



251 North Wolf Road • Wheeling, Illinois 60090

# WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2010

## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...

Snowflakes and twinkling lights, Christmas trees and ornaments, holiday music and **Lollipop Lane**—it's that magical time of the year! The children are anticipating the chance to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. It is for the children, and we'll capture those memorable moments again with photos, thanks to **Bill Stasek Chevrolet**. You can visit the website [www.LollipopLane.org](http://www.LollipopLane.org) to see photos that were taken from Lollipop Lane 2009.

So, it's time to make the calls to our cookie bakers, and decorate the Christmas trees, in preparation for the arrival of Santa at Lollipop Lane. \*



Design by Patti Hancock



### Village of Wheeling

The annual **Holiday Lighting** event will be held on Sunday, November 21, 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Claus will make an appearance, while the Wheeling High School Band provides the music.

### ~Meeting Dates and Times~

Due to our commitment to Lollipop Lane, December 4–12, there will be no meeting or newsletter in December.

#### November Dates

Board meeting is Thursday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m.  
General meeting (*you're invited*) is Wednesday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

"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,**

Hard to believe that November is here, and Thanksgiving and Christmas are around the corner. Fall is passing by rapidly. Hope this letter finds all of you well. The Society lost a very active member and past president, Lorraine Haben, who passed away on October 26, 2010. She was a lovely person and we will miss her smile and very delicious cookies she made for Lollipop Lane. Our condolences go out to her family. For those who have been in Wheeling a long time and remember Shirley Mueller, we lost her as well. She moved out of Wheeling a number of years ago. She was active in our community for many years.

At the meeting which was held on October 27, Jim Boherstengel, appraiser from Wheeling Sales Barn, entertained us with his information on our trash and treasures. We all enjoyed learning about the value of the various items we brought to the meeting. We will do it again next year. Jim works at the Wheeling Sales Barn located on North Milwaukee Avenue, about a mile past Lake Cook Road.

Lollipop Lane planning is underway. We have received the books, the ornaments, and other items that are needed for the occasion. Please write down these dates on your calendars:

Decorating will be on November 30th by volunteers from the Park District and the Historical Society. Santa arrives on Saturday, December 4th at 2:00 p.m., and leaves on Sunday, December 12, at 5:00 p.m. The times that you can visit Santa and Mrs. Claus are Saturday and Sunday: 2–5 p.m. and Monday through Friday from 6:30–8:30 p.m. If you need any more information, please feel free to give me a call at 847-229-0151.

Because of Thanksgiving, the board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 11, and the general meeting on Wednesday, November 17, both starting at 7 p.m. Hope to see you at the meeting.

**Historically Yours,**

**Joan Wiener, President**



**Curator's Report**

I've been putting together a scrapbook of photos and assorted papers, such as letters, postcards, receipts, etc., from the Balling family. Bev has been busy making copies of old pictures to include with the obituaries in our files. Marilyn's continuing to work on businesses from the 50s, 60s, and 70s: naming and identifying where they were located. Patti has been cataloging items donated to the museum. The museum is now closed for the season, and soon we'll be busy with our preparations for Lollipop Lane.

**Patti Steilen  
Curator**

**Remember  
when...**

"Oly-oly-oxen-free" made perfect sense?

Spinning around, getting dizzy, and falling down, was cause for giggles.

The worst embarrassment was being picked last for a team.

War was a card game. ♪



## Memories of Early Wheeling Days

as related by Lorraine Haben in *Wheeling Through The Years, 1987*

### WheelingHistoricalSociety.com

#### Web Status Report for Oct 2010

Total Pages Viewed: 852  
 Total Visitors: 389  
 First Time Visitors: 373  
 Average Visitors Per Day: 13

#### Password for the Month: DOBBIN

#### October Highlights

- Old newsletters added through 1984
- All newsletters are keyword searchable
- *Wheeling Through the Years* was made keyword searchable
- Consolidated newsletters and *Wheeling Through the Years* placed on DVD for easy searching

#### Visitor Comments

Name: Geri Brockett  
 City: Wheeling  
 Date: Friday, October 22, 2010

#### Message:

Great website. I used to work for Illinois Bell and about in 1946 the phone company went on strike and I picketed at the corner of Dundee & Milwaukee for the phone company. I now live in Wheeling since 1977. Great place.

Name: Diana Kenney  
 City: Crystal Lake, IL  
 Date: Saturday, October 9, 2010

#### Message:

I graduated from Wheeling High School - 1976. Currently, I'm president of the Crystal Lake Historical Society, and was interested in what your organization was up to. Looks like you have a great website, and I look forward to browsing through the pages. Thanks for keeping the history of Wheeling!

