District Office Manager Pat Hancock are "leading" and "staining" the numerous



Herald photo

**DONALD LARK** carefully stains the frame around a window in the library of the chapel at Wheeling's Childerley Park. Wheeling Historical Society members are working on renovating the inside of the

chapel, which was built in 1926. When it's finished, the chapel will be named the Lorraine E. Lark Chapel of the Orchard, for Lark's wife, a long time park activist and commissioner who died last year.

windows in the chapel. Klocke is also using her ceramic skills to make statues for the empty statue coves in the chapel.

Klocke's husband Edward, a park commissioner, is stripping, sanding, painting and staining the chapel's wood, with the help of Lark's husband Don and his son Scott.

**A FUND OF \$3,100** was raised by historical society members, mainly through beer and bratwurst festivals, to finance the restoration. The workers are also depending on donations of ma-

terials and items like prayer books for the chapel. The biggest item that's missing now is an altar.

While Klocke said she's sure the original altar is in the cabin, that structure is boarded up, making it difficult to remove things. The restorers also have no idea how much work the altar might need if they can get it out of the cabin.

Originally a Catholic chapel, when it's finished the new chapel will bear the marks of Catholicism, Christianity and Judaism, making it ecumenical.

Despite the fact that the chapel will only hold about 35 people, park officials are hoping that Wheeling residents will want to use it for weddings and other ceremonies.

Klocke doesn't plan to stop at restoring the chapel. Later, she hopes to get into the cabin, restore it and secure a spot for it on the National Register of Historic Places. She's also researching flowers, so the garden can be restored in an accurate manner.

But for now she's satisfied with finishing the chapel. "I'm proud of this place," she says. "You bet I am."



OCT  
20



St. Joan  
Demolished Mid 1980's











BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE  
WHEELING PARK DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 80-7

WHEREAS, the Wheeling Park District, Board of Park Commissioners wishes to officially recognize the many years of service and numerous contributions of LORRAINE E. LARK and;

WHEREAS, LORRAINE E. LARK served as Commissioner of the Wheeling Park District for a period of thirteen (13) years, four and one half months, from May 1, 1967 to her passing on September 16, 1980 and;

WHEREAS, LORRAINE E. LARK dedicated her time, her energy and her life to insuring that quality leisure services were available to the citizens of the community in which she lived and worked, and;

WHEREAS, the talent and commitment of LORRAINE E. LARK was recognized by her fellow Commissioners as witnessed by her election as President of the Board of Park Commissioners for eight of the thirteen years of her elected service by her peers on seven different Park Boards, and;

WHEREAS, LORRAINE E. LARK led efforts to improve the quality of leisure services, the number of public facilities and was an advocate for the acquisition and development of open space as witnessed by the:

- 1967 voter authorization of the Recreation Tax
- 1969 voter authorization to acquire the Outdoor Pool and construct the Indoor Neptune's Pool
- 1972 voter authorization to acquire open space and develop existing park and school sites
- 1977 voter authorization to acquire the Chevy Chase properties and Childerley Park

which General Obligation Bond Issues generated 5.25 million dollars of local funds for leisure services, and which Recreation Tax provides an ongoing source of funds for developing and operating recreation programs, activities, facilities and events, and;

WHEREAS, these funds and Federal/State matching funds made available enabled the Wheeling Park District to acquire 148 acres of open space, develop over 120 acres of park and school lands, construct one facility and purchase eleven public facilities at Chamber of Commerce Park, Horizon Park, Childerley Park and Chevy Chase, and;

WHEREAS, LORRAINE E. LARK strongly believed in close working relationships with other units of government and fostered efforts to define new areas of cooperation for multiple purpose facilities and/or projects by and between Township High School District #214 with Neptune's Indoor Pool the Village of Wheeling with Heritage Park West and Community Consolidated School District #21 with the Park/School Agreement, and numerous other examples, and;

WHEREAS, the Wheeling Park District, under LORRAINE E LARK's leadership and direction was honored in 1978 by the Sports Foundation with the Grand Award in the annual Gold Medal Award Program which signified and recognized the Wheeling Park District as the best leisure service agency in the nation in communities of equal size, and;

WHEREAS, excellence was not merely an unattainable goal, but an attainable objective to LORRAINE E. LARK through her perseverance, her will and her love of and pride in the Wheeling Community, and;

WHEREAS, in commemoration of the source of sage counsel, inspiration and leadership of LORRAINE E. LARK, who provided the Wheeling Park District dynamic direction; the Board of Park Commissioners wishes to provide a lasting and living memorial in her name.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Wheeling Park District, Board of Park Commissioners shall and will hereafter dedicate the Chapel, built in 1927, at Childerley Park to and in the name of LORRAINE E. LARK, who successfully led efforts to preserve the park from development, and the historical buildings from demolition, said Chapel to be hereafter known as the LORRAINE E. LARK CHAPEL OF THE ORCHARD.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that a living tree memorial shall be dedicated to LORRAINE E. LARK, to be located on the Chevy Chase properties, which she successfully strove to preserve as open-space and see developed as a regional recreation resource for future generations.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secretary to the Board of Park Commissioners be and is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the husband and family of LORRAINE E. LARK so that through the years, they may have before them, tangible evidence of the appreciation and affectionate regard of the Wheeling Park District Board of Park Commissioners and Staff and the Community for LORRAINE E. LARK.

ADOPTED unanimously by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Wheeling Park District on this 20th day of NOVEMBER, 1980.

President, Board of Park Commissioners

ATTEST:

Secretary

HERITAGE PARK  
222 S. WOLF RD., WHEELING, IL  
60090 (312) 537-2222

# WHEELING PARK DISTRICT

WHEELING, ILLINOIS

CHEVY CHASE  
1000 N. MILWAUKEE, WHEELING, IL  
60090 (312) 537-2930

June 10, 1981

Dear Friends:

Lorraine E. Lark, who served as President of the Board of Park Commissioners for eight of her thirteen years as Commissioner, was instrumental in bringing forth the need to preserve the historical buildings and the thirteen acres of meadows and orchard at Childerley Park from destruction and development.

She worked tirelessly to present this preservation opportunity to the citizens and saw her dream become a reality when a 1977 General Obligation Bond Issue referendum was approved, with a 4:1 margin, by the residents of the Wheeling Park District.

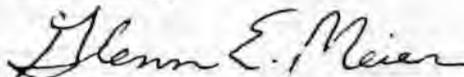
In memory of Lorraine's contribution and in honour of her efforts to preserve and restore the historical buildings and properties, the Wheeling Park District Board of Park Commissioners have renamed the chapel, the LORRAINE E. LARK CHAPEL OF THE ORCHARD.

After extensive renovation and restoration efforts by the Wheeling Historical Society Childerley Committee, the LORRAINE E. LARK CHAPEL OF THE ORCHARD will be dedicated and reopened.

The Wheeling Park District in conjunction with the Wheeling Historical Society Childerley Committee would be greatly honoured if you would join us in attending the dedication ceremony of the LORRAINE E. LARK CHAPEL OF THE ORCHARD to be held at 2 o'clock p.m. on Sunday, June 28, 1981.

Would you please call us at (312)537-2930 and indicate whether or not you will attend.

Sincerely,



Glenn E. Meier  
President  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Wheeling Park District

GEM/ph

## Remembering Lorraine Lark

# Chapel dedication set for Sunday

By JEFF EICHENFIELD  
Correspondent

TURNING OFF busy Route 83 onto the freshly laid stone driveway of Childerley Park in Wheeling, one can almost convince himself it's the trodden English countryside of Yorkshire of Wessex. The old Port House, once used for weekend retreats, is unmistakably Tudor in style. At its rear is such a vast area of rolling green that it could justifiably be called a meadow. On the right, a grove of orderly fruit trees provides apples, cherries and pears for the picking.

It is in this setting, hidden from the roadway by a wall of thick bushes, that volunteers from the Wheeling Historical Society have been working long hours to renovate tiny Childerley Chapel in memory of Lorraine E. Lark.

Lark was commissioner of the Wheeling Park District for 13 years and, as is stated on a small plaque inside the chapel, a woman who was "committed to the preservation of the history of our community." She died in September.

"LORRAINE AND I were very good friends, so I have a personal interest," said Alberta Klocke, chairman of the Childerley Committee. According to Klocke, Lark was instrumental in purchasing Childerley, and saved the park from becoming a heliport for St. Francis Hospital.

Watching the committee work is a lesson in group effort, as well as religious toleration. The chapel is non-denominational and many of the workers, including Klocke, are Jewish.

"Look at him, he's beautiful!" Klocke exclaims with a thick Yiddish accent as a co-worker hangs her picture of a rabbi on the wall of the chapel library.

"Now, what are these?" she asks as she uncovers the original alter cloths. She then proceeds to explain how the 14 crosses along the chapel walls symbolize the 14 stations of Christ.

"We knew Lorraine, and Alberta pushed us into it," said committee member Lonnie Schnaitmann. "We're very excited—it's goint to be fantastic."

The Childerley property was purchased in 1910 by a woman named Frances C. Lillie. According to Klocke, Lillie built the Port House and modified an existing log cabin into a chapel. Borrowing the name of an English village, she named the property Childerley, or children's meadow.

LILLIE CONVERTED to Catholicism in Rome in 1920 and built a new chapel in 1926, Klocke said. The land was later donated to the Calbert Foundation of the University of Chicago which used Childerley as a retreat for widows of Crain plumbing employees. In 1977 the Park District bought the area and maintains it as a park.

The chapel itself sits in a front corner of the grove, hidden by a canopy of fruit trees and surrounding foliage. If not for the "dong,ding" of the chapel bell (it rings in reversed order because of a religious whim of Lillie's) it would be completely overlooked. This location is unfortunate because much of the structure's beauty cannot be fully

appreciated.

Lillie had the chapel designed as a blend of Greek, Roman and Spanish architectures. The overall structure looks much like a Greek temple—four stone columns topped by a broad-based triangle embody the front facade. The columns, however, are separated by arches and the entire single story building is done in red brick. What is more, the roof is shingled with Spanish terracotta tiles.

The committee began work on the interior in early January, deciding on decor as they went along, Klocke said. "The place was an absolute disaster—vandalized, windows broken". Klocke, working with her husband Ed, Lonnie and Frank Schnaitmann, John and Renee Piazza, Shirley Mueller, Pat Hancock and Don and Scott Lark, quickly set about renovating virtually every inch of the old chapel.

USING MONEY raised through annual brat and beer fests the original chairs, kneelers, lectern and interior woodwork was stripped and refinished. Once the Park District had repaired a collapsed portion of the library ceiling, the entire inside was given a fresh coat of paint. The original stone floor was cleaned and polished and yellow stained glass windows, designed by Hancock, were put into place. Lettering was re-painted, new ceramic sculptures were hand-made and a Casablancs-type fan was installed on the chapel ceiling.

Among the original furnishings discovered and preserved is a 7-by-5-foot painting of the holy land painted

by Kay Klitzguard in Woodstock, N.Y. in 1927.

