

SNAPSHOTS OF A COMMUNITY WHEELING, ILLINOIS



BY GERRY HUNT

Dedicated to all of the children of Wheeling.

Thank you for making this snapshot of my mind, a reality:

Linda Reading of the Wheeling Historical Society for taking time and energy to find the photos from the historical society archives for this book.

Kim Mika, Prolific Design, and her expertise of prepress publishing.

Jim Hunt, my loving husband, for photographing Wheeling, 1999, and his constant support and encouragement of my work.

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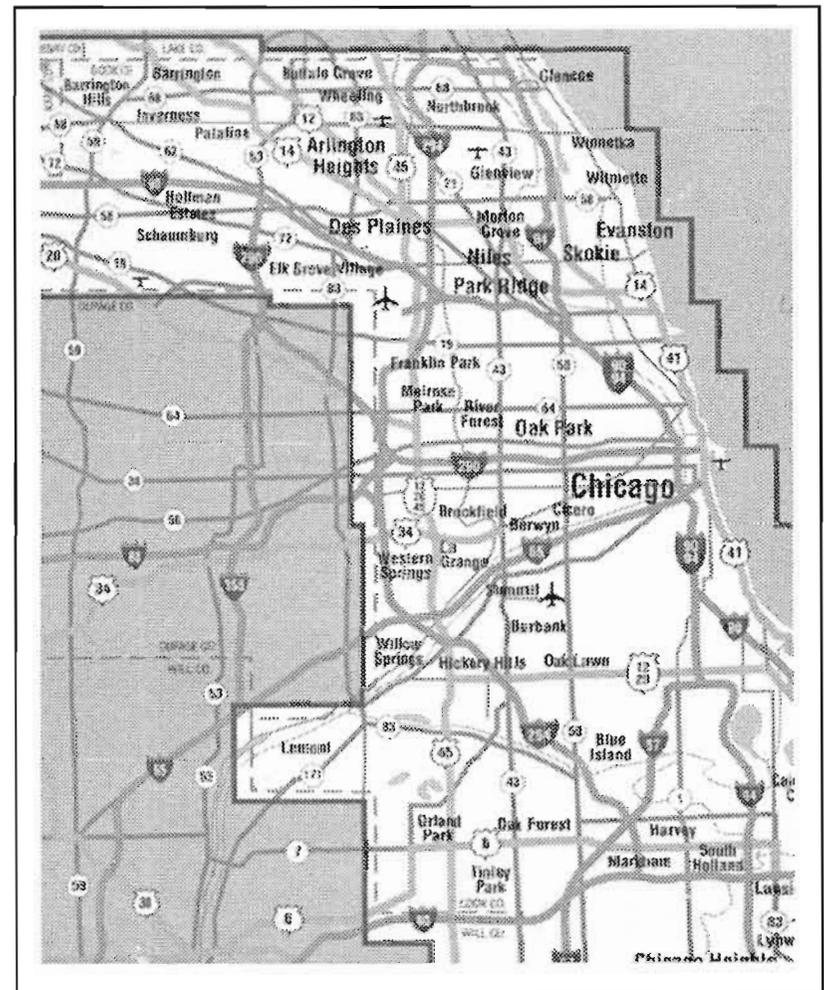
INTRODUCTION



SNAPSHOTS OF A COMMUNITY

Wheeling, Illinois is a suburb about twenty-seven miles northwest of downtown Chicago. This *suburbanization* did not take place until farmland was purchased in the 1950's to be developed as a *subdivision*. Until that time it was basically a rural farm community.

In Snapshots, the history of the community will be retold, to show how communities change and grow and how people working together solve problems and meet needs within a community.





Who were the first people in the Wheeling area?

The first people who lived in the Wheeling area were a Northeast Woodland Native American tribe called the Potawatomi.

Did any Non-Native American settlers live in the area when the Potawatomi did?

There was one Non-Native American, known as Mr. Sweet, who arrived in the area in March of 1833. He lived in a cabin, which he had built, for about six months. He lived peacefully with the Native Americans. He had no problems.

Who was the first permanent settler in the Wheeling area?

The first *permanent* settler in the Wheeling area was George Strong. He was advised by the United States Government not to claim land in this area or the United States troops would have to defend the rights of the Native American if problems should arise. The *treaty* with the Native Americans has not been *ratified* yet.



The Native Americans believed that the land was given to them to hunt upon and to make their beds upon when they died. The idea of private ownership of a fixed number of acres was strange to them. Non-Native American people believed that using land gave you ownership rights. The title of the land could be transferred and that it was wasteful not to plant and plow fertile soil.

George Strong took the risk. He bought the land and the cabin from Mr. Sweet for sixty dollars. This land is approximately where Palwaukee Inn is today. There was even a school named after him in that area.

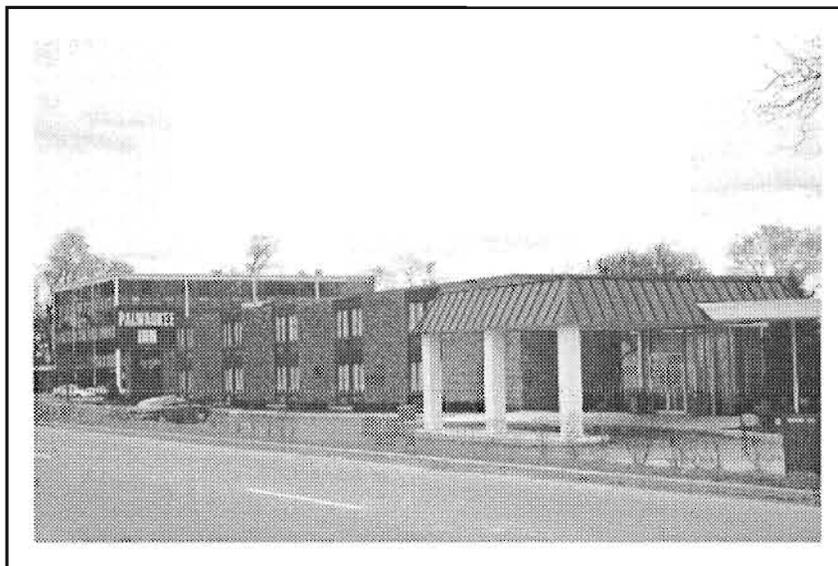
Was George Strong able to live peacefully with the Potawatomi?

After moving into the cabin, it is told that a dozen Native Americans surrounded his cabin. He lacked fear, went outside to fight them, and somehow escaped.

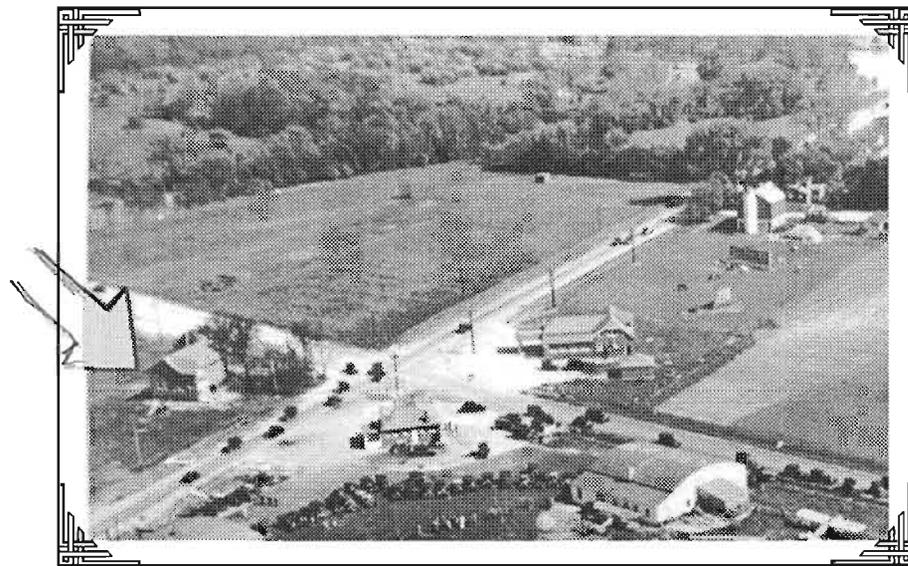
In 1834 he was able to purchase 160 acres of land from the government for \$200. That was \$1.25 an acre.

Years later, George Strong served on the *Court of Appeals* to settle land *claim disputes*.

Today Strong Street is named after him.



Palwaukee Inn, the approximate location of George Strong's Cabin (1999)



Arrow indicates school named after George Strong
Location, Milwaukee Avenue and Palatine Road

When did the Potawatomi Native Americans leave the area?

The Native Americans signed treaties which deeded their land to the "white man," in 1833. The Potawatomi Natives *emigrated* to Council Bluffs, Iowa.



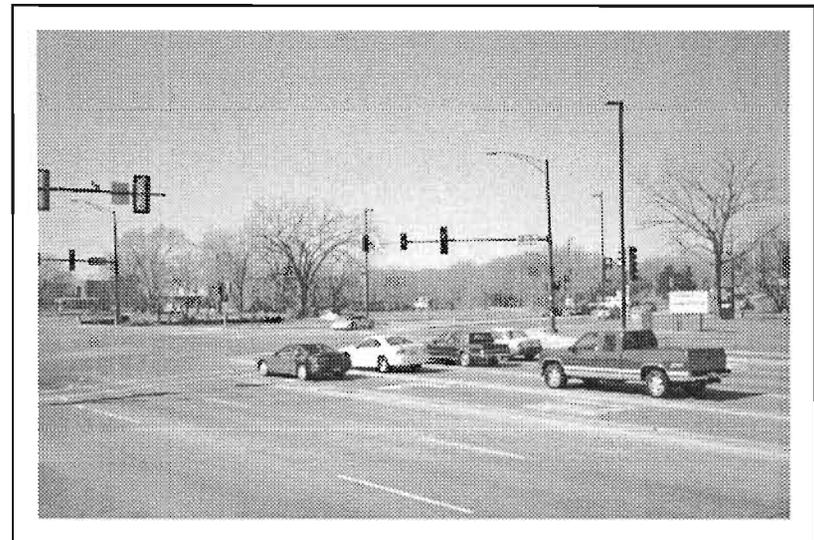
Who built the first residence in the area of Wheeling proper (as we know it today?)

Joseph Filkins built the first residence in this area about 1834. He built it on the Northeast corner of Milwaukee Avenue. This would be the site of Cole Taylor Bank today.

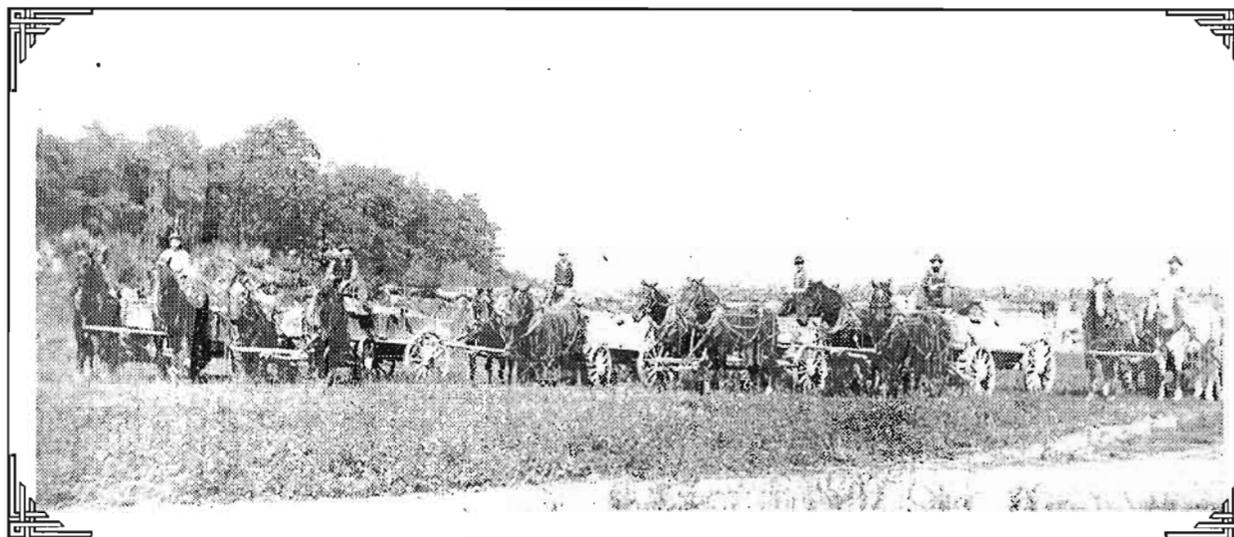
He owned a 720 acre farm that was replaced by Childerly, Chelsea Cove, Kingsport Commons, Lynn Plaza, north of Dundee to the DesPlaines River including the Post Office, several small shopping strips, McDonald's, the main bank and One Milwaukee Place.

Joseph Filkins lived in Wheeling for fifteen years. During that time he laid out roads, served as postmaster, supervisor of *Wheeling Township*, and as Justice of the Peace. He also served with George Strong to settle land claim disputes.

By 1835 there were eighteen homes around the area.



The location of the first residence in
Wheeling Proper



Haben Farm

Which settlers came next?

Other people with English sounding names as Titcomb, Washburn and Williams, continued to buy land, but most did not stay. They sold their land. Starting in the mid 1840's pioneers with German names like Horcher, Schneider, Vogt, Forke and Koeppen came to farm. These people wanted to keep their own language, churches and politics. Wheeling primarily became a German community.



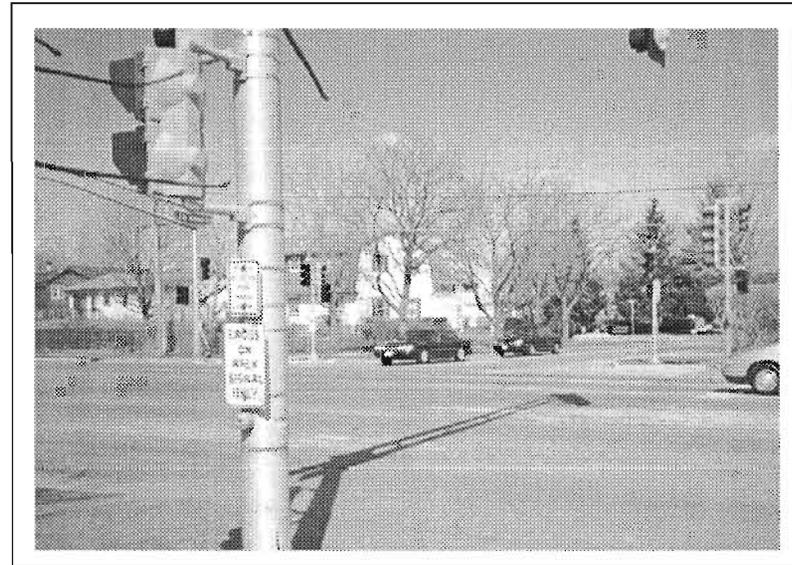
What kind of farms were in Wheeling?

In the beginning, people had farms to meet the basic needs of their families, growing food for their family.

In the 1920's and 30's Wheeling had both dairy and truck farms. A dairy farm in the area was Buffalo Creek Farm where Eugene Field School is today. It would bottle and deliver milk to restaurants and people who lived in town.



Buffalo Creek Farm



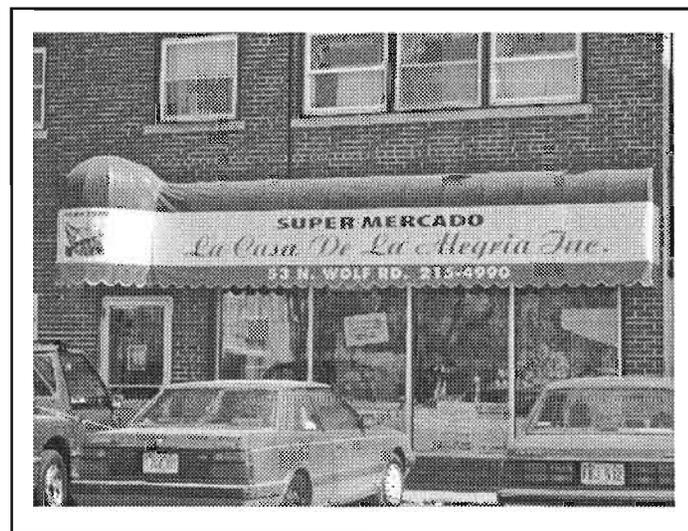
St. Armand Lane & Dundee Road (1999)
(Former Buffalo Creek Farm)



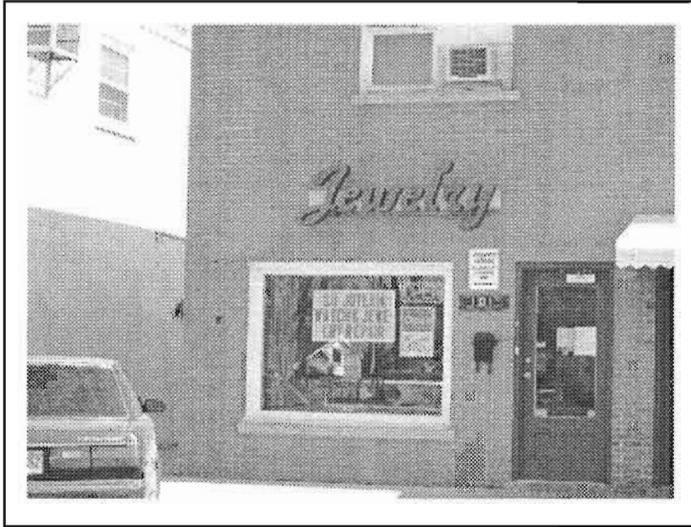
Many farmers had truck farms on which they raised vegetables and delivered them to markets in Chicago. Grocery store and restaurant owners would be there to purchase the best *produce* that had been delivered from all of the farms around Chicago. Originally, Spanish-speaking *migrants* came to Wheeling to work on the truck farms. Many of the people came from Texas, some came from Mexico. The people would come to work in the spring and summer, and go back to their homes when the weather got cold and their job was no longer available.



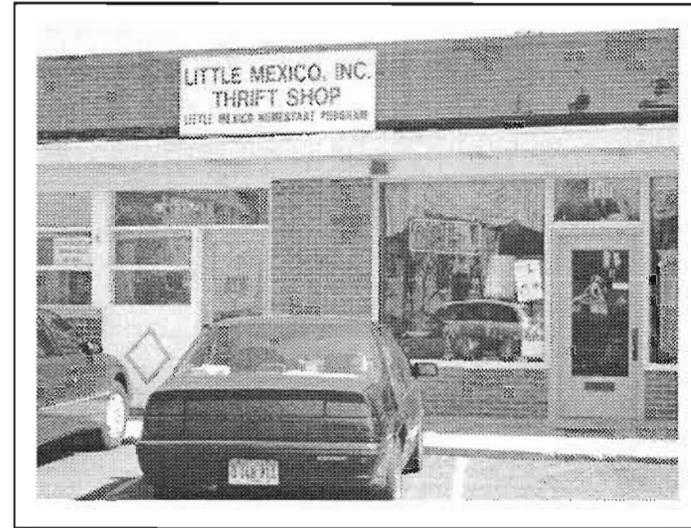
Taqueria Alamo (1999) Wolf Road



La Casa De La Alegria, Inc. (1999) Wolf Rd.



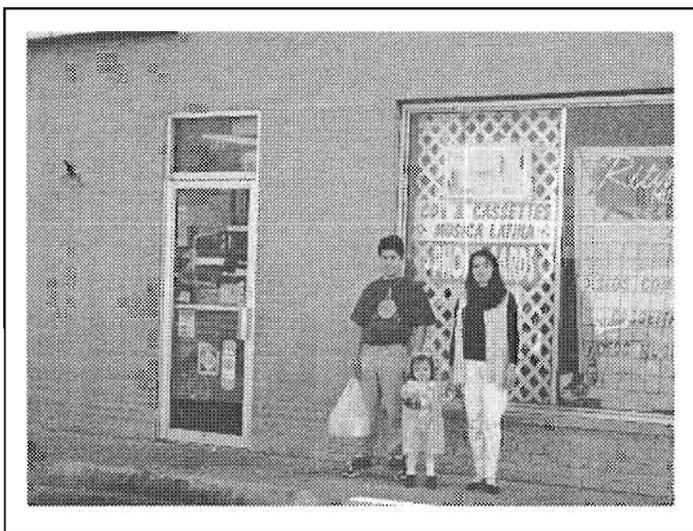
Su Joyeria (1999) Wolf Road



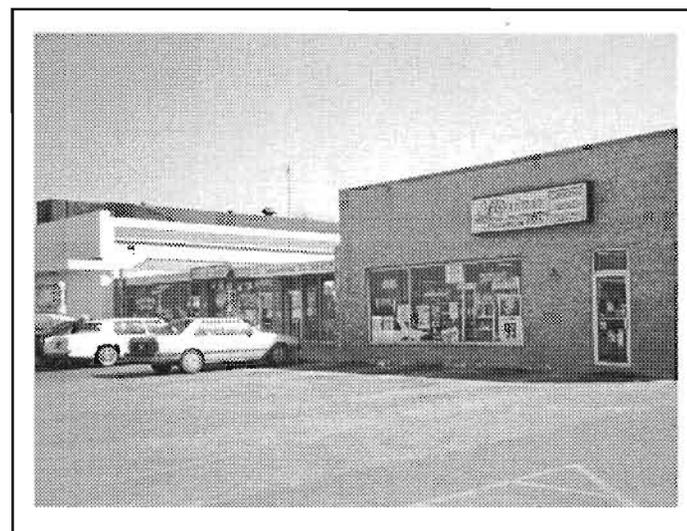
Little Mexico Thrift shop (1999)
Wolf Road

This was not good for the education of their children, so some decided to stay in Wheeling, year round. More recently they have come to work for landscapers, local restaurants and the Park District. Many own their own businesses. One such store which has existed since 1977 is Cardenas Spanish American (La Super Mexicana) Grocery Store at 741 W. Dundee Rd.

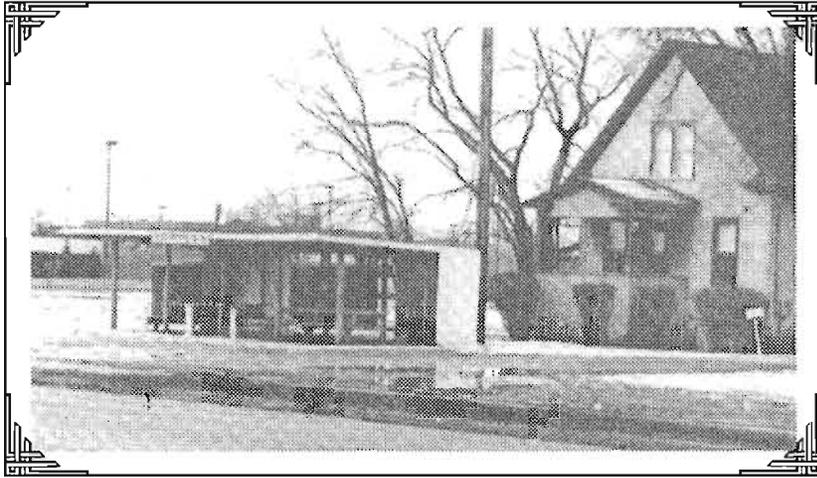
Later on in the 30's and 40's farmers had contracts with companies like Campbell Soup to grow tomatoes. The company would supply the plants, and the farmer would raise and deliver them to the *cannery*.



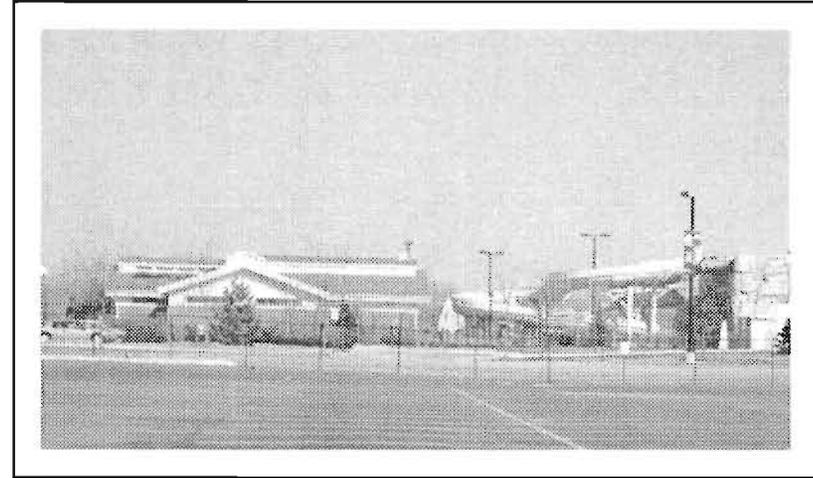
Riteno Musical (1999)
Dundee & Elmhurst Roads



La Super Mexicana (1999)
Dundee & Elmhurst Roads



Koeppen's Farmhouse and Road Stand



Recreation Center and Aquatic Park (1999)

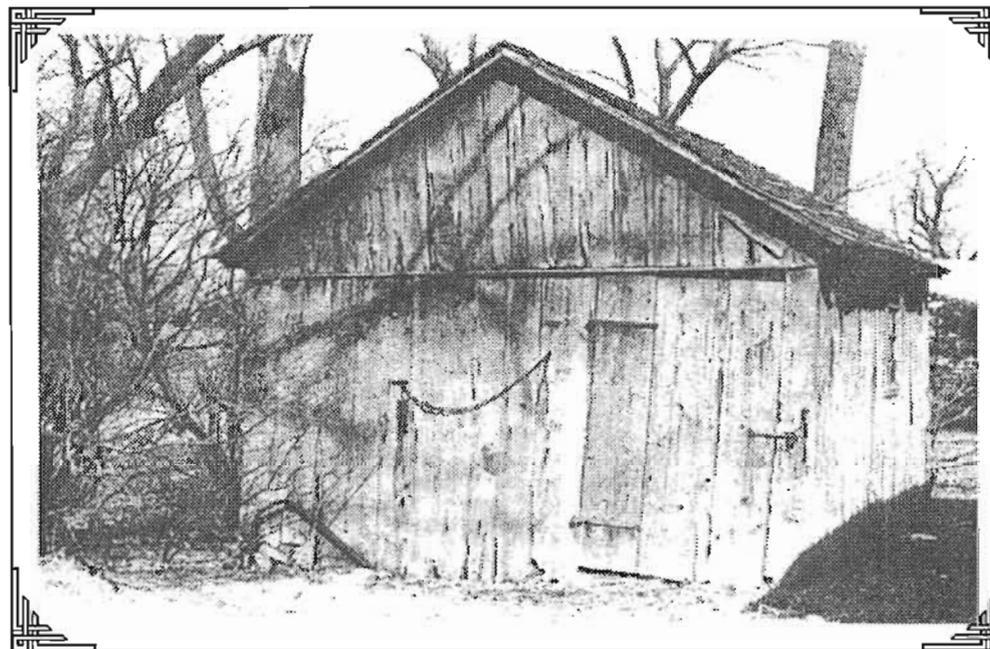
Which farm had a roadside stand on Dundee Road?

The Koeppen farm had a roadside stand on Dundee Road. The Koeppen boys still sell vegetables on Dundee Road today although there is no farm left.

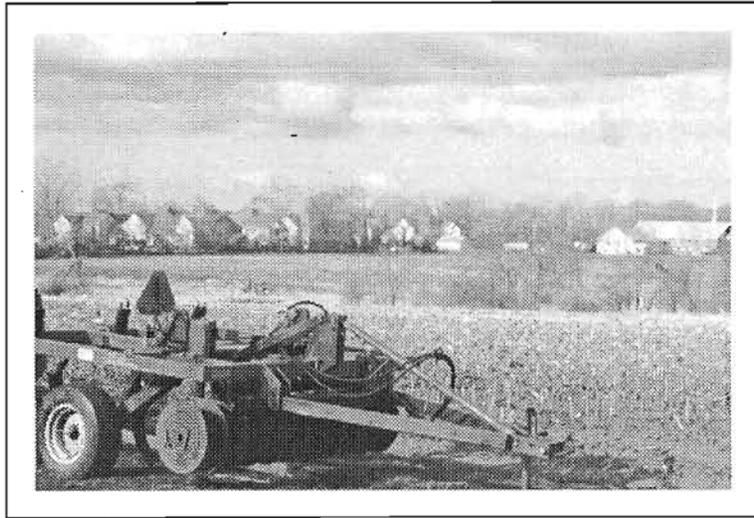
The Koeppen farmland is now The Community Recreation Center and Aquatic center.

Which is the last farm in Wheeling?

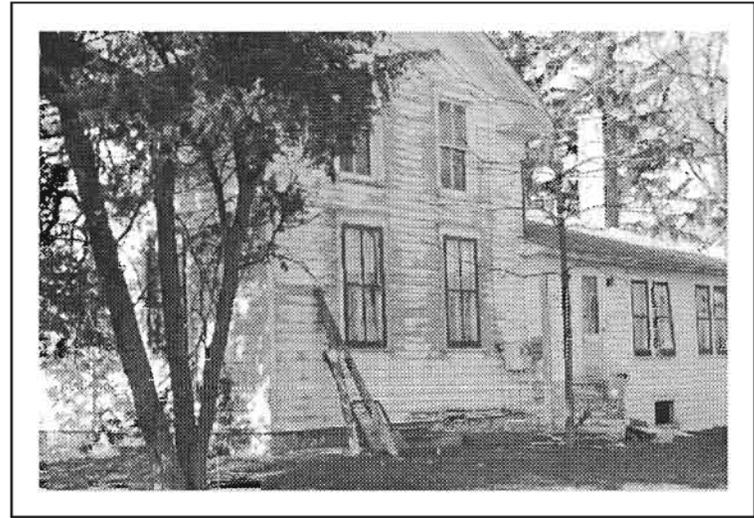
The Horcher farm is the last farm in Wheeling. Joseph Horcher came to this area in the 1840's. He settled on one hundred sixty acres of land on McHenry Road across from what is now Sam's Club. He started farming and had a blacksmith shop to keep his farm equipment in order and to do repairs for neighbors also. Today there is a greenhouse owned and operated by Patrick Horcher. He started the business in the 1980's, selling cut flowers, flowers for planting, and decorative items. His brother Michael runs a landscaping business from the farm and brothers Christopher and James operate a towing business there.



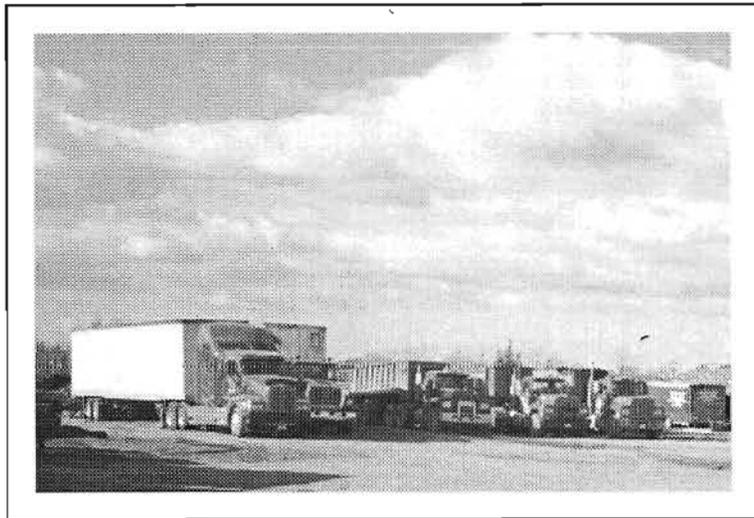
Joseph Horcher's
Blacksmith Shop



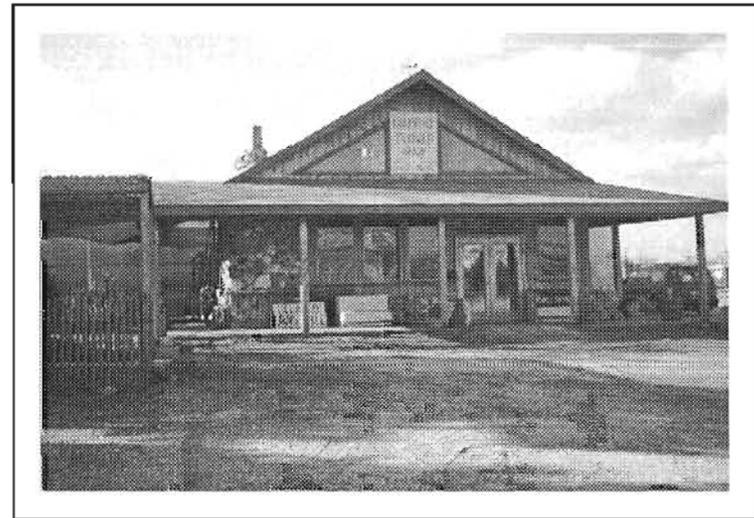
Horcher Farm (1999)



Vacant Horcher Farm House (1999)



Horcher Landscaping Business (1999)

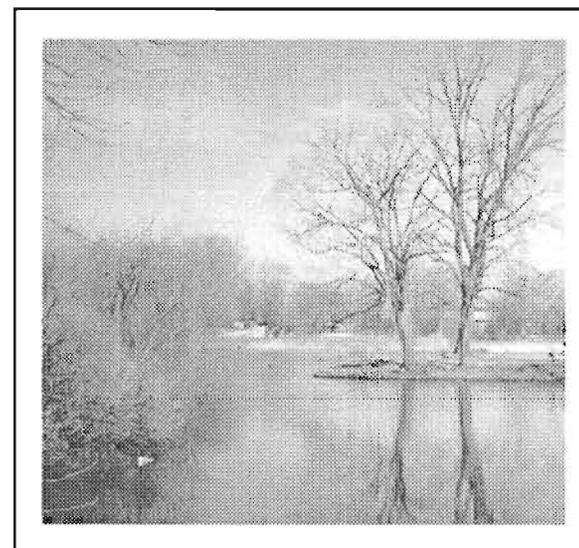
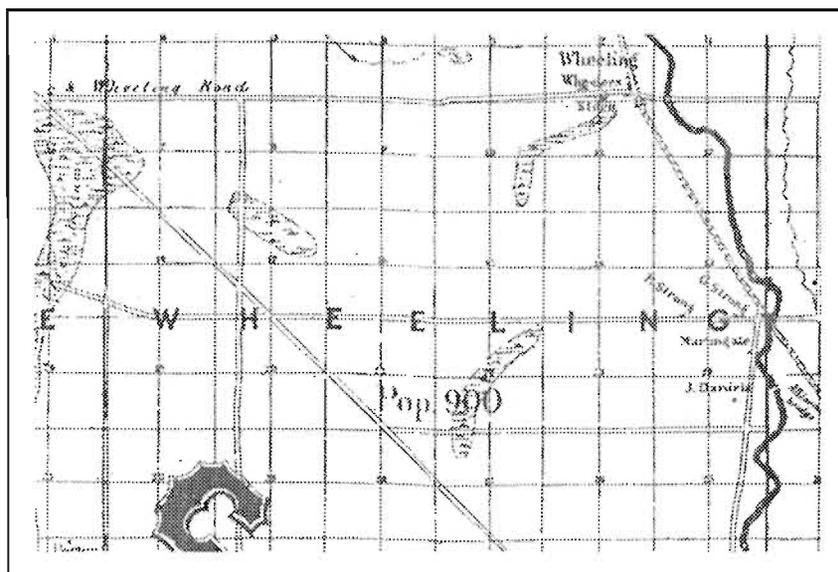


Horcher Greenhouse (1999)



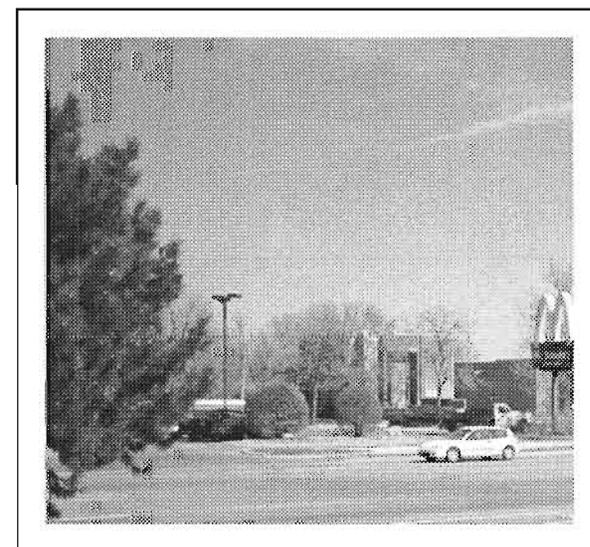
What were the needs of the settlers as more came to live in this area?

