

WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
1987 - 1988

Wheeling  
Historical  
Society  
1987 - 88

## Pat-on-the-back cheers that will snap your socks

"Win in Wheeling." "Way to go Wheeling." "Wheeling's Number One." "Wheeling Ways are Winning Ways."

Well, what do you think? Any of those phrases snap your socks?

Maybe you could come up with something better. But with the looks of what this community has been doing lately, it seems appropriate to me that we should all be walking around chanting some kind of little pat-on-the-back cheer.

This has been quite a season for our village. Among other things, we recently became "published," with our own history book, *Wheeling Through the Years*.

As is proudly displayed on the Wheeling High School sign outside the school, WHS received the National Excellence in Education Award from the Department of Education this spring. The school competed with 10,000 others, and here in Wheeling, we won.

The individuals and student groups at the high school are also constantly receiving honors, for everything from the school newspaper to the band to the sports teams.

Not only did our high school receive recognition, but so did our junior high school, Holmes. Holmes was one of only 150 junior highs and high schools to win the National Secondary School Recognition Award nationwide.

Throughout Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, 120 students won the President's Academic Fitness Award; 23 students participated in the Celebration of Writing Program and from there the Young Authors Program; Holmes and Tarkington Schools won awards in the Illinois Science and Olympiad Program. In addition, a team of Tarkington students competed in the Illinois Math League where they scored in the highest quadrant in a field of over 800 teams.

Our Wheeling schools and students are really making us proud.

**Lisa Schab**

Wheeling



But the kids aren't the only winners. Adults are pulling through for us, too.

The Wheeling American Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam (AMVETS) Post 66 came home from their 42nd annual State Convention with high honors this year. Post Past Commander Robert Hettinger was elected to the office of Senior Vice Commander Department of IL AMVETS. They won the outstanding State Post "Scouting Award" for their dedicated work with Boy Scout Troop 79 and Cub Pack 218 which they have sponsored for the past 39 years.

Jasper B. Robb received the top honors of AMVETS "Scouter" of the year, for his personal dedication to scouting, the giving of himself, his time, and advice to Troop 79. They also won membership awards. The post Auxiliary won membership, hospital, and awards for their work at Pine Hill nursing home.


The ever-active Wheeling Jaycees honored us by receiving the Clarence H. Howard Memorial Award by the U.S. Jaycees at their 67th Annual Convention last month. The Jaycees were recognized as the number two chapter in the country in their population range. This is the highest award won by the group in its 30-year history.

The Jaycees also received recognition as the overall first place public relations chapter in the nation.

I tell you, Wheeling is on its way.

"If you can't win, make the fellow ahead of you break the record." —Anonymous

— 7/12/87



Wheeling Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**



THE PRESIDENT'S  
LETTER -

Dear Members:

Welcome back to a new year in the Wheeling Historical Society. Some members stayed busy during the summer by participating in the projects we undertook, such as the Old Settlers' Picnic, our 4th of July parade float, and being hosts at both the Museum, and Childerley. Thank you all for your help. Even though there are no meetings during the summer, the Society is still active.

Our first meeting is SEPTEMBER 23. As you know, our book "Wheeling Through the Years" is our way of telling the history of our village. The Mt. Prospect Historical Society has recorded its history in a slide program called "Next Stop, Mt. Prospect" which was produced by Mary Wajer, one of its members. To learn more about our neighbor to the south, we will have an opportunity to view this show, with taped commentary, at our September 23 meeting. I'm sure the program will be both entertaining and informative. I hope you will plan on attending the meeting. Your friends also are welcome, especially those who might be interested in the work of the Society. We have come a long way, but there is still a lot more we can do.

Frank Schnaitmann

---


When you think of Christmas  
or any occasion for a gift

Think of  
Wheeling Through the Years

Only \$7.95 at the Museum  
or phone 537-3497

---

THE CURATOR SAYS:



Be sure to see our new Civil War Exhibit, on display at the Museum. We are indebted to Robert H. Buerger, Jr., for this display of artifacts from the War Between the States. Bob is a member of Battery H, 1st Illinois Light Artillery, and the 55th Kentucky Thomas's Mudsills. Both are organizations that replicate fighting units of the Civil War and reenact its major military engagements. Bob appeared in uniform in Part 2 of the TV mini-series, "North and South." Now 38 years old, he became interested in the Civil War when influenced by an enthusiastic Junior High School teacher, and has been studying it and collecting memorabilia ever since. You can meet this member of our Society at a reception at the Museum from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, October 4.

DONATIONS

Many interesting artifacts have been given to the Society for the museum over the summer months. The donors and items are as follows:

Tony Altieri--Palwaukee Airport photos, pewter letter opener, Boy Scout utensils, books, Wheeling State Bank ads, etc.

Marshall Balling--WWI helmet (Willard Hanks), old bottle.

Carole Bartman--1846 Land Grant and three early photos of Bartman farm.

Sister Bridgett--Horse collar and shoes, related items.

Dorothy Flentge--1928 Boy Scout Handbook, Christmas tree ornaments.

Jack Haben--Edison Anniversary Book  
Carolyn Kolssak--old wash basin.

Barb McIntyre--Book, "Transcribing and Editing Oral History," notebook of Wheeling maps.

(Continued on next page)



4TH OF JULY

DONATIONS (Continued from page 1)

Fred Moeller--1946 Boy Scout Certificate, Scout By-Laws.

Jean Plue--(from Leonard Gershefske house) Wheeling Herald, old Christmas tree ornaments.

Roger Rockenbach--57 old photos.

Rose (Lexington Flowers) -- Work table and copier.

Esther Ruehardanz--Breakfront from apartment in old bank building.

Adeline Schneider--Box of old photo negatives by Lucile Schneider.

Elaine Simpson--Oval mirror, picture frames.

Red Tubbs--Picture glass.

Bud Utpadel--21 old photographs.

Rich & Marilyn Wachter -- Antique chair and hat box.

Bob Wargo--Rubber stamp.

ON LOAN

For summer exhibit:

Sandy Altieri--Knickers, children's coats, accessories.

Dorothy Flentge--Evening dress and coat, belt.

Barb Forke--Sunbonnet, accessories.

Lorraine Haben--Dresses & access.

Rudy Horcher -- WWII hammock and trenching knife.

MUSEUM TOUR GUIDES

The following have served as guides at the Museum over the summer months, some more than once: Tony and Sandy Altieri, Marshall Balling, Betty Barrie, Jan and Adrienne Broda, Bob and Eleanor Buerger, Sam and Irene Dattilo, Al and Lenore Feinberg, Dorothy Flentge, Barb and Margaret Forke, Bob and Barb McIntyre, Bernie and Emma Nathan, and Claire Rudolph.

Tony Altieri, Curator

IN MEMORIAM



Our condolences to the families and friends of those who have died since our last meeting: Joseph J. Behm, Jack Haben, Charles Rudolph, and Hugh A. Wilkins, husband of the late Edna Ragusin Wilkins, formerly of Childerley.

The Historical Society participated in the Wheeling 4th of July parade with a float featuring a large blow-up of the cover of "Wheeling Through the Years." To emphasize the pun in the book's title, President Frank rode alongside a high-wheel bicycle of the Gay Nineties, loaned by the Schwinn Cyclery on Buffalo Grove Rd. The float, mounted on the Society's flat-bed trailer and drawn by Jan Broda's Bronco, was planned and built by committee members Tony Altieri, Marshall Balling, Bob Buerger, and Sam Dattilo.

Following the parade, members and old-timers gathered at the Community Church area of Chamber Park for the Fourth Annual Old Settlers' Picnic. A record crowd consumed a record amount of food which was planned and served by committee members Betty Barrie, Dorothy Flentge, Willie Franta and Lorraine Haben. Dorothy introduced old settlers and encouraged them to tell some of their recollections of Old Wheeling and Isabelle Stevenson accompanied some spirited singing. With practice, each picnic surpasses the last.

CALENDAR

September

19-20, Long Grove Historical Society presents P. Buckley Moss art show & sale, 3-5 p.m. Phone 438-2053.

19-20, Northern Ill. Soc. of Grayslake "Drive Yourself" tour of historically interesting places in Mundelein-Libertyville area. For information write Richard F. Johnson, 505 S. Midlothian Rd., Mundelein IL 60060.

20-Shermerfest, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Northfield Inn, 1776 Walters Ave., Northbrook.

20-Pioneer Day, 1-6 p.m. at Elk Grove Historical Society, 399 Biesterfield Rd.

23-Wheeling Historical Society meeting, 7:30 p.m., Community Church in Chamber Park. Slide show by Mary Wajer with taped commentary, "Next Stop, Mt. Prospect."

CALENDAR (Continued)

25-Book discussion of "Wheeling Thru the Years," 10:30 a.m. at the Pavilion, 199 N. First St. Contributors whose taped stories are in the book will be present. All are welcome to join in the discussion, led by Pat Walsdorf.

October

- 4-Reception at opening of Civil War Exhibit, 2-4 p.m. at the Wheeling Historical Museum in Chamber Park.
- 8-Lecture on "The North Shore Line" by George Campbell, author of two books on the subject, 7:45 p.m. at Wilmette Historical Museum, 565 Hunter Rd.
- 15-N.W. Suburban Council of Genealogists, 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Prospect Library, Main and Central Rd. Martin Distler will tell how to trace German ancestors in Germany.



THERE GOES ANOTHER ONE . . .

Interesting old buildings keep disappearing. This summer we were surprised to see a pile of rubble where the Arlington Country Club used to be. We had expected to be notified previous to demolition, in the hope there might be some artifacts that might be saved.

Noted in a a taped interview not used in "Wheeling Through the Years" are these comments on the Arlington Club by Rudy Horcher: "We used to make money part time there. Then it was called the Olympic Country Club. It was owned by the the Chicago Police Department, and I remember during Prohibition, when there wasn't supposed to be any beer, they had a keg of beer at each green and Mayor Cermak flew in there in an airplane.

"There were springs on that country club. There were tiles about three feet off the ground, and you could just lean over and take a drink of

water as it came right out of the ground. I think there were three or four different springs."

Marshall Balling noted: "The Arlington clubhouse was built of what they called cinder blocks. A garage man from Wheeling got wind of a patent a fellow had on making cinder blocks. They were lighter than concrete blocks, and supposedly stronger. So he started a factory in Half Day and supplied the blocks for the Arlington clubhouse. So that has a little significance, maybe to the architectural fraternity."

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these members who have joined the Society over the summer months. Some are new members, others are old-timers who have volunteered to be recycled. They are: Charles D. Balling, Bob and Marge Hartmann, Rudy and Barbara Horcher, Hope McGlothlin, Don and Linda Pielin, Patricia R. Walsdorf, Hal and Anne Wambach, and Jim and Ruth Wieder.

BOOK REPORT

Publication of the Society's history, "Wheeling Through the Years," was celebrated with an autograph party on June 7. Seventeen of the authors got together to sign autographs and were surrounded by friends and relatives. Contributors to the book who sat in at the long table were: Charles Balling, Marshall Balling, Betty Taylor Barrie, Vivian Finkelstein, Dorothy Balling Flentge, Lorraine Schmidt Haben, Rudy Horcher, Syke Horcher, Shirley Koeppen, Oscar Laurance, Sister Therese Mary Martinez, Hope McGlothlin, June Grandt Orlovski, Adeline Schneider (who added "age 96" to her signature), Bernice Koeppen Schuler, Edwin Weidner and Ethel Fassbender Wieder. Among the 125 additional guests were The Hon. Grace Mary Stern, our 58th Dist. State Representative, and former Rep. Eugenia Chapman who observed how good it was to see so many children and grandchildren honoring their elders instead of the other way around.

"I think there were three or four different springs."

## Treasurer's Report

Checking Account Balance, April 22, 1987 \$ 453.98

### Receipts

Membership Dues Received	169.00	
Lifetime Membership, Betty Barrie	100.00	
	<u>269.00</u>	269.00
Transfer from Savings		1,000.00
Donations from Book Sponsors		1,900.00
Payment for Banquet dinners	307.00	
Banquet Raffle proceeds	82.00	
	<u>389.00</u>	389.00
Autograph Party Book Sales (118)	945.15	
Additional Book Sales through Sept. 12	2,433.00	
	<u>3,378.15</u>	3,378.15
Bank Credit for error		2.30
Cookbooks and Note Paper Sales		4.00
Old Settlers Picnic contributions		40.00
Adjustment to balance accounts		114.64
		<u>7,097.09</u>

### Disbursements

Joan Pound, Genealogy book and April program		20.00
Barb McIntyre, Memb. Brochure & Party invitations		68.62
Park District, for Banquet dinners and tips		307.91
Dreiske, for Banquet flowers		55.85
Bob McIntyre, book expense, printing preparation		830.44
Whitehall Company, final payment for printing		1,050.34
Superior Graphics, duotones for covers		300.00
Engraving World, plaque for editors		69.80
Hines, material for book cabinet		95.87
Ace Hardware, keys for cabinet		2.55
Eannarinos, book mailers		14.12
Autograph Party expenses		140.60
Stamps for Newsletters		22.00
Misc. Postage		16.68
Transfers to Savings Account		3,000.00
U. S. Register of Copyrights		10.00
Post Office Box Rental, 1 year		22.00
Old Settlers Picnic, Igloo Cooler		26.75
Old Settlers Picnic, 260 14-cent postal cards		36.40
4th of July Parade Float expense		128.33
Donation to Wheeling 4th of July Committee		50.00
Lorraine Haben, Chapel expense		13.80
Sec. of State, annual registration fee		5.00
		<u>6,287.06</u>

Checking Account Balance, Sept. 14 1,264.01

Savings Account Balance, April 22, 1987		7,875.16
Minus transfer to checking, May 21, 1987		1,000.00
Plus transfers from checking, May 28 and Aug. 4		3,000.00
Plus interest to date		191.23
Savings Account Balance, Sept. 14, 1987		<u>10,066.39</u>

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert L. McIntyre, Treasurer

LIFE IN WHEELING

## Scary stories, pranks from Halloween past

BY SANDY ALTIERI

■ Village President Sheila Schultz has announced that Halloween Trick or Treat will be observed on Saturday, Oct. 31, between the hours of 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. In recent years, Halloween fun has become very structured due to many hazards, including accidents incurred because of heavy traffic and poisoned "treats."



ALTIERI

How times have changed! Years ago, the Wheeling youngsters seemed to be more interested in tricks, which can be seen by the many pranks the teenagers conjured up in the '20s and '30s.

Oscar Laurance, son of former Wheeling railroad station agent, tells us how he, his brother and friend Earl Johnson nailed a large milk sign across the front door of the Village Hall after putting live chickens inside. They also placed two outhouses on Milwaukee Avenue after putting dummies inside — "a guy and his girlfriend."

They were also responsible for putting a hayrack on the roof of the schoolhouse. He relates, "We took it all apart and hauled it up to the roof, piece by piece, and then put it together again. People were surprised to see it there the next morning."

Longtime Wheeling resident Marshall Balling tells us of one of his worst pranks. He and some friends took the gate off of the iron fence at the Schneider place and put it in a cornfield down the road. Amelia Schneider, suspecting Marshall as the culprit, called him to ask where the pins were.

"They were individual pins to hold the gate, and they would have to be remade. It was a dirty thing to do, really thoughtless. I felt terrible. I don't think I ever enjoyed Halloween again after that."

Most of the kids stuck to the usual "tricks," moving outhouses from place to place, putting cornstalks in the road for cars to run over, and soaping windows. Finally, the roadhouses began giving out money, candy and

beverages to prevent their windows from getting soaped. Washing windows was never a pleasant job, especially if they had been waxed with a tallow candle.

At the west end of town on the farm at Childerley, the children experienced a different type of Halloween fun. There was always a party with dancing, games, fortune tellers, and bobbing for apples. There was a contest for the most ingenious costume with first-, second- and third-place prizes awarded. The best part of the evening was going through the basement that the older boys had converted into a "spook house." These were some of the memories of Edna Ragusin Wilkins, who lived at Childerley as a child.

These and other early Halloween stories can be found in the Wheeling Historical Society's recently published book "Wheeling Through the Years." The books are available at the museum, the Chamber of Commerce office, Cole Taylor Bank, and First National Bank for \$7.95. The funds raised from the sale of the book are used to assist the Historical Society in their efforts to preserve Wheeling's history for future generations.

■ Renewing the tradition of the spook walk through the basement at Childerley, the Wheeling Park District has sponsored a Haunted Ghost Walk through the trails of the park for the past four years. This year, it will take place on Saturday, Oct. 31, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Childerley Park on McHenry Road.

The walk, which takes approximately 15 minutes, takes you down a scary winding trail with unexpected visits by ghosts, goblins, witches and other creatures. This family event is free of charge and children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. It is not recommended for preschoolers.

■ By following a few simple rules when trick-or-treating, such as dressing the children in properly fitted light-colored costumes, accompanying them as they go door-to-door, and examining their treats when returning home, all the children of Wheeling will have a safe and fun-filled Halloween.



P.O. Box 3  
Wheeling IL 60090  
Museum phone: 537-3119

Vol. 1, No. 12 Oct. 1987  
Editor: Barb McIntyre  
Phone: 537-3497

Wheeling Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER



### THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER -

Dear Members:

I have some exciting news to report. On Oct. 15 the Wheeling Park District Commissioners voted unanimously to have the carriage house, now located behind the Doetsch Real Estate office at 268 E. Dundee Rd., moved to Chamber Park. It will become the third building in our historical village development. After three long years of meetings, the Society and the Park District are now working together to make the historical village concept a reality.

The Park Commissioners also voted 5 to 0 to hire Michael Dixon, whose architectural firm specializes in historical restoration and renovation, to act as architect for the carriage house. He has been retained to plan restoration work on the museum, too. Mr. Dixon will be at our October meeting to tell us about these plans. We hope you will plan on attending, so you can be fully informed on the museum work that will begin soon, and the Society can gain your input on the carriage house project.

Lonnie will handle publicity on the carriage house, and the Commissioners have authorized her to go ahead with it at once. She is planning on keeping the community fully informed as the project moves forward, and to have a photographic record made of the moving and restoration of the building.

As you can see, things are really starting to happen for the Society. If you haven't been too active before, now is the time to become involved. Attend our meetings and participate in our projects. The results can be most gratifying, and we can really use your help.

Historically yours,  
Frank Schnaitmann



### THE CURATOR SAYS:

Special thanks to the folks at the Horcher Farm on McHenry Rd. for donating pumpkins and corn stalks which we used to decorate the museum entry.

The Oct. 10 work day at the Museum was cancelled for lack of interest by Society members. NO ONE SHOWED UP!

We have purchased some shelving and are now in the process of organizing the artifacts stored in the Museum basement. There is a lot of work involved and help is greatly needed. If we are going to continue to have quality exhibits, more participation by Society members is required. My wife is working at the Museum every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to at least 1 p.m. Members who are available during these hours are encouraged to come in and help. Your assistance will be very much appreciated.

In compliance with state law, in order to receive the Museum Tax our Museum must be open one day a week. Therefore someone from the Society must be at the Museum each Sunday. With our large membership, each member will only have to be there once or twice a year. Attendance runs from 8 to 30 people each Sunday, depending on the weather. I encourage all of you to take a turn. Everything in the Museum is labeled; therefore the visitors usually don't ask many questions. If each member takes his turn, the burden will be lifted from the few "regulars."

The Museum will be open during the hours of Lollipop Lane and will feature an antique toy exhibit and our usual "old-fashioned Christmas" decorations. Society member Don

(Continued on next page)

# It's beginning to look a lot like Halloween

The leaves are blowing, the chill is in the air at night — just in time for next week's holiday, Halloween.

Those of us who have grown up with the effects of mass marketing and modern miracles of technology are used to certain signs of Halloween, letting us know that Oct. 31 is really on its way.

Bags of bite-size candy bars suddenly appear to jump out at us from every aisle in the grocery store; cartoon characters previously only seen by our children on Saturday morning television, now hang their masks and capes in every drug store and variety store, beckoning kids to try them on and become a "Superfriend" for a night; roadside stands, as well as grocery store produce departments overflow with pumpkins of all sizes, apple cider and popcorn balls; and of course, Halloween comes out with yet another line of holiday cards.

There's no mistaking it, Halloween is here.

But what happened in the days before advertising and gimmicks made our decisions for us — and what did kids do on Halloween night before "teepeeing" became the fashionable trick of the evening?

According to our village history book, "Wheeling Through the Years," Halloween was a prankster's mecca even before Charmin came on the scene. Following is a "Hallow — Wheeling" Quiz, to test your ideas on the early days of haunting, tricks and treats in our community. See how well you know your Halloween history:

1. What was most often used as the subject of Halloween pranks in the early days of Wheeling? a) the village president, b) wooden sidewalks, c) outhouses, d) street-lamps

2. What would local kids place in the road at Halloween as a prank to slow down traffic? a) corn shocks, b) horse shoes, c) livestock, d) the first grade teacher

3. What was placed on the roof

**Lisa Schab**

Wheeling



of Wheeling School one Halloween night? a) a jack-o'-lantern, b) a buggy, c) the librarian, d) a hay-rack

4. What was harder for residents to get off of their windows than soap on the day after Halloween? a) honeycomb, b) kerosene, c) manure, d) tallow candle wax

5. What did the Chicago House give out to kids on Halloween night so that they wouldn't soap the windows? a) soap, b) sasparilla, c) cocktail napkins, d) ice cream

6. What were Wheeling residents likely to find missing from their yards when they woke up on the morning after Halloween? a) their gate, b) their horse, c) their vegetable garden, d) their mailbox

7. What would pranksters do to wagons on Halloween night? a) take off their wheels, b) fill them with hay, c) hang them from telephone poles, d) tip them over

8. What did Mrs. Denoyer have the Girl Scouts walk on as a game at her Halloween party? a) spiders, b) peeled grapes, c) cow bones, d) imaginary eggs

9. What would be hung from the ceiling in a "haunted house?" a) sewing threads, b) streamers, c) Kleenex "ghosts," d) lanterns

10. What would pranksters hang from trees in the forest preserve on Halloween? a) hay racks, b) scarecrows, c) skeletons, d) rakes and hoes

O.K., talk this over with your favorite local historian — or your family and friends — and mark your guesses. The answers will appear in next Sunday's column. Happy Halloween!

*"The gods too are fond of a joke." (Aristotle)*

# Exciting answers to Halloween quiz told

Happy "Hallo-Wheeling!"

Last week's column had a Halloween History quiz of sorts, and this week you get the answers. If your neighbors haven't read the paper, save it for a party game, and see how much your friends can tell you about Halloweens of the past in Wheeling.

The "fun facts to know and tell" come with compliments of our own village history book, "Wheeling Through The Years," now available at selected neighborhood outlets. Here are your answers:

1. What was most often used as the subject of Halloween pranks in the early days of Wheeling? No, it wasn't the village president. "Outhouses" was the correct answer. Apparently these structures made their way around the neighborhoods on Halloween night....

"It was amazing how that thing would move around town," said Marshall Balling. "One gang would come and put it in front of the bank, and the next gang would pick it up and take it two blocks south and put it in front of a barber shop. And then late at night it would wind up in front of the bank as a rule, because there was nobody there."

2. What would local kids place in the road at Halloween to slow down traffic as a prank? No, it wasn't the first grade teacher. The answer is "corn shocks." (At least they're biodegradable)

3. What was placed on the roof of Wheeling School one Halloween night? Now if you were looking for your answers in the history book, you had to read far enough to get this one right. If you stopped too soon, your answer would have been "A buggy." But if you kept on going, you found out that it wasn't a buggy, but a hayrack (according to Oscar Laurance).

4. What was harder for residents to get off of their windows the day after Halloween than soap? Remember, these are the days before spray paint. The correct answer is "tallow candle wax."

5. What did the Chicago House give out to kids on Halloween night so that they wouldn't soap

**Lisa Schab**

Wheeling



the windows? I don't know what the drinking age was back then, or if fake I.D.'s were ever in circulation, but the Chicago House was safe in passing out "Sasparilla" in order to avoid being the victim of pranks.

6. What were Wheeling residents likely to find missing from their yards when they woke up on the morning after Halloween? Surprisingly, the correct answer is "their gate." Apparently chain link fences and security systems just weren't as secure back then as they are today.

7. What would pranksters do to wagons on Halloween night? These kids must have really been creative — and strong. Apparently a lot of wagons were found "hanging from telephone poles" on the morning of Nov. 1.

8. What did Mrs. Denoyer have the Girl Scouts walk on as a game at a Halloween party? O.K., the correct answer is "imaginary eggs," which may not seem real exciting at first thought, but you have to understand the context. According to Hope McGlothlin, Denoyer told the girls that she was placing a dozen raw eggs on the floor in front of them, and they would have to walk through them blind-folded. After an anxious, careful walk across the floor, they learned that there hadn't really been any eggs there at all.

9. What would be hung from the ceiling in a "haunted house?" The answer is "sewing threads," which would brush people's faces and feel like cobwebs.

10. What would pranksters hang from trees in the forest preserve? Once again, "hayracks" are the object of choice.

Hope you scored well, had an eerie evening, and hung onto your outhouse. "Cold came to her, filling the hollows of her bones with spun glass." (Stephen King)

P.O. Box 3  
Wheeling IL 60090  
Museum phone: 537-3119

Vol. 1, No. 14 Nov.-Dec. 1987  
Editor: Bob McIntyre  
Phone: 537-3497

Wheeling Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER



### THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER -

Dear Members:

I would like to thank all those members who were able to make it to our October meeting. It would really be great if more could attend. Michael Dixon, our architect, informed the membership of the work now in progress for renovation of the Museum building. If you have driven past the Museum lately, I'm sure you have noticed the activity. The Wheeling Park District has agreed that the building should look as much as possible like it did when it was used as Wheeling's first Village Hall.

At the October meeting I announced my intention of appointing a Museum Committee with our curator as chairman. This committee will report to the Board and will assist the curator with various projects at the Museum and will help line up hosts and hostesses to serve when it is open to the public.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 18, a week earlier than usual due to Thanksgiving. Please plan to attend and meet our new members. There will be refreshments and a social hour after the meeting, and a chance to sign up for the activities of the Society that interest you the most.

Remember, Lollipop Lane opens Saturday, Dec. 12, and we will begin decorating the church for it on Tuesday the 8th. Lollipop Lane will last through Sunday, Dec. 20, and the Wassail Bowl will follow the opening on the 12th. Holiday goodies are needed for the cookie sale, as usual. Let's all work together and try to beat our 1986 records of 1,800 children who sat on Santa's knee.

Historically Yours,  
Frank Schnaitmann, President



### THE CURATOR SAYS:

We are grateful to the following, who made donations to the Museum during October:

Wheeling Amvets Post 66--Two large American flags, and small flag pins which we hand out to the Scout troops that tour the Museum.

Carolyn Kaczmariski--Six canning jars with lead lids, with well preserved fruits and vegetables inside.

Adeline Schneider--Barley Sack from Periolat Bros. & Co. Brewery, 1880's. Adeline was using it as a door mat for guests to wipe their feet (Shame on you, Adeline!). Marshall Balling rescued it and brought it to the Museum. It's a wonderful addition to our Schneider display.

Barb McIntyre--Photo of small child found in Kasten family trunk.

Ward family--A yoke for a team of oxen (incomplete but sound) found in the corn crib of the Phillip Rockenbach farm (Inverrary) when the George Ward family purchased the farm in 1916.

### MUSEUM TOUR GUIDES

The following served as Museum tour guides during September and October: Sandy and Tony Altieri, Marshall Balling, Betty Barrie, Margaret Forke, Bob McIntyre and Frank Schnaitmann.

Tony Altieri, Curator

### NEW MEMBERS

Shirley Ward McConnell  
191 E. Center St., Wheeling  
537-0524

Peg Bingham Sommerfield  
2120 Fonddulac Drive  
East Peoria IL 61611

Give Wheeling's History  
This Christmas — \$7.95

240 pages, 150 illustrations

Get it at Lollipop Lane or from  
Sharon at Cole Taylor Bank/Main,  
Judy at First National Bank of  
Wheeling, Jackie at Wheeling  
Chamber of Commerce or Mary at  
Indian Trails Library, and Billy & Co.

Wheeling Historical Society



Find ad  
in  
Herald

Lollipop Lane - 1987



Cookie Salesladies -  
B. McIntyre - D. Fanella



Mrs. Claus - Willie Franta  
Bob McIntyre

P.O. Box 3  
 Wheeling IL 60090  
 Museum phone: 537-3119

Vol. 1, No. 15, Jan. 1988  
 Editor: Bob McIntyre  
 Phone: 537-3497

Wheeling Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER



### THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thanks to all of you who devoted your time to Lollipop Lane or the Wassail Bowl. Whether you helped set up Lollipop Lane, made cookies, or assisted at Lollipop Lane or the Wassail Bowl, your help was greatly appreciated. Lollipop Lane was once again a success, with over 1100 children coming to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. That couple also made close to 100 residents of Villa Addolorata happy by having lunch with them, leading them in singing Christmas carols, and presenting them with small gifts.

Now that Lollipop Lane is over, it's time to turn our attention back to the Carriage House project. With the cooperation of the Wheeling Park District, we hope to have the carriage house moved over to Chamber Park in the spring. There restoration of the building will begin, as is now being done with the museum. I have only a few months left in my term as President of the Society, and I only hope the historical village will be started before I leave office. The Society has a good name in the community and I am proud of our members and the things we have accomplished. We now have two Life Members, Betty Barrie and Roger Rockenbach. Remember, let's all stay active in 1988 and a lot more can be accomplished.

Historically Yours,  
 Frank Schnaitmann, President

### NEW LIFE MEMBER

We welcome Roger A. Rockenbach Rt. 1, Box 255, Cable, Wis. 54821. Phone is (715) 798-3767. We are indebted to Roger for old photos, recently received through Lorraine Haben.

### THE CURATOR SAYS:

The museum will remain closed during the remainder of the restoration work. There is no definite completion date as of now. Sandy and I have been working in the basement and we could use some help. Anyone interested in lending a hand, please call me at 537-5110.

Tony Altieri, Curator



### NEIL REPORT

The last meeting of the Northeastern Illinois Historical Council was held January 9 at the Niles museum. The program, "Taking Oral Histories." was presented by Denise Christopoulos of Northfield and Yvonne Ryden of Morton Grove. They provided some valuable information on taping interviews, the importance of consent forms, and how to care for the completed tapes. They passed out a guideline sheet from the Oral History Association, which is on file at the museum.

Sandy Altieri, NEIL Representative

### CALENDAR

#### January

- 27 - 7:30 p.m. Wheeling Historical Society meeting at Chamber Park.  
 30 - 12 to 4 p.m. "Collector's Showcase, Arlington Heights Memorial Library. Collectors will be showing and sharing, no selling.

#### February

- 3 - 7:30 p.m. "Palettes and Photographs: Images of the Past" by Dr. Loren N. Horton, State Historical Society of Iowa, at Arlington Heights Library.  
 21 - 2:30 p.m. "Collecting Cookbooks" Wilmette Museum, 565 Hunter Rd.  
 Month of February - Boy Scout Memorabilia, Niles Historical Society, 8970 Milwaukee Ave.

P.O. Box 3  
Wheeling IL 60090  
Museum phone: 537-3119



Wheeling Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 1, No. 16, February, 1988  
Editors: Barb and Bob McIntyre  
Phone: 537-3497



THE PRESIDENT'S  
LETTER -

1988 should be a very exciting year for the Wheeling Historical Society and I hope that all our members will become actively involved. The Liaison Board and Carriage Committee meeting held with the Park District on February 2 proved to be very fruitful. Michael Dixon, the architect, was given information concerning what we envision the carriage house to be like, and he will proceed from there. Hopefully we will have the carriage house at Chamber Park within a few months.

At our January meeting I appointed Betty Barrie, Willie Franta and Lorraine Haben as co-chairmen of the Pot Luck Dinner and White Elephant Auction, with Bob Buerger and Jan Broda as auctioneers. I hope a many of you will be able to attend because it always is a lot of fun. Start looking around the house for items to bring for the auction, and please, please RSVP by Thursday, Feb. 18 as the caterers have to know exactly how many people to provide for. Yes, the Pot Luck Dinner is catered--don't let that confuse you.

