



251 North Wolf Road • Wheeling, Illinois 60090

WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2010

Remembering... Autumn

October... Crisp, clean air. Warm sun and cool breezes. The chatter of leaves falling onto sidewalks. Children anticipating Halloween; adults celebrating Oktoberfest.

The visual delights of roasted colors: orange pumpkins, golden cornstalks, leaves in shades of sunset.

Remember the wood-smoky, smoldering scent of raked, burning leaves? The sweet and spicy scents of autumn candles and potpourri. The sight of children running door-to-door in the twilight, wearing homemade costumes,



The ice house on the Des Plaines River ca. 1982

and carrying bags of candy...pumpkin festivals, combining corn, roadside stands, harvest time, and hay rides. ☺



Halloween at the Wheeling Park District ca.1971



Des Plaines River at Dam No. 1 October 2010

October 27 Program~ Appraise your Treasures

On Wednesday, October 27, at 7 p.m., appraisers will be available to answer questions about your treasures. *See inside for details.*



Meetings to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Our general meetings, held on the 4th Wednesday of the month, now begin at 7:00 p.m. Our membership voted to begin our general meetings one half hour earlier. ☺

“The object of this Society shall be the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the Community of Wheeling.”

**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 Members and Friends,

October is here and fall has arrived. Hope you enjoy the fall colors.

At the September meeting we discussed Lollipop Lane. Elaine Simpson and the Board are the Committee members. The dates for this year are Saturday, December 4th, through Sunday, December 12th, 2010. We will need cookie bakers. If you don't get a call from us close to the date, please call Patti Hancock at 847-537-1450. The Society will also have a new ornament for sale.

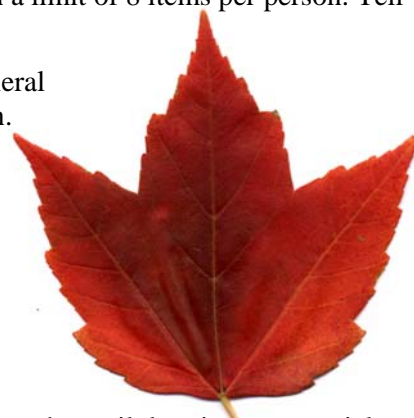
Bill and I sold hot dogs at the Northwest Municipal Conference Auction at the Wheeling Public Works Building. This event took place on Saturday, October 9, 2010, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Half of the money that was made will go to the Wheeling Historical Society. Information about the Society and membership forms were available at the stand.

We had one guest at our September meeting, Dean Ortman, who came to find out some information about old Wheeling: Where was Dairy Queen? and what gas station was on the northeast corner of Dundee Road and Wheeling Avenue? He got the answers from our members.

At the October meeting on October 27, we'll present Auctioneer/Appraiser Jim Bohenstengel from Wheeling Sales Barn. He will be at the meeting to give an appraisal of your old treasures. The cost is \$3.00 per item with a limit of 8 items per person. Tell and bring your friends. There's no charge to attend.

The membership voted to change the time of the general meeting from 7:30 to 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you then.

**Historically Yours,
Joan Wiener, President**



Curator's Report

We continue to meet on Thursday mornings, reviewing the mail, logging news articles, and organizing files. We received an inquiry about Childerley from Lorraine Haben's cousin, Edi of Michigan, who wanted information and pictures, which we have.

There was also an inquiry for information about the Union Hotel. Unfortunately there's been a problem with the sender's email address and I have not yet been able to contact the hotel's granddaughter, Sandi Freyersmyth, of Wisconsin. Hopefully she will re-send her request.

We've also received memorabilia such as pictures and letters from the Balling family and we are putting together a scrapbook.

**Patti Steilen
Curator**

★ Visit our website at www.WheelingHistoricalSociety.com ★



WheelingHistoricalSociety.com

Web Status Report for September

Total Pages Viewed: 553
Total Visitors: 207
First Time Visitors: 197
Average Visitors Per Day: 7

**Password for the Month:
DOBBIN**

September Highlights:

- Childerley Section added
- Old Newsletters added through 2001

Visitor Comments:

Name: James Landberg
City: Washington

Message:

Congratulations on your new website. My ggrandparents James and Mary Parker settled in Wheeling in 1841, where they had an inn and farm. My ggrandfather, Gates Johnson, married their daughter Francis there in 1856. The Parkers were related to John and Mary Dean, who bought some of the Parker's land and laid out Dean's subdivision.

