



# Ridge Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER

December 2002/January 2003

Visit the web site at [www.ridgehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.ridgehistoricalsociety.org)

### 2002: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

When asked to write a "year in review" summary I was reminded of a conversation I had last month at the 111<sup>th</sup> St. Station rededication. In between passing out donuts to commuters, playing tapes of old-time train songs (thanks, Beverly Music!), and strumming guitar with John and Anna of World Folk Music Company, I had an interesting exchange with "a long-time Beverly resident." "They say you're with the historical society," he began. "What do you do there? I thought they just gave teas!" I explained we do much more. He didn't even know we moved to Driscoll House! I ran off the short list of our activities: lecturing to school groups, house histories, exhibits on the neighborhood, tours and other special events. "Well," he harrumphed, "I guess things HAVE changed!" I left him with our best calling card, a copy of the latest newsletter. Another gentleman said, "Hey, you're the Lewis and Clark guy! That article really got me thinking. I should get involved with you guys again now that I'm back in the neighborhood." Soon we had a new member.

It's episodes like these that illustrate how important it is to get out in the community and spread the word that we are indeed still alive and well. Yes, things HAVE changed – we're busier at RHS. Not only has the number of annual events increased in the three years I have been here, there are more people working at Driscoll House than ever before. We're more than just Thursday and Sunday afternoons.

Tuesday mornings, traditionally, Costume

Curator Pat McGrail's "catalog and repair party" has evolved into "The Clippers." Under the watchful eye of Registrar Harold Wolff these volunteers clip, mount and file significant information from the local press. Wednesday evenings were busy this summer with new programming: the "In The Cool Of The Evening" lecture series addressed a variety of topics in an informal "roundtable/workshop" on the veranda.

Thursday, one of our traditional public days, has seen our tireless researcher and VP Linda Lamberty aiding patrons with our considerable genealogical and cartographic resources. Friday evenings saw us opening our doors to welcome new visitors to a four-part lecture series programmed by board member Mati Maldre that coincided with the Chicago Bungalow exhibit at RHS.

Weekends saw a flurry of activity as gardeners and volunteers transformed our grounds with landscaping. Our traditional events like the Ice Cream Social, book sales,

*Continued on Page 5*

#### MEA CULPA!

*Apologies are owed to the family of John Baily for the misspelling of his last name in the memorial article in our last newsletter. The author of the article, Harold Wolff, spelled the name correctly in his manuscript. The error occurred when the copy was typed into the computer by the editor of this publication. I personally extend my sincerest regrets for this error.*

*David Daruszka  
Editor*

Membership renewals for 2003 are due in January. Please read the renewal notice on Page 3 and use the enclosed membership form to renew TODAY!

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

*In memory of*

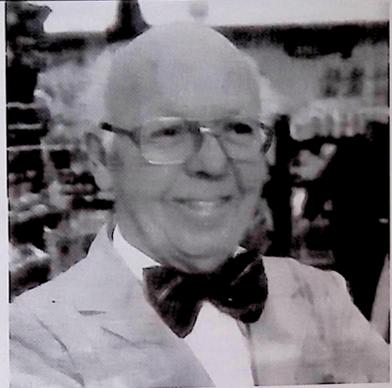
## ART SCHUENEMAN, GROCER

Art Schueneman, who died October 17, is remembered as a gentleman, businessman, community supporter and brother/father figure to customers who still picture him in blue smock and bow tie. He presided over his store, Belmont Foods (on 107th St. just east of the tracks) smiling cordially and speaking with customers all day, listening to family stories and problems, calming neighborhood fears and rooting out truth in response to rumors—all the while providing first rate, personal service and quality foods. Art and his wife Esther (who died in 1990) were the first to send food to a bereaved family, to donate steaks to support a benefit, or to host an in-store fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

Belmont Foods, a third generation business, was known especially for its staff of butchers, for Art was taught by his father to age his own beef in-house, and to sell nothing but Prime. As supermarkets began to dot the landscape, other small stores closed and butchers from Lamparters (111th), Beverly Certified (91st St.), and Brennans (Washington Heights) moved to Belmont, bringing their customers with them.