Let's all work together and make 1988 the best year the Historical Society has ever had.

Historically Yours,  
Frank Schnaitmann, President

MUSEUM WORK CONTINUES

Though hampered by bad weather, work on the exterior restoration of the Wheeling Historical Museum continues. We hope to greet visitors again soon.

MILWAUKEE AVENUE UPDATE

"Making Milwaukee Ave. a six-lane highway means the end of Old Wheeling," said Otto Orłowski at the Illinois Department of Transportation meeting with the public in the village hall Feb. 10. Early pictures of Milwaukee Ave. show it as a two-lane gravel road, overhung with trees and flanked by homes with large front lawns as well as places of business.



The paving of Milwaukee Ave., which was completed in 1923 to accommodate automobile traffic, brought prosperity to restaurant and tavern owners as well as traffic problems. Shirley Ward McConnell noted that around 1927 "Wheeling lost its natural, small-town charm when trees were taken down and Milwaukee Ave. was widened to four lanes."

Our Society is doing its best to preserve the memory of Old Wheeling through our oral history, "Wheeling Through the Years," and the Old Settlers Picnics on the Fourth of July where we record reminiscences to add to our oral history. We are making every effort to preserve and restore some old buildings typical of the early era, in the Historical Village being created between the first village hall and the old Presbyterian church in Chamber Park. --Eds.

2/4/88  
File 50 Lab

### Wheeling history

The Wheeling Historical Society has come across an unusual, yes even out-of-the-ordinary piece of Wheeling history. It appears that Milwaukee Avenue was once known as the Great Western Main Road prior to 1860, and at that time it was a toll road. (You mean they actually turned a toll road into a free road? It looks that way). The toll was 45 cents. Now there's one for the books. Unfortunately, this bit of trivia wasn't discovered until after the publication of "Wheeling Through the Years," our local history book. The society suggests that you could pencil this in at the back of the book.

## Daily Herald

Friday, February 26, 1988

# Phone book shows Old Union Hotel

A historic photograph of a building in Wheeling will be featured on the regional Illinois Bell phone book distributed to residents of Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, Long Grove, Prairie View, Half Day and Aptakisic this spring.

Barb and Bob McIntyre, Wheeling Historical Society members, said the society submitted the picture of the old Union Hotel, to National Suburban Directories last April. The picture is also the cover of Wheeling's history book, "Wheeling Through the Years," which was compiled and edited by the McIntyres.

"We're kind of excited," Barb McIntyre said. "The picture is the same as the cover of our book, and there's going to be a page inside the phone book describing the cover, which will hopefully mention the historical society."

The old Union Hotel, built in 1856, was partially destroyed by fire in 1925. It was rebuilt the following year and now houses Billy and Company restaurant, at 124 S. Milwaukee Avenue.

The new phone books should be out March 15.

P.O. Box 3  
Wheeling IL 60090  
Museum phone: 537-3119

Vol. 1, No. 17, March 1988  
Editors: Barb and Bob McIntyre  
Phone: 537-3497



Wheeling Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**



THE PRESIDENT'S  
COMMENTS -

Thanks to all our members who attended the short February meeting and the Pot Luck Dinner. There were 50 in attendance and it appeared that all enjoyed themselves. The Liaison Board and Carriage Committee have been meeting with the Park District staff and Architect Michael Dixon concerning the carriage house. I have been in touch with Bob Fialkowski at the Village Hall and was informed that as soon as they obtain the keys to the Sicks building, Society members will be able to go through it and see if there is anything of historic value that should be removed before it is torn down.

The Park District staff and the architect have met with the Village staff to see that all necessary requirements are met to facilitate moving the carriage house over to Chamber Park. The Wheeling Park District has designated Chamber Park as a historic preservation park. Hopefully, within the next few months the carriage house will be there, ready to display the carriages which have been given to the Society by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thompson.

Remember, the Society's Nominating Committee will report at the March meeting and the election is scheduled for April. Offices to be filled are those of President, Secretary, Curator and Director. According to the By-laws, officers are elected for two-year terms, and are permitted to serve for only two consecutive terms of office.

Historically yours,  
Frank Schnaitmann

HISTORICAL  
ELECTION NOTE

When residents of the First Precinct vote this week, they will again be brushed by Wheeling history. Not only is their polling place the original Community Church, but their precinct is one of the earliest in the Township. Dem. Committeeman Eugenia Chapman feels that the first four precincts were set up at the same time, one in each quadrant of the six mile square Township. Prior to its organization in 1850, the territory was politically known as Wheeling Precinct and encompassed parts of Maine and Northfield Townships as well as the area now known as Wheeling Township. When voting was necessary, it was done at Wilcox's Tavern, which was located at the junction of Milwaukee Ave. and the Des Plaines river.

As the land was settled and the population grew, more and more precincts were needed until today there  
(Continued on next page)

SALTS OF THE EARTH

Man has always had a taste for salt, and over the years has designed many ingenious containers to hold it at the table. Barbara Rasmussen will present a program on these "Salts" at the Society's March meeting, at 7:30 p.m. on the 24th. Her own collection numbers some 400 pieces. She is a member of the Questors, and of Arlington Heights Historical Society, in addition to being on the Board of the Wheeling Historical Society.





## 'Wheeling Through the Years' books on sale

We're going down in history... Approximately 600 "Wheeling Through The Years" history books have already been sold by the Wheeling Historical Society. Anyone interested in buying their own copy may do so at one of several locations around the village that is stocking the books. These include: The Wheeling Village Hall; Billy and Company Restaurant; Cole Taylor Bank; First National Bank of Wheeling, and the Indian Trails Library.

Lisa Schab



Wheeling

3/27/88

## Wheeling is featured on suburban directory

If you've received your copy of the National Suburban Directory already, you've probably noticed what's featured on the cover: Wheeling.

More precisely, "Wheeling Through the Years," our community history book, published last fall by the Wheeling Historical Society. Along with the cover illustration, there is information inside of the phone book identifying the old Union Hotel (today's Billy & Company Restaurant), and crediting the historical society.

"Wheeling Through the Years" is a 240-page paperback featuring a narrative history of our village. It contains 150 illustrations, photographs, and "from the horse's mouth" (actually the early settler's mouths) accounts of the history of Wheeling. The historical society reports that sales have now topped the 600 mark, and are still moving.

Occasionally, the historical society will receive some new, old information — stories or statistics that could have been included in the book, but didn't surface until after publication. In step with election and our recent primary are some early Wheeling precinct notes:

*"Democratic Committeeman Eugenia Chapman feels that the first four precincts were set up at the same time, one in each quadrant of the six mile square township. Prior to its organization in 1850, the territory was politically known as Wheeling Precinct; it encompassed parts of Maine and Northfield townships as well as the area now known as Wheeling Township."*

The present polling place of the Community Church in Wheeling is the original church of days gone by. Voting used to be done at the Wilcox's Tavern, located at the junction of Milwaukee Avenue and the Des Plaines River.

As the population has grown, so have the number of precincts, with the number now up to 134. The original Precinct Number 1 has shrunk down in size so that it now contains only about twelve blocks. Precinct Number 131, which is located a little bit east of the river, also votes at the chamber park Community Church. The church, built in 1865, is now the regular meeting place of the Wheeling Historical Society.

In other "New-Old" news, the

Lisa Schab



Wheeling

historical society reports Dorothy Flentge's memories of people coming to Wheeling for their summer vacation. For those of us who live here, and annually flee to Wisconsin or California or points abroad for our summer days of leave, this comes as a bit of a surprise.

But Flentge remembers when Dr. Ian Taylor's Veterinary Hospital on Milwaukee Avenue was the Grew (Graves) home, and had cottages on the property behind where the gas station now stands. Apparently folks also headed Wheeling way around the Fourth of July to set up campsites by the river. Fathers could easily commute to the city while their families enjoyed a few pleasant summer days or weeks of river life. (Pleasant unless flooded.)

Gert Trunda tells that the homes on Meadow Lane in Wheeling also started out their lives as summer cottages, and the Ceil Sharkey residence on Strong Avenue had the same beginning. The Sharkey front hall, in fact, was featured in Better Homes and Gardens magazine one year (1950?).

And, as you're driving down Milwaukee Avenue on the next fine spring day, look out of the car window for a minute and try to picture that main thoroughfare as a two-lane road. It was 1916 when Milwaukee was first paved from Niles to Dundee Road, and in 1923 it was completed.

The paving brought additional and welcome business to the taverns and restaurants along the way, but also spoiled some of the "small town charm." It brought with it some new traffic problems too. (Who was it that said, "the more things change, the more they stay the same?")

*"The problem is not therefore, to suppress change, which cannot be done, but to manage it." Alvin Toffler.*

Your "Local" Independent Telephone Directory



yellow pages

**WHEELING • APTAKISIC  
BUFFALO GROVE • HALF DAY  
LONG GROVE • PRAIRIE VIEW  
1988-89**



AIRLINES TERMINAL MAP  
BUS/TRAIN SCHEDULE  
CHICAGO METRO ATTRACTIONS  
COMMUNITY INFORMATION  
COUPON SECTION  
DIAL-LAW  
DIAL-PET

EMERGENCY NUMBERS  
FIRST-AID  
HEALTH-LINE  
LOCAL MAPS  
POSTAL INFORMATION  
RESTAURANT GUIDE  
SPORTS CALENDARS



**national suburban directories, inc.**

**Wheeling Historical Society**

84 South Milwaukee Avenue • Wheeling Illinois 60090  
Post Office Box 3 Wheeling IL 60090  
Robert L. McIntyre, Secretary  
Frank Schnaitmann, President

Congress  
of  
Illinois  
Historical  
Societies  
and  
Museums  
at

Naper  
Settlement

March 10 - 1988



Betty Berrie

Dolly Mein





P.O. Box 3  
Wheeling IL 60090  
Museum phone: 537-3119

Vol. 1, No. 18, April 1988  
Editors: Barb and Bob McIntyre  
Phone: 537-3497

Wheeling Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**



THE PRESIDENT'S  
COMMENTS

Dear Members:

This will be my final letter to you as President of the Wheeling Historical Society. The past four years have gone by quickly. I am grateful to all of you who have worked so hard to make my job easier. I am also grateful to the members of my Board. I'm sure you will all continue to help your new President.

It seems that every project we have undertaken in the last four years has been a success. With successful projects like Lollipop Lane, the Old Settlers' Picnic, our book "Wheeling Through the Years," and the Historical Preservation Project we are undertaking with the Wheeling Park District, the future of the Wheeling Historical Society really looks good. Our membership continues to grow and I've heard nothing but compliments concerning the Society. We are really starting to make an impression on the residents of Wheeling. Keep up the good work and the Society's future will look even brighter.

Historically yours,  
Frank Schnaitmann

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome back Isabelle Stevenson and add her to your membership list. Her address is 168 Center Ave. and her phone is 537-0452. And Barbara and Gloria LaHay have rejoined. Their address is 123 W. Manchester Dr., phone 537-0451. Audie and Pat Boulton are also new members who are far from new to Wheeling. They live at 127 N. Wolf Rd. and their phone number is 541-0625.

BOOK REPORT

Snowbirds are flying back from Florida and the Ozarks and we are now getting requests for "Wheeling Through the Years" from travelers who first became aware of the book while visiting old friends on vacation. The Spring issue of "Congress News," published by the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums, lists our oral history on their "Resources Bulletin Board" giving a synopsis as well as price and ordering information, so we may hear more from that source. To date, 627 copies have been sold. --Ed



TOY SOLDIERS ON PARADE

Don Pielin will present his program on lead soldiers and related toys manufactured previous to World War II. We missed his exhibit, originally planned for display during December, because the Museum was being repaired and restored. He has presented his collection before appreciative audiences at the North Eastern Illinois Historical Council and the historical societies of Niles and Morton Grove, and has an upcoming exhibit at Winnetka.

(Continued on next page)

# SPINNING WHEEL



By Barbara K. McIntyre

**THE WHEELING HISTORICAL** Society has talented members! "Collecting Salts" was the subject of member **Barbara Rasmussen's** program in March. On April 27, member **Don Pielin** will tell of his hobby of collecting lead soldiers and other related toys manufactured before World War II. Don is a social studies teacher at the Maple Jr. High School in Northbrook. He has given his talk and demonstration to appreciative audiences at the North Eastern Illinois Historical Council as well as the Niles, Morton Grove and Winnetka historical societies. The public is invited to the meeting, at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Community Church building in Chamber Park.

## Public hearing on historic area set for tonight

Chamber Park, located at 131 Wolf Road, is already the site of Wheeling's first church and first village hall, but park district officials want to restore and preserve even more buildings on that property.

A public hearing scheduled for 7:30 p.m. today will focus on the district's desire to declare Chamber Park a historic preservation district. Declaring the park a preservation site would allow the park district "special leeway on zoning restrictions," explained park commissioner James Gallagher.

He explained that years ago, a barn didn't have running water or bathrooms. And under the national guidelines for historic preservation districts, they don't have to have them, he said.


"I'm hoping this is going to be automatic," said Gallagher. "Hopefully, we're on our way to preserving history at Chamber Park."

The district now plans to move a historic carriage house from its location on Dundee Road to the park. But before the move takes place, a special use permit must be approved by village officials. And village officials would like to see an overall plan for any future buildings on the property before authorizing a special use for the carriage house.

The park district will pay for the move and restoration of the carriage house with about \$65,000 in revenues from its museum fund, said Park District Manager Karop Bavougian.

P.O. Box 3  
Wheeling IL 60090  
Museum phone: 537-3119

Vol. 1, No. 19, May 1988  
Editors: Barb and Bob McIntyre  
Phone: 537-3497



Wheeling Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**



BON VOYAGE

A Message to President Schnaitmann  
and Curator Altieri

This is the last issue of the Newsletter that will carry your handsome portraits on the first page. In September they will be replaced by two beautiful women. As our new president, Lonnie Schnaitmann, and curator, Betty Barrie, take your places, we know you will be supporting them just as they have helped you in the past.

Since you, Frank, took the helm of the Society in 1984 and you, Tony (and Sandy) brought the museum back to life in '86, the Society has sailed through rough and muddy waters. Trying to move the Sicks' carriage house from Dundee Rd. to

Chamber Park, to house the Thompson carriages, has involved four years, two architects, two Park District managers, a proposal to make St. Joan's House into an aquarium and another to put the museum underground in a flood plain which would have achieved the same result. Thanks to you we have weathered the storm; we're enjoying calm waters and the carriage house has almost reached port. Thanks, also, for not jumping ship.

Welcome aboard, Lonnie and Betty. We wish you smooth sailing from here on in.

The Editors



**Barber Shop  
Quartet**

They'll sing out the old, sing in the new officers at our Installation Banquet Wednesday, May 25. Having the annual event at Chevy Chase Country Club is getting to be a tradition. The "Schizophonics" will entertain again this year and that is an event we would like to see become a tradition. They are so great, and so appropriate for a Wheeling Historical Society function because their music reflects the sort of bygone era we are committed

to preserving. Craig Huotari sings lead and is known for his barbershop in Wheeling. John Gatto sings bass, Paul Gallagher, tenor, and Steve Presley, baritone.

There's still time to reserve your place at the Banquet, and guests are welcome. Cost is \$7.00 per person. Make checks payable to the Society and mail to Irene Dattilo, 403 Raupp Blvd., Buffalo Grove IL 60089. Reservations must be in by Friday, May 20. The social hour will start at 6 p.m., dinner will be served at 6:30; there will be prizes and surprises!

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

Countryside  
5/5/88



**THE WHEELING HISTORICAL**  
Society elected **Lonnie Schnaltmann**,  
president; **Bob Buerger Sr.**, recording  
secretary; **Betty Barrie**, museum cura-  
tor; and **Jan Broda**, director for this  
term. The annual meeting with installa-  
tion of officers and banquet will take  
place May 25 at the Chevy Chase  
Country Club.



Memorial Day  
May 30, 1988





# Wheeling Countryside

## 'Historical village' planned for Chamber Park

*The Wheeling Plan Commission has approved concept plans for a historical preservation district at Chamber Park on Wolf Road.*

By Lee Ann Gill  
Staff Writer

Years from now, Chamber Park may reflect more than just a touch of Wheeling history.

If the Wheeling Historical Society's dream comes true, an entire historic village may someday be located on the 6.2-acre park site at 131 Wolf Road. A conceptual plan for a historic community, complete with an old-fashioned general store and blacksmith shop, was approved last week by the Wheeling Plan Commission and will be considered by the village board this month.

Along with the site plan, commissioners also recommended approval of a special use permit to form a historic preservation district at Chamber Park. The special use would allow historic structures to be moved to the site without having to meet village building codes. However, the structures would be required to meet the national guidelines set for historic districts.

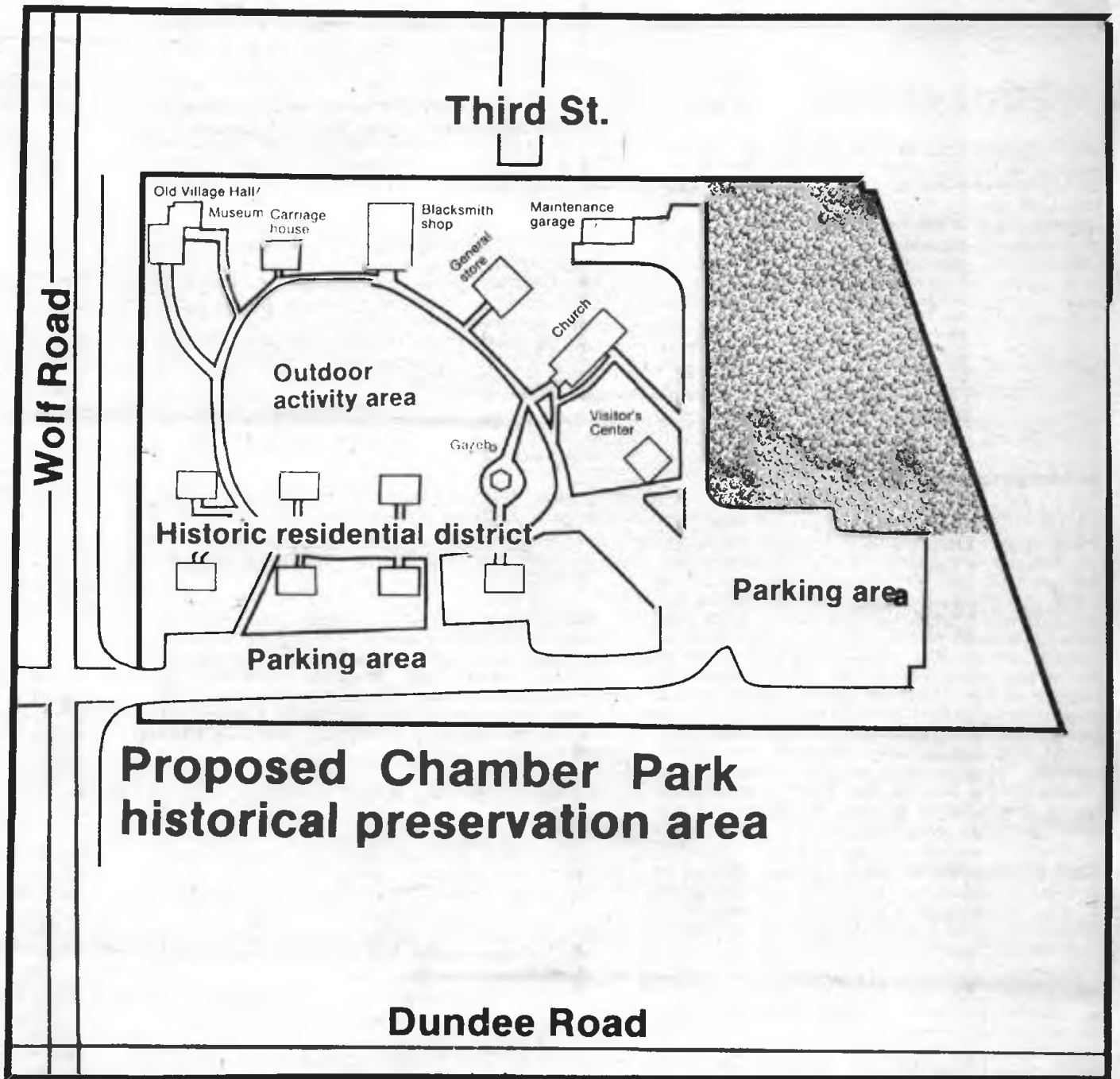
Under those national guidelines, the park district could maintain the authenticity of the buildings without being required to have running water, washroom facilities or other modern conveniences.

"THE STANDARDS have been met and this will contribute to the diversity of the downtown area," said assistant village planner Chris Washburn.

Although the concept plan goes into great detail on the types of buildings the historical society and park district would like to see in Chamber Park, the plan is not set in stone, said Bob McIntyre, Wheeling Historical Society president.

"It's a concept, but not a design to be fulfilled — perhaps, but not necessarily in that way," said McIntyre. "It's an idea rather than a specific plan. The general idea of a village setting is the aim."

Historical society members and Wheeling park district officials have



been working for the last several months on plans to move a historic carriage house from its location on Dundee Road to Chamber Park. The carriage house would be the third building to be moved to and restored at the park. The village's first town hall, now used as a historical museum, and one of the town's first churches are

already located there.

**BEFORE THE CARRIAGE** house is moved to the site, however, village officials want to approve an overall plan for the park. Once the plan is approved, the park district will have to get the village's permission to move each individual building onto the site,

but will not have to "re-invent the wheel" as far as the guidelines for a historic district are concerned, said McIntyre.

"We established it as this district to be able to follow the codes in place for it," said park board President Tony Abruscato. "We want to maintain the history and integrity of the buildings we're moving to this site."

**EVEN THOUGH THE** carriage house has yet to be relocated, McIntyre said society members already have their eyes on a fourth building for the park. The Arnold House, located on Milwaukee Avenue, across the street from Hackney's restaurant, is "one of the oldest houses in the village," said McIntyre.

If the two-story brick home were moved to Chamber Park, the society would "try and establish what a house of that era would look like," he said.

# Church renovation next for park

By STUART R. PADDOCK III  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Despite its recent facelift, there is still more work on tap for Chamber Park in Wheeling.

The park board's current interest in the park, which is the historic preservation site for Wheeling, stems from the upcoming move of the Carriage House to its new location next to the museum. Park officials will open bids for moving the 100-year-old structure on June 15.

Superintendent of Resource Management John Piazza pointed out recent work in the park, such as a scenic flower garden and museum restoration which includes new windows, siding, gutters, fire alarm and roof. Officials are hoping to make similar improvements to the 125-year-old church in the near future.

Citizens advisory committee Chairman Ruth Weder expressed concern about the inside of the church saying that there are many

people who remember the church when it was functional and are willing to donate their time and materials to help with the renovation.

Board President James Gallagher said renovation can begin as soon as they can relocate the pre-school program currently housed there.

Gallagher further cautioned that only certain items can be completed this year on the church and others will have to wait until next year's budget. He said the reason is because the cost of the Carriage House move

may be upwards of \$100,000.

Local resident Bill Schuler said he likes how the district has kept up the park. It was just an open field when he moved here 32 years ago, he said. However, he is skeptical about the Carriage House.

"It's way too tall," he said. "It will look out of place."

Nonetheless, officials will proceed with the move and the historical committee is hoping it will be settled in time for the Annual Old Settlers Picnic on July 4.

## Libraries share Australia material

This summer, Wheeling's Indian Trails Public Library and the Penrith Public Library in New South Wales, Australia, have quite a bit to share.

The two libraries are sharing books, cultural and literary information through a state-wide program of activities for Illinois libraries to participate in the Australian bicentennial.

Programs are underway at Indian Trails to help library patrons learn more about Australia. Materials from Penrith are on display now in the Indian Trails lobby. Also, young

people in grades 1-8 are invited to correspond with an Australian pen pal selected from young patrons of the Penrith Public Library.

Pen pal request forms will be available in the Young People's Department at the library, or at the summer book van, between June 13 and July 29.

Also, the Library Cable Network has received a Illinois State Library grant to videotape interviews with Australian authors who are touring and lecturing in the United States this summer. The series, titled "Rainbow Bridges," will begin airing

this summer. Call the library for a broadcast schedule.

The Wheeling Historical Society has donated a copy of the recently-released Wheeling history, "Wheeling Through the Years," which has been sent to Penrith. The library is currently working to acquire copies of histories of Buffalo Grove and Prospect Heights, which are within the library district, to send to Penrith.

A bibliography of works by Australian authors is available at the information desk at the library.

## Contract to move Carriage House approved by district

The historical Carriage House of Wheeling is one step closer to its new home at Chamber Park.

In a recent meeting, the Wheeling Park District board agreed unanimously to award the moving and restoration bid to R.J. Haack Builders Inc. of Arlington Heights.

The board had little choice because R.J. Haack was the only com-

pany to offer a final bid on the project.

Architect Michael A. Dixon defended the single bid, saying that several companies dropped because there would be little profit margin on the project, given the current condition of the building.

The base bid for the project came

in at \$67,000. Paint and concrete are expected to be donated by local companies and were not included in the bid.

Although the bid was set at \$67,000, the total cost of the project is estimated to run \$96,600 after security and fire alarms, building permits, moving fees, and architect and engineering fees are included. There

also is a \$12,600 contingency in case of overruns, officials said.

Officials said that figure still is well below the \$107,000 the district originally estimated.

The actual move is not expected for several weeks when all the preparatory work is completed, Dixon said.

6/16/88

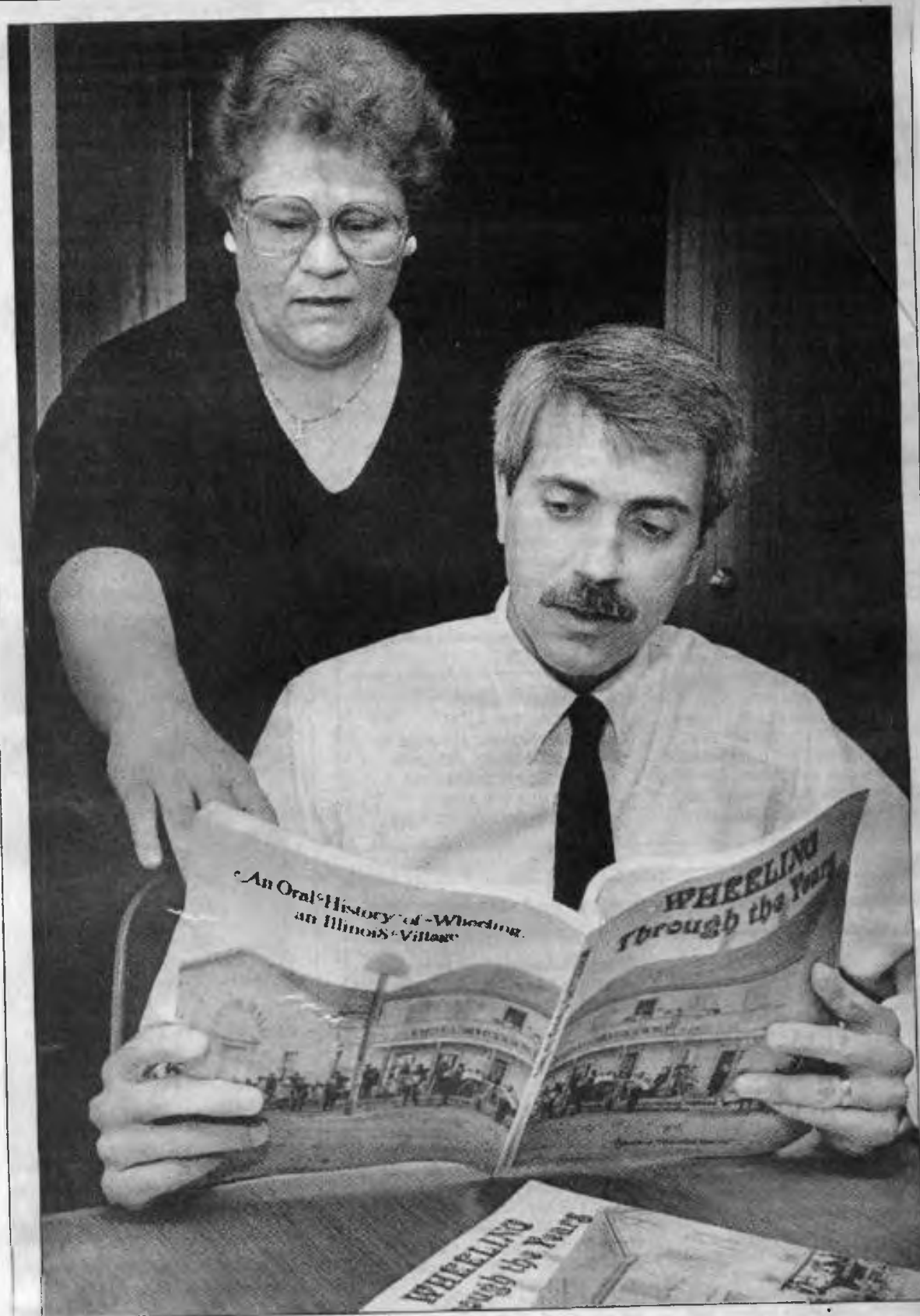
## SPINNING WHEEL

By Barbara K. McIntyre

**IGNORE THE SIGNS** at Childerly and Chamber parks if they still give the old hours for visiting the Childerly Chapel and the Historical Museum (the part about no motorized vehicles or alcohol still stands). The chapel and museum are now open for visitors on Sundays, but the new hours are 2 until 4 p.m. **Lorraine Haben** is in charge of the chapel, representing the Historical Society, and **Betty Barrie** is the new curator for the Society's museum. Both are amenable to opening the buildings at other times by appointment. **Betty, Sandy Altieri** and **Marshall Balling** are engaged in an outreach program to bring Wheeling history to schools and the elderly.

"**WHEELING THROUGH** the Years," the oral history book produced by the Wheeling Historical Society, was presented to **Craig Anderson**, new village manager, by **Lonnie Schnaitmann**, new president of the Historical Society. Another copy of the book has arrived in Penrith, Australia. Our Indian Trails Library has been "twinned" with the library in Penrith, which in return has sent the material on its history now displayed in the Indian Trails Library.

Sunday, June 19, 1988 **Daily Herald**



### Wheeling through the years

Wheeling Historical Society president Lonnie Schnaitmann presents *Wheeling Through the Years* to new Village Manager Craig Anderson. The book, which was published by the society last year, is an oral history of the village. For more information about the society or any of its activities, call 537-9057.

Daily Herald Photo/Rich Chapman

# SPINNING WHEEL



By Barbara K. McIntyre

**JULY FOURTH** starts with a parade and whether or not it ends with fireworks depends on God, John Coleman or Fire Chief Bernie Koeppen, not necessarily in that order. If we don't get a soaking rain before the 4th to fireproof the dry grass, chairman **Judy Abruscato** figures the fireworks may have a rain date of Sept. 5. The parade and fireworks together cost over \$10,000 and, this year, the committee has a very generous co-sponsor, Orval Kent Food Co., Inc. The parade, under the direction of the Jaycees, will leave the K-Mart parking lot at 10 a.m. to march down Dundee Rd. Look for the flag at Hoyne Savings and Loan where, again this year, there will be free punch, balloons and a clown. **Dennis Drake** is in charge of fireworks, whenever they go off, at Heritage Park and the audience is asked to bring radios to catch the WSEX 92.1 FM simulcast.

—o—  
**FOLLOWING THE PARADE** will be the **Old Settlers Picnic** at Chamber Park at noon. Five years ago, inspired by historian **Marshall Balling**, the Wheeling Historical Society contacted as many persons as possible who had lived in Wheeling at least 25 years earlier for a reunion. This year, old settlers are asked to bring "show and tell" items and pictures from earlier days as well as a picnic dish. Of course, co-chairs **Willie Franta**, **Betty Barrie** and **Lorraine Haben** hope that some of these items will be loaned or donated to the museum. **Isabelle Stevenson** will accompany the sing-along just as she did years ago at her mother's tavern, the Wheel Inn, on Milwaukee Ave.