The Baron Von Huegel library also was renovated—from the wood beamed ceiling to the red carpeting on the floor. The Baron is supposed to have influenced Lillie in her conversion, Klocke said, and his books will again adorn the room along with religious ornaments of many faiths. As a finishing touch the committee resurrected a flower garden outside the library door which now boasts marigolds, petunias, alysum, ageratum and salvia.

To date the committee has spent approximately \$1,100 and Klocke estimates spending another \$1,200 before the opening on Sunday, June 28. Glenn Meir, president of the park board, will perform the dedication at 2 p.m., followed by an outdoor reception. Music will be provided by Matt Eisenberg, Kim Deason and the Wheeling High School Band.

ONCE COMPLETED Childerley Chapel will be opened to the public for weddings, communions, confirmations and other religious ceremonies. The Von Huegel library will be used for lectures and as a reading room.

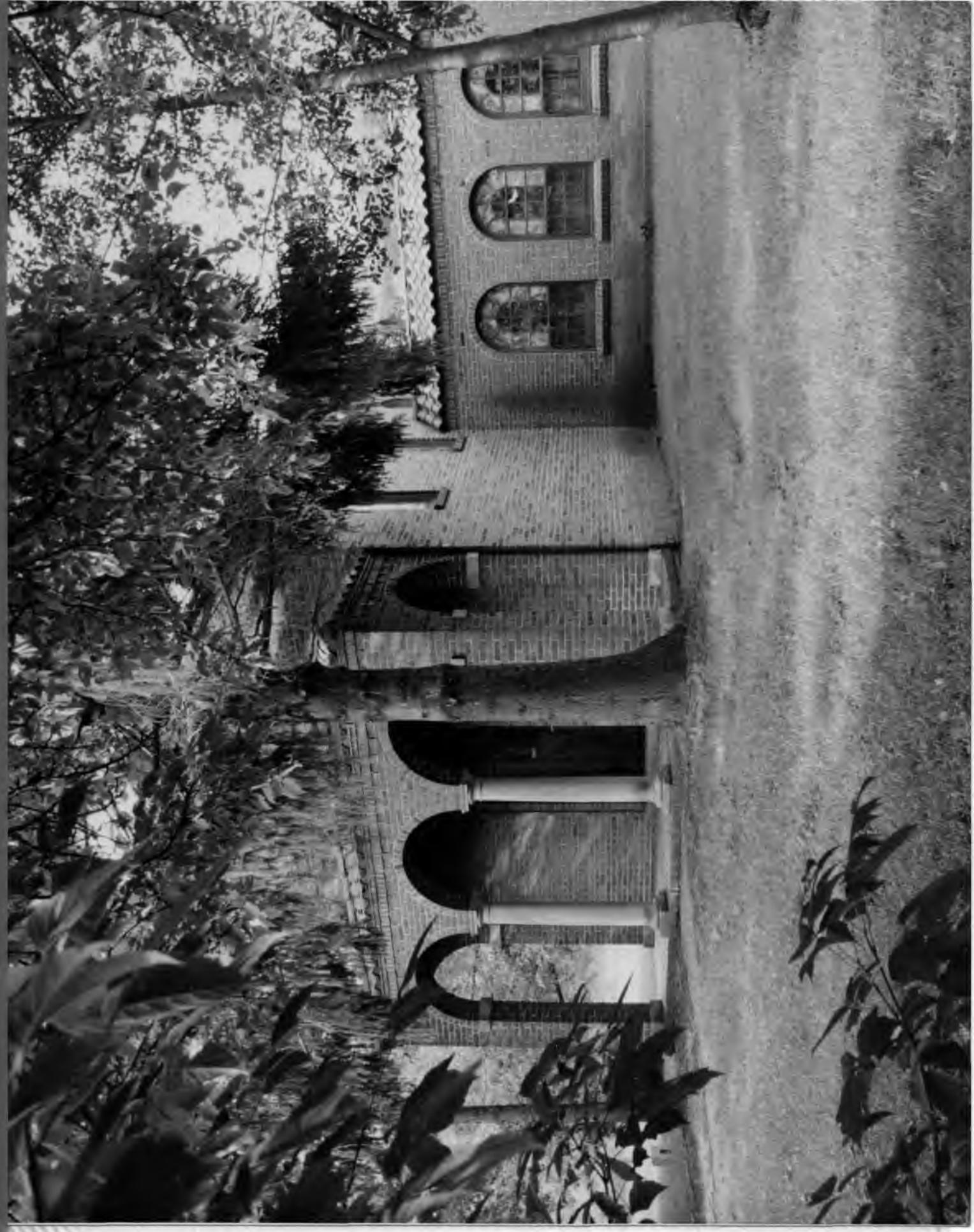
The Historical Society's next project will be the restoration of the log cabin which sits across the garden from the library, Klocke said. Although she is still researching its background, she believes it was built in 1825 and later moved to its present sit.

For the present, however, all energies are being expended on the chapel. "We're all tired," Klocke said, but "we'll be ready for Sunday's opening."

The Board of Park Commissioners  
of the Wheeling Park District  
in conjunction with  
The Wheeling Historical Society Childerley Committee  
requests the honour of your attendance  
at the Official Dedication of the  
LORRAINE E. LARK CHAPEL OF THE ORCHARD  
Sunday, June 28th, 1981  
two o'clock p.m.  
Childerley Park  
506 McHenry Road  
Wheeling, Illinois  
Refreshments will be served  
RSVP 537-2930



**DEDICATION**  
Lorraine E. Lark Chapel of the Orchard  
Sunday ~ June 28, 1981









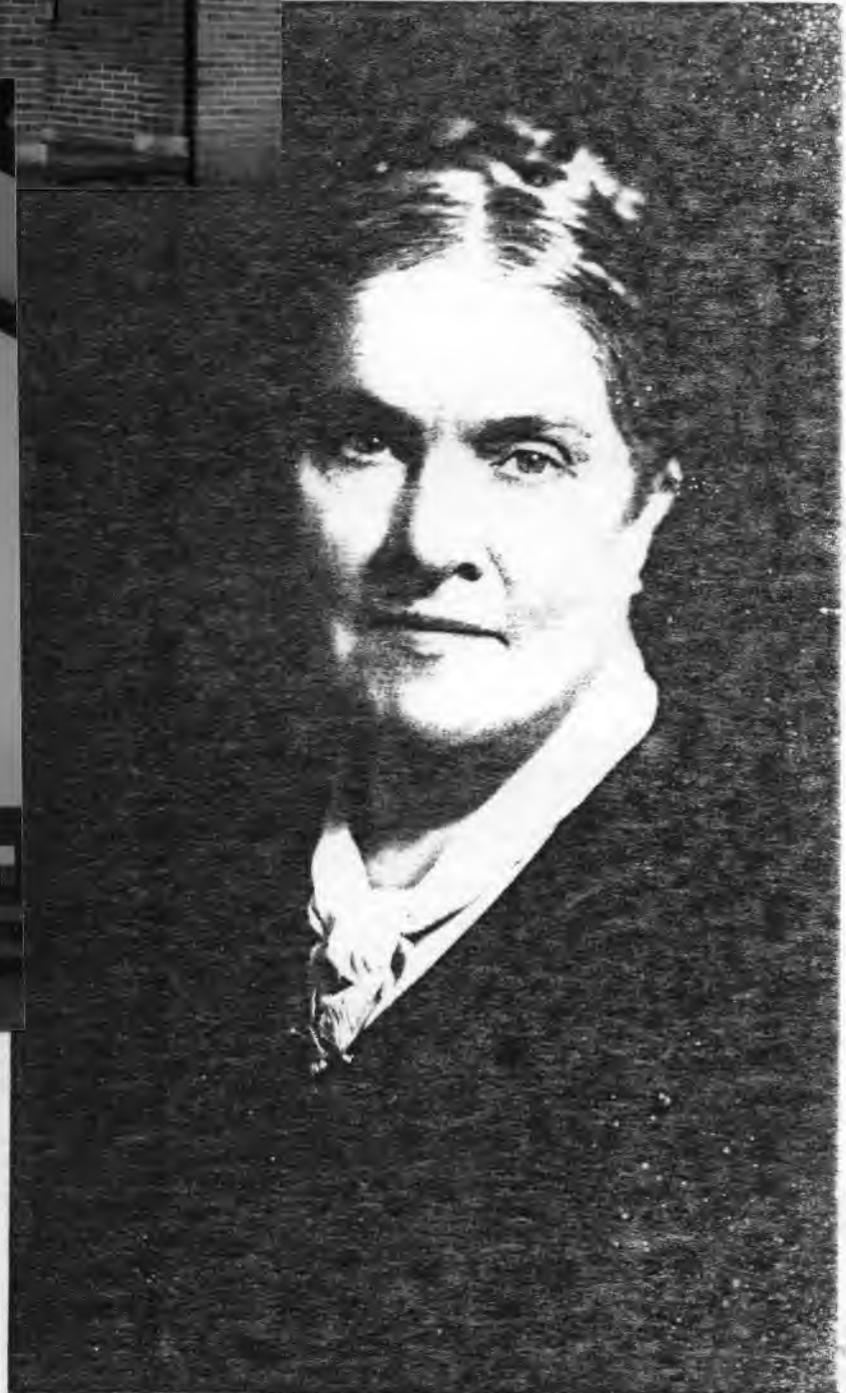




Whitton  
Angela Howard  
" "  
11 97th Ave  
Oakland

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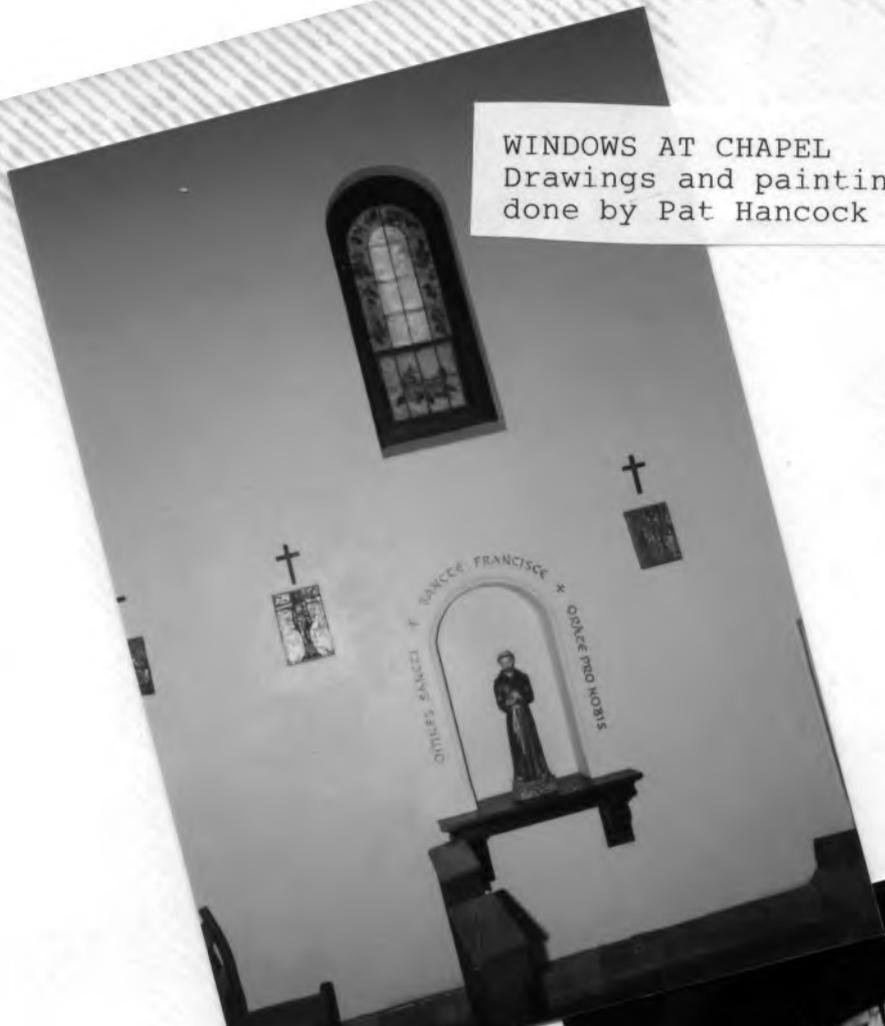




FRANCES CRANE LILLIE



WINDOWS AT CHAPEL  
Drawings and painting  
done by Pat Hancock



DEDICATION OF CHILDERLEY









# Historical society uncovering hidden treasure of Childerley

by Kathy Waugh

Herald staff writer

Nearly invisible behind old apple trees that still bear fruit, and pine trees that drop beds of needles, the Childerley chapel remains a buried treasure.