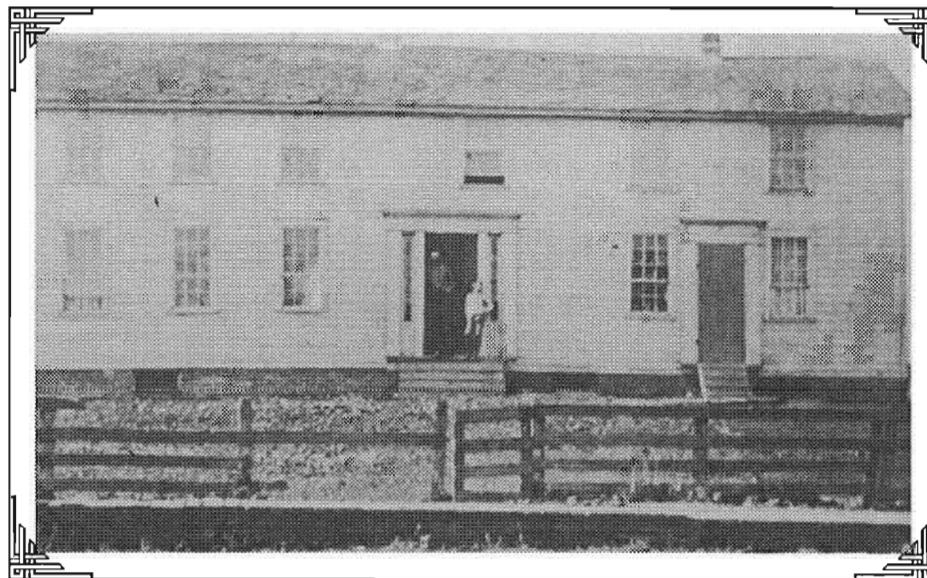
The first need of the settlers was to have a store where items could be bought that could not be made in the home. In 1837 Russell Wheeler and Charles Daniels opened up a general store. It was a country store that sold everything from calico to pitchforks.



Lakes (1999)
by Wheeler's Store
This Location
is where the
boundaries of
Wheeling
began.

Approximate
Location of
Wheeler's Store
Dundee &
Milwaukee
(1999)





Filkins Tavern on N. Milwaukee Avenue served as the first post office (1837-1886).

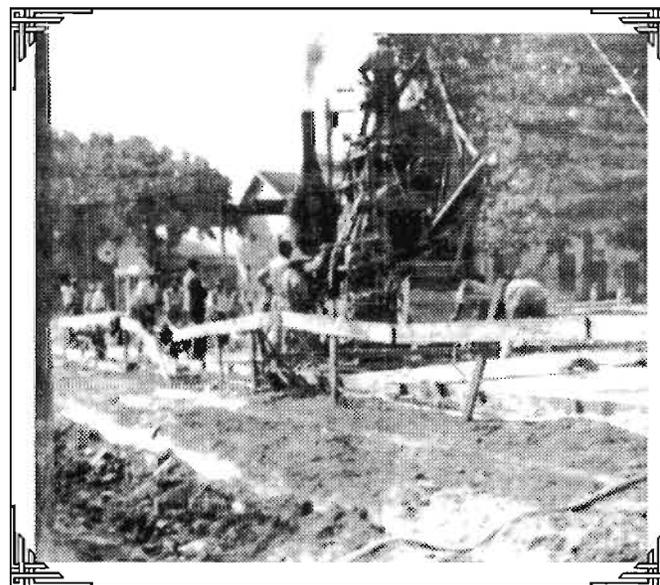
A second need of the settlers was a meeting place. This was needed for men to meet and discuss problems.

Mr. Filkins built the first *commercial building*, in 1837, a tavern-hotel located on what is now known as Milwaukee Avenue to meet this need. This is now One Milwaukee Place. This tavern-hotel was torn down in 1918.

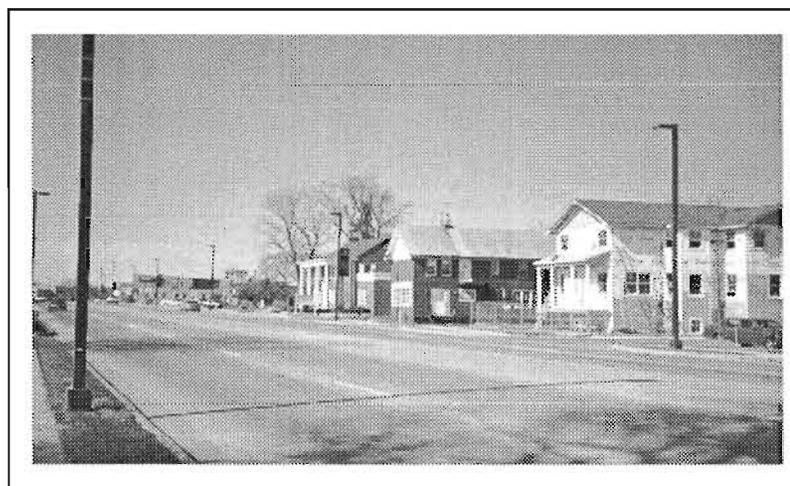
The first post office was in Filkins Tavern. Filkins became the first Postmaster of Wheeling. At that time people had to pick up their mail at the post office.



Milwaukee Avenue was the main road from Chicago to north of Wheeling. It was made of trails that had been beaten down by herds of buffalo and Native Americans. It was first known as the "DesPlaines Valley Trail. (An 1830 map gives its name as "Milwalky Trace." In 1849 it was called the Milwaukee Plank Road, although the *planking* never got any farther than Niles, Illinois. Tolls were collected: 10 cents at Irving Park in Chicago, 15 cents at Tower, 25 cents at Jefferson Park, 35 cents at Niles and 45 cents at Wheeling. In the 1890's this road, at that time gravel, was used for bicycle races from Chicago to Wheeling. The road was finally paved in 1923).



Paving of Milwaukee Avenue (1917)



Milwaukee Avenue (1999)

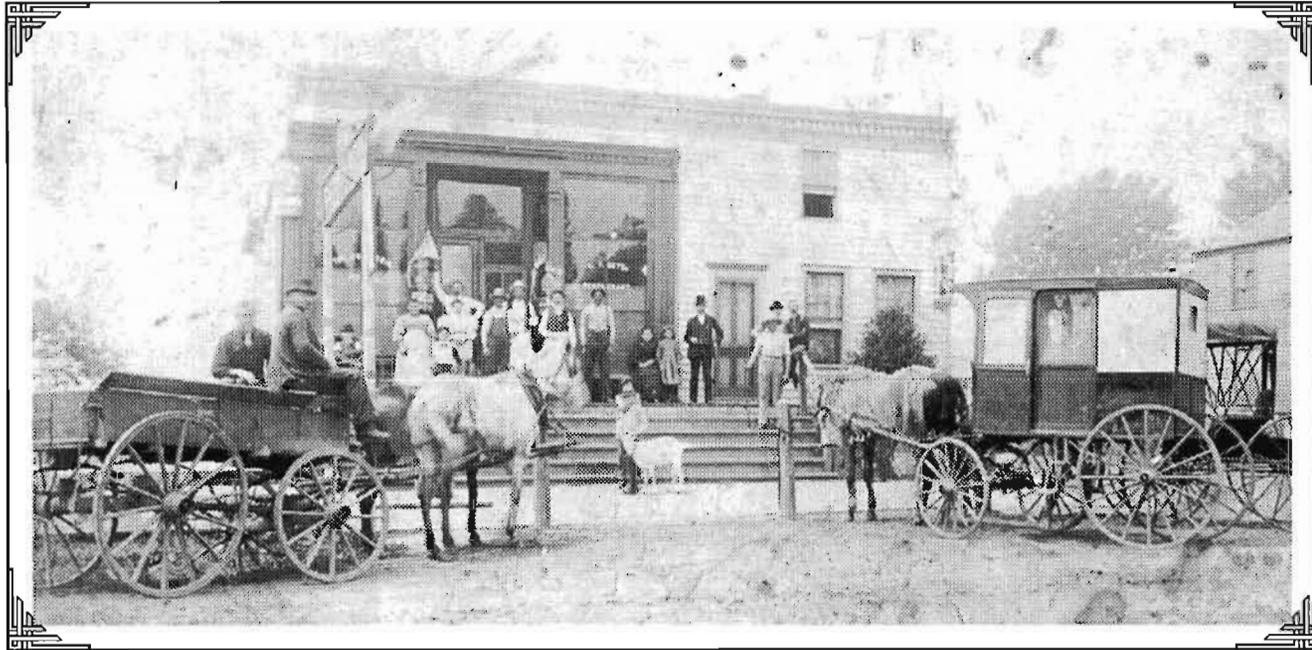
In 1836 a stagecoach route was established on this road from Chicago to Milwaukee, Wisconsin as well as the first mail route to Greenbay, Wisconsin. Filkins Tavern became a coach stop, after it was built.



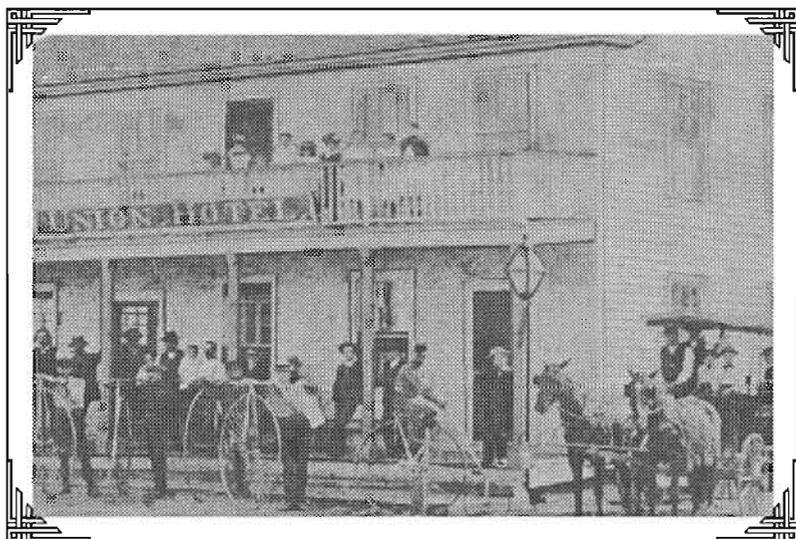
Why was this coach stop important in the history of Wheeling?

Because travel was exhausting in those days, Wheeling was a stopping place for travelers to freshen up, eat, drink and stay overnight. This led to the growth of more restaurants and hotels.

James Parker built a second hotel in 1840. It was there that *Wheeling Township* was organized. This hotel was The Columbia House. Later the Columbia House had a bowling alley.



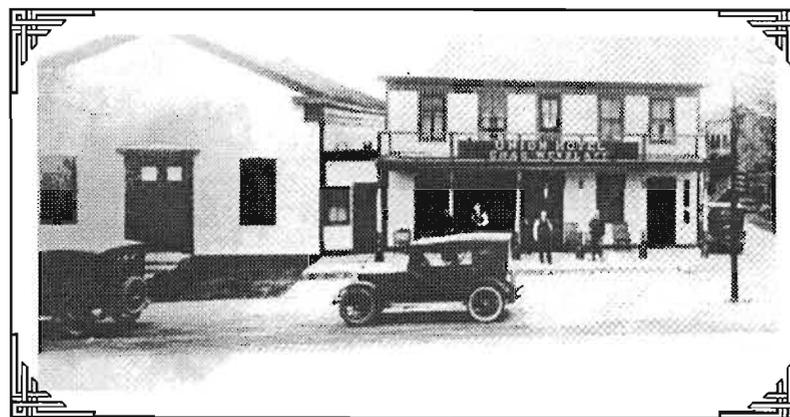
Columbia House



First Union Hotel 1880's

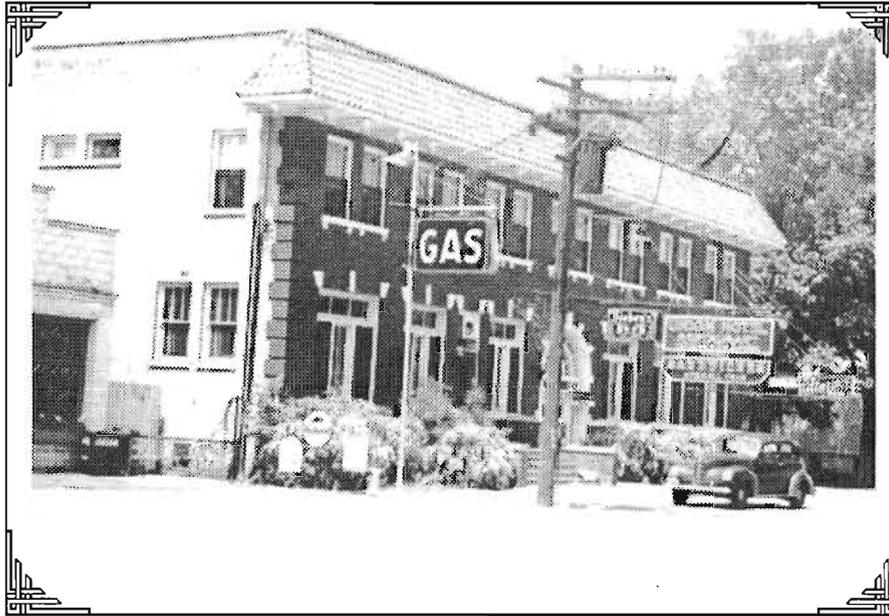


Union Hotel



Union Hotel with Hall

The Union Hotel and Hall was built in 1856 by Jacob Hunsinger and had the longest history of any hotel in Wheeling. This is the place that the meeting was held to plan the *incorporation* of Wheeling.



Union Hotel Rebuilt
After Fire (1926)

Billy & Co.
(Former Union Hotel)
(1980's)

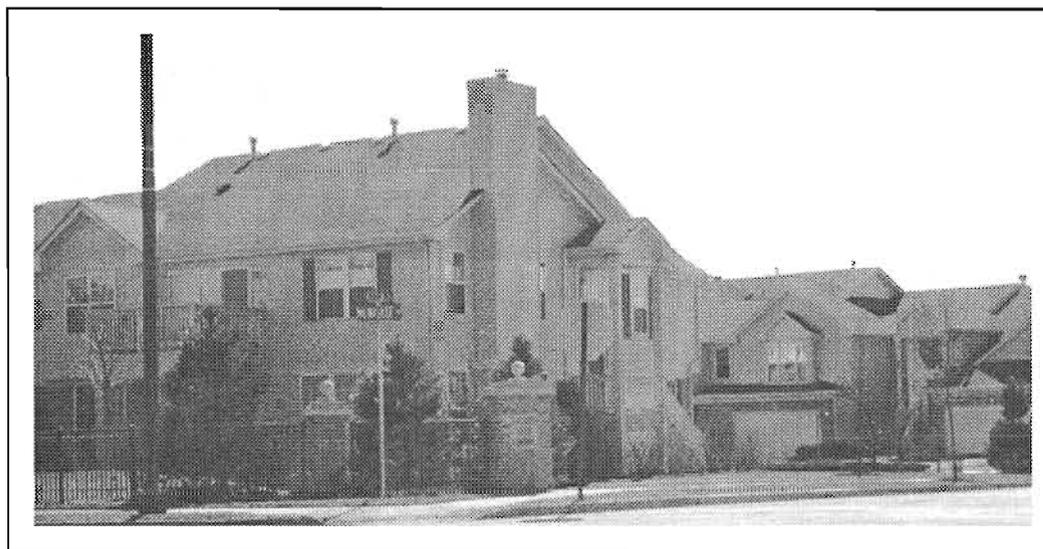




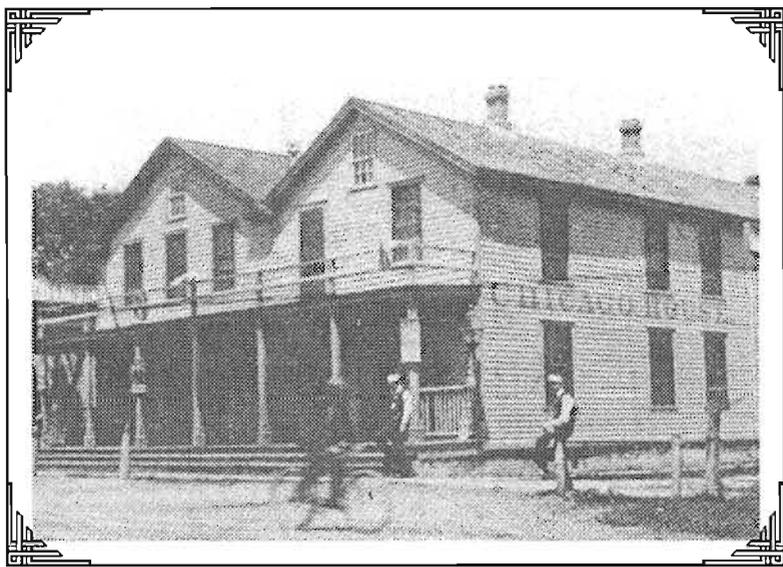
The original *frame* building burnt down on December 25, 1925. It was rebuilt in 1926. In the 1940's, the Union Hotel was known all over the country for its Fish Fries every Friday. It would be nothing to serve a thousand people on Friday nights.

Prices on the menu were, "perch dinner, \$2.50; chicken or pot roast with gravy, \$3.00.

The Union Hotel stood where townhouses are now on Milwaukee Avenue



Union Commons (1999)

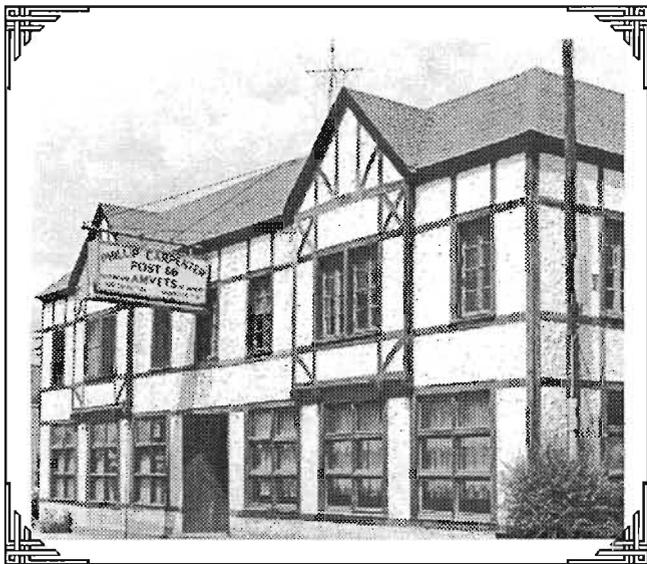


Another early tavern with a long history was the Chicago House at 141 S. Milwaukee, across from the Union Hotel.

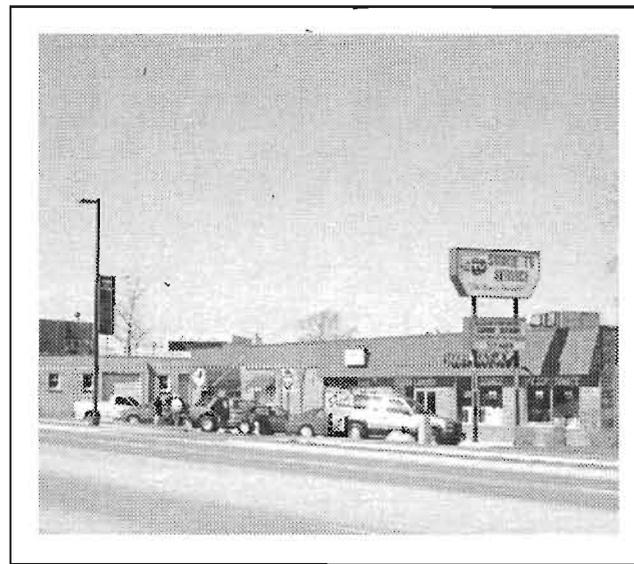
Chicago House

In 1901, it was taken over by Henry Hartmann. It became the Hartmann Chicago House.

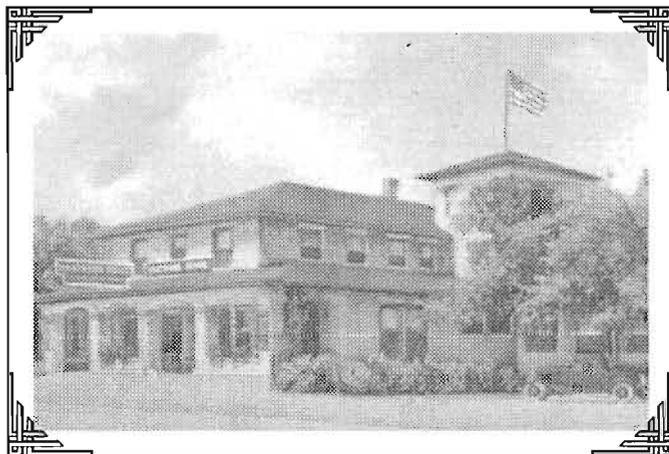




Amvets Hall Post 66



Skokie T.V. (1999)



Hartmann House

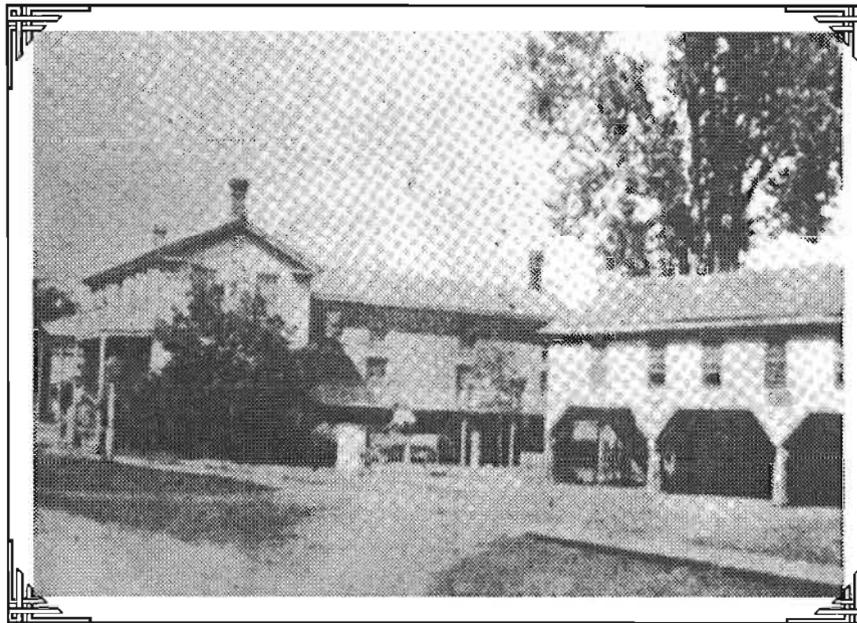


Bob Chinn's Crab House (1999)



After the owners closed the Hartmann House and occupied the cement block building at 393 S. Milwaukee (now The Crab House) the Hartmann Chicago House became the Amvets Hall Post 66 which has since moved and is now on McHenry Road. Hein's Auto Parts and Pub followed, but is now occupied by Skokie TV.

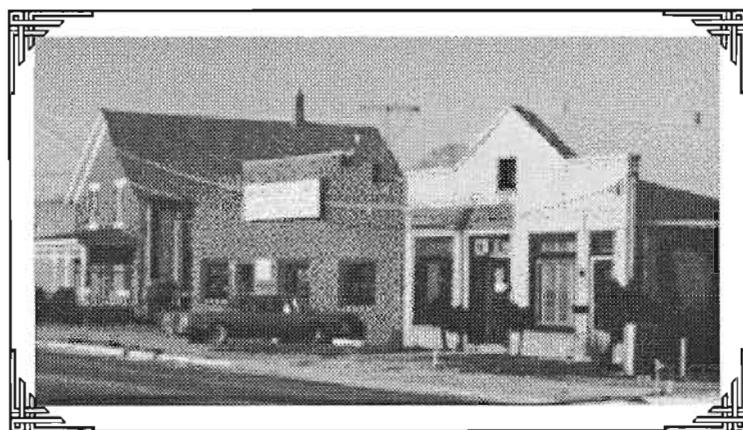
One more hotel that was a popular stopping place was Mors Hotel. At the right side of the Hotel was a *livery* stable, horse and cowbarn. This was bought by Frank Forke, torn down, and replaced with a Wheeling's first funeral parlor, first garage and a house.



Mors Hotel

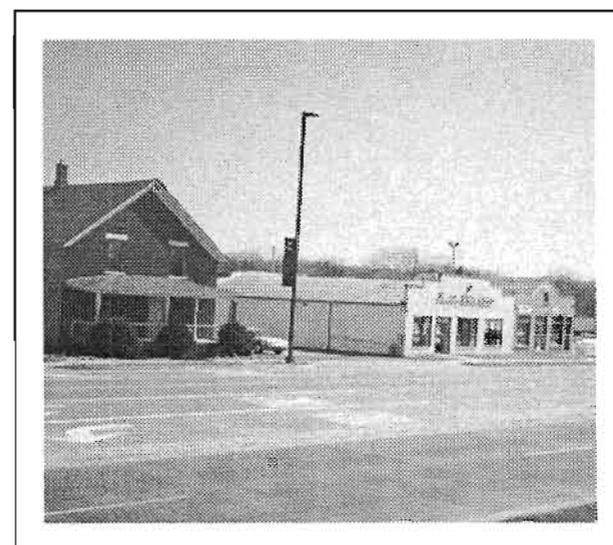


Frank Forke
and Hearse



Forke's Funeral Parlor, House
and Garage

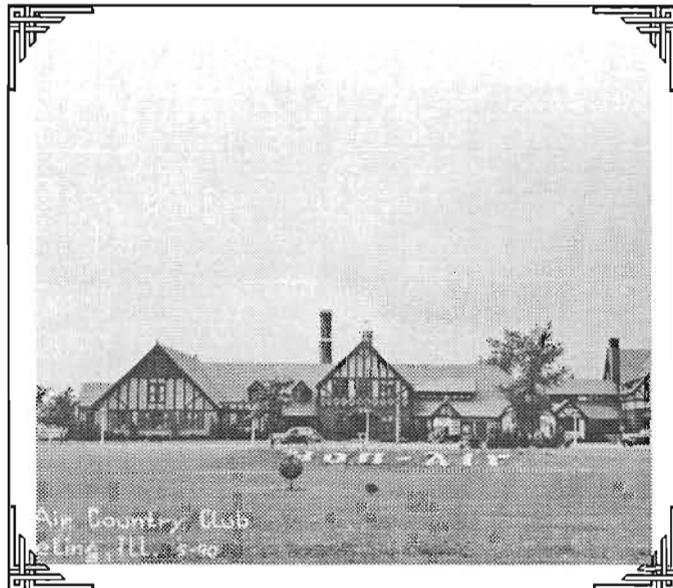
Vacant Forke
House, Precision
Sharpening and
John's shoe
Repair (1999)



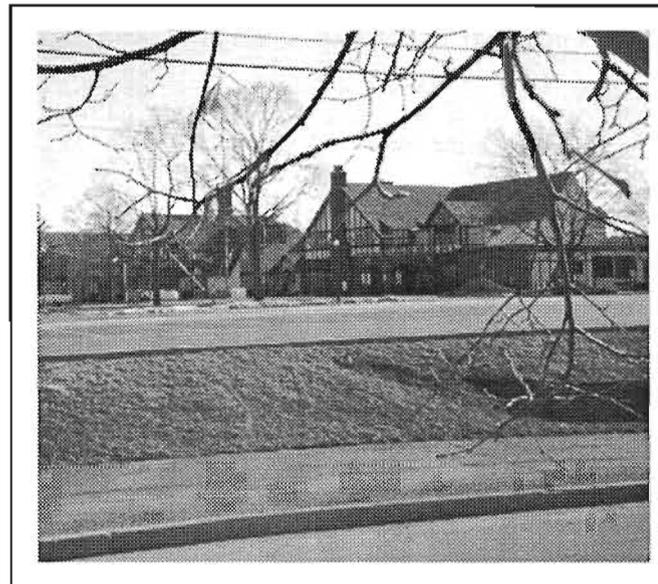


Columbian Gardens was built in 1917 by the Knights of Columbus which is a *fraternal* organization. During the 1920's it became the Bon Air. This was the era of the big bands and Charleston dance. It was a nightclub. Later it became Chevy Chase Country Club.

In 1977 the Wheeling Park District bought Chevy Chase. Community groups and individuals rent Chevy Chase for a variety of purposes as banquets, showers, weddings, etc. The park district uses the facilities for many *recreational* programs.



Bon Air Country Club
(1920's)



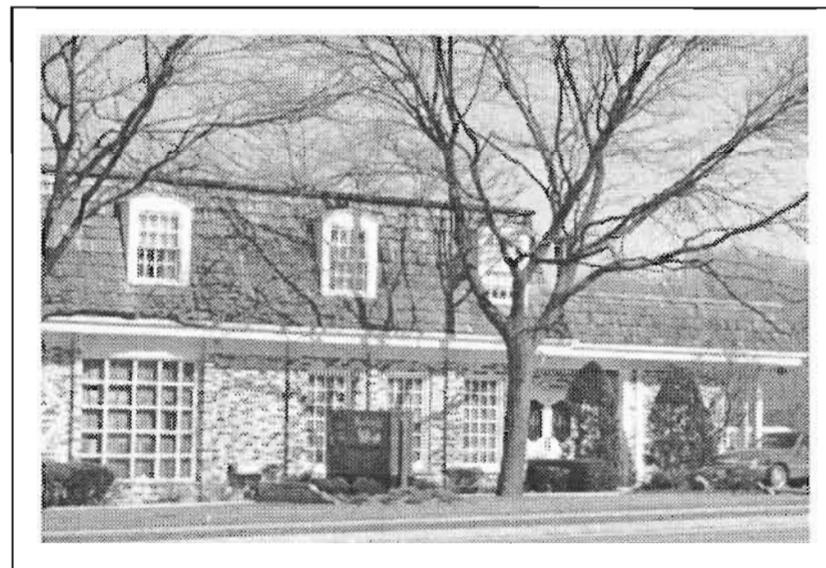
Chevy Chase Country Club
(1999)



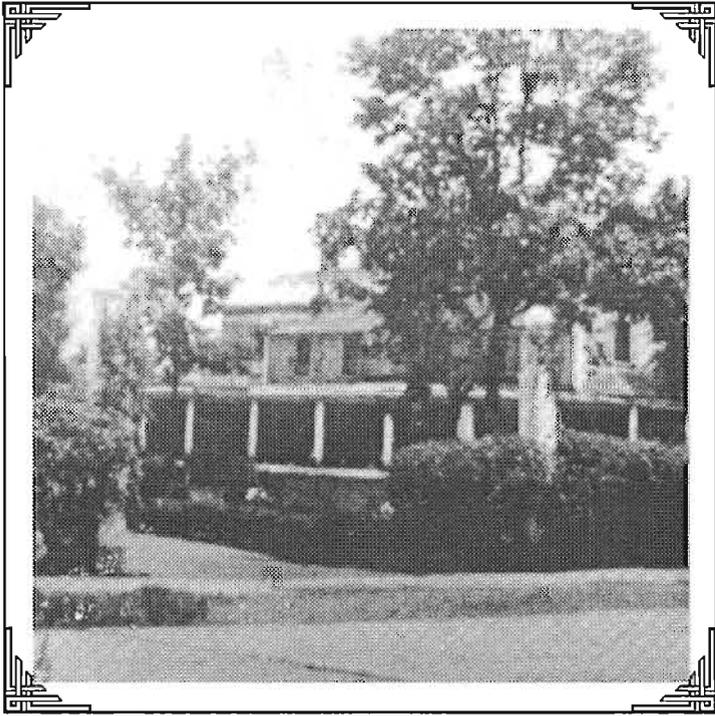
Behm's Riverside Inn

Hackney's now occupies the sight of Behm's Riverside Inn. Behm's was among the famous eating places that attracted diners from all over. In the location of Cole Taylor Bank, Red Mary's Wheel Inn stood. This was a place people would come for dancing, gambling and expensive entertainment.