Likewise, his insistence upon a beautiful, quality produce section came from his grandfather, a greengrocer. And who can forget Trudi's deli and its savory salads, spreads and relishes, made without preservatives even before the public demanded it?

The family business started on the



northeast corner of Hale and 107<sup>th</sup> and the family lived over the store. Art began, on his bicycle, taking orders and delivering them. Phone orders and delivery continued for many years after the move across the street in 1946 when a National Tea store closed.

After retirement Art married Fran Shevlin, widow of one of his friends, and they split their time between Florida and Oak Lawn until her recent death. Both Esther and Fran shared his love of golf, the one activity besides a community meeting which could get him out of the store.

A special note in the November Villager called Art, "a Beverly / Morgan Park treasure...the epitome of a gentleman, and our community mourns his passing."

*Sue Delves*



Despite its name, the Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Railroad never reached the west coast directly on its own tracks. It tacked "the Pacific" onto its name in a gesture of grandeur designed to attract investors.

Learn more about this railroad at our December program "Railroads and the Ridge."

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY**

You are RHS

The Ridge Historical Society relies on you, its members. Your attendance and volunteer participation in our activities are very important. Your membership dues are essential to our existence. We are sincerely grateful to you for your 2002 membership. Included in this newsletter is a membership renewal envelope for 2003. Please renew your membership at the most generous level you possibly can.

This year's renewal envelope requests one additional bit of information. We ask you to give us your email address. RHS is attempting to bring history into the future and will expand its use of technology in 2003. We also plan to prepare a membership directory. Our deadline for inclusion in our 2003 Directory will be March 1, 2003. Why not renew right away and be sure to be included?

Thank you for your consideration.  
Thank you for being who you are.

*Julie DeHaan*

Ridge Historical Society

**Newsletter**

Editor - David Daruszka

Editor Emeritus - Elmer Johnson

President - Gene Delves

Proofreading - Kate Eaton, Sue Delves

The Ridge Historical Society

10621 S. Seeley Avenue

Chicago, IL 60643 (773) 881-1675

Web site:

[www.ridgehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.ridgehistoricalsociety.org)

Email: [ridgehistory@hotmail.com](mailto:ridgehistory@hotmail.com)

Open to the public Thursdays and  
Sundays 2 to 5 PM, or by  
appointment.

**RHS AND LOCAL CEMETERY  
TEAM UP FOR SUCCESSFUL  
OCTOBER PROGRAM**

**W**ould you think it odd for a cemetery and a historical society to join forces? It couldn't be a better match for the research, understanding and development of local history!

Of course, Mt. Greenwood Cemetery - our oldest - is unique, anyway. It is one of a rare few that is family owned, which is perhaps why it maintains such a wealth of primary records, photos and artifacts, lovingly preserved over the last 125 years.

The owner's wealth of material and enthusiasm, paired with our drive to delve and explain, brought about the first of what we hope to be an annual fall event. Considerable effort went into studying individuals and families of special interest, and cemetery personnel hustled to prepare grounds and define graves for the flood of visitors.

Finally, the scent of hot cider was in the air Saturday, October 5th, when Paula (Klenk) Everett and her crew (including Cheryl Limmanni) offered tasty seasonal treats, along with answers to any questions at the cemetery's charming Rudd Chapel. Meanwhile, the Ridge Historical Society handed out booklets and maps prepared by both organizations, which also set up displays. The community of Mt. Greenwood was represented as well, providing gift certificates donated by local businesses to those who could find certain tokens hidden along the way.

It was a lovely day for pedestrians, bikers and motorists to meander the self-guided tour. Informative docents Jimmie Lee Buehler, Jean Kriz, Julie DeHaan (in costume) and Pat McGrail (complete with antique table and vintage attire) were stationed graveside. Featured were the familiar local names of Sutherland,