"We're going to unbury it," said Wheeling Historical museum curator E. Albert Fantl. Fantl and the Wheeling Historical Society plan to clear away excess trees and brush and open the chapel each Sunday to people who want to visit, tour and learn more about the building and its grounds.

A glance at the tight brick construction makes it easy to imagine it is 1926 again and the chapel is new.

Frances Crane Lillie — know as "Mrs. Lillie" to all so as not to confuse her with her husband Francis — had commissioned the construction of the little chapel. She and her husband were biochemists who ran an orphanage and home for widows in Wheeling. The chapel, they decided, would provide the proper religious atmosphere for the residents.

"The orphans used to pick the apples off these trees and sell them on the road side," Fantl said, strolling across an orchard.

**THE CHURCH SUDDENLY** comes into view as he steps past the last apple tree branches.

The outside is red brick with a clay pottery roof. Stretching above the roof tiles, a bell tower holds two bells that occasionally sound a note of activity in the chapel.

The inside is simple — scarlet-covered chairs are arranged neatly on a cobblestone floor. A map of the Holy Land hangs in the back. In the front, the original wooden altar still stands and beside it is an entrance to a tiny library filled with religious and cultural books from a time gone by.

Owned by the Wheeling Park District since 1977, the chapel and adjoining library slowly are being resurrected.

A handful of volunteers brought it up to its current condition three years ago by painting, staining and replacing items in an effort to restore it to its original condition. The only change: Mrs. Lillie was Catholic and the chapel now bears the symbols of both Christianity and Judaism.

**AFTER THE WORK** in 1981, however, very little activity took place in the chapel. An occasional small wedding would make use of its 35-seat capacity. A ceremony to dedicate it to Lorraine E. Lark, a park commissioner who died in 1980, was located there.

So despite the cleaning and fixing of past years, the chapel has remained a locked and relatively unknown quantity in Wheeling.

But the Park District and Historical Society are planning to change all that. Now the chapel is open from 1 to 5 p.m. each Sunday, Fantl said.

"We want to clear these trees and bushes all out and open it up so people can see it from the road," Fantl said. "It's hidden like a jungle in East Africa, right now."

"We're going to try to write up some brochure and we are looking for volunteers to learn about the chapel so they can show it to others," he said.

**THE LILLIES** originally purchased 35 acres of land as a retreat for the family. But Mrs. Lillie's involvement with Ellen Star and Jane Addams — the founders of Chicago's Hull House — prompted her to offer help to the disadvantaged.

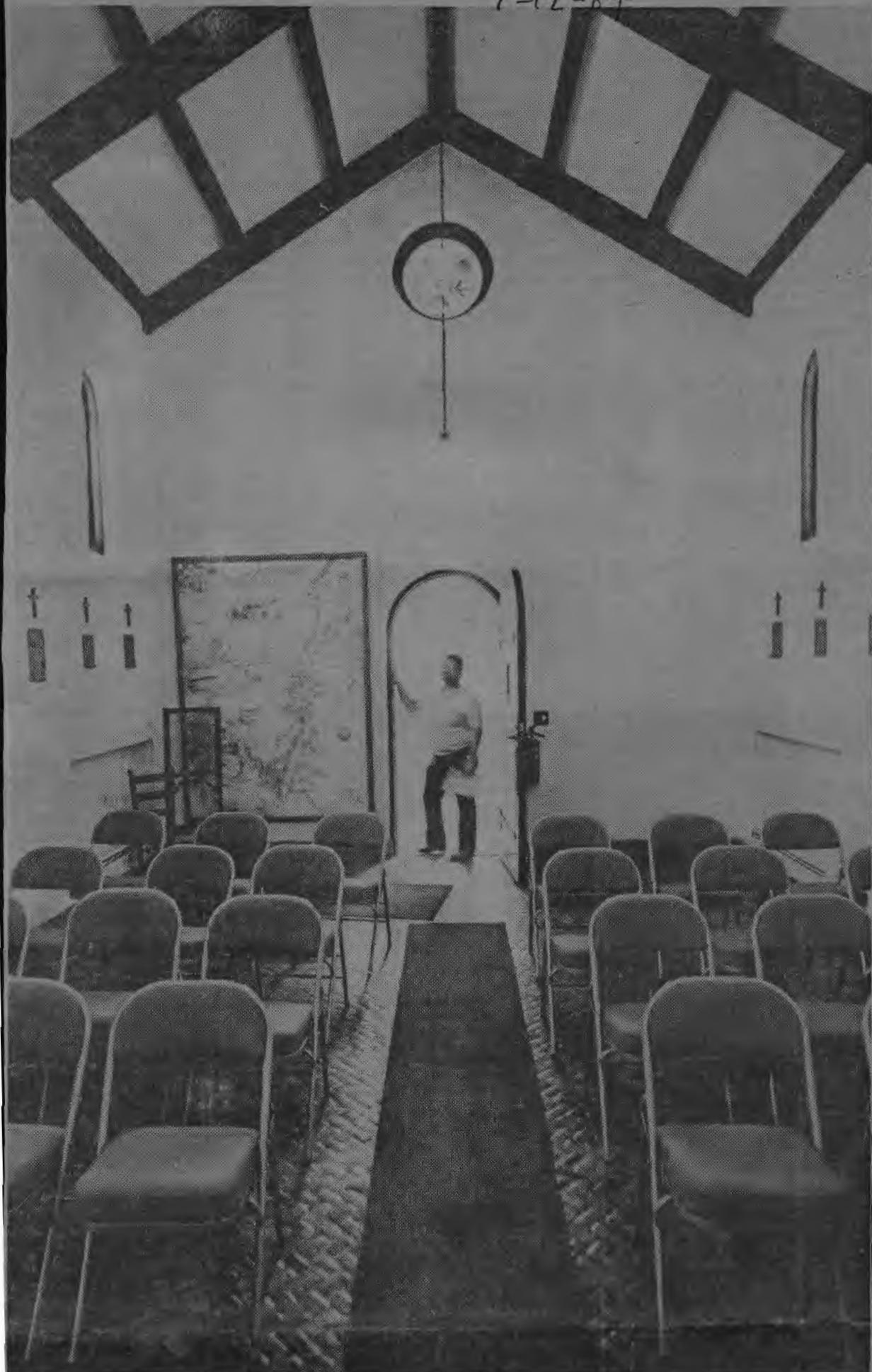
The orphanage and homes for widowed were on both sides of what was, at the time, a one-lane dirt road called McHenry Road. The buildings survived through the 1920s and 1930s but later the Lillies sold 24-acres east of McHenry Road to the the Order of the Servants of Mary who opened Adolorata Home for the Aged in 1942.

The remaining 10 acres, once the Childerley Orchard, was purchased by the park district in 1977 after voters approved a \$3.7 million referen-

dum to buy Childerley Retreat Home and Chevy Chase Club House and Golf Course.

At the time, officials planned to develop the park into an outdoor education and recreation site. The largest building remaining from the Lillie years is now used for classes and childrens' activities. The chapel, however, has remained alone and isolated. Until now.

7-12-89



Herald photo by Nancy Stone

**STANDING IN** the doorway of the small Childerley Altieri describes the work that has already been done to make the building a Wheeling attraction.

# Historical society uncovering hidden treasure of Childerley

by Kathy Waugh

Herold staff writer

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"We're going to unbury it," said Wheeling Historical museum curator E. Albert Fantl. Fantl and the Wheeling Historical Society plan to clear away excess trees and brush and open the chapel each Sunday to people who want to visit, tour and learn more about the building and its grounds.

A glance at the tight brick construction makes it easy to imagine it is 1926 again and the chapel is new.

Frances Crane Lillie — know as "Mrs. Lillie" to all so as not to confuse her with her husband Francis — had commissioned the construction of the little chapel. She and her husband were biochemists who ran an orphanage and home for widows in Wheeling. The chapel, they decided, would provide the proper religious atmosphere for the residents.

"The orphans used to pick the apples off these trees and sell them on the road side," Fantl said, strolling across an orchard.

**THE CHURCH SUDDENLY** comes into view as he steps past the last apple tree branches.

The outside is red brick with a clay pottery roof. Stretching above the roof tiles, a bell tower holds two bells that occasionally sound a note of activity in the chapel.

The inside is simple — scarlet-covered chairs are arranged neatly on a cobblestone floor. A map of the Holy Land hangs in the back. In the front, the original wooden altar still stands and beside it is an entrance to a tiny library filled with religious and cultural books from a time gone by.

Owned by the Wheeling Park District since 1977, the chapel and adjoining library slowly are being resurrected.

A handful of volunteers brought it up to its current condition three years ago by painting, staining and replacing items in an effort to restore it to its original condition. The only change: Mrs. Lillie was Catholic and the chapel now bears the symbols of both Christianity and Judaism.

**AFTER THE WORK** in 1981, however, very little activity took place in the chapel. An occasional small wedding would make use of its 35-seat capacity. A ceremony to dedicate it to Lorraine E. Lark, a park commissioner who died in 1980, was located there.

So despite the cleaning and fixing of past years, the chapel has remained a locked and relatively unknown quantity in Wheeling.

But the Park District and Historical Society are planning to change all that. Now the chapel is open from 1 to 5 p.m. each Sunday, Fantl said.

"We want to clear these trees and bushes all out and open it up so people can see it from the road," Fantl said. "It's hidden like a jungle in East Africa, right now."

"We're going to try to write up some brochure and we are looking for volunteers to learn about the chapel so they can show it to others," he said.

**THE LILLIES** originally purchased 35 acres of land as a retreat for the family. But Mrs. Lillie's involvement with Ellen Star and Jane Addams — the founders of Chicago's Hull House — prompted her too to offer help to the disadvantaged.

The orphanage and homes for widowed were on both sides of what was, at the time, a one-lane dirt road called McHenry Road. The buildings survived through the 1920s and 1930s but later the Lillies sold 24-acres east of McHenry Road to the the Order of the Servants of Mary who opened Ad-dolorata Home for the Aged in 1942.

The remaining 10 acres, once the Childerley Orchard, was purchased by the park district in 1977 after voters approved a \$3.7 million referen-

dum to buy Childerley Retreat Home and Chevy Chase Club House and Golf Course.

At the time, officials planned to develop the park into an outdoor education and recreation site. The largest building remaining from the Lillie years is now used for classes and childrens' activities. The chapel, however, has remained alone and isolated. Until now.



CHILDRELLY  
PARIC  
1986



CHILDRELLY  
PARIC  
1986







1987)













# LOCATION MAP

Proposed Sanitary Sewer  
Building Connection  
for

"WHEELING PARK DISTRICT  
MUSEUM RELOCATION"

In  
CHAMBERS PARK  
WHEELING, ILLINOIS

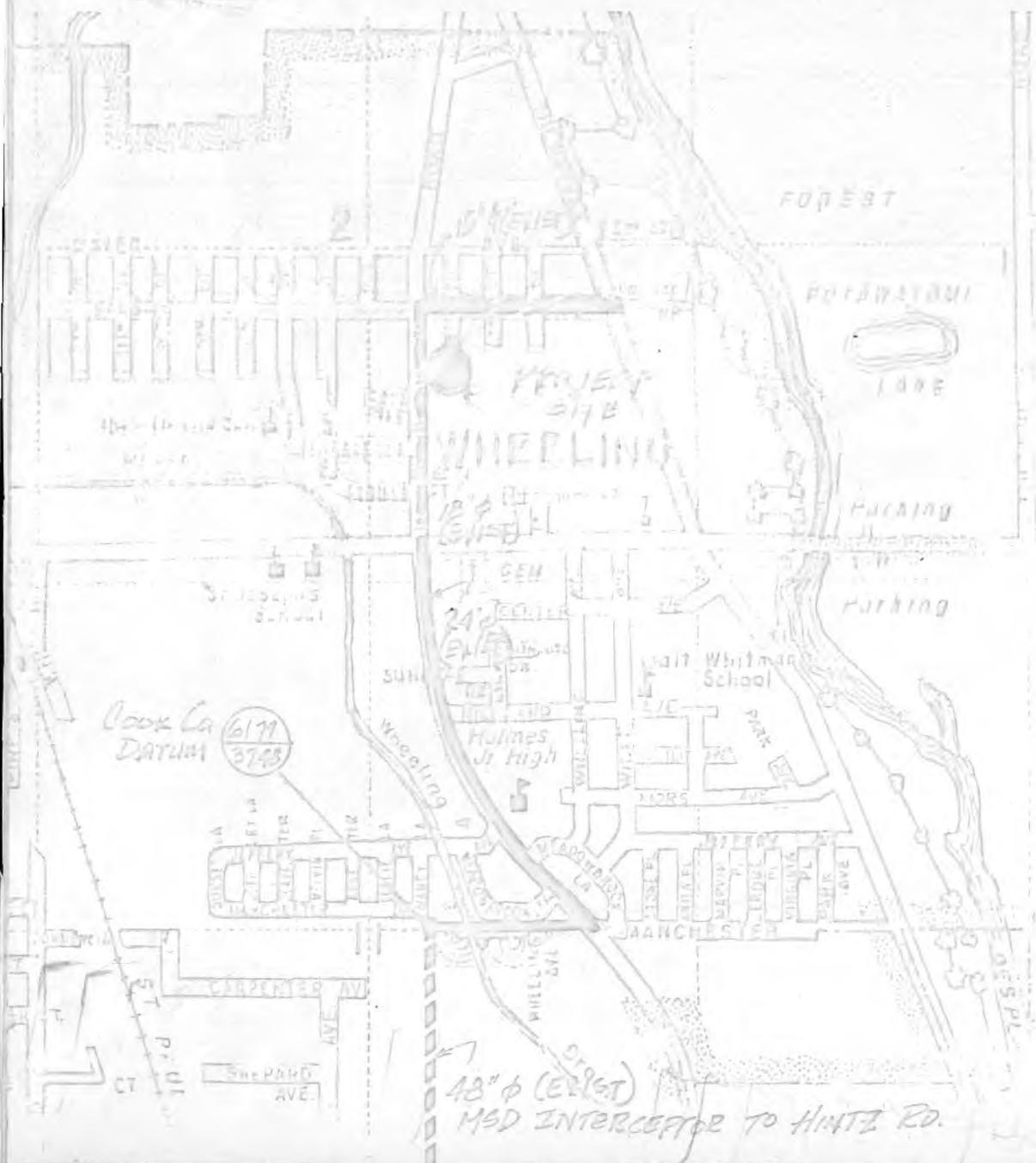
Date: June 23, 1978

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48"  $\phi$  (EXIST)  
MSD INTERCEPTOR TO HINTZ RD.

RELOCATION & INSTALLATION OF  
THE FLAGPOLE WHICH WAS LOCATED  
ON MILWAUKEE AVE. AND RELOCATED  
TO CHEVY CHASE

RELOCATION & INSTALLATION  
OF THE FLAGPOLE WHICH WAS  
LOCATED ON MILWAUKEE AVE.  
AND RELOCATED TO CHEVY CHASE



MOVING OF WHEELING VILLAGE HALL FROM 84 S. MILAUKEE AVE. TO CHAMBER PARK TO BECOME THE WHEELING HISTORICAL MUSEUM OWNED BY THE WHEELING PARK DISTRICT. 1978

## What's coming down the street? It's the old Wheeling city hall

Wheeling's original city hall was uprooted Aug. 31 after standing 81 years in the same place.

The building, which had been converted into a historical society was moved one and one-half miles from 84 S. Milwaukee Ave. to Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Rd.

The move took Grant Housemovers one and one-half hours and cost \$2,200, \$2,200.

When the building is completed in November it will have a new name as well as a new home: the Wheeling Park District Historical Museum. (Photos by Roger O'Connor)













THE WHEELING HISTORICAL Society is now safely ensconced in  
umber park, but heads turned on Milwaukee avenue when passers-  
y the building traveling down the street in traffic. (Photo by Lisa



















## *Parks to sponsor village hall paint-in*

In an effort to save some money and spark interest in the restoration of the old village hall, the Wheeling Park District is having a "paint-in" at Chamber Park Sept. 22 and 23.

The paint job should put the final touches on the original village hall, built in 1894, which will be used by the Wheeling Historical Society to house some of the village's oldest and most prized relics.

John Piazza, director of parks, said there are no age or time restrictions; anyone who is interested may put a brush to the ancient building. "I'd like to see about 20 people sign up. There's no problem if someone can work only for a short time," he said, adding that

residents who are interested in participating should contact him at 537-2930.

"I think this is a good opportunity for anyone who hasn't seen the museum to become familiar with it, see the new addition and where everything's going to go," he said.

Piazza said the building needs two coats of paint, and with good weather, the project should be completed in two days.

Last year, the park district moved the building from Milwaukee Avenue to its permanent resting place at Chamber Park on Wolf Road, north of Dundee Road. The park district added a basement and a new wing to the

building to create more room for the historic artifacts.

Paint is being donated by Wheeling Paint and Glass Co. Other painting materials will be provided by the park district, Piazza said.

### *Upcoming events*

• The Wheeling Park District and Wheeling Historical Society invite residents to participate in the Museum Paint-In Saturday and Sunday at the Chamber of Commerce Park. The old village hall was moved to Chamber the of Commerce Park, and a basement and addition have been added to the original structure. Volunteers are needed to scrape and paint the old section and to prime and paint for the new addition. All supplies and equipment will be provided. Those wishing to help in the project are asked to call John Piazza, director of parks, 537-2930.

Memorial Day May 26, 1980



Rededication  
Wheeling Historical Museum

# Artifacts to go to museum

by Jim Davis 7/79  
Herald staff writer

Almost one year ago to the day, the original Wheeling Village Hall, its frame resting on trusses and wheels, ambled slowly down Milwaukee Avenue to its permanent resting place at Chamber Park.

The building, which was constructed on Milwaukee Avenue near the water tower, was intended to be the permanent home for some of the village's oldest and most prized possessions.

And those possessions, now boxed and stored on shelves at Chevy Chase Golf Course, should be moving into the old building by the end of October. The park district and historical society have spent the last year building a basement and an extension to the building as a place to store and display the treasures.

There is still some carpentry, electrical and plumbing work to be completed before the building can pass its final inspection. After one last coat of paint and some landscaping the build-

ing should be ready for occupancy, said John Piazza, director of parks.

However, Park Supt. David Phillips said park and historical society officials are undecided whether to open the museum to the public this year.

"WE MIGHT wait until the place is 100 percent ready to go," he said. Moving the historical artifacts to their permanent home at the park on Wolf Road may take some time, and a grand opening may be planned for spring to coincide with the break in the weather.

Phillips said the hiring of a full-time curator is being considered to give an explanation of the memorabilia that will be on display.

One of the features will be a village pumper, the horse-drawn vehicle that was used by Wheeling firefighters in 1904. Mannequins have been donated to display the old volunteer firemen's uniforms and other costumes that were fashionable in the early 1900s.

Snapshots, including one of Walt Whitman School when it was built in 1925, will abound. There also are photos of Milwaukee Avenue when it was

paved for the first time in 1917, the first Wheeling police car and Welflin's Dry Goods Store. The saloon license of the Union Hotel, circa 1894, will be displayed, as will a painting of Frances Crane Lilly, the plumbing heiress who used the houses on what is now Childerley Park as a home for widows and orphans.

**THERE WILL** be taped accounts of Wheeling's history, as well as written reports of the exploits of Ed Bellmore's rattlesnake hunts along the banks of the Des Plaines River in the 1950s.

And Phillips said the hunt for treasured artifacts will continue. In fact, one of the rarer items was found when workers began tearing out walls to renovate the building. It was a check, from 1906, made out by the Village of Wheeling to someone by the name of "Burkitt."

Burkitt, apparently, never got a chance to claim his \$4. "Well, I don't know if you can say that," Phillips said. "It might have been canceled."



Herald photo

**FOR NOW** it is cluttered with newspapers, tools and workmen's ladders, but by the end of October, the

old village hall should be housing some of Wheeling's most treasured memorabilia.









11/29 use

## Vote to finish museum

WHEELING — The Wheeling historical society has recently voted to contribute \$5,000 towards completion of the museum located at Chamber of Commerce park. The society and the Wheeling park district have worked cooperatively since their affiliation in October 1976 to move, expand and renovate the museum, which was the original village hall of Wheeling.

The museum was moved from its prior location at 84 S. Milwaukee with a federal revenue sharing commitment to the village of Wheeling to its present location on the basement and

facts owned by or leased to the Wheeling historical society.

THE MUSEUM, which has been under construction for more than a year, will shortly be reopened and the \$5,000 contribution by the Wheeling historical society will enable the final furnishing to be completed. These funds, raised over the years by the annual Brat and Beer Fest, could not have been generated without the assistance of the many volunteers who have worked to sponsor this event.

The Wheeling park district board of park commissioners accepted this contribution to the museum from the historical society.



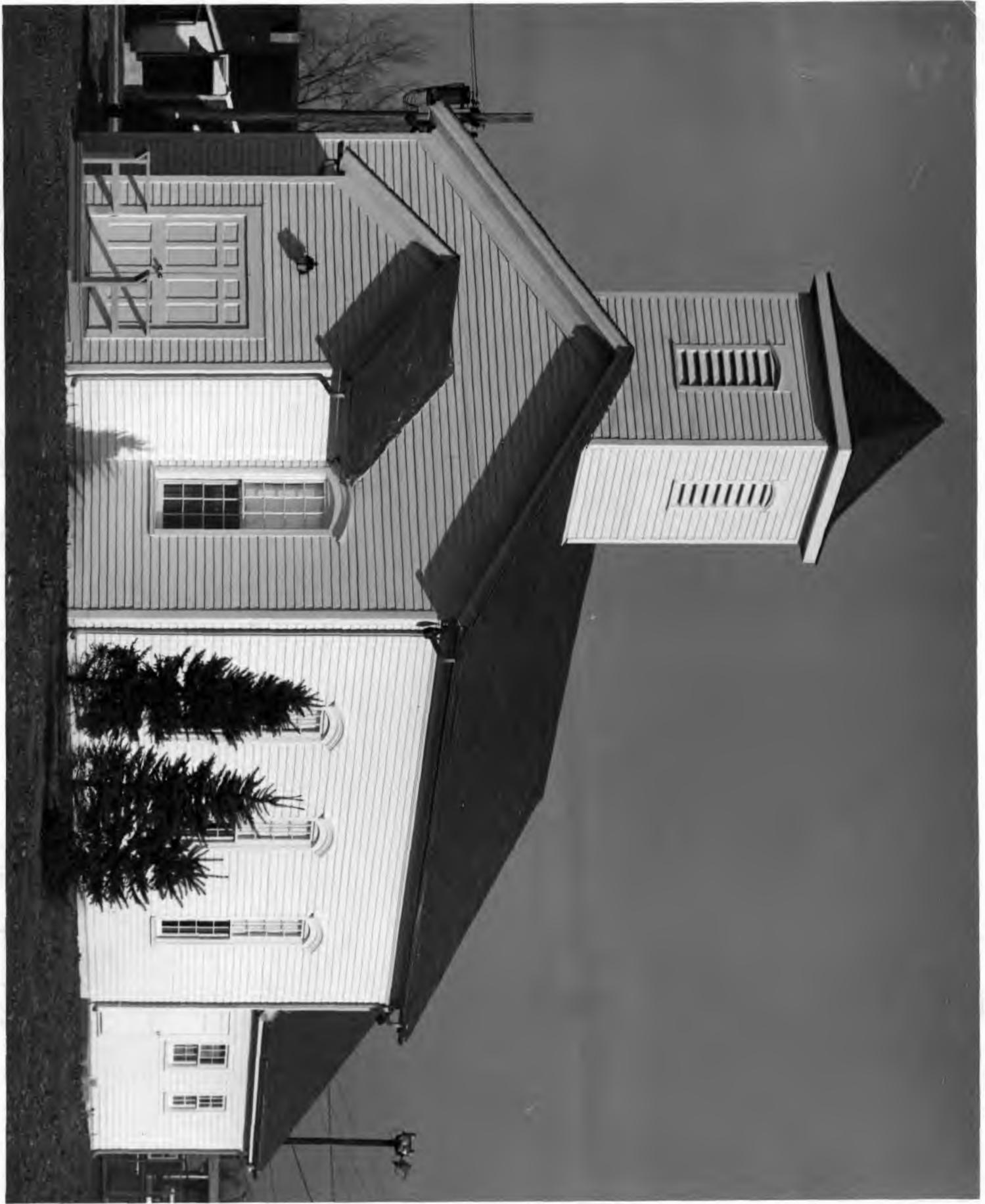


Arthur Day  
 Lorraine Lark WPA  
 Frank Schmittmann WPA  
 Ed Kheki WPA  
 P. Hammerick, See WPA.



CARRIAGE HOUSE  
CHAMBER PARK







HORIZON PARK

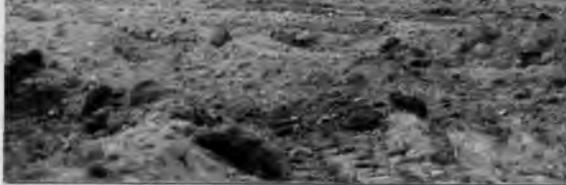














HORIZON PARK  
1984



HORIZON PARK  
1984



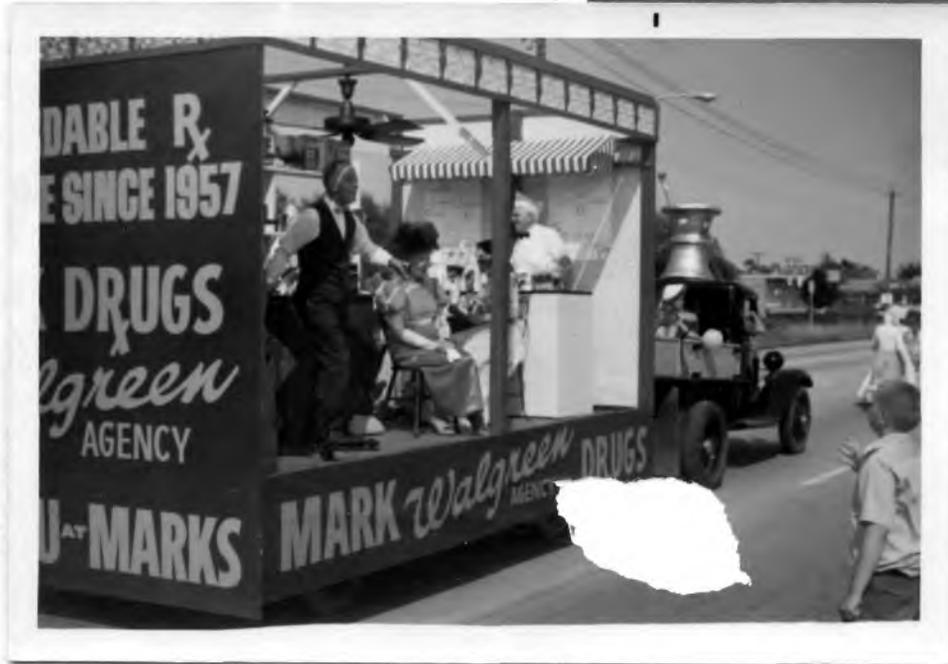
HORIZON PARK  
1986



WHEELING'S DIAMOND JUBILEE  
CELEBRATION & PARADE









3 PIX  
in Summer  
ACT Exhibit





4TH OF JULY PARADES







## Park board OKs memorial to Arndt

by Dan Coit

Herald correspondent

Wheeling Park Board members have agreed to create a lasting memory to the late Ferdinand C. Arndt, the park district's first full-time superintendent.

About \$2,000 is to be used to construct a memorial of trees, flowers and plants at the east end of Heritage Park. A cast bronze plaque will dedicate the memorial to Arndt. The park district will match funds that were raised by Arndt's family and supporters.

Park Commissioner Edward Klocke said the memorial, scheduled for dedication by the end of the summer, is "long overdue."

ARNDT WORKED for the district

from 1966 until 1972. He died in 1981 at the age of 75. Before joining the Wheeling staff, he had worked for the Des Plaines Park District for about 20 years.

Park Director David F. Phillips said Arndt "provided stability, impeccable integrity, a high moral and ethical standard, and many years of practical experience to our district and our community."

A secretary for the park district, Patricia Hancock, worked for Arndt and said he was "a part of the foundation of this park district."

"He was known as 'Mr. Park,'" she said.

Arndt was instrumental in establishing the current cooperative relationship between Wheeling Township District 21, High School District 214



Ferdinand Arndt

and the Wheeling Park District, and was also the driving force in building the district's swimming pools, Phillips said.

6/26/84



# Improvement Of School-Park

## Sites Is Key To Park System

Editor's note: This is the third in a series examining the condition of the parks in the Wheeling Park District, and the improvements planned in a \$700,000 referendum Dec. 16.

by LYNN ASINOF

Improvements planned by the Wheeling Park District for the school-park sites sound almost too basic to cost \$57,860, but in fact they are the heart of any park system.

Presently the playfields at the school sites are rough, rocky and full of chuckholes. They are difficult to play on, and even more difficult to mow and maintain.

So the park district is planning to use money from the upcoming \$700,000 park improvements referendum to grade, seed and landscape these sites. These basic improvements will not only provide more attractive play sites, but will also improve drainage and increase their usability.

Park Supt. Dave Phillips cited Mark Twain School as a prime example of a playfield that is not suitable for recreation in its present form.

"THE KIDS really cannot play safely on land like that," he said. Phillips explained that youngsters might trip over rocks or chuckholes and end up with twisted ankles.

He added that the present condition of the sites has not kept children from using them, but does limit the number of children who play there. "Kids not only need open space to play, but they like to play at a nice ball field," he said.

According to Phillips, the most extensive grading and seeding work will be done at the Mark Twain site. In addition, drainage work will be done at Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High, Booth Tarkington, and Carl Sandburg schools. All other sites, with the exception of Jack London Junior High School, will also be graded, seeded or landscaped.

The school-park sites are presently rather expensive to maintain. Mowing is made difficult by the rough grading, and loose rocks and chuckholes often damage the expensive mowing equipment.

PHILLIPS SAID improved grading, seeding and landscaping would substantially reduce the cost of mowing, which is presently estimated at \$3,985 per year. "If we can get the ground landscaped properly it will take us less time to mow, and therefore save money, man hours and wear on equipment," he explained.

Another important aspect of the school-park site improvements is the installation of tot lots for use by neighborhood children. Tot lots will be located at all but the two junior high school sites.

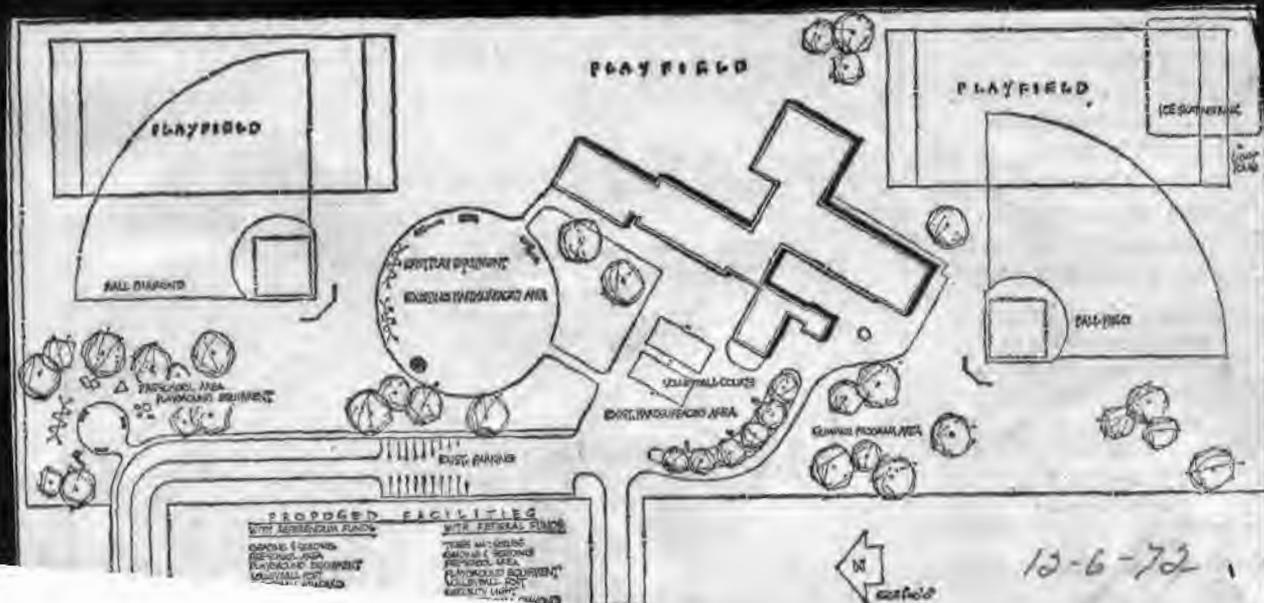
Other improvements now planned include volleyball courts at the Tarkington and Sandburg sites, basketball equipment at Walt Whitman School, and park walks at Nathaniel Hawthorne School. Volleyball and basketball equipment are planned for the Twain site.

If matching federal funds are available, they will add \$107,940 to the park improvements program. These additional funds would be used mainly for more grading, seeding and landscaping, but would also provide for picnic tables at four sites and security lighting at several sites.

FEDERAL FUNDS would also mean improvements at the Jack London site, including a basketball court, grass track and landscaping. Local funds were not allocated for this site because of the extensive work done there previously.

The school-park sites are considered an invaluable asset to the local park system, as they add 76 acres of usable play space to the park district's 46.5 acres. In at least one neighborhood, the school sites provide the only open space in the area.

Phillips said all of the planned improvements for the school-park sites have been worked out in conjunction with Dist. 21 officials. He added that with the cooperation of the school district, the park district has been able to offer residents maximum use of the open land remaining in the village.



# \$700,000 Parks Upgrading

## Referendum Set For Dec. 16

11-20-72

by LYNN ASINOF

The Wheeling Park District board Thursday night approved plans for a \$700,000 park improvements referendum, setting the voting date for Dec. 16.

With the unanimous passage of the referendum resolution, the park district became committed to plans previously discussed with the community. If the referendum passes, the park board will be obligated to use referendum money for the programs listed in the resolution.

These plans include basic upgrading of park and school-park sites by extensive seeding, grading and landscaping. A number of neighborhood tot lots are planned for these sites. Special projects are, however, planned for Husky, Heritage and Chamber of Commerce parks.

The referendum budget includes an appropriation of \$175,000 for land acquisition in the central western part of town. The park district hopes to obtain an additional \$350,000 in federal funds to buy land.

WORK ON THE technicalities of holding and promoting the referendum has already been started by the park district. Ballots have been ordered and should be available for absentee voters starting Thursday.

There will be two polling places for the referendum — Jack London Junior High School and the Heritage Park community center. Absentee voters can pick up their ballots from the park board secretary at Heritage Park.

retary at Heritage Park.

Neighborhood coffees are being organized by interested village residents so referendum programs can be explained to the community. Park board members will attend the coffees and present the programs by using site drawings and cost estimate fact sheets.

The park district also plans to have board members and staff speak to various civic organizations about the referendum plans. Park Supt. Dave Phillips said he would be willing to talk to any organization interested in having him attend.

ALTHOUGH AN estimated budget for the referendum monies has been drawn up, figures on the referendum's impact on local tax bills can only be estimated.

Phillips explained that anticipated growth in the community would decrease the referendum's tax burden on individual residents. He said the park district's present assessed valuation is \$63 million, but he conservatively estimated that village growth would bring this amount to \$70 million before the end of the fiscal year.

Based on these figures, Phillips said the referendum would cost the taxpayer about 75 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation per year. He said there is a possibility that the district's assessed valuation would reach \$73 million, which would reduce the tax bill to 61 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation per year.

# 'Wonderland Basin' Plans Revived

12/72

Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series examining the condition of the parks in the Wheeling Park District, and the improvements planned in a \$700,000 referendum Dec. 16.

by LYNN ASINOF

Picture a spacious lake with sailboats lazily gliding across the surface. Fishermen line the shore casting for trout,

bass and perch. Not far from the lake, people are playing tennis, handball, basketball and baseball. It's Sunday afternoon in Heritage Park.

This scene once was the dream of the Wheeling Park District when the present 25-acre retention basin was first proposed. The dream, however, went sour when the basin turned out to be unusable for recreation purposes. Now it sits in the middle of Heritage Park, a gaping hole in the park district's dreams.

These dreams recently were revived when the park district began planning its \$700,000 park improvements referendum. As site plans for the park developed, a plan to improve the retention basin became the pet project of several park and village officials.

**THE PLAN** now under consideration would raise several hundred thousand dollars from outside sources for improvements on the Heritage Park retention basin. Park Supt. Dave Phillips said negotiations to raise this money from the Metropolitan Sanitary District (MSD), the village, private industry and the federal government have been progressing favorably.

Phillips said that if the money is raised it will be used to excavate the basin, landscape the area, provide boating ramps and stock the lake with fish.

He explained that the improvements to the retention basin will significantly affect the final development of Heritage Park. He said the park often is flooded after heavy rains, making it unusable for

recreation.

Phillips estimated that the park district lost use of the land for approximately two weeks this past summer. "We had ball diamonds under six inches of water this summer," he said.

Improvements to the basin are expected to alleviate the flooding problem. This will enhance the proposed plans for increasing the recreation facilities at Heritage Park.

**WITH MONEY** raised by the referendum, the park district is planning to install lighted tennis courts, a handball court, basketball courts, a tot lot, bicycle paths, park walks and landscaping.

Phillips explained that the tennis courts and handball court were first proposed in the 1964 park referendum. They were not installed however, because extensive grading and seeding at Jack London High School cost more than anticipated.

As a result, both projects head the list of priority items to be constructed.

**OTHER** proposed improvements to be financed with referendum funds would improve the services and the facilities of the park district. Plans now call for the construction of a new maintenance garage on the west side of the retention basin. Phillips explained that the two-car garage attached to the park's community building is too small.

Once the new garage is built, the park district plans to convert the old garage into a meeting room and use the old meeting room for additional office space

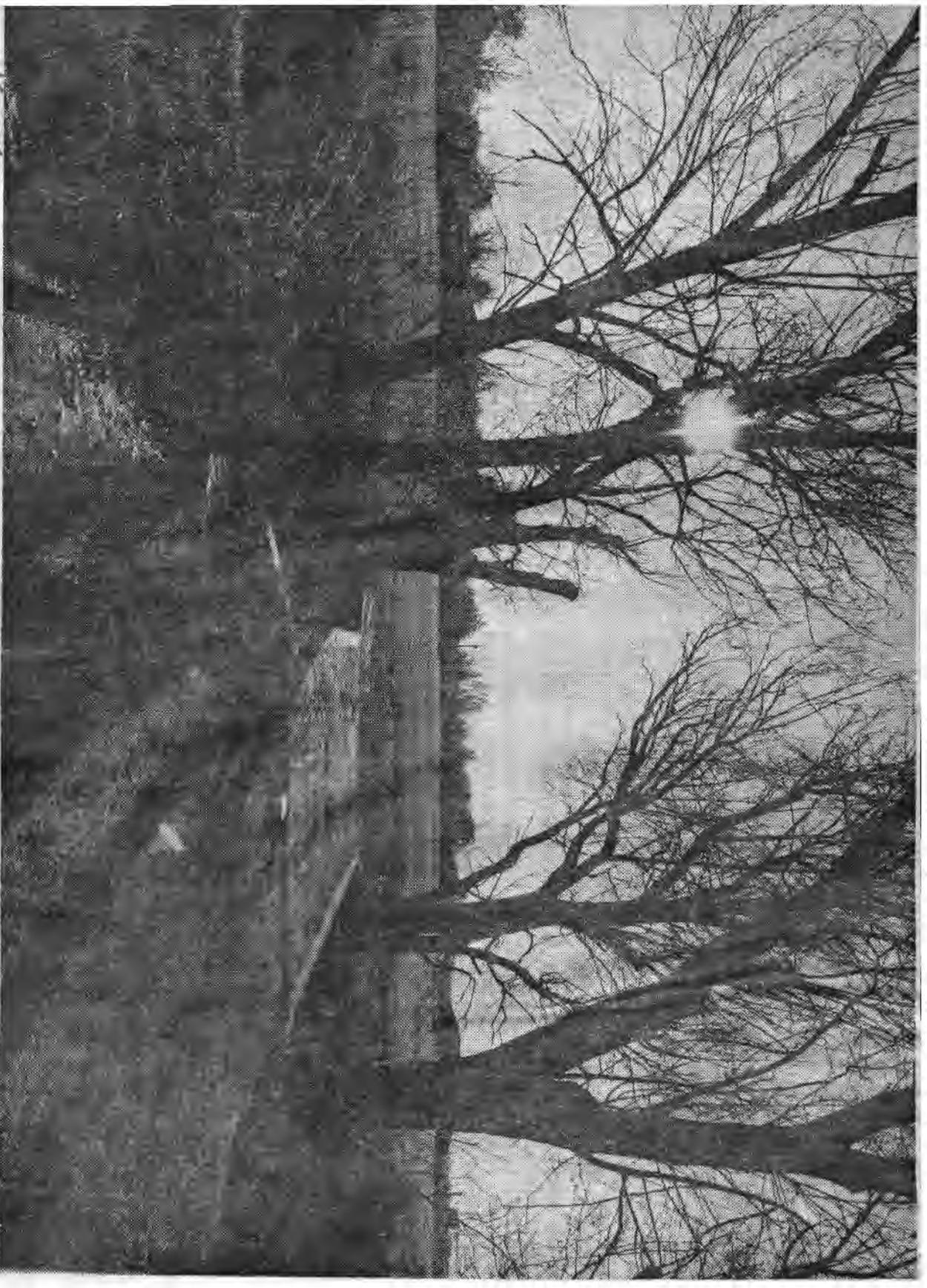
and storage. The district also plans to install a locker and shower room at the Heritage Park community building.

A new parking area will provide better access to the park facilities, and a limited use road will make maintenance of the 88-acre park easier.

Phillips estimated that Heritage Park presently is 30 to 40 per cent developed. If plans for the park improvements prove a reality, Phillips said the park site would be developed to its full potential.

Heritage Park will offer Wheeling residents a variety of recreational activities when improvements are complete.

13-72



# Land For Parks Getting Scarce

Editor's note: This is the last in a series examining the condition of the parks in the Wheeling Park District, and the improvements planned in a \$700,000 referendum Dec. 16. 13-8-72

by LYNN ASINOF

Development in Wheeling is rapidly putting a squeeze on the Wheeling Park District.

As the community grows, the park district wants and needs more land to serve an increasing number of people. Park officials, however, have found that the current building boom is gobbling up vacant property and forcing land prices out of range.

As a result, park officials see the upcoming park improvements referendum as their last chance to preserve open space for recreation.

"If no land is purchased in this area, we will probably be too late," said Park Supt. Dave Phillips. "If we don't get

land now, we're never going to get it."

Phillips said property in Wheeling now starts at \$20,000 an acre for land in the flood plain. Other land is even more expensive.

Because of these soaring prices, the park district is anxious to acquire land now before the cost of acreage goes even higher. "We are all in favor of increased population in favor of increased population in Wheeling," said Park Board President Lorraine Lark. "However, we would rather see 10 or 15 acres as a park site than a multi-family dwelling."

PLANS FOR THE \$700,000 referendum include the addition of two new park sites, both in the western section of the village. One site has already been chosen, and negotiations on a second, larger site are under way.

The first site is north of Valley Stream Drive in the northwestern section of town. The park district has an option to

buy the 2.4-acre site for \$53,500.

Because this site is small, the park district plans to use it as a neighborhood play area. Approximately \$35,200 of the referendum funds have been earmarked for grading, seeding, landscaping and installation of playground equipment, a ball diamond and a bridge spanning the creek.

Another \$44,500 in anticipated matching federal funds would increase these basic improvements as well as finance the purchase of a backstop and picnic tables.

Plans for the second new park site are still incomplete. The park district is negotiating for 10 to 15 acres of land in the central western section of the village, an area that is now mainly served by school-park sites.

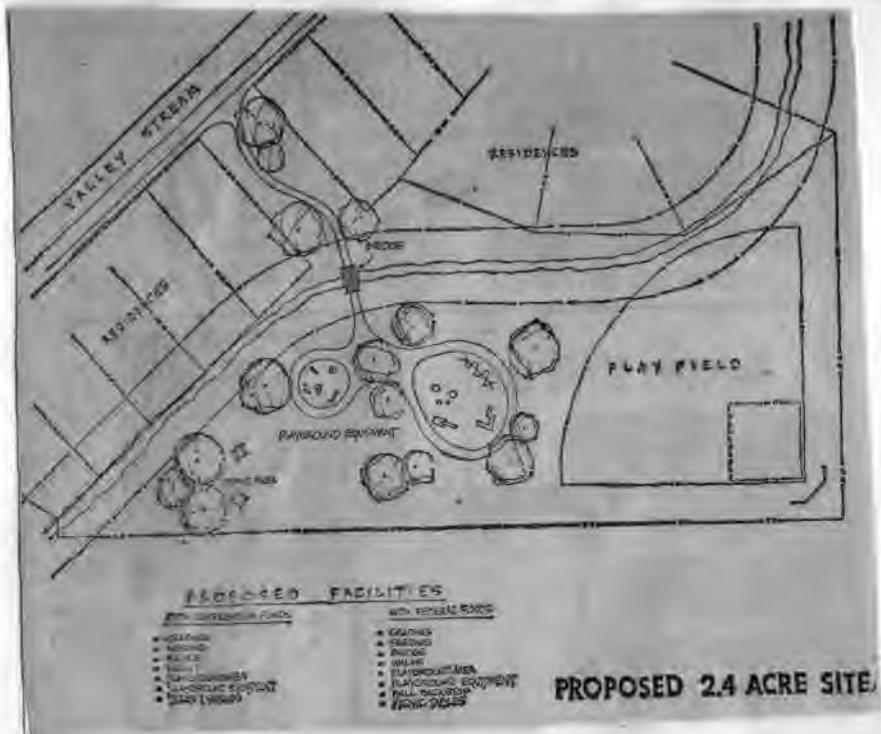
"BASED ON THE land figures, we are trying to find the most land for the least cost," Mrs. Lark said.

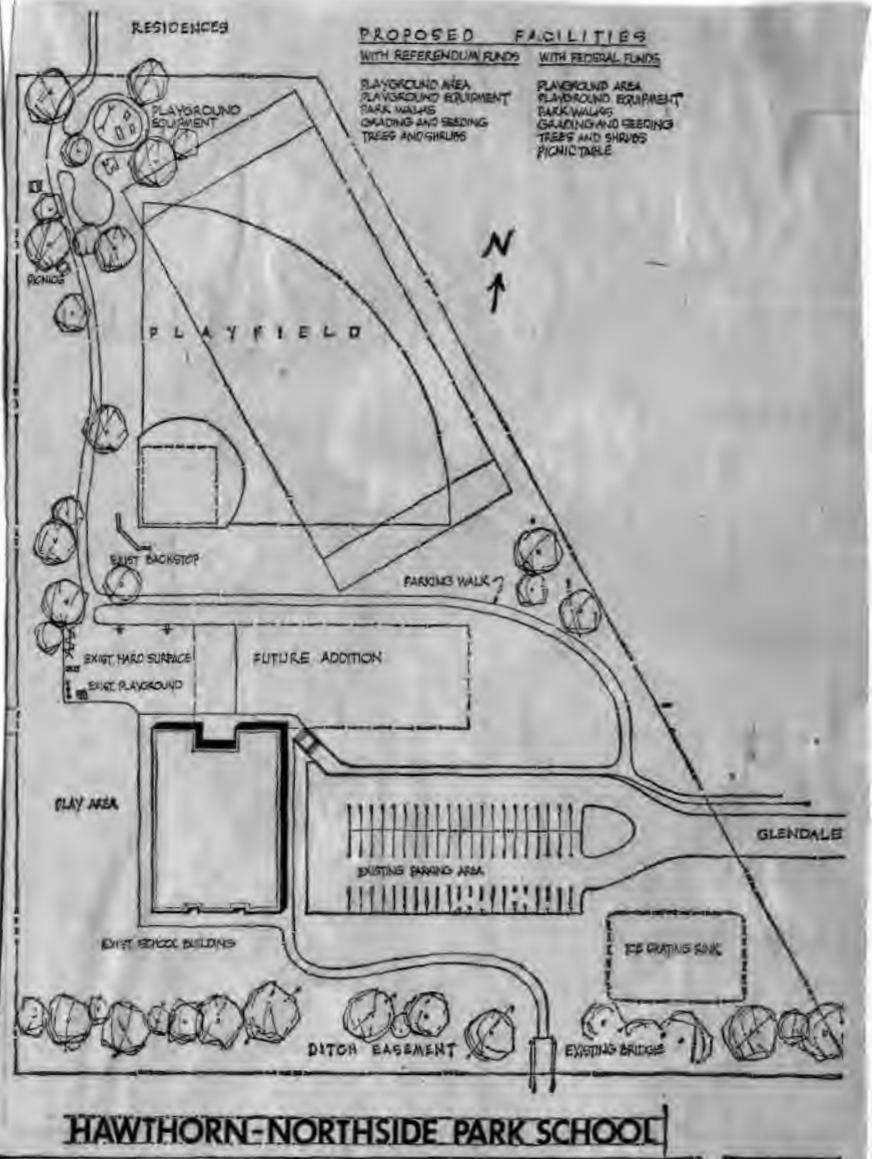
Phillips explained that the park district is looking for "one big site instead of three or four little ones because we need the land." He said the exact use of the park site would be determined by the character of the land by the needs of the community.

According to Phillips, the park district will work with various neighborhood organizations to determine the use of the new park site once it is purchased. He said money from the referendum would be used to provide basic landscaping for the new park.

In all, the park district has allocated \$175,000 from local referendum funds for land acquisition. Another \$350,000 in anticipated matching federal funds would significantly bolster the land acquisition program.

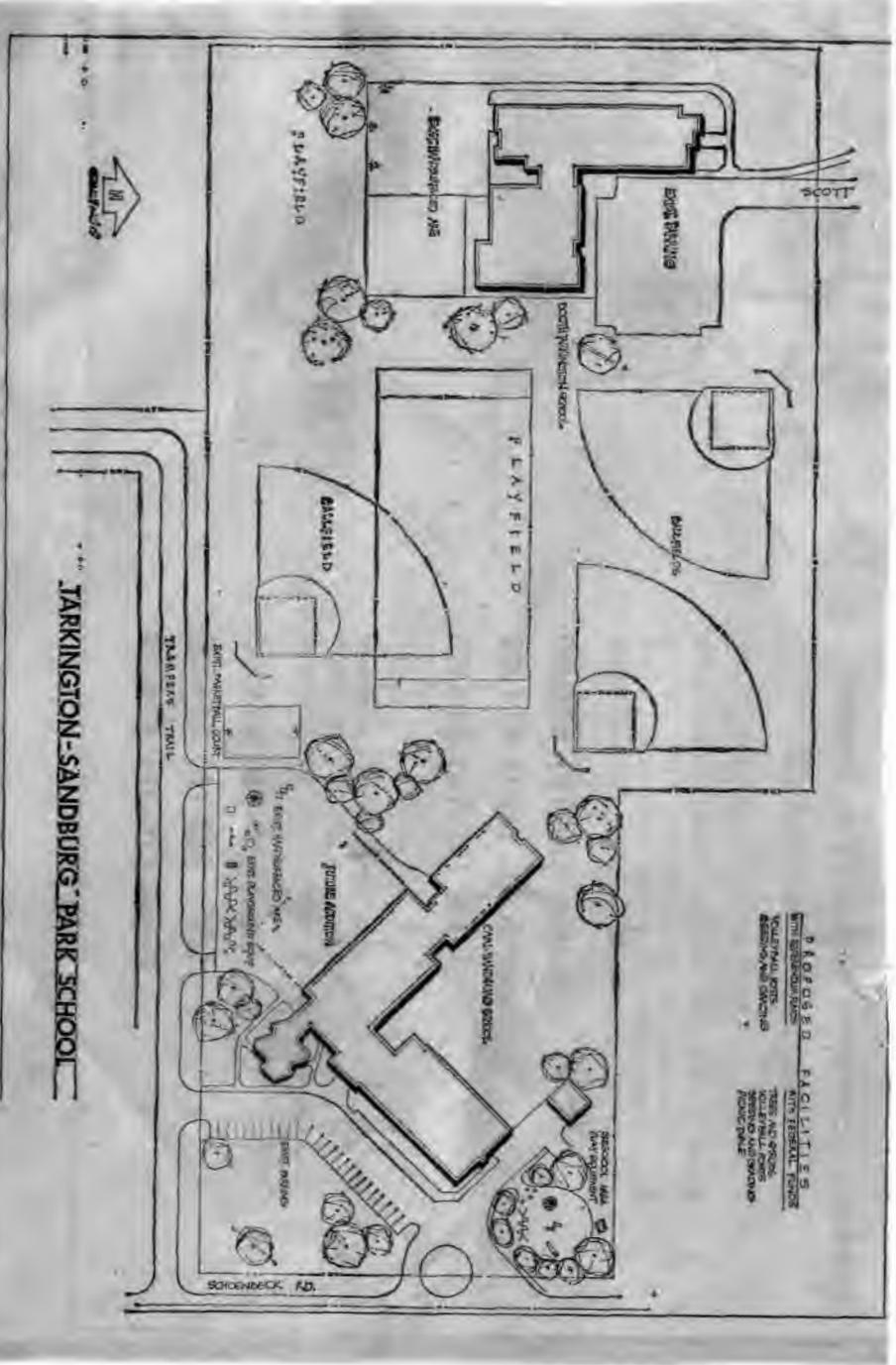
"Anything we can keep green, we will keep green," Mrs. Lark said. "But we're not getting it from anyone. We have to ask you (the public) to help us."