In 1893 everyone was "wheeling" on bikes. People rode out from Chicago and neighboring communities to eat at the famous Wheeling restaurants. In the 1920's when the automobile became popular, Wheeling became known for its chicken and steak restaurants. People would drive out to eat there.

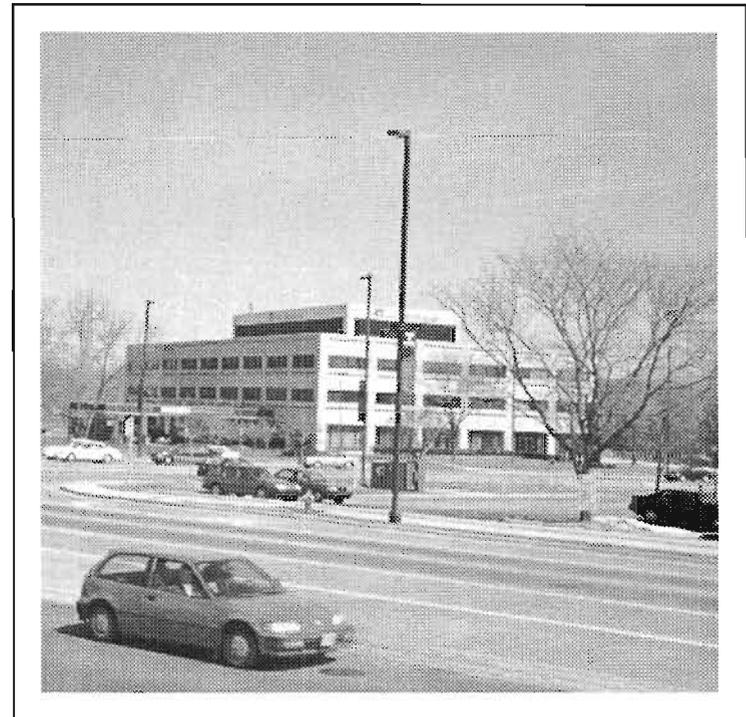


Hackney's (1999)



Red Mary's Wheel Inn (1920's)

The fame of these fine eating places continues to the present. It is known as "Restaurant Row." These businesses are north and south of Dundee road on Milwaukee Avenue.

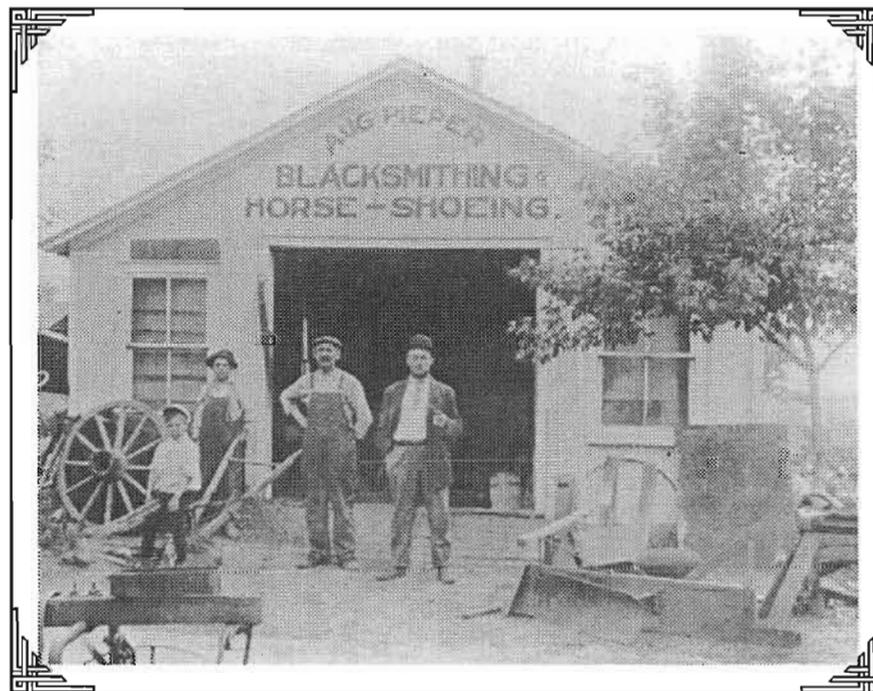


Cole Taylor Bank (1999)



What other businesses were started as Wheeling continued to grow?

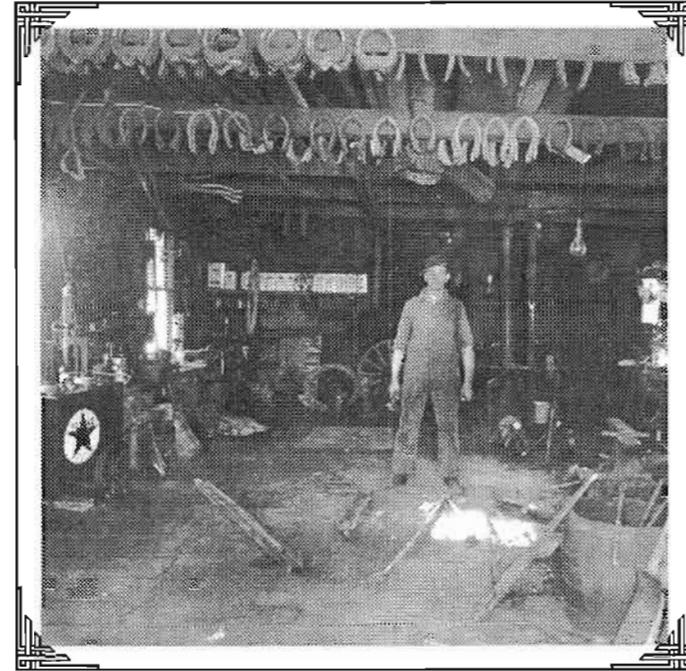
In 1838, two blacksmith shops were opened and in 1842 a third. By 1842 three more stores opened and in 1845 a hardware store owned by Mr. Albert Fassbender was started.



Pieper's Blacksmith Shop

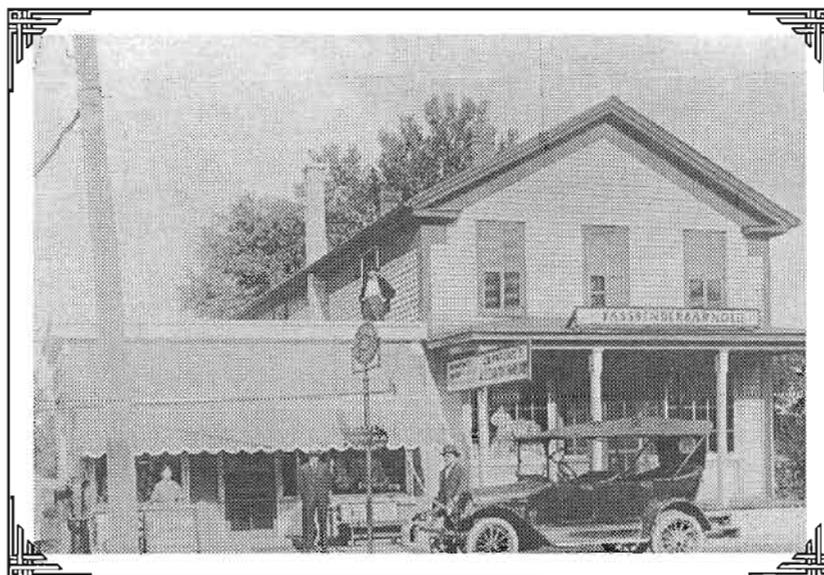


Pieper's Service Station

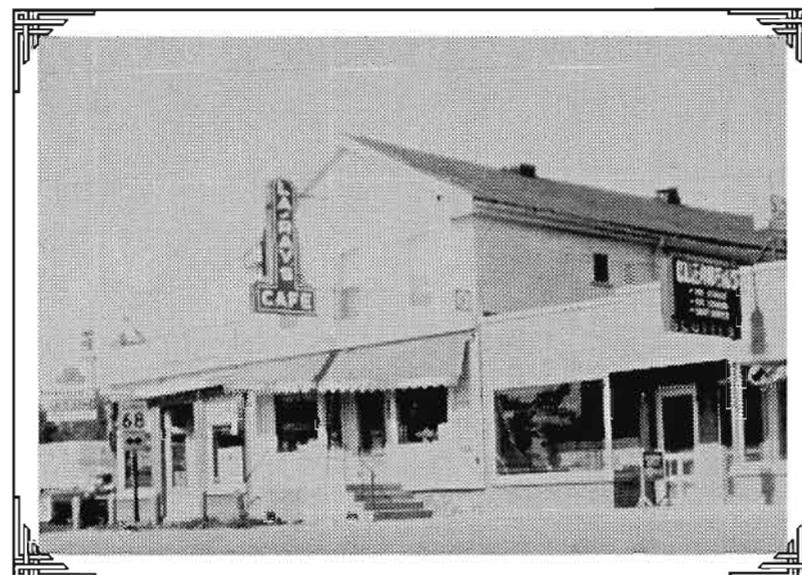


Inside Pieper's Service Station

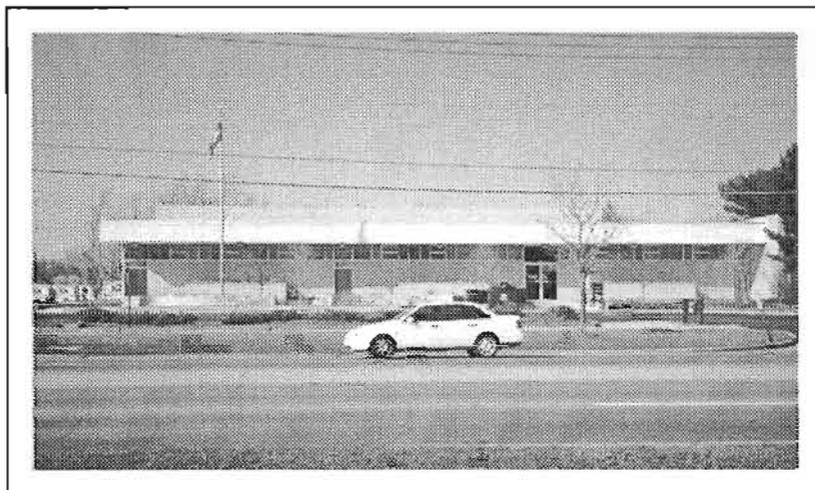
Today Wheeling is working hard to attract good commercial development. They are looking to attract a strong business community.



Fassbender's Hardware Store, location of Wheeling's 2nd post office. (1934-1941)



La Ray Cafe (Former Fassbenders)



Post Office (1999)

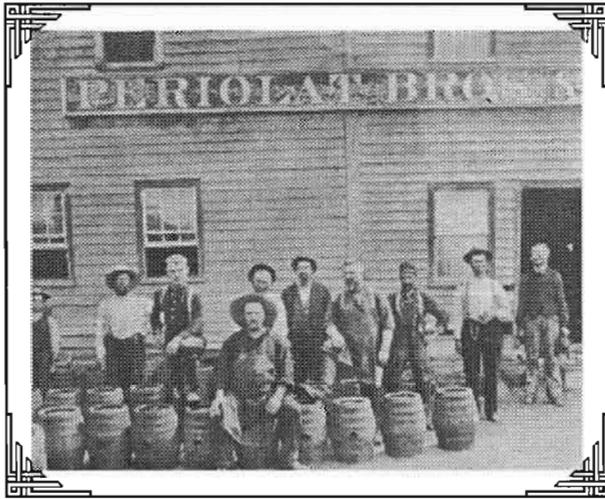


Former location of Fassbender's



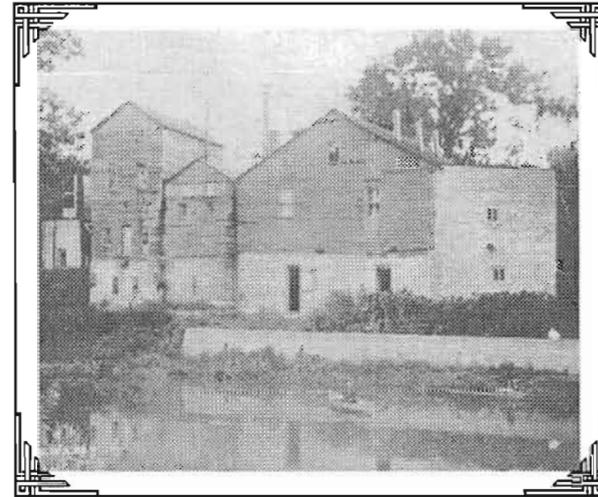
What was Wheeling's first industry?

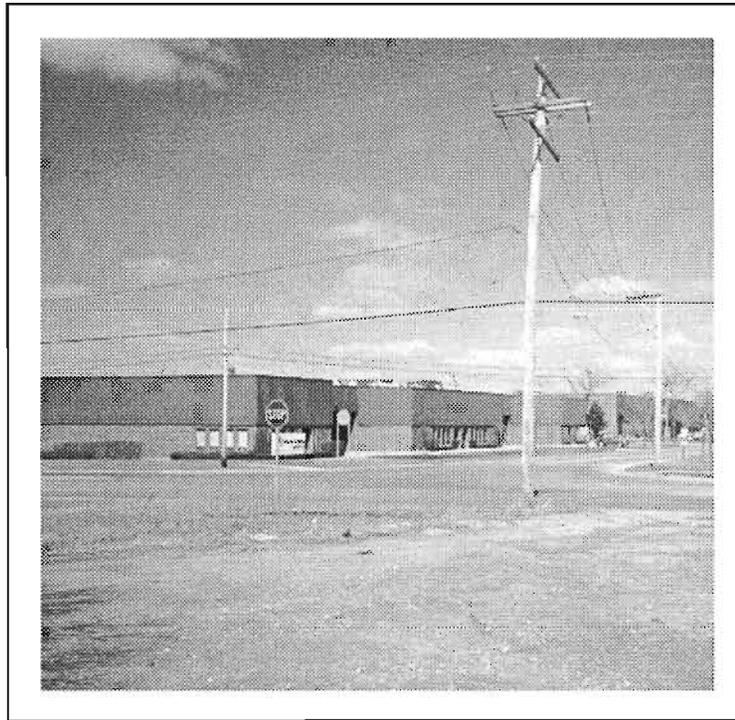
Wheeling's first *industry* was a *brewery* built by Napoleon Periolat in 1850. It lasted until 1910.



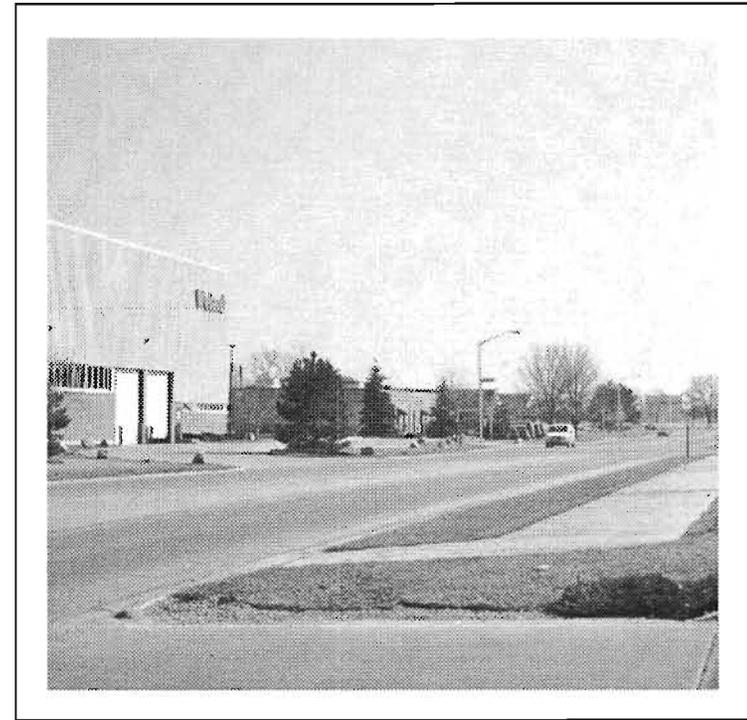
Outside Periolat Brewery

Ruins of Periolat Brewery





Hintz Road Industrial Park (1999)



Industrial Park on Northgate (1999)

Today not all of Wheeling's planned industrial area is developed between 1982 and 1991 the number of *manufacturing* businesses increased by 100%. Wheeling's Industrial Parks are on Wheeling Rd. between Dundee and Palatine Roads, Wolf Road and Palatine, either side of Hintz Road and Northgate Parkway.



When was Wheeling's first railroad station built?

Wheeling's first railroad station was built in 1886. The tracks were in the same location

as they are today, one mile west of Milwaukee Avenue.

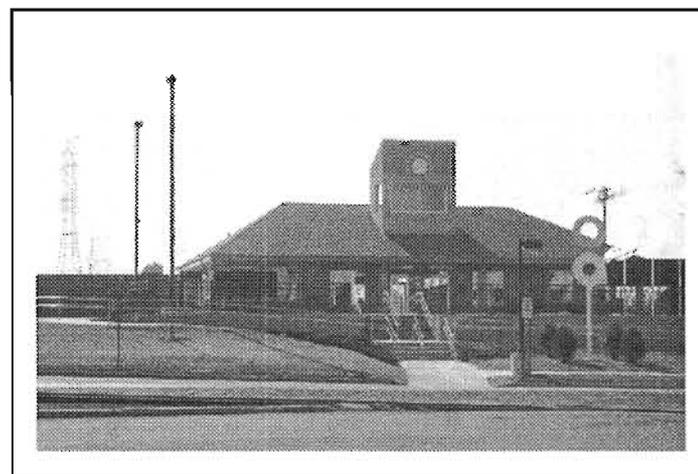
Actually this station location was not a part of Wheeling until land was purchased from the owners by residents in the area.

The Wheeling Station was a stop on the Soo Line. The depot was built in 1886 by the Wisconsin Central Railway. The train was a *freight* train, not a *passenger* train. The only way to

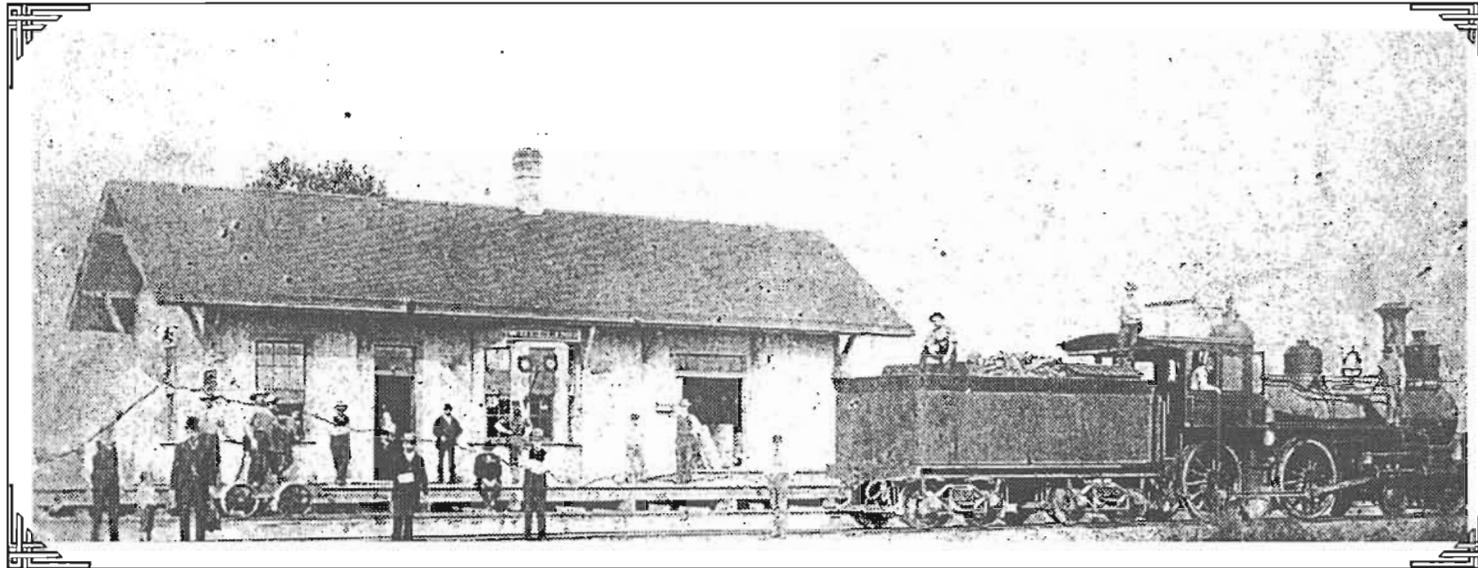
get to Chicago from Wheeling was to hop a milk train going in that direction in the morning and hop on the milk train at night to return. The train carried one passenger car. The suburban train service was in Mt. Prospect, Des Plaines, Arlington Hts., Barrington, Northfield and Glenview.



The Old Wheeling Train Station



Wheeling Train Station (1999)

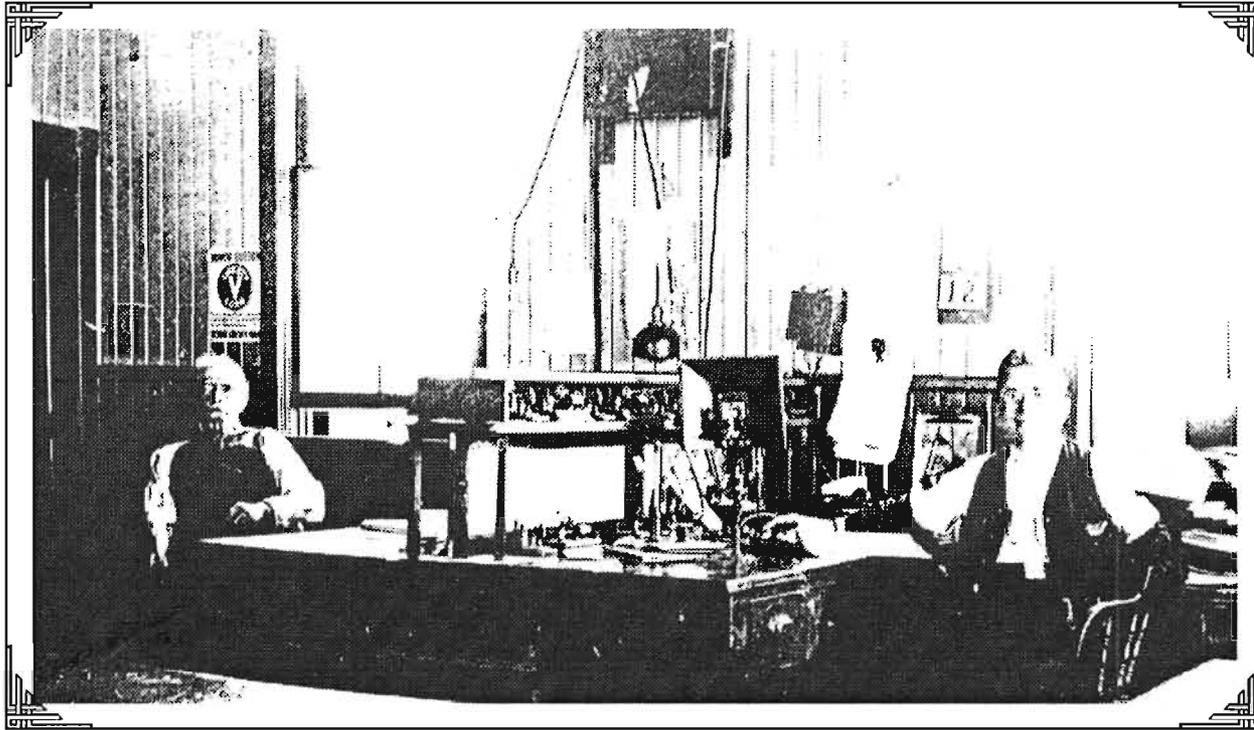


Sideview
of
Wheeling
Train
Station

The morning train to Chicago would stop and pick up water, cream, milk, *livestock* and furs to be sold in Chicago.

There was a cattle pen near the Wheeling Station where farmers gathered their cattle to be sold and shipped to Chicago. Children would gather around there and have a good time. It was a chance for many children in the community to come together and play.

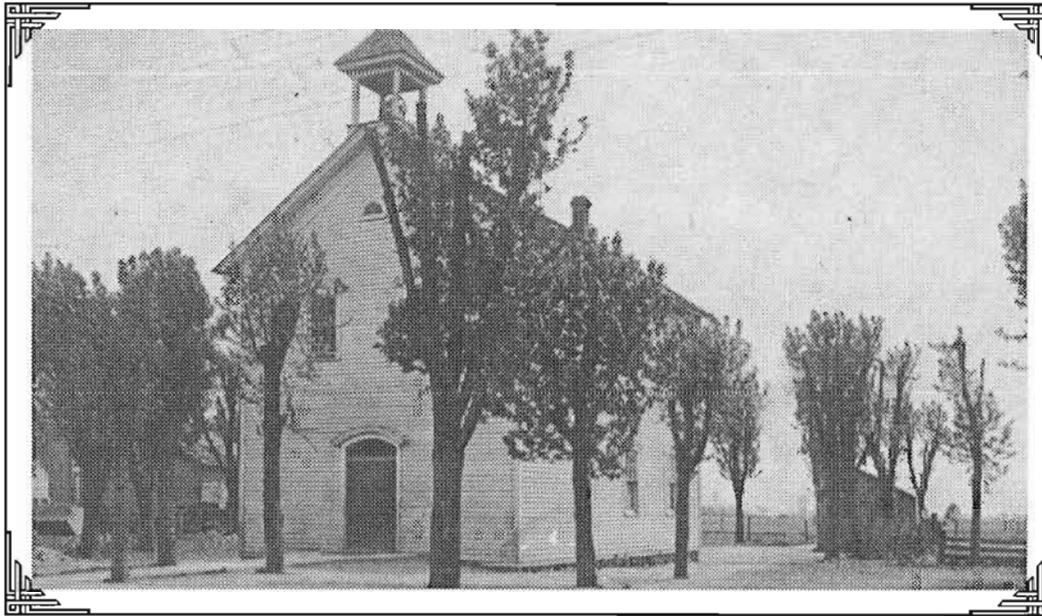
This area also had a creamery, pickle factory, feed store, grocery store and a Standard Oil Bulk Fuel Station that would deliver *fuel* to the farmers in the area. Along with these businesses, two hotels existed, fronted on the Soo Line Railroad. Andrew Horcher owned the Wisconsin Central Hotel and Herman Harmening owned the Wheeling House. It was like a small town.



Telegraph Office in Wheeling Station

The depot housed a *telegraph* office and was the pick up and delivery station for mail for the postoffices in the area.

Today, Wheeling has a suburban passenger service. *Commuters* can go south to Chicago or north to Antioch.

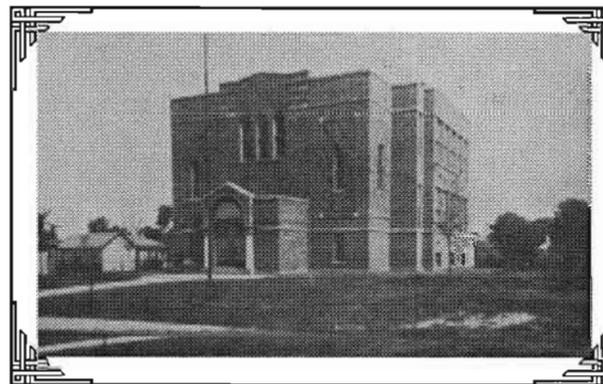


Wheeling's First
School
(1861)



(Above) Wheeling Shopping Center
(1999). Approximate location of First
Wheeling School.

Fresh Farms (1999)



Wheeling School
(Walt Whitman) 1925

When did Wheeling build the first school?

Wheeling's first school was built in 1845. It was named The Wheeling School. Because it was small and the population was growing, a new school was built in 1861. This school burned and was destroyed in 1870. In 1871 a new two story school was finished. This school was located on Dundee

Road west of Milwaukee Avenue about where Fresh Farms is today.



Wheeling School Class (1924)



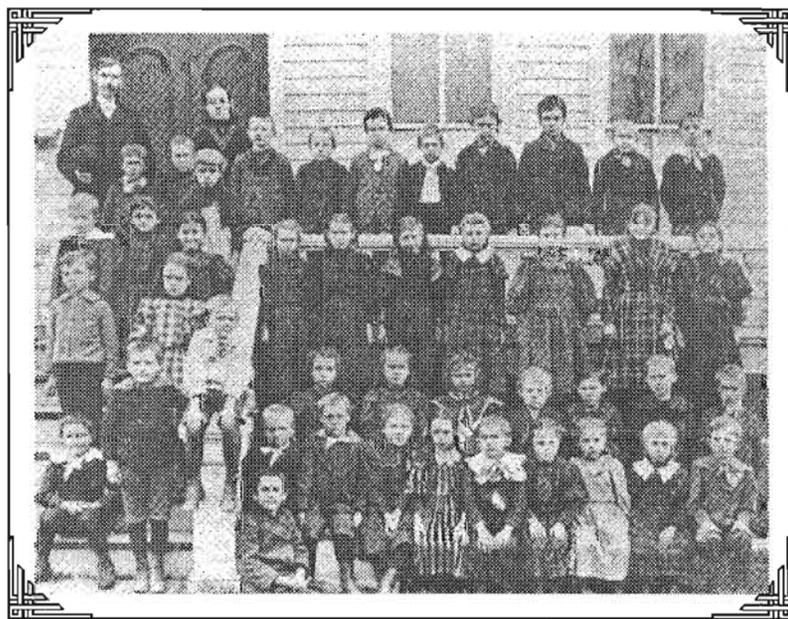
The Wheeling School (1925)
Renamed Walt Whitman

The only change to this school after it was built was that more windows were added. The state inspector said the children needed more light. This building was used until 1925 when a two-story brick building was built. This was the old Walt Whitman Elementary School located on Wille St.

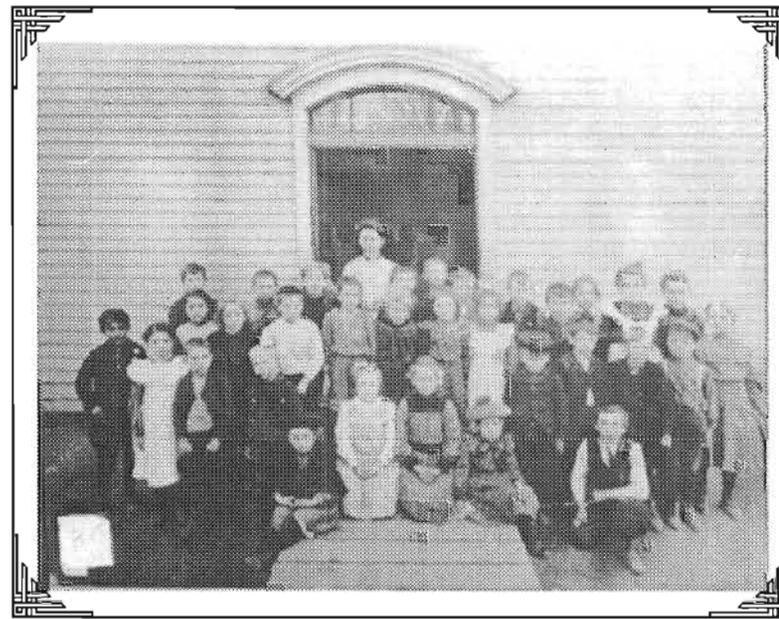


What was the Wheeling School like?

This school went from first through eighth grade. First, second, third and fourth grades were on the first floor. There was a woman teacher for those grades. The other four grades were upstairs. A man teacher would teach those grades. The principal was always a man. There was a pot-bellied stove to heat the school. The boys would have to carry in the coal. The teacher did all of the janitorial work. A good student had the privilege of staying after school and helping with the janitorial work. Students who didn't do well wore a dunce hat.