## Old Settlers Picnic set on the Fourth of July

The Wheeling Historical Society is looking for volunteers who consider themselves "old settlers" of Wheeling. Have you lived in our village since its early days? Or do you know of someone who has? On the Fourth of July, the fifth annual Old Settlers Picnic will be held in Wheeling. This year, old settlers and their descendants are being asked to bring relics and pictures for "show and tell," as well as a dish for the picnic lunch. This is a time for people to reunite and reminisce about the earlier days in our community.

Co-chairs of this year's picnic are **Willie Franta**, **Betty Barrie**, and **Lorraine Haben**. For more information, call 537-3497.

Lisa Schab

Wheeling



## July 4 picnic ideal for historians

BY KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

History buffs in Wheeling will enjoy an old-fashioned picnic, sing-along and story-telling session on Monday, July 4. The Old Settlers Picnic, put on by the Wheeling Historical Society, is just one of the activities planned in the village for the holiday weekend.

Anyone who remembers Wheeling's early days or would like to learn more about them is invited.

The picnic will be held at noon on Monday, at Chamber Park, located on Wolf Road just north of Dundee Road. The park itself was recently declared a historic district and is home to the historical

museum.

Betty Barrie, organizer of the picnic this year, said it will be a potluck affair. Anyone may attend, but should bring a meat dish or salad to pass around the picnic table.

Barrie said she expects most of the picnickers to be "people who have lived here in Wheeling for a long time." Barrie, 69, grew up in Wheeling and looks forward to reminiscing about the days when Wheeling was just a small town and Milwaukee Avenue was a tree-lined dirt road.

"We're also looking for old pictures of Wheeling," Barrie noted. Anyone who has old photographs of the village or its residents

should bring them to the picnic.

After lunch, there will be a sing-along, after which old-timers will probably tell stories and share memories, Barrie said.

About 80 people attended the picnic last year, and Barrie expects "over 100 this year."

While most of the picnic goers are history buffs and "old settlers," anyone is welcome to bring a dish and join in, Barrie said.

"We're not going to turn anyone away," she said.

The picnic is just one of many holiday events in the village. At 10 a.m. Monday, there will be a parade down Dundee Road.

For Monday evening, the village plans a fireworks display.



4th of July Parade  
Historical Society  
Entry

Old Settlers' Picnic



Ellie Mayer Lorraine Hahn  
Isabella Steinhorn



Lillian MacTub Virginia Moore



Garnice Seltzer



Adeline Schuster



# Fourth celebration hailed as success

By KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's Fourth of July Celebration is being hailed as an unqualified success, despite the fact that the drought dried up all hopes of a fireworks display.

"The parade was great," Fourth of July Committee Chairwoman Judy Abruscato said. "We had 88 units, and they were all fantastic. It was our best parade ever."

Fire Chief Bernie Koeppen said he was glad he decided to cancel the fireworks, because dry conditions led to small grass fires in other areas of town.

The Old Settlers Picnic, sponsored

by the Wheeling Historical Society, drew record crowds of 99 "old-timers" and historians, who enjoyed a pot-luck lunch, a sing-along, and an afternoon of reminiscing about the good old days in Wheeling.

At Familyfest, the village's annual celebration, things went off without a hitch. Police estimated that between 240,000 and 250,000 people attended the festival, which featured food, entertainment, games and rides.

Familyfest Publicity Director Kathy Pico said the fest was the biggest and best ever.

"Our best thing this year was having Blood, Sweat and Tears perform," she said. The free Saturday

night concert drew the largest crowd of the weekend.

Chief Koeppen said the festival was very safe, with no fires on the grounds and no serious injuries. Department paramedics attended to "a few bruises and bumps," on a handful of fest-goers, Koeppen said. "Nothing big or drastic, no fires."

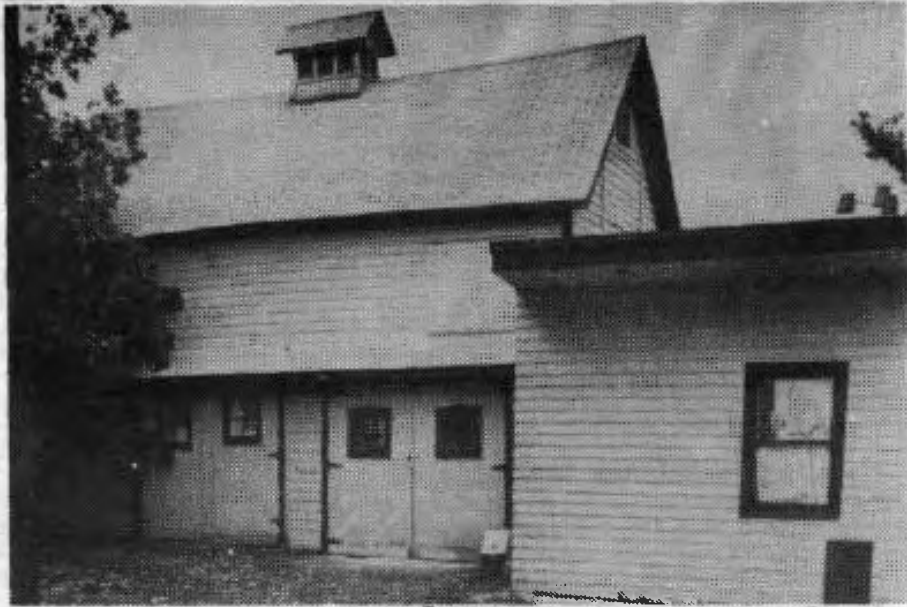
Those who hoped to get an elephant ride at Familyfest were disappointed, because the handlers did not have the proper insurance, Pico said. "They thought we had the insurance, but they were supposed to bring it. The guy waited two days trying to get insurance but couldn't." She said the elephants were available for viewing and petting, but not for

rides. "We'll try that again next year," she said. "Hopefully they'll get it right."

Pico said the biggest money-makers for the festival were the food booths and the bar. Pizza and corn on the cob were the most popular food items, Pico said, although "all the restaurants did real well," even those offering more exotic food.

"The restaurants and bar are the biggest money-makers," Pico said but organizers refused to say how much beer and wine was consumed.

When asked what she would change for next year's festival, Pico joked, "How about some rain?"



This historical carriage house on Dundee Road will be moved to Chamber Park by September. The building will be part of a planned historical village at the park. (Staff photo)

## Plans finalized for carriage house move

Wheeling's historical park should get its long-awaited new resident this year.

After four years of planning, a carriage house located on Dundee Road, just west of Wolf Road, will be picked up, cleaned up and moved over to its new location at Chamber Park by September 25.

"We are delighted," said Wheeling Historical Society member Bob McIntyre. "We are enthused about it."

McIntyre, along with the historical society and the park district, have worked on getting the turn-of-the-century carriage house moved and renovated for display at Chamber Park, located on Wolf Road. A local farmer is expected to donate five carriages, which the historical society will restore and place in the building.

Wheeling park board members last Thursday approved spending about \$67,000 to renovate and move the structure, park district Manager Karop Bavougian said. R.J. Haack Builders of Arlington Heights was the successful bidder on the project.

"It means the project that a lot of people have been working on since 1984 . . . is getting done," said park board President Jim Gallagher.

Bavougian said Haack will get the house in shape for the short move around the corner. They will repair and reconstruct the cupola, flooring, siding and roof of the building.

The carriage house currently lies in a tax increment financing district the village of Wheeling has set up for future development. The carriage house was slated to be razed under the downtown development plan.

Bavougian said Haack has to first post performance bonds for the work and get approval from the state and several utility companies before the move is completed. Certain utility lines may have to be moved to allow the house to be moved.

The carriage house is expected to be placed just east of the historical society building and to the west of the existing playground. The village's first town hall, now used as a historical museum, and one of Wheeling's first churches are already located on the 6.2-acre park site. McIntyre said the society hopes to add other buildings to the park in the future.

Money for the move and renovation of the carriage house is being generated by the park district's museum tax, Gallagher said.



June 13, 1988

Relocation and Restoration  
of the  
CARRIAGE HOUSE MUSEUM  
Chamber Park/Wheeling, Illinois

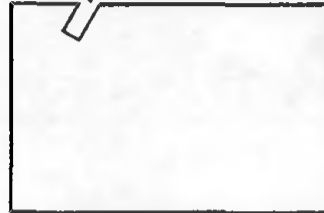
DIXON ASSOCIATES  
AIA / ARCHITECTS

202 WEST MAIN STREET  
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS 60174  
(312) 377-9399

BID ANALYSIS (Based on bid by R.J. Haack Builders, Inc.)

<u>Actual Costs</u>		<u>Pre-Bid Estimate</u>
\$67,000 (R.J. Haack)	BASE BID	\$ 76,860
3,500 (est.)	Security/Fire Alarms	3,500
1,000 (est.)	Building Permit	1,000
6,000 (est.)	Moving Fees	6,000
<hr/>		<hr/>
\$77,500	Sub-Total	\$ 87,360
6,500	A/E Fees	6,500
<hr/>		<hr/>
\$84,000	Sub-Total	\$ 93,860
12,600	Contingency (15%)	14,079
<hr/>		<hr/>
\$96,600	PROJECT TOTAL	\$107,939

DIXON ASSOCIATES  
AIA / ARCHITECTS



202 WEST MAIN STREET  
ST. CHARLES, ILLINOIS 60174  
(312) 377-9399

May 19, 1988

Relocation and Restoration  
of the

CARRIAGE HOUSE MUSEUM  
Chamber Park/Wheeling, Illinois

TIME TABLE

May 23, 1988	Out for Bids
May 31, 1988/9 A.M.	Pre-Bid Walk-Through
June 13, 1988/10 A.M.	Bids Due
June 16, 1988	Board of Park Commissioners Meeting - Contract Approval
June 20, 1988	Construction Start
September 20, 1988	Construction Completion

# Park board ponders rate hike

By KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District officials may increase the historical fund tax rate, just two years after lowering the rate.

The increase would pay for new projects at Chamber Park, which was recently named a historical preservation district.

The current tax rate for the fund is 1 cent per \$100 of assessed value, and is one part of the park district's total tax rate. Superintendent of Finance Thomas Busby said the projected park district tax rate for the coming year is about 53 cents per \$100.

Park board President James

Gallagher said he would like to have the option of raising the rate to 2 cents or 3 cents. Park officials lowered the rate for the 1987 levy, from nearly 3 cents to 1 cent.

"We lowered it then because we had a surplus in the fund of about \$105,000," Gallagher explained. "And we did not have a consensus on how to spend that money. But now Chamber Park is a historic preservation district, and we are moving the carriage house there. We also have some other old buildings that may become available," he said.

The board will consider both a 2 and 3 cent rate option when preparing the levy this fall.

The carriage house, an old barn

which will house a collection of horse drawn carriages donated several years ago to the historical society, will be moved from its present location near Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road to Chamber Park this year. The district will spend about \$67,000 to move and renovate it.

"That will leave about \$20,000 surplus in the historical fund," he noted. That would not be enough to buy and move an old house on Milwaukee Avenue that the district also is interested in.

Much of the historical fund was also spent on recent renovations to the Wheeling Historical Museum at Chamber Park, including a new roof.

88/4/2  
7/4/88

Countryside

7/14/88

## Tax hike considered for historical village

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

Hoping to increase the size of the historical preservation district at Chamber Park, the president of the Wheeling Park Board said the park district's tax rate may be increased next year.

Park board President James Gallagher has asked Tom Busby, the district's superintendent of finance and personnel, to develop options for raising additional money for a historical village that is being planned for Chamber Park.

Gallagher said the extra money may be used to purchase a historical home in Wheeling and have it moved to Chamber Park, located on Wolf Road, just north of Dundee Road.

Barbara McIntyre, a member of the Wheeling Historical Society, said Tuesday that a two-story home dating from the mid-19th century could become available if Milwaukee Avenue is expanded. The Illinois Department of Transportation is eyeing plans to widen the road, but a date for the project has not yet been set.

"**RATHER THAN** have the bulldozer take it, maybe we could get it at that time," McIntyre said.

The park district now has a museum property tax of 1 cent per \$100 assessed valuation. That tax, which generated about \$38,000 last year, is used to operate and maintain the historical

museum at Chamber Park.

In his search for additional revenue for a historical preservation district, Gallagher has directed Busby to come up with revenue proposals for the museum tax rate at 1 cent, 2 cents and 3 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Under the current tax rate, a resident with a home valued at \$100,000 pays about \$2.66 in property taxes to the park district's museum fund. If that rate were increased to 2 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, the same resident would pay \$5.32. And raising it to 3 cents per \$100 assessed valuation would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$8.

**THE PARK DISTRICT** can legally levy up to 3 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, however the rate was lowered in 1986. Gallagher said the district should explore increasing the rate as new capital ventures are discussed.

"If we're going to be able to move on this thing," Gallagher said, "we have to restore the historical (museum tax). I just want the flexibility for now."

The park district last month approved plans to move a carriage house located on Dundee Road to Chamber Park. The district plans to spend about \$67,000 for renovating and moving that structure.

Park officials are talking about eventually relocating other historical structures to the park, which now houses Wheeling's first village hall and one of the village's first churches.

7-14-88



# SPINNING WHEEL

By Barbara K. McIntyre

**PARADE POST-MORTEM**s agree that the 1988 Fourth of July event was the best ever. Out of 88 entries, the **Kolssak Funeral Parlor** float was the funniest, loudest and caused most comment. You had to have been there!...**Eugenia Chapman**, who has participated in every Wheeling parade for 25 years, confided that she made good use of her recent trip to Springfield. She went there, with other delegates, to hammer out a Democratic platform, but took time out to make arrangements to put all the documents and letters she collected in her 18 years in the State Legislature, into the Illinois State Historical Museum. Some will be duplicated for the Arlington Heights Historical Society collection.

**THE PARTY** isn't over. The Park District's "Sounds of Summer" concerts in Chamber Park have two more offerings: July 20 will be the country music of "Jump in the Saddle" and a Beatles tribute, "American English," will be heard July 27. Just bring lawn chairs at 7 p.m. and enjoy the music until 8:30.

The price is right...President **Lonnie Schnaitmann** of the **Wheeling Historical Society** and **Cindy Schaar** of the park district have had their heads together planning a **folk festival** for Oct. 1. The annual fall event will take place again in Chamber Park, but this year will feature a ribbon cutting for the Sicks' carriage house which should be ready for visitors by that time. Lonnie and Cindy plan on country music, hayrides, old time craftsmen and hog calling? More on this later.

**SPEAKING OF PARTIES**, on July 30, the First National Bank of Wheeling will celebrate a 10th birthday. The public is invited to share birthday cake and coffee...**Joey Wargo** celebrates a birthday on the 13th and **Frank Schnaitmann** on the 11th, but on a more modest scale.

**THE WHEELING AREA** Chapter of AARP has 72 dues paying members after three successful meetings. They are all looking forward to the July 25th meeting where **Dr. Sarkis Barupian** of Buffalo Grove will clue them in to preventive medicine. His subject is "Your Health, Your Heart, Your Cholesterol." He has

offered to answer questions! Everyone is invited, members or not, at 1 p.m. in the Community Presbyterian Church, 196 E. Highland Ave., Wheeling.

**INTRODUCING TROY Dunbar**, the new Wheeling Park District athletic director. He comes to us after an internship with the Decatur, Ill. recreation department and is a brand new resident of Wheeling. He works under Recreation Director, **Arnie Blondo** with all athletic teams from Pee Wee baseball to adult softball leagues...Welcome also to **John Langelund**, who has joined the staff at Omni Youth Services as a youth and family counselor. He is located at the Omni Central Office in Wheeling and has a master's degree in social work from Loyola U. His internships were served at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital in Chicago and the Jeanine Schultz Memorial School in Park Ridge.

**THE OLD LADY** with the spinning wheel could use some new yarns. Call her at 537-3497 with yours or write her at 200 James St., Barrington 60010.

Daily Herald

Thursday, July 21, 1988

## FROM THE CLUBS

# Historical society offering tours of museum

During July, August and September, members of the Wheeling Historical Society will offer guided tours of the society's museums. Childerley Park Chapel, 506 McHenry Road, and the Wheeling Historical Society Museum, 251 N. Wolf Road, will be open to the public from 2 to 4 p.m. today, July 24 and 31, August 7, 14, 21 and 28 and Sept. 4. For more information, call president Lonnie Schnaitmann at 537-9057.

### MUSEUM TOURS...



The Wheeling Historical Society will offer guided tours of the society's museums. Childerley Park Chapel, 506 McHenry Rd., and the Wheeling Historical Society Museum, 251 N. Wolf Rd., will be open to the public from 2 to 4 P.M. Aug. 7, 14, 21 and 28 and Sept. 4. For more information call president Lonnie Schnaitmann at 537-9057.

\*\*\*\*\*

Whipple Tea Wagon set  
Aug 1988

# Carriage house plans start moving slowly

BY KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Plans by the Wheeling Park District to give a historic carriage house a safe resting place are finally moving ahead, but the project, which has been underway for several years, is still running into occasional setbacks.

The old barn currently located near Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue will be put on a trailer and moved up the street to Chamber Park, where workers are currently installing a foundation for it. The move is scheduled for Aug. 15.

While a contractor has been found

to move the old building, the park district has until recently had trouble getting all the proper permits from the village to put in the foundation, electric power and other necessary items.

"We're getting them," said John Piazza, superintendent of resource management. "But we're getting them piecemeal." He said he now has the permits from the village and all the utility companies, as well as the state and the county.

Regardless of last-minute snags, R.J. Haack Builders Inc., say they will be able to move the carriage house on Aug. 15, weather permitting.

The Wheeling Historical Society will restore the barn into a museum which will house a collection of horse drawn carriages and a sleigh, donated to the society about four years ago.

Relocating and renovating the old building will cost an estimated \$75,000 to \$80,000. Workers have begun building a foundation at Chamber Park for the building.

"The footing and foundation walls have been poured," Piazza said Thursday. "We're waiting for it to cure. On Monday or Tuesday, we will bring in the plumbing and electric."

A few days before the move, the

old building will be raised up, and its walls shored up so that the structure will be strong enough to move.

The barn had been slated for demolition, but the village agreed to donate the building to the park district. As a condition, the park district demolished an existing addition to the old building.

Chamber Park was named a historic preservation district in May, to preserve buildings that have historic value but may not meet exact requirements of today's zoning codes. They will, however, have to comply with minimum safety codes.

The park is already home to a museum and old church.

## SUBURBAN REPORT

# Historical carriage house gets a firm ground

BY KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's historical carriage house, scheduled to move to Chamber Park on Aug. 17, will have a firm foundation in its new resting place, thanks to a Wheeling cement company.

Meyer Material is donating 25 yards of concrete for the floor and foundation of the carriage house, according to Lonnie Schnaitmann, historical society president.

A collection of horse-drawn carriages and a sleigh were donated to the society four years ago. The group has been working since then to find a home for them. Two years ago, the Village of Wheeling

donated an old barn, slated for destruction, to the society to use as a carriage house.

The barn will be moved from its current location near Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue up the street to Chamber Park, where a foundation has been laid.

The date for the move has been pushed back a few days, according to John Haack, of R.J. Haack Builders Inc., who is moving the carriage house on a trailer. The move has to be coordinated with schedules from local utility companies, transportation authorities, and of course, the weather.

After waiting four years, a few days don't matter to the historical society, Schnaitmann said. She's

just happy about saving money on the project.

"I was in touch with Meyer Material four years ago, asking if they could donate some cement for the project," Schnaitmann explained. "Then two years ago, when we thought we were getting close to moving, we talked again and he said he could give us 10 yards. But now he's agreed to donate all of it."

The material usually costs more than \$1,000, Schnaitmann said. "We're really excited about it," she said. "It's great to have the support of businesses in town." The moving and renovation of the building is expected to cost an estimated \$75,000 to \$80,000.

8/8/88

Herald 8/14/88

# Carriage house move put on hold

BY KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A big move in Wheeling's history has been delayed. An old barn at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road was to be moved to Chamber Park this week where it would be renovated and used as a display museum for a collection of antique horse-drawn carriages.

The carriage house move has been pushed back to Aug. 31, but the builder handling the move says there are no problems. The main concern

is coordinating all the different agencies which are involved in the process.

John Haack, of R.J. Haack Builders Inc., in Arlington Heights, is coordinating the move. Haack will load the building on a trailer and take it down Dundee Road and up Wolf Road to Chamber Park.

"There's no particular reason," for the delay, Haack said. "We're moving along. It's just tough to get that many people to jive."

Moving the building requires cooperation of more than a dozen agen-

cies, Haack said, including the utility companies who must sometimes move power lines, transportation authorities and local officials.

"I'm doing the best I can," Haack said.

The Wheeling Park District is funding the move and has poured a foundation at Chamber Park. Meyer Material, a local cement company, donated 25 yards of concrete for the foundation and floor.

A collection of horse-drawn carriages and a sleigh were donated to the society four years ago. The group

has been working since then to find a home for them. Two years ago, the village of Wheeling donated an old barn, slated for destruction, to the society to use as a carriage house.

Chamber Park was named a historic preservation district in May in order to preserve buildings like the carriage house. The district has its own set of safety codes, which are not as stringent as regular village codes.

Relocating and renovating the old building will cost an estimated \$75,000 to \$80,000.

# SPINNING WHEEL



Thursday, August 11, 1983

By Barbara K. McIntyre

23...Shirley and Ed Mueller, who moved from Wheeling four years ago, came back for a visit in time to see the Sicks' carriage house moving down Dundee Rd. Fellow Historical Society members who were also on hand to cheer included the Dattilos, Buergers, Wieders, Lonnie Schnaitmann, Betty Barrie and Richard Avalon...Clare Rudolph returned to Carlinville last weekend to take part in the 55th reunion of her high school class...Syke

**SPEAKING OF MAIL**, a most welcome letter has been received from John F. Sicks who now lives in Normal, Ill. He reveals that the now demolished Sicks house and the retrieved carriage house at 268 E. Dundee Rd. were built by his grandmother, Katarina Volz Sicks, in 1892 at a cost of \$3,000. "We always called it the barn, but carriage house is fine" he says. "It was built to accommodate two horses in the east half, had a hayloft and room for buggies, etc. in the west half." Mike Dixon, the restoration architect, says the building by whatever name is scheduled to be moved to Chamber Park around Aug. 17. Dedication ceremonies are planned for Oct. 1.



On Dundee - Mike Dixon photo



## A moving experience

An old barn, which will be renovated and turned into a museum for antique carriages, moves slowly down Dundee Road toward its new home at Chamber Park in Wheeling. The barn blocked traffic on Dundee for about a half hour Wednesday morning.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Old barn takes to the road in move to new site at park

A long-awaited move in Wheeling's history will finally occur this week. An old barn at Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road will be moved to Chamber Park, where it will be renovated and used as a display museum for a collection of antique horse-drawn carriages.

The old barn will be loaded on a trailer and moved down Dundee Road, then up Wolf Road to the park on Wednesday, according to John Haack, of R.J. Haack Builders Inc., who is coordinating the move.

The move was originally scheduled for the week of Aug. 15, but was pushed back to this week. Haack said there were no problems, except simply coordinating the different agencies which are involved in the process.

Moving the building requires cooperation of more than a dozen agencies, Haack said, including the utility companies who must sometimes move power lines. Transportation authorities and local officials are also involved.

Park district workers have been working to build a foundation for the carriage house in Chamber Park for several weeks. A local cement company, Meyer Material, donated more than \$1,000 worth of concrete for the floor and foundation of the house.

The carriages were donated to the Wheeling Historical Society more than four years ago, and the Society has been working to put them on display ever since.

Two years ago, the village of Wheeling donated an old barn, slated for destruction, to the society for use as a carriage house.

Chamber Park was named a historic preservation district in May in order to preserve buildings like the carriage house. Park Board President James Gallagher said at the time that he envisioned something like Naperville's Naper Settlement, which has a variety of historical buildings and displays.

The park district will spend an estimated \$75,000 to \$80,000 on the moving and renovation project.



Harold 8/08/82

Harold 9/1/82



House movers, from left, Salvador Gonzalez, Jeff Grant and Jesus Angel, become tree movers for a moment to give a few needed inches of clearance for the carriage house.

Photos by Gilbert Boucher II



The toughest part of the crosstown journey for the former barn is this tricky turn from Dundee Road onto Wolf Road.

# Moving day for the carriage house

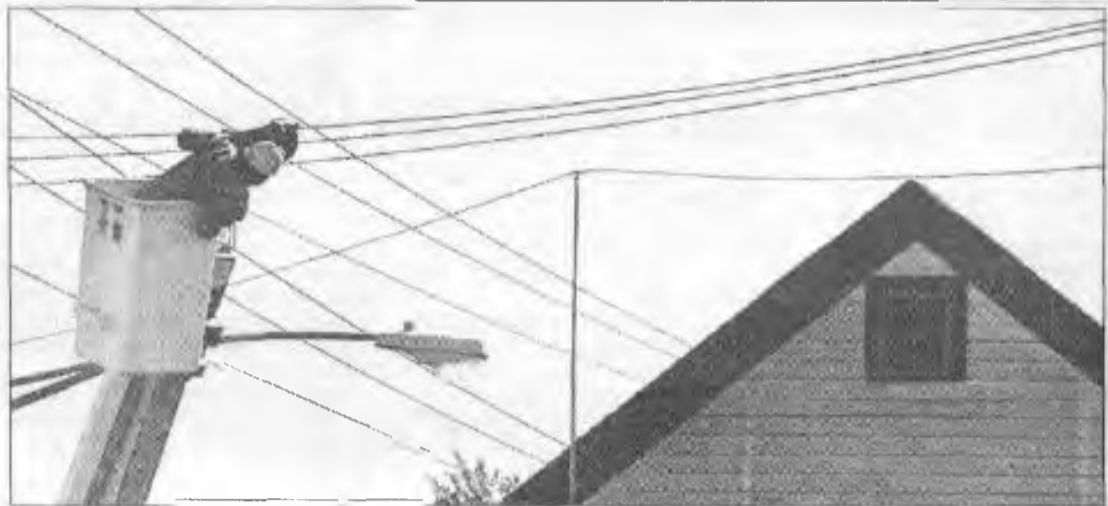


## Historic building becomes home to Wheeling museum

Renovation of what will soon be Wheeling's historic carriage house has begun. The building, which will be turned into a museum, moved from its former location at Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue to Chamber of Commerce Park last week.

Although moving a building down a busy highway is no easy task, the real work started once the barn arrived at Chamber Park. It will be renovated and repainted, and eventually become the home of a collection of antique carriages and a sleigh.

The carriages were donated to the Wheeling Historical Society about four years ago, and the society has been trying to find a home for them ever since. Two years ago, the village of Wheeling donat-



**A Commonwealth Edison worker carefully guides the house through a maze of wires.**

ed the old building, saving it from demolition.

Chamber Park, already home to another museum and an old church, recently was named a historic preservation area so more historic buildings could be added. Park district officials say they en-

vision a historic park similar to the Naper Settlement in Naperville.

Lonnie Schnaitmann, historical society president, said she expects the carriage house to be ready by Oct. 1. It will be featured in an "Autumn Fest" put on by the society and the park district that week-

end.

The historical society will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the carriage house at 1 p.m. Oct. 1.

The entire moving and renovation project is expected to cost about \$80,000. The Wheeling Park District is paying for the project.



**Jerry Grant directs the truck as it brings the house to its final resting place at Chamber Park.**



A flat-bed truck carefully maneuvers the historical carriage house around the corner of Dundee and Wolf roads.

## On the move: Historical building finds a home

With a quick snip of some utility lines, the Sicks carriage house was off and on its way to a new home.

After sitting comfortably for the past 96 years on Dundee Road, just west of Milwaukee Avenue, the carriage house, which former resident John Sicks called just "a barn," was moved last week to the Wheeling Park District's Chamber Park on Wolf Road.

There, the nearly century-old building will become a neighbor to the existing historical museum, formerly the first village hall, and the original Community Presbyterian Church, built in 1865. Plans currently call for the building to be renovated to mirror the architecture of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Staff photos  
by Bill Oakes



Ilse Workman watches the move with her 2-year-old son, Jimmy.



Workers place the 96-year-old building on its new foundation.



Spectators await the arrival of the carriage house at Chamber Park.

P.O. Box 3  
Wheeling IL 60090  
Museum phone: 537-3119



Wheeling Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 1, No. 20, Sept.-Oct. 1988  
Editors: Barb and Bob McIntyre  
Phone: 537-3497

#### THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members:

Our dream came true when on Aug. 31 the carriage house was moved to Chamber Park. Quite a few members came out to watch. It was really exciting--we have waited a long time for this to happen. Four years . . .

On Oct. 1 the Park and the Society are having an Autumnfest at Chamber Park. We will have a ribbon cutting ceremony at 1 p.m. for the carriage house. and refreshments will be served in the museum afterwards. We hope all members will be there. The rest of the Autumnfest will run from 2 to 6 p.m. and we will be working on different projects during the afternoon. We will have a blacksmith, and chair caning, and the use of a spinning wheel, an old wringer washer and a corn husker will be demonstrated.

We would like to see the women of the Society in long dresses, and the guys dressed for the occasion, too. But if you don't have costumes, please come and help anyway! For those who missed it, we will have a video tape of the carriage house moving that will be playing the the museum. Remember, only you can make the day a success!

Our meeting will be Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m.. After a brief business meeting our program on Horse Drawn Vehicles will begin. We would like to thank Norm Coughlin and Martin Schmidt of Rogers Park Historical Society for this program. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

I would like to thank everyone who helped Betty at the museum and Lorraine at the chapel. It seems the new hours, 2 to 4, have agreed with everyone. Until Sept. 28--

Historically Yours,  
Lonnie Schnaitmann



#### YOU ARE INVITED

To a reception in the museum following the formal opening of the Sicks Carriage House.  
1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 1.  
(Ready or not)

#### CURATOR'S REPORT

When Virginia Haben's home on Haben Lane was sold this summer, the museum received some interesting artifacts from early Wheeling: a blue, enamel coffeepot, garden tools, a corn husker, cow bell, cultivator and attachments, army mess kit, dufflebag, gun holster, books from the school at Childerley and early children's books.

From Steve Heinz we received a Columbian Circle book which belonged to his grandparents, John and Anne Wiator. It tells how the Knights of Columbus built what is now Chevy Chase.

The Rothenbachs sent a photo album of pictures from early Wheeling.

Sandy Altieri donated a wall vase from Welflin's store.

Bobbie Krause contributed three dishes from Hartmann House for the restaurant exhibit.

Dolly Hein gave a beer bucket to add to the brewery collection and, in the same vein, Rudy Horcher donated a wooden crate used to ship alcohol from Canada during Prohibition. Its shipping labels indicate the contents are fish. Rudy also donated a 1920 aircraft regulation book, a photo of Adam and Elizabeth Horcher taken in 1916 and a 1966 booklet from the village as well as a poster.

Betty Barrie

# Autumn Fest will showcase carriage house

BY KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Park District will hold its fourth annual Autumn Fest Oct. 1 at Chamber Park.

This year, the fest will be held in conjunction with the Wheeling Historical Society to celebrate the grand opening of the historic carriage house, which was moved recently to the park and is currently undergoing renovations.

When the carriage house is com-

pleted, it will house a collection of antique horse-drawn carriages and a sleigh.

Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, recently was named a historic preservation area. It is home not only to the carriage house but a museum and old church as well.

In keeping with the historic theme, a blacksmith will give a demonstration, and other old-fashioned workers will be demonstrating typical chores such as scrubbing clothes on a

washboard or churning butter.

Cindy Schaar, park district recreation coordinator, is organizing the event. She said the festival will include a barn-dancing demonstration by the "Wild Turkey Cloggers," a petting zoo, pony rides, crafts which children can participate in, and for the first time, a horse-drawn hayride.

Bratwurst, hotdogs, taffy apples, apple cider and other "country-style food" will be available also, Schaar said.

"This is the first time we're having the Autumn Fest on a Saturday," Schaar said. "One year we tried to have it on a Sunday but the Bears were playing that day. Attendance was way down. After doing this for four years, you learn a lot."

The grand opening for the carriage house will be held at about 1 p.m. The fest will be open from 2 to 6 p.m. Admission is free, and the event will be held rain or shine. For information, phone the park district at 537-2222.

