



Ridge Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

December 2003/January 2004

Visit the web site at www.ridgehistoricalsociety.org

When The Milkman Delivered

Our milkman was named Bill Balder and he would always kid with Mother. I imagine we were his best customers on Drew Street, as he would leave us 8 quarts of milk every other day. With 8 kids in the family, it took a lot of milk to feed us all. The milk had been pasteurized but not separated so the cream would rise to the top, as it was lighter than the milk. This cream would be poured into a cream pitcher and saved for the morning coffee. Milk wasn't available in gallon containers in those days and I wonder if the milkman's union didn't require the milk to be delivered in quarts so the drivers could make more money.

The tops of the quart milk bottles would be sealed with a circular piece of cardboard

that had been pressed into a groove in the top of the glass container. In the winter time when the temperature dropped below zero and we were a little tardy in bringing in the milk, this top would rise a couple of inches as the cream froze and lifted the top. The younger kids liked to sample this rich frozen delight, as it was a good substitute for ice cream.

The milk was delivered to the different homes along Drew Street by means of a horse and wagon. As the horse had made the deliveries many times before, he would automatically come to a stop in front of the proper home. When it was time to go on, the driver would say, "Get up" and the wagon would move on down the street to the next stop.

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"Christmas was a great occasion in Morgan Park, centering in an evening affair at the church, under the auspices of the Sunday School. There was a huge tree loaded with popcorn, red berries and lighted candles and candy and oranges for all of us children, to which we walked up to a platform in turn."

Edgar J. Goodspeed



Bowman Dairy was one of two that served the area. This picture from our archives can be found in the Arcadia Images of America book *Chicago's Beverly/Morgan Park Neighborhood*, available from RHS.

Community History Book Brings Back Fond Memories For Readers

The recently published *Images Of America* book "Chicago's Beverly/Morgan Neighborhood" has evoked memories and heartfelt comments from many who have read it. We would like to share some of them with you.

Editor

Yesterday I purchased the *Images of America* book on Beverly/Morgan Park. Taking it out of the bag after I got home, imagine my surprise when I saw my mother smiling at me on the front cover and her (fraternal) twin sister on the back cover! I have a very similar photo in the album that they gave me! What a small world. I don't know if you have identified the people and I can only name three. The back cover is my aunt, Florence Davison. The girl in the center on the front cover smiling and showing her teeth is my mother, Dorothy Davison. The girl on her right is Louise Bond. As I told you, the Davisons lived at what was originally 2136 Arlington which became 2044 W. 110th Place after annexation."

Mary Falconer, Palatine

"I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed the book. I've been here all my life, so have lived much of the story and could relate to nearly all the photos. It's the best \$20 I ever spent...and somewhere I have all my Barnard School pictures and all students are identified. You'll get them some day."

Don McGary

I just read your new book and want to say thank you. I, too, grew up in Beverly, and my folks still live in the same house at 94th & Leavitt. I can't think of a better place to have grown up through the 60's and 70's.

I have long been a history "buff", and the history of Beverly Hills is a passion. My grandfather, Ken Howard (1907 - 1994) was born in a house at 92nd & Winchester. His father, Edward, then built the house at 9335 Winchester and they lived there for some years. He never left the community except during WWII. I spent my childhood listening avidly to his stories of growing up in Beverly.

You may also know of my stepdad, Walter Pilditch. He has always been active in BIA and BAPA, and has worked for the Chicago Board of Education all his life. He was principal of Morgan Park High School in the 80's and later Curie High School. Recently officially retired, he is still consultant to the Board, working with problem schools and mentoring principals.

I got a kick out of your notes about the Platt's. In the mid 70's my grandfather, who was long-time friends with the Platt's, took me to visit them. I was given royal treatment, a wonderful dinner, and a tour and history of

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Ridge Historical Society Newsletter

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

"At home there was always a Christmas tree too, and Christmas dinners with turkey and mince pie. We boys used to get our Christmas presents when we woke up on Christmas morning, so that we had the benefit of them all day. Ice skates were favorite gifts with us, for the prairies would thaw and then freeze again, so that you could skate on and on for miles over the thinly flooded fields, a winter paradise for boyhood."

