



251 North Wolf Road • Wheeling, Illinois 60090

# NEWSLETTER OCT. 03 NO. 2

NEWSLETTER OF WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*Message  
From The  
President*

Dear Friends and Members:

Before I say anything else, I would like to apologize for not being at the September meeting. It was a conflict of interest and because of a new law was put into place for the handling of Executive Sessions, it was imperative that I be at this meeting with the attorneys who were explaining the law..

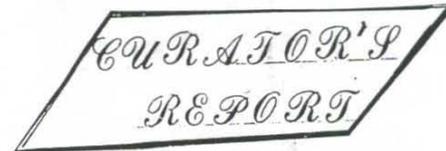
This past summer was interesting. As you heard at the September meeting, we have a committee that has come up with a five-year plan for the society and a budget for the museum. The budget includes some capital improvements to the museum. These improvements eventually will help in preserving what we have for the future generations.

I don't know if you are aware of how a five-year plan works, but a five-year plan is things that an organization would like to complete in five years or less. This can also change as an organization decides, to eliminate or delete what they would like to do. As we were brainstorming, we came up with many ideas and the one we kept coming back to in order to complete our goals is that we need to increase our membership. This became our main goal. In the upcoming months, we will be forming subcommittees to work on the goals. If you think you would like to be on one of these committees, please let me know. The more members that get involved, the more we will be able to accomplish.

I would also like to mention at our October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, a presentation will be given by Mr. David K. Nelson on the S.S. Eastland disaster of July 24, 1915 when the ship capsized in the Chicago River. We would like to see all our members be there.

Meanwhile, enjoy our beautiful fall weather.

Elaine Simpson, President



I have two tours set up for the cub scouts, one in October and one in November. One tour is 30 minutes and the other will be one hour. Anyone one willing to help, please let me know.

I attended a NEIL meeting at Glencoe Society. The "Cemetery Lady" gave a talk with a slide Show, on the different cemeteries in the Chicago Area. I talked with Denise Limberg about Palatine's Cemetery Walk and she would be agreeable to come and show us their walk and give us some starting information on "how to do" a Cemetery walk.

Patti and I have two more volunteers working at the museum on Thursday mornings. Marilyn Chromy has retired and is now able to give us some help we need. Thanks Marilyn. Also Bev Rossmann will help us when she is free on Thursdays and not working. Any time given is greatly appreciated.

We have been organizing our storage area, trying to find more space. I have been trying to update the 1987 Walking Tour of Wheeling. So many of our old homes and buildings are gone, so will have to get new information on 1900-1999 places. Would anyone like to help me on this project?



### Autumn Days

Autumn days are here again  
The sky is sapphire blue;  
Festive scenes are on display  
In warm and vibrant hue.

Flower beds wear lavish blooms  
In shades of flame and gold;  
Hills nearby don gypsy dress,  
So dazzling to behold!

Less traveled roads now beckon us  
To roam the country way  
To drink in all the beauty  
Of a blue-gold autumn day.

Tawny fields of ripened grain,  
A stillness on the land;  
Vegetables and fruit heaped high  
Rich bounty from God's hand!

When summer days drift into fall  
The world turns red and gold,  
And everywhere we chance to look  
God's gifts are manifold!

Kay Hoffman



### Cook's Kitchen

#### PINEAPPLE CLOUD PIE

- 1 - 2# Can Crushed Pineapple  
Drain & Reserve Juice
- 8 Oz. Cream Cheese  
Beat, Add Juice And
- 1 Cup Whipped Cream
- 1 Box Instant Vanilla Pudding
- 1 Teaspoon Vanilla

Fold together. Chill in 9" baked pie shell,

2 to 3 hours.



### PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAM ARTISTS!

You know that seniors are an attractive Target for home repair scam artists but law Enforcement officials, aging experts and Victims say there are ways to avoid being victimized.

- Get all estimates in writing
- Never sign a contract on the first meeting.
- Only deal with contractors who have established businesses or who come recommended. Don't pay with cash or in advance.
- Ask for identification from workers
- Don't keep large amounts of money in your home.
- Understand that if a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Be wary of people using high-pressure tactics, such as saying a repair must be completed today or the materials are only available that particular day.
- Consider letting your children, other relatives or trusted friends look at your checkbook or other financial documents to ensure nothing seems amiss.

Hilary Shenfield  
Wheeling Herald 8/26/03



#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

OCTOBER 15...Board Meeting  
OCTOBER 22...Regular Meeting  
Program...S.S.Eastland Disaster

## PORTRAITS FROM THE PAST

THE WHEELING INDEPENDENT  
NEWS PAPER

Thursday, August 15, 1963



### Meet Hans Schmidt, Local Hamburger King

That man with the German accent that you always see supervising the hamburger stand during Wheeling Days and the Wheeling Township Democratic Picnic is none other than Hans Schmidt, the "German Hamburger King". Hans has been in charge of the hamburger stand at these two yearly affairs ever since they were started. Hans should be well qualified to handle the stand since, at one time, he was Wheeling's only butcher.