## Wheeling Park District

### AUTUMNFEST FEATURING :

Wild Turkey Cloggers

Country cookin

Petting Zoo

Pony rides

Hay rides

Crafts &

**CHAMBER PARK**

**OCTOBER 1**

**2-6 PM**

Ray Kennedy & the Lonesome River Boys

Bluegrass music

in cooperation with Wheeling Historical Society

537-2222

9/22/88

## 'Autumnfest' features country cookin' to zoo

The Wheeling Historical Society and the Wheeling Park District have been working together to bring you a festival you can enjoy now that the Doggie-Than-Usual days of summer are over.

"Autumnfest" will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 1, at Chamber Park, 151 N. Wolf Road, in Wheeling.

Wild Turkey Cloggers, country cookin', a petting zoo, pony rides, hay rides, crafts, and the Bluegrass melodies of Ray Kennedy & the Lonesome River Boys will all be going on throughout the day, as well as demonstrations of chair caning, the use of a spinning wheel, an old wringer washer, and a corn husker. A blacksmith will also be on hand, courtesy of the Historical Society. For those who missed the actual event on Aug. 31, a videotape of the carriage house being moved to Chamber Park will be playing during the afternoon at the Historical Museum. At 1 p.m. a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for the carriage house.

Come on out for an afternoon of fun. For more information, call 537-2222.

### Society meeting

The next meeting of the Wheeling Historical Society will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, at Chamber Park, 151 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling. The evening's program will be a slide presentation on horse-drawn vehicles presented by Norm Coughlin and Martin Schmidt of the Rogers Park Historical Society. Vehicles included will be wagons such as ice, milk, etc., and carriages. This program will also be an orientation for members and friends of the Wheeling Historical Society to precede the carriage house opening on Oct. 1

Lisa Schab

Wheeling



## Carriage house not done for ceremony

9/30/88

By KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Renovations at Wheeling's historic carriage house will not be completed in time for a ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday, but that won't stop Historical Society members from celebrating.

"We had hoped it would be ready this weekend," Historical Society President Lonnie Schnaitmann said. "But we'll still have a dedication."

Society members were hoping the house would be ready for Autumn Fest, to be held this weekend at Chamber Park, where the carriage house has been since Aug. 31.

"We knew it wouldn't have been ready by now," John Piazza, park

district superintendent of resource management, said. "We had a lot of rain, which put us back. Our original estimate was the end of October, and we're still shooting for that."

The old paint has been stripped from the building, and the main task at hand is to "tie the building back together," Piazza said.

"The walls have bowed out over the years," he said, "maybe about two or three inches. So the workers will take wire and wynch it in." That will bring the roof, which is sagging slightly, back into its proper position, Piazza said.

The ribbon cutting is scheduled for 1 p.m. Saturday. Schnaitmann said her husband, Frank, former

president of the historical society, and Tony Abruscato, former park board president, will cut the ribbon.

"They were both in on the whole thing," she said of the two men. "They kept the two groups together and worked hard on this project. I thought they should cut the ribbon."

Piazza said the ceremony can go on, but the site "is still a construction area," he said. "We don't want the general public in the immediate area."

The festival, which will also feature food, games, pony rides and a petting zoo, will be held at Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, from 2 to 6 p.m. Admission is free.

10/5/88



### Foot stomping

Members of the Wild Turkey Cloggers dance up a storm for residents at the Wheeling Park District's Autumnfest, which featured music, food, hay rides, pony rides and crafts. The annual event was held in cooperation with the Wheeling Historical Society.

Daily Herald Photo/Vincent Pierri

# Ribbon Cutting October 1, 1988



Tony Abruscato - Frank Schwaiblmair



Ruth Marge Vi Jim Karol  
Wieder Hostmann Lipovich Gallagher Bouragian



Sam Dattilo Lonnie Schwaiblmair Bernie Nathan



Marge Tony Ruth Lonnie



Tony - Frank



Jack Thompson



Frank John Sicks



Ruth - Jim Wieder



# Collector's donation helps preserve history

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

Jack Thompson could have taken his antiques, restored them and then sold the lot to private collectors, probably for a profit.

But the Northbrook man, a retired Navy firefighter and a horse trainer and carriage driver, decided that too few people could enjoy his rural artifacts. Now, instead of standing in a history buff's garage or basement, Thompson's treasures will find a home with the Wheeling Historical Society.

Thompson has agreed to donate a turn-of-the-century buggy, farm wagon, plow and other farm and horse-tending implements to the historical society for display at the Sicks family carriage house soon to be refurbished as part of the Wheeling Park District's historical park at Chamber Park.

The buggy, wagon and other gear will complement the carriage house, built in the late 19th century and will be placed in the carriage house in a display that will reflect the type of equipment a man such as George Sicks would have had as he raised his family at the corner of Milwaukee and Dundee Roads.

"WE FEEL fantastic about the donation," historical society president Lonnie Schnaitmann said. "They (the Thompsons) have so much knowledge about carriages and everything."

Thompson piqued the interest of the historical society about four years ago

at a grand opening for a similar display in Deerfield. Historical society members were told that, provided there is a display site, the society could get an infusion of quality antiques from Thompson.

It took awhile, but now both the carriage house, which will host a ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday, and the carriages are ready to be introduced. For Thompson, it's a fitting combination.

"I would rather have it where somebody else could be looking at it — a new generation," Thompson said Monday at his Four Winds Farm property off Lake-Cook Road, east of Portwine Road. "I could sell this stuff and put it in private collections. I just feel it should be where future generations can see it."

SINCE GETTING INTO the horse training and driving business, Thompson estimates he has bought, repaired and sold about 30 buggies and wagons. Many of them he used in his own business, either breaking a pony to ride or for driving a team of ponies in a show.

The buggy Thompson is donating to the society has seen better days but is in remarkably good condition, thanks in part to some work by his nephews. Made of wood and steel and trimmed with a hand-sewn leather dash board, the buggy was typical of that which a doctor or a lawyer would drive around town, Thompson said.

(Continued on page 15)



Jack Thompson and Lonnie Schnaitmann examine a coach that will be renovated and given to the Wheeling Historical Society. The carriage is one of a number of artifacts Thompson will donate to the society. (Staff photo by Richard Bajjalieh)

## History

(Continued from page 12)

He said someone saw the buggy and felt guilty it was falling into disrepair. "They asked me 'could you give it a good home,'" Thompson said. Twenty years later, he says that final home may have been found.

"I think that'll be a good home for it — over there in that building," Thompson said. Besides the plow and the vehicles, Thompson intends to donate harnesses and other tools. The trick will not be in finding enough artifacts for the carriage house, but in keeping the display modest enough to fit in the small carriage house.

"RIGHT NOW, we have to decide how we're going to display everything," Thompson said. "They want an authentic collection, like what someone with the carriage house would have."

So now Thompson is also acting as

somewhat of a consultant to the historical society as the group used his knowledge and experience. And if everything works out, they might also get to use his forge, an item Thompson isn't yet sure will fit in at the historical society.

But before all the antiques pick up and move from Thompson's present storage shed to the historical society's past, the carriage house will need to be finished. Struck by a minor slowdown in repair, restoration work on the carriage house is a couple weeks behind schedule. Schnaitmann said completion of the project is expected soon.

The carriage house has joined two other buildings, the existing historical society museum and the old Community Presbyterian church, at Chamber Park. The society is also considering buying a brick building now on Milwaukee Avenue, south of Dundee Road.

## Show to take viewers on return trip to 1958

Take a step back to 1958 with the Wheeling Historical Society this week, when Shirley Ward McConnell presents a slide show of Wheeling area pictures taken 30 years ago.

The show will be presented at the regular meeting of the Wheeling Historical Society at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Historical Museum at Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road in Wheeling.

This meeting is being held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, rather than the third because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

A display of early canning jars from the collection of Pete Peterson also will be shown. Peterson collects Wheeling glass.

Lisa Schab

Wheeling



"WHEELING THROUGH the Years" just keeps on rolling along. On the way, the Wheeling Historical Society's oral history has picked up an honorable mention award from the Congress of the Illinois Historical Societies and Museums. Public recognition will be given at the annual meeting of the Congress and the Illinois State Historical Society at Springfield next April. Wheeling Society treasurer, Bob McIntyre, reports that 680 copies of the book have been purchased and can be found in at least half the states, with the greatest concentration in Florida and California.

Spinning Wheel  
Wheeling Countryside  
10/6/88



# New neighbor moves in at Chamber Park

Everywhere we look these days, farmer's fields, empty lots and open spaces are being replaced by new housing and subdivisions or shopping malls. The countryside is quickly becoming the cityside.

Additional buildings are also appearing in Chamber Park, 151 N. Wolf Road, but these are not the modern kind. The first church in Wheeling, The First Presbyterian, sits on the Chamber Park property, along with Wheeling's original village hall, now the Historical Museum. These two buildings have recently acquired another neighbor of days gone by — the Sicks' Carriage House, or "barn" as it was called, which was moved Aug. 31 from its former site on Dundee Road.

Oct. 1 was the official dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony to welcome the new building.

"It's taken four years, two village managers and two architects to get to this point," says Barb McIntyre of the Wheeling Historical Society.

The idea to move the carriage house was conceived when Jack Thompson, who owns Four Winds Farm on Lake Cook Road, offered a part of his carriage collection to the historical society several years ago. The society was delighted, but needed a place to store the vehicles.

The Sicks' house sat next to a carriage house, which seemed to be the ideal solution. But the barn didn't actually find its new home until the end of this summer.

John Sicks, now living in Normal, was born in the old house in 1916. He writes about the barn:

"It was built to accommodate two horses in the east half and had room for buggies, etc. in the west half. Overhead was a hay-loft. The garage doors at the east end of the building, which eliminated the stable doors, were put in when my mother remodeled the house into a two flat. This would be about 1929. The pair of wide doors at the west end, or their predecessors, were part of the original set-up. The inside stairway was put in some time af-

Lisa Schab  
Wheeling



ter we left in 1958, probably by Peter Belpusi, who bought the house and ran a pottery studio. He also built the one-story building to the east of the barn. Earlier, there was only a vertical ladder to the loft, which consisted of slats nailed to the studs in the north wall, on the right side of the carriage space. Access to the loft was through a trap door."

"Mr. Sicks has very kindly provided us with sketches of the old carriage house," McIntyre said. "We will try to restore it, putting in the stable doors and the carriage doors where they should be."

When completed, the carriage house will be the home of the three carriages Thompson donated, and will have farm equipment of the day, and harnesses hanging from its walls.

The carriage house will be open to the public, along with the Historical Museum, from 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays, with guides available to show visitors through the buildings.

"The village has decided that Chamber Park be designated as an historic area," McIntyre said. "It would be nice if we could move an old house into that row also, someday."

Thanks to Lonnie Schnaittman, president of the Historical Society, and Bob Buerger, chairman of the Carriage House Committee, who have worked to make this new-old addition to Chamber Park possible. And a note of appreciation also to Peggy Bumgarner, former Wheeling resident, now residing in Oregon, who located the Sicks family through her college alumni newsletter.

"History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time."  
— Cicero

## Historical society

The Wheeling Historical Society is holding a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26, at the Community Church Building, Chamber Park. A newly released slide-tape program from the University of Illinois on "The Care of Historical Garments and Textiles" will be shown. For information, call Lonnie Schnaittman, 537-9057.

# Heirlooms, garments to highlight next meeting

Family heirlooms and historical garments will be the topic at the next Wednesday's 7:30 p.m. meeting of the Wheeling Historical Society, Chamber Park Church, 251 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling.

A newly released slide-tape program, entitled "The Care of Historical Garments and Textiles," will be shown to inform those with cherished family heirlooms or garments and textiles of historical significance about proper care and storage technique.

The program was produced by the School of Human Resources and Family Studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

For more information on this meeting or the Historical Society in general, call 537-3489.

Lisa Schab  
Wheeling



# Fright abounding as witching hour nears

"Tis now the very witching time of night, when churchyards yawn..." wrote Shakespeare.

Wheeling has some churchyards of its own. Will they be "yawning" this Halloween?

The Wheeling Historical Society says a ghost is reportedly seen every so often at a cemetery on Dundee Road, just east of Wolf Road. She appears in a long white dress, carrying a parasol, and is said to be visiting the grave of her husband — who murdered her.

(You might want to be sure your car doors are locked as you drive along that stretch of road this weekend.)

Of course, who really believes in ghosts?

Maybe the Wheeling woman who claims to have carried on a lengthy conversation with her former Girl Scout leader one evening. She found out later the troop leader had been dead for several years.

(ooooOOOOH! Twilight Zone music fades in and out here.)

Anybody live in Chelsea Cove? Or hang out at the Armvets hall on McHenry Road? Chelsea Cove used to be the site of an Indian Village — or was it a burial ground? On foggy nights passers-by have claimed to see America Indians and tepees along McHenry Road.

Well, every silly story has some perfectly good explanation.

The story about the Wheeling Hartmann House has an explanation: the building's haunted.

The historical society says the story originated in a movie about the prohibition era. A gangster imprisoned Robin, a young innocent girl, in the upstairs room of

Lisa Schab  
Wheeling



an old Wheeling building. One day she became despondent, cut her wrists and died, but not before she wrote her name in her own blood on the wall. The story has never been verified.

A speakeasy not far from the Old Hartmann House burned down; some say that this is where Robin had been imprisoned. On the anniversary of the tragedy, a woman moves through the site, wailing and crying.

"Some Wheelingites allege that Robin's spirit haunts the Hartmann House," Historical Society officials say. "She walks through the building, sobbing and crying. Door knobs turn by themselves. Someone touches you on the shoulder and no one is there. Some say that lights have appeared in an upstairs window when the property was vacant. And the name reappears even after the wall has been painted."

It seems none of us have to go see one of the new "Halloween" or "Return of Freddy" movies this weekend. Just sit home and conjure up your own stories about the goings on here in our own, quiet, seemingly normal, little village.

You never know who you might run into as you stroll down Dundee Road... perhaps an old friend that you haven't seen in years — or perhaps an American Indian — or maybe a girl named Robin. Happy Hallo-Wheeling.

# SPINNING WHEEL

Oct. 20 - 1988

By Barbara K. McIntyre

## THE WHEELING HISTORICAL

Society has purchased a new carousel slide projector and will initiate it on Wednesday with a slide-tape program from the University of Illinois. The title of this colorful, educational set is "The Care of Historical Garments and Textiles." The new projector will come in handy when Marshall Balling or other members of his education committee such as Lorraine Haben, Betty Barrie, Ruth Wleder or Jan Broda take the Wheeling slide show on the road.

**SHIRLEY WARD McConnell** is no stranger to Wheeling. Her family came from Glenview and bought the Rockenbach farm on North Milwaukee Ave. In 1916, where she was later born. Shirley has been taking pictures of the farm and the Wheeling area for 30 years and members and friends of the Wheeling Historical Society will have the privilege of seeing her slide presentation on Wednesday, Nov. 30, at 7:30 p.m. Meetings of the Society are held in the former Zion Presbyterian Church, now in Chamber Park. This is the same building where Shirley, Marshall Balling, John Sicks, Lorraine Haben, Betty Barrie, Ethel Wleder, Elsie Hiller, Adeline Schneider and other members of the Society attended Sunday morning services years ago.



AN ILLINOIS  
CERTIFIED CITY

Village of Wheeling

November/December 1988

### Wheeling Historical Society Presents Lollipop Lane



On December 10, 1988, Santa and Mrs. Claus will have lunch with the residents of Addolorata Villa and afterwards sing holiday songs and present each resident with a small gift.

After Santa's visit at the Villa, he and Mrs. Claus will turn their sleigh onto McHenry Road to Route 83, south to Dundee Road, east to Wolf Road, and north to Chamber Park.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will greet the children at 2 p.m. at LOLLIPOP LANE in Chamber Park. Parents are asked to bring cameras or video cameras so they may have that "special picture" for years to come. SEE YOU ON DECEMBER 10.

#### LOLLIPOP LANE

December 10 through December 18, 1988

Weekdays 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Weekends 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For further information you may contact Lonnie Schnaitmann, President of the Wheeling Historical Society at 537-9057.

## Wheeling's Lollipop Lane being readied for Christmas

BY KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Historical Society is making a list and checking it twice, to be sure everything is ready for Santa's arrival at Chamber Park.

Every year, Santa and Mrs. Claus visit residents of Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged, then take a sleigh ride to Chamber Park, where children can visit them in "Lollipop Lane."

This year, Lollipop Lane will be open Dec. 10-18. The Historical Society is planning to decorate the park and the main Christmas tree there in a turn-of-the-century style.

Renovations of the society's carriage house, which began last month, are expected to be completed by Dec. 1, so that visitors cannot only visit Santa, but also view the display of antique carriages.

The historical museum, also located at the park, also will be open.

Lonnie Schnaitmann, Historical

Society president, said she expects about 1,000 children to visit Santa Claus during his stay in Wheeling. This will be his 16th year at Lollipop Lane.

"We'll have the 1900 Christmas tree, the carriages, hot apple cider," Schnaitmann said. "We've already started collecting decorations for the tree."

Lollipop Lane will be open weekdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and weekends from 2 to 5 p.m. Parents may bring cameras to photograph their child with Santa. For information, contact Lonnie Schnaitmann at 537-9057.

Dec. 1, 1988

## SPINNING WHEEL



By Barbara K. McIntyre

**SPEAKING OF SANTA**, he and the Mrs. will arrive by sleigh at Lollipop Lane in Chamber Park on Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. This follows an earlier stop at the Addolorata Villa where Santa (a.k.a. Sgt. Jack Kimsey) and Mrs. Claus (a.k.a. Willie Franta) will entertain and give presents. Until they depart from Lollipop Lane at 5 p.m. on the 18th, they can be visited by children and camera-toting parents from 2-5 p.m. on weekends and 6:30 until 8:30 during the week. Wheeling Historical Society members **Frank Schnaitmann** and **Bob and Eleanor Buerger** are coordinating the Claus' visitation. Curator **Betty Barrie** tells us the Wheeling Historical Museum will be open also, with turn-of-the-century decorations, at the same hours as Lollipop Lane.

Wheeling IL 60090  
Museum phone: 537-3119



Wheeling Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 1, No. 21, Nov.-Dec. 1988  
Editors: Barb and Bob McIntyre  
Phone: 537-3497

### THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER


Don't forget that our next meeting is Wednesday, November 30. The program will be provided by Shirley Ward McConnell and Pete Peterson. At this meeting we will be signing up members to serve as Santa and Mrs. Claus.

December is a very busy month with Lollipop Lane, the Museum, and now the Carriage House to be decorated. We will need a lot of manpower for these three buildings. When you are called on in the next few weeks, say "Yes, I will sit and sell cookies or sit at the Museum or Carriage House." Be a working member, not just a paper member.

The Carriage House hopefully will be ready Dec. 1, depending on weather. They have done a lot of work on it, and it's really taking shape.

Frank and I would like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving. Don't OD on turkey because we hope to see everyone on Nov. 30. (Remember the date change for this meeting.) Until then,

Historically yours,  
Lonnie Schnaitmann



The object of this Society  
Shall be the discovery,  
Preservation and  
Dissemination of  
Knowledge about  
The Wheeling  
Community

### THE CURATOR'S REPORT



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at the Wheeling Historical Museum. Lorraine Haben and Pat Walsdorf have decorated a turn-of-the-century tree in the back room and another, in the front room, is awaiting trimming.

We would like to report that the fanning mill, which was rescued from the Reeb Mill and cleaned up by Sandy Altieri, is now in the museum. The inscription reads, "Patented April 5.64 and June 5.69. Ed. P. Dickey, Racine, Wis."

We failed to mention in the last Newsletter that the Union Hotel Parking sign which Ruth Wieder told of liberating at the Old Settlers Picnic on July 4 is now displayed in the museum.

In February we will have a display of Valentines here. We would appreciate any of yours that you have saved and we invite all former students of Adele Richman to come and identify the ones you sent her back in the 20s. Eighty Valentines which she received will be exhibited.

We will be open during the Lollipop Lane period, Dec. 10-18, but the hours are not firmed up at this time. The same will be true of the Sicks Carriage House which will have some appropriate decoration. Come and share some mulled cider with us.

Betty Barrie

12/5/88

# Carriage house work slows down

BY KERI WYATT  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling's historic carriage house won't be completely restored in time for Santa's arrival at Chamber Park, but that isn't stopping the Wheeling Historical Society from planning to show it off.

The carriage house, where renovations have been going on since August, may have to wait until spring for final painting and caulking and turf restoration around the building.

Wheeling Park District Superintendent of Resource Management John Piazza said the cold weather and last minute changes in architectural plans have slowed down the project, which was supposed to be completed by Dec. 1.

"We've got a lot of the interior work done, and we plan on proceeding as much as possible," Piazza said. "But this rain and cold weather hasn't helped us. Hopefully, we'll get one coat of paint on next week, then put the final two coats on in the spring."

Lonnie Schnaitmann, historical society president, said the society is

hoping to have one or two of the carriages on display in the unfinished house. "We're going to start decorating the church (another historic building at the park) on Tuesday," she said. "We'll see how much gets done, but we'd like to have decorations at the carriage house, too."

The carriage house is an old barn that had at one time been slated for demolition. The historical society received a collection of old horse drawn carriages and a sleigh four years ago and was searching for a building to house them.

The village donated the old building, and the park district helped move it from the corner of Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue to its current location at Chamber Park on Wolf Road.

However, renovations have taken longer than expected. Schnaitmann blames her own group for part of the delay. "We caused four weeks delay, because the former owner sent us a picture of what the carriage house used to look like. We had to change the doors on the front, so it would look like it really did back then."

Despite the delays, the contract

for the renovations states the work must be done by Feb. 17. "We're still holding them to that," Schnaitmann said.

Santa arrives at Chamber Park Dec. 10 for Lollypop Lane, the society's annual holiday festival, which runs through Dec. 18. Santa and Mrs. Claus will take a sleigh ride through the streets of Wheeling from Addolorata Villa Home for the Aged to the park.

The parade will begin at 1:30 p.m., and the jolly old couple will travel down Old McHenry Road, to Route 83, south to Dundee Road, then turn east on Dundee Road to Wolf, then north to Lollypop Lane.

Children can visit Santa Claus from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. weekdays, and from 2 to 5 p.m. weekends. The park and historic buildings will be decorated in a turn-of-the-century style, and a large Christmas tree, with trimmings from that era, will be on display.

The Wheeling Park District Board is donating \$100 to the Historical Society to help with Lollypop Lane. The money will be used to pay for coloring books that Santa will hand out to visitors.

# Santa Claus to make a triumphant arrival

Here comes Santa Claus, Here comes Santa Claus, right down Dundee Road...

Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in Wheeling this weekend. Their first stop in our village will be to have lunch with the residents of Addolorata Villa, distribute some gifts and entertain with some Christmas songs.

At 1:30 p.m. Saturday, they will leave the Villa (located at 555 McHenry Road), add parade their way through the town. The Clauses will travel by sleigh, turning south on Old McHenry Road, then right on Elmhurst Road to Dundee Road, then east to Wolf Road, and north to Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf, and their temporary housing at Lollypop Lane.

Wheeling Historical Society members Frank Schnaitmann and Bob and Eleanor Buerger are co-chairman of this year's Lollypop Lane project; Lonnie Schnaitmann is president of the Wheeling Historical Society, which stages this annual event for the children of Wheeling and the surrounding areas.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus will greet children of all ages and listen to their holiday wishes from 2 to 5 p.m. weekends and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the week, from Saturday through Dec. 18. Parents are invited to bring their cameras.

Irene Dattilo is in charge of cookie sales this year at Lollypop Lane also.

For more information, call the Wheeling Historical Society at 537-3119.

Lisa Schab

Wheeling



12/8/88

# Mr. and Mrs. Claus to visit Lollypop Lane

The Wheeling Historical Society will stage Lollypop Lane for children in the Wheeling area. This is a free service and parents are welcome to bring cameras to record their children sitting on the laps of Santa or Mrs. Claus while receiving lollipops and coloring books.

Lollypop Lane will open at 2 p.m. Saturday after Mr. and Mrs. C. have

paid a visit to the residents of the Addolorata Villa. They travel by sleigh, (flat bed that is) and will be in residence in the former church building in Chamber Park until 5 p.m. on Sunday and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the week. Dec. 18 will be their final appearance.

For further information call Lonnie Schnaitmann, 537-9057.

12/8/88



### Standing up for Santa

(From left to right) Joe, Katie and Samantha Andresky and Lorena Horcher stand waiting to follow Santa and Mrs. Claus as they prepare to take a sleigh ride from Addolorata Village. (Photo by Bill Brandt)



### A bundle of Christmas joy

Mrs. Santa Claus, a.k.a. Willie Franta, leaps out of her sleigh, assisted by Frank Schnaitmann, chairman of Lollypop Lane. Santa didn't need any help. Lollypop Lane, sponsored by the Wheeling Historical Society, will be the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claus now through Sunday. They will greet visitors at Chamber Park from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. weekdays, and from 2 to 5 p.m. on weekends.

Daily Herald Photo/Mark Welsh

### Local history book is good last-minute gift

Here it is — the last-minute gift tip that you've been waiting for. It's inexpensive, warm, humorous, educational, reflective, interesting and easy to wrap. It's also conveniently available at your local historical museum.

You guessed. It's a copy of our own local history book, "Wheeling Through the Years." An easy-to-read, large format paperback complete with photographs and illustrations, "Wheeling Through the Years" is available for \$7.95.

For more information, or to obtain your own copy, call 537-3497.

Lisa Schab

Wheeling





Museum



Wassail Bowl Party



At the  
Villa



Year End Review



The Wheeling Historical Society made a big move by relocating and renovating an old building into a museum for a collection of horse-drawn carriages.

12/29/88

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher



Doc Taylor, Adeline Schusider  
and Betty Barrie -  
Presentation of Life - Hon.  
Memberships to Adeline





P.O. Box 3  
Wheeling IL 60090  
Museum phone: 537-3119

Vol. 1, No. 22, Jan.-Feb. 1989  
Editors: Barb and Bob McIntyre  
Phone: 537-3497



Wheeling Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**

THE PRESIDENT'S  
LETTER -

Hope all of you enjoyed the holidays. Frank and I wish all of you a healthy and happy 1989.



Lollipop Lane was once again a success. I want to thank Frank, and Bob and Eleanor Buerger for all the time they spent at Lollipop Lane. Irene Dattilo made lots of calls for cookies, and everyone did an excellent job. The cookies were great!

We all had a great time at the Wassail Bowl. The food was good, and we all know everyone goes home with a warm glow, not altogether due to the Wassail punch. Lorraine Haben and Dolly Hein deserve a big thanks for a job well done.

All in all, December was a good month for the Society. We had new members working at Lollipop Lane. They seemed to enjoy it, and we hope they can make meetings and help on other projects.

This month we have the Board meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. Our regular meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 7:30 p.m. In February we will have the Potluck Dinner and White Elephant sale. Willie Franta and Betty Barrie are chairpersons for the dinner. Frank and Bob Buerger will be taking care of the sale. Remember that "One man's junk is another man's treasure," and save yours for Feb. 22.

I think Dr. Taylor did a great job on the Certificate making Adeline Schneider an Honorary Member of the Society. If the weather had been nicer I'm sure Adeline could have come to the Wassail Bowl to receive it. As it was, Dr. Taylor, Marshall Balling and Betty Barrie made the presentation at her home. Thanks, Doc, for a job well done.

The program for our January meeting will be Marshall Balling's slide show

on old Wheeling landmarks. Mark your calendar now for Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Thanks again, old and new members, for making Lollipop Lane a success. Working on a project can be a lot of fun. Remember, only you can make a project happen! Until Jan. 25 . . .

Historically yours,  
Lonnie Schnaitmann

CURATOR'S CORNER

The old-time Christmas tree and decorations have been put away with lots of help from Lorraine Haben. We look forward to a Valentine display again in February. In addition to 1920 Valentines we will have some from 1927 which were originally sent to Adele Richman Wilthaus, a teacher at Wheeling School back then, by her adoring students. We encourage these former students to visit the museum in February and identify their own.

Bee Burke of the Learning Resource Center of the present Whitman School ran across a book formerly in the library of the Jack London Junior High School which is no more. She noted that on the title page of the 1906 volume of "Trees That Every Child Should Know," there was an embossed stamp stating "Elsabeth School Library, Wheeling Illinois. The Elsabeth Port School at Chley closed in 1931. Bee rescued the volume and presented it to the museum, for which we are grateful.

Betty Taylor

NEW MEMBERS

Dorothy A. Stubenvoll, 14  
Rd., Mt. Prospect IL 60070  
Mae Ortegel, 616 16th  
Palmetto FL 34221. Her  
Arthur Ortegel, was Wheeling  
from 1945 to 1953.

0  
12  
17  
1.88  
h.48  
s.36  
Or.  
di  
feurer  
of  
qui

Wheeling

Historical

Society

1989-90

1/22/88

### Historic landmarks

A slide presentation of historic landmarks will be presented by Marshall Balling at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the meeting of the Wheeling Historical Society at Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road.

**WHEELING HISTORY** will be recalled at the meeting of the Wheeling Historical Society on Wednesday, Jan. 25. Featured will be a slide presentation of Wheeling landmarks by **Marshall Balling**, Wheeling historian. This show is an expanded version of the one originated by Marshall and former Assistant Village Planner, **Julie Woods**. The public is invited to join members at the meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the original Presbyterian Church building now

1-12-89



located in Chamber Park. **Betty Barrie**, the Historical Museum curator, reminds us that with the holidays behind us, the museum will again be open from 2 until 4 p.m. every Sunday afternoon.

## Years recalled with exhibit of valentines

BY LINDA BAENEN  
Daily Herald correspondent

The year was 1925, a time in Wheeling when one teacher taught three grades of youngsters in a single classroom and the curriculum was reading, writing, and arithmetic.

It's a time that lives now only on old black and white photographs. And though the young faces may look different, the valentines they exchanged would not.

For Betty Barrie, curator of the Wheeling Historical Society, a chance to look back at those years came at the beginning of this month when a box arrived at the museum from her third grade teacher. The box held the valentine cards that were given to her teacher from her third, fourth, and fifth grade classes.

"Miss Richman, that was her name at the time, came to what was then called Wheeling school for her first teaching job," says Barrie. "There was about 36 children in the classroom 12 in each grade. The building consisted of two rooms on the first floor and one on the second floor, but that one was unfinished and unuseable."

The cards are part of a monthly-long valentine exhibit, which opened Feb. 1 at the Wheeling Historical Society, 251 Wolf Road. Encased in glass, the exhibit contains more than



**Betty Barrie arranges a display of old valentines at the Wheeling Historical Society.**

Daily Herald Photo/Bob Chwedyk

40 valentine cards displayed amongst a picture of that third, fourth, and fifth grade class.

"All of the photos were in really good shape when I received them," says Barrie. "I believe that she had kept them in her attic after all of these years."

A variety of cards are displayed at the exhibit; some are the traditional children's valentine cards similar to those distributed in grade schools of today. Others are hand made out doilies or cray paper. The more complex looking cards are pop-up variety.

"You could still read what was written on the back of most of the cards," says Barrie. "And on one of them it said, 'From the bad boy!' And that was the only thing that was written."

Barrie, born and raised in Wheeling, can still recall those years gone by. And as the memories of the "good old days" filled her head, a smile appears on her face as she begins to explain.

"I just hope that I am able to contact those of us who are still left from that class," she says, "because I am sure that they would all be just as happy to see this as I was."

2/23/89

## Valentine celebration continues at library

Hearts and cupids have given way to Easter bunnies and eggs in your local card or drug store, but the Valentine exhibit sponsored by the Wheeling Historical Society will continue through the end of this month. The display of Valentines from years past is open from 2 to 4 p.m. every Sunday at the Wheeling Historical Museum in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling.

One of the display cases holds Valentines from the year 1927 sent to Adele Richman Wilthaus by her students at the Wheeling School. A picture of the class also is included.

Postal cards, loaned by Shirley Ward McConnell are new to the exhibit this year. They were received by McConnell's aunt, Eva N. Ward, in 1908.

Curator of the Historical Museum is Wheeling resident Betty Barrie. For information, call 537-3497 or 537-3119.