Edgar J. Goodspeed

From the Archives

The Newspaper Collection

We think it's important that you, our members, know more about the Ridge Historical Society archives, especially in light of our efforts to make them more accessible to you.

First, the newspapers:

RHS has a nearly complete collection of *The Post*, which was published between 1902 and 1917. Many of the issues are in poor condition or so fragile as to make them difficult to read without tearing the pages. We have put them in archive boxes with archival tissue separating each issue. The Illinois Newspaper Project, a division of the Illinois State Historical Library, has all of *The Post* on microfilm. We are hoping to buy a microfilm reader with a

printer in the near future, funds permitting, so that we can purchase a copy of the microfilm for your use. *The Post* was a weekly newspaper about Morgan Park, whose publication ended with the onset of WWI. It is a treasure trove of information about people, buildings and goings on around town during that period.

Another excellent source of village life is the *Bethany Union Reminder*. This paper was published between 1902 and 1917. RHS has a complete collection of the *Reminder* and duplicates of many issues. We will enable you to use the duplicates, which will be kept in the new library.

Our collection of *The Beverly Review* is incomplete but includes many issues from the decades between 1950 and the present. Kate Eaton investigated where you might find the issues we don't have and came up with some interesting information.

The Chicago Historical Society has four issues (Feb. 3, 1939; July 27, 1939; April 17, 1941; March 20, 1947) and Regenstein Library at the University of Chicago has one issue dated June 7, 1945. The *Beverly Review* has all of the issues from 1960 to the present, which are bound in six month volumes and available at their office on Western Avenue.

All of the *Beverly Review* issues will be available to the public for research. One of these days we'd like to produce a general index of this paper. Fortunately, the Clippers (our monthly group of Morgan Park Women's Club volunteers) cut out the really important material from the *Review* and add it to various binders of topics that are of most interest to the public.

"Then there was the Morgan Ave. (111th St.) hill, down which we coasted. It was a gay scene of a winter afternoon, when the coasting was good, and a lively center for the village youths and maidens. There were no motors to make us afraid, for even telephones and electric lights were still unknown to us. All we had to look out for was the afternoon trains on the Rock Island, which crossed our slide at the furthest end."

Edgar J.
Goodspeed

The Milkman

Continued from Page 1

In the wintertime when the streets were covered with hard packed snow and ice, we youngsters would get out our sleds and hitch a ride behind the slow moving milk wagon. The first one to reach the wagon would tie a rope to the rear and the next to arrive would tie his sled to the first one. In a short time there would be long line of slow moving sleds snaking their way behind the milkman's wagon.

In the summer time, chunks of ice would be used to keep the milk at the proper temperature while being transported in the wagon. The friendly milkman would give us sweating youngsters a small portion to suck on if we behaved ourselves and didn't bother him too much.

Bill Sabel

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From The Archives

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We have a few issues of the *Weekly Review*, which was the predecessor of *The Beverly Review*, and are aware that at least one local resident has additional issues of this paper. We also have a few years worth of EMPIHI newspaper, one year of *Town Talk*, and some assorted individual papers that are old but not necessarily about this neighborhood.

If you have any issues of these or other newspapers specifically about the Beverly Hills or Morgan Park community and would like us to preserve them please let us know. Newspapers are probably the single most important source of community news, people and events. Every one we have is the result of someone's foresight or donation, and we will deeply appreciate any offered.

In the next newsletter, I will conclude what comprises the newspaper collection and move on to the other items. Our archive committee meets Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm to work on the newspapers, Doris Brown Realty collection, scrapbooks and photographs. We can really use volunteers and the work is a lot of fun. If you are interested in helping on a particular area give me a call at 773-238-4221 or leave a message at RHS, 773-881-1675.

Eileen Klees

Copies of the Images of America book, *Chicago's Beverly/Morgan Park Neighborhood* are the perfect Christmas gift. Order yours today by calling Sue or Gene at 773-445-5806 or visit our website and order online. The cost is \$20. plus shipping. Proceeds benefit RHS.