Name: Sandi Belzer Freyermuth
City: Pleasant Prairie Wisconsin

Message:

I am looking for some Info on the Union Hotel in wheeling, My Husband 's Grand Father owned the place his name was Frank Marimonti If you have any photos of him and Info Please could you send it to Sfryermuth@yahoo.com. Thank you very much

October 27 at 7:00 p.m.



The Wheeling Historical Society

Presents an

Appraisal Event

*Bring your antique treasures to
Chamber Community Center (the old church)
251 North Wolf Road*

Refreshments will be served

*Discover what your sentimental and
antique items may be valued at.*



*Appraisals are limited to 8 items per
person, at \$3 per item.*

Please, no furniture or Oriental rugs.

*Call Joan Wiener for more info at
847-229-0151*



Galerie St. James

Auctioneers / Appraisers

Jim Boherstengel, Proprietor

**A reminder...
The museum will close
at the end of October.**

*The last open day is Sunday,
October 24, 2010.*

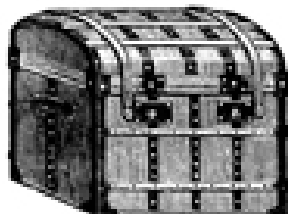
*Thank you to all who volunteered
this year!*



**Board meeting:
Thursday
October 21
at 7:00 p.m.**

**General meeting:
Wednesday
October 27
at 7:00 p.m.**





We thank the following people for their donations to the Wheeling Historical Society.

Marilyn Chromy: one book, *From Flappers to Flivvers*.

Patti Hancock: four books: *World War I*; *World War II*; *Disasters: from the pages of the New York Times newspaper*; *The Civil War Extra, from the pages of the Charleston Mercury and the New York Times*.

Clare Rudolph: one Brownie handkerchief and Brownie pin; one land cultivator; one homemade scythe; one Jay's Potato Chips tin; one child's Bissell carpet sweeper; one shadow box; seven Diamond Jubilee plates

Dean Argiris: keys to Village of Wheeling building 3, 255 West Dundee Road

David Leider: one *Soo Line* Historical and Technical Society magazine

Barbara LaHay: 22 Diamond Jubilee coins; 2 photos of the carriage house; one antique compact

Elaine Simpson: Wheeling Trust and Savings Bank book, Village of Wheeling; Water and Sewer; seven pictures of Village of Wheeling building #3



HALLOWEEN

FEW, if any, of our holidays are older than Halloween. It is older than Christianity itself. The festival began with the Druids, an ancient class of learned and priestly men who inhabited Gaul and the British Isles.

Every year on or about the first of November the Druids lighted huge bonfires in honor of the Sun-god in thanksgiving for the harvest. In those days there was a firm belief in witches and spirits, and it was but natural that these should become an important part of the Halloween celebration.

Many were the strange superstitions and beliefs concerning Halloween. It was the night of nights in the spirit world—ghosts and witches walked about—and the Lord of Death summoned together the souls of wicked mortals who had died during the past year, and which had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals.

Down through the ages the festival has always been observed. Many of the superstitions have been forgotten, some of the customs have changed, new ones have been added, but Halloween will ever remain with us and will always inspire a feeling of magic and mystery.

Speaking of October, some months have 31 days. How many have 28?



All of them.



**Lollipop Lane:
The preparations are underway**

We're getting ready for Lollipop Lane!

We've made the list and we're checking it twice. The holiday decorations will adorn the inside of the Chamber Community Center in early December.

Wedge Hancock trims the tree in 2009.

So please circle these dates on your calendar: Saturday, December 4, through Sunday, December 12.

More details will be posted in the next newsletter.

Request for photos

The Wheeling Historical Society is always interested in receiving photo donations from our members. We are looking for any memorable photos that you are willing to share, particularly those related to times in the Wheeling community. Copies are certainly welcome; you don't have to part with your originals. Photos of family life in the 1950s and 1960s are especially desirable, and would help to fill in the gaps in our collections.

Our address is P.O. Box 3, Wheeling, IL 60090.