**Lisa Schab**

Wheeling



2/9/89

## SPINNING WHEEL



By Barbara K. McIntyre

**VALENTINES ARE** blooming in the Historical Museum at Chamber Park. A new species this year are Valentine post cards loaned by **Shirley Ward McConnell**. They were sent to her aunt, **Eva N. Ward**, in 1908. Also in flower are the Valentines sent to **Adele Richman Wilthaus** by her students in the Wheeling School in 1927. The perennials from 1920 are again in bloom. The museum is maintained and staffed by the Wheeling Historical Society and the curator, **Betty Taylor Barrie**, will be on hand every Sunday from 2 until 4 p.m. to welcome visitors.

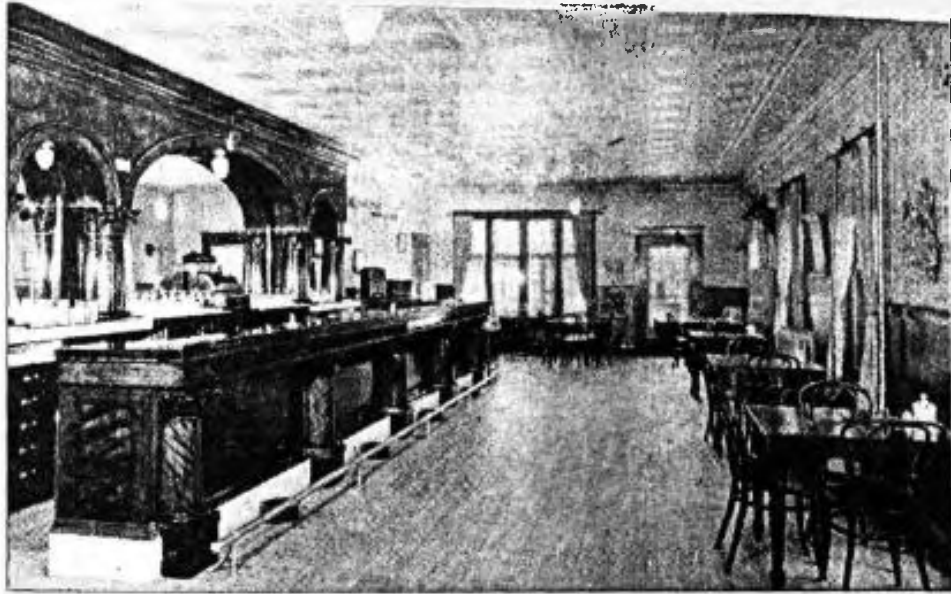


Photo courtesy of Wheeling Historical Society

The interior of the old Hartman House, which today is Bob Chinn's Crab House.

## How area's past led to 'Restaurant Row'

By Cynthia L. Ogorek

When she was a girl, Betty Barrie and her friends would spend Sunday evenings walking along Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling watching the traffic go by.

At that time, the late 1920s, Milwaukee Avenue was in its prime as "Restaurant Row." Because it was the main route between Chicago and the lake country of Wisconsin, automobiles on the road "were bumper to bumper going back to Chicago on Sundays," she recalled.

The story of "Restaurant Row," however, starts back in the 1830s. The Des Plaines Valley Trail roughly paralleled Lake Michigan and had been cut by buffalo hooves and pioneer wagon wheels. According to *Wheeling Through the Years*, published in 1987 by the Wheeling Historical Society, by 1830 its name had been changed to Milwaukee Trace. Later it gained status as the stagecoach route from Chicago to Green Bay, Wis.

From 1837 on, Joseph Filkins operated his Stagecoach Tavern on the northwest corner of the trace and present-day Dundee Road. The story goes that when Filkins rang a bell, folks ran from the washing trough to the dinner table to eat all they could for 25 cents. A whiskey cost a nickel more.

Improvements were made to the road through the years. And in 1849, it was known as the Milwaukee Plank Road, although the planking ran out somewhere around Niles.

Late in the 19th century commuter rail lines began to reach out from Chicago into its suburbs, but Wheeling was not on that list. Still it had the Milwaukee Road and that was still the easiest way to get up to Wisconsin for the summer.

sin for the summer.

By World War I, autos were humming along the gravel taking families to the country for the weekend or just to Wheeling for a chicken dinner.

"Restaurant row" came into its own when the auto became widely available and Milwaukee Avenue was paved in 1923. Hartman House, Chicago House, Union Hotel, Behm's, Red Mary's Wheeling Inn and Blum's were just a few of the restaurants that made chicken and steak their specialties and drew patrons from Chicago and surrounding villages.

"You knew everybody in town, then," said Barrie, who came to Wheeling as a youngster about 1920.

As an adult, Barrie, like her mother before her, ran the town's telephone switchboard on and off from 1937 to 1958.

Houses had no street numbers then and the switchboard operator was responsible for getting the volunteer fire department out on emergency calls.

The phones went dial in 1958, she recalled. Wheeling was one of the last offices to do so because of all the pay phones on Milwaukee Avenue, she added. Because of the new residential subdivisions, a switchboard could no longer handle the calls.

In 1901, she noted, there were two phones in town, one for the Village Hall and one for the Fire Department. But by 1904, service was cancelled due to lack of interest. Yet, it revived sometime after that because records at the historical society museum show there were 28 subscribers in 1910, 92 in 1921 and a whopping 232 in 1930. All the lines were

Turn to Page 47

## History

## How past led to 'Restaurant Row'

Continued from Page 45  
either six or eight parties.

"Of course, we took the bills in," she said. "We had to write tickets, too, if they called Chicago."

Outside of the restaurants and several small businesses like hardware stores along the avenue, there weren't many occupations in Wheeling besides farming.

In the very early years, Wheeling was a dairy center. Most of the farmers had come from the Schleswig-Holstein area of Germany known for its fine cattle herds.

Milk was sold locally to households, restaurants and creameries where it might be made into cheese. If they didn't sell it in town, they put it on the milk train bound each morning for Chicago.

Because of all the livestock in the area, one of the most important people in town was the veterinarian.

Dr. George Schneider, the first vet, covered a territory from Lake Forest and Libertyville on the north to Itasca and Addison on the south—all on horseback. While he was on the road treating horses and cows, his wife Maria managed the family's fragmented farmland, now part of the Shadow Bend Subdivision.

Once the automobile became affordable, it became easier for farmers to get produce into Chicago and truck farms came into vogue in the 20s and 30s.

Heading out at 2 or 3 in the morning, farmers packed their lunches and a load of onions, carrots, beets, peas, beans and tomatoes to sell to Loop restaurateurs and grocers. If the farm was producing well, they may have made two trips a week.

West of Wheeling, the farming community of Buffalo Grove was experiencing much the same history. Both were settled principally by German dairymen, although the Germans who settled Buffalo Grove were mainly Catholic, while their Protestant brothers tended to live in Wheeling.



Photo courtesy of Wheeling Historical Society

**The old Weidner Cheese Factory in Buffalo Grove.**

Like the dairymen in Wheeling, Buffalo Grovers sold their milk to cheesemakers. J.B. Weidner was one who had a cheese factory on Dundee Road. An average herd was 40 cows and this was Buffalo Grove's prime industry until the land began sprouting tract houses instead of cattle feed.

John Henneman was the first long-term settler. A slide presentation used by the Buffalo Grove Historical Society Museum says he came from Bavaria in 1846. Impressed with the farming possibilities north of Chicago, he sent the news back home. By the next growing season the Weidners, Sebastians, Schoenebergers, Phisters, Horchers and Raupps, too, were clearing land and building cattle farms.

The villagers were doing well enough by 1852 to build themselves a church, St.

Mary's. The wooden structure was destroyed by fire in 1852 and wasn't rebuilt until 1897. Still standing today, the stone tower is a landmark on Buffalo Grove Road.

In the museum there is a collection of 19th century French and German vestments and other memorabilia from St. Mary's Parish.

Ted Uskali, museum curator, said the exhibit is one of only three that he has seen in the area. The others are at the Chicago Historical Society and the Milwaukee County Museum.

Uskali said the name Buffalo Grove commemorates the path a herd of buffalo trod each day on its way from Wheeling through Buffalo Grove, where it stopped for a drink at Buffalo Creek, on its way to Long Grove or Deer Grove.

While Wheeling had its Milwaukee Avenue and the one-track railroad, Buffalo Grove grew mostly along Dundee Road. In the 1930s, the state decided to pave Dundee Road all the way to Dundee.

No one knows whether the state ran out of money or concrete first, said Uskali, but the paving only got eight miles west of town.

Around 1850, 64 cabins were recorded in the Buffalo Grove vicinity.

By the end of the century, eight- or 10-room farmhouses were being built at a cost of about \$2,000. They had no closets because for tax purposes closets were considered rooms, he said.

With prosperity came leisure time. The museum has an exhibit of equipment and photographs of the 1907 Buffalo Grove baseball team.

Uskali said that they got their act together and took it on the road that year when they played the Chicago Cubs.

"Apparently, they must have won. We don't know what the score was but they never were invited back by the Cubs," he said, adding that "they all look more like football players than baseball players."



Photo courtesy of Wheeling Historical Society

**Two of the area's oldest settlers, Melchior and Maria Raupp.**

While Wheeling had incorporated as a village in 1894, Buffalo Grove remained a community of farms until the 1950s.

By then families like the Raupps had begun selling off their land both because housing developers were offering good prices and because the farmers were getting up in years.

Developer Al Frank built 300 prefabricated houses, four to an acre in the mid-1950s, said Uskali. They sold for about \$15,000 each. (The average price paid for a house today is over \$200,000).

Shortly after these latter-day settlers took up residence, they decided their community needed the amenities incorporation would bring and voted to become the Village of Buffalo Grove in 1958.

1989. Display of Valentines  
in  
Museum



# Historical Society holds supper and auction

The Wheeling Historical Society is holding its annual supper and auction at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at the Church building in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road. For information call 537-9057.

P.O. Box 3  
Wheeling IL 60090  
Museum phone: 537-3119

Wheeling Historical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 1, No. 23, Mar.-Apr. 1989  
Editors: Barb and Bob McIntyre  
Phone: 537-3497

**THE  
PRESIDENT'S  
LETTER**

Dear Members:

The February meeting which is an annual dinner and auction was a great success. More than fifty people were in attendance. The food was very good, thanks to Betty Barrie and Willie Franta. Bob Buerger did a great job as auctioneer and Frank Schnaitmann as his helper.

The Nominating Committee will be giving their report at the March meeting. If you would like to run for an office, please call Dr. Ian Taylor, Committee Chairman, or Eleanor Buerger or Barb McIntyre. The positions open are Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and two Directors.

April and May are going to be very exciting months for our museum. The special exhibit will be on "Germans at Work in a Society Under Construction." We will open the exhibit with a reception on April 9, which is a Sunday, from 1 to 5 p.m. Invitations will be mailed to Historical Societies in the area.

A funny thing happened on the way to Dominick's. A non-active member said they were tired of seeing the same names in my column every month. Being the mild mannered president that I am, I said there's an easy solution--Become Active!

Our Board meeting is March 14 and our meeting is March 22. Remember, members, you will be called on to help man the Museum on Sunday 2-4 and the Chapel will be opening soon with hours 2-4 on Sundays also. When you are called, smile and say YES.

Until March 22--

Historically yours,  
Lonnie

The German-American Heritage Institute presents:

**Germans at Work  
in a Society  
Under  
Construction**

Northern Illinois  
1850-1920



*A Photo Exhibit which examines  
the Diversity and Extent  
of their Contribution  
to the Economy and Society  
of Illinois Today*

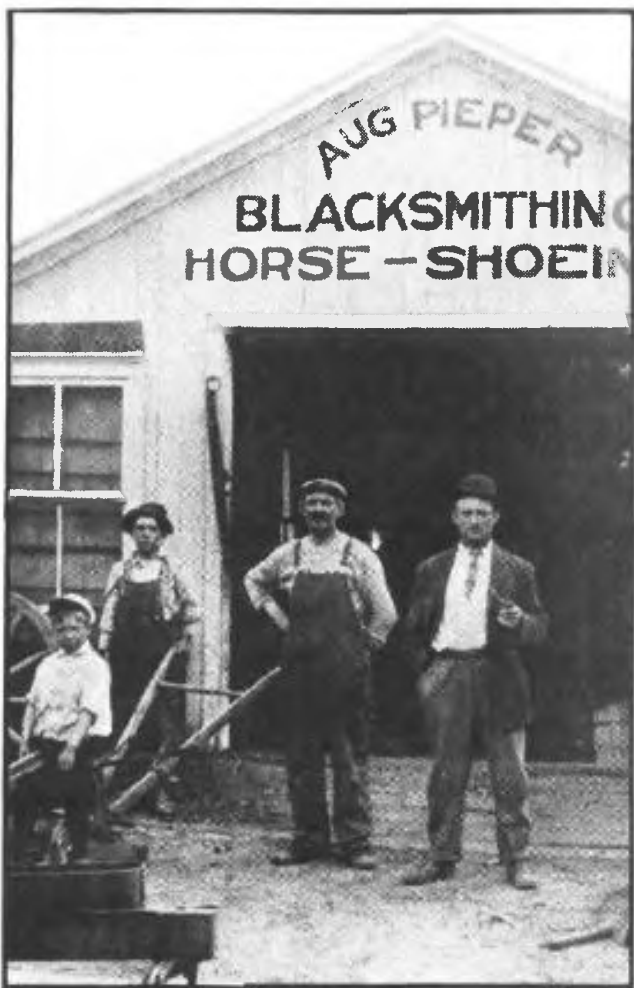
How come, here in Wheeling, we're hosting an exhibit on German immigrants at work? It is part of our heritage! In the 1840s the German people lived in Prussia, Austria, and some 38 separate states. Each had its own flag, government and army, and levied its own taxes. In 1848 and 49, revolutionary movements for German union and liberty broke out. The revolts failed, and the most enterprising people turned to America in their search for opportunity.

(Continued on next page)

The German-American Heritage Institute presents:

# Germans at Work in a Society Under Construction

Northern Illinois  
1850-1920



Pieper's blacksmith shop

*A Photo Exhibit which examines  
the Diversity and Extent  
of their Contribution  
to the Economy and Society  
of Illinois Today*



# SPINNING WHEEL



By Barbara K. McIntyre

**ETHNIC IS IN!** Whether the term is used to define voting blocks in Chicago wards or trendy clothing for summer as predicted by fashion writers, ethnic is a word to deal with this spring. When we use it here, we're talking about a traveling photo exhibit that will be displayed at the Wheeling Historical Museum for the months of April and May. Those whose ethnic roots go back to the German settlers will have plenty to be proud of as nine of the 25 photographs showing "Germans at Work in a Society Under Construction" are from Wheeling. Advance promotion material shows August Pieper in front of his blacksmith shop and Victor Haben on a reaper.

**NAME DROPPING:** Paul Azal of Wheeling was a member of the winning team of duffers who played nine holes of glacial golf at the Ramada Hotel O'Hare and raised \$1,500 to kick off the 1989 Easter Seal telethon...Belated congratulations to Fran and Cliff Bird on their 14th wedding anniversary!

**PLEASINGLY PLUMP?** A new "Woman's World

Shop" has just opened on North McHenry Rd. in the new Buffalo Grove Town Center and the brand new manager is Randy Klocke! Randy's experience was gained at the W.W. Shop in the Hawthorne Shopping Center where she was first assistant manager and, most recently, acting manager. Congratulations, Randy.

**CRIME STOPPERS:** There is no crime in the Arlington Club complex and the Homeowners Association president, Norm Bergslien, is determined that there never will be. Doe Nevins is in charge of block captains in the Neighborhood Watch program; there is one for every cul de sac and Police Safety Officer, Barb Kobishop, is conducting three training sessions for them this week. The first was on Tuesday, the second tonight at 7:30 and the third will be on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. That is real preparedness!

**WHEELING AARP** chapter members are going to be prepared for the future. On Monday they will learn about the Durable Power of Attorney for Health. Assistant Attorney General, Ann Parisi, will explain the law as it applies in Illinois. The February issue of

the AARP News Bulletin has a lead story on the subject with the title, "Living Wills."

**"TO SERVE, not to be served"** is the AARP motto and chapter members have volunteered in various capacities: Helen Engstrom is tutoring in the "English as a Second Language" program at the Community Presbyterian Church; Lorraine Jones is a Hospice volunteer at Alexian Brothers Hospital; Leona Madden volunteers at both Holy Family Medical Center and hospital and Syke and Rudy Horcher and Pat Walsdorf assist in the Sisters' Store.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE AGELESS:** Students at St. Viator High School have been staffing REST, a shelter for the homeless in Uptown. Mike Jerz of Wheeling says, "We arrive an hour or so before it opens at 10 p.m. to prepare a meal of soup, bread and coffee for the men. In the morning we wake them at 6 a.m. for a more hearty breakfast. However, many of them like to get out by 4 a.m. to get in line for jobs or to get a bus to the suburbs where daily work is more available." Seems safe to say that all education at St. Viator's does not come from textbooks!

# SPINNING WHEEL

By Barbara K. McIntyre

**"EVERYONE IS FAMOUS for 15 minutes"** said the late Andy Warhol, but Doc Taylor had a whole day named for him (March 21, to be exact) by Village President Shella Schultz, and the Board of Trustees. The plaque given to the retired veterinarian was in honor of over 30 years of service to the community.

One of his philanthropies is working with handicapped kids in junior stamp clubs sponsored by the Lions International Stamp Club all over the world. Everyone can help him by saving the following stamps: All foreign, including Canada and Great Britain; all double-size U.S. Commemoratives and old, any-sized U.S. Commemoratives; all odd-valued U.S. except current ordinary 25 cent stamps, such as 4 cent, 10 cent, 50 cent, \$1, etc.; all airmail stamps, all precancels, all booklet stamps except "flags" and other ordinary 25 cent; stamps from old postcards of any kind; old forgotten "school-boy-type" albums; first-day covers, old catalogues and other stamp supplies. Please send congratulations and stamps to Dr. Ian Taylor, 769 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling.

**SPRING CANDY HUNT** this Saturday at 10 a.m. at Potawatomi Woods for children from toddlers to age 11. The children will be sent out in four age groups to hunt for candy and plastic eggs in roped off areas. The eggs will be exchanged for prizes. Candy and eggs are being donated by the Wheeling Jaycees and area merchants. This annual affair is sponsored by the Wheeling Jaycees and will be held at the grove of Potawatomi Woods on the north side of Dundee Rd., just east of the Des Plaines River. The rain date is Sunday, and Stuart Stautz is in charge. Rumor has it that Peter Rabbit will make an appearance on a Wheeling Fire Department truck.

**RAIN OR SHINE,** Sunday is the opening reception for the traveling photo exhibit, "Germans at Work...Northern Illinois 1850-1920." Neighboring historic societies whose communities share Wheeling's German heritage have been invited to

come between 1 and 5 p.m. The exhibit will remain in the Historical Museum in Chamber Park for the months of April and May. It can be seen every Sunday from 2 until 4 p.m. and by appointment with Betty Barrie (537-0327).

**FAMILY FIRST** is a new project of the Northwest Suburban Child Protective Network to address child abuse and/or neglect. The NSCPN is a consortium of six youth service agencies which includes Omni Youth Services. Child abuse/neglect cases cannot be referred directly to NSCPN, but must first be reported to the Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-25-ABUSE. For more information, call Nancy Eike, 253-6010.

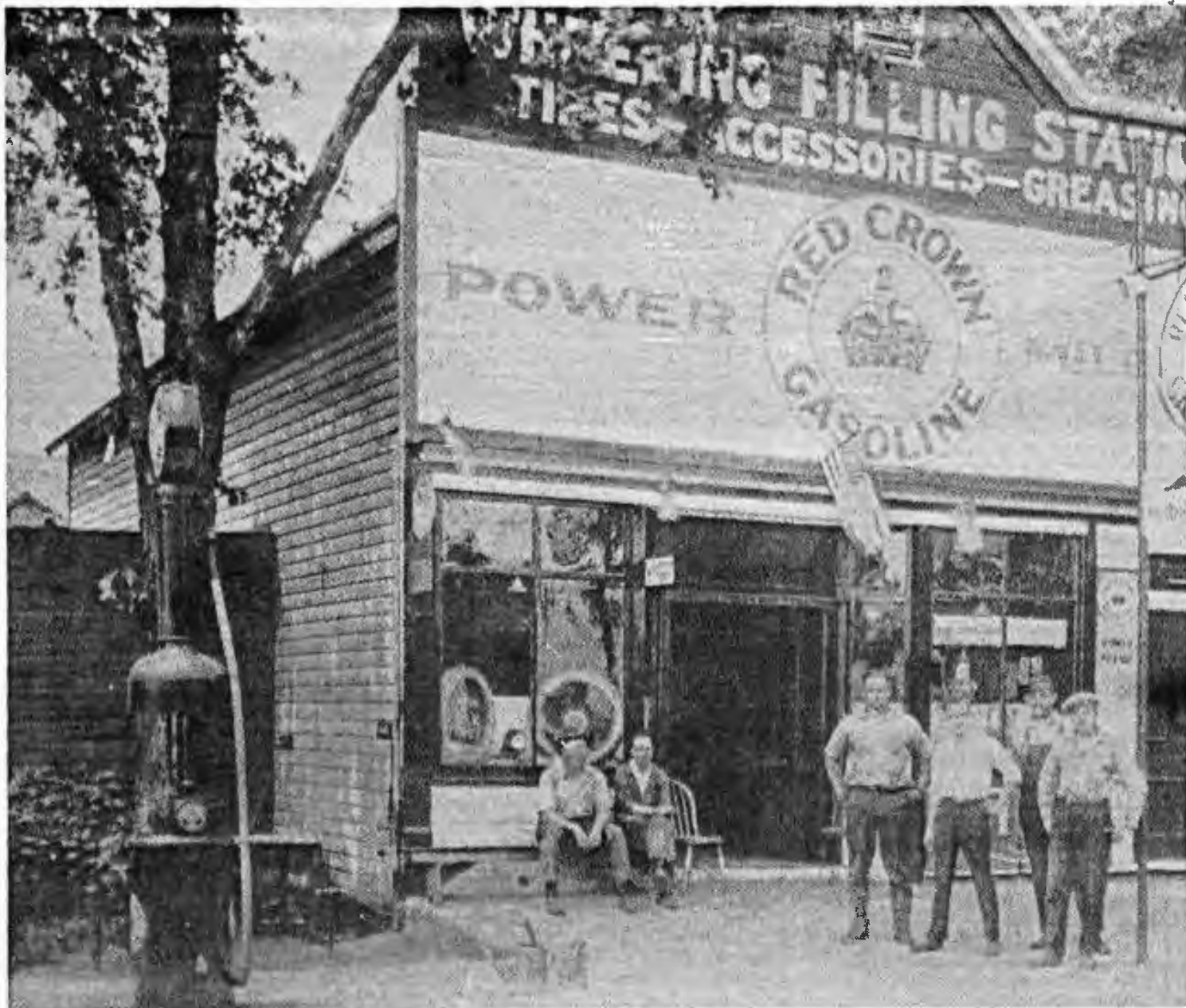
**SNOWBIRDS FLY HOMEWARD:** Now that spring has sprung, the lucky people who escaped to warmer climes are returning. Bobbie and Walter Krause have come back from Las Vegas where they celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary...Leona Madden, who cruised the western Caribbean aboard the "Song of Norway," is back on land...The exodus from Florida includes Pat Walsdorf, June-Marie Stolla, Tom and Margaret Hickey and the Schnaltmann family.

**NAME DROPPING:** Eva M. Rickert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Rickert, has been accepted for admission to Luther College in Iowa for the 1989-1990 school year...Debbie Roseman tells us the residential crusade for the American Cancer Society will conclude April 9...Shawn Cooper, son of Linda and Rick Cooper, is one of three young people celebrating their B'nai Mithvah at Congregation Beth Am Synagogue in April...Marlene Bodner is putting out a very attractive newsletter for the Arlington Club Condominium Association.

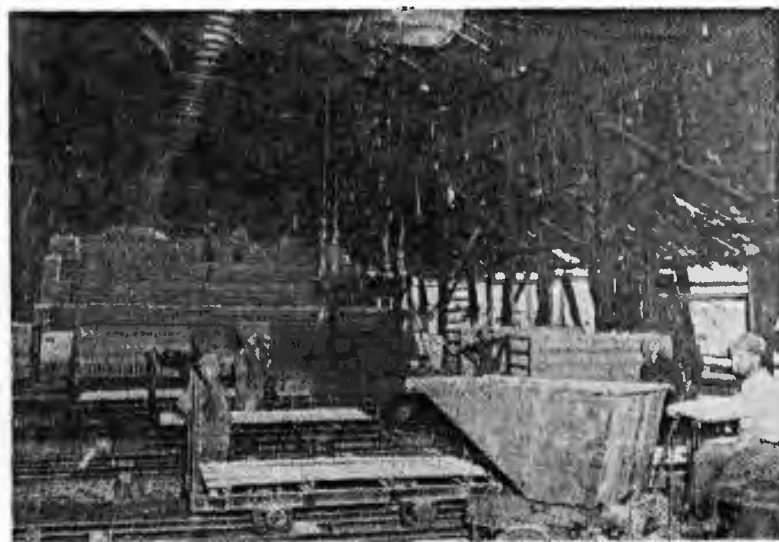
**HAPPY PASSOVER!**

The Spinning Wheel column is written by Barbara McIntyre, 537-3497, to include news of those residing in the Wheeling community.





Mayer's filling station located on Milwaukee Avenue.



Although not in Wheeling proper, this brickyard, down Lake-Cook Road near Deerfield, provided work for many of the village's residents. (Right) Workers building the huge wooden forms for the concrete bridge that crosses the Des Plaines River at Dundee Road take a moment to pose for a picture.



PHOTOGRAPHERS

# Photographic memory

## A look at Wheeling's German roots

A photographic exhibit at the Wheeling Historical Society traces the roots of some of the village's earliest German settlers and their contributions to the area's development.

Road names around Wheeling are one of the first clues: Schoenbeck, Raupp, Weldner. Farm names are the second: Haben, Horcher, Koeppen.

Ever since the middle of the 19th Century, the German influence on Wheeling and the northern Illinois area has been substantial. They built many of the roads, farmed much of the food, ran many of the restaurants and provided much of the labor that brought prosperity and settlement to the area.

*Deutsche Namen* are still prominent. They appear on lists of former village officials and dominate the plots that make up the Wheeling Cemetery on Dundee Road.

But it was the people, not the names, that provided the area with the heritage that is being celebrated in an exhibit at the Wheeling Historical Society. Starting Sunday, April 9, the exhibit has nine photographs from Wheeling among its more than 25 photographs that cross a number of panels. The exhibit will run through May.



Driven by Bill Koeppen, this is one of the early gasoline-powered tractors. The engine was mounted over the drive wheels and separate attachments were hitched on for different tasks like plowing or harrowing.

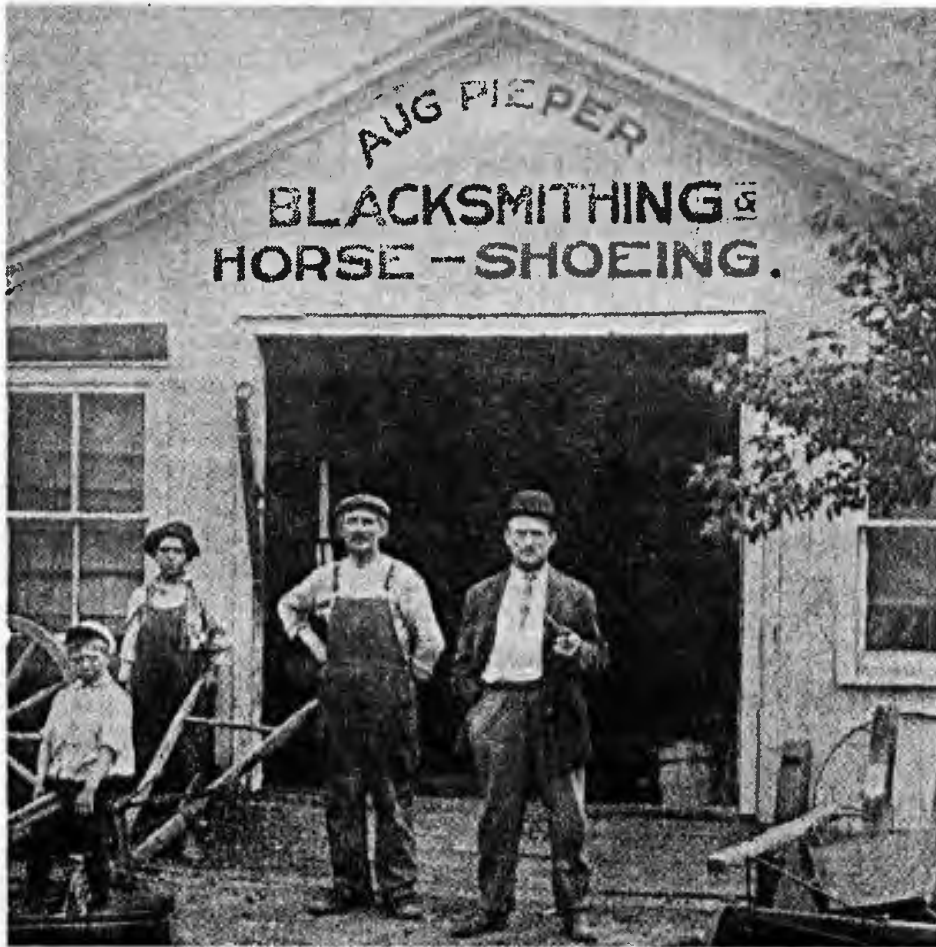
Victor Haben

BESIDES GETTING AN overview of the German heritage that runs throughout the area, the exhibit will also feature several artifacts from the era. An anvil from a blacksmith's shop, farm tools used both in the barn and the home, a veterinarian's instruments and merchandise from a turn-of-the-century general store will be on display.

Visitors will be able to see the difference between a farmer's sickle and scythe and find out what 19th

Century teen-agers could pick up at the local store. Hint: It wasn't a video game or peanut butter cups.

The exhibit will be open on Sundays through the end of May at the Wheeling Historical Society's museum in Chamber Park, located on Wolf Road, just north of Dundee Road. Visitors can view the exhibit from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays, excluding April 30, or by appointment. Call museum curator Betty Barrie at 537-0327 for an appointment.



This is August Pieper's blacksmith shop in 1908. He would later turn the shop from one servicing carriages to one making sure automobiles got fixed and fueled. Pieper's daughter, Elsie, still lives in the village.

Sunday, April 2, 1989

## Photo display honors Germans of Wheeling

When the Village of Wheeling was incorporated in 1894, its first village officials bore the surnames of Boehmer, Forke, Schwingel, Sigwalt, Schneider, Fassbender and Schminke — founding fathers of a "good German stock." And what better reason for Wheeling to be the next site for display of the traveling exhibit, "Germans At Work."

"Germans at Work in a Society Under Construction" is a photography exhibit which examines the diversity and extent of the settlers' contribution to the economy and society of Illinois today. It is presented by the German-American Heritage Institute and will be on display during April and May at the Wheeling Historical Museum, 251 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling.

"We consider it quite a coup to have the exhibit, as it is the only convenient opportunity for those in the north or northwest suburbs to view it," writes Barbara McIntyre of the Wheeling Historical Society.

The exhibit began its journey last June at the Altenheim in Forest Park and has traveled to museums in Davenport, Bloomington, Springfield and Belleville. After the next two months in Wheeling, it will show only once more at the Newberry Library in Chicago before its return to the Altenheim for permanent display.

Of the most interest to Wheeling citizens will be the nine photographs in the collection of 25 which were supplied by the Wheeling Historical Society.

Lisa Schab

Wheeling



Other contributors are the Forest Park Historical Society; the Newberry Library; the Wisconsin State Historical Society; Chicago Historical Society; the private collections of A. Finkl and Sons Co.; Haeger Potteries Inc.; Jerry Turnquist; Michael Alft; and the Emil Kraus, Franz Christian Schwenk and Ernest W. Schneider families.