"Our winter sport was coasting down the Morgan Ave. steep hill – it was steeper then – and going as far as crossing the Rock Island tracks, or turning north on Longwood for about a block. We frequently went at such high speed as to be thrown off those bob sleds and to have gotten bumped badly, but it was all part of that sport."

Julia Howes
Meyers

History Book Brings Back Fond Memories

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their beautiful home. It is a memory I will always treasure.

A final tidbit of information for you. William Merchant Richardson French was a member of my church, St. Paul's Union (now Bible) Church, very active, and Sunday School Supt. for many years. His wife, Alice Helm, and my great grandmother Harriet Watt Howard, were quite close. His brother, Daniel Chester French, created a bronze bust in plaque form of Wm., and donated it to St. Paul's. It is currently hanging on the wall in the hallway outside the Sanctuary. We are very proud of that little piece of bronze and of our history in the North Beverly neighborhood.

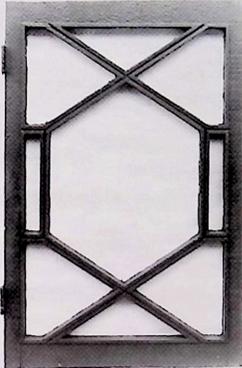
Ruth Gach Lang

I've just finished reading "Chicago's Beverly/Morgan Park Neighborhood." Nice little book for those of us who lived there long ago. DeWitt Lane, who appears in a couple of photos, lived right behind us--we were at 10627 Claremont, he on Oakley. I was delighted to see that the photo of my grandparents/aunts' home on Lothair actually had the Dangremond name attached to it. We drove past it when we were back in Illinois this past summer. When my family lived there, the yard was all flowers, with an apple, pear, and cherry trees, a grape arbor and vegetable garden. Stopped to see the newly remodeled 111th street Rock Island station. Wanted to see the murals on the wall of the auditorium at Clissold school but it was locked up tight. Went into the Walker library, where I had my first job other than cutting grass.

Carleton Dangremond, Phoenix, Ariz.



Two Griffin Windows Donated to Ridge Historical Society



Photograph by Mati Maldre

Editors note: When RHS board member Mati Maldre heard of the threatened demise of a Walter Burley Griffin designed house in Winnetka he joined in the efforts to save the Marsh House, and to later rescue the windows. Mati asked Professor Paul Kruty, the foremost authority on Griffin, board member of the Griffin Society, editor of its newsletter and fellow salvager, to write about the windows for the Newsletter. Thanks to Paul for the essay, Mati for the photograph and the Griffin Society of the donation of the windows.

The Walter Burley Griffin Society of America recently donated to the Ridge Historical Society two windows designed in 1910 by Prairie School architect Walter Burley Griffin. The matched pair of casement windows are decorated with Griffin's characteristic wooden muntins set as a central hexagon surrounding a pair of triangles and rectangles with pentagons in the four corners. They come from the James S. Marsh House, which stood in the north shore suburb of Winnetka until last spring, when it became another victim of the "tear-down fever" ravaging the historic neighborhoods of Chicago and its suburbs.

The prototype for the lost Marsh House

stands right here in Beverly: the house at 1712 W. 104th (Griffin) Place, built by developer Russell Blount and sold to Edmund Garrity. After Griffin prepared the design for Blount, who constructed it in the spring of 1910, he offered a similar design to William Templ, who was simultaneously developing the family property in Winnetka. Templ arranged for its construction later in the season and found a buyer in James Marsh.

The Marsh House stood in the same development in which Griffin's Orth Houses, the "Solid Rock" House, and tow other speculative houses still stand. Its loss was particularly unfortunate and is deeply felt by admirers of Griffin's work everywhere. After the Griffin Society, the City of Winnetka, and various preservation groups were unable to convince the owner to save the house (and without the legal authority of a local landmark ordinance to intervene), the Griffin Society was able to salvage a group of windows for dispersal to appropriate historical societies and museums. With an unrivaled collection of Griffin cottages set among a garden of other Prairie School buildings in Beverly/Morgan Park, the Ridge Historical Society is clearly such an institution.