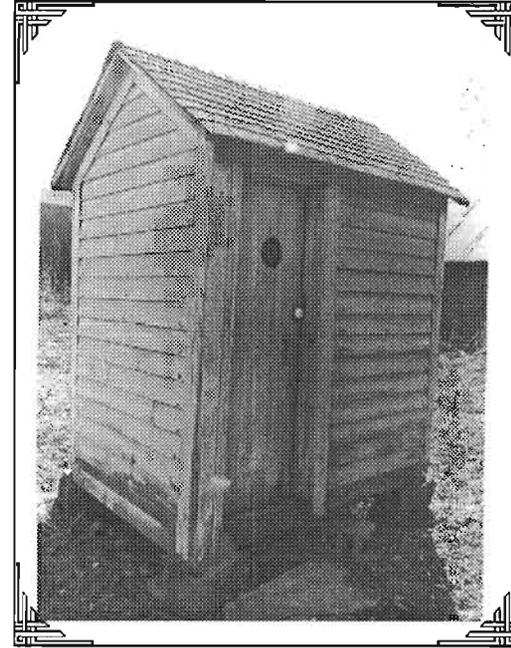
Class (1897)



Grades 1-4 (1905)



Turn of the Century Class



Outhouse

Students vied with each other for the privilege of ringing the school bell. This was the most sought after job. It was a job of importance.

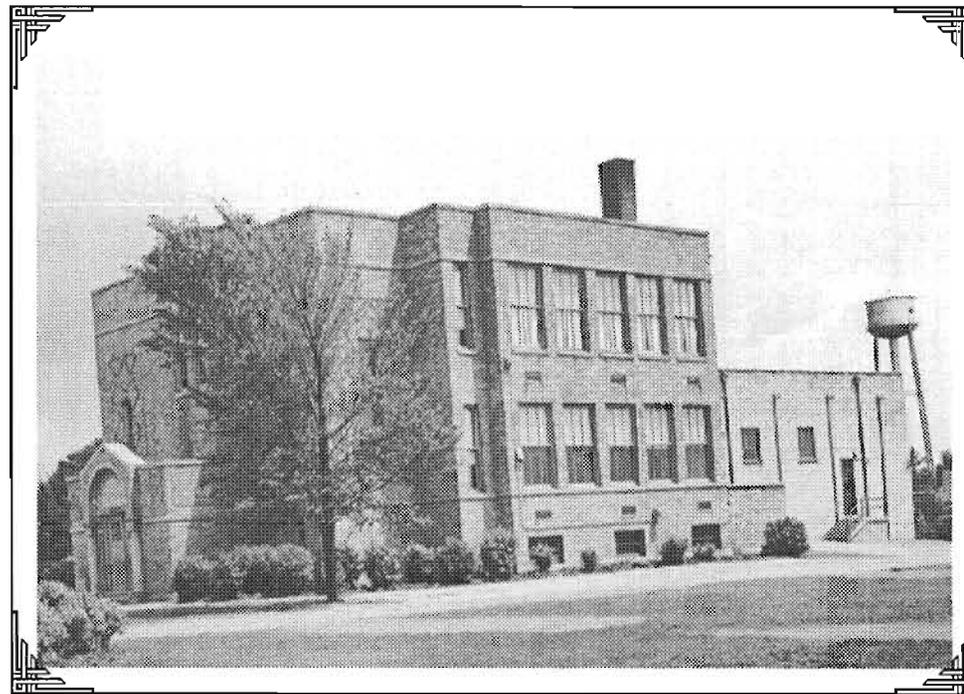
There was always a lot of homework because the teacher had so many grades to teach. Every Friday there was a spell-down. A spell-down is when words are given to each person to spell and the person who is the last to stand is the winner.

Some children had to walk a mile and a half to school because there were no buses. There was an outhouse for the girls and one for the boys.



Did the Wheeling School have a gym?

The new Wheeling School (the old Walt Whitman) did not have a gym until 1938. The whole town decided to build the gym. Hans Schmidt, President of the Village Board, along with the Chamber of Commerce and Volunteer Fire Department led a drive to collect money to build the school gym. They raised \$ 8,000 from Wheeling Days. After it had been built, it became the focus of all activities - basketball games as well as dances.



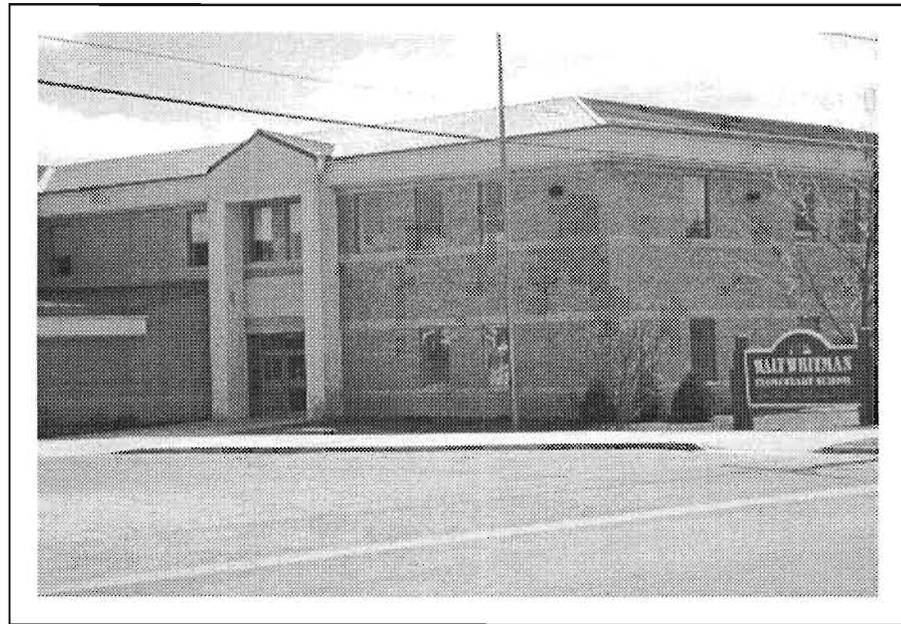
The New Wheeling School with Gym (1938)



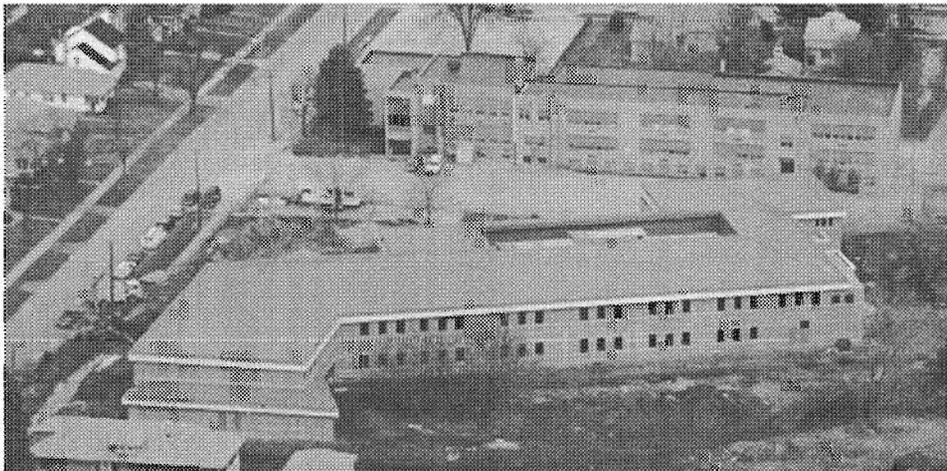
When did Wheeling build more schools?

As people moved into Wheeling in the 1950's, there was a need for more schools to be built. The schools became neighborhood schools. As *developments* were built schools were built.

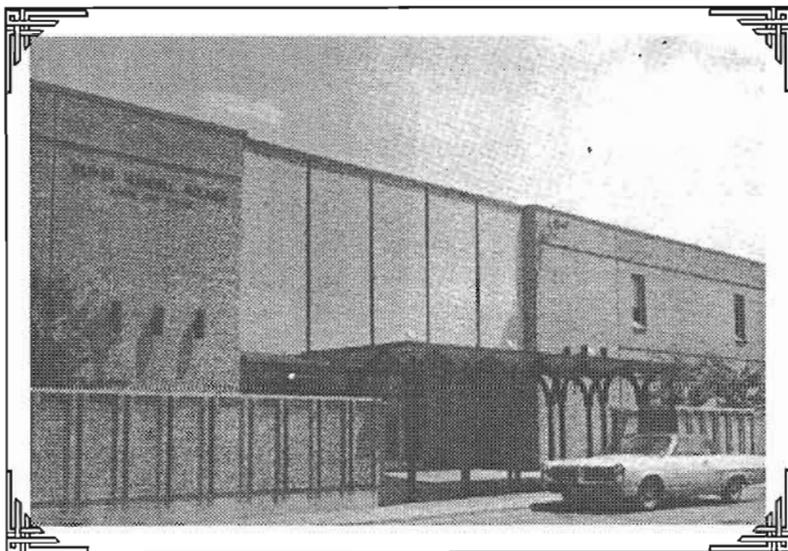
New Walt Whitman (1999)



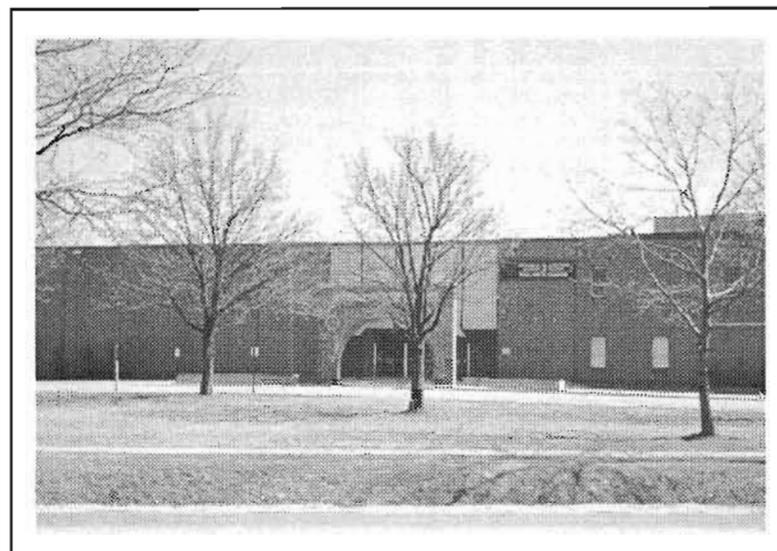
Schools that emerged out of this population growth were Carl Sandburg, 1957, Mark Twain in 1958; Jack London to service the junior high students, 1961; Eugene Field, 1964; Holmes Jr. High, 1966; Tarkington School, 1969 and Hawthorne School in 1971.



Aerial view of Old Walt Whitman and New Walt Whitman.
A parking lot is now the place of the old Walt Whitman



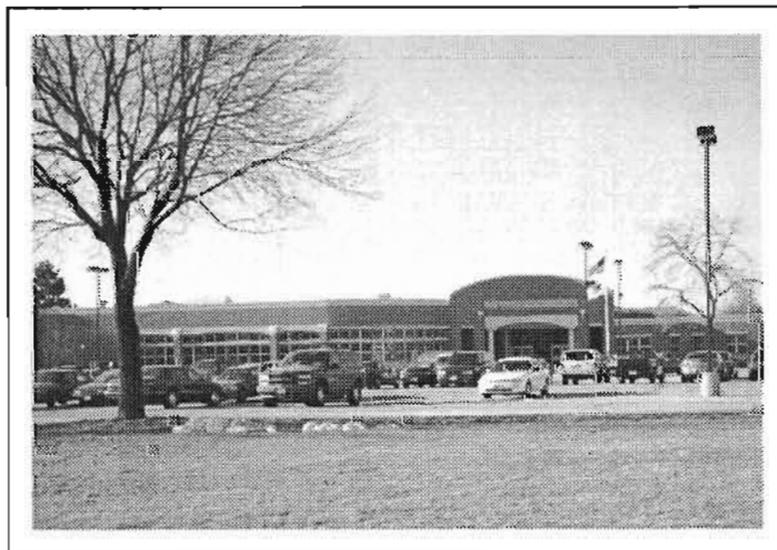
Oliver Wendall Holmes (1966)



Oliver Wendall Holmes (1999)



Jack London (1961)



Jack London (1999)



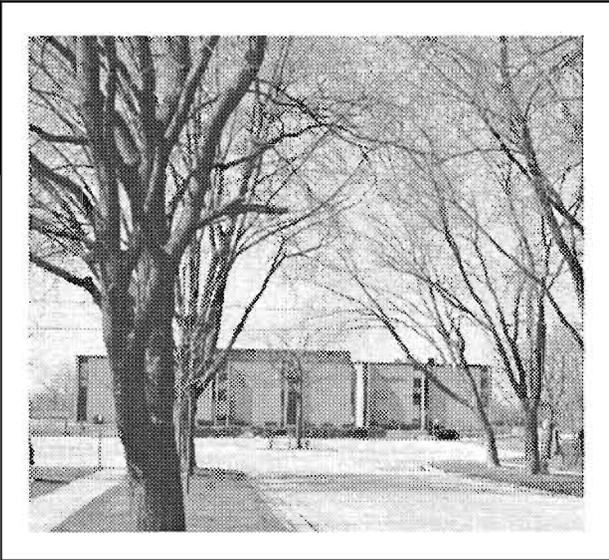
Eugene Field School (1999) Former Buffalo Creek Farm



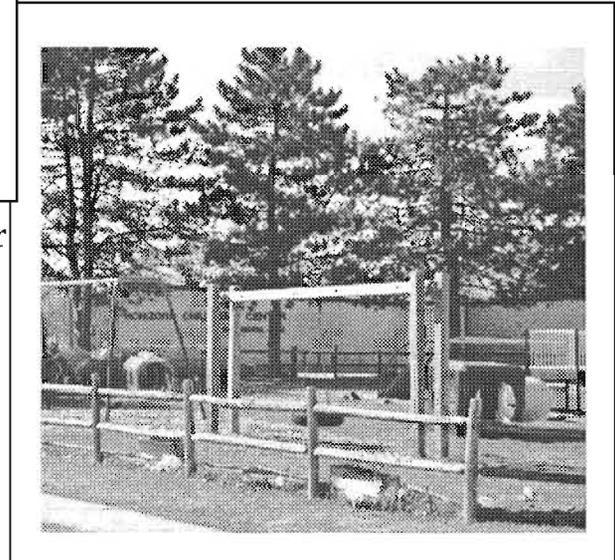
Tarkington School (1999) field meets Sandburg field



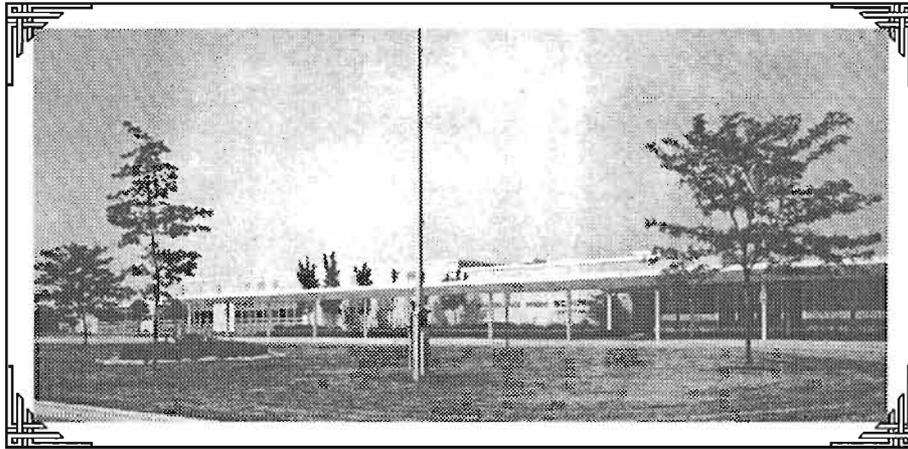
Mark Twain School (1999) Former farm corn field (Dunhurst)



Hawthorne School (1999) Location Glendale Avenue off of Wolf Rd.



Sandburg School (1999) currently Horizon Childrens Center across from library

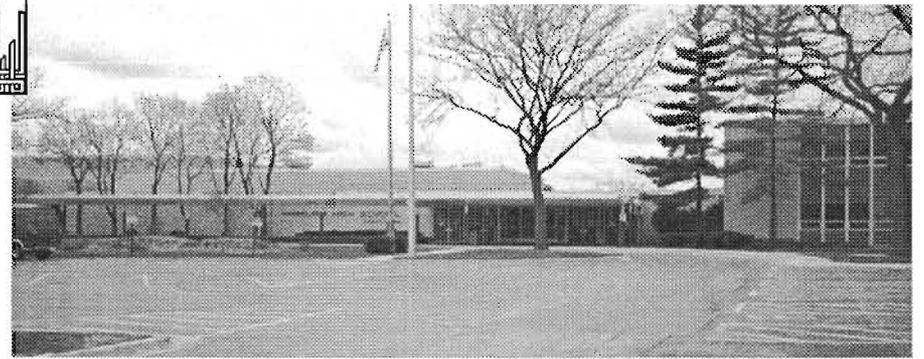


Wheeling High School (1963)

Where did the children go to High School?

The busing of Wheeling students began in the 1920's. Wheeling did not have a high school until 1963. Mr. Frank Forke, who owned the first livery stable, transported the students to Maine Township High School in DesPlaines. Some children would go on the Childerly Bus. Others would hop the milk train and get off in DesPlaines to go to Maine Township. Still

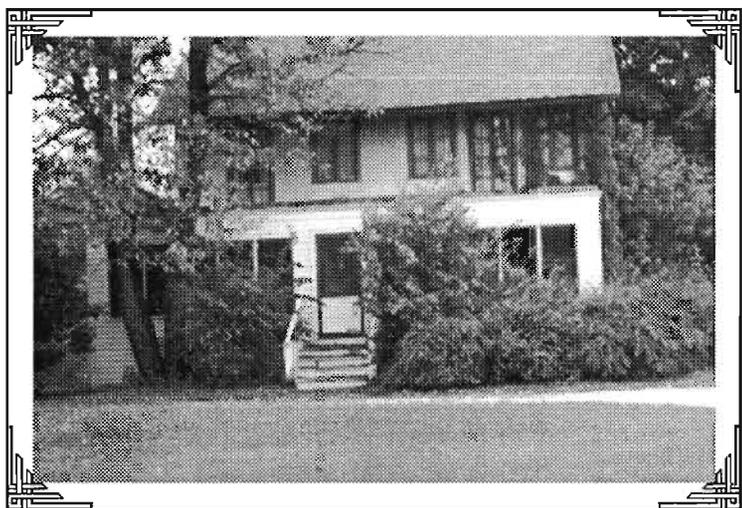
Since then, the population of the Sandburg and Hawthorne area did not warrant keeping those schools open for District 21 students. These students are being bused to other schools in the area.



Wheeling High School (1999)



Wheeling Transfer



Childerly House

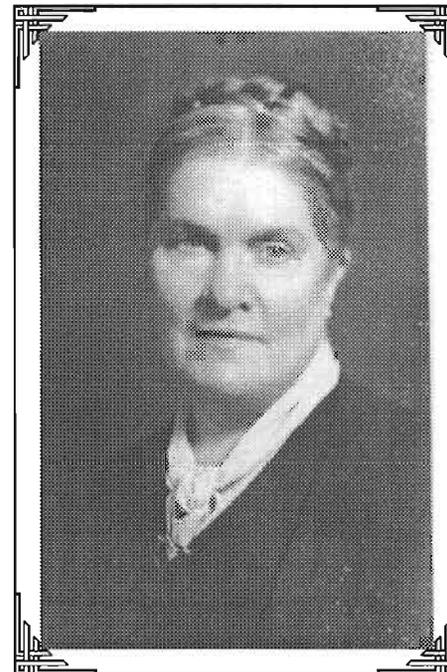
others went to Deerfield Shields High School which is now Highland Park High School.

What was Childerly?

The Crane Foundation bought the Buffalo Creek Farm. The Crane Company was a plumbing company. The south end of the creek was used for farming and agricultural experiments.

The north end of the farm was Childerly. Childerly was a “town within a town”. It was located north of the creek on McHenry Road. It was named by Frances Crane Lillie. The name Childerly is an old English word which means, “children’s meadow.”

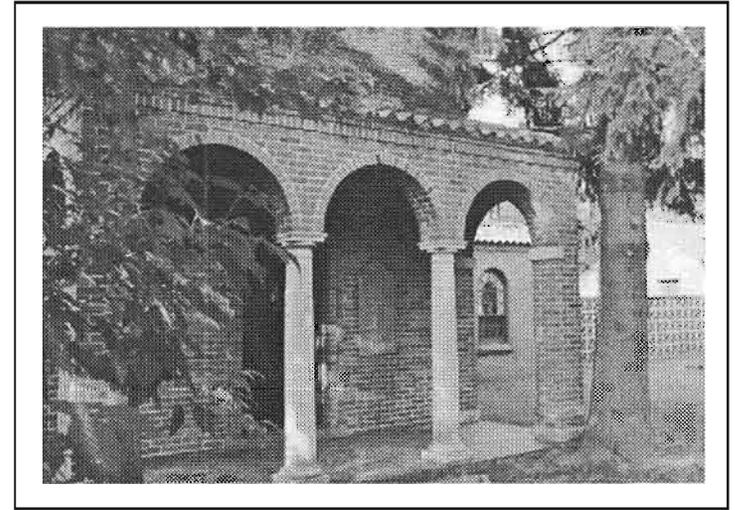
Childerly was a place that took care of *widows* and their families. Families of the Crane Company had first choice to live there. All of the children and widows worked the Buffalo Creek Farm for free room and board. Other widows were also chosen from United Charities and Catholic Charities. Childerly had eight small cottages and four double ones.



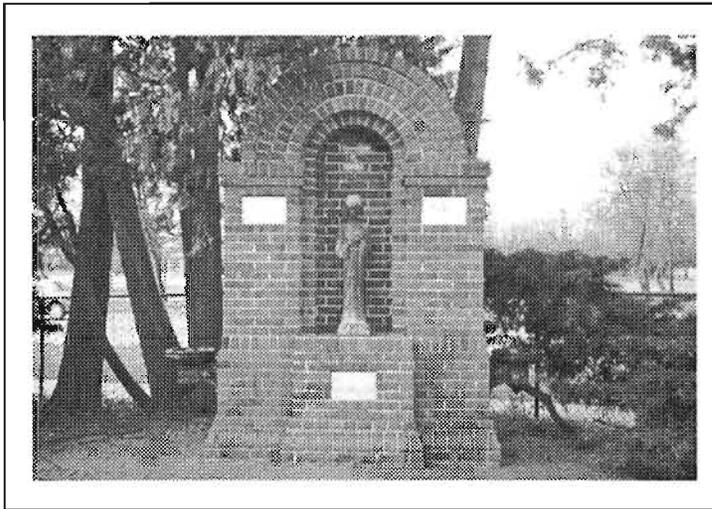
Frances Crane Lillie



Childerly House



Childerly Chapel



Fountain Memorial to Elisabeth Port (Teacher) (1999)



Childerly Chapel Across McHenry Rd, from Statue (1999)

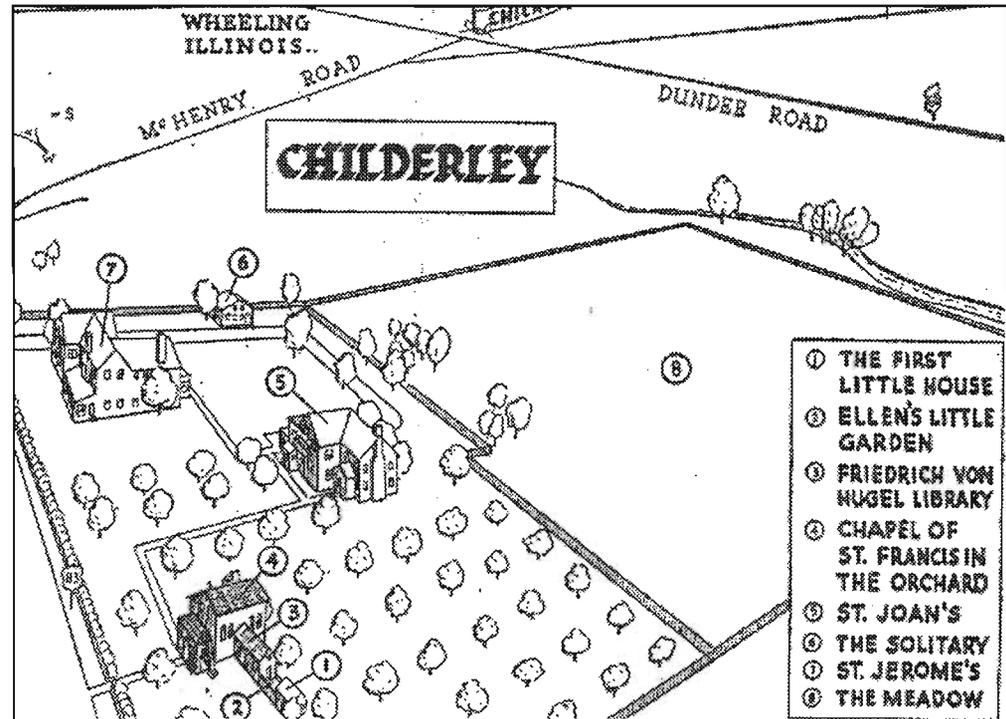


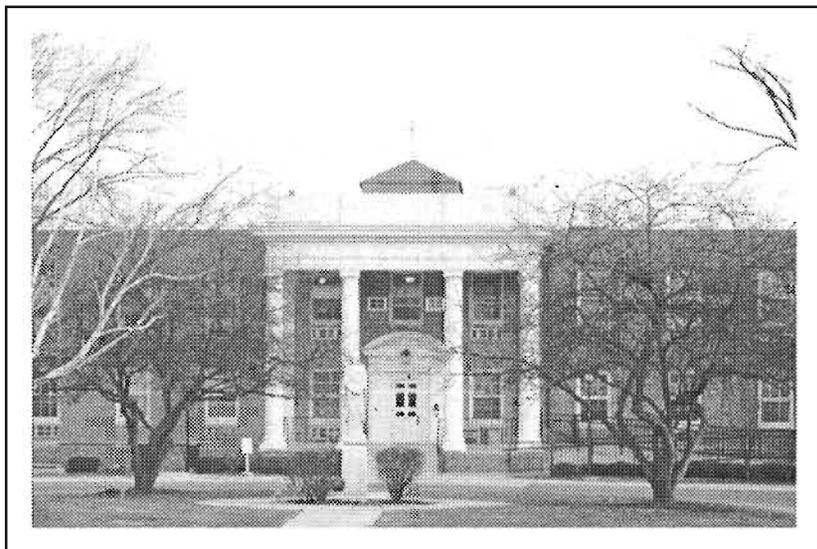
Elisabeth Port School for
Country Children

In 1940 this thirty-two acre site of Childerly was sold to the Sevrite Sisters and is now Villa Addolorata along with Whipple Tree Village.

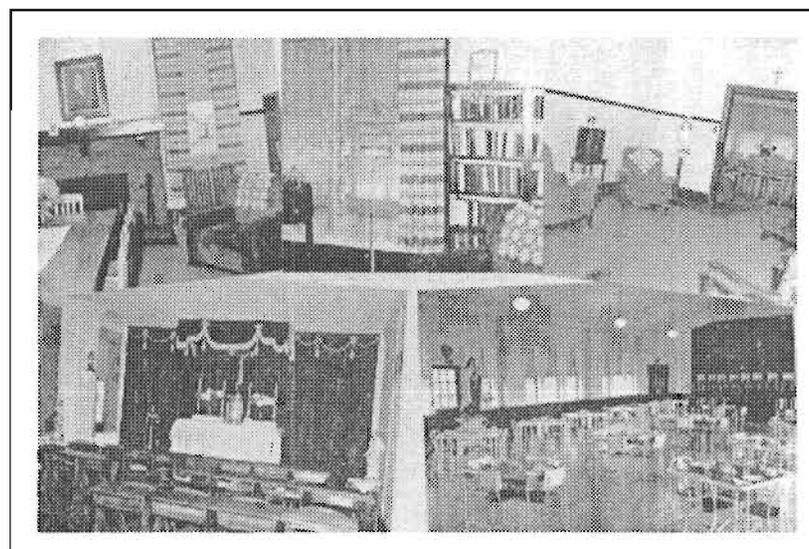
The ten acres of Childerly that was across the road was donated to the Calvert Foundation of Chicago as a *retreat center* for Catholic students and *alumni* of the University of

There was a school which went from first grade through the first year of high school. After that the Childerly Bus took the students to another high school. Across the road was an apple orchard including a chapel where the children would play. Many activities took place at Childerly. In the 1930's, Childerly also served the adults in the Wheeling Community with education classes as well as dances.

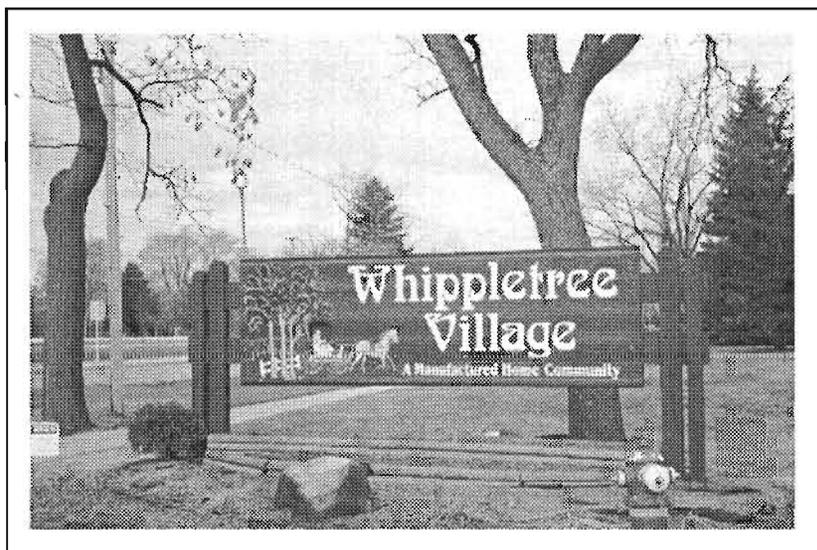




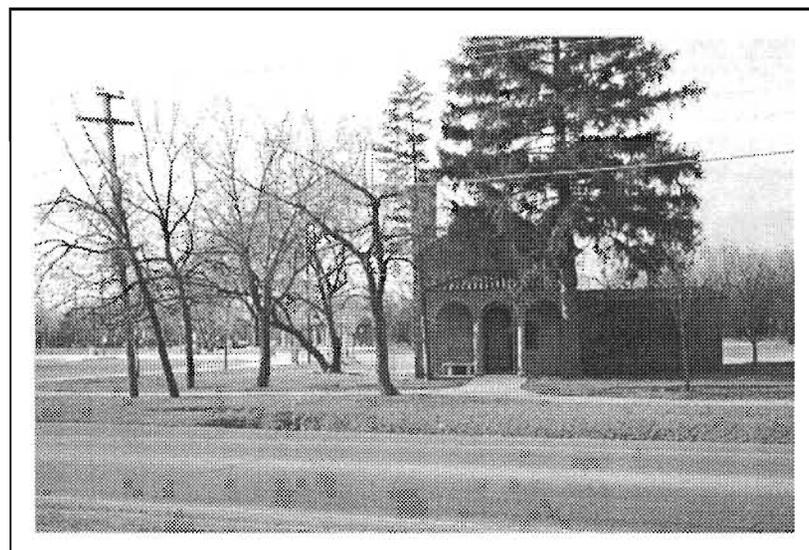
Addolorata Villa (1999)



Inside Addolorata Villa



(1999)



Childerly Chapel and Park (1999)



Chicago. In 1977 this section was purchased by the Wheeling Park District and named Childerly Park.

Did Wheeling have a Girl Scout Troop?

Lucile Schneider, started the first girl scout troop in Wheeling in 1925. She was the daughter of the first veterinarian in Wheeling. Under her leadership, the girls worked for the usual badges such as sewing, cooking, and nature.

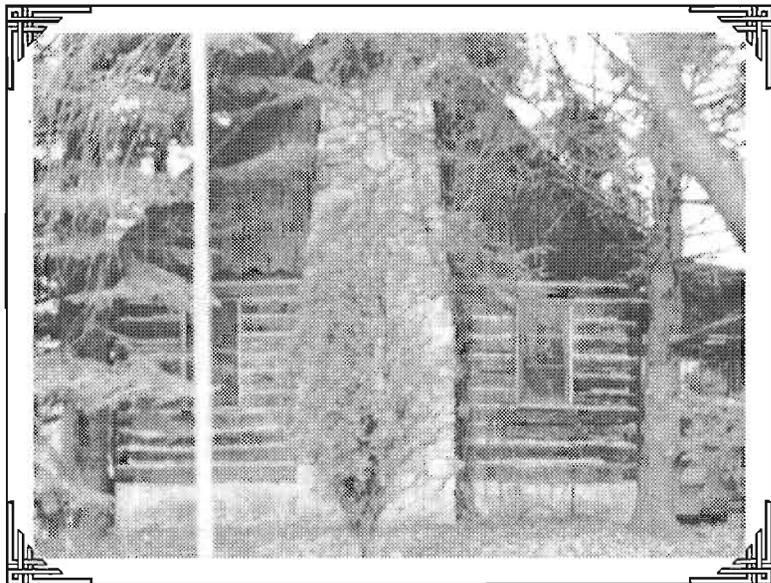
Mrs. Denoyer came on the girl scout scene in 1930. Mrs. Denoyer had been a friend of Juliette Low, who founded the American Girl Scout movement.