The exhibit will open with a reception from 1 to 5 p.m. April 9.

Goals of the exhibit are to help show Germans at work in both the hinterland and the city, as well as showing how the work performed by Germans changed during a time of rapid industrial development.

Does anyone in Wheeling remember relatives of German descent or have stories to tell which have been passed on to them through the generations? If you'd like to share those memories or family tales through this column, you may mail them anytime during April or May to: Lisa Schab, c/o the Daily Herald, 217 W. Campbell, Arlington Heights, Ill., 60006.

Send in your contributions, and we'll have our own historical display right here in this space.

## Workshops planned for aspiring writers

BY KRIS MILHOUSEN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Several special workshops for writers and aspiring writers will be sponsored during April and May by the Off Campus Writers' Workshop (OCWW). Kicking off the series will be Sandra Pesmen, features editor for Crain's Chicago Business.

The author of *Writing for the Media*, Pesmen writes the Executive Woman column for North Shore magazine and produces a syndicated column. She will discuss writing and marketing nonfiction Thursday and April 13.

Poet Timothy Dekin, a teacher at Loyola University in Chicago, will lead workshops on creating and publishing poetry April 20 and 27.

A four-part workshop will be conducted May 4, 11, 18 and 25 by Karen Lee Osborne, whose first novel *Carlyle Simpson* was awarded first prize by the Friends of American Writers and the Chicago Foundation for Literature Award by the Friends of Literature.

Osborne is a staff member of the English Department of Columbia College in Chicago. She will talk about writing for a variety of media, with special emphasis on fiction.

The May 11 meeting will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Deerfield Public Library, 920 Waukegan Road. All other OCWW workshops will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave.

Admission is \$5 at the door or \$15 for the Karen Lee Osbourne series. Persons enrolling in more than one session may submit a writing sample for the workshop leader to critique.

For more information about OCWW or any of these workshops, call 256-2053.

### Historic exhibit

An opening reception for "Germans at Work in a Society Under Construction: Northern Illinois 1859-1920" will be hosted next week by the Wheeling Historical Society. The traveling photo exhibit includes photographs which were provided by the Wheeling Historical Society and was com-

plied by members of the German-American Heritage Institute.

"Germans at Work" examines the diversity and extent of contributions by Germans to the economy and society of Illinois today. Of the 25 photos in the exhibit, nine are from Wheeling.

The exhibit debuted last June at Altenheim in Forest Park and has been shown at museums in Davenport, Iowa, and Springfield and Bellville, Ill. After spending April and May in Wheeling, the exhibit will make its final stop at the Newberry Library in Chicago.

The opening reception will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. April 9 at the Wheeling Historical Museum, 251 N. Wolf Road. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

### Seasonal fund-raiser

The North Suburban Chapter of Vietnow will conduct a spring fund-raising dance from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. April 15 at the American Legion Post #42, 1030 Central St., Evanston. The cost is \$7.50 per person, and proceeds will be used to purchase a photocopy machine to reproduce the organization's newsletter.

Due to space limitations, tickets are also limited. To obtain tickets or more information, call 256-3662.

Chapter meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the above address. The next meeting will be held April 13.

For more information about Vietnow or any of its activities, call Larry at 475-6290 or write: Vietnow, North Suburban Chapter, P.O. Box 7028, Evanston, Ill. 60204.

### Open house

A free open house for men, women and teens interested in the Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) weight loss support group will be held April 18. Sponsored by TOPS Chapter III. 177, the event will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Church of Rolling Meadows, downstairs meeting area, Kirchoff Road and Meadow Drive.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For further information, call Barb at 577-7472.

FROM THE CLUBS

# Reception for travel photo exhibit slated

The Wheeling Historical Society is holding a reception and formal opening of the traveling photo exhibit, "Germans at Work, Northern Illinois, 1850-1920," from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 9, at the Wheeling Historical Museum, 251 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling. For club information, call President Lonnie Schnaitmann at 537-9057.



**WHEELING HISTORICAL Society** members will adjourn to the museum next door following the business meeting Wednesday. **Jack Thompson**, a former blacksmith, will demonstrate the art of shoeing horses, using the anvil and tools that he and his wife, **Corrine**, have loaned for a museum exhibit. This will also give members an opportunity to see the photo exhibit, "Germans at Work..." Incidentally, this

traveling exhibit will take to the road again on the 27th of April to be exhibited at the Bismark Hotel in Chicago. It will return to the Wheeling Museum at 251 Wolf Rd. on May 1 to remain until May 31.

Countryside  
4/20/89

Countryside 4/27/89



Careful work by movers helped save Wheeling's Carriage House last August, but efforts to restore the facility remain far behind schedule. (File photo)

## Carriage house restoration work slides off schedule

Five years after the idea was conceived and eight months after it was moved, the Sicks' Carriage House may soon be finished and ready for occupation by the end of May.

But the final work on the 97-year-old building, brought to Chamber Park as part of the Wheeling Park District's historical preservation park, is still months behind schedule. The delays have prompted the park district to consider taking action against the contractor hired to move and restore the building.

Superintendent for Maintenance John Piazza said the contractor, R.J. Haack Builders, Inc., of Arlington Heights, has resumed work on the floors, painting and caulking of the building after he and the district-hired architect asked Haack to speed up the process or face charges of breach of contract.

Piazza told board members last week that Haack immediately began work on the facility and has been given a May 25

deadline to complete the project.

**BEFORE THE PARK** district can take occupancy of the building, the wood floors must be installed, caulking and painting of the interior and exterior must be finished, and minor electrical and hardware trim work must be done.

The park district agreed to pay Haack \$69,000 to do the work. In addition to moving the building and upgrading it, Haack is also required to remove the foundation from the ground where the building used to sit on Dundee Road, just west of Milwaukee Avenue. The village has requested the foundation be knocked down and the site be leveled.

The building was moved to Chamber Park last August and was expected to be finished by late February. Haack had asked for an extension last October.

Although the building may still not be completed by then, the historical society has scheduled a Morgan Horse and carriage show at the facility May 13.

**Daily Herald**

Sunday, April 9, 1989

### DAILY BRIEFING

#### TODAY

- An opening reception for "Germans at Work in a Society Under Construction: Northern Illinois 1859-1920" will be from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Wheeling Historical Museum, 251 N. Wolf Road. The traveling photo exhibit includes photographs which were provided by the Wheeling Historical Society and was compiled by members of the German American Heritage Institute.

- "Parenting" is the topic to be discussed at 10 p.m. on WCBR, 92.7 FM. The program is offered as a public service by the Arlington Heights Memorial Library.

Herald May 4, 1989

# Photo display depicts local German influence

By CHERYL ISRAEL  
Daily Herald correspondent

Elsie Pieper is 80, but she can still remember her father's blacksmith shop in Wheeling.

Coming to Wheeling from Berlin, Germany, he opened the shop in 1908 and turned it into a blacksmith-automobile repair shop in 1920.

Pieper recalls when her father would dip the horse shoes in hot coal, cool them in water and then fit them to the horses' feet.

"The horses never got excited," she says, "because he would talk to them all the while."

The Pieper blacksmith shop is depicted in one of the 25 photos on display this month at the Wheeling Historical Society Museum, in an exhibit titled "Germans at Work in a Society Under Construction-Northern Illinois 1850-1920."

The pictures depict the work performed by Germans, and how things changed during a period of rapid industrial development.

The pictures are part of a traveling exhibit, which is on display at the museum, 251 N. Wolf Road. The exhibit is open Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m., or by special appointment.

The exhibit was provided by the German Heritage Foundation, and will be displayed at the Newberry Library in Chicago during July and August.

The exhibit shows that Germans were entrepreneurs, who built numerous businesses in the Chicago area, and played a central role in the local labor movement.

It examines the diversity and extent of their contribution.

The exhibit has other examples what changes automation has made in the industry. There are pictures of factories, steam driven tractors and the Elgin Watch Works. The pictures



The Pieper blacksmith shop opened for business at 260 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, in 1908.

show an example of women working in the textile industry, which was the main source of female employment at that time.

The Wheeling Historical Society has developed an exhibit of items which enhance the photography exhibit. There are cases of blacksmith tools, veterinary tools and consumer

items which were sold at the general store during that period. A series of diaramas can also be viewed, which provide another view of the time period.

Pieper has lived in Wheeling all of her 80 years, and still resides in the house where she was born. She said that the house is more than 150

years old, and was built back when there were no clothes closets or big bedrooms.

Has she ever thought of moving?  
"Never," she said. "I love it here."

To make a viewing appointment, call Betty Barrie, curator of the Wheeling Historical Museum, at 537-0327.



The Zion German Presbyterian Church, built in 1865, was moved to Chamber Park near the Wheeling Historical Museum in 1968.

## Curator makes history through her own past

Continued from page 71

the population is around 27,000.

Wheeling, like many Chicago suburbs, got its first white settlers in the 1830s, when the Potawatomi Indians agreed to leave Illinois after the Black Hawk War. Most of the settlers were transplanted Easterners or German immigrants. Joseph Filkin built the first tavern-hotel in 1837 along an Indian trail that would later become Milwaukee Avenue, and charged 30 cents for a meal with whiskey. Today restaurants are strung along Milwaukee Avenue in an echo of the road's origins.

A special exhibit honoring the contributions of German immigrants to Wheeling history is on display through May. Titled "Germans at Work in a Society under Construction: Northern Illinois 1850-1920," the exhibit features photographs on loan from the German-American Heritage Institute in Forest Park.

Included are pictures that testify to the immigrant work ethic: Farmers engaged in threshing and baling, workers in an early lithograph shop and one of Wheeling's earliest blacksmith shops, built in 1838.

The museum itself is a part of Wheeling history. The peaked building covered with white siding was the original village hall, built in 1897. In 1968, the Wheeling Historical Society and the Wheeling Park District renovated the building and moved it to its present location at Chamber Park, which has been designated by the village an historic preservation site. The society runs the museum.

Two other buildings are in the 6-acre park, where their newly repainted white siding contrasts nicely with the grassy grounds. One of them, the Zion German

Presbyterian Church, built in 1865 on Milwaukee Avenue south of Dundee Road, was moved and renovated in 1968.

Just this year, the park district and historical society moved the other building to the park—a carriage house of the late 1800s that was located behind an old house torn down by the village on Milwaukee Avenue near Dundee Road. It is scheduled to be renovated and filled with two old carriages in the summer.

"We have our eyes on an old house that we'd like to purchase" and move to the park, says historical society President Lonnie Schnaitmann. "And we'd like to get a blacksmith shop sometime."

Schnaitmann describes Barrie as a "very enthusiastic person. She's especially good with the children, both grade-school and high school age, talking about the old school or showing them the telephone switchboard."

"When you hear Betty talk about Wheeling's history, you can't help but want to know more."

Besides working as curator, Barrie serves food at the Wheeling Senior Pavilion and visits veterans' hospitals as a member of the local AmVets chapter.

Chamber Park was designated an historic preservation site in 1968. Since 1976, the park district has levied a museum tax, and the revenues are used to maintain the buildings and buy new ones.

Barrie says the 4th of July Settlers' Picnic, held at noon each year at Chamber Park, is her favorite historical society activity.

"Someone always gives a talk about what it was like for the first settlers to live around here," she says. "I like people to know how life used to be, so they can appreciate how good we have it today."



Photos courtesy of the Wheeling Historical Society  
Wheeling's Union Hotel at 124 S. Milwaukee Ave. in 1910, with owner John Behm relaxing in a rocking chair.

## Photos give glimpse of Wheeling's past



A concrete bridge over the Des Plaines River at Dundee Road under construction in about 1920. It is still used today.



Weflin's general store in Wheeling at the turn of the century, selling everything from bananas to banners.



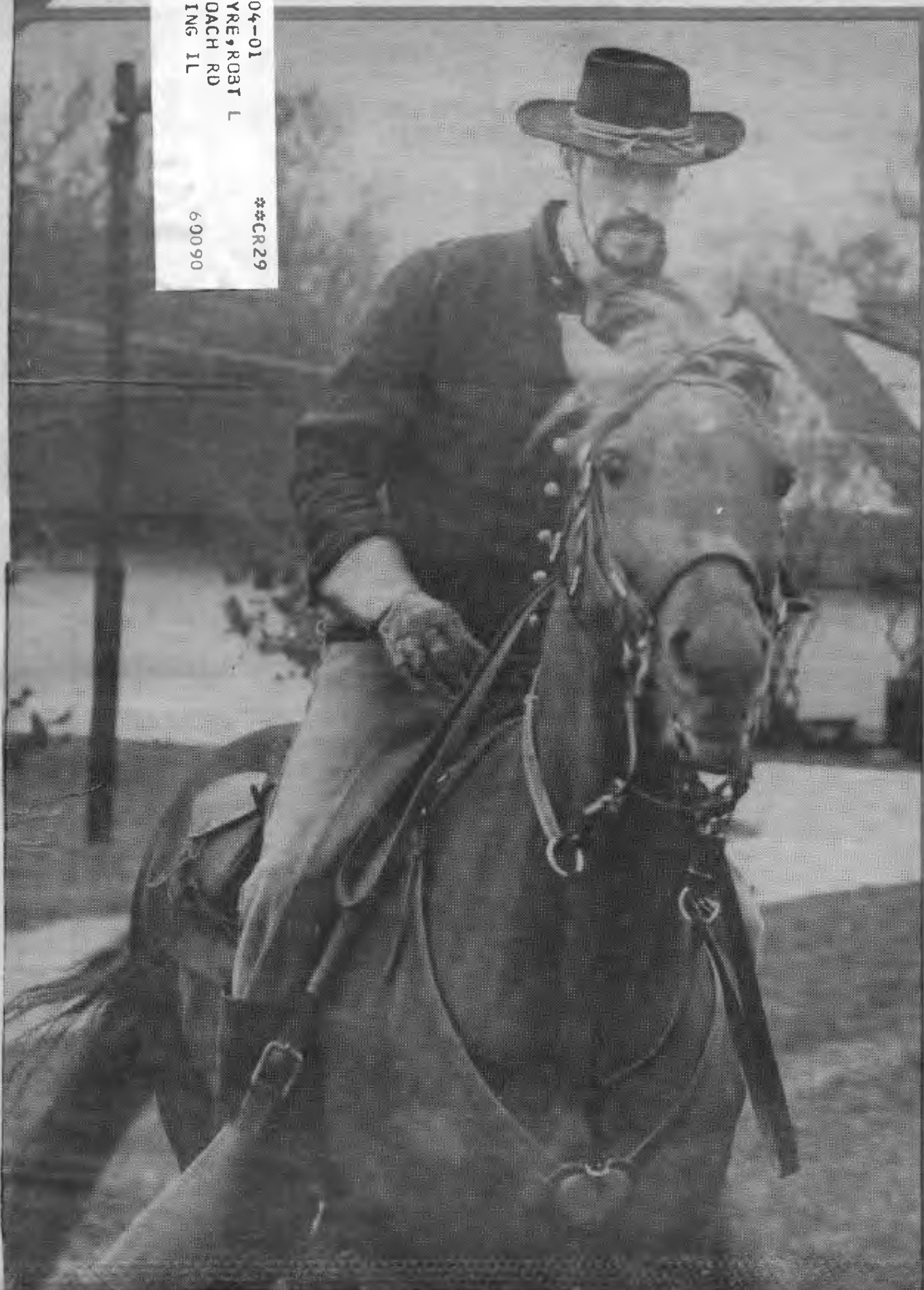
A clear sign — P. 11

May 18, 1989 • 60¢  
A PIONEER PRESS NEWSPAPER  
Vol. III, No. 20

# Wheeling Countryside

0356204-01  
MCINTYRE, ROBT L  
218 COACH RD  
WHEELING IL

\*\*CR29  
60090



Whippletree expansion **5**

Trustee attendance **8**

State of health **16**

### On the cover

Bill Kuechler rides tall in the saddle Saturday during a demonstration at Chamber Park put on by the Wheeling Historical Society. (Staff photo by Richard Bajjalieh)

# Carriage House contractor is rebuffed in latest bid

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

After spending six months more than was planned to restore the Wheeling Park District's carriage house, the contractor was told last week it would not be awarded additional work to complete the project.

Angered by the length of time it has taken R.J. Haack Builders to move and renovate the 97-year-old structure, the park board last week decided to hire another firm to add the water and sewer lines necessary to get an occupancy permit from the village.

When finally completed, the project will have taken more than 10 months - six months more than was expected. Park district officials hope the remaining work can be completed within a month.

Architect Michael Dixon told the board that Haack had initially agreed to complete the project in 120 days. By the time the project is done, Dixon said it will have taken Haack more than 300 days, although not all the delays were his fault.

"I DON'T think this contractor understands contracts," Dixon said.

Jay Haack, owner and vice president of the Arlington Heights company, defended his company. "I feel that we're quite capable as a contractor," Haack said. But, he declined to discuss the carriage house work his company has performed.

Because the park district was quoted prices lower than Haack's for the water

and sewer work, the board agreed to go with another contractor. The park board contracted with MJM Construction to put in both for nearly \$3,000 less than Haack proposed.

In addition, Dixon said Haack wanted an additional \$3,000 for the work his firm had already done because it took longer than expected. Park District Manager Karop Bavougian said the district won't consider that proposal.

"I WOULDN'T even discuss it," Bavougian told the board. "I'd just tell him to go blow."

Haack still must complete a number of items inside the building while cleaning up the Dundee Road site where the carriage house sat for its first 96 years. John Piazza, superintendent of resource management services, said Haack must remove the remaining foundation on that site and level the property, which the village now owns.

The park district has bought and moved the carriage house to Chamber Park as part of the district's historic preservation park. Joining the old Village Hall and the original Community Presbyterian Church building, the carriage house is the third structure added to the park.

Haack initially moved the structure to the park in 1988 and has been working on and off on the inside and outside of the wood structure. Bavougian said delays in getting permits from the then-Metropolitan Sanitary District for the sewer line and additional work required by the park district change orders have prolonged the work.

Herald 5/21/89

## Barbershop quartet

Wheeling resident Craig Huotari and his barbershop quartet, The "Schizo-phonics" will entertain the Wheeling Historical Society and their guests at their annual officer installation banquet to be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Chevy Chase Club House, 1000 N. Milwaukee Avenue in Wheeling. For more information, call 537-3119 or 537-3497.



The Schizo-Phonics break out in harmony. They are Craig Huotari of Wheeling, sitting, and, from left, Paul Gallagher of Arlington Heights, John Gatto of Rolling Meadows and Ed Hobbs of Rockford.

Daily Herald Photo/Gilbert Boucher

## 'Settlers' of Wheeling invited to join picnic

Have you lived in Wheeling for 25 years? Or know of anyone who was a resident of our community at least a quarter century ago? If so, you — or they — are invited to attend the Old Settlers' Picnic on the Fourth of July in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling.

The Wheeling Historical Society is sponsoring this event for Wheeling's "Old Settlers" and their families. For details, contact Betty Taylor Barrie at 537-0327 or society President Lonnie Schnaitmann, at 537-9057.

Lisa Schab

Wheeling



Country seeds 8/17/89

## Civic events

**WHEELING MUSEUM.** The Wheeling Historical Museum in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Rd., is open every Sunday from 2-4 p.m., or by appointment with Betty Barrie, 537-0327. There is no charge. Next door, the Sicks' Carriage House is now complete with carriages and related artifacts of the era. It is open the same hours as the Museum, also free. In Childerley Park, at 506 McHenry Rd., the chapel which was built by Frances Crane Lillie in 1927 and restored by the Wheeling Historical Society in 1978-79, is open free of charge from 2-4 on Sunday afternoons or by appointment with Lorraine Haben, 537-0654.

Countryside 6/22/87

## Plumbing woes may delay opening of Carriage House

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

Problems with work on the Wheeling Historical Society's Carriage House at Chamber Park continued last week when the district learned it would have to tear up a portion of the floor to correct plumbing mistakes.

If the floor is torn up, the necessary corrections could mean the 97-year-old facility will not be open in time for the July 4 Old Settlers' picnic in the park.

Invitations have already been sent out to those families planning to return to celebrate Wheeling's heritage, Historical Society President Lonnie Schnaitmann said. "I think the whole Society is going to be disappointed about this," she said.

MJM construction was finishing work on the sewer and water lines when workers discovered that the water line coming out of the building was too close to the ground, Schnaitmann said. That water line is only one foot underground when it should be five feet down, Park District Manager Karop Bavougian said.

Jay Haack, president and owner of R.J. Haack Builders, the original contracting firm the park district hired to move and refurbish the carriage house, said Tuesday he did not know how the error was made.

"I'm not completely sure what happened," Haack said. "I'm in the process of determining what will be done."

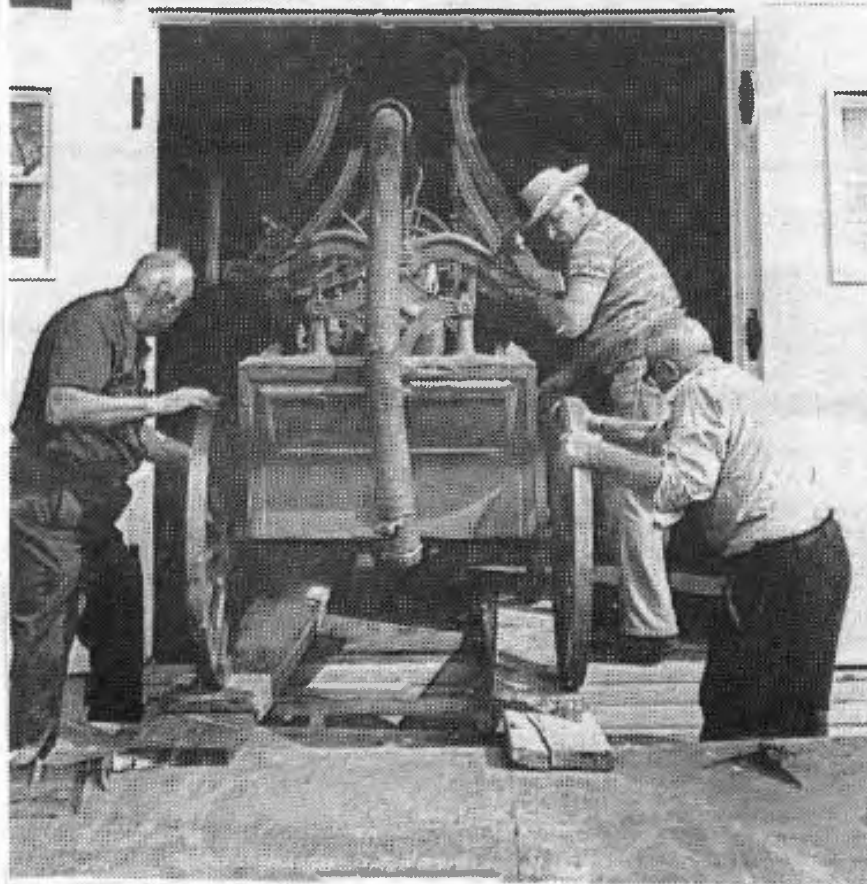
Earlier this month the park board decided to contract with MJM Construction work that Haack was originally scheduled to complete. Haack must still finish several minor items inside the Carriage House while knocking out the foundation left on the Dundee Road site.

Moving and refurbishing the facility has so far taken six months longer than originally planned and has led the park district to change contractors for the final work on the facility.

The carriage house spent its first 96 years on Dundee Road and was moved to Chamber Park last year as part of the park district's historical preservation park. It has joined the original Village Hall and the original Community Presbyterian Church in the park.

For Schnaitmann, the delays have been frustrating. When the historical society first targeted the building for Chamber Park, she said it didn't know it would take so long.

Countryside 7/17/87



Rudy Hrrcher, Jan Broda and Sam Dattilo move a water pumper into the old Carriage House. (Staff Photo by Rich Bajjalieh)

## Carriage house's long journey ends with transport of historic items

By Mike Wilkinson  
Staff Writer

Nearly one year after traffic was halted and utility wires were raised to make way for it, the Wheeling Park District's carriage house has finally been pronounced ready for occupation.

A long battle with time-consuming delays were declared over Saturday as members of the Wheeling Historical Society removed relics left in cold storage and began putting them into the carriage house that the park district moved to Chamber Park Aug. 31, 1988.

"JUST KNOWING that everything was being put into the carriage house was great," said Lonnie Schnaitmann, president of the historical society. "The society people are very happy about it."

After months of agonizing waiting, the village finally has granted an occupancy permit for the 97-year-old building. Delays over unfinished work that the park district blamed on a contractor forced the historical society to wait more than eight months longer than originally planned.

"It was good, of course, to see some progress at last," said society treasurer Bob McIntyre.

The historical society is now working with Jack Thompson of Northbrook on additional artifacts that will be added to the facility. Thompson has already donated one carriage and is expected to donate others, Schnaitmann said. She said the society is hoping to open the facility to the public.

**FOR THE FIRST** 96 years of its existence, the carriage house sat off Dundee Road, where for many years it had served as a barn for the Sicks family. After the village bought the land as part of a redevelopment plan, the park district was offered the building.

On the last day of August, 1988, the building was moved to the park district's historical preservation park at Chamber Park on Wolf Road, just around the corner from the carriage house's initial plot.

The carriage house joins the existing historical museum, formerly the first village hall, and the original Community Presbyterian Church, built in 1865.



## Historical Society plans to mix culture, fashion

"Culture and Fashion" will be the highlight of the next meeting of the Wheeling Historical Society.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 27 at Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling.

President Lonnie Schnaitman can be reached at 537-9057 for more information.

### Historical society

The Wheeling Historical Society is meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Community Church in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road. A 16mm movie titled "Culture and Fashion" will be shown. For information, call Lonnie Schnaitman at 537-3497.

**WILKOMMEN!** Three Wheeling travelers have returned from three weeks in Germany. Margaret Forke was born there and has returned many times, as has her daughter, Barbara. However, for Margaret's niece, Lorraine Haben, this trip was a first. She was thrilled to find relatives she hadn't known about and to discover that she was able to converse with them in German.

She was most impressed with the friendliness of people in the home town of Hetzles and the beauty of the white houses trimmed with pink and red flowers. Houses, farms and businesses intermingle, but, by law, the exterior of buildings remains the same and new buildings must conform to the old style. A two day trip to Austria in a rented Mercedes Benz van was the icing on der Kuchen.

**AUTUMNFEST RETURNS** on Saturday, Sept. 30, from 2 until 6 p.m. at Chamber Park. A rain date is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1. The family festival is sponsored by the



Wheeling Park District, Buffalo Grove/Wheeling Disposal and the First National Bank of Wheeling. The Wheeling Historical Society will have the Historical Museum and the restored Sicks Carriage House open and local crafts persons. Willie Franta, Jim Wieder, Bob McIntyre and Rudy Horcher will be doing their thing. Bob Buerger and Sam Dattilo will exhibit their antique cars and Jack and Corinne Thompson will be on hand in the carriage house. Activities will include bluegrass music by Freeway Rangers, American Pride Cloggers, folksinger Peg Lehman, a pie bake off, petting zoo, pony rides, country cooking and games for all ages. For additional information contact Cindy Schaar at the Park District, 537-2222.

## 'Years' volume looks at school's ol' days

There's no doubt about it, school is in session for another year. So, how about a little history lesson? Remember the famous parental line of woe, "When I was your age, I walked 40 miles to school!" Well, it may become exaggerated at times, but there is at least a wee bit of truth in that statement, at least according to that famous Wheeling history volume, "Wheeling Through the Years."

"We lived over on Portwine Road," tells Frances Gerschefske in "Years," "and I walked a mile and a half to school. There were no school buses in those days. Sometimes in winter we wouldn't even get home."

The first schoolhouse in Wheeling was constructed in 1845. It was soon outgrown and replaced, and then its replacement was burned down. Finally in 1925, a brick building was erected on Wille Street; this is now known as Whitman School. Wheeling did not have a high school until 1963.

A lot of changes have taken place in our school system since those days, changes for which I'm sure today's students are grateful.

"The old furnace (in the school) was just a pot-bellied stove," says Lucile Schneider. "The children would help — they would bring in the coal."

"We had an outhouse for the girls, and one for the boys on the other side of the lot," says Gerschefske. "And we had to pump our own water, and the teachers had to build the fires and clean."

"Many times, the bigger boys would ring the bell," recalls Adeline Schneider. "Every once in a while, they'd pull too hard on the rope and the bell would tip and somebody would have to crawl up on the roof and get it back."

Sound a little different from the cares and concerns of today's educators and administrators? How would the school boards feel about tackling the problems of overturned outhouses and shrinking coal supplies? Or school bells tipping over?

Today's high school students get to school on buses or in cars of their own or their parents. Dorothy Flentge remembers the times before Wheeling High School was in existence, and the difficulties kids could have in

Lisa Schab

Wheeling



those days on finding a ride to school:

"We went to Deerfield Shields, now known as Highland Park High," she says. "When my brothers, who are much older than I, went on the Soo Line to Maine High on Thacker Street, every morning they would be at least an hour late. Sometimes two hours if the milk train was that late. So my oldest brother had to go five years to high school because the train was late — he says."

Today Wheeling is served by Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 and Northwest Suburban High School District 214. Teachers work alongside nurses, psychologists, speech pathologists, bilingual instructors and counselors. Academic programs are accompanied by athletics, choral and instrumental music, speech, journalism, math and computer clubs. Ninety percent of Wheeling High School teachers hold graduate degrees. And, in the past few years, both Holmes Junior High School and Wheeling High School have been recognized by the United States Department of Education with awards for Excellence in Education.

Wheeling resident Marshall Balling remembers some school improvements made "in the old days..."

"The school used to have three windows on each side. One day an engineer from Chicago came out and said, 'This building is entirely wrong. Your children will go blind, and we have got to readjust the windows.'

"So they blocked out the windows on the east side and put in more on the west. They said that now the light wouldn't meet at the center and injure the children's eyes. That's the only improvement we had in the school."

You've come a long way, Wheeling. Enjoy the 1989-90 school year. With all of its fouled-up bus schedules and computer shutdowns, it's still a pretty good system.

10/1/89

Autumn Fest Sept 30 1989





October 25 Meeting  
Marshall Ballou and  
Loyola Academy students,  
Christopher A. Lewis

WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
November 1989

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

We had a great turnout for our October meeting. Hopefully we will have even more members at our November 15 meeting. Remember, because of Thanksgiving our meeting will be held a week early. Our Board Meeting will be on November 7, 1989.

Our first workshop at the museum was held on Saturday October 28. We didn't have much of a turnout, but those who were there helped Betty Barrie put in new exhibits and some things were put in the Carriage House. One of our new exhibits is "What Is It"? Go in and check it out. Can you guess all seven items?

Lo and behold, there comes a time when you have to start getting tough. Hopefully the new program I'm putting into effect January 7, 1990 will help all of us. It's sink or swim time or in our case keep it open or close it! Starting at the top of our new membership list - We are asking the Abruscato family to host the museum on January 7, 1990. If for some reason they are unable to do it, it becomes their duty to contact someone on the list below them and exchange their time with them. If it is your turn and you are an individual member but can't make it on your assigned day, you should call the next individual member on the list to exchange days with them. If you are an individual member, bring a friend along. This new program is being implemented so that all our local members take their turn at the museum so that the same people don't have to do all the work. Remember, each one of you are responsible for keeping the museum open. This is an opportunity for those who have been inactive, to become active members. The museum is open from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. every Sunday. Betty Barrie will make the first contact with you and then it is your responsibility to work your Sunday or get a replacement. You must also call Betty to let her know your plans.

Remember, our Board Meeting is November 7, at 7:30 P.M. at the museum and our Meeting is Wednesday, November 15 at 7:30 P.M. at the Church in Chamber Park.

Let Frank, Bob or Eleanor know if you want to be Santa or Mrs. Claus. Irene Dattilo will be calling you for cookies soon so ladies start your ovens!

Until November 15th.....

Historically Yours,  
Lonnie

REMEMBER: He who helps is rewarded in the end.



# History

Continued from page 3

ing social workers.