The Griffin Society may be contacted by e-mail at wbgociety@aol.com, or by writing the Society at 1152 Center Drive, St. Louis, MO 63117. Its next annual meeting will be held in Beverly/Morgan Park during the weekend of June 11-13, 2004. Photographer Mati Maldre, who lives in a Griffin house on 104th Place, serves on the Griffin Society's board of directors, and is an expert on Griffin's work, is serving as local chair for the meeting.

Paul Kruty, University of Illinois at Urban-Champaign

"As I grew older, a group of twenty-five or more young people would hire a large sled from the livery stable, pulled by two or sometimes four horses, and go sleigh riding almost to Palos Park in the moonlight, singing the popular tunes of that era to the jingling of the sleigh bells."

**Julia Howes
Meyers**



NEWS BRIEFS

OUR MOTTO: IF IT FITS, IT'S NEWS TO US!

Dollhouse and Miniature Exhibit Comes To RHS for the Holidays

In keeping with an upcoming year of Architecture Awareness, the Ridge Historical Society and Carol Flynn of the DollHouse Corner in Worth, opened a **Dollhouse and Miniature Extravaganza** on Friday, November 14th at RHS. The first floor of Driscoll House is filled with miniature stock from Carol's store and private collection, while the second floor library is filled with dollhouses on loan from local residents. Models and miniatures of all variety, both on loan and from the RHS collections, fill display cases throughout the house.

During expanded hours through January 4th, 2004, Carol will be on hand completing "works in progress" such as a huge Prairie Style dollhouse and many other period and scale projects. She will offer information and advice to do-it-yourselfers, and can explain much about the wonderful pieces she has accumulated, which includes a stunning Irish Cottage made in Ireland and signed by the artist.

The program series, "**SMALL WONDER: An Exploration in Miniature of Architecture and Interior Design Over the Last Two Centuries**" began Sunday, November 16th and will continue Sundays (repeated on each following Friday) through December 14th.

Additionally, a Gingerbread House Competition will be open to all ages, with judging taking place on Sunday, December 14th. Hands On! Children's Museum will offer an optional gingerbread house making workshop on Wednesday,

December 10th. Please stop by RHS for more information and an entry form.

Thanks to a generous donation by Ed and Lori McGunn, admission to the exhibit and program series is FREE! The Hands On! Workshop is \$7. per project, and one person or the whole family can work on a single gingerbread house for a single fee. Competition prizes and a raffle are planned.

All events take place at Driscoll House at 10621 South Seeley Avenue. Expanded hours are Tuesdays for 10 AM to 2 PM, Fridays from 6 PM to 8 PM and Sundays from Noon to 6 PM. RHS is also open during its regular Thursday hours from 2 PM to 5 PM. Programs are as follows:

Sunday, Nov. 16 and Friday, Nov. 12
Early American

Sunday, Nov. 23 and Friday, Nov 28
Victorian

Sunday, Nov. 30 and Friday, Dec. 5
Prairie Style

Sunday, Dec. 7 and Friday, Dec. 12
Modern

Refreshments are served at all events.

Volunteer docents are welcome. More dollhouses are also welcome. For more information, or to volunteer, please call 773-881-1675.

Annual Fund Update

The response to our second Annual Fund solicitation to date has been terrific! In the first week we received 50 contributions

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"After the (sleigh) ride was over we stopped at the home of one of the boys or girls for a treat of hot oyster stew to warm us up. Those were the years when we had snow nearly all winter, as well as icy ponds for skating."