The Denoyers had property that is now part of Chelsea Cove. At that time it was called, Singing Grove Farm. They had a lot of land with a log cabin on the property. In this log cabin there is a stone fireplace. The stone fireplace has stone from all over the world. Mr. Denoyer was a map maker and collected the stones and

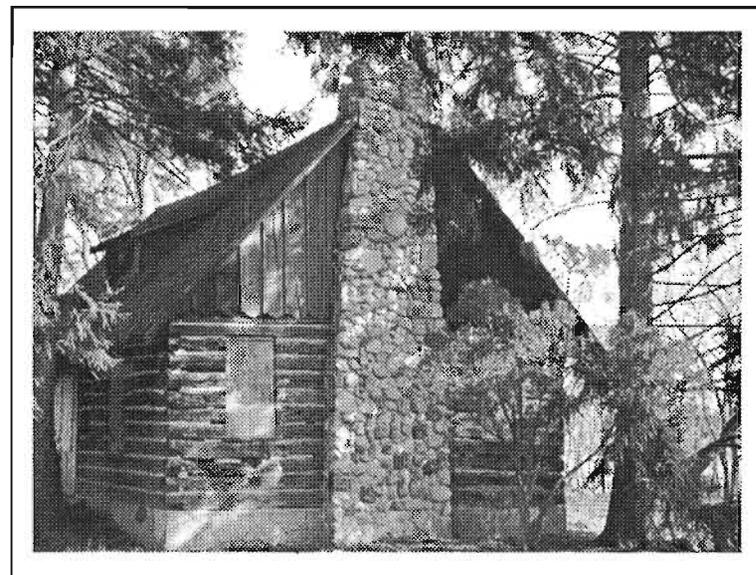


Girl Scout Troop No. 1

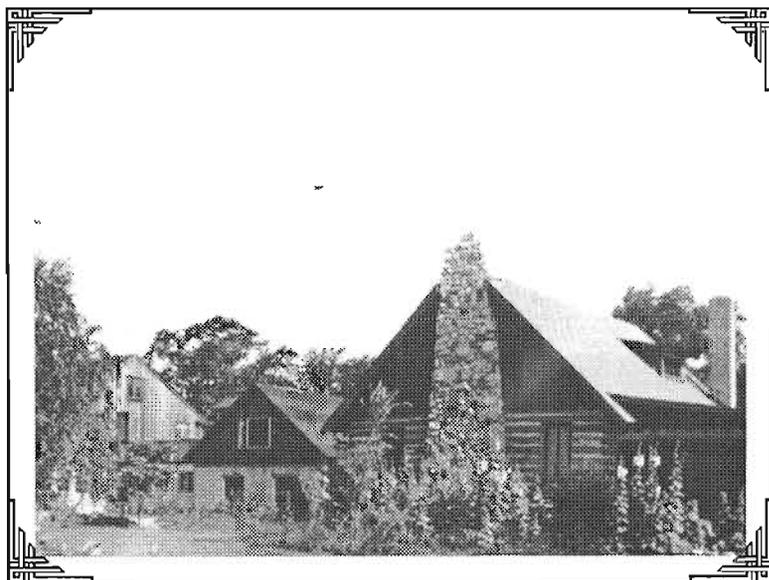
DeNoyer Cabin



DeNoyer Cabin (1999)



DeNoyer houses at Singing Grove Farm



Girl Scouts inside cabin





brought them back and had the fireplace built.

This area owned by the DeNoyers was used for the girl scout camp. The girl scouts would camp there in spring or early summer and in the fall. They would take nature walks and learn about birds and trees. They would sleep in tents and in this big log cabin.

The Memorial Day Parade was an important event for the girl scouts. The girl scouts used to parade down Milwaukee Avenue ending at the Amvets Hall.

Today part of the Denoyer land is owned by the Wheeling Park District. The Historical Society wanted to preserve the log cabin, but it would be too costly. At this time it is still standing but the intention is to knock it down.

The first Brownie troop was organized in 1954 by the Presbyterian Church. As you can see the Brownies were organized after the Girl Scouts were in existence.

Did Wheeling have a Boy Scout Troop?

A *charter* to maintain a Boy Scout Troop was issued in 1921 to the Wheeling Presbyterian Church. The troop was Troop 18 which later became Troop 112. Boys had to be between ages 11 and 16 to join.



Troop 18 had its ups and downs until Mr. Barrett got involved, raised funds, bought uniforms and put lots of energy into scouting until it became popular and grew in Wheeling.

The first Cub Scout Pack met in January of 1946. The boys needed to be between the ages of 9 and 12. There were three dens, the North side, South side and West side of Wheeling. They met weekly in the homes of the Den Mothers and Fathers. Once a month they would get together at the school.

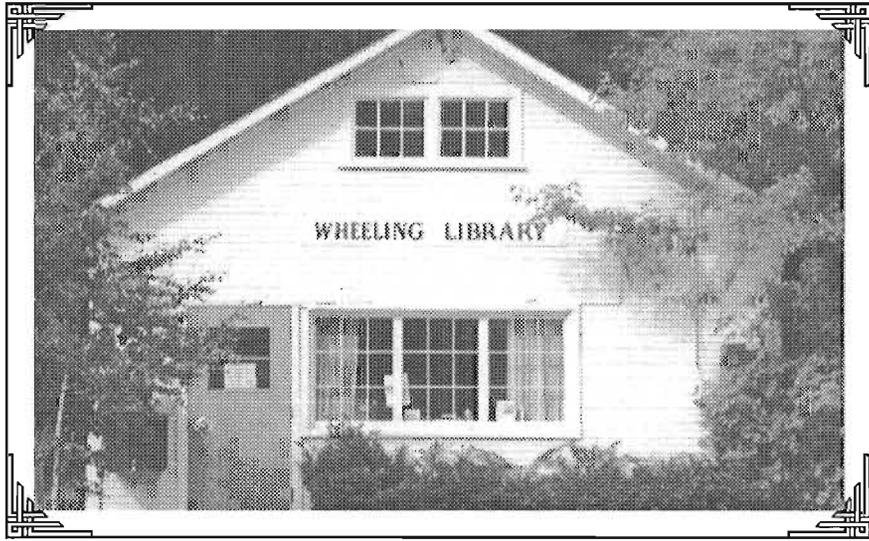
In 1949 the Cub Scouts were sponsored by the Philip Carpenter Amvets Post.

When did Wheeling first have a library?

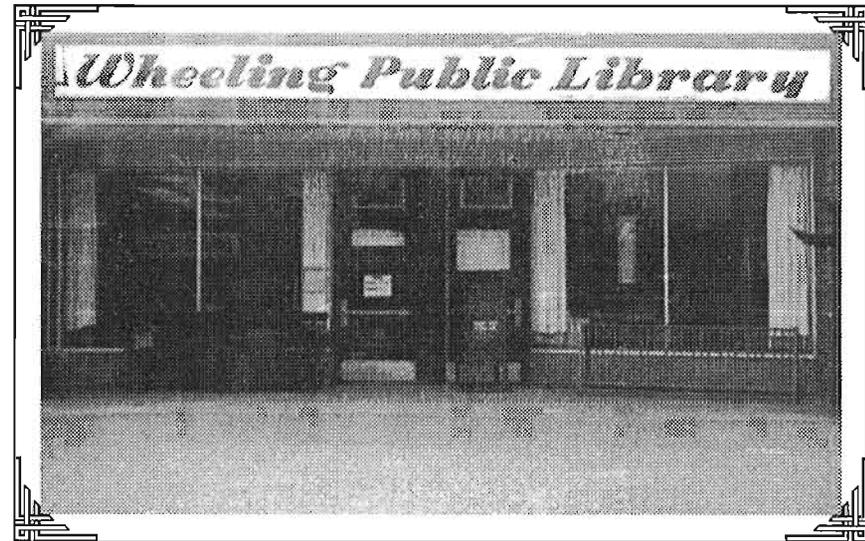
In 1930 the first public library was established in Wheeling because the school's library was *inadequate*. The Chamber of Commerce donated money and the State of Illinois gave forty-six books.

Citizens donated ninety more books. The school library then became open to the public. It was staffed by volunteers and was open two evenings a week for one and one half hours. The entrance to the library was in the rear of the school.

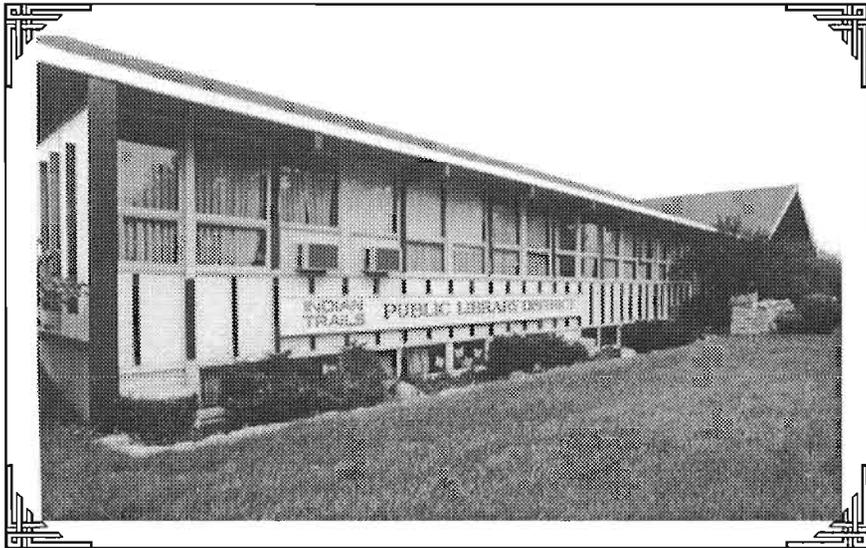
Childerly also had a library . It was privately owned. When Mrs. Lillie became ill and had to give up Childerly, she donated nine hundred volumes to the village to start a community library.



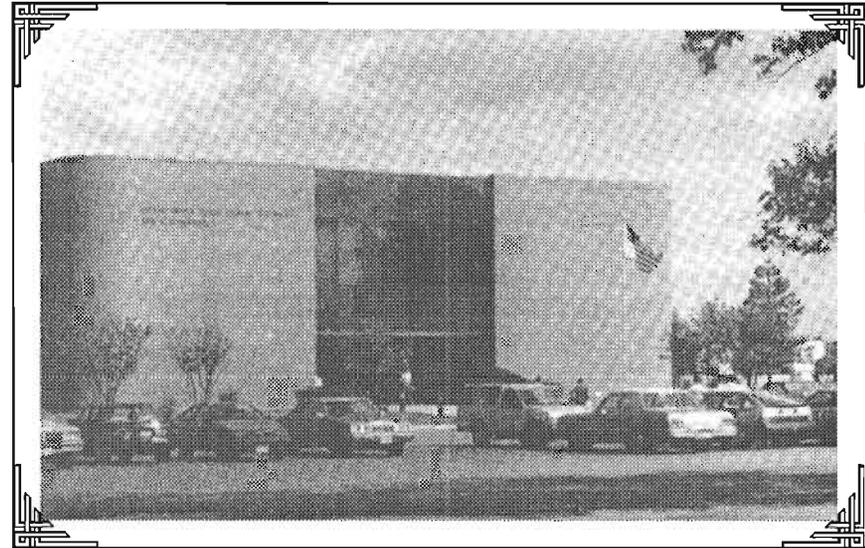
Wheeling's First Library
(Behind Union Hotel 1950's)



Wheeling's Second Library (1962)
(Two Doves Restaurant 1999)



Wheeling's Third Library (1971)



Indian Trails Library (1979)

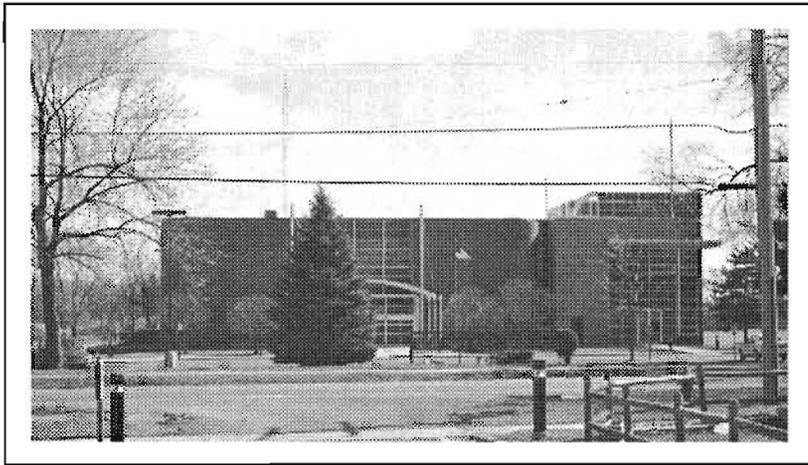


In 1955 the Parent Teachers Association (PTA) agreed to sponsor a *petition* for a *referendum* for a tax-supported Library District. The referendum was successful to establish the Wheeling Public Library District covering a ten square mile area including Wheeling and Buffalo Grove.

The Wheeling Junior Woman's Club donated \$3,000 and voted to sponsor the library along with the Wheeling Jaycees. They needed to get books. So the village President, A. R. McIntyre proclaimed, "Buck and Book Day." With the aid of the boy scouts and cub scouts, the Junior Woman's Club and Jaycees collected over two thousand books and more than \$250. The library committee rented a building that was behind the Union Hotel Parking Lot at 122 S. Milwaukee Avenue. The owners, George Palm and Frank Miramonti, returned that rent money amounting to \$3, 070 when the library moved. The State of Illinois was suppose to give 2500 books, but because they were impressed with the community spirit gave 3000 books.

The library issued 265 library cards and circulated more than 300 books during the first 10 days of its existence.

In 1962 the library was on Milwaukee Avenue south of Dundee Rd. This is where the Two Doves Restaurant is today. The library moved to 850 Jenkins Court in 1971, (formerly St. Marks Lutheran Church). In 1974 the Indian Trails Library District, which serves Wheeling and Buffalo Grove, was formed and opened its new building in 1979 on Schoenbeck Road. The name was changed from the Wheeling Library District to Indian Trails Library District. They did this because the name shows the



Library (1999)

library services an area rather than just the Village of Wheeling. The district is self-governing and operates under the direction of a board of seven trustees independent of both village governments. In 1998 an addition was built to that building after the voters approved a \$3.8 million referendum that allowed the library to build a 14,000 square foot addition.

The year 1975 saw the beginnings of the Summer Book Van Service to bring reading to the far corners of the district and to those unable to come into the library.

What was the first church in Wheeling?

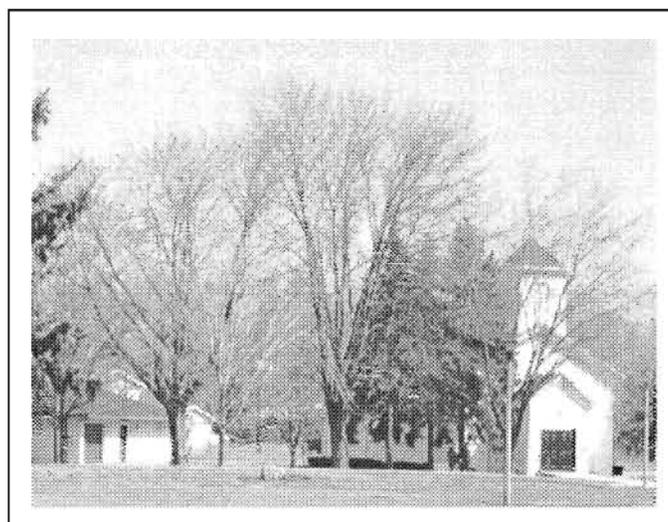
The German Presbyterian Church was built on the north side of Dundee Road in 1865. Because the population of Wheeling was mainly German at that time, this was the church most families went to. It was in the area where the McDonald's is today. The last worship services in that building were held on December 16, 1962. This church is now on the site of Chamber Park by the Wheeling Historical Museum. It was moved on January 28, 1970. It was sold to the Park District for \$10.00. The church served as the social center of Wheeling through the turn of the century.



Lollipop Lane

The Historical Society set out to preserve this. The church was brought to the attention of the public in 1972 with the opening of Lollipop Lane. Lollipop Lane gives opportunity for the children to talk with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. The visiting schedule for Lollipop Lane is usually one week in December.

Community
Presbyterian
Church at
Chamber
Park
(1999)



Inside Lollipop Lane

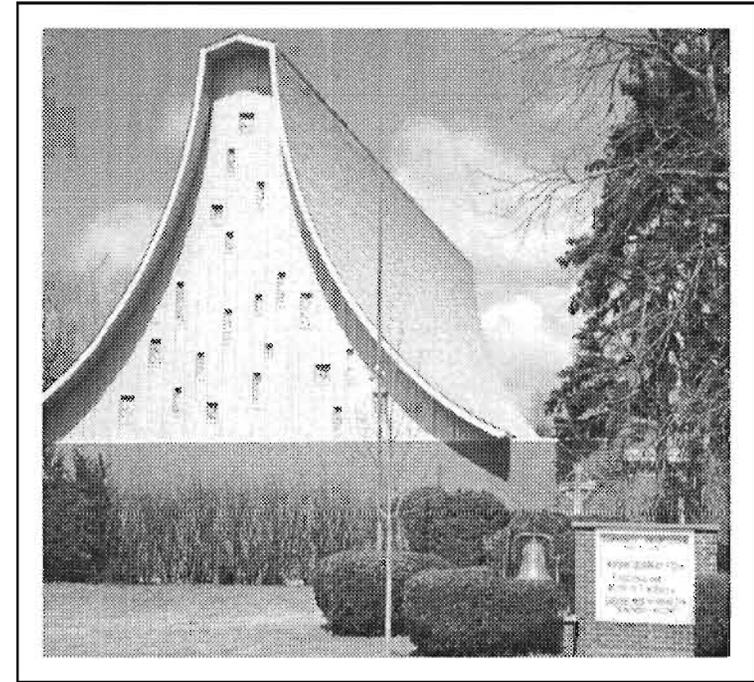




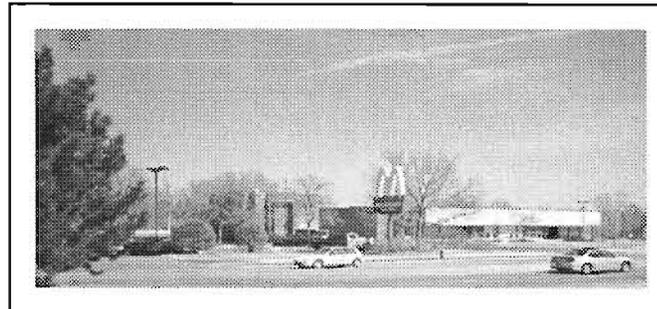
Today the Community Presbyterian Church is on 196 E. Highland Ave. In 1926 the original church steeple was struck by lightning. The bell from this steeple is in front of the church today.



Community Presbyterian Church



Community Presbyterian Church (1999)



Area where the
Presbyterian
church was
(1999)

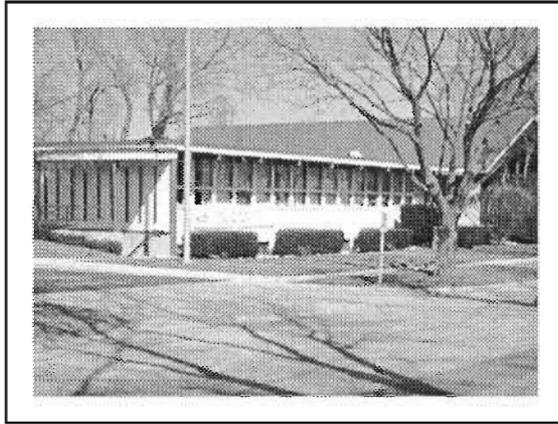
What other churches and temples does Wheeling have today?

Wheeling grew rapidly with people from many cultural, religious and racial backgrounds.

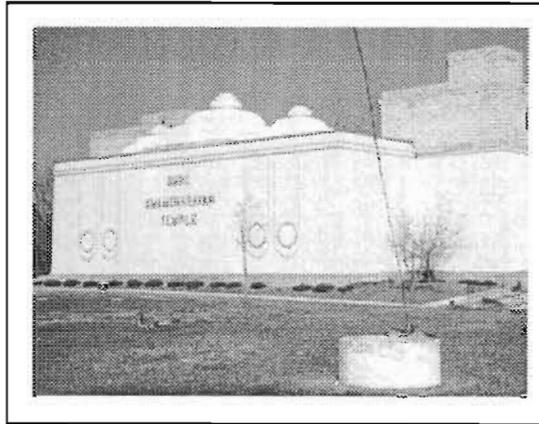
In the 1950's, people who came from Chicago were mainly Catholic. Their primary need was for a church to support a school. In 1958 St. Joseph the Worker was opened. Our Savior Evangelical Free Church began in 1956 with a Bible study group. This church was built in 1971 on Schoenbeck Road across from what is now The Indian Trails Library.

Congregation Beth Am is a Jewish *Synagogue* that purchased the old library on Jenkins Court. Before they purchased the building the people met in homes of the members.

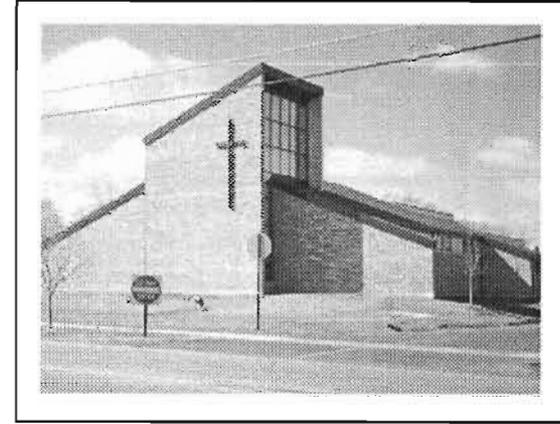
As the population of Wheeling is changing, there are other places to worship. Some of these places are the Calvary Presbyterian Church, Antioch Bible Church and Shri Swaminarayan Temple.



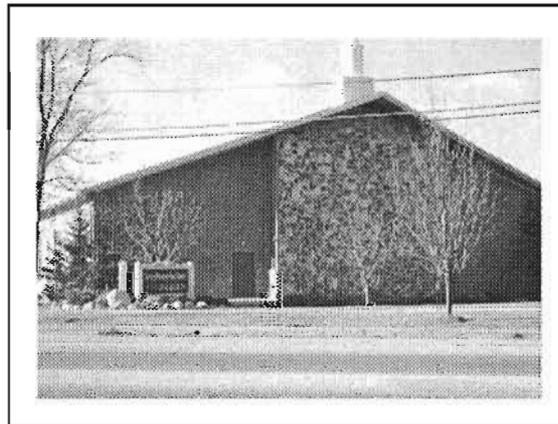
Congregation Beth Am (1999)
(former library building Jenkins
Court)



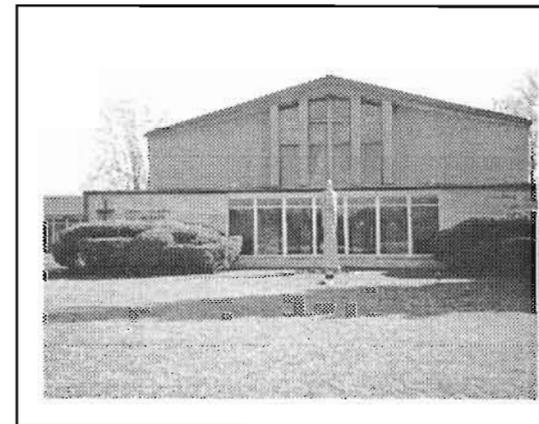
Shri Swaminarayan Temple
(Northgate Parkway)



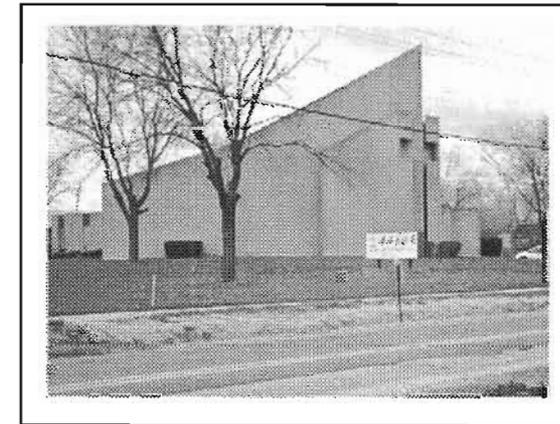
Our Savior Evangelical Free
Church (across from Indian
Trails library)



Calvary Presbyterian Church
(1999)
(McHenry road next to Amvets)



St. Joseph the Worker Catholic
Church (1999)



Antioch Bible Church (1999)



What did people do for recreation in Wheeling?

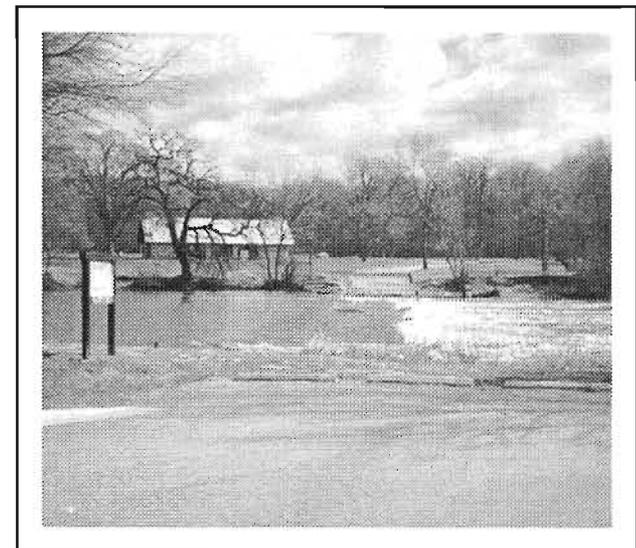
Potawatomi Woods offered much *recreation* for the people of Wheeling and surrounding areas.

The water of the DesPlaines River was sparkling clean and was used for fishing, row boating and swimming. There was a diving board and lifeguards. There were hot dog and rootbeer stands, a merry-go-round, pony rides, big swings and teeter totters. During the winter there were sleighing , ice skating and bobsled parties.

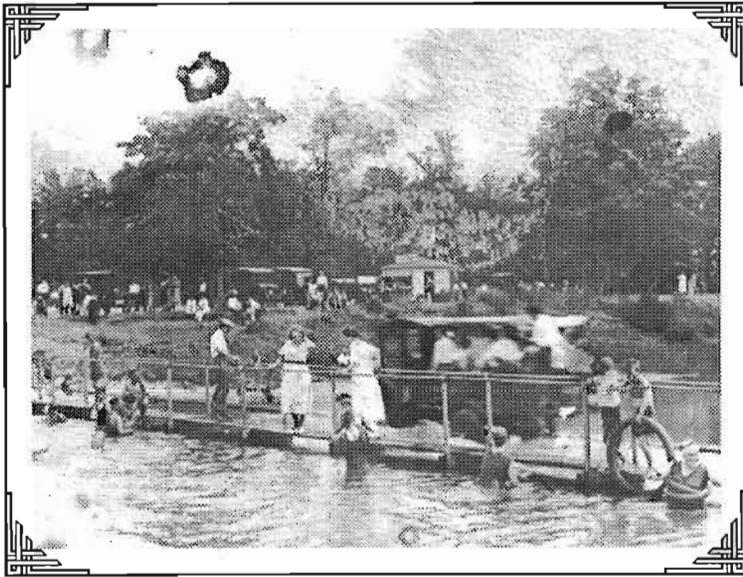
When the water was damned up, the dams backed up to deep water where ice could be gotten in the winter. There were no refrigerators so this ice was necessary for restaurants to preserve food as well as for people living in the area.



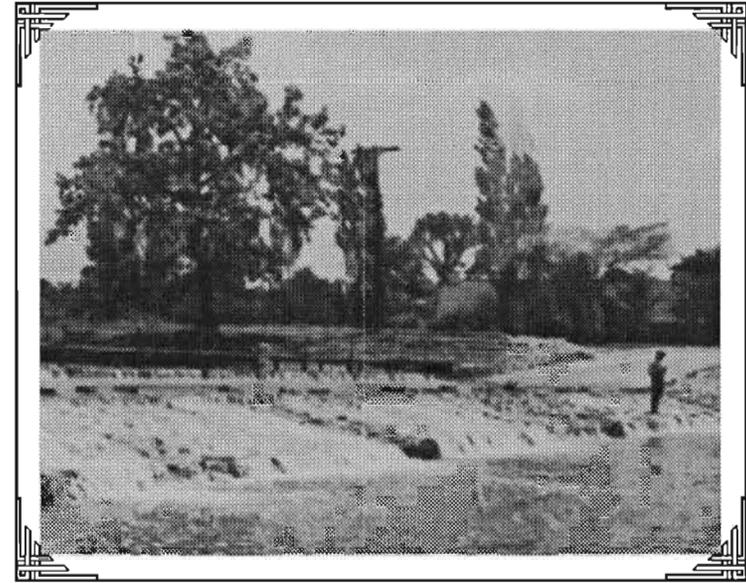
Dam No. 1



Dam No. 1
(1999)



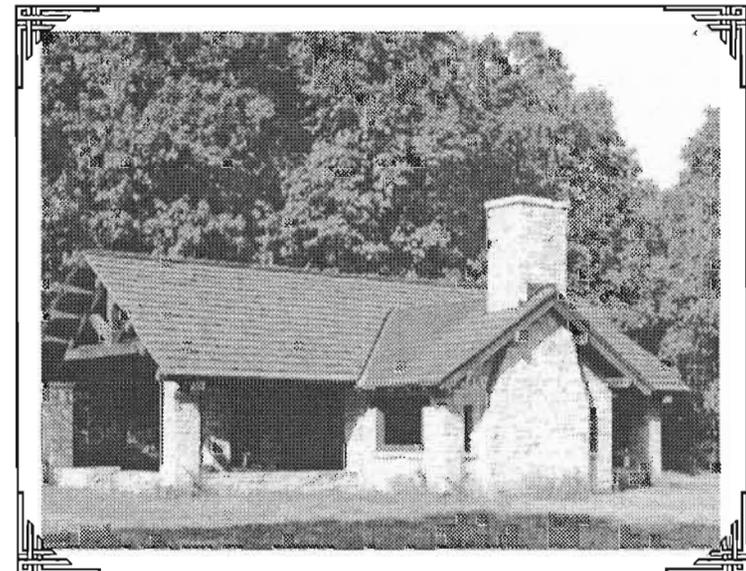
Early recreation at Potawatomi Woods



Fishing at Dam No. 1



Ice Skating in early years at Dam No. 1

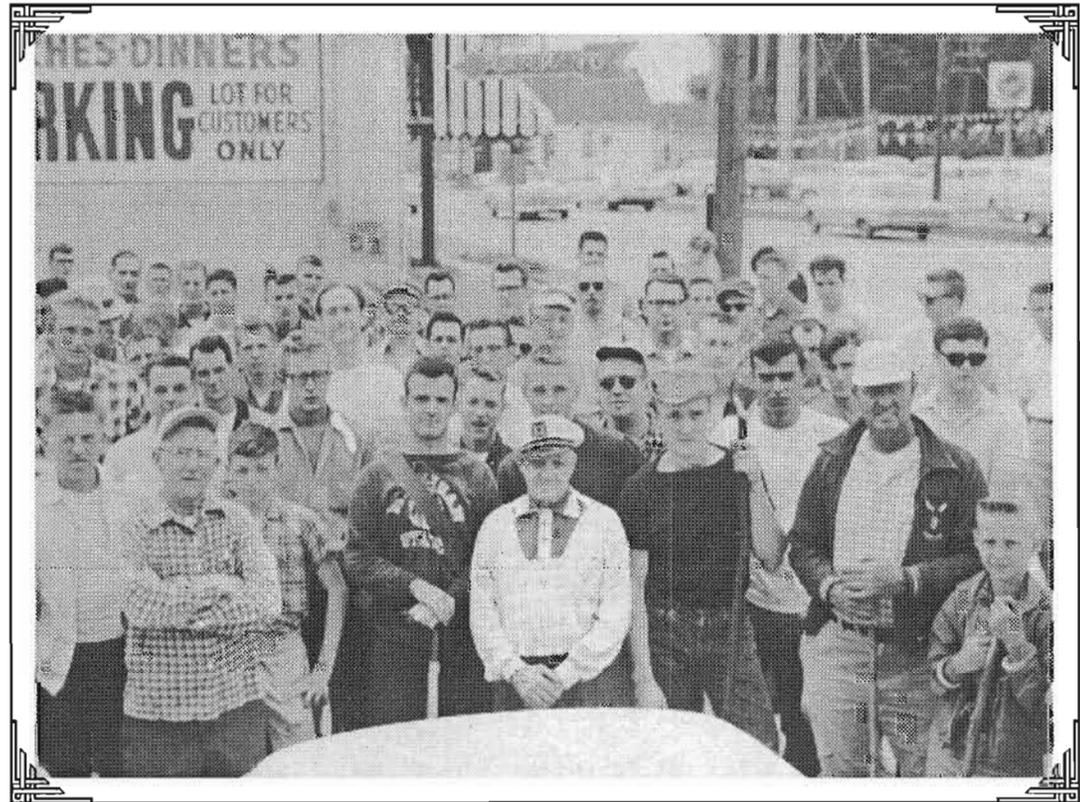


Shelter



The DesPlaines river became polluted and had to be shut down to these activities. The woods are still used for picknicking.

Hunting was a form of recreation for the people of Wheeling. A special form of hunting was rattlesnake hunts. These Sunday hunts started with a barber named Ed Bellmore. Wheeling became famous for these hunts. There were a lot of *pygmy* rattlers called Massasauga in the area. The Massauga Rattlesnake is a midwest cousin of the Diamond back. The Massauga is short and thick, and usually is under two feet in length. Their bite was fatal, but no one ever got bit so therefore never got hurt. The longest snake caught was bottled in *formaldehyde*, and is among the artifacts in the Wheeling Museum.



Rattle Snake Gathering



There was a Wheeling baseball team. The team played against many teams of the northwest area. Wheeling's team was called the Cardinals.

