



251 North Wolf Road • Wheeling, Illinois 60090

# WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST 2011

## Wheeling Days in the Summertime



Wheeling Days was an annual summer celebration sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Volunteer Fire Department. The proceeds went to support local charities and for civic improvements.

In *Wheeling Through the Years*, Lorraine Haben explained this event as, “the biggest thing in the summertime ... Everybody worked together. The whole town would work together. We would fry millions of hamburgers, and we would make hot dogs for weeks ahead.”

“We had one dear old lady whose name was Mrs. Miller. We called her Red Miller because she had red, curly hair. She would spend all the Friday before Wheeling Days cutting onions, and I never knew how that woman could do all that without crying tears.

Wheeling Days was something like the Familyfest they have now. They had Bingo and different games and races for the kids. You met a lot of people you didn't see all year and some of them had moved away and would come back. It was kind of a get-together. I think it was in July, but not on the 4th. It was a weekend. That was always something to look forward to, something like a family reunion in a way.

The Chamber of Commerce bought coal for a needy family. The first car that we bought to raffle at Wheeling Days was \$600.” Referring to the old ledger book, Lorraine pointed out that, “Here in 1938 it shows we paid \$604.14 for the Chevy. The ledger shows where they gave money to the school. They bought nuts and apples at the Royal Blue store to distribute to the children at Christmas. Here is the entry, April 24, paid to Frank Forke for funeral for the Gluecks' child: \$15. March 4, Emil Geest for coal and W. Pieper's flowers.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### General Meeting

**Wednesday,  
August 24  
at  
7:00 p.m.**

### Businesses Past and Present

Come reminisce with us, while we talk about the old businesses in Wheeling. Bring photos if you've got them! You know you've lived a long time in Wheeling if you can remember Bodel Cleaners, the old post office, Mama D's Pizzeria, King Midas Barber Shop ...

**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**

Christine Brady

**DIRECTORS**

Barbara Forke

Elaine Simpson

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,**

We are certainly having a HOT and STORMY summer and it's going by fast. Hope all of you are surviving. I want to thank Bill Kiddle for his presentation of "The Boys in Blue" at the July 27th meeting. At the August 24th meeting the society is having a round table discussion about the businesses in Wheeling, past and present. So bring your thinking caps and any information you may have. We will bring information from the museum, and we'll add to it any information we find that night. So tell your neighbors and friends to come to this meeting.

I want to express our deepest sympathies to Patti Hancock on the loss of her sister, and to Terry Steilen on the loss of his father.

On September 14th the Wheeling Park District is putting an advertisement in the Daily Herald about the park district's 50th anniversary, and we'll have a portion of that page for the Museum and Society.

The Board meeting is on Wednesday, August 17, and the regular meeting is on Wednesday, August 24, at the old church in Chamber Park at 7:00 p.m. Hope you can attend.

**Historically Yours,**

**Joan Wiener, President**



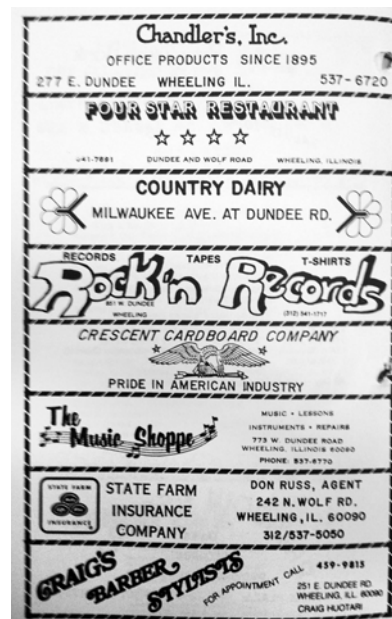
**Curator's Report**

Mr. Weaver of Whippletree Village development wants a member to come by on September 14th and give a little talk about Wheeling. We're exploring who is interested to give this talk.

Work in the museum's basement has been slowed by surgeries, vacations, illnesses and the like. We're hoping to hold a round table discussion about the names of old businesses that were located in the village during the 1960s to the current time, at next month's meeting. Stop on in and let us know who you remember doing business with. Also come on over to the museum and see what's going on with our new exhibits.

**Patti Steilen**

**Curator**



## Things to do and Places to go

### Deerfield Historical Society's 36th Annual Fall Festival Sunday, September 25th; Noon to 4pm

This free event features children's activities, food, demonstrations, antique cars, book sale and fun for the entire family. Tour five buildings of historic interest including the Caspar Ott log house, built in 1837, Lake County's oldest surviving building. All profits from the Fall Festival will be used to help restore the buildings in the Historic Village. For more information, call (847) 948-0680.