**Julia Howes
Meyers**

NEWS BRIEFS

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compared with a total of 63 last year. We are now at \$3000, and we haven't yet heard from several of our "high flyers". Gene thinks we have a good chance of exceeding the \$5000 budgeted for the Annual Fund by at least \$1000, and encourages everyone who has not yet done so to write a check TODAY. As an extra incentive, Jack Simmerling is offering frameable prints of his drawing of Mickelberrys Annual Fund donors at the Mickelberry circle level or above. (The picture of the restaurant used in the letter was from a newspaper ad. Jack's drawing has more detail.) When you send in your check, please note if you would like a Mickelberry print, and if you have already contributed, just let Gene know if you want a print. Many, many thanks to our good friend, Jack.

Recent Donations

Julie DeHaan gave us a copy of the Chesterfield Savings Times from April, 1974, with a brief history of Chesterfield Federal Savings. Dave Daruszka gave us *Images of America: Chicago's Englewood Neighborhood* and Marsha Bolden's *Growing Up Brown in Morgan Park*. Marilyn B. Couch gave us *The Beverly Hills Woman's Club Cook Book* (1940). Ernest W. Johnson gave us a mimeographed paper by Elizabeth Merrill Ford, "1833-1933: A story of Beverly Hills in Murals". Bill Sandstrom gave us two sets of contemporary photographs of local buildings and of our first Barbara Bansley exhibit. Joan Wynne Murphy gave us a copy of Ruth Ellen Church's *Mary Meade's Revised and Enlarged Magic Recipes for the Electric Blender*. Corinne Johnson gave us a copy of a John Drury article on the Gardner House from the Chicago Tribune of July 12, 1948. Robert J. Mahaffay of Arlington Heights gave us a great deal of memorabilia from his and his wife's days at Morgan

Park Junior College from 1935 to 1937, including his letter sweater from the 1936 Illinois Junior College Football Championship team.

2003 Mt. Greenwood Cemetery Tour A Success

"A Day in the Park 2003" was very successful. A big THANK YOU to all who helped: Dave Daruszka who designed the tour book, Paul Petraitis and Ross Stema for information on the Ton family; Eileen Klees, Pat McGrail, Maureen Gilligan, Linda Lamberty, Cheryl Limann and Jean Kriz for helping the day of the event, and Carol Zajac and Kim Demas for help in the office. We appreciate Steuber Florists for providing the beautiful mums.

Helen Sclar, "The Cemetery Lady", talked about mourning customs on Sunday. The audience loved it and asked many questions. We were blessed with great weather, and only wished the trees had started to change. Tour books are still available for \$5. each (plus \$.75 postage if it is mailed to you) at the Cemetery office. 2002 tour books are also still available for \$5, or buy both for \$8. and save. Please call 773-233-0136 to order.

It's Membership Renewal Time

Enclosed you will find your 2004 membership renewal envelope. Membership in the Ridge Historical Society runs from January to December. Please return your renewal as soon as possible so our membership secretary doesn't have to put colored stickers on future issues of your newsletter to remind you that you haven't renewed. We appreciate your continued support of the Society and its mission of preserving community history.

Dec. 16 - The Christmas spirit descended upon the Ridge district and scores of affairs were announced for the entertainment of the tiny tots.

Dec. 23 - Throngs were expected to attend the Christmas services in the Ridge District; Santa Claus was scheduled to visit stores in the Morgan Park area.

News items from the Suburban Star, 1937

Best wishes for a joyous holiday from the Ridge Historical Society!

NOT TO BE MISSED

A Calendar of Events and Attractions

DOLLHOUSE AND MINIATURE EXTRAVAGANZA

Visit the Driscoll House during the Holiday season and see an multitude of dollhouses and miniatures on exhibit. This special showing includes special programs, hands-on workshops and a gingerbread house competition. RHS will be open for extended hours for this exhibit. Free to RHS members and the general public. Until January 4th. See Page 6 for details.



RHS Board Meetings

Wednesday, January 14 and
February 11, 7:30 PM.

*All axes, muskets, bludgeons and
other weapons must be checked at the
door, no exceptions.*

Ridge Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

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

Membership
Renewal Time!

Envelope inside
this issue.
Give
generously!

inside...

Remembering the Milkman
From The Archives
Griffin Windows Donated

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DATED
MATERIAL

FIRST CLASS
MAIL