



Ridge Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

February/March 2004

Visit the web site at www.ridgehistoricalsociety.org

CANNING TOMATOES

18000 BC
Glaciers cover
Chicago region.

12500 BC
Glaciers recede.

Lake Chicago
formed.

8000 BC
Indian tribes
begin settling in
region.

1673
Marquette and
Jolliet explore
region.

1822
French trader
Joseph Bailly
settles in area.

1832
DeWitt Lane
settles in area.
Norman Rexford
settles in area.

Indian tribes
defeated in Black
Hawk War

1833
Vincennes Trail
surveyed.

With eight kids in the family and growing up during the depression of the 30's, it was an economic necessity to can and preserve as much fruit and vegetables as possible. Mother also put up delicious jams and jellies as well as bottled grape juice and home made root beer. The older members of the household all pitched in and helped whenever extra help was needed.

In the summer time, when the vegetables became plentiful, Mother would wait until the roving vegetable hucksters would cry out their wares as they slowly traversed the city streets anxious to serve any housewife in need of their produce. When the tomatoes became plentiful and they could be purchased by the bushel, Mother would begin her canning preparations. Numerous quarts of this delicious vegetable were required in order to have a plentiful supply on hand to feed her hungry brood in the wintertime when no fresh produce was available or too expensive.

All the members of the family, who were old enough, were recruited to help peel the tomatoes. A large kettle of water was placed on the stove and when it reached the boiling point, the tomatoes were quickly immersed for a minute or two, until the skin was loosened. After spearing each hot tomato with a fork and with a paring knife, the tomato was soon shorn of its skin and core. It was then added to others of its kind in the large kettle simmering away on the stove. When the kettle was filled with boiling tomatoes, it was time to transfer them to quart mason jars.

The glass pint and quart canning jars were

immersed in boiling water in order to sterilize them and also the lids to seal the jars. The hot tomatoes were poured into the sterilized jars and a lid was quickly screwed to the top and the job was done. After the canned tomatoes had cooled sufficiently to handle, they were carried down to the cellar and lined up systematically on the shelves along one wall to await their return to the kitchen and become an ingredient of spaghetti or vegetable soup.

Another favorite fruit was peaches and they too were handled in a similar fashion when the fruit peddlers had them for sale. Many quarts of home canned vegetables and fruit lined the basement shelves of the Sabel household.

Dill pickles were made and canned with Dad as the overseer as they were his favorite. When the pickle season rolled around, he would go to the local fresh produce stand and buy several bushels of the proper size. On arriving home, the pickles were dumped into the bathtub to be scrubbed clean of any dirt or sand. They were then jammed together in a quart Mason jar to which a sprig or two of dill weed had been added.

In the meantime, a kettle of boiling water was simmering on the stove to which a quantity of vinegar and salt had been added according to Dad's favorite recipe. The pickle jars were filled with this hot solution and a lid was quickly screwed on tight and the jars of pickles were allowed to set for a month or two before opening.

We also made and bottled our own root beer. This was accomplished by first purchasing a

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ANNUAL RHS FUND LUNCHEON HONORS JOAN WYNNE MURPHY

1833

Potawatomi cede all lands to the US Government by treaty.

1834

Vincennes Trail completed.

Ground broken for Illinois & Michigan Canal

1836

Jefferson Gardner settles in area.

1839

John Blackstone purchases 3,000 acres from the US Government.

1844

William Wilcox purchases Gardener House.

Thomas Morgan purchases Blackstone land.

Last Potawatomi leave area by wagon train.

1848

Illinois & Michigan Canal opened.

1852

Rock Island Railroad completed to Joliet.

1857

Thomas Morgan dies, land divided amongst his heirs.

1858

First one-room school opened on present day site of Esmond School.

Just over 30 years ago, Joan Wynne Murphy, advertising and public relations manager for Beverly Bank, was assigned by her boss, the late Arthur Baer, to pull together an organization which would gather the historic stories, collections, and artifacts of long-time area families before such things were discarded or faded from memory. In recognition of this ongoing effort, Ridge Historical Society has chosen Joan to be its honoree at the third annual RHS Annual Endowment Fund luncheon Saturday, February 28, at the Oak Lawn Hilton.

The day honors a woman whose photo is difficult to find, and whose name is seldom featured in the written RHS collections she helped to start. This because it was she who always was behind the camera guiding the photographer. And while she wrote countless stories about other people, and it is she whose conversation is riddled with stories of other's contributions, she will seldom tell of her own accomplishments. Joan Doig knew as a youngster that writing was her gift, and developed those skills in junior high and Calumet High School publications. But she had read that accountants make more money, and chose to study finance at Central YMCA College (now Roosevelt University). She had on-the-job training in banking when, at age 14, she began helping after school as a teller in her family's currency exchange and safe deposit company. By reading customers she learned finance by reading Wayne Hummer investment reports. (Dewey Lane, a local resident, opened Chicago's first currency exchange on 95th Street after banks everywhere closed in 1933, and the Doigs opened the second, at 79th and State in the east half of the former South Central State Bank building. The fledgling bank, which had opened in 1932, had returned 100% of its depositors' money before it closed in 1933. The late Harry Steeves, a

resident of Morgan Park, opened Harry's Wonder Bar in the west half.)