### Des Plaines History Center

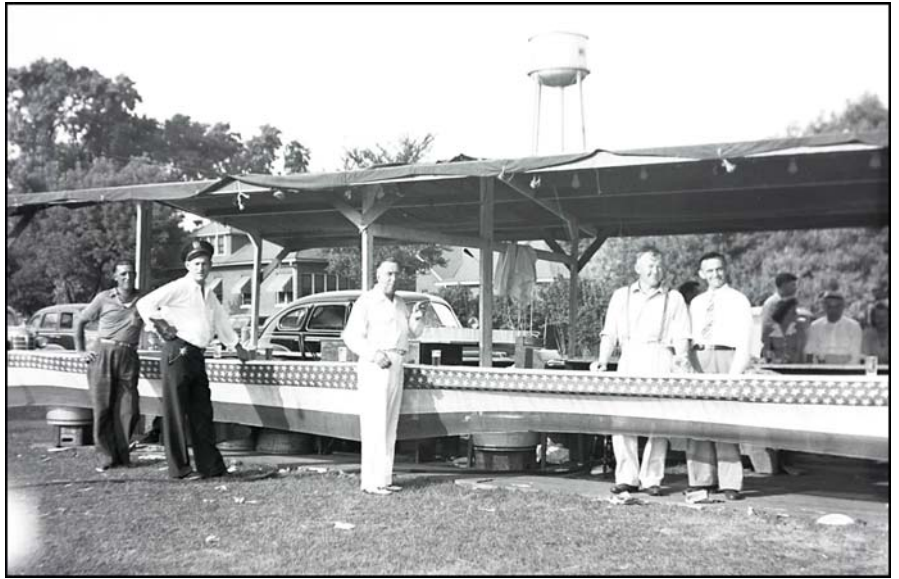
Join the Des Plaines History Center at the Country Fair tent during Fall Fest, **September 16-18**, at Lake Park in Des Plaines. Current Exhibits at the History Center include "Growing, Going, Gone: The Evolution of an Agricultural Community," through December 31, 2011.  
Des Plaines History Center  
781 Pearson Street  
Des Plaines, IL 60016  
Phone: (847) 391-5399

### Northbrook Historical Society and History Museum

33rd Annual Shermerfest  
**Sunday, September 18, 2011**  
Village Green Park, 1776 Walters Ave.  
"Cookin' Up Some History: A Shermer-ville Supper and Show." Purchase a ticket for \$10 or three tickets for \$25 for the chance to win a one-of-a-kind Grand Prize of catered dinner and show for 12 at the Northfield Inn. A classic car and truck display; silent auction; beautiful fall mums for sale; many additional activities. For more information, call the Historical Society at 847-498-3404.

### The Raupp Museum

**September 1 – November 23, 2011**  
"No Easy Choices" A Civil War Exhibit. Free admission. Museum is located at 901 Dunham Lane, Buffalo Grove. For info call 847-459-2318. Mon-Thurs: 11-4:30. Closed Fri/Sat. Sunday open from 1-4 pm. ★



(Continued from page 1)

Wheeling School District for gas (they must have paid for gas), \$19.34. It is interesting, how the town took care of the town, more or less."

John Forke said, "Everybody came from miles around and we had a lot of fun. Kind of like a carnival. All the folks in town would help out and the proceeds went to needy kids, or some other cause. We would raffle a car, but the law came in and we couldn't do that any more. There were about three years in a row when we could have slot machines in town, but then they got raided. At that time they were allowed for the Wheeling Days. Incidentally, the gymnasium at Walt Whitman school was paid for by the Chamber of Commerce during Wheeling Days. They raised \$8000 and that was a lot of money."

Walter Diens summed it up when he said, "I think your Wheeling Days were really a lot of fun. I remember Marge Schmidt cooking hamburgers all the time. And then they found somebody didn't pay off the right person and they confiscated the wheel and the gambling. Somebody broke the windshield of the sheriff's squad car, and somebody let the air out of the tires. Somehow we managed to get the wheel back, but we couldn't operate it. Those were good old friendly days. A lot of friendly people — you knew everybody at the Wheeling Days." ★



## Wheeling FARM STAND MARKET

The Farmers Market  
is now open  
**Tuesdays from 9 to 3**  
**Saturdays from 9 to 1**  
at Chamber Park  
on Wolf Road in Wheeling

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anesthesia, he asked to speak to his son:  
"Yes, Dad, what is it?"  
"Don't be nervous, son. Do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife."



## baseball in the movies



Our  
General  
Meeting  
on  
Wednesday,  
September  
28

Celebrate the greatest all-American pastime with a spectacular collection of clips from classic baseball films peppered with hilarious anecdotes featuring your favorite stars! Enjoy scenes from "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," "Pride of the Yankees," Abbott and Costello's "Who's On First" routine, and many, many more ...



## Baseball in the Movies

*Presented by Steven Frenzel*

Steven Frenzel is a former math teacher whose students were learning more about film than fractions, so he began doing movie presentations for a living. He works at Alexander Graham Bell Montessori School in Wheeling, teaching film appreciation.

**Chamber Park Community Center**  
at Chamber Park on North Wolf Road  
**Wednesday, September 28, 2011**  
**at 7:00 p.m.**

Donations appreciated  
Everyone is welcome



## Cook's Kitchen

### Grilled Chicken Salad

Courtesy of Weber Grill Restaurant in Wheeling ~ From Wheeling's centennial cookbook, 1994, "From Restaurants to Recipes"

- 1/2 Cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
- 1/4 Cup honey
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 3 whole large chicken breasts (3 lbs. total),  
skinned, boned, halved lengthwise,  
or 1-1/2 lbs. skinless, boneless  
chicken breasts
- 3 medium apples, cubed
- 1-1/2 Cups sliced celery
- 1/2 Cup chopped walnuts
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- Lettuce leaves

For dressing: in a small mixing bowl combine mayonnaise, honey and lemon juice. Cover and refrigerate until serving time.

Rinse chicken and pat dry. Place chicken breasts on the cooking grill.

Grill 10 to 12 minutes or until tender and no pink remains, turning once halfway through grilling time.

Cool 20 minutes or until cool enough to handle.

Cut chicken into 1 inch pieces. In a large bowl, toss together chicken pieces, apples, celery, walnuts, salt and pepper. Stir in dressing.

Serve in lettuce-lined salad bowl. Makes 6 servings.

Charcoal: Direct  
Gas: Indirect/Medium Heat ❖