In 1927, Wheeling Days began. It was the biggest activity in the summer. It was an



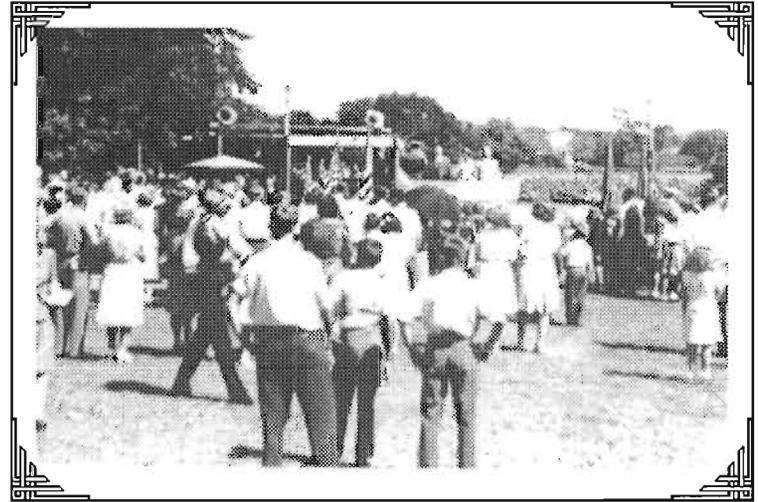
Wheeling Cardinals

annual celebration sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Volunteer Fire Department. It began in 1927. At first it was held at the Wheeling School. Because there were problems selling liquor on school property, Mr. Utpadel sold 10 acres of his land to the Chamber of Commerce for \$10,000. So Wheeling Days was held at Chamber Park after that.

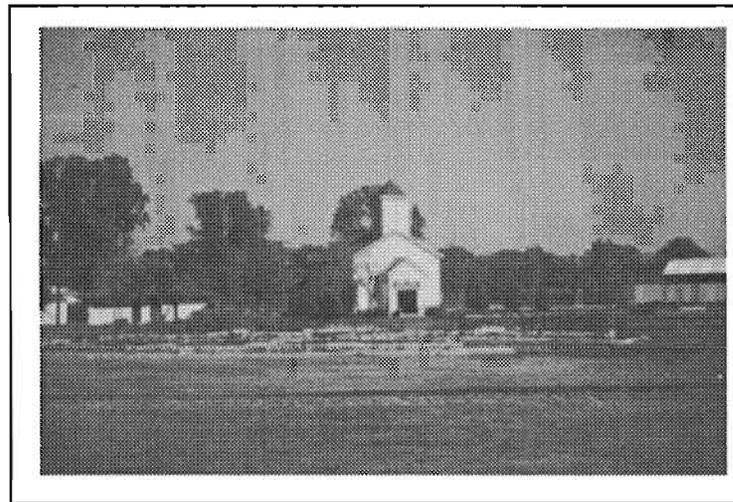
Money went to local charity and civic improvements. It was much like Family Fest and now A Taste of Wheeling. There were a variety of games, prizes, rides, dancing and plenty of eats.



Wheeling Days (Milwaukee Avenue)



Wheeling Days



Chamber Community Park
(Site of Wheeling Days)

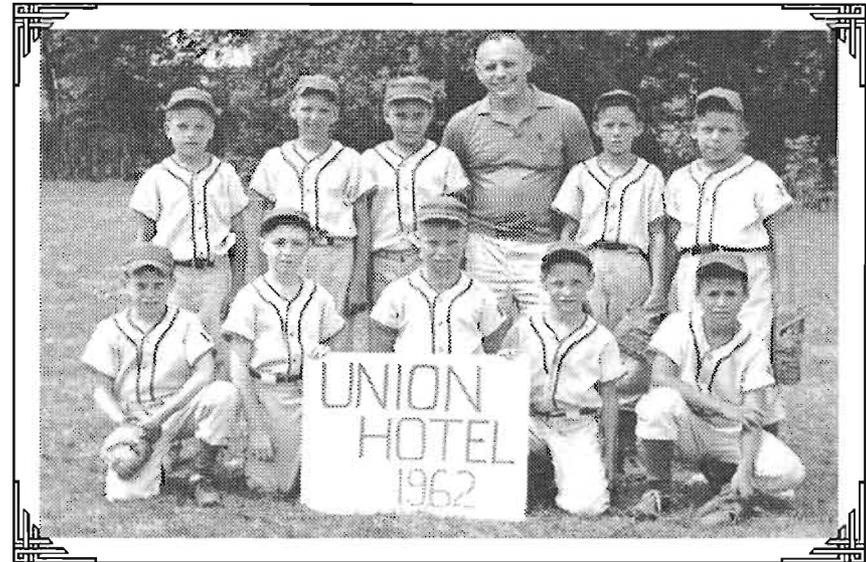


When did Wheeling get parks?

Until 1955 there was no need for parks or planned recreation. There were plenty of places to play. Most of Wheeling was farmland. Potawatomi Woods was the park for the residents.

In 1961 the Wheeling Part District was created. In the beginning it was like a volunteer organization. It relied on volunteers to run the few programs that existed. There were a few sport teams organized to play against each other. Children's baseball teams were sponsored by the Union Hotel in the 60's and early 70's. In 1964, it purchased sixty-six acres of land at Heritage Park and built a field house. This was possible because of a *property tax referendum*.

In 1966 the recreation building opened. In 1969, the Park District purchased Chamber Park from the Chamber of Commerce. The park acquired the community pool at Chamber Park which had been financed by donated money from an independent organization. It was called Chamber Community Pool. It opened in 1969 and closed in 1979. Neptune Pool was the indoor pool built in 1969 at Wheeling High School. It was sold in 1998 to Wheeling High School. After that Horizon Park was



Youth Baseball Sponsored by the Union Hotel

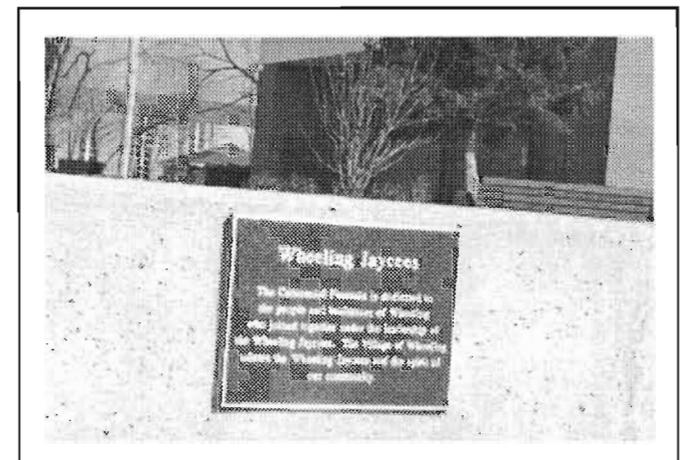
purchased and a referendum passed in 1977 to purchase both the ten acres of Childerly that was owned by the Calvert Foundation, and Chevy Chase. Other land that was purchased for parks is shown on the map.

The Park District purchased land from the Koeppen family to build the Aquatic Center and Community Recreation Center on Dundee Road.

What is the Wheeling area Chamber of Commerce?

The Wheeling Chamber of Commerce provides programs to make sure that there is a good business climate and acts to further the *economic* and social progress of the village.

The area Chamber of Commerce began as a Commerical Club of Businessmen in 1927. It was incorporated as the Chamber of Commerce in 1929. It bought five acres of land in the central portion of Wheeling for Wheeling Days. It sold it to the Wheeling Park District in 1969 and it is now known as Chamber Park. The Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce) sponsor many activities for the community. One such annual activity is the circus that comes to Wheeling.

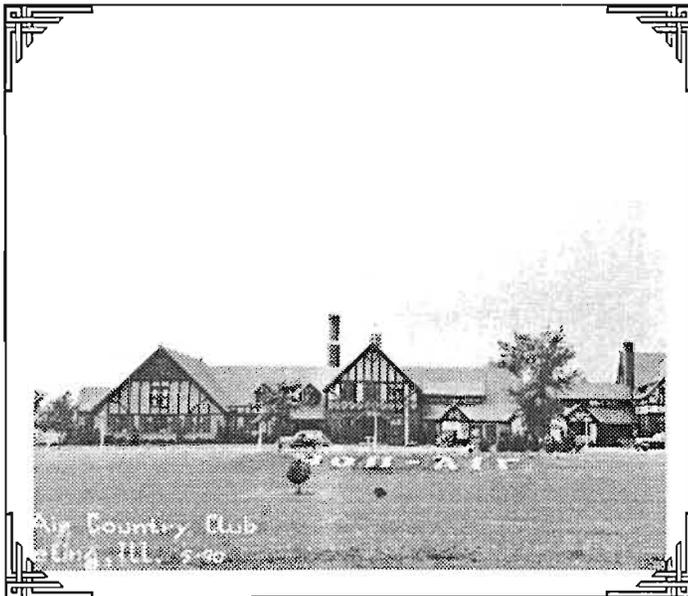


Wheeling Jaycees plaque on fountain in front of the Municipal Building

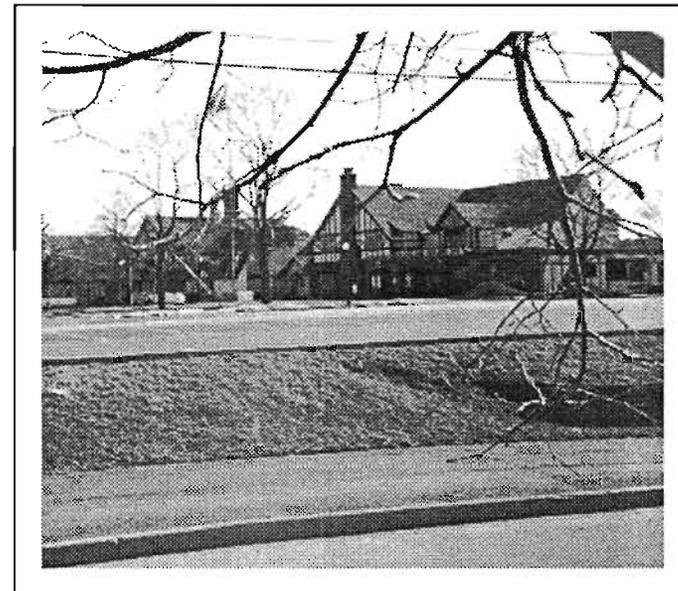


Columbian Gardens was built in 1917 by the Knights of Columbus which is a *fraternal* organization. During the 1920's it became the Bon Air. This was the era of the big bands and Charleston dance. It was a nightclub. Later it became Chevy Chase Country Club.

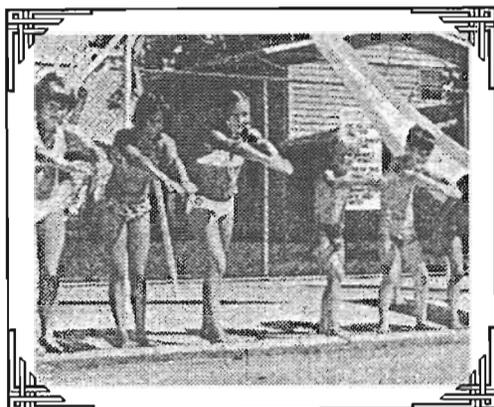
In 1977 the Wheeling Park District bought Chevy Chase. Community groups and individuals rent Chevy Chase for a variety of purposes as banquets, showers, weddings, etc. The park district uses the facilities for many *recreational* programs.



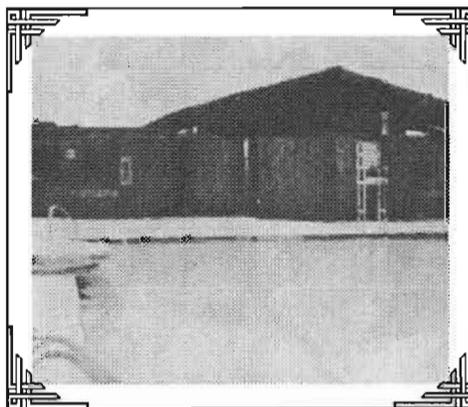
Bon Air Country Club
(1920's)



Chevy Chase Country Club
(1999)



Chamber Park Pool (1969)



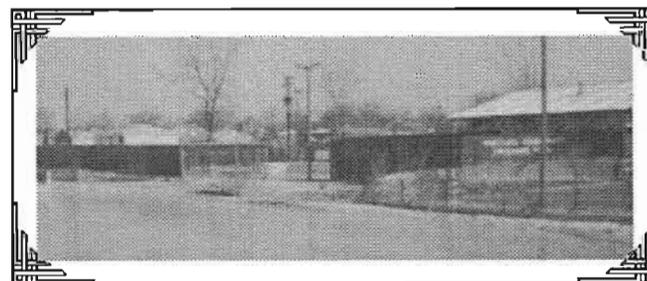
Chamber Park Pool.
Trout Fishing in Fall



Heritage Park (1999)

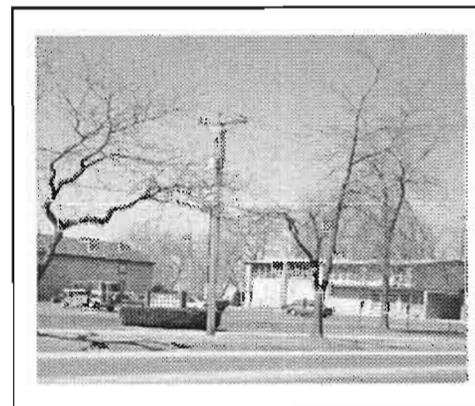
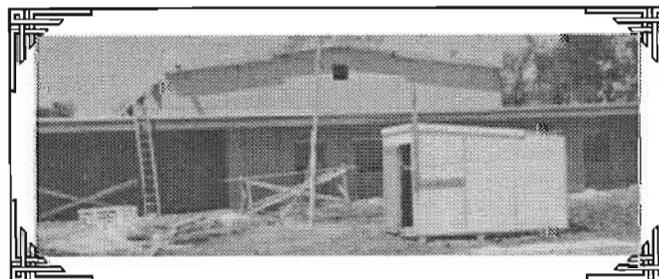


Neptune Pool (Wheeling H.S.)

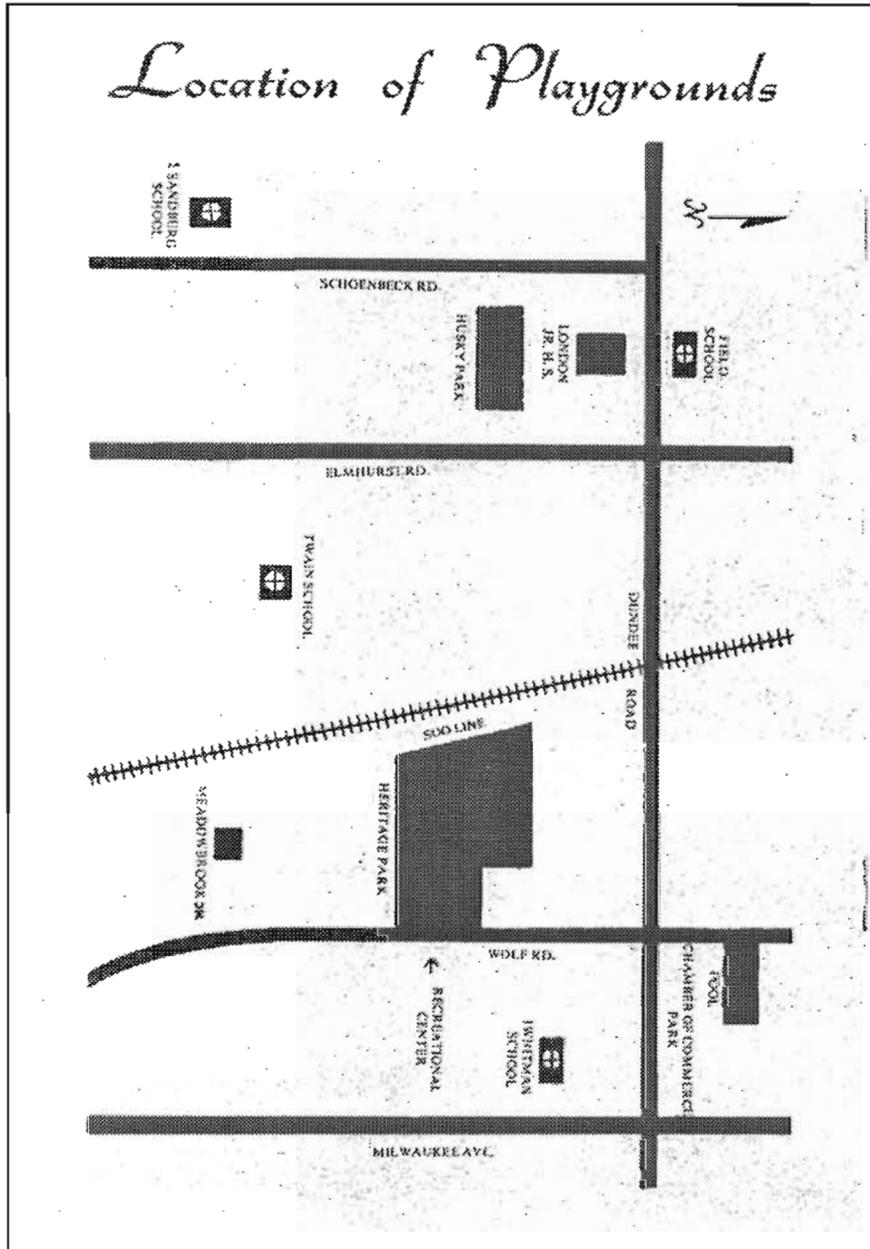


Chamber Park
Flooded for Ice
Skating

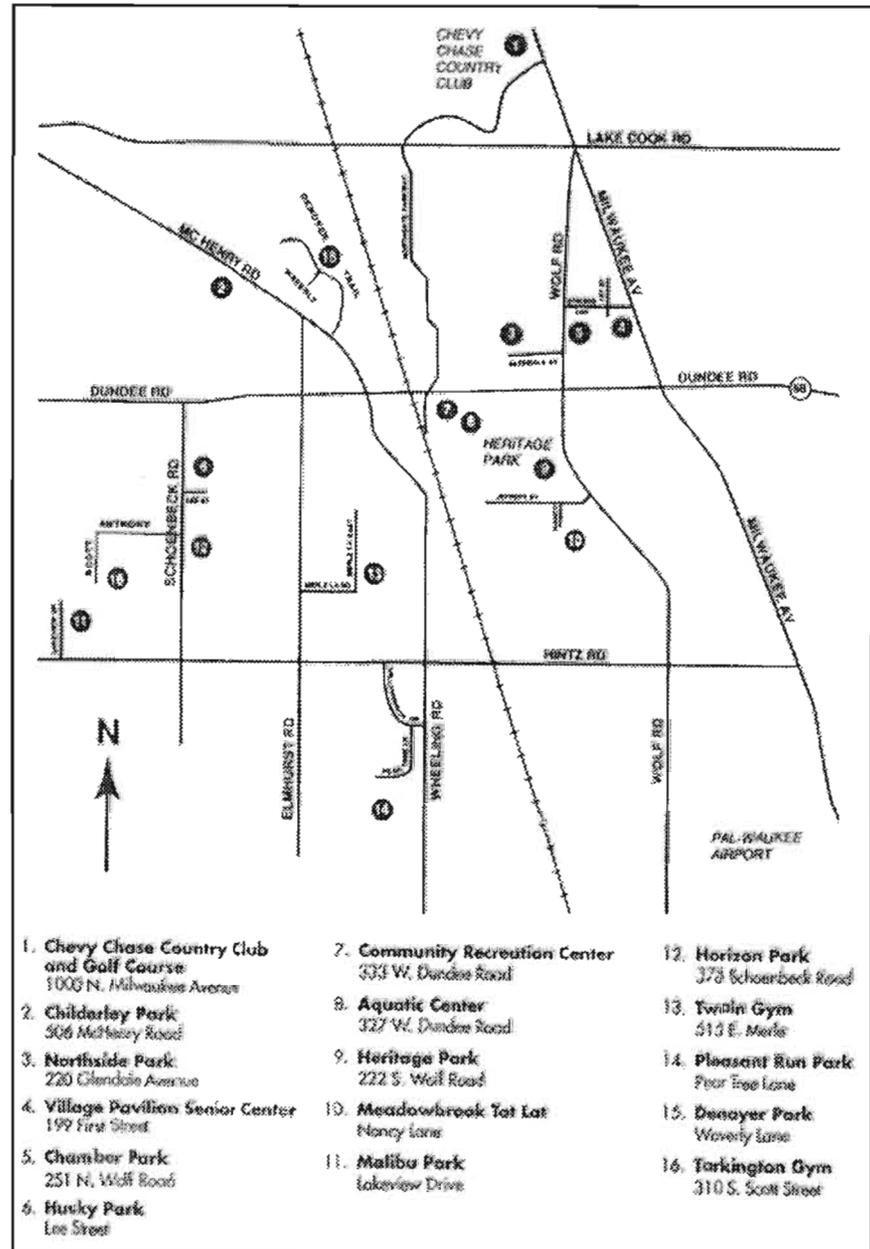
Construction of
Heritage Park
Recreation
Center



Heritage Park
Recreation
Center (1999)



(1972)



(1979)

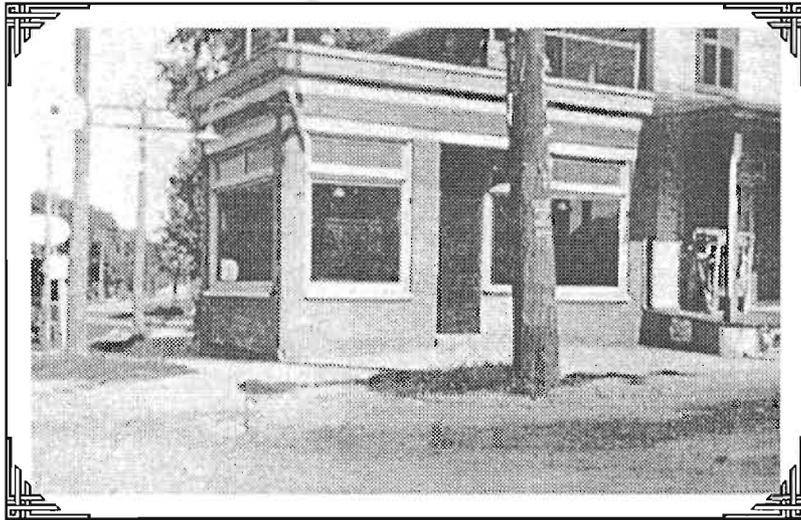


When did Wheeling get its first bank?

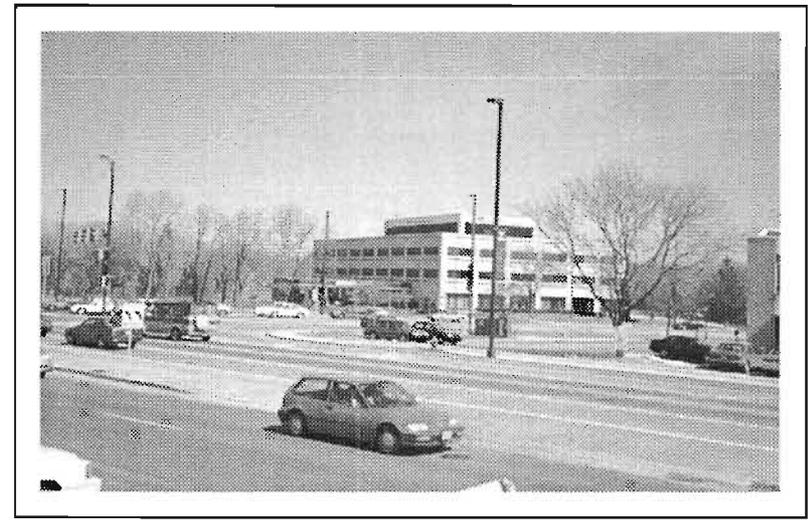
In 1921, a group of businessmen got together to start a bank in Wheeling. They saw a need to provide *financial services* to Restaurant Row and to help farmers finance the purchase of new farm equipment. Until then Wheeling people had to travel to DesPlaines, Mt. Prospect, or Lake Zurich to do their banking.

The bank was located first at the southwest corner of Milwaukee Avenue where Riverside Shopping Center is today. In 1927 it moved across the street where a bank building had been built.

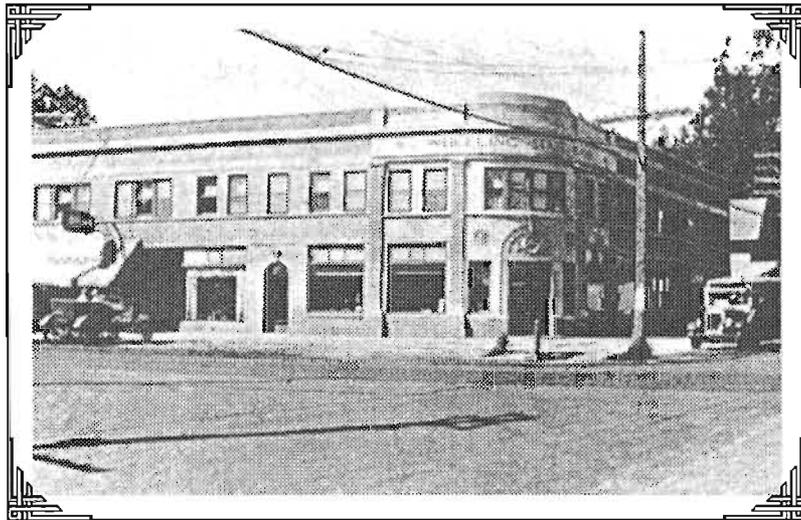
In 1984, the Cole Taylor Financial Group bought it. The bank is now Cole Taylor Bank and located on the Northeast corner of Dundee and Milwaukee Ave. It is still serving the community's financial needs.



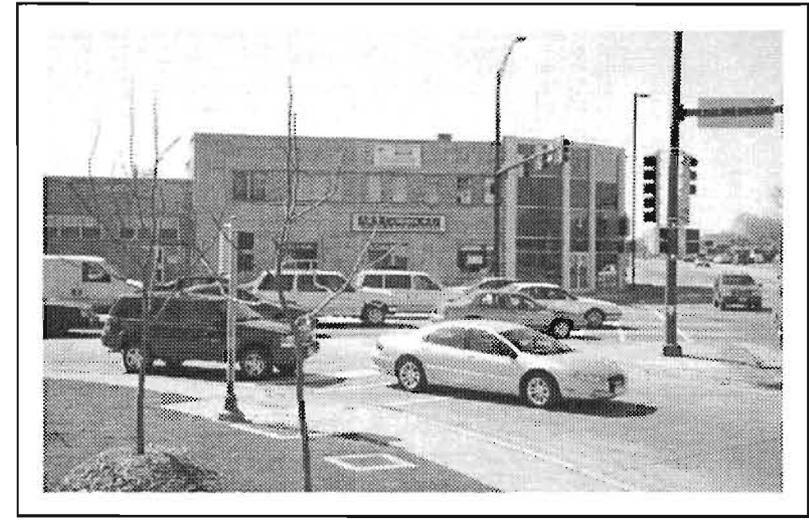
Wheeling Bank Building attached to Fassbender's Hardware Store (1921)



Cole Taylor Bank (1999)



Wheeling Bank (1927)



Area of First Bank. Southeast Corner of Milwaukee and Dundee



Telephone Company Dundee Road
Now the garage of the telephone company

When did Wheeling get telephone service?

Although the telephone was invented in 1876, the telephone first came to the village in 1900 through the Chicago Telephone Company. The Board of Trustees passed an ordinance which

gave the phone company the right to erect and maintain the telephone equipment if the telephone service was provided free of charge for the Village Hall. The switchboard and headset were located at the home of August Schwingel Graf across the street of what is now the Crab House. There were only two subscribers to the telephone service, the Village Hall and Fire Department.

In 1904, the telephone service was stopped because of lack of subscribers. Four years later it was put back



The dedication of the telephone company

into operation through the Arlington Heights office. By 1921, the subscriptions rose to 92. So in 1923 operations were brought back to Wheeling. After being in the Graf home, the telephone office moved into the bank building on the southwest corner of Milwaukee and Dundee Road. At the time, phones in Wheeling were crank phones. If there was an emergency the operator would be the first to know and then she had to notify the police or fire department. When Wheeling grew and went "dial phones", the telephone company built a building across from the cemetery on Dundee Road.

Today the building is being used as a garage for the telephone company.



Telephone operators and switchboard



When was Wheeling incorporated as a village?

Wheeling was incorporated into a village on June 18, 1894. A special election was held. There were forty-three people in favor of village organization and three against. The election was held in the Union Hotel.

On July 18 1894, a Village President, six trustees, a Police *Magistrate* and Village Clerk were elected.

Why did the citizens of Wheeling feel the need to have Wheeling incorporated?

Although there are *ordinances* leading back to 1886, the leading citizens felt there was a need for the incorporation of Wheeling to enforce these ordinances. Being incorporated the town is bonded with the State for services and state laws. There were *illegal* activities that needed to be controlled. Railroad workers from the North Shore area of Lake Michigan would come to Wheeling to drink in the taverns. Store owners would close their doors, women and children were kept off the streets because their behavior was so wild. Once Wheeling was incorporated these people could be arrested and put in jail until they sobered up.

Besides that, liquor licenses were issued. These licenses covered the entire cost of the village government making local taxes unnecessary during Wheeling's early years.

What kind of government does Wheeling have now?

Starting in 1970 the Village of Wheeling became a Council-Manager form of government. This type of government means that the community is governed by an elected Board of Trustees and a Village President who make the laws, adopt the budget and determine taxes. The village manager takes care of the day to day operations of the village. This includes proposing the budget, overlooking all of the departments and all of the people who work for the village. The manager is appointed by the President of the Village and the Village Board.

Today Wheeling has six trustees, a Village President , a Village Clerk and a Village Manager. The Village Clerk takes roll call at the meetings, reads the agenda items, proof reads and approves the minutes of the board meetings. The clerk does not vote.

There was a history of unopposed elections in Wheeling. More people became interested in being involved in the government as they saw more needs of the growing community. So the democratic process began in the 70's with more than one party running for office.

The Village of Wheeling is a home rule community which permits the Village to carry out its responsibilities and has the flexibility to make laws for its own community not only those laws set down by the State of Illinois.



What are the qualifications to become a Trustee or President of the Village of Wheeling?

The qualifications for running for office are: a person has never been convicted of a crime in a court of the United States, must live in the municipality for one year before the election, and must have a signed petition by registered voters in that area.

The President and six trustees are elected for four year terms of office. They can run for reelection after their term is up. The terms of office are staggered with three positions for Trustees and President along with the Village Clerk running at one time and the other three positions for trustees running the following two years. For example, in 1997, the President, three Trustees and Village Clerk were all elected. In 1999 three other trustees were elected.

When elected, all officers must take an oath of office to faithfully perform the duties of their office. All officers act in the the best interests of the Village of Wheeling, the residents and taxpayers of the village.



Wheeling Village Hall

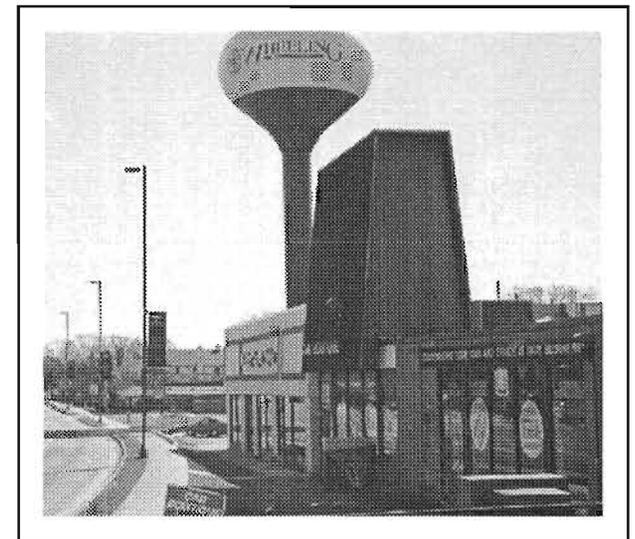
When was the first Village Hall built?

The first Village Hall was built in 1894. The land was purchased for \$150.00. The building cost \$553.26 to be constructed. It was located on 84 S. Milwaukee Avenue under the water tower. There were two jail cells.

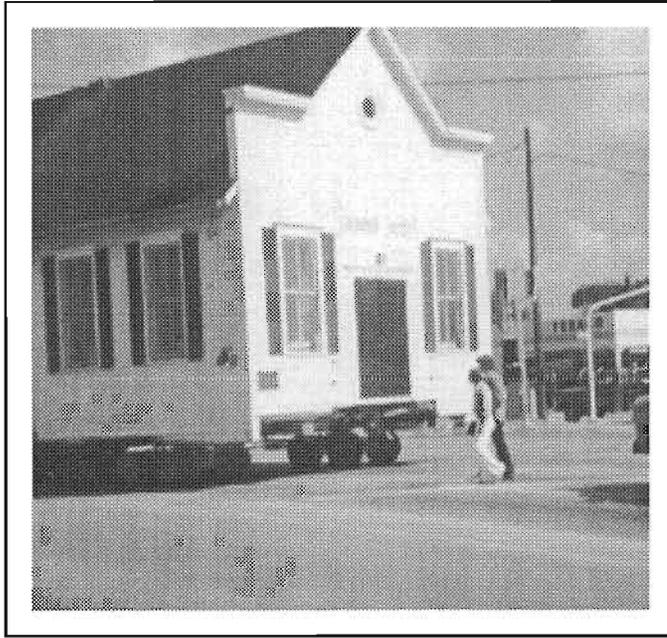
The Village Hall was used by the Chief of Police and Chief Magistrate. A magistrate is a civil officer

of the law. It served as the only *polling* place for the village. The Village Board met on the first Monday of the month.