**Chicago Architecture Foundation, 1800 S. Prairie Ave., 326-1393.** Open for tours at noon, 1 and 2 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Admission \$4-\$6; free Wednesdays. The foundation is in Glessner House, an 19th Century home designed by H.H. Richardson; Glessner also houses a fine collection of decorative arts from the arts and crafts period. Next door is Clarke House, the oldest standing structure in Chicago. CAF also runs the ArchiCenter, 330 S. Dearborn St., 922-3432. Open 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sa-

turdays. Free. Special exhibitions on American architecture are mounted here; the current show is "The American Drive-in Theater." It is also the terminus for walking and bus tours of the city.

**Chicago Maritime Museum, 455 E. Illinois St., 836-4343.** Open noon to 5 p.m. daily except Monday. Donation suggested. Has models and other images of vessels ranging from lake schooners to canoes paddled by French voyageurs.

**Graham Foundation, 4 W. Burton Pl., 787-4071.** Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays. Free. The Graham Foundation holds lectures and mounts exhibitions on topics of architectural interest, as varied as ancient Rome and modern appliances.

**Printers Row Printing Museum, 731 S. Plymouth Ct., 987-1059.** Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun-

days. Free. Old presses actually run in the former home of Lakeside Press.

**Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, 951 Chicago Ave., Oak Park, 708-848-1976.** Tours given at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, every 15 minutes between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays. Admission \$4. The home and studio were built and occupied by Wright from 1889 to 1909. Furniture, decoration and even a bust of Beethoven are faithful to what it was like in the early years of the architect's career.

Here are some more general museums devoted to local history in the six-county metropolitan area. Museums, especially local historical societies, are often manned by volunteers and are apt to change hours from time to time. Please call ahead.

## Cook County

**Arlington Heights Historical Museum, 110 W. Fremont St., Arlington Heights, 708-255-1225.** Open 1 to 4 p.m. Saturdays, 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays. Admission \$1.

**Bremen Historical Society of Tinley Park, 6727 W. 174th St., Tinley Park, 708-429-4210.** Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays. Admission \$1.

**Calumet City Historical Society Museum, 760 Wentworth Ave., Calumet City, 708-862-8662.** Open 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Free.

**Des Plaines Historical Society and Museum, 789 Pearson St., Des Plaines, 708-391-5399.** Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays. Free.

**East Side Historical Society, 9801 Avenue G, 721-7948.** Open 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays. Free.

**Elk Grove Historical Society, 399 Blesterfield Rd., Elk Grove Village, 708-439-3994.** Open 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays. Admission 50 cents.

**Evanston Historical Society (Dawes Mansion), 225 Greenwood St., Evanston, 708-475-3410.** Open 1 to 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Saturdays. Admission \$2.

**Glenview Area Historical Society, 1121 Waukegan Rd., Glenview, 708-724-2235.** Open 2 to 5 p.m. Sundays. Free.

**Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest, 217 Home Ave., Oak Park (in historic Pleasant Home), 708-848-6755.** Open 2 to 4 p.m. daily except Fridays. Admission to museum is free; tour of Pleasant Home is \$2.

**Historic Pullman Foundation, 11111 S. Forrestville Ave. (historic room in Hotel Florence), 785-8181.** Open 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays-Fridays (also 5 to 8:30 p.m. Friday evenings), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays. Free.

**Hyde Park Historical Society, 5529 S. Lake Park Ave., 493-1893.** Open 2 to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Free.

**La Grange Historical Society, 444 S. La Grange Rd., La Grange, 708-482-4248.** Open 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. Free.

**Matteson Historical Society, 813 School Ave., Matteson, 708-748-3033.** Open noon to 5 p.m. Mondays, 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, noon to 5 p.m. Fridays. Free.

**Mt. Prospect Historical Society Muse-**

**um, 1100 S. Linneman Rd., Mt. Prospect, 708-956-6777.** Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays. Free.

**Niles Historical Society-Museum, 8970 Milwaukee Ave., Niles, 708-390-0160.** Open 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m. first and third Sundays of the month. Free.

**Palatine Historical Society, 224 E. Palatine Rd., Palatine, 708-991-6460.** Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays. Free.

**Riverside Historical Museum, Longcommon Road and Pine Avenue, Riverside, 708-447-2700.** Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Free.

**Schaumburg Center School, 208 E. Schaumburg Rd. (behind St. Peter's Lutheran Church), Schaumburg, 708-882-1555.** Open by appointment. Donation suggested.

**Wheeling Historical Society/Museum, 251 N. Wolf Rd., Wheeling, 708-537-0327.** Open 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays. Free.

**Wilmette Historical Museum, 565 Hunter Rd., Wilmette, 708-256-5838.** Open 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 2 to 5 p.m. Saturdays; closed July and August. Free.

**Winnetka Historical Museum, 1140 Elm St., Winnetka, 708-446-7736.** Open 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Free.

## Du Page County

**Bartlett Historical Society Museum, 240 S. Main St., Bartlett, no phone.** Open noon to 3 p.m. first and third Sundays of the month. Free.

See History, pg. 10

## The history is here

**P**ride in local history is measured by the dozens of museums in the care of local historical societies—and often curated by volunteers.

Evanston's Dawes Mansion was the home of Charles Gates Dawes, vice president from 1925 to 1929. It now houses the Evanston Historical Society, which mounts exhibitions on subjects as diverse as dance instructors of the past to the suburb's lakefront ecology. For Black History Month, the society plans an exhibition on the history of African-American health care in Evanston.

Other history museums include Naper Settlement, on the property of Naperville's Martin-Mitchell Mansion, built in 1883. Historic buildings have been moved here and arranged to create a nearly authentic pioneer village. In spring, summer and most of the fall, costumed guides fill visitors full of local history.

Some historical museums have interesting architecture. Most contain strange old household items. Perhaps most intriguing are old photos that many of them house. Nothing enlivens the past quite as much as images of old prairies and dusty streets.

These museums focus on special aspects of Chicago's past:

**Jane Addams' Hull House, 800 S. Halsted St., 996-2793.** Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays (plus noon to 5 p.m. Sundays in the summer). Chronicles the life and times of one of the nation's pioneer-

See History, pg. 8



Illinois Railway Museum: keeping track of trains.

Tribune photo

## Santa, Mrs. Claus begin making holiday rounds

He's here, he's there, he's everywhere. How does Santa do it? That must be all part of the magic of Christmas.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting residents of Addolorata Villa, at 555 McHenry Road, at noon Saturday and then travel by old-fashioned sleigh south on McHenry Road to Dundee Road, east on Dundee to Wolf Road, and north on Wolf to Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road in Wheeling. The couple plan to arrive at the park by 2 p.m. where children will then be invited to visit them at "Lollipop Lane," located in the former Community Presbyterian Church building at the park. Kids may tell Santa their dearest wishes, and will receive a candy cane, coloring book and a Santa lapel pin from Mrs. Claus.

Lollipop Lane will be open from 2 to 5 p.m. on weekends and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on weeknights from Dec. 9 to 17. For the 17th year, Lollipop Lane is being staged by the Wheeling Historical Society with financial assistance from Hoyne Savings and Loan in Wheeling and the Wheeling Park District. Parents are encouraged to bring cameras to take their own pictures.

Amazingly, Santa will also be visiting the Video Plus Emporium from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday at 39 Huntington Lane in Wheeling. Scooby-Doo or Gumby will also be on hand, and children will receive free popcorn and gifts and watch a balloon artist entertain. For more information, call the Emporium at 215-0200.

If your child would rather write a letter to Santa than see him in person, the Wheeling Jaycees can help with postal delivery to the North Pole. If children send their letter to Santa to: Santa, c/o Wheeling Jaycees, P.O. Box 7, Wheeling, IL 60090, or drop them off at the Jaycees Christmas tree lot, across from the Village Hall (255 W. Dundee Road) in Wheeling, the Jaycees will make sure

Lisa Schab



Wheeling

that Santa Claus gets the letter and sends each child a personal response. Letters must be received by Santa by Dec. 20. For more information on this project, call Liz Wachter at 459-4839.

### Food drive

The Jaycees will also be sponsoring a holiday Food Drive from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday. Non-perishable items will be solicited by members of the Jaycees who will be visiting Wheeling area neighborhoods, or items may be dropped off at the Jaycee Christmas Tree Lot. Cash donations to purchase other food items are also accepted, payable to the Wheeling Jaycees, and may be sent to: Paul Benz, Wheeling Jaycees, 248 Woodstone Circle, Buffalo Grove, Ill. 60090.

This food drive will benefit needy families in the Wheeling area. For more information, call Paul at 537-4928.

### See the tree

The Wheeling Historical Museum will be displaying an old-fashioned Christmas tree this year during the holiday season. The public may view the tree from 2 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 9, 10, 16 and 17 at the Historical Museum located in the old village hall building in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road in Wheeling. For more information, call 215-5783.



### A safe landing

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus wave to a crowd of friends who gathered Saturday during the Lollipop Lane celebration sponsored by the Wheeling Historical Society. (Staff photo by Daniel White)

12/7/89



## HOLIDAY HUGS

Bobby Horcher gets a hug from Mrs. Claus during a holiday celebration held Saturday in Wheeling. The Lollipop Lane festivities were sponsored by the Wheeling Historical Society.

Daniel White/Pioneer Press

## SPINNING WHEEL

By Barbara K. McIntyre

**LOLLIPOP LANE** will be open for traffic Dec. 9. New parents or those who haven't traveled this route before can find Lollipop Lane in Chamber Park at 251 N. Wolf Rd. It leads up to the historic former Community Presbyterian Church building where Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving by sleigh at 2 p.m. Following the same scenario as established 17 years ago, the Claus duo will be seated on the stage ready to receive small visitors. The room will be surrounded by lighted, decorated Christmas trees, a veritable winter wonderland! Children will be followed closely by parents carrying cameras of all types, recording their children reciting wish lists to Santa while Mrs. C provides coloring books, Santa lapel pins and candy canes.

The whole project is staged by the Wheeling Historical Society and is financed by the sale of homemade cookies and monetary assistance from the Wheeling Park District, and Hoyne Savings and Loan.

Lollipop Lane will be open the weekends of Dec. 9-10 and Dec. 16-17 from 2-5 p.m. and the week nights in between from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The Historical Museum, also in Chamber Park, will be open on the weekends says Curator **Betty Barrie**.

Major roles in the performance this year will be performed by **Bob Buerger, Lorraine Haben, Dolly Hein, Syke Horcher** and **Willie Franta**. Management will be provided by **Bob** and **Eleanor**

**Buerger** and **Frank Schnaitmann** while the Cookie Lady will again be **Irene Dattilo**, who was the first Mrs. Claus. If a visit to Lollipop Lane hasn't yet become a tradition in your family, this is the year to start. Santa is a symbol of joy and **generosity** for all.

1/16/90

## SPINNING WHEEL



By Barbara K. McIntyre

**NOW PICTURE THIS:** If you were a lost child or a child who had been in an accident, or an abused child who was riding in a squad car and was really scared, wouldn't you find comfort in a soft, cuddly stuffed animal? To supply these animals for innocent victims, the Wheeling Police Department started "Operation Teddy Bear." Last year, Bergner's store gave the department a number of Bergner Bears after Christmas, but they have dwindled to a pitiful few and have not been replaced. Officer **Barb Kobishop** says they needn't be bears, but the animals shouldn't be oversized as they ride in the trunks or back seats of all squad cars, wrapped in plastic bags. They are given to the children to keep. If you know of a source or can help, please call Officer Kobishop at 459-2632.

—o—

**OUR READERS WRITE:** "John E. Shelk (Wheeling High School Class of '76) currently serving as counsel to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., was present in a meeting with Lech Walesa at Solidarity Headquarters, Gdansk, Poland, the day before the communist government turned over the reins. Shortly thereafter, John was in Budapest, Hungary the day the communist flags were removed from all government buildings. John has visited 17 countries in Europe, South America and the Middle East during the past year. His busy travel schedule still allows time to visit his parents, Joan and John Shelk, Sunrise Dr., Wheeling, during the holidays." We are most grateful to John A. Shelk for sharing the news.

—o—

**TAXES, SCHMAXES!** Ever since the night of Dec. 16, 1773, when patriots dumped a cargo of tea into Boston Harbor to protest the tax on tea, Americans have been protesting taxes. Not as dramatic, but greater in number, are the protests of the recent property reassessments in Wheeling Township. Assisting Assessor **Dolores Stephan** in gathering information for filing protests are members of the Wheeling Township Advisory Council: **Harold Best, Robert Cochrane, Al Feinberg, Lorraine Jones, Martin Kramer, Bob McIntyre, Kay Newberg** and **Pat Walsdorf**. Residents who feel their property is over-assessed

can get help in filing protests at the Wheeling Township Hall, 1616 N. Arlington Heights Rd. The procedure will continue through the month of January.

The members of Wheeling AARP Chapter will deal with income taxes at their next meeting on Monday, Jan. 22. **Harold Best** will head a team of AARP Tax-Aide volunteers who will explain changes in the IRS rules this year and will answer questions. For more information call program chairman **Lorraine Jones** at 537-5860.

—o—

**NEWS FROM WHEELING** (West Virginia, that is). **Margaret Brennan**, president of the Wheeling Area Historical Society in West Virginia, has written the president of our Wheeling Historical Society, **Lonnie Schnaitmann**, with the idea of setting up communication between the "sister cities." Her letter says in part: "A former Wheelingite now living in Illinois sent me your book of oral history (Wheeling Through the Years), and I was most interested to learn about our sister city...Wheeling, West Virginia was founded by the **Zane family** in 1769. We had a heavy Scotch-Irish and German early population. The name 'Wheeling' is so unique. Ours ties in with the Ohio River and Wheeling Creek and its rather gory Indian derivation. Could someone from here have taken the name out there?...I am enclosing a short booklet on our history as well as some more recent brochures."

The booklet contains 24 pages and was published by the First National Bank of Wheeling (W. Va.) with the cooperation of individuals, universities, and the Wheeling Historical Society. Of the name "Wheeling," it says, "It means, in Delaware language, 'the place of the head.' Early traders and mappers were told by the Indians that it commemorated the scalping and beheading of a white trader whose head was affixed to a pole at the mouth of the creek. An early 'No Trespassing' sign! The earliest English account was by Christopher Gist...who called in 'Wealin or Scalp Creek' in 1751."

We are sure there is a lesson here for all of us, but we haven't quite figured it out. The material from West Virginia will be housed in our Wheeling Historical Museum for anyone interested in more information.

—o—

**SO LONG**, it has been fun!

## Students turn models in annual fashion show

Donna Steckling and Dave Kroeze will be modeling "Silhouettes of Fashion" this weekend as they represent Wheeling Township Elementary District 21 in the annual fashion show presented by the North Suburban Association of Educational Personnel.

This seventh annual show will begin with cocktails at 11:30 a.m. and lunch at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the Chicago O'Hare Marriott Hotel, 8535 W. Higgins Road in Chicago. Tickets are a \$20 donation, with proceeds from the show used to provide scholarships to qualified graduating high school seniors who are entering the field of business.

Steckling and Kroeze will join representatives from Districts 54, 63, 89, 92, 211 and 214 as they model fashions from Sassy's, DeAnn's Bridal and Nightingales Lingerie of Bloomingdale, and Kuppenheimer's of Arlington Heights. For ticket information, call Karen Matiya at 450-2191.

### Auction

Bob Buerger and Sam Dattilo will preside over an auction to be held at the next meeting of the Wheeling Historical Society at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road in Wheeling. A potluck dinner will also be held that night, with Willie Franta and Mary Clesen co-chairing the dinner. Other members of the committee are Emma Nathan, Eleanor Buerger, Jean Lowery and Corrine Thompson. For more information on the evening's events, call 215-5783.

### 'Sound of Music'

Wheeling residents Dave Luzwick and Mike Rogriguez will both take lead parts in the St. Viator High School production of "The Sound of Music" to be staged Feb. 16-17 and Feb. 23-24.

"A special feature of this year's show production will be the family nature of our cast and crew," says Jo Ann Calzaretta, chairman of the St. Viator Fine Arts Department. "We have students, lit-

**Lisa Schab**



Wheeling

tle sisters, alumni, parents and alum parents all involved in putting this show together."

For more information, call 392-4050.

### Mardi Gras time

"Laissez le bon temps rouler!" (Let the good times roll!) says Omni Youth Services, Wheeling. Omni will host the Omni Mardi Gras, their 1990 gala fund-raiser, from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. March 3 at Arlington Trackside, Euclid and Wilke roads, Arlington Heights.

The Mardi Gras will feature a complimentary cocktail hour, dinner, dancing, a silent auction, thoroughbred racing, the Omni Sweepstakes raffle drawing and awards. The silent auction is highlighted by a week at Club Med. Raffle prizes total \$2,100 with a \$1,000 Grand Prize.

Admission for the night is \$50 per person with a 10 percent discount for tables of eight. All proceeds go to benefit Omni Youth Services. Omni is a United Way agency working with adolescents and their families through counseling, community education, support groups and crisis intervention.

For information and reservations, contact Maria at 634-9360. Reservation deadline is Feb. 23.

### Band featured

The Wheeling High School Band will be featured at a Concert Band Festival sponsored by High School District 214 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Rolling Meadows High School, 2901 Central Road, Rolling Meadows. Guest conductor will be Joe Manfredo of Purdue University. Tickets will be available at the door.

For more information, call Gary Parker at 255-9700.

2/15/90

## Take a break from the onslaught of doldrums

The doldrums are here, the doldrums are here! I know, they're not officially noted on your calendars, but take my word for it, the February doldrums have struck. One more dark night, gray day or sleepy afternoon and we'll never make it to spring.

Don't worry! Help is on the way, as close as your Neighbor column. Below is a little mind-teaser designed to give you a break from income tax figures and bland weather. See how much you know — or can guess — about Wheeling's past history, and escape the present for a quarter hour or so. Good luck — answers will be given in next week's column.

### "Beat the February Doldrums Know Your Wheeling History Trivia Quiz"

■ What was the cost of a good meal at Wheeling's first tavern built by Joseph Filkins in 1837? A) \$2. B) 50 cents and one chicken. C) 25 cents for all you can eat, whiskey 5 cents extra. D) 5-cents per course, 3 cents for dessert.

■ What was housed at Palwaukee Airport in 1933-34? A) The current president's private plane. B) 36 dairy cows. C) 13 single-engine planes. D) The Goodyear blimp.

■ What was the cost of the first village hall in Wheeling (now located in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road)? A) \$13,000. B) \$60. C) \$553.26. D) \$27.50/month for 42 months.

■ What was the former use of the present Congregation Beth Am building at 850 Jenkins Court, Wheeling? A) A tavern. B) Indian Trails Library. C) Wheeling village works. D) Hen house.

■ What Wheeling structure was known as The Bon Air in prohibition days? A) Don Roth's. B) Shaw's Crab House. C) Hein's Pub. D) Chevy Chase Country Club.

■ What event was announced in the Wheeling Independent on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 1956? A) A rattlesnake hunt. B) A road rally.

**Lisa Schab**

Wheeling



C) The beginning of Wheeling Days. D) An election for lamplighter.

■ What was formerly standing on the present site of the Main Bank of Wheeling? A) A dairy farm. B) Smith's General Store. C) A mill. D) Wheeling's first ice cream parlor.

■ Why was Wheeling's former Vitruvius Lodge called a "moon lodge"? A) Its meetings were held on or near the full moon. B) It was founded on a Monday. C) The first lodge president was Forest J. Moon. D) Its symbol was a crescent moon.

■ What was the very first name of Milwaukee Avenue? A) Chicago-Milwaukee Road. B) Milwalky Trace. C) Milwaukee Plank Road. D) Des Plaines Valley Trail.

■ What did children wait to see on summer evenings in Wheeling? A) The lamplighter. B) The first ice cream truck. C) The school teacher. D) The cows come home.

■ Where did Wheeling's first veterinarian have his farm? A) Across from the Wheeling nursery on Milwaukee Avenue. B) Where Arby's Roast Beef now stands. C) On the present site of Shadow Bend. D) On the present site of Addolorata Villa.

■ What was the main problem of patients entering the former Wheeling Hospital, opened in 1927? A) Lockjaw. B) Car accidents. C) Flu. D) Polio.

■ What did Wheeling win an award for in 1962? A) Safety. B) Industrial growth. C) Des Plaines River clean-up. D) Housing.

■ What were two trades that failed to survive in Wheeling? A) Wagon builder. B) Harness maker. C) Sears. D) Insurance.

## Here are the answers to history trivia quiz

OK, you've had a full week to work on your "Beat the February Doldrums — Know Your Wheeling History Trivia Quiz!" Now here are the answers you've been waiting for. These facts are all documented in the popular local book, *Wheeling Through the Years*, our own village history book. Get out your answer sheets and see how you fared.

### OFFICIAL ANSWERS:

1. What was the cost of a good meal at Wheeling's first tavern built by Joseph Filkins in 1837? Answer: c) 25 cents for all you can eat, whiskey 5 cents extra. According to local historians, "When Filkins rang the dinner bell, his customers rushed from the washing trough to the table, to eat all they could hold for 25 cents."

2. What was housed at Palwaukee Airport in 1933-34? Answer: d) the Goodyear blimp. The blimp was in town for the 1933-34 Century of Progress Exposition.

3. What was the cost of the first village hall in Wheeling (now located in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road)? Answer: c) \$553.26. (The original lot at 84 S. Milwaukee was an additional \$150.)

4. What was the former use of the present Congregation Beth Am building at 850 Jenkins Court, Wheeling? Answer: b) the Indian Trails Library. This was originally the home of St. Mark's United Church of Christ.

5. What Wheeling structure was known as The Bon Air in prohibition days? Answer: d) Chevy Chase Country Club. Built in 1917 by the Knights of Columbus, Chevy Chase's first name was Columbian Country Club.

6. What event was announced in the Wheeling Independent on Wednesday, Aug. 15, 1956? Answer: a) a rattlesnake hunt. This is legitimate! The longest snake caught was bottled in formaldehyde and is among artifacts belonging to the Wheeling Historical Society.

7. What was formerly standing on the present site of the Maine Bank of Wheeling? Answer: c) a mill. The mill was Reed's Mill, opened in 1920, which ground feed for cattle and hogs and in the fall processed apples for cider.

8. Why was Wheeling's former Vitruvius Lodge called a "moon

**Lisa Schab**

Wheeling



lodge?" Answer: a) its meetings were held on or near the full moon. This was done so that members could walk or drive home by moonlight!

9. What was the very first name of Milwaukee Avenue? Answer: d) Des Plaines Valley Trail. (Answers b and c, "Milwalky Trace" and "Milwaukee Plank Road" were also former names, but not the first).

10. What did children wait to see on summer evenings in Wheeling? Answer: a) the lamplighter. He came nightly with torch and ladder.

11. Where did Wheeling's first veterinarian have his farm? Answer: c) on the present site of Shadow Bend. The good doctor's name was George J. Schneider, who came from Alsace-Lorraine in 1853.

12. What was the main problem of patients entering the former Wheeling Hospital, opened in 1927? Answer: b) car accidents. According to our history book, the hospital "provided emergency facilities where Dr. Larson could patch up automobilists who survived the many accidents that occurred, especially on summer weekends, along heavily-traveled Milwaukee Avenue."

13. What did Wheeling win an award for in 1962? Answer: a) safety. In 1962 Wheeling won its fourth safety award in a row for reducing the number of traffic accidents.

14. What were two trades that failed to survive in Wheeling? Answer: a) wagon builder and b) harness maker. (This needs no explanation!)

So how did you do? All 14 right? Consider yourself a Wheeling historian. Ten to 13 right? Give yourself a pat on the back. Six to 9 answers correct? You can have a retest. Less than six correct? Call the Wheeling Historical Museum at 537-3119 for your own copy of *Wheeling Through the Years*.

2/15/90

# Societies bring two Wheelings together

"The first time I heard of Wheeling, W. Va.," says Lonnie Schnaitmann, president of the Wheeling Historical Society, "was many years ago when my husband, Frank, and I were in the Wheeling Jaycees. The Jaycee Jill's had their first turtle race to raise money for a scholarship. We had ordered about 20 turtles and on the day of the race, they weren't there. We found out that Noah's Ark pet store in Des Plaines had sent all of our turtles to Wheeling, W. Va.!"

Well, the Schnaitmanns have heard from our "sister city" once again. Not through turtles, this time, but human contact. The Wheeling, Ill., Historical Society has been contacted by the Wheeling, W. Va. Historical Society, and invited to begin a communication and possible friendship between the two cities.

"I am enclosing a short booklet on our history as well as some more recent brochures," writes Margaret Brennan, Wheeling, W. Va., Historical Society president. "We are becoming known for our winter Festival of Lights. It would be nice to set up a communication between the two cities and perhaps some of your group could officially visit here."

The Wheeling, W. Va., history book, which Brennan includes in her packet, gives information on the origin of the name "Wheeling."

"The name Wheeling has a grisly origin, according to scholars. It means, in Delaware language, 'the place of the head.' Early traders and mappers were told by the Indians that it commemorated the scalping and beheading of a white trader whose head was affixed to a pole at the mouth of the creek — an early 'no trespassing' sign."

The book also tells of George Washington's reference to Weelin Creek in his personal journal. "Colonial spelling was rather fanciful, and the name Wheeling didn't become official until the Continental Congress in 1776."

Wheeling, W. Va., is located on the Ohio River about 410 miles southeast of Chicago. Points of interest noted in their city brochure include a covered bridge constructed in 1891; a pioneer and

**Lisa Schab**

Wheeling



civil war cemetery, the Pike Island locks and dam; the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, a National Historical Landmark; and the Capitol Music Hall, a former vaudeville theater and Universal Studios moviehouse, now home to Jamboree USA and the Wheeling Symphony.

For the past five years, Wheeling, W. Va., has been home to a City of Lights Festival. The Festival runs from mid-November through the beginning of January, during which time Wheeling shines with 25 eight-foot snowflakes overextending city streets, 2,000 lights and trees, and over 30 major light displays. Entertainment, parades and fireworks and special events run throughout the festival time.

"We want to keep in contact with the West Virginia historical society," says Lonnie. "We plan to send a letter back to them and include information about our Senior Pavilion, Old Settler's Picnic, Lollipop Lane, and a flyer from the Fourth of July Parade, to show them what's going on around here. It would be nice to set up communication, and maybe they could visit here."

"We will also send some names of early Wheeling (Illinois) settlers and see if they can connect with them. We can really check in and see if we are tied together in any way. It would really be something if there were a connection between the two cities."

For more information about Wheeling, W. Va., contact the Wheeling Convention and Visitors Bureau at 607 Central Union Building, Wheeling, W. Va. 26003. Or call 304-233-7709. And if you do write, of course, please ask about our frogs!

3/4/90



Spinning Wheel  
4/30/90

—0—  
WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY will meet on March 28 at 7:30 p.m. to listen to the selections from the diary of George M. Weidner, an Aptakasic storekeeper from 1891-1924. The diary was made available through Weidner's daughter, Wheeling resident Isabelle Blocks.

Lisa Schab



Wheeling

### Historical Society

Readings from a diary kept by George M. Weidner from 1889 to 1929 will highlight the next meeting of the Wheeling Historical Society to be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the former Community Church building in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling. Mentioned in the diary are Weidner's Aptakasic general store and August Pieper's blacksmith shop which was moved to Wheeling in 1907. (Photographs of Pieper and his shop appear in *Wheeling through the Years*, our local history book.)

For more information, call 537-3119.

Herald. 5/29/90

## Restoring church is society leader's priority

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Restoring the 125-year-old Community Church at Chamber Park is a top goal for Lonnie Schnaitmann, who was sworn in Wednesday to a second term as president of the Wheeling Historical Society.

"That building is deteriorating so bad, there's holes in the church," said Schnaitmann, following the society's installation dinner at the park district's Chevy Chase Clubhouse. "I would like to have that done while I'm president. A lot of members that used to go to that church would like to see it go back to its original structure."

The Community Church at the park now is used for the park dis-

trict's preschool program and the society's monthly meetings.

Schnaitmann, 47, was one of five members sworn in to two year terms on the historical society board. Jean Lowery replaces Robert McIntyre as treasurer; Ken Kostrzewski replaces Bob Buerger as secretary, and Buerger will take the place of Jan Broda as museum director. Betty Barrie will remain curator of the historical museum and have a newly-appointed assistant, Barbara La Hay. Dolly Hein was awarded the first-time honor of "Historical Person of the Year," for her unyielding volunteerism.

Besides accolades, a brief installation ceremony and raffle prize drawings, the 60 historical society

members attending the dinner Wednesday were entertained by the "Schizo-phonics," a barber shop quartet comprising men from Wheeling and Wauconda.

But when it came to business, there was no song and dance as society members unanimously agreed to contribute \$600 to install at drinking fountain at Chamber Park, in an effort to preserve the home of Wheeling's history.

Children using the park have been leaving the water run from a spigot connected to the museum building at the park, Schnaitmann said. Because water leaks may damage archives stored in the basement, society members will install the fountain at the east of the museum at the park.

**Lisa Schab**

Wheeling



### New officers

Newly elected officers of the Wheeling Historical Society are: Lonnie Schnaitmann, president; Ken Kostrzewski, secretary; Betty Barrie, curator; Jean Lowery, treasurer and Bob Buerger, director. The new officers will be installed at the Annual Installation Dinner to be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. The "Schizo-Phonics" barbershop quartet will entertain.



Original Village Hall

## Installation 1990

Lonnie Schnaitmann is installed by husband,  
Franc Schnaitmann



Schizo-Phonics Barber Shop Quartet



Lorraine Habou - chair



Betty Barria - Curator



Barbara Lattay - Asst. Curator



Kieu Nostrzewski - Secretary



Jean Lowery - Treas.



Louise presenting certificates to Willie Franta



## Diary gives special look at early 1900s

These days, if you want a nice dinner for two, you stop off at Don Roth's or Billy & Company, or Market Square and order from a menu. The cook usually stays in the kitchen, and your meal has a fixed price.

If you lived in Wheeling in 1909, however, things might have been a little different. You might have picked up dinner at a "basket social."

According to Lorraine Haben of the Wheeling Historical Society, a basket social was a combination of a blind date and a fundraiser rolled into one. Young women in the community would prepare a picnic basket containing food enough for two. The basket itself would be elaborately decorated with bows, ribbons, or flowers, and the creator's name was kept a secret. At the proper time an auction was held, with baskets going to the highest bidder. Not only the dinner went home with the winner, however. Whoever had prepared the basket would be asked to join the winner for the meal.

At a Feb. 22, 1909, basket social, according to the diary of George M. Weidner, 35 baskets were auctioned off by the Girls Society, netting a profit of \$90.50. (That comes out to approximately \$2.58 per basket/girl combination — quite a bit cheaper than a dinner date for two, 81 years later.)

Weidner's diary was kept in ledger form from 1889 until his death in 1929. It contains family records, births and deaths, weddings and funerals, election news, and reports of residents' travels, picnics and parties in the Aptakisic-Buffalo Grove area and surrounding communities. It also catalogues weather reports. When weatherman Harry Volkman spoke at the March meeting of the Wheeling Chapter of the American Association of Retired

**Lisa Schab**

Wheeling



Persons, Isabell Weidner Blocks, George's daughter, presented Volkman with the highlights of Aptakisic weather over the years, as recorded in the diary.

One "mystery item" noted in the diary is the mention of a "necktie party," the entry reading: "1909-Feb. 11: Girls kept a necktie party at Buffalo Grove. Net \$97."

The mystery is, just what is a necktie party? The first Father's Day celebration? A "Tupperware type" of sales party featuring neckties? Something similar to college fraternity toga parties? An event on the line of the basket social, but with neckties being the items to be auctioned?

If you've ever been to a necktie party yourself, or if you think you have the answer, please share it with the Wheeling Historical Society, by calling 215-5783, or dropping them a line at: P.O. Box 3, Wheeling, IL 60090.

In the meantime, stop in and have a look at George Weidner's diary, now on display at the Wheeling Historical Museum. There are 65 pages of entries, with each line or two marking an event that is noted most briefly. The Museum is open from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays, and is located in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road in Wheeling.