Joan's college credits gave her "advanced standing" when she was admitted to the University of Chicago. As a junior she took a summer job as a copywriter at Meyer Both, a syndicated advertising tool company. After just two weeks she was promoted to editor of an advisory newsletter. It was 1942, and women were filling positions of young men gone to war. She stayed 8 * years, leaving there because she was coaxed to join Marshall Field's catalogue department and later its newspaper ad team. While at "MB," she was asked to take over Baer's Department Store advertising. Jean Gendon was leaving the job because of professional and family duties. From 1952 on, Joan handled Beverly Bank's promotions as well.

Meanwhile, she had married Norman Wynne in 1948 and formed the Wynne Agency, serving a variety of advertising and publicity clients. The

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Ridge Historical Society NEWSLETTER

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JOAN WYNNE MURPHY HONORED AT LUNCHEON

(continued from Page 2)

Wynnes lived in Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin, with their daughter Elizabeth. They moved to Chicago Ridge in 1957 and to Beverly in 1963 after the addition of four children to the family, sons Norman and Larry, and daughters Beverly and Margaret. All of the children attended Barnard Grammar School across the street from the bank.

Larry attended Morgan Park Academy, and the others attended Morgan Park High School. Their son Norman died in 1982, and his father followed him in 1986.

In the spring of 1993, Joan accompanied a busload of vets from Norman, Sr.'s Fourteenth Armored Division to Europe to retrace their steps in World War II at the Battle of the Bulge. In November of that year, Joan married an old friend, Tom Murphy, who had been her first boss at Meyer Both.

Joan volunteered her writing and promotional skills to the Advertising Council, American Cancer Society, and chaired many committees of the Women's Advertising Club and the Publicity Club of Chicago. As the Women's Advertising Club's Chairman of Community Services, she created booklets offering vocational advice to women, and other booklets promoting city services available to Chicago newcomers.

Because Baer's Store and Beverly Bank had been Joan's clients, her advertising talents had grabbed Arthur Baer's attention and in 1963 she was hired as Beverly Bank's advertising manager. She replaced Lois Busch, the first woman vice president. Soon Joan and her creative community promotions became synonymous. She could promise to print graduation programs, newspapers, and history booklets for every local school, tickets for community philanthropic events, and many other projects, produced by the bank's own printing department. The bank's annual report covers were produced in color, and they adapted a script similar to the Carson Pirie

Scott type face for all stationery and advertising logos.

Joan's energy and creativity always were closely connected to Mr. Baer's current vision for the community, including such efforts as creating and building the Beverly Art Center in 1969; supporting the radical changes in the Beverly Area Planning Association; urging formation of discussion groups relating to racial integration; and recognizing the need for a local history collection. He had the ideas and identified some of the people, and it was Joan who promoted it all in meetings and in the press. Her staff included Shirley Haas, Marcia McMahon, Lee Stochmal, Shirley Pickett, Wendy Richards, and interns Alice Christopher "junior", Carol Conway, Maureen Diggins, Mary Jo Quick, and others.

If it was necessary to dress as a clown, drive a car in a parade, or wave a banner, she did it, all the while doing a mother's job or being a PTSA member at Barnard and Morgan Park High School. She chaired the first District 18 Educational Council and did the research and wrote the proposal to split the geographical area into two districts.

Patrick Stanton had identified many of the bank's community efforts and proposed unifying them at a large meeting called "Beverly Now," in August of 1969. Nelson C. ("Red") Blackford, a retired Swift & Company executive, headed BAPA at that time. Pat Stanton's Public Relations Committee had enlisted almost two dozen ad and public relations professionals who met in the Stanton's home or at Christ the King. The late Nancy Gallagher wrote the copy for a brochure and the late Gene Tarpey took the photos. Joan raised \$39,000 to underwrite the brochure and an April 16, 1972, Chicago Tribune supplement in the "Parade of Homes" section, for which Joan did the dummy layout using the Gallagher copy and the Tarpey photos.

1865

Great Eastern Railroad (Pan-handle) completed to Logansport, Indiana.

1869

Blue Island Land and Building Company founded. Purchases Morgan property and begins subdivision for development.

1870

Rock Island builds the Washington Heights Branch from 97th Street to Blue Island.

1873

Mount Vernon Military Academy opens.

1874

Washington Heights incorporated as a village. Esmond School opens.

1877

Baptist Theological Seminary relocates in Morgan Park.

1879

Mount Greenwood Cemetery founded

1880

Horace Horton founds the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works.

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RECENT GIFT REVEALS ORIGINAL LOCATION OF VINCENNES TRAIL

1881

Morgan Park incorporated as a village.

1885

Mount Hope Cemetery founded.

1886

Developer Robert Givins builds "Irish Castle".

1889

Washington Heights Branch extended to 89th Street (Gresham).

1890

Washington Heights annexed to Chicago.

Walker Branch Library built.

1892

University of Chicago reorganized in Morgan Park.

1904

Calumet Trust and Savings Bank founded.

1909

Tornado damages Morgan Park business district area.

1913

Ridge Park Field House constructed.

1914