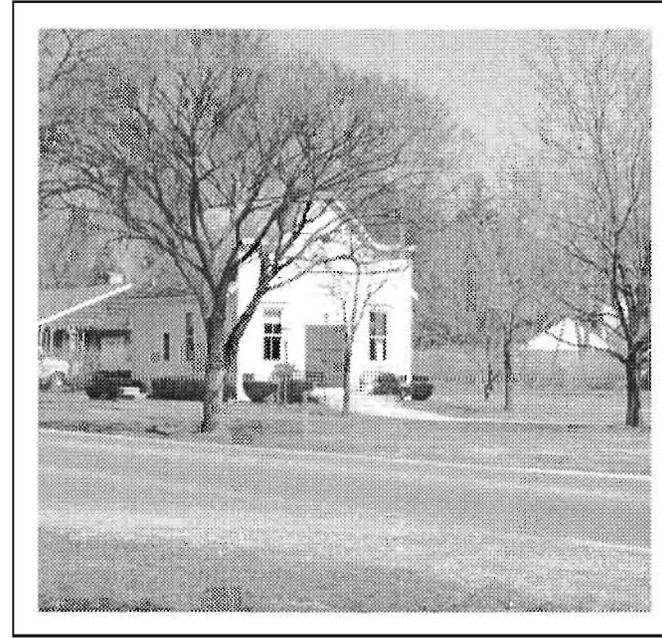
The original Village Hall has been renovated and is now the Wheeling Historical Museum located in Chamber Park. The Historical Society has maintained a museum in the old building since 1966. Today the Village Hall is on 255 West Dundee Road.



Former location of Wheeling Village Hall Under Water Tower
(1999)



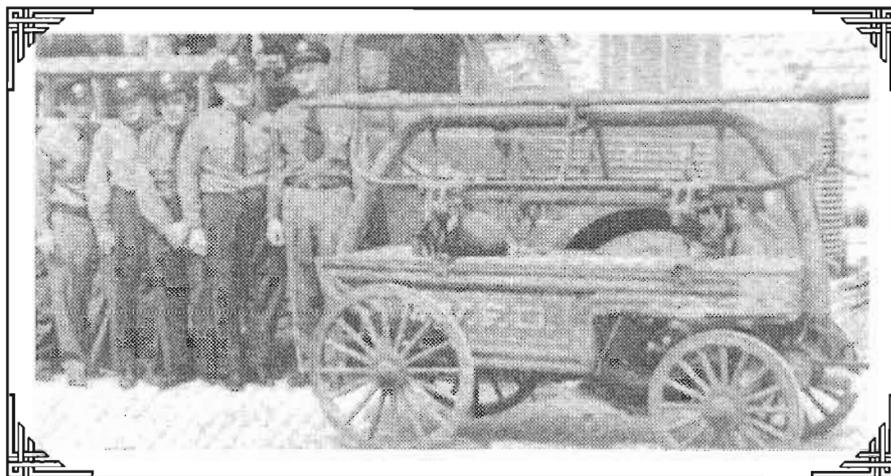
Village Hall Being Moved to Chamber Park (1978)



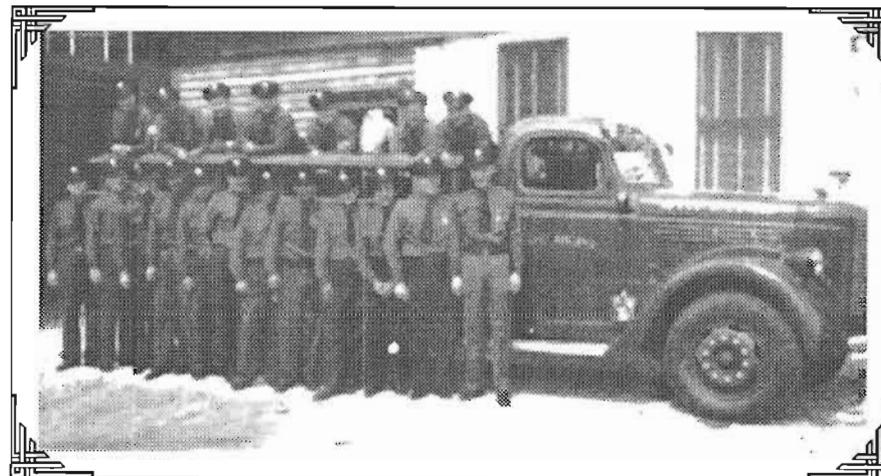
Historical Museum (formerly Village Hall) at Chamber Park (1999)

When did Wheeling get a Fire Department?

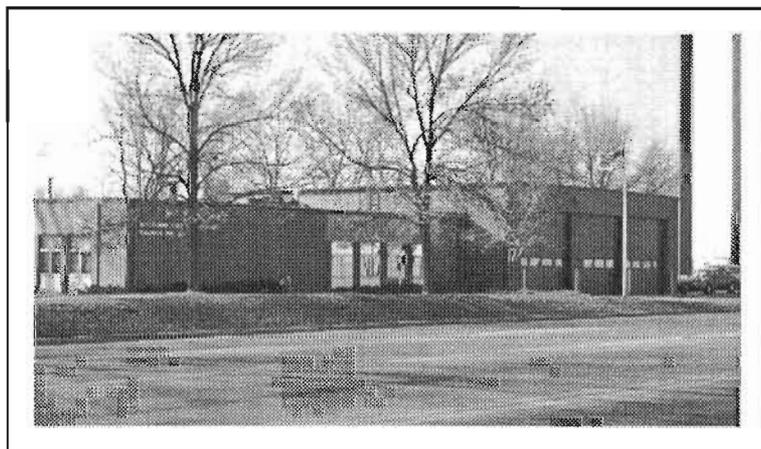
The *Constitution and By-Laws* of the Wheeling Fire Department was adopted on September 30, 1896. The fire department was allowed to use The Village Hall for its meetings. The fire department was all volunteer. In 1961 the volunteer firemen were paid \$1.00 per call. There were no rules or regulations. There were no uniforms.



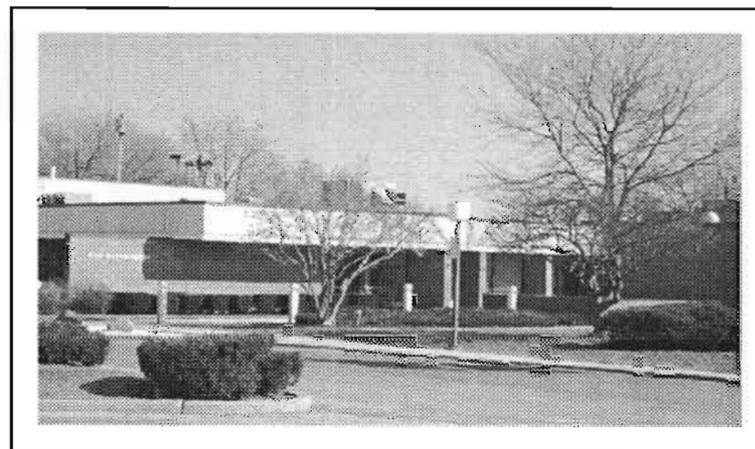
Hand Pumper (1904)



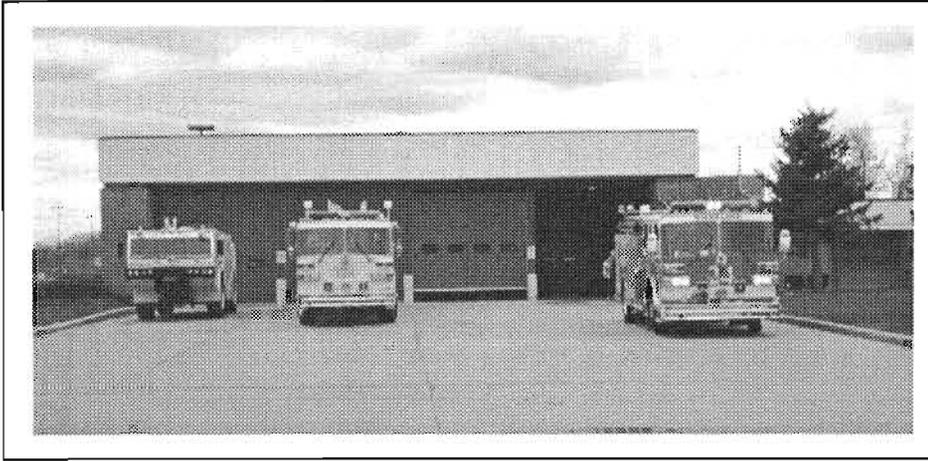
Volunteer Fire Fighters (1949)



Fire Station 23, Wheeling Road (1999)



Fire Station No. 24 Dundee Road (1999)



Fire Engine Garage (1999)

When the siren blew, the volunteers went.

The Fire Department had its first horse-drawn fire engine in 1896. A hand pumper was purchased in 1904. It is on display at the Wheeling Historical Museum. If you lived by the creek there was a better chance of saving your house. The water had to be pumped from wells, and if the well

went dry, your house would burn.

In 1924-25 the village decided to put in water mains. When that happened, fire plugs were installed and an adequate amount of water was then available for the fires.

In the 1950's a fire house was built on the north side of Dundee Road located near the corner of Milwaukee Avenue (previous location of Sport Mart). It was built with funds raised by the Volunteer Fire Department and Chamber of Commerce. A second floor was added later on and the building served as the Village Hall and Police Station. It also served as a place for community services from time to time.



Today there are two fire stations staffed around the clock. The main Station 24 is in the municipal building. Station 23 is at 780 S. Wheeling Road. It is no longer a volunteer fire department. Besides putting out fires, the department has a fire-prevention program, programs in the schools and goes into action for natural disasters such as floods, tornadoes and major storms. There is a dive unit that assists the police in recovering evidence that may be in the river or ponds. There are thirty-eight trained paramedics in the department also.

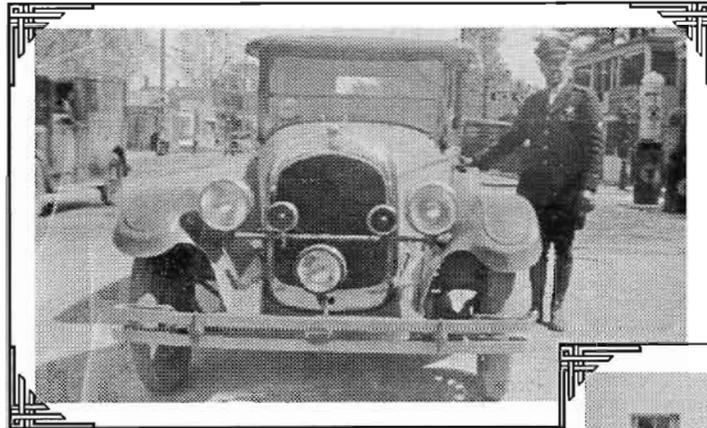
The fire department annually responds to 3500 calls for service, more than half of these are Paramedic calls.

Paramedic service is currently provided at no charge to residents and non-residents. Patients are usually taken to Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines or Glenbrook Hospital in Glenview. In cases of severe *trauma* only, patients are taken to Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

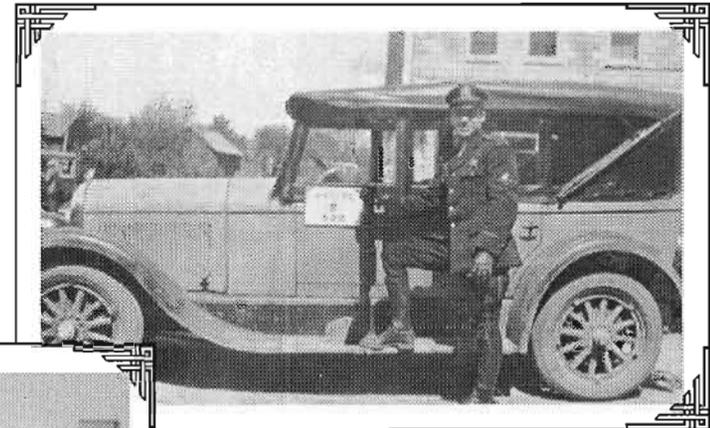
Today the department has four engines, one-one hundred foot Ladder Tower Truck, three ambulances, one Twin Agent Truck (Airport Response Unit), one Special Teams Squad Truck, one boat, three command vehicles, and two fire prevention vehicles.

When did Wheeling get police protection?

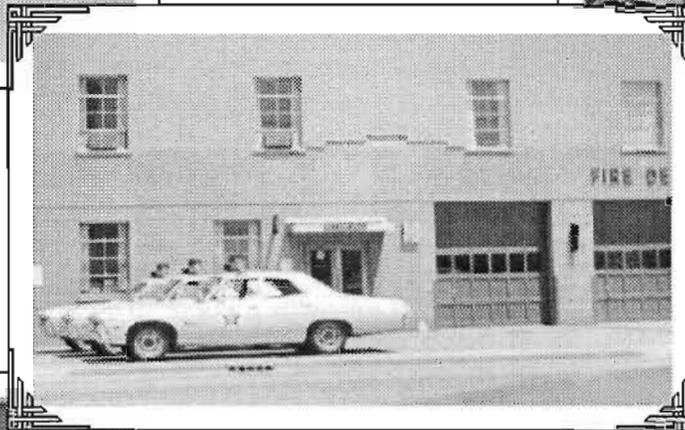
When the Village of Wheeling was incorporated there was a Police Magistrate. There was only one police officer in Wheeling up to 1948 when Marvin O. Horcher joined



Police Touring Car (1925)



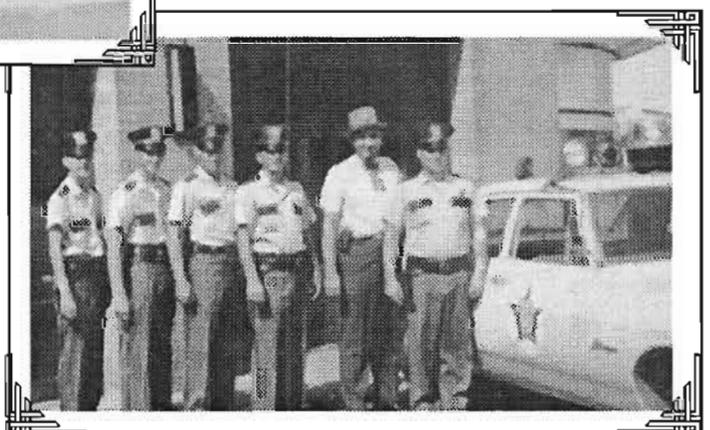
(1925)



Fire Department,
Police Department
and eventually
Village Hall (1958)



New squad car (1961)



(1958)

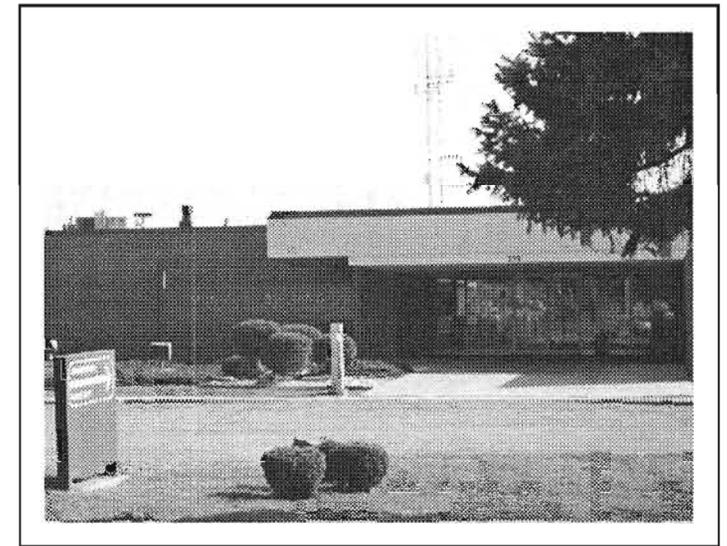
him. At that time there were three hundred fifty people and nineteen or twenty taverns in Wheeling. As the village grew, there were special deputies and later on a police reserve unit was formed. All volunteers paid for their own equipment, uniforms, and training and raised funds to buy special equipment for the village.

The police reserves bought the first ambulance that Wheeling had.

At the beginning, the duties of the policeman included a variety of things - reading water meters to maintaining proper levels of chlorine in the water. The police in Wheeling could pretty much choose what to do with the *juvenile* cases. They did not like sending the kids to the *Audy* home or the *Cook County Juvenile System*. They wouldn't send them there unless there was no other way of coping with the problem. The children would have to do chores just like they do for community service today.

The first police station was in The Village Hall on Milwaukee Avenue, which is now the Wheeling Historical Museum. They moved to the Fire House on Dundee Road in 1969 and now have their department in the Wheeling Municipal Building on 255 West Dundee Road.

Today the police department has 40 Police Officers, 1 Chief, 1 Deputy Chief, 8 Sergeants and



Wheeling Police Station and
Municipal Building(1999)



6 Corporals. To become a police officer in Wheeling, you must be twenty-one years of age, have a high school diploma and corrected vision of 20/20. A written and physical *agility* exam is given along with a *polygraph* exam, psychological exam, interviews and medical exam. Once hired, an applicant will be required to successfully complete a field training program and *probation* period.

What did the people of Wheeling do if they needed a doctor?

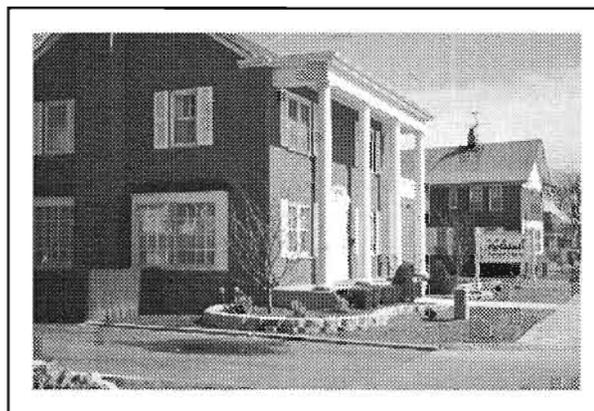
Dr. Julius Purman arrived in Wheeling in 1849. He was the doctor in this area until he died in 1856. Dr. Mergler was in Wheeling from 1854 to 1878. Dr. Maximillion Muffat was another doctor in Wheeling. He practiced medicine in Wheeling from 1876 to 1890. Dr. Benz followed him in 1890.

Dr. Larson was the doctor who served Wheeling for a number of years after them. He came in 1918. He opened Wheeling Hospital in 1927. It was built to serve the community and provide emergency facilities. It was on Milwaukee Avenue. With automobiles becoming popular there were many accidents on Milwaukee Avenue. It was located next to Kolssak's Funeral Home. (1999). Up until that time, Highland Park Hospital was the closest hospital. He had his home in what is now Kolssak's Funeral Home.

In 1938, a health station for well babies was set up in the Wheeling School. In 1955 a well-baby clinic was organized in the basement of the Community Presbyterian



Dr. Larson's House



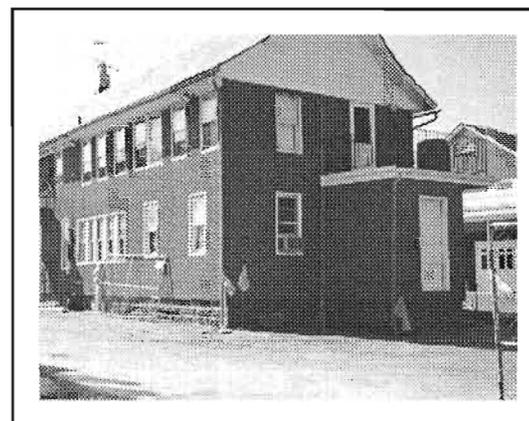
Kolssak Funeral Home (1999)



Dr. Benz's Son, Oscar



Dr. Larson's Hospital (1927)



Dr. Larson's Hospital (1999)



Church by the Cook County Department of Health. Newborns to five year olds were serviced.

Today Wheeling has a Board of Health. It is run by all volunteers. All volunteers must live in Wheeling and have some connection with or background in the health-care professions, including two members in the nursing field and a physician. It sponsors free inoculations for school age children, blood drives, and physical examinations. It was authorized to look after the health interests of village residents. Its major responsibilities include working with state and county boards of health and the U. S. Department of Health to help control *communicable diseases*.

What about care for the animals?

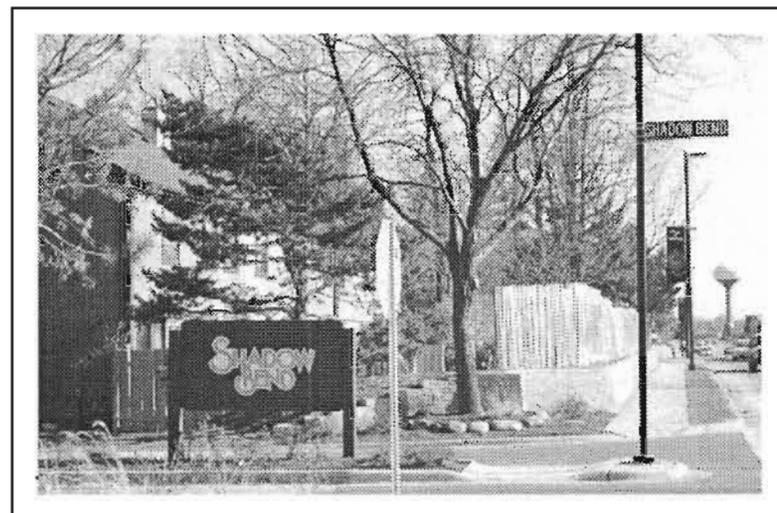
Dr. George S. Schneider was the first Veterinarian in Wheeling. He came to Wheeling 1853. His farm land included the area where Shadow Bend is today (1999). He covered the area within 40 miles of Wheeling and traveled about by horse and buggy.

Dr. Taylor was another Veterinarian in the area. He was born in Scotland, but lived in Canada. He started his practice in Wheeling back in 1957. He specialized in dogs and cats. In 1995 Governor Jim Edger proclaimed June 19 as Dr. Ian Taylor Day in Illinois for serving his profession in an outstanding manner and for his contributions to the field of veterinary medicine.

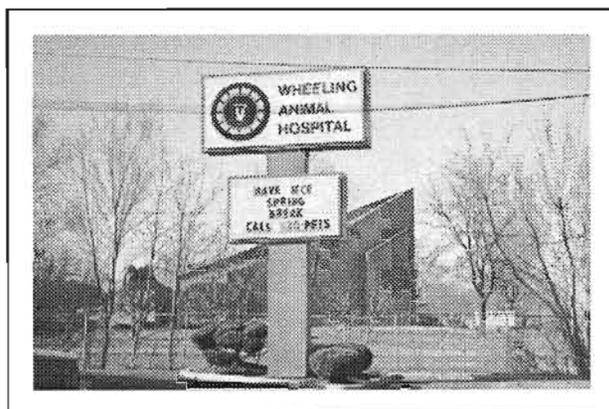
Today Wheeling has animal hospitals for the animals in the area. There is Animal Eye Care Associates, Animal Health Clinic and The Wheeling Animal Hospital.



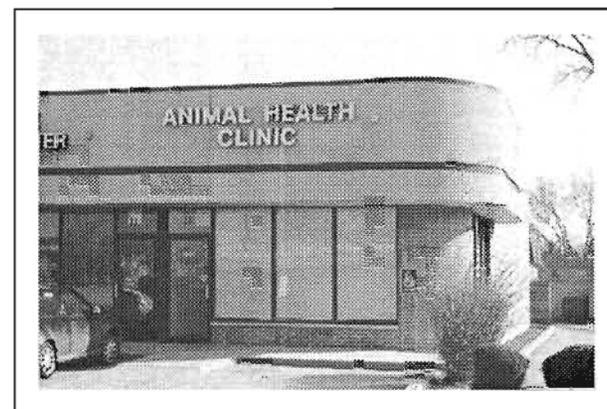
Dr. Schneider and Grandchildren



(1999)



(1999)



(1999)



What about transportation in Wheeling?

As mentioned before, Wheeling did not have a commuter train station until recently. Some people feel that this is one of the reasons Wheeling was slow to develop. A bus line was brought into Wheeling during World War II to take people to Chicago.

Busing service for the area as we know it today started in the 1980's. It is the Pace Suburban Bus Service. The bus also makes a convenient connection with inbound and outbound Metra Service for the Train Station.



Bus in 1940's

Did Wheeling Have a Newspaper?

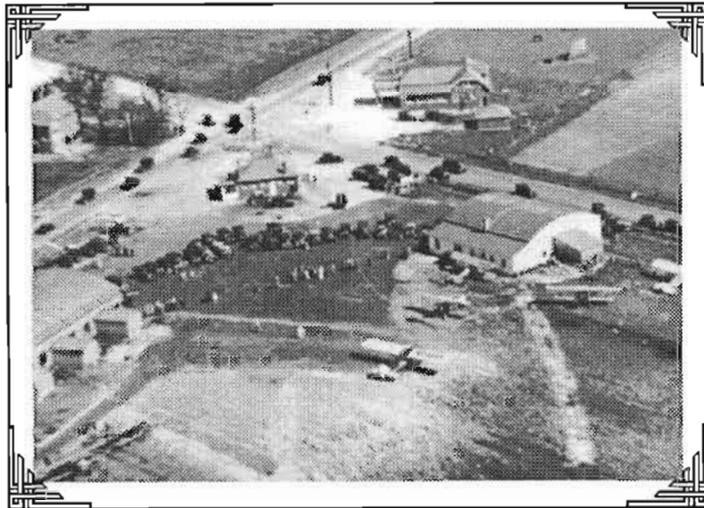
Some Wheeling newspapers were the Cook County Herald, The Wheeling Independent, The Wheeling Civic Sentinel, and Paddock Publications. Today there is the Daily Herald and The Wheeling Countryside.



Does Wheeling own Palwaukee Municipal Airport?

The City of Prospect Heights and the Village of Wheeling purchased the airport in 1986 from George Priester. The airport is located partly in Wheeling and partly in Prospect Heights. It is managed by eight people, four from Wheeling and four from Prospect Heights. It is self-supporting; *revenues* cover expenses. No village taxes support the airport, but Wheeling benefits from it financially.

Palwaukee airport gives the community more than transportation. It influences its economic growth and development. Besides direct money, the airport pays in taxes, and payrolls, it also gives indirect money from users of the airport that buy food, see entertainment and lodge in the surrounding hotels.



Early Palwaukee Airport

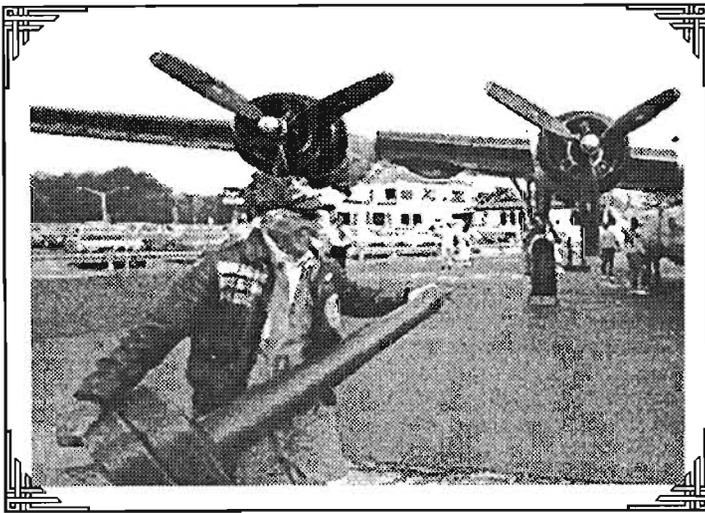


Palwaukee Airport Tower (1999)



Palwaukee Airport started in 1926. It was privately owned. At that time flying was just a “sport”. Flying lessons were given. There was very little commercial flying except for flights the Chicago Daily News scheduled to deliver papers to resort areas in the northern lakes region during the summer. It was also used for WGN Highway Patrol. The Goodyear Blimp was hangared at Palwaukee Airport during the Century of Progress Exposition in 1932-34. The crew made their homes in Wheeling at that time.

In 1953 George Priester bought the airport. This is the time the businessmen began using the airport. A control tower was built in 1967 by the Federal Aviation Administration. This was an important step in the development of the airport.



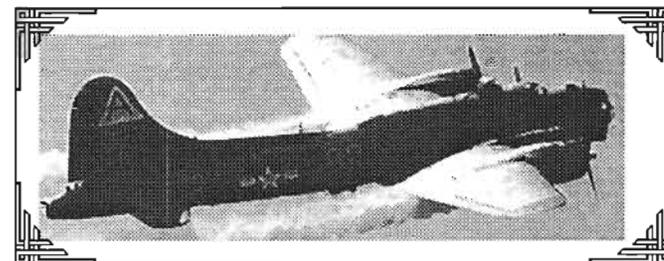
B-24 Liberator (1945)

The airport has over 320 aircraft, including 64 *corporate* jets. Palwaukee is also home to traffic helicopters.

Palwaukee has grown into the 50th largest general aviation airport in the U.S., and the third busiest airport in Illinois.

On occasion Palwaukee Airport has invited the public to see some historic planes such as the B-24 Liberator plane flown in World War II. It is a bomber plane that flew faster and carried a heavier load than another kind of bomber.

Another plane, the B-17, Fighting Fortress Nine O Nine used in the filming of “Memphis Belle” was also on display for the public. The original Memphis Belle became famous because it was the first B-17 to fly 25 missions and bring its entire crew home without anyone being killed.



B-7 Memphis Bell

When did suburbanization come to Wheeling?

A parade began ceremonies that signaled the birth of “New Wheeling” when village officials broke the ground for the \$540,200 sanitary sewer system to serve a population of 11,000. This improvement was part of a development program for Wheeling to include construction of 5,000 new homes, a disposal plant and a 40 acre shopping center. Farmland was purchased along Elmhurst Road in 1955. This land was divided for building homes. These were the subdivisions of Dunhurst Heights. There was Dunhurst East and Dunhurst West.



Sign from model homes in Dunhurst in (1955)

Dunhurst East was the first section to open. These houses sold for about \$14,000. These are the homes in the Mark Twain School area. North Wayne was the



first street to open. South Wayne was the last street in this section. The streets were named after the developer's children and grandchildren. In the beginning, there were no sidewalks or parks because it was farmland. There was a natural creek that ran along a block and a half south of Wayne that the developer graded over. This caused flooding in the area. This flooding continues to be a problem in the area during heavy rains.

After the Dunhurst subdivisions, Meadowbrook (by Holmes Middle School) was developed.

One thousand homes were built in a short amount of time and Wheeling became a suburban community.



Dunhurst Shopping Center (1957)



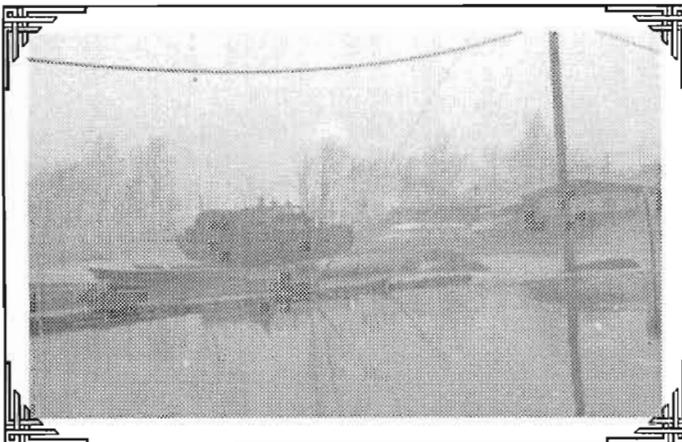
Dunhurst Shopping Center (1999)

What problems happened because of this rapid development?

Inadequate water, sewage disposal, streets, schools, telephone lines and flooding were all problems that happened as a result of the rapid expansion in the community.

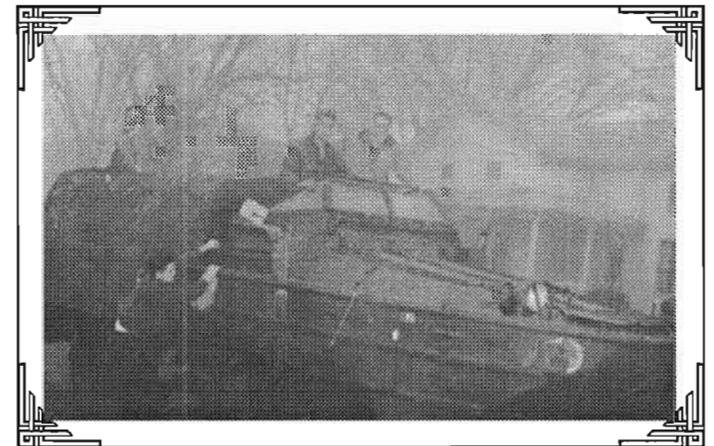
The school district imposed maximum taxation to maintain the pace with the growing community. Taxes were imposed so that the village would have money to take care of the growing problems. The “Old Wheeling” people were not happy with this growth and taxes that were being imposed upon the population.

Homeowner Associations sprung up to make sure their area had representation in the Village to solve the problems they were having.



Flooding

Military Ducks to
transport people
out of flood area





Which organization was formed to help bring the community together to help with the growth of Wheeling?

The Wheeling Junior Woman's Club was organized to bring the community together; "Old Wheeling" and "New Wheeling" to solve problems on a community-wide basis. The women worked together for the village. In 1958, the Junior Woman's Club worked hard to get the cooperation and support from organizations and individuals to support the creation of a tax-supported library.