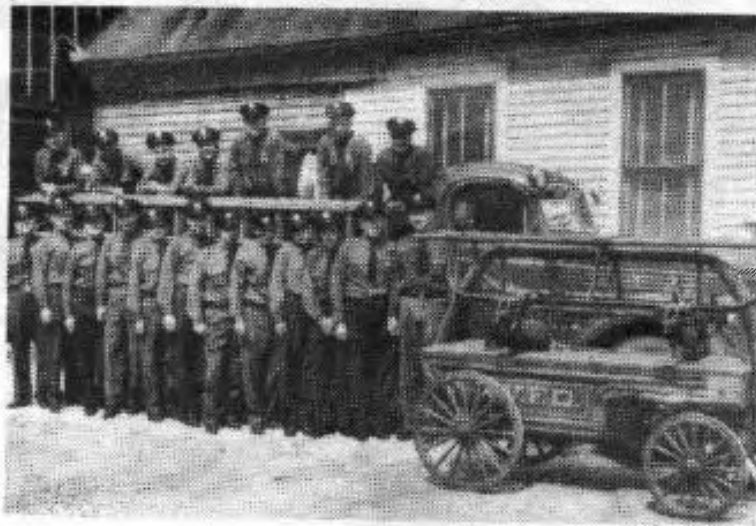


Photo courtesy of Wheeling Historical Society

In 1950, members of the Wheeling Fire Department used a fire pole to get down to the first floor when emergency calls came in.

## Firefighting brass to stand in history

By **WAYNE TRYHUK**  
STAFF WRITER

Some of the Wheeling Fire Department's top brass will be given a place of honor in a local museum.

The brass in question is in the form of a pole, about 20 feet long, down which firemen used to slide at Wheeling's original station on Milwaukee Avenue and Dundee Road, en route to conflagrations throughout the village.

When that two-story structure was replaced by the current, single-level facility at 255 W. Dundee Road in the early 1980s, the pole was dismantled and taken to the new building, where it was relegated to an ignominious fate.

"It was sitting in storage and collecting dust," Chief Keith MacIsaac said Friday. "It became a place to throw your coat."

The department, according to MacIsaac, wanted to give the pole a home where it would be properly appreciated. "It's important to the history of the village," he explained. "I can never see us with another two story structure needing a pole."

Most stations built within the past 25 years or so, are in fact, single level facilities, according to MacIsaac, making the pole an increasingly rare historical commodity.

The department had considered exhibiting it at the current main station, or mounting it on a trailer as a kind of traveling educational display, as the Palatine Fire Department has done, MacIsaac said. In the latter scenario, "we'd let the kids slide down it," MacIsaac said.

Both options proved impractical, however, and MacIsaac volunteered to donate the pole to the Carriage House museum of the Wheeling Historical

Society, 251 N. Wolf Road. It was delivered Friday by firefighters and Public Works Department personnel.

Firefighter/paramedic Don Malin said Monday he had volunteered to install the pole, a job he hoped to accomplish by July 20. The work will include cutting a hole in the ceiling of the Carriage House first floor to accommodate the pole, and installing the door which opens around it when stepped on.

While allowing a quicker slide down the pole, however, the automatic door also had a drawback when it was actually used. According to MacIsaac, it created "heating and air conditioning problems" by letting air seep upward from the garage into the firefighters living quarters. In addition, the chief said, the odors from the diesel exhausts of the trucks would make their way into the firefighters habitat.

Lt. Dan Dieter, though, who made his way down the pole many times at the old station, recalled that it offered an important advantage to hastily departing firefighters. "Believe it or not, it's safer going down a pole at 3 a.m. than the stairs," Dieter, who now works at the new facility, said. "You'd just slide down and, bingo." The downward maneuver, he remembered, was really nothing to get worked up about. "You'd just hook the pole in the crook of your arm and down you went," he explained.

The museum's curator, Betty Barrie, meanwhile, said Monday she welcomed the addition of the pole to the historical society's collection of fire fighting memorabilia, including pictures, helmets and badges. "It helps people know what Wheeling was like, and what we did years ago," she said.

6/3/90

8/4/90  
**Society asks whether church is museum**

By TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
 Daily Herald Staff Writer

Members of the Wheeling Historical Society are looking to make sure Wheeling park officials don't spend museum tax money in the wrong place.

Park district officials plan to restore the historic Chamber Church, 251 N. Wolf Road, and are seeking estimates for the repairs. The church was built in 1865 and is deteriorating.

Thomas Busby, the district's superintendent of finance, last week said the money to pay for the repairs — which could total several hundred dollars — could come from the museum fund, which has \$42,000 in reserve.

But now Busby says the park district must determine whether the church is classified as a museum or a park district building before any money can be taken from the fund.

Historical society members, some of whom doubt the church acts as a museum, plan to request that park officials use money from another district fund, such as the corporate fund.

Under a state statute, tax money collected for museums must only be spent on buildings being used as museums.

The Chamber Church is used by the park district for preschool classes and is full of children's toys and furniture, said Arnie Biondo, the district's superintendent

of leisure services.

In addition, the historical society holds monthly meetings in the church and the building is open Wednesday nights for washroom use during the Sounds of Summer outdoor music concerts in the park.

"A museum is what the dictionary says," said Bob McIntyre, a member of the historical society. "A museum is a museum. It's not a day-care center."

McIntyre added that society members would like to use the money to acquire other items for museum purposes, such as a turn-of-the-century house.

"I guess that will depend on if we classify that as some type of museum piece," Busby said.

8/23/90  
**Noteworthy**

The Wheeling Historical Museum in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Rd. is open every Sunday throughout the year from 2-4 p.m. **Betty Barrie** is the curator and members of the Wheeling Historical Society act as guides.

In addition to the Wheeling Historical Society being open on Sundays, you can find the Childerley/Lark Chapel in Childerley Park, located at 506 McHenry Rd., open from 2-4 p.m. every Sunday through Labor Day. **Lorraine Haben** is in charge of the Chapel.

**SPINNING  
 WHEEL**

**MARY BETH  
 CRUM**





## Historic Wheeling church to get face lift

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Wheeling Park District officials want to restore a historic Wheeling church to its original form.

The Chamber Church, at the park district's Chamber Park, located at 251 N. Wolf Road, needs painting, new windows and siding, park board commissioners said. The district is seeking estimates to pay for repairs to the deteriorating church, which was built in 1865.

"It's in need of a good paint job," Park Board President Tom R. Webber said. "The time has come, and we don't want to delay it so we'll take care of it right away."

Restoring the church, which was last painted about five years ago, is also one of the top goals for Lonnie Schnaitmann, the president of the Wheeling Historical Society.

Schnaitmann, who was elected to a second term in May, said she wanted the church and its surroundings in the park fixed up before her four-year term ends. The historical society also agreed to contribute \$600 to install a drinking fountain at Chamber Park.

"The whole thing is going to crumble," Schnaitmann said of the 125-year-old church. "The paint is falling off. There's holes in the walls. That's the beauty of a park. If the buildings aren't being taken care of, that just wrecks it."

Webber said the repairs may

cost "a few hundred dollars," but he won't know how much until the district receives estimates. The money would come from cash reserves in the district's museum fund, said Thomas Busby, the district's superintendent of finance.

Although Webber said he would like to have the outside repairs completed by October, inside restoration of the church may have to wait a couple of years until the preschool classes now being held there can be moved.

The preschool may be moved to the community center park officials plan to build in the next couple of years on 18.5 acres located between the village hall and the Wickes Furniture showroom on the south side of Dundee Road.



### COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Erected in 1865, the Zion Presbyterian Church was the first church in Wheeling. It stood on the north side of Dundee Road near Milwaukee Avenue until the late 1960's when it was moved to Chamber Park on north Wolf Road. The building is now being used for Wheeling Historical Society meetings and special events.

Source: Wheeling Historical Society

Donnelley Directory, publishers of Ameritech PagesPlus® would like to acknowledge and thank the following organizations:

Buffalo Grove Chamber of Commerce  
Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce  
Prospect Heights Chamber of Commerce  
Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry

8/19/90  
**Society asks whether church is museum**

BY TRISH LICHTENSTEIN  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Members of the Wheeling Historical Society are looking to make sure Wheeling park officials don't spend museum tax money in the wrong place.

Park district officials plan to restore the historic Chamber Church, 251 N. Wolf Road, and are seeking estimates for the repairs. The church was built in 1865 and is deteriorating.

Thomas Busby, the district's superintendent of finance, last week said the money to pay for the repairs — which could total several hundred dollars — could come from the museum fund, which has \$42,000 in reserve.

But now Busby says the park district must determine whether the church is classified as a museum or a park district building before any money can be taken from the fund.

Historical society members, some of whom doubt the church acts as a museum, plan to request that park officials use money from another district fund, such as the corporate fund.

Under a state statute, tax money collected for museums must only be spent on buildings being used as museums.

The Chamber Church is used by the park district for preschool classes and is full of children's toys and furniture, said Arnie Biondo, the district's superintendent

of leisure services.

In addition, the historical society holds monthly meetings in the church and the building is open Wednesday nights for washroom use during the Sounds of Summer outdoor music concerts in the park.

"A museum is what the dictionary says," said Bob McIntyre, a member of the historical society. "A museum is a museum. It's not a day-care center."

McIntyre added that society members would like to use the money to acquire other items for museum purposes, such as a turn-of-the-century house.

"I guess that will depend on if we classify that as some type of museum piece," Busby said.

8/23/92  
**SPINNING  
WHEEL**  
**MARY BETH  
CRUM**

**Noteworthy**

The Wheeling Historical Museum in Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Rd. is open every Sunday throughout the year from 2-4 p.m. **Betty Barrie** is the curator and members of the Wheeling Historical Society act as guides.

In addition to the Wheeling Historical Society being open on Sundays, you can find the Childerley/Lark Chapel in Childerley Park, located at 506 McHenry Rd., open from 2-4 p.m. every Sunday through Labor Day. **Lorraine Haben** is in charge of the Chapel.







Harbor Day - 1988

Wheeling Historical Museum  
Wheeling, Il. 60090

# Wheeling, Ill.—Historians Continue Search for Missing Link

SAT-APR 14-90

By DEBBI NEER  
The Intelligencer Staff

It's a sunny afternoon in Wheeling. The sky is blue and spring is in the air. The family is ready for the season's first outing.

Where to go? Dad decides to take his family to Chicago for the day. Has old dad flipped his lid? A 12-hour trip can hardly be called an outing.

But this dad is sane in his thinking, because his family lives in the village of Wheeling, Ill.

Wheeling, Ill., a quaint village that boasts a population of 28,000 is located near the "Windy City" in the country's heartland. The tie that binds the two Wheelings has yet to be discovered, but Wheeling, W.Va., Area Historical Society President Margaret Brennan has her own ideas about the sister city in Illinois.

"Perhaps someone that once lived here decided to relocate and liked the name. So when they moved they started their own city and called it Wheeling. Or maybe someone was traveling through our city and said, 'Wheeling, that's a nice name,' so they settled down, started a town and named it Wheeling."

Brennan contacted people in Wheeling, Ill., and they shared an interest in the strange coincidence. One reporter in Wheeling, Ill., related a story of a

“  
Wheeling is such an unusual name—it means 'place of the head.' It's not a name that is common for towns.”

town member who knew of Wheeling, W.Va. only because on the day of a big turtle race held by the Wheeling Jaycees, the event failed because all the turtles that were ordered, had been sent here—to Wheeling, W.Va.

Wheeling, Ill., was formally incorporated in 1895, just a baby to this city which was incorporated in 1769. However, the Illinois town came into existence during the 1830s.

According to a book put out by the Wheeling, Ill., Historical Society, the village's history began because it was located on one of the earliest roads leading north from Chicago. People traveling on the road had to eat, and so eating places were built along Milwaukee Road in the town known as Wheeling.

With the automobile came more eating places that all contributed to what was widely known as Wheel-

ing's resaurant row. The village grew around these places that the locals referred to as "roadhouses."

Wheeling became another typical village 25 miles from the heart of Chicago. The book calls Wheeling, "not a place, but a state of the stomach."

The question if there is a link between the two cities has yet to be answered, but Brennan has vowed that she will find the link if it exists. "Wheeling is such an unusual name—it means 'place of the head.' It's not a name that is common for towns."

Whether there is a link or not, the Illinois city does share similarities with West Virginia's Wheeling that are interesting and sometimes eerie.

Wheeling Park, in Illinois, hosts picnics for families and groups when the weather turns nice.

On those lazy summer days, a person in either Wheeling can always take a stroll on Locust Drive, Briarwood Drive or Maple Lane.

The Wheeling Historical Society takes care of preserving both towns' past and their history.

Both Wheelings have small community colleges for personalized training.

Wheeling, Ill., like Wheeling, W.Va., also boasts individual attractions that make it different from anywhere else in the world.

In Wheeling, Ill. a resident can sit down to a fine French feast that is famous throughout the Chicago area.

Wheeling, Ill. also claims a Senior Pavilion, an Old Settlers Picnic and a large Fourth of July celebration.

Santa also is a special visitor to Wheeling, Ill. A special lane, Lollipop Lane, is set up every December and Santa and the Mrs. greet more than 1,000 children in the 10 days they are there.

Wheeling, Ill. also has its share of historic buildings and landmarks and even possesses a carriage house.

The village is run by a village president, a six-member village board of trustees and a village manager.

"I'm going to keep on searching for the link that puts our two towns together," Brennan said.

Meanwhile, Wheeling, Ill., Historical Society President Lonnie Schnatmann said she'll also keep up the search and added, "We sure would enjoy having you (Brennan) and some of your members come for a visit to our Wheeling. I think you could say it was official business."

Brennan hopes that the sister cities will remain friendly and that someday the link will be found.

## Society member seeks link between 2 towns



Lisa Schab  
Wheeling

The Wheeling Historical Society just got a new member. Her name is Margaret Brennan, and she lives in Wheeling, but she probably won't be able to make it to many of the meetings. Margaret lives at 136 N. 19th St. in Wheeling — West Virginia. She is the president of the Wheeling, W. Va., Historical Society.

"The question if there is a link between the two cities has yet to be answered," writes reporter Debbi Neer of the Wheeling, W. Va., Intelligencer staff. "But Brennan has vowed that she will find the link if it exists."

If you'll remember, last March I did a column about the communication which had begun between the Wheeling, Ill., Historical Society and the Wheeling, W. Va., Historical Society. Letters, maps, brochures, and history books had been exchanged by presidents of both societies, and the question as to a possible link between the two cities had been raised. Could we have shared some common settlers? Any common history? The questions are still unanswered, although the growing friendship between the two historical societies has suggested a new status of "sister cities."

Perhaps some help from the community would be in line at this point. (I, of course, would gladly take an all-expense paid trip to Wheeling, W. Va., during the beautiful fall season just to get down to the heart of the matter and see what clues could be unearthed.) Since this idea doesn't seem too likely, however, (I've never yet been sent out-of-state to gather information for this column,) maybe this is something that you, as readers and Wheeling citizens, could be of help with. There must be someone out there who has some information, or some ideas, as to why there are two Wheelings, and what the connection is between them.

Historical society presidents Margaret Brennan (West Virginia) and Lonnie Schnatmann (Illinois) would certainly be grateful for any light which could be shed on this matter. (Why am I starting to feel like Angela Lansbury?) I would like to invite readers to

submit their ideas to this column. Any ideas, based in fact or sheer conjecture (creativity is welcome) may be submitted. They will be read and considered, and, if no factual story ever comes to light, perhaps the historical societies could just pick their favorite out of our stories and use that as an explanation.

There are some clues, of course. The biggest of these being the translation of the word, "Wheeling." If you'll remember from the last column, it means "place of the head." Just knowing that should bring to mind quite a number of varied and interesting ideas about our two cities' roots. According to scholars, early traders and mappers were told by the Indians that "the place of the head" commemorated the scalping and beheading of a white trader whose head was affixed to a pole at the mouth of a creek. This served as a rather primitive "no trespassing" sign.

If you want to stick with that explanation, fine. But come on, couldn't it just as easily have had something to do with intelligence level? Perhaps the first settlers of the two Wheelings were members of Mensa. Maybe they were Einsteins. (True, they also could have been hair stylists.) But the idea is for you to think up your own ideas as to the origin of our name and the connection between Wheeling, Illinois and our sister city to the east.

Be creative! Be silly! Be serious and factual! Be whatever you want, and send your answers to: Lisa Schab, The Wheeling Neighbor, 217 W. Campbell, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. Please include your name and phone number.

8/12/90

Lonnie didn't do it!

Members of Wheeling Historical Society have been calling Lonnie Schnaitmann, its president, asking "You didn't do it, did you, Lonnie?"

How come? Well, last Tuesday morning a full-size fiberglass horse was found missing from a lot at Brandywyn and Prairie roads in Buffalo Grove. It was owned by Carlyle, a development firm which used it to attract attention to its properties, and had been anchored with hooks and wires. Now, everybody knows Lonnie has been looking for a life-size model horse for display in the Society's restored carriage house in Chamber Park. She claims she knows nothing about the fate of Carlyle's horse, but if the police should happen to turn up more than one in their investigation the Society would like a chance to make a bid for the second one.

Daily Herald 08-22-90

#### POLICE NOTEBOOK

### Fiberglass horse stolen from Carlyle

**BUFFALO GROVE** — A full-size fiberglass horse was taken from Carlyle, 2199 Brandywyn Road. Police said the horse, which was taken Monday night or Tuesday morning, is valued at \$2,700. The fiberglass horse, which was anchored with hooks and wires, was displayed on a corner lot at Brandywyn and Prairie roads.

**Lisa Schab**

Wheeling



### Where is the Horse

Wheeling Historical Society President Lonnie Schaitmann pleaded innocent recently to (playful) suggestions made by Historical Society members that she may have been responsible for the disappearance of a life-size fiberglass horse in Buffalo Grove.

The horse, originally located on Brandywyn Road, was used by the Carlyle development firm to attract attention to its properties. It disappeared the week of Aug. 22. Wheeling Historical Society members were aware that Lonnie has been wanting to find a life-size model horse to display in the Society's restored Carriage House located in Chamber Park. Although they originally feared that her devotion to the Historical Society may have caused her to act impulsively, she denies any connection to the missing horse, valued at \$2,700.



9/9/90

suburban

# Images

NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, HEALTH

AND BETTER LIVING

95



Richard Bajjaleh/Pioneer Press

Betty Barrie, curator of the Wheeling Historical Museum, displays a vintage telephone switchboard she used to operate in the 1930s. Many interesting artifacts from the village's past are on display at the museum.

## Museum keeps relics of past

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

6  
If you don't know where you came from, you won't know where you are, or who you are.

Rudy Horcher

Wheeling Historical Society member Rudy Horcher believes a look at the past can provide a clearer view of the present.

"If you don't know where you came from, you won't know where you are, or who you are," he says.

Many people today are "mixed up characters" because of that kind of ignorance, Horcher, 67, feels.

But a remedy might be found at the Wheeling Historical Museum, 251 N. Wolf Road, where countless exhibits lend insights into the way Wheeling was.

Curator Betty Barrie, for example, demonstrates the kind of switchboard she worked from 1937 until 1958, when the village abandoned the crank telephones and went dial.

Some of the hottest telephone conversations in the early days had to do with fires. After spotting a blaze in town, residents would routinely ring up an operator, who would determine the location and sound an alarm whistle. That would prompt firemen to call.

They generally went to battle brush fires since "there weren't that many buildings," Barrie, 71, recalls. There also wasn't a lot of frivolous telephone use.

"People didn't talk as much in those days," Barrie said.

That may have been because they were too busy working, often on a farm. The men were always outside in the fields, Barrie recalled, and women generally followed a regimented schedule of household chores.



Richard Bajjaleh/Pioneer Press

The cell exhibit, complete with inmate, is part of Wheeling's original jail, relocated from its original location at Center and Milwaukee Avenue.

"Monday was always wash day, and Tuesday was for ironing. Friday they cleaned, and Saturday they baked. Wednesdays and Thursdays were for anything they had that was extra," she said.

Barrie remembers her mother using one of the era's modern conveniences: a manually operated clothes wringer, an original version of which the museum, a Wheeling Park District facility, has on display.

Another tool of the times made cleaning carpets a breeze. After hanging them on a clothesline, ladies simply took a metal rug beater and whacked away as the wind carried dust in all directions.

Men didn't have it any easier. Routine chores were so distasteful that Horcher found military duties relatively relaxing.

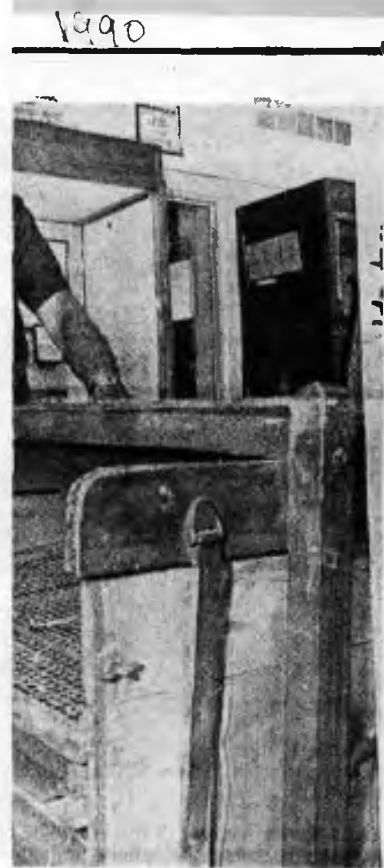
"I always said in the Navy, I've already done something worse," he laughs, including "shoveling pig manure and anything I could do for a buck."

(Continued on next page)



Richard Bajjaleh/Pioneer Press

Patrons can journey back in time at the museum on Sundays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Richard Bajjaleh/Pioneer Press

of the Wheeling Historical Society, mill used to remove goat seed from

Continued from previous page

workers thirst. But one of the most illuminating entries would seem to be one made on November 18, 1927; "Electric lights started today."

The slower pace of times gone by is also illustrated by a sign at the museum stating that fines would be imposed for "speeding any automobile or tractor engine faster than 12 mph, or 4 mph when turning corners."

Horcher remembers converting a Model T Ford into a race car and accelerating it to a then incomprehensible speed.

"I stepped down and did a mile in 37 seconds and thought, 'This is something,'" he

of life hroni-ary of so on display at the museum. For example, on April 15, 1896, Weidner reported, there was an explosion at a fireworks factory and Nick Barre, 16, and Anne Barre, 17, were killed.

On May 12 of that year, "Dittbrener was around surveying," according to the diary. Dittbrener better have finished his task by winter, because the season brought some wicked weather. A Feb. 18 diary notation read; "Big snowstorm. All trains have two engines."

The diary is not limited to Wheeling doings. Weidner recounted that in February of 1917; "John Zimmer's saloon at Long Grove was robbed."

Barrie feels much the same about the trek the early settlers, who arrived in Wheeling in 1833, made from the East coast. "It must have been awful," she said.

But travel conditions improved in 1837 when a station, with a restaurant and rented rooms, was built at the present Dundee Road and Milwaukee Avenue as part of a stage coach line between Chicago and Milwaukee. Barrie believes the avenue was named after the city in Wisconsin.

Journeys into history at the museum, which has a separate carriage house and church, may be taken between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Sundays.

## CLOSEUP

# Her work brings the past alive

Sandy Altieri lives for history.

As first vice president for the Northbrook Historical Society, Altieri acts as curator for the antique treasures.

Most of her experience with caring for historical pieces comes from the days when she worked with her husband, Anthony, who was curator of the Wheeling Historical Society in Chamber Park from 1986 to 1988.

"We both always liked history," said Altieri, who also has volunteered for several Amvets projects. "He's a Civil War buff and I'm an antique collector."

During those two years, Altieri helped bring the historical society into public view from its former forgotten existence.

A 26-year Wheeling resident, Altieri changed the historical society exhibits every three months, each featuring articles to represent the time of year. She would promote the new features and keep up viewers' interests with new exhibits.

During the month of June, Altieri assembled a bridal exhibit



**Sandy Altieri**

and displayed donated antique wedding gowns. She would mail residents invitations to the exhibit that resembled wedding invitations.

Sandy had a hand in bringing one of the latest historical features to Wheeling. Before Anthony's term as curator expired, she had submitted more than 20 pictures of German immigrants working on American soil in the early 1900s to the German-American Heritage Institute. Several of the pictures were accepted for the institute's traveling exhibit of German ancestry that opens at the Wheeling museum April 9.

"I'm anxious to see it," said Altieri, member of the Wheeling Lion's Club. "I think it would be an exciting exhibit."

— Trish Lichtenstein

**Lisa Schab**



Wheeling

## Historical society

A representative from the Illinois Secretary of State's office will speak at the next meeting of the Wheeling Historical Society to be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Community Church building at Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, Wheeling.

The speaker will give an illustrated talk on the history of Illinois' three state capitols — Kaskaskia, Vandalia and Springfield — with an emphasis on the construction and alteration of the present capitol building. Come brush up on your state's history.

For more information, call 215-5783.

9/20/90

Spinning Wheel 9/20/90

The program for the Sept. 28 meeting of the **Wheeling Historical Society** will be provided by the Secretary of State's office. The meeting will be held at the Community Church building in Chamber Park at 7:30 p.m.

Herald Oct 29 '90

## OBITUARIES

### Marshall C. Balling

Services for Marshall C. Balling, 81, a life-long resident of Wheeling, will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Community Presbyterian Church, 196 E. Highland, Wheeling.

Burial will be in Wheeling Cemetery, Wheeling. He died Saturday at his home.

Before his retirement he was a banker with Wheeling Trust & Savings Bank. He was an artist and painter. He was a veteran of World War II, and a member of AmVets Post No. 66, Wheeling. He was a member of the Wheeling Lions Club, of Vitruvian Lodge No. 81, A.F. & A.M., Wheeling, and was a member and elder of Community Presbyterian Church, Wheeling.

He was founder and historian of the Wheeling Historical Society, and was historian of the Village of Wheeling. He was a past village trustee, volunteer fireman, a member of Senior Citizens of Wheeling and the Chamber of Commerce.

He was the first Santa for the historical society's Lollypop Lane, and served as a volunteer art instructor for District 21 elementary schools and Addolorata Villa, Wheeling.

Survivors include a brother, Charles, a sister, Dorothy Flentge, niece Beth Sheffele and nephew David Balling.

Visitation will be from 3 to 9 p.m. today at Kolssak Funeral Home, 189 S. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling, and from 10 a.m. until the time of the services Tuesday at the church.

Memorials may be made to Community Presbyterian Church, Wheeling.



### In Loving Memory of MARSHALL C. BALLING

Born December 24, 1908

At Rest October 27, 1990

Services at  
Community Presbyterian Church  
Wheeling, Illinois  
Tuesday, October 30, 1990  
at 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Amos Wilkie, Officiating

Interment  
Wheeling Cemetery

The Lord is my shepherd! I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the  
path of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of  
the shadow of death I will fear no evil for  
thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff  
they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the  
presence of mine enemies; thou anointest  
my head with oil. My cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life; and I will dwell  
in the house of the Lord forever.

KOLSSAK OF WHEELING  
FUNERAL HOME



When through one man  
a little more love  
and goodness,  
a little more light  
and truth  
come into the world—  
then that man's life  
has had meaning.

Countryside 10/25/90

### Historic cottage

The Addolorata Villa Home for Aged Men and Women, at 555 McHenry Road, has withdrawn its offer to donate a historically significant cottage on its grounds to the Wheeling Park District, according to Karop Bavougian, the district's director.

Robert McIntyre, a spokesman for the Wheeling Historical Society, said the district lacked funds for the proposed move of the one-story cottage, built in 1910, to Chamber Park, at 251 N. Wolf Road. The moving operation might have involved paying telephone, electric and cable companies to modify their wiring to allow the cottage to pass underneath at certain locations and would have cost an estimated \$90,000, according to McIntyre.

He added that the district also lacked time to arrange and complete the move.

Countryside 11/1/90

# Drill to burn cottages

By WAYNE TRYHUK  
STAFF WRITER

The Wheeling Fire Department and officials at the Addolorata Villa Home for Aged Men and Women have a hot idea for disposing of four cottages at the facility: setting them ablaze.

An earlier proposal to donate one cottage to the Wheeling Historical Society went up in smoke two weeks ago after the Wheeling Park District, with which the society is affiliated, determined that it lacked the time and money necessary to move the structure to Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road.

The wooden cottages, most built in 1910 as part of the Childerley Home for Widows and Orphans, will be burned as part of a training exercise for firefighters, according to Fire Chief Keith MacIsaac and Sister Pat Ferguson, administrative assistant at the Villa.

All eight one-story structures have to be destroyed to make room for new apartments, and, possibly, new cottages at the Villa, 555 McHenry Road.

MacIsaac said he cannot disclose when the drill will take place because part of the training exercise will involve testing firefighters' preparedness.

Sister Ferguson, however, emphasized that the procedure won't create an actual conflagration.

"It's not going to be a fire everyone's going to be standing on McHenry Road

looking at," she said. "Ninety percent of people won't know anyone is in there."

The historical society wanted one of the cottages to add to a "historical village" planned for Chamber Park, the present site of the Wheeling Historical Museum, Sicks Carriage House, and original Community Presbyterian Church.

But moving the cottages would have involved paying telephone, electric and cable companies to modify their wiring to allow the cottage to be transported underneath at certain locations, society spokesman Robert McIntyre said. The operation could have cost up to \$90,000.

Officials at the villa, operated by the Scrivite Sisters, ultimately withdrew their donation offer, according to park district director Karop Bavougian.

The historic society is still searching for a "suitable house from early Wheeling to round out the historical village," according to McIntyre.

He said the group has its eye on several structures that could potentially fulfill that function.

One is the Schneider House on north Milwaukee Avenue, built by Reinhold Schneider, Wheeling's first village clerk, McIntyre said. Another is the Kuffer House on south Milwaukee Avenue, where Birk's Supreme Beer was once bottled, and sold to local restaurants. Also possibilities are the Pieper House and Arnold House on south Milwaukee.

## Neighbor

Wheeling

Daily Herald

Friday, November 2, 1990

# Society's effort to save 1910 cottage fails

By BONNIE BOOTH  
Daily Herald Staff Writer

The Wheeling Historical Society, lacking time and money, has given up its effort to move one of the Childerley cottages at Addolorato Villa to its historic village in Chamber Park.

Society members were hoping to add the cottage, one of eight on the Villa property, to the church, original village hall and carriage house that already are part of the historic village at 251 N. Wolf Road.

Addolorato Villa officials were willing to donate one of the cottages to the historical society on the condition that the society foot the bill for moving it. The cottages, built in 1910 as part of the Childerley home for widows and orphans, are scheduled to be demolished in late November to make way for a second 100-unit apartment building for senior citizens.

"The opportunity to move the cottage came up very fast," society member Robert L. McIntyre said. "There wasn't time to do it right. We

couldn't get the proper permits. Maybe the money could have been taken care of but there just wasn't enough time."

The money to move the building would have come from the museum tax fund, which is part of the park district tax levy each year. The fund has a balance of about \$42,000 and is also used for upkeep, maintenance, supplies and other costs associated with running the museum and historical village.

Park district officials estimated that it would cost about \$72,000 to

relocate the building. They also said that it would be impossible to get the building moved before next spring.

"It is too bad this didn't work out," McIntyre said. "This one was free."

McIntyre said that the historical society has learned from this experience and is in the process of scouting for houses that would be suitable for the historical village.

"We need to take the initiative instead of waiting for word that a suitable building is going to be demolished and then scramble to try and save it," he said.

C  
O  
T  
T  
A  
G  
E  
S  
  
F  
O  
R  
  
C  
H  
I  
L  
D  
R  
E  
N  
  
E  
Y



Countryside 11/8/90

### **Lollipop Lane**

Willie Franta, who will be posing as Mrs. Claus, will become self-supporting this year when she holds a bake sale to finance Lollipop Lane. She and other members of the Wheeling Historical Society will offer baked goods on Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Cole-Taylor Bank in Wheeling.

Lollipop Lane is presented by the Wheeling Historical Society annually and this year's dates are Dec. 8-16, in the Community Church building in Chamber Park. Santa and Mrs. Claus give the youngsters of Wheeling candy canes, Santa pins and coloring books in a fairyland setting of Christmas. This year a new tradition will be the sale of Christmas ornaments inscribed "Lollipop Lane 1990." These may be purchased at the bake sale.



Wheeling

Historical

Society

1991-92