**Driscoll House  
will be closed  
December 24th  
to January 2nd  
for the  
holidays.**

**The Ridge  
Historical  
Society wishes  
you the best  
for the holiday  
season!**

*Continued on Page 5*

## **COMMUNITY GROUPS HELP TO MAKE 111th STREET STATION REDEDICATION CELEBRATION A HUGE SUCCESS**

It was precisely one minute after noon on a sunny October 10 when architects John Fried and Mike Kilpatrick from Ross Barney + Jankowski and I stepped from our Metra commuter train at the newly renovated 111th Street station. I'd decided to ride the train out since the event coincided with the 150th anniversary of the first trip on the Rock Island main line to Joliet and back. Upon arrival we were serenaded by the strains of "The Rock Island Line," "A Hundred Miles," and other appropriate tunes from the trio of Paul Petraitis, John Devens and Anna Stange of World Folk Music Company. Already milling about in the eclectic crowd were Metra employees; politicians; students; dignitaries, community members, Metra officials; and many invited guests. Alderman Ginger Rugai was on hand to give the welcoming remarks, praising the community spirit of local organizations which, in cooperation with Metra, created a very special celebration. Rev. Jerry Ness from the Episcopal Church of the Mediator gave the invocation, while Larry Huggins of the Metra Board of Directors served as the master of ceremonies.

Metra's Richard Bacigalupo explained the sources of money for the renovation, while we witnessed for ourselves how it was used. Representative Monique Davis spoke of the success of the partnership of government and community in Beverly. Speaking for the hosts of the ceremony were Willie Winters of the Beverly Area Planning Association, Judy Wagner of the Morgan Park Juniors, and Linda Lamberty, vice-president of the Ridge Historical Society. Local resident Eleanor Gorski represented the Landmarks Commission and the Department of Planning. Jack Simmerling presented a drawing of the station, his old companion, he said, from the days in the '50s when his first store was across the street from the depot. The unveiling of a brass plaque, and the cutting of the Metra blue ribbon concluded the formal ceremonies.

Inside the waiting room, guests were served a buffet lunch by the host organizations, topped off by pieces of a cake replica of the station created by Iverson Bakery of Blue Island, a surprise gift from John T. O'Malley of John Burns Construction. A commemorative souvenir ad booklet designed by Karen Meyer, featuring local advertisers and sponsors, was distributed to the guests. Handsome wall-mounted displays prepared by Dave Daruszka were available for viewing, and reviewed the history of Morgan Park and its close relationship with the railroad, its business district, the building of the station and its original architect, John T. Long, as well as the damage done by the "Cyclone" of 1909.

The ceremony was the centerpiece of a day-long celebration, with commuters being plied with donuts and coffee by the sponsors from six a.m. and returning to the smell of complimentary popcorn (and the chance to buy commemorative T-shirts) in the afternoon.

The day's events were planned by a cooperative and interactive committee of enthusiastic volunteers. The society's board and membership participated energetically in the planning and manning of the ceremony, the day-long entertainment of commuters and by being ad book patrons. The events and souvenir ad book were sponsored by the 20th Century Railroad Club, the Cancer Center at Little Company of Mary Hospital and Health Care Center, Chesterfield Federal Savings and Loan, Sheffner's Fine Jewelry, Golden Griddle Pancake House, Mary Katherine and Edward Arthur McGunn, the Washington and Jane Smith Community-Beverly, and Fairplay Finer Foods.

T-shirts for \$15.00 (mostly extra-large), and the ad book for \$2.00 are available from RHS and can be mailed to you (postage is additional).

*Harold T. Wolff*

### **A Sad Beginning**

The first wedding in the area, then known as Washington Heights, was celebrated in 1845. Jerusha Wilcox married Frank Jackson of Hyde Park. Unfortunately the bride died six weeks after the ceremony on May 22, 1845.

*From  
"A History of  
Cook County"  
by A.T.  
Andreas*

## SUCCESSFUL CEMETERY PROGRAM

*Continued from Page 3*

Vanderpoel, Barnard, Clissold and Morgan, and the more widely famous: a pony express rider, a composer and the first president of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. Victims of two horrific disasters and an epidemic, a heroic firefighter, 2 successful entrepreneurial families, local pioneers and community founders were represented, as well as the Elks, the Masons and a raft of veterans from many wars - at least one from the War of 1812 and one from the Mexican War of 1846-48.

The following day, Sunday, the 6th, RHS was allowed to hold its October meeting in the lovely stone chapel. The program consisted of stunning slides narrated by Linda and Paula, followed by questions and answers.