The club went before the school board to present the issue for special education classes for the perceptually handicapped children. It resulted in a special education class for them.

This group was responsible for forming *steering* committees for the organization of a park district and for the organization of a historical society for the purpose of the discovery, preservation and communication of knowledge about the history of the community of Wheeling.

It formed a Community Council composed of village groups.

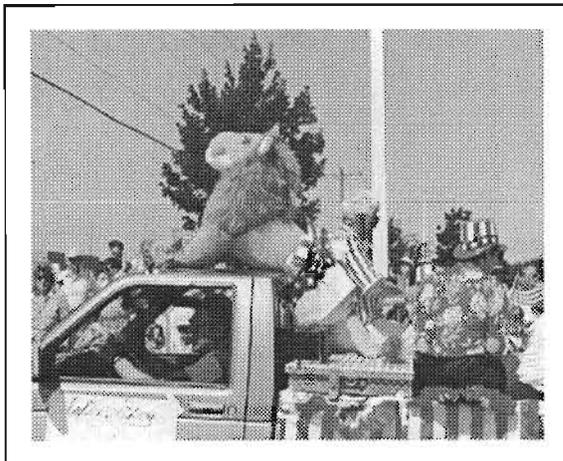


Amvets Hall (1999)

Which other organizations play an important role in the community?

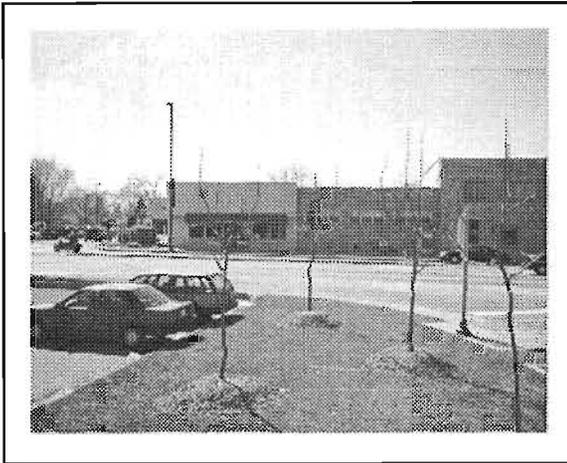
The Phillip Carpenter Amvet Post 66 was established in 1945 by John Forke. This is an organization for American Veterans. At first it met in the Village Hall and then the Union Hotel. It purchased a building on Milwaukee

Avenue, sold it and purchased the current property on McHenry Road. In the past Amvets ran a blood drive and at one time gave the most blood of any post in Illinois. It organized activities for the youth in the 1940's so that they would not get into trouble. They also raised money for the March of Dimes.



The Lion's Club was formerly the Wheeling Business Men's Club and formed in 1950. The club raises money to service the blind. The Leo Club is the teenage organization supported by the Lion's Club.

Lion's float in the 4th of July parade



Mason's Lodge (1999)
(Vitruvius Lodge No. 81)

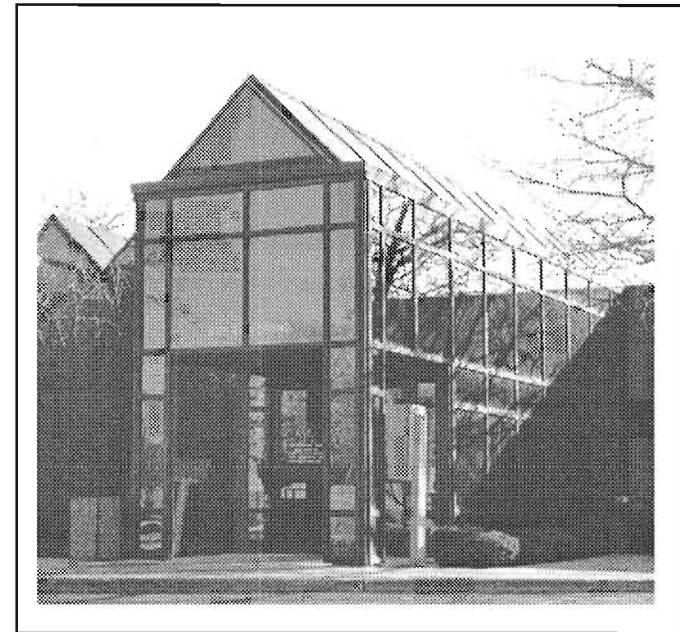
The oldest fraternal organization in Wheeling is Vitruvius Lodge No. 81 which are the Masons. The Masons have fund raisers for orphans and other organizations.

How does Wheeling take care of its Senior population?

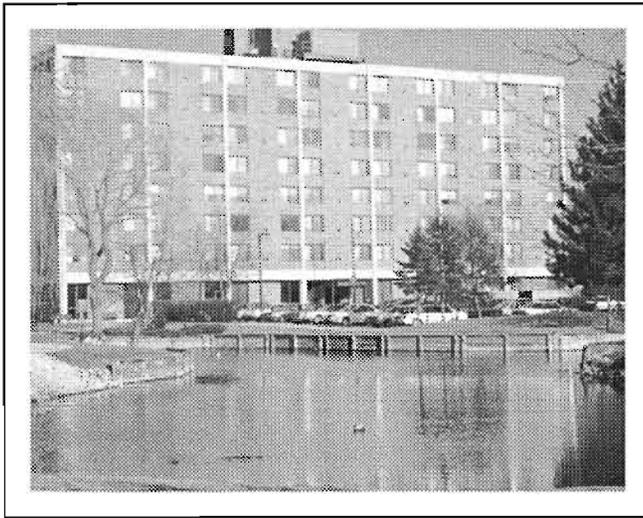
In 1985, the Pavillion Senior Center was

opened at 201 E. Strong Street. This land was part of the Utpadel Gravel Pits which played an important part in making concrete blocks for housing in the past. It has a two hundred unit building for senior housing and serves as a recreation center. There is a nursing home and the Holy Family Ambulatory Center is there for service to the community.

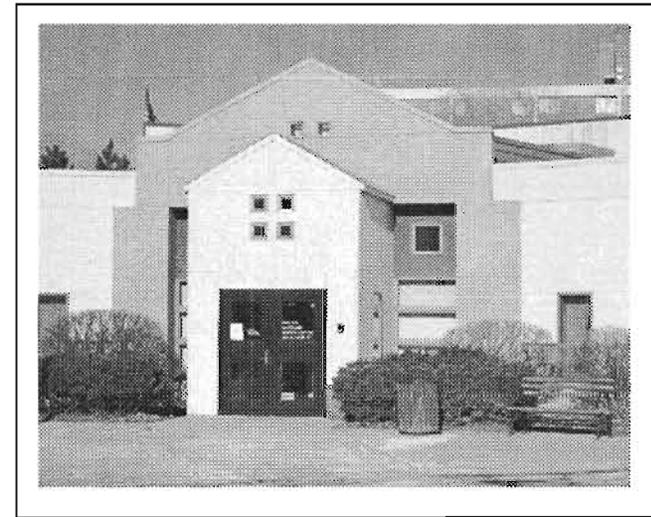
There are buses for the senior citizens to take them to activities as well as the grocery stores.



Holy Family Ambulatory
Center (1999)



Senior Housing (1999)



Pavillion Senior Center (1999)

How was Wheeling named?

No one really knows. The possibilities are that the village was named in honor of the storekeeper Russell Wheeler. Another thought is that wagon wheels which came down Milwaukee Ave. may have caused travelers to call the town Wheeling by association to those wheels. It may also come from some Indian description meaning, before the fork in the river or "place of the head." What do you think?



Conclusion

The history of Wheeling has been retold through the snapshots of the minds of people who have watched Wheeling change and grow. They have worked together with the other people of Wheeling to solve problems and meet needs within this community. It is in no way complete. Many questions are still unanswered from the past. Some snapshots may never be known.

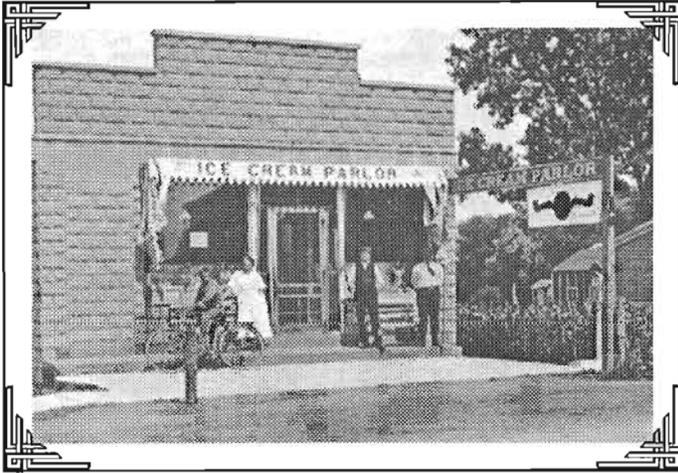
But this growth and change continues, along with people who are helping to solve problems and are working to meet the needs of the community today. Those of us living in Wheeling, will be the people with the snapshots that will be retold as Wheeling continues its history, ever changing and growing.



APPENDICES



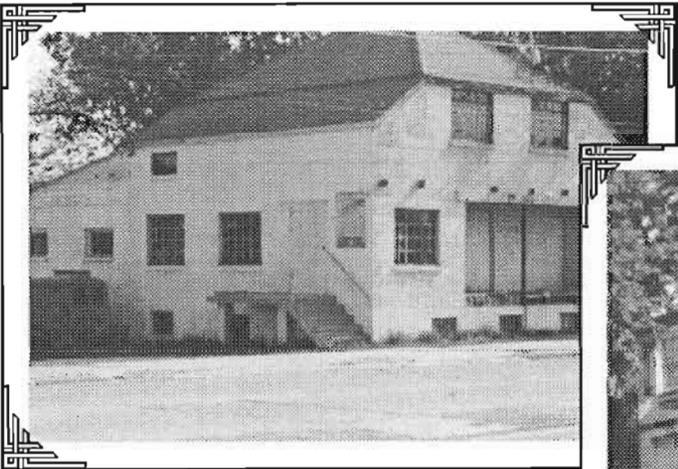
STORES THROUGH THE YEARS



Jensen's Ice Cream Parlor



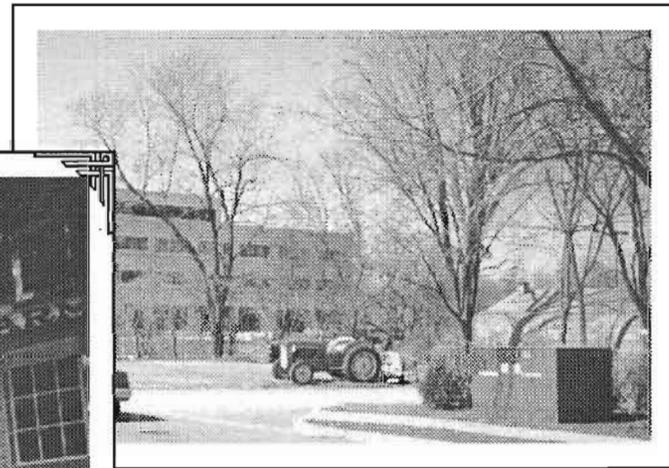
Crawford's Ice Cream Parlor Attached to Fassbender's Hardware Store



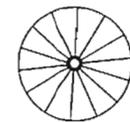
Reeb's Mill



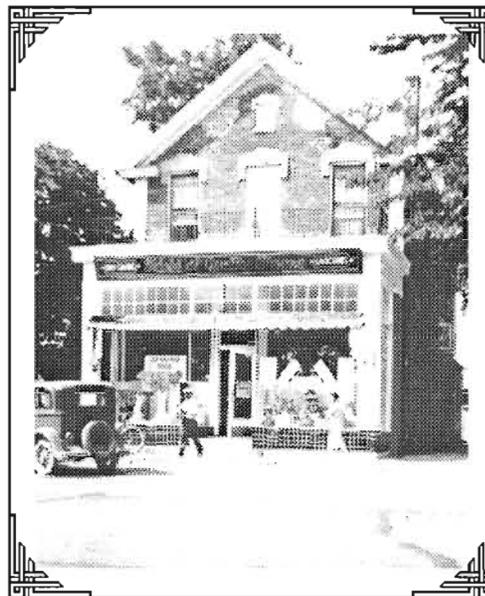
Wheeling Farm Store



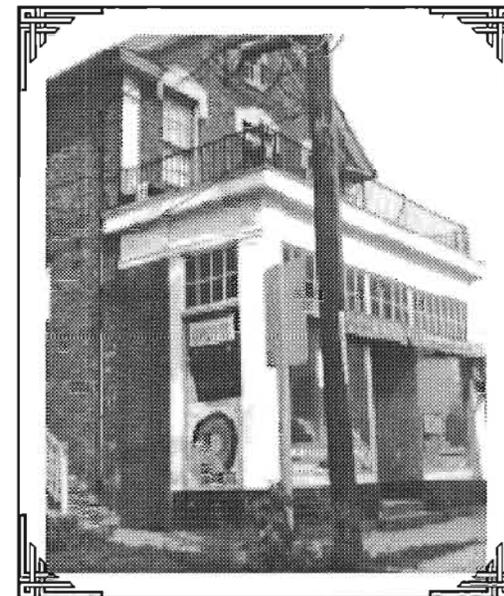
Former location of Reeb's Mill and Wheeling Farm Store



Bollenbach/Welflin's
General Store



Welflin's
Variety Store



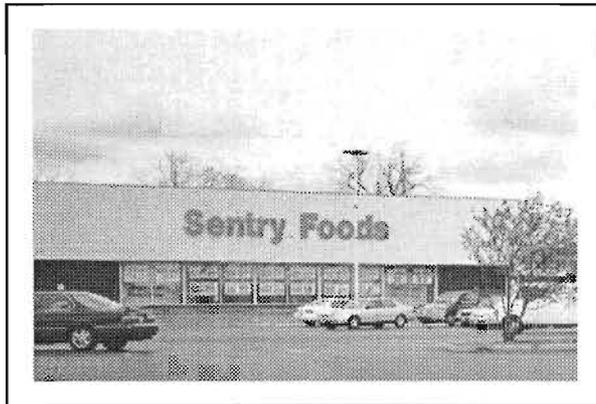
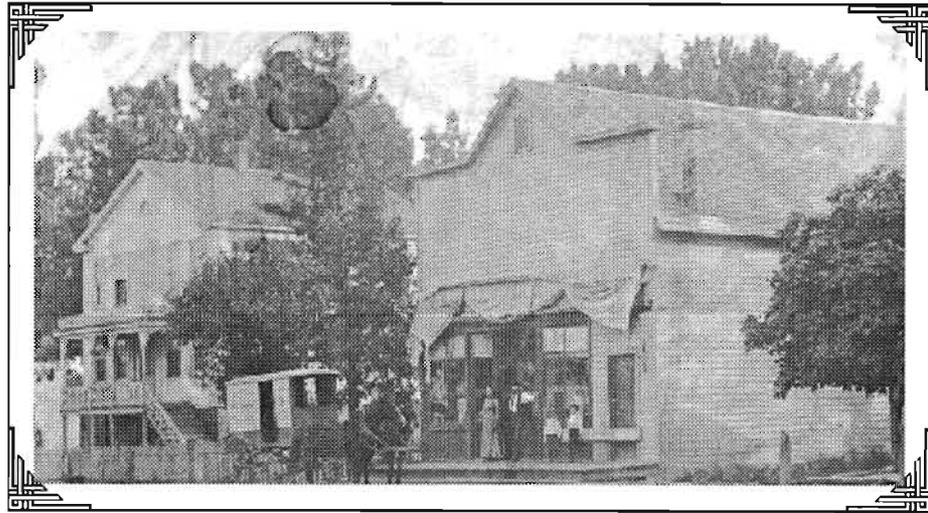
Welflin's
Sports Store



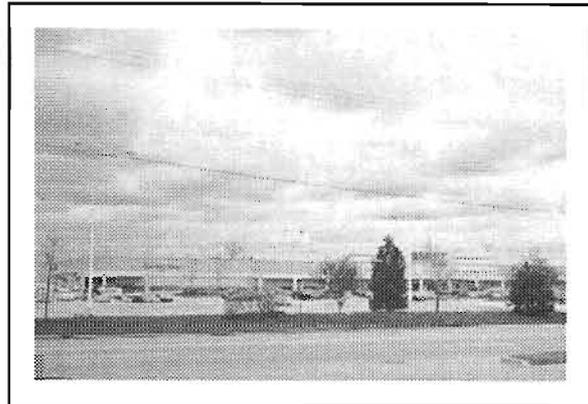
Inside Welflin's General Store (1918)



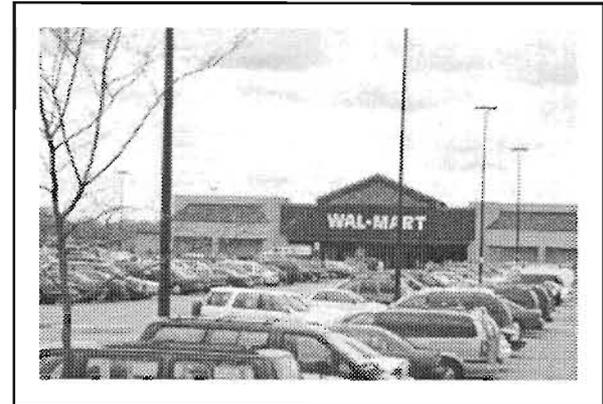
Inside Welflin's Variety Store



(1999)

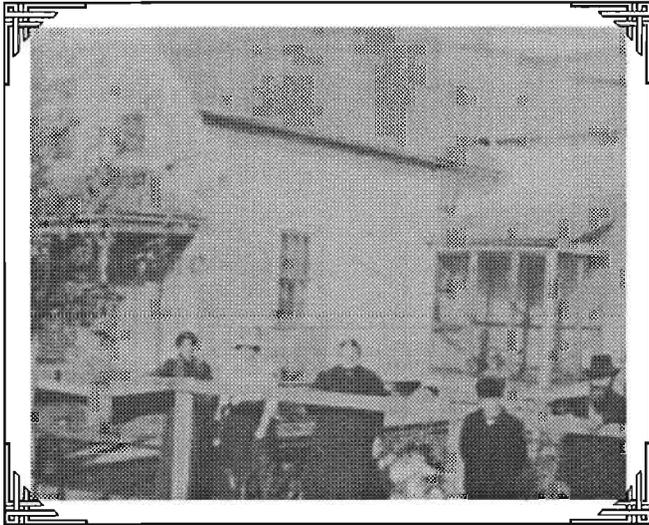


Big K-Mart (1999)



(1999)

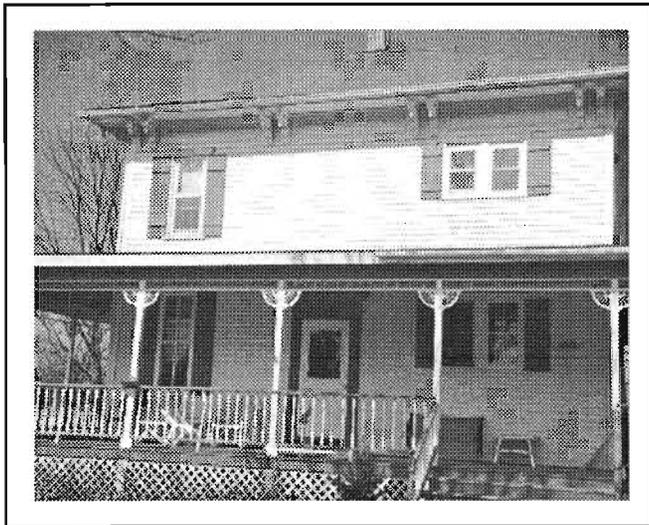
HOMES FROM THE PAST



Pioneer Wiest House



Wiest house Remodeled



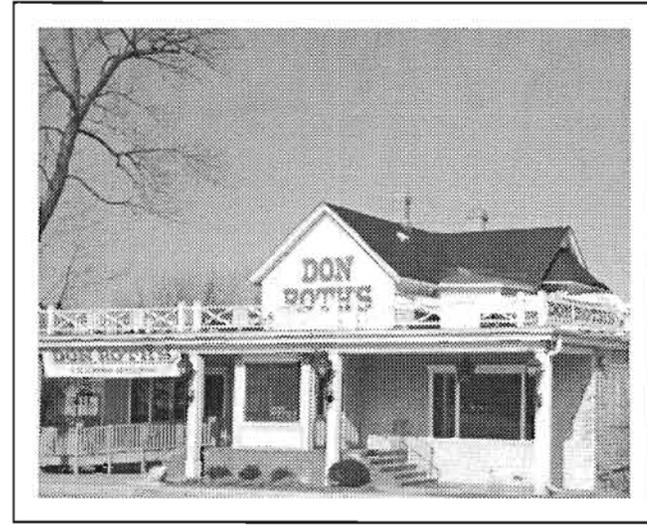
Balling/Welflin House



Reinhold Schneider's House
(Dr. Schneiders Son)



Schminke House owner of General
Store in Wheeling



Don Roths (former Schminke House)
Oldest House in Wheeling



Pieper's House



Mors House



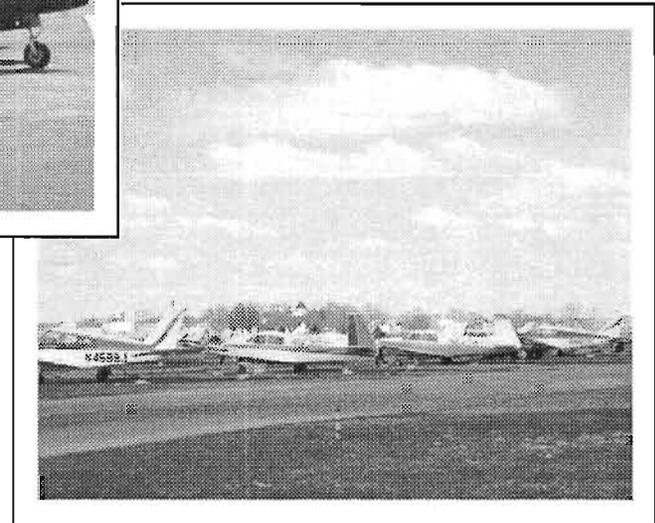
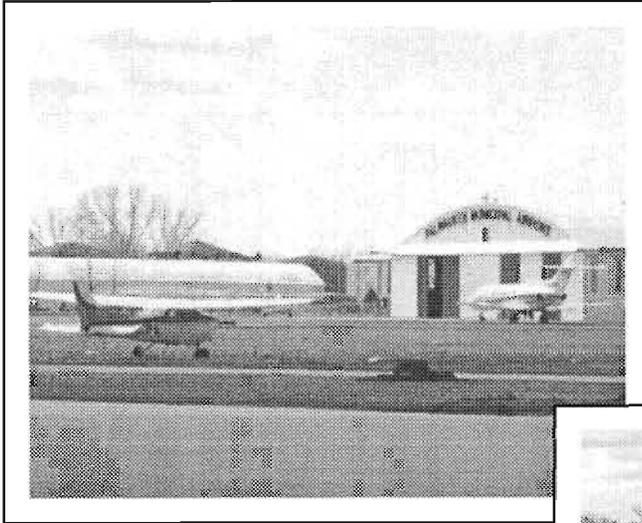
Pierolet's House



Dr. Benz's House



PALWAUKEE AIRPORT





Trivia of Wheeling

Joseph Filkins — seven hundred acre farm was replaced by Childerly Park, Chelsea Cove, Kingsport Commons, Lynn Plaza, north of Dundee to the DesPlaines River including the Post Office, several small shopping strips, McDonald's the Cole Taylor Bank and One Milwaukee Place.

Adam Weidner Farm — is now Lexington Commons. *in Brookdale?*

Mrs. Frances Crane Lillie's Childerly is — now Villa Addolorata and Whipple Tree Mobile Home Park.

William Hopps, Martin Armbruster and Dr. Francis Lillie — the property known as Buffalo Creek Farm is now Highland Glen, and Hollywood Ridge, Poplar Grove and Westbrook Farms subdivisions. *?↑*

John Utpadel farm and gravel pits — now called Lakes surrounded by Cameo Terrace Apartments, the Senior Pavillion and Complex, Capri apartments and parts adjoining Chamber Park.



The Oldest House in Wheeling (1860) is now Don Roth's. This was the Schminke house. He ran a General Store where the Masonic Temple is on Milwaukee Ave. next to The Two Doves Restaurant in 1880.

The Oldest House in Wheeling that is still occupied is the Welflin house which was built in 1893. It is now the Balling House. The Welflins and Ballings were related through marriage. It is East on Dundee Rd. just next to Cole Taylor Bank. The Welflins owned the General Store from 1918—1960. This house was moved from the south side of Dundee Rd. east of the river to its present location in 1939 when the Cook County Forest Preserve took over that land.

The name of Wheeling is known to many people throughout the country and in many foreign lands because the world famous kennels and training school of Willy Hecker are located here. With his troupes of dogs, Willy traveled miles with his acts. Everywhere he went, the name of Wheeling went.

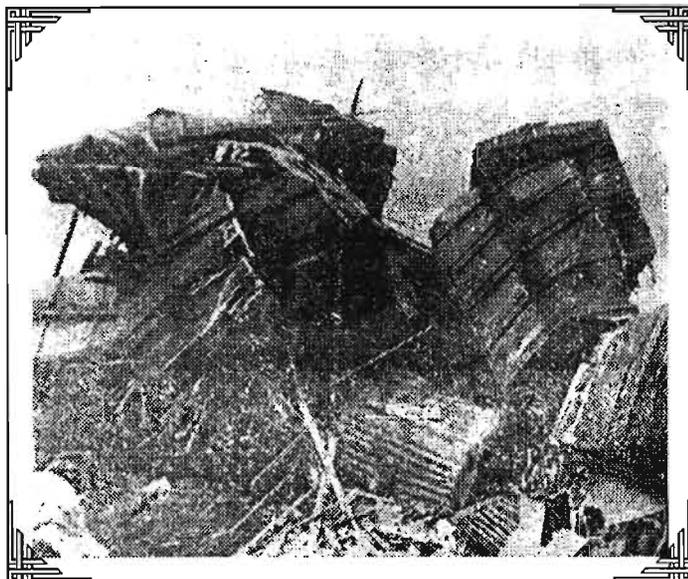
Huntersville — the subdivision that was planned at Wheeling Station that never happened. It was planned by Caterina Mors and her daughter Carrie in 1892.

Strong School — named in honor of George Strong near the Airport. No one seems to have information about this school.

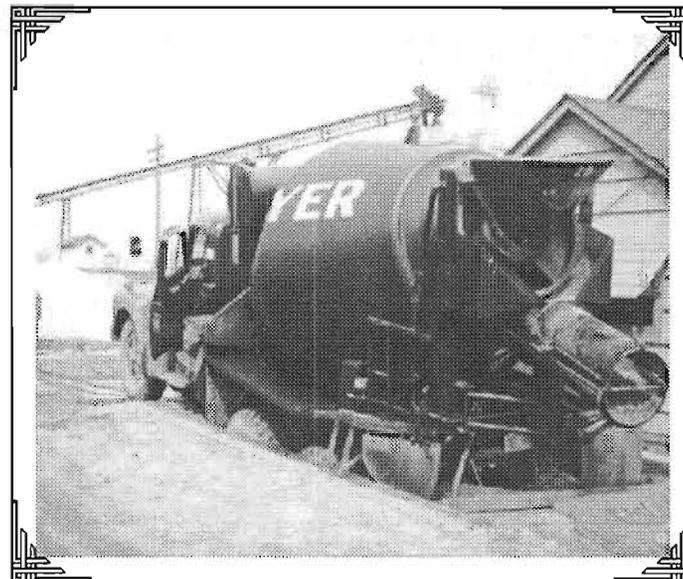
Train Wreck — On April 7, 1949 there was train wreck in Wheeling. It was a thirty-one car pile up. It was caused by a broken axle on one of the cars of the train.

Bank Robbery — An unconfirmed story from the 1940's was that the Village Bank was robbed while both Village Police Cars were being washed and tuned up at the local garage. The village saved money by doing it that way The police chased the robbers on foot, but they were never caught.

Meyer's Material Cement Truck was put on the weighing scale and it broke the scale.



Train Wreck (1949)



Cement Truck

Appendices (Continued)

Population Growth of Wheeling

110

Village Presidents

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INSERT
112



POPULATION GROWTH OF WHEELING

VILLAGE PRESIDENTS



Henry Boehmer	1894-1895
J.P. Hausam	1895-1899
Jacob Schwingel	1899-1904
Henry Boehmer	1904-1908
Jacob Schwingel	1908-1917
George Sicks	1917-1919
Jacob Schwingel	1919-1924
Lew Holtje	1924-1928
Julius Meinken	1928-1935
Hans Schmidt	1935-1945
Arthur Ortegel	1945-1953
Edward Gieseke, Jr.	1953-1957
A.R. McIntyre	1957-1965
Ted C. Scanlon	1965-1981
William Hein	1977-1981
Shelia Schultz	1981-1997
Greg Klatecki	1997-Present



INTERNET RESOURCE

www.wheeling.com

This site will link you to all sites related to Wheeling, Illinois.



A

agility — the ability to move quickly and easily: an acrobat's agility.

alumni — people who have attended or is a graduate of a particular school.

Audy Home — a place where children who broke the law would be placed for their punishments.

B

brewery — a place where beer is made.

C

cannery — a factory where foods are canned.

charter — an official document that states the duties or privileges of a group of people

claim disputes — arguments over who owns the land.

commercial building — a building having to do with business or trade.

communicable diseases — diseases that are easily passed on from person to person.

commuters — people who travel to and from work.

Constitution and By-Laws — the basic laws under which a group is organized.

Cook County Juvenile System — a method of deciding how children of Cook County who have broken the laws would be punished.



corporate — business

Court of Appeals — a Superior Court where people ask for a their case to be retried because they were dissatisfied with decision of a lower court.

D

developments — a group of buildings or houses built in a similar manner.

E

economic — money, goods and services and how they relate to each other.

emigrated — leave a region to settle somewhere else.

F

financial services — helping people

with their money management.

formaldehyde — a colorless gas that has an odor, used in a solution as a preservative.

frame — wood

fraternal — composed of members banded together like brothers.

freight — a railway train carrying goods only.

fuel — anything that is burned to give off heat or energy.

G

H

I

illegal — against the law.

inadequate — not enough or not good enough.

incorporation — the state of being united or joined closely

industry — the making or producing of things by businesses and factories.

J

juvenile cases — crimes that children committed that the police are investigating.

K

L

livery — the keeping of horses and

vehicles for hire or a place that does this.

livestock — animals raised on a farm.

M

magistrate — a government official who has the power to enforce the law.

manufacturing — making of products by hand or machinery.

migrants — people who move around doing seasonal work.

N

O

ordinance — laws made by a town or city government.



P

passenger — a person riding in a train, airplane, bus, ship, car, or other vehicle.

permanent — lasting a long time.

petition — a special request to someone in charge.

planking — a thick, wide, long piece of wood that has been sawed.

polling place — the place where people vote.

polygraph — a lie detector.

prairie — a wide area of flat land with tall grass and not many trees.

produce — fruits, and vegetables that are raised for selling.

probation — a period of time for testing person's ability, behavior, or qualifica-

tions.

property tax referendum— a vote by the people about money that needs to be paid to the government for their property.

pygmy — an unusually small thing.

R

ratified — approved

recreational — something done for amusement or relaxation of one's mind and body.

referendum — a vote by the people on a public matter.

retreat center — a quiet and private place.

revenue — the money that a government collects in taxes and other sources in order to pay its expenses.

**S**

steering — guiding.

subdivision — land that has been divided into lots for building homes.

suburbanization — becoming an area with homes and stores near a large city.

synagogue — a building or place used by Jewish people for worship and religious instruction.

T

telegraph — a system of sending messages over wire or radio to a special receiving station.

trauma — a severe physical wound or injury.

Treaty — a formal agreement

U**V****W**

widows — women whose husbands have died and who have not married again.

Wheeling Township — a division of the county which includes, Wheeling, Prospect Heights, Mount Prospect, Arlington Heights, and Cook County Buffalo Grove

XYZ



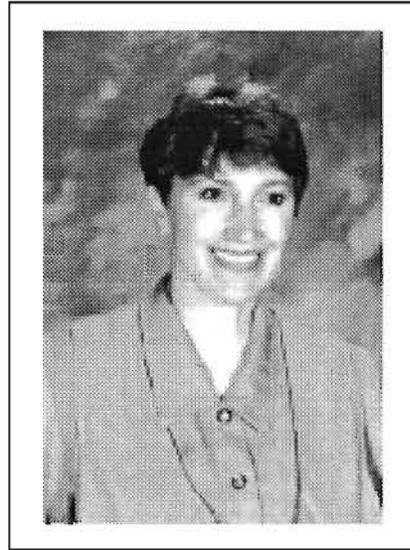
Dear Students,

I hope you enjoyed learning about the history of Wheeling as much as I did. Please talk with your parents and other members of the community about what you have learned.

But most of all, enjoy living, caring, sharing, and being a good citizen in the Wheeling community. Keep the “Snapshots of the Community” in your mind and heart always.

Love,

Mrs. Hunt



Gerry Hunt is a 2/3 multiage teacher in School District 21, Wheeling, Illinois. She has lived in Wheeling since 1969. Her daughters, Lynn, Tricia and Laura all grew up in Wheeling and went to Wheeling Public Schools.

Gerry received a B.A. degree from Northeastern University in 1967. She received her M.A. from St. Xavier's University in 1994. After receiving her M.A., she taught courses for St. Xavier's Field Based Masters Program as well as Classroom Technology courses for Roosevelt University.

SP