



Wheeling Historical  
Society and Museum  
Newsletter

Summer

July-August 2019

Volume 28, Issue 4

The Wheeling Historical Society and Museum (Illinois) celebrates the link between the past and the present. The museum is a cooperative effort of the Village of Wheeling, Wheeling Park District, and Indian Trails Public Library.

## WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Museum Campus is  
located in  
the Wheeling Park  
District's  
Chamber Park  
131 N. Wolf Road  
Wheeling Illinois

### 2019-2020 OFFICERS

**President:**

Elaine Simpson

**Vice President:**

Terry Steilen

**Treasurer:**

Marilyn Chromy

**Secretary:**

Christine Brady

### DIRECTORS

Darlene Husch

Celeste Kuta

Linda Reading

### Curator

Patti Steilen

### Web Site:

Terry Steilen

### Newsletter Editor

Celeste Kuta

### Communications

Celeste Kuta

### Program Events

Open

### Wheeling Park District

#### Liaison

Terry Steilen

## Des Plaines River Dams — #1 and #2



This photo from the mid- 1920s shows Bluebird Troop Girl Scouts who had hiked down to Dam #2. (near Foundry Rd., north of Central) Standing are Florence Reeb, Leader Lucille Schneider, Jean Rhys and Edna Reeb; seated are

Emma Hoffman, Mae Hoffman, Helen Radke and Edna Hoffman. Dam #2 was known as a swimming mecca. The troop would start hiking down to the Dam in the morning, and it took almost all day, so they stayed there overnight. Dam #1 which was located closer to Hintz Rd., was more than a place to swim. (cont. on Page 4)



## Yesteryears...

**100 years ago**—July 18, 1919 — All owner/occupants of real estate in Wheeling Township are hereby notified to cut all Canada thistles and other noxious weeds before June 20, 1919. Those who neglect this warning will be arrested and fined.

**75 years ago** — August 4, 1944 — Word was received by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Carpenter that their oldest son, Philip is missing in action since June 20, somewhere in France.

**50 years ago** — July 2, 1969 — The Wheeling Garden Club, Meadowbrook Women's Club and Wheeling Chamber of Commerce presented checks to fund the Wheeling veteran's memorial monument, consisting of marble benches to be placed around the proposed reflecting pool.

Wheeling Historical Society and Museum

**A Message From The President — Elaine Simpson**

Dear Members:

Now summer is here and hopefully there will be a break in the hot weather. In the event that this summer continues to be a hot and humid, please take time to check on your neighbors, especially the ones that live alone. Please remember to drink plenty of water and stay hydrated. Another reminder: you should stay indoors from noon until 4 pm since that is the hottest part of the day.

- ◆ Wheeling is changing and making new history. There are many things that are going on and the Village is definitely growing. When in town, take time to visit Town Center and enjoy the new restaurants. This fall we will have a state-of-the-art movie theater.



- ◆ Walk down Milwaukee Avenue and enjoy a meal at one of our established restaurants.
- ◆ Stop by the water fountain and relax. It is said that running water relieves stress.
- ◆ See a new neighbor on the block? Introduce yourself and tell them about all of the wonderful things that are happening in the Village.

- ◆ Driving through the Village, it is great to see many residents enjoying the company of their neighbors and taking care of their lawn and gardens.

Yes, Wheeling is a very friendly village. Hopefully we will have the Museum up and running by September and we will have a grand reopening.

*Elaine*

**The Curator's Corner — Patti Steilen**



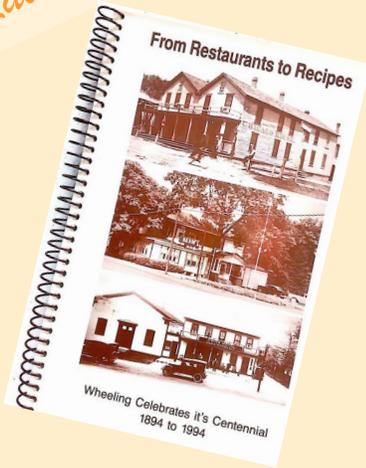
*Patti — Wishing you a speedy recovery!*

Before Patti took “medical leave”, she supervised the new configuration of the museum cabinets. If you can help us with filling the displays, we welcome your creativity.



## From Restaurants to Recipes

*Cook's Kitchen*



### GERMAN POTATO SALAD

*Sharon Schomer*

7 medium sized potatoes  
 1/4 lb. bacon, cut in small pieces  
 1 small onion, chopped

3 T. vinegar  
 1 T. water  
 2 T. sugar

Boil potatoes, then peel them as for potato salad. Fry bacon and onion until crisp. Pour off all except approximately 1 tablespoon grease. Add vinegar, sugar and water. Simmer for about 10 minutes with bacon and onion. Cut up potatoes. Add to above mixture and mix. Then simmer for about 10 to 15 minutes more. Add salt and pepper to taste. If too dry, add more bacon drippings.



August 6	National Night Out
August 15	WHS Board Meeting
September TBA	Wheeling Around Wheeling
September 15	Wheeling-Fallapalooza
September 19	WHS Board Meeting
October TBA	White Elephant Auction/Dinner
December 7-15	Lollipop Lane



*Thank you!*  
*To Joan Wiener,*  
*outgoing Board Member and*  
*President 2008-2014,*  
*for many years of*  
*dedicated service.*



**Wheeling's 125th anniversary** is coming soon. If you have any old pictures, or stories of the Village, we would like to use them. We're putting together history, photos, and then-and-now stories. Any help would be appreciated.

Send to [curator@WheelingHistoricalSociety.com](mailto:curator@WheelingHistoricalSociety.com).

Photo: 1910; In 1996, commuter service was restored to Wheeling with Metra's North Central line

## ***Des Plaines River Dams —#1 and #2 (cont.)***



Dam #1 was built by the Forest Preserve District employees under the supervision of Henry Grandt. It was complete on September 18, 1918. This dam at first had just a walkway, but another ramp was added on the north side providing a real driveway. There was a diving board for swimmers and life guards were Les Galitz and Harold Utpadel. Lorraine Haben also remembers, “There was the big root beer stand down on south Milwaukee Ave. near the dam, that the Stavros ran. All the root beer you could drink for a nickel!”

### **Can you help us?**

We are looking for items for the “Wheeling Around Wheeling” event —any older vehicles with wheels, such as bicycles, scooters, wagons, or ??... anything to do with transportation on wheels.

### **We appreciate**

#### **Village of Wheeling Public Works**

Thank you for your assistance  
with our float in the 125th  
Anniversary Parade on  
June 23, 2019