Name: Elliott Becker  
 City: Wheeling  
 Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2010

#### Message:

Shame on me that I never looked at this site. It's awesome!

It was in 1937-38 the new Wheeling School gym was built. That's the one that now is a part of Walt Whitman. It wasn't strictly a school board thing; it was the whole town. And I was in the class of 1938—the first class to graduate from the new gym. I always felt real good about that because my dad was the one to push that project. He was the immigrant who came over and here he was more interested than a lot of other people. (Hans Schmidt, Lorraine's father, was president of the Village Board at the time when it and the Chamber of Commerce and the Volunteer Fire Department led a drive to raise the money to build the school gym.)

And of course once the gym was built it became the focal point of all activities. We had basketball teams and baseball teams and it was in use all the time. We had dances on Saturdays and it was really used by the community. It was the only place we really had because you couldn't use the Union Hotel anymore, where you

had dances before on Saturday nights. Then there was the big root beer stand down on south Milwaukee Ave. near the dam, that the Stavros ran. It was on the Biebers' property. All the root beer you could drink for a nickel! At that time you could take your bicycle and ride that mile or so down Milwaukee Ave. without any problems and that would be a big treat for us kids. There was a juke box and we could dance and it was a good get-together place at that time.

And another thing was the Chamber of Commerce Christmas sacks during the Depression. The week before Christmas, Santa Claus would come on a big dump truck.

But before that, the Chamber of Commerce would pack the paper sacks. They had oranges and nuts, apples—I don't remember any toys.

We'd have this huge Christmas tree by where the village hall used to be on Milwaukee Ave. and the truck would be there and Santa Claus would give those sacks to whoever came. ☺



### Lorraine Schmidt Haben,

a longtime member of the Wheeling Historical Society, passed away October 26, 2010, at the age of 85. She was born in Wheeling, lived her entire life in this community, and understood the importance of preserving local history. Lorraine once said, "Everybody's got history, but if you let it go by, you're going to lose it." Our condolences to her family. ☺ ♦ ☺

Shirley Mueller, who was an active member of the Wheeling Historical Society, passed away several weeks ago. Shirley used to work for the Village of Wheeling in years past and had moved to Colorado some time ago. ☺

# Cook's Corner



Cookie bakers alert: it's time for Lollipop Lane cookies!

## Walnut Crescents

*Melt-in-your-mouth cookies—the dainty kind you like to serve company—*

**1/2 cup butter or margarine**  
**1/2 cup shortening**  
**1/3 cup sugar**

**2 teaspoons water**  
**2 teaspoons vanilla**  
**2 cups enriched flour**

**1/2 cup chopped black walnuts**  
**Confectioners' sugar**

Cream butter to soften; then thoroughly cream butter, shortening, and sugar. Mix in water and vanilla, then flour and nuts; chill for 3 or 4 hours. Form dough in long rolls, 1/2 inch across; cut in 3-inch lengths and shape in crescents. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet in slow oven (325°) 15 minutes. (Do not brown cookies.) Remove from sheet, cool slightly, and dip in confectioners' sugar. Makes about 4 dozen.

### Cookies:

**1 cup honey**  
**4 egg yolks**  
**1 tablespoon cinnamon, or to taste**  
**2 tablespoons pumpkin pie spice, or to taste**  
**3/4 cup rye flour**  
**3 cups all-purpose flour**  
**3 teaspoons baking soda**  
**1 tablespoon water**

### Icing:

**1-2/3 cups sifted powdered sugar**  
**1 egg white**  
**Juice and grated rind of 1 small lemon**  
**Water if needed**

## Pfeffernusse

Heat honey until lukewarm. Add to egg yolks and mix well, using a wooden spoon. Add cinnamon, pumpkin pie spice, rye flour, and all-purpose flour. Add baking soda dissolved in water. Mix well. With your hands, make balls about 1 inch in diameter. Place on a cookie sheet that has been lightly greased and dusted with flour. Bake at 375 degrees for 8 minutes or until lightly browned. Do not overbake. Cool 5 minutes on racks.

Meanwhile, make icing. Combine powdered sugar, egg white, and lemon juice and grated rind. Beat 5 minutes or until light and creamy. If mixture is too stiff, add a little water.

Put warm cookies into a large mixing bowl and dribble icing over them. Mix cookies by hand until coated. Place on racks to dry. Yield: 85 cookies.

### My Memory Chest

The Christmas Cards that I receive  
 From relatives and friends so dear,  
 The letters that accompany them,  
 So full of news and love and cheer,  
 Are a living part of Christmas  
 That is cherished more each year.

With choice bits of wrappings,  
 Some fancy bows and gilded strings,  
 Little notes that say "With Love",  
 Special joys each Christmas brings,  
 They somehow seem to find their way  
 Into my memory chest of Christmas things.