There are still many more fascinating stories and names left for future tours. Much was learned about our own history in this effort, and the Mt. Greenwood Cemetery is providing an invaluable service to historians and to the community by welcoming us, as well as local schools.

The self-guided tour is good any time. Cost is \$5.00 for the booklet, still available at both the cemetery (2900 West 111th St./773-233-0136) and RHS. All proceeds continue to benefit the Ridge Historical Society. THANKS to: Dave Daruszka, booklet designer, Mati Maldre for his own photographs and for making slides of many wonderful old photos provided by the cemetery, Paul Petraitis for help with slides, screen and viewer, and Paul, Sue Delves, Linda Lane and others for support both days, Carol & Kim from the cemetery office, who were of constant help, Steuber Florist who loaned plants that helped to set off the great location, and of course THANK YOU, Paula!

*Linda Lamberty  
Vice President*

## YEAR IN REVIEW

*Continued from Page 1*

the garage sale, and our regular Sunday public programs continued apace while augmented by a number of architectural and house tours.

Our challenge at RHS is to continue to find new ways to use our house and our collections. Events like our Wednesday and Friday night lectures help to point the way. Lecturing to school groups both in the classroom and at Driscoll House fulfills many of our goals in terms of education and outreach, and will, we hope set the stage for new generations to fully appreciate local history.

Two projects headed by new volunteers point the way towards new and creative uses of our collection. Jennifer Kenny is compiling a fascinating database on local houses that neatly complements our architectural resources. Parnell O'Brien is assisting us in mapping and modeling the pioneer landscape along the old Vincennes Trail

Our "Year in Review" would not be complete without mentioning the graduates of Morgan Park and Calumet High Schools. As these alumni become reacquainted during the planning of their respective 50-year reunions, they also come to RHS to become reacquainted with their old neighborhoods. With our collections of historic newspapers, photographs and yearbooks we are able to put together displays and lectures that are extraordinarily well received.

The impact of our programs, collections and other resources extends far beyond our community boundaries. We need to continue to create these "new traditions" to grow as an institution. And while we're at it, why don't we plan an old-fashioned tea? It's been a while!

*Paul Petraitis  
Education and Public Programs*

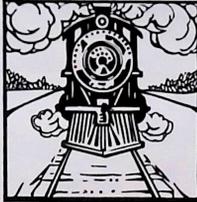
### Welcome to Chicago

The last meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Morgan Park was held April 22, 1914. On the previous day the Village had been annexed by the City of Chicago. This followed a long and bitter battle between citizens for and against annexation. A previous annexation vote in 1911 had been overturned by the courts. Fred L. Kimmey was the last Village President.

# NOT TO BE MISSED

## A Calender of Events and Attractions

The deadline for the February/ March Newsletter is Monday January 13th. We also accept submissions via email at ridgehistory@hotmail.com



### RAILROADS AND THE RIDGE

*Sunday December 8  
2:30 PM*

*Driscoll House  
10621 S. Seeley Ave.*

The railroad history of the communities of Washington Heights, Morgan Park, Beverly Hills and Mount Greenwood will be covered in this audio-visual program. The afternoon will include light refreshments, living history enactors, and displays of toy trains from various eras.

Free to members of the Ridge Historical Society, \$5 per person for non-members.

### DAR Luncheon Meeting

Saturday, December 7, 2002  
(Private Event) - Driscoll House

### RHS Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2002  
7:30 PM - Driscoll House

### BAPA Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 18, 2002  
(Private Event) - Driscoll House

### RHS Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, January 8, 2003  
7:30 PM - Driscoll House

### Local School Principals Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2003  
7:30 AM - Driscoll House

For more information call 773-881-1675

# Ridge Historical Society

# NEWSLETTER

Ridge Historical Society  
10621 S. Seeley Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60643

Membership  
Renewal Time!

Envelope inside  
this issue.  
Give  
generously!

inside...

*2002 - The Year in Review*  
*Art Schueneman Remembered*  
*Recent Events Draw Big Audiences*

*Page 1*  
*Page 2*  
*Pages 3 & 4*

---

Place Postage  
Here

---

DATED  
MATERIAL

FIRST CLASS  
MAIL