



251 North Wolf Road • Wheeling, Illinois 60090

# NEWSLETTER Feb/Mar NO. 4.

NEWSLETTER OF WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Dear Members,

Since our President is still incapacitated, I thought I would fill you in on what is happening.

We held our dinner and auction in February which resulted in a great success. We would like to thank all members and guests present for their support and hoped they enjoyed the evening. Syke, with the help of Bill Hein, was our auctioneer and as usual did a great job. (Especially with the jokes.) We depended as always on Dolly Hein to take the money for the dinner. We would like to thank all the ladies who made the great desserts for us. They truly outdid themselves. It was good to see old friends and members come and share this evening with us. We only wish our out of town members could also share these times with us.

It was great to see Lorraine Haben at our function only to learn she will be going back in the hospital for some surgery. We can only wish her a quick recovery and hope she will be back with us soon. We would like to thank Vice President Simpson for doing a great job in taking over for President Haben at this time.

A short meeting was held before the dinner to appoint a Nominating Committee for the coming election. Appointed were, Clare Rudolph, Lonnie Schnaitmann and Bill Simpson. The openings will be for President, two Directors, and Curator. Nominations will be presented by the committee at the March meeting and election will be held at our April meeting.

Sorry there was no newsletter in February as I was under the weather but will try and make up for it!

Patti Hancock, Secretary

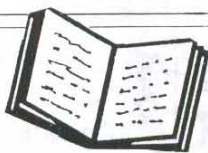


As usual, Patti and I have been working at the museum on Thursday mornings.

We received a call from Karen Smith Springfield Mo, requesting information regarding her great grand father Joseph Matec. Seems he was hit by a car at Milwaukee and Dundee Roads in 1929. His burial was performed by Frank Forke and she would like to know where? Research is being done at this time.

We have finished two new exhibits, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and a Multi-cultural exhibit showing articles from different nationalities which reside in Wheeling. There are many we could not include as to a shortage of space but we are pleased with what we have done.

## A BIT OF HISTORY



Please Note: Most of the following information was taken from the "Wheeling Through The Years" book.

### PAL-WAUKEE AIRPORT Wheeling/Prospect Heights

Pal-Waukee airport was founded in 1925. Originally known as Gauthier's Flying field, it contained 40 acres of grassy open area. By 1933, the airport property totaled 91 acres and several buildings had been erected. These included Hangers 1 and 2 and buildings which housed the Hangar Restaurant, Priester Aviation offices the flight school lounge, and the charter divisions. A hangar for the

Goodyear Blimp was based on the property from 1933 through the duration of the Chicago World's Fair until it was demolished in 1946.



Priester Aviation Service purchased the airport in 1953.

At that time the airport covered 109 acres, had four sand and gravel runways, 70 T-hangars and 62 based aircraft. The first runway was paved in 1954 and additional runway construction and paving occurred in 1955 and 1959. The airport assumed it's present configuration in 1965 when the 5,000 foot runway 16-34 was constructed.

According to Esther Noffke, the extension ushered in the DC-3 type aircraft at Pal-Waukee. Hangar 3, along Palatine Road, was built to accommodate two DC-3s, one owned by Pressed Steel Co. and the other by the Wrigley Co. A

B-25, owned by King Korn Stamp Co. was also based there. King Korn was one of the first to use the new Lear Jet in their business. These aircraft, and the majority of those on both inside and outside storage were used for business reasons.

They used their airplanes regardless of the weather conditions. Mr. Priester was aware of this need and in the winter, the runways, as well as the hangar areas, were plowed.

In 1953, flare pots were used on the sides of the runways for night operations. Lights were installed on two of the major runways and in 1965 and in 1967, when the (north-south) runway was extended to 5,000 feet and became the instrument runway, a complete new lighting system was installed on the runways and taxi-ways.

The lights were of the same intensity of those of the Glenview Naval Air Station and the approach to our airport was only a few degrees from theirs off the omni station located at Chicagoland Airport (now closed). Because of this, several large Navy aircraft landed at Pal-Waukee by mistake.

In the year 1953, most of all the aircraft were single engine. After World War II, the government put some of their single and multi-engine aircraft on the surplus market and this brought Stearmans, PT-19s, twin-engine Cessnas, Beechcraft, D17s and the others which were used to transport VIPs in all branches of the service. Aircraft manufacturers has also set about marketing their aircraft for civilian use and the business market.

As aircraft became more sophisticated, so did ground equipment such as battery carts, de-icing equipment, fueling equipment, and passenger facilities.

Other improvements were made through the 1960's and 1970's including the construction of the air traffic control tower in 1967, and the installation of an Instrument Landing System on runway 16-34.

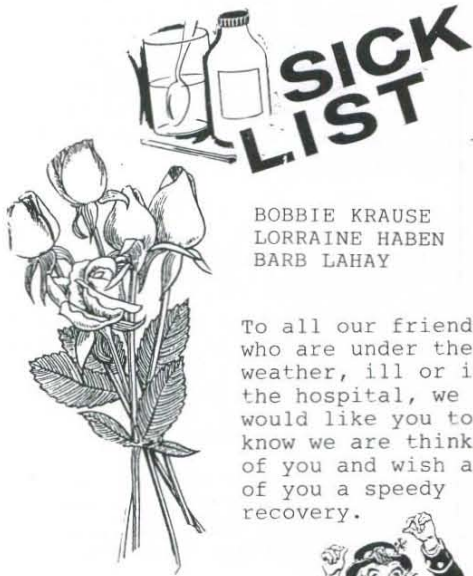
Continued next month....

# TRIVIA

1. What common ailment can't you catch at the North Pole?
2. What have you done if you've eaten timothy?
3. Who made George Washington's false teeth?
4. What was the D-Day invasion password?
5. What color is the danger flag in auto racing?

Answers:

1. Cold 2. Eaten Grass 3. Paul Revere 4. Mickey Mouse 5. Yellow



## SICK LIST

BOBBIE KRAUSE  
LORRAINE HABEN  
BARB LAHAY

To all our friends who are under the weather, ill or in the hospital, we would like you to know we are thinking of you and wish all of you a speedy recovery.

*Happy St. Patrick's Day*



## Cook's Kitchen

### CHERRY DUMP CAKE

- 1 Pkg. Yellow Cake Mix
  - 1/4 Cup Oil
  - 2 Eggs
  - 1/2 Cup Water
  - 1 1 lb. can Cherry Pie Filling
- Pre heat Oven 350

Pour oil - cover bottom of 9 x 13 pan. Place cake mix, eggs and water in pan and stir until blended. (best if eggs and water are mixed together first) About 2 minutes. Spoon pie filling onto batter enough to create a marble effect. Bake 35-45 minutes.

When cool, cut and add cool whip.



Bea Moore of Lincolnshire gave us 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."

RESEARCHED BY: Barbara McIntyre  
November, 1984



The museum has opened on March 10th and we are appealing to our members for help to keep the museum open for 2 hours on Sundays during the summer from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the coming meeting. Don't wait till then, check your calendars and you can call me at 520-0125 or Patti at 537-1450. We sure could use your help.

Linda Reading  
Curator



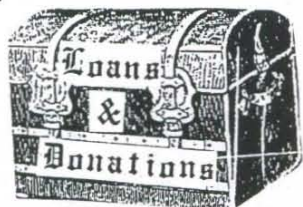
"The object of this Society shall be the Discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the community of Wheeling"

-W.H.S. Constitution-



We would like to welcome a new member Ruth Lance to the Society. We are looking forward to having her with us.

We would also like to welcome back Fran Eagan who has been absent for a while.



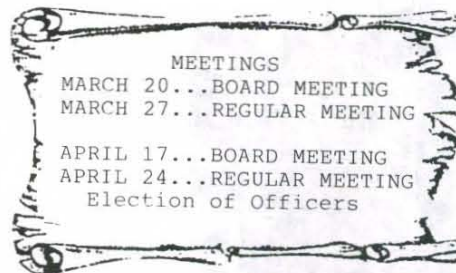
Since they could not attend, a donation of \$50.00 was received from Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mattes toward our auction.

A donation of \$50.00 was received from Soney Rockenbach telling the Society to use it in memory of her husband Roger.

We thank our friends for their thoughtfulness.

We thank the Park District which has purchased a small laminating machine for us to use in our work. It is much appreciated.

With some monies received from the sale of T-Shirts at the Settler's Picnic, we have purchased two 5 shelf units for storage in museum.



### A Fruitful Day

The sun is slowly sinking  
On what was a fruitful day,  
For you helped a needy brother  
Along his burdened way.  
You perceived the silent message  
Often hidden from one's view,  
And followed heartfelt instincts  
That brought hope and faith anew.  
You made a grateful soulmate  
For you took the time to care,  
While being reminiscent  
Of your own times of despair.

Catherine Janssen Irwin