Hans, 65, came to Wheeling from Germany in 1923. He took over the successful meat market that was established by his mother and stepfather, who preceded him to Wheeling. In 1959 he retired from the business. (The building where he had his meat market is now occupied by Schaal Automotive.) Hans, though, soon found retirement too boring. It was then he accepted the job as operator of the sanitary treatment plant on Nancy Ln., a position he still holds to this day.

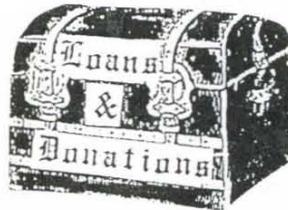
Hans has never been too involved with his business to take an active interest in community affairs. In 1933 he ran for village trustee and won. Two years later a state law was passed, prohibiting tavern owners from holding public office. Julius Meinke had to resign as Mayor since he was a tavern owner. Appointed by the Village Board to fill Meinke's unexpired term was Hans, the "German Hamburger King". Two years later, when Meinke's term expired, Hans decided to run for the post. Hans proved to be such a popular mayor, that he was continuously reelected until 1949.

Even though he was busily involved in his business and village affairs, Hans still found time to serve as

treasurer of the Wheeling Chamber of Commerce since 1933, with the exception of 1950, when he was the Chamber's president. During his term as president of the Chamber, the organization purchased what is now Chamber of Commerce Park on N. Wolf Rd.

Hans and his charming wife, Betty, are the parents of three grown children; Mrs. Lorraine Haben, Mrs. Margaret Hartmann, and Hans, Jr. All three live in the Wheeling area. The Schmidts live in a red brick bungalow at 60 S. Wille Ave. (Hans built the home way back in 1927.) Besides "cooking up" those tasty hamburgers, which he has a knack for, Hans can be found spending his few spare moments either hunting, fishing, or bowling.

He believes everyone should take an active part in community affairs. Stated Hans, "All Wheelingites should work for the betterment of Wheeling if they have pride in their community and are interested in it. Everyone should put their shoulders against the wheel and push, if they want to make the town a still better place in which to live." Hans, the "German Hamburger King" should know, he's done it many times.



We would like to thank the following for their generous donations.

From Mary Beth Odegaard, we received a 1985 bridal dress and accessories preserved in a heirloom box.

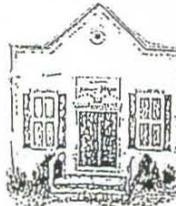
Patti has purchased (for the Society), a 1908 Sears and Roebuck catalog

Beth Shieffele has donated two metal outside signs indicating the meeting nights of the Lions Club and locations which they were held at That being Wenzlaff's and Union Hotel.

One "Cub" baseball cap received from Bill Reading.

One slide projector case and one Sam Browne Belt strap (WWII)

Three spring hats have been received from Lorraine Haben.



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

-W.H.S. Constitution-

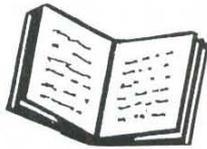
Kathy Corbett is requesting some research information on her great-grandmother Minnie or Winnie Schoenberg who lived in Wheeling in 1861 and died in 1891. She will be coming in on Thursdays to research our files.

Volunteers for the museum are needed for October 19th and 26th.

Five pounds of pop tops have been collected and are ready to go to Mark Twain School.

Linda Reading, Curator

## A BIT OF HISTORY



By: Sandy Alteri Friis

Continued from Sept. Newsletter

The Woman's Club was also instrumental in founding Of the Wheeling Historical Society in August of 1965. The first meeting was held in November of that year with Merle Willis presiding. The meeting was well attended and there was much enthusiasm. They immediately began looking for photographs, newspaper clippings; and any artifacts that would point out Wheeling's heritage.

At the same time, the woman's club put in a request to the village board to pursue the old village hall which was standing empty as a museum. Their first request was denied, but in October of the year of 1966, the village board agreed to turn over the hall to the Historical Society. The building was restored, with financial help from the woman's club, and dedicated in May of 1968. It was later moved to Chamber of Commerce Park on South Wolf Road.

Today, 16 years later, the historical society is still flourishing. The little museum is bursting at the seams with artifacts and exhibits. A group of volunteers is busy working in the museum office gathering information for the soon to be published book on Wheeling history.

The end....Forty Five years later!.



Incorporated into a village in 1894, Wheeling built a small village hall for its new government. Above, the old village hall, now the Wheeling Historical Society, is dwarfed by the modern Water tower and electric lines. This fall, Wheeling will move into it's third village hall, on Dundee Rd.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Palatine Society has a display of dresses, shoes and hats which will be on display through November 2. They are located at 224 E. Palatine Road. 847-991-6460. They are also presenting a Program "The Golden Days of Hollywood" on October 15 7:30 p.m. at the Palatine Public Library, 700 N. North Court.

On October 18 and 19 at Glacier Park, Rt 31 And Hart Road, 9-4 p.m. the McHenry "Trail Of History" will be presented. Adults \$5, Children 60-12 and Seniors \$2 and children Five and under are free.