**PROPOSED REFERENDUM** improvements for this school-park site include a tot lot, park walks, grading, seeding and landscaping. Approximately \$13,750 of the \$700,000 in Wheeling park improvements is ear-

marked for this site. Matching federal funds would provide an additional \$5,350 for improvements at this park. The referendum will go to the public Dec. 16.



**BASIC IMPROVEMENTS** proposed by the Wheeling Park District for these school sites include extensive grading and seeding and the installation of field tiles to alleviate the present drainage problem. The proposed improvements will be financed by a \$700,000 referendum, which will be Dec. 16. Matching federal funds will provide additional landscaping, volleyball courts and picnic tables.

# Park Referendum

## Wheeling Residents Asked

by Pat Kerwin December 14, 1972

On Saturday, December 16, the residents of Wheeling will decide to accept or reject the proposed \$700,000 Park District referendum that will upgrade the appearance of the entire community.

According to Wheeling Park District Supt. David Phillips, the cost to the taxpayer will be minimal because of the matching Federal funds which can be obtained at this time. Also, there will be no tax increase until 1975 if the residents give a positive response to the referendum. The tax increase based on assessed valuation will range from \$2.80 to \$7.00 per year, which will be the highest amount any individual taxpayer would be required to pay. It has been noted as the Park District continues to grow, the total assessed valuation of the District increases, and the tax bill will be lower. Each new industry and each new home will share the cost of the program, and each homeowner's share will be less.

The total value of the entire program is approximately \$1.2 million of which \$700,000 is raised locally with \$500,000 contributed by Federal grants applied for. For example Heritage Park plans for development include lighted tennis courts, basketball courts, playground equipment, playground areas, landscaping and a lake which will be developed through the cooperation of Metropolitan Sanitary District and private industry. This lake will be a bonus item in the entire park development project because it will be financed through other sources other than homeowner tax assessment and will provide a larger water retention area for flooding purposes. The present Heritage retention pond will be deepened to form a lake to sustain fish life and provide a boating facility for recreational purposes.

The development of Heritage Park will provide ice hockey in the winter and outdoor handball courts with a pre-school tot lot which currently is non-existent in that area of Wheeling.

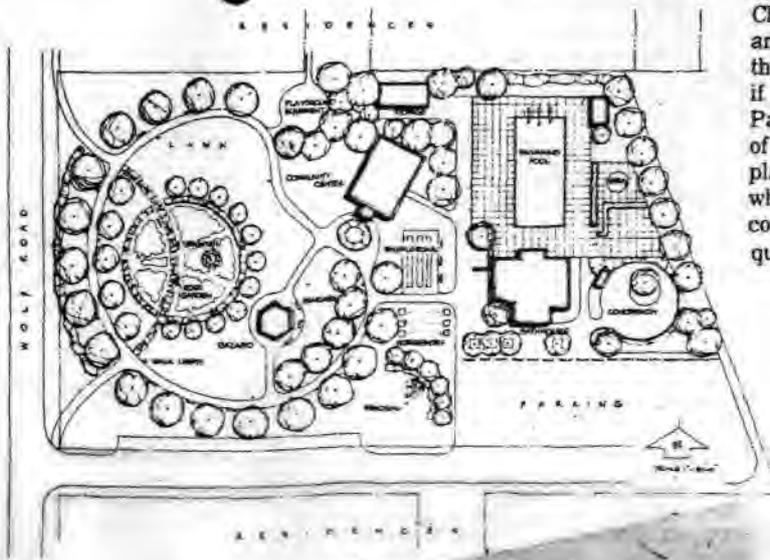
Supt. David Phillips indicated that the fine agreement between the School District 21 and the Wheeling Park District gives the best recreational facilities to the residents for the least amount of tax dollars. The Park District maintains the grounds of the school buildings by furnishing lawn mowing and snow removal services. While the School District provides facilities for Park District programs that run throughout the year. According to Phillips this is the best arrangement that can be accomplished because two taxing districts are cooperating to give the best to the people.

Phillips further indicated that every school-park site in

## To Decide December 16th



Chamber Park, the site of the Community Center and an outdoor community pool, could be one of the most picturesque areas of the Wheeling area if the referendum proposed by the Wheeling Park District succeeds in meeting the approval of the taxpayers. In the photo below, detailed plans for improvement are drawn. This is a park which both the younger and older generations could enjoy as an activity center and one for quiet repose.



CHAMBER PARK



be continually evaluated and improved so that it will serve the community on a year round basis. He added that much of the land now owned is not useable or attractive and that with the passage of the referendum, plus the federal grants, the entire park program can be upgraded and be completed for a number of years in the future.

Phillips further emphasized the urgency of passing the referendum now, rather than propose it at some future date. According to Phillips, there are indications that after January 1, 1973, the Department of Urban Development, whose task it is to appropriate park funds, might use its monies for low income housing, rather than parks.

Chamber of Commerce Park, where the Community Center is located on Wolf Road, is another target for park improvement. The referendum plans call for the parking lot to be resurfaced and a ceiling built over the outdoor pool bathhouses. This improvement would reduce winter depreciation damage. Other plans for Chamber of Commerce Park would include general landscaping to make the area more esthetically appealing to residents. A Gazebo, a restful enclosure, picnic tables, walk lights, benches and park walks are all included in the general improvement plan. This park would also be the site of a rose garden that has been donated by the Jack London students who raised \$1,000 for this purpose. If the referendum passes, Chamber Park is destined to become one of the most picturesque areas of the Wheeling community. At the present time the Community Center is a hub of activity every night of the week. It is used by various civic organization, Senior Citizens and the Wheeling Historical Society.

Also proposed in the referendum is the tiling of the District 214 Indoor Pool and adding acoustical tile to the walls. It is also proposed to completely light the Wheeling High School tennis courts so that they can be used by residents who do not have an opportunity to play during the day because of working schedules.

The Hawthorn-Northside Park-School site perhaps contains the largest undeveloped area in the Park District. Playground equipment, park walks, grading and seeding, trees and shrubs and picnic tables are planned for this area that currently beyond the immediate school grounds, is merely a field and little used.

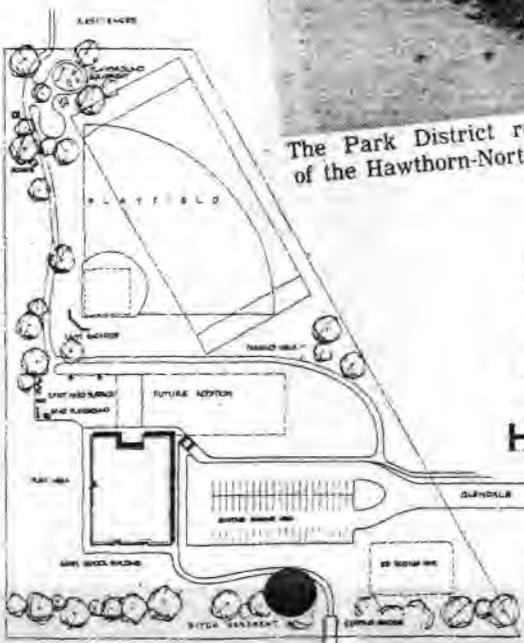
David Phillips concluded that if the voters of Wheeling react, favorably to the Park District referendum, they can point with pride to a Park District that offers a standard of comprehensive excellence that will not only be equal, but perhaps superior, to other communities of its size in the northwest suburban area.

Polling places will be open to all registered voters from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 16, at the following areas.

1. Heritage Park - for those residents living east of the Soo Line Railroad Tracks.

Jack London Junior High School, Dundee Road, for those residents living west of the Soo Line Railroad tracks.

3. 872 Summit Ct., Buffalo Grove (home of Mr. and Mrs. James Dukes), those 50 homes in Buffalo Grove within the boundaries of the Wheeling Park District.



The Park District referendum calls for the complete development of the Hawthorn-Northside site.

Hawthorn-Northside Park School site contains large areas of completely undeveloped acreage. The photo above illustrates the lack of development that currently exists. According to the Park District the land is not used to even a portion of its potential.

## HAWTHORN-NORTHSIDE PARK SCHOOL



MALIBU PARK  
1986



VALLEY STREAM  
LOT  
1986



NORTHSIDE PARK  
1986



MALIBU PARK  
1986



HUSKY PARK  
1986



HUSKY PARK  
1986



HUSKY PARK  
1986





RECREATION STAFF  
HERITAGE PARK

PAT HANCOCK  
DIR. SUPPORT SERVICES



JAN MURPHY  
CC-ASST. TO SEC.



DAVID PHILLIPS  
SUPT. WHEELING PK. DIST





VERN VERSTRAETE- DIR.GOLF COURSE OPER.



Yvonne Bedford  
Pro-Shop Sec.



CATHY HEER  
FINANCE DEPT.

ED LOCKWOOD  
DIR. FINANCE



BARB WEDER  
FINANCE DEPT.



Roger Christensen  
Director Club House



Dorothy Oglesby  
Banquet Services

CHEVY CHASE STAFF  
ROGER CHRISTIANSON -SUPT. CLUB HOUSE  
DOROTHY OGLESBY-CATERING  
JOHN PLAZZA-SUPT. RESOURCE MGT.

KEITH VERNON -PRO SHOP





JOHN MUNO -ADMIN. ASST.  
AL FANTEL  
MUSEUM CURATOR



Al Fantel  
Museum Director



TERRY HORAN  
RECREATION



ROMARO ACUNA  
MAINTENANCE

JOHN PIZZA  
SUPT. RESOURCE MGT.



GREG HARTMANN  
MAINTENCE





Maintenance Staff





Coleen Farrell  
Pre-school Teacher

RECREATION STAFF -HERITAGE PARK



Barb Wiedner





Debbie Stecker  
Cooking Instructor



Debbie Carlson  
Dance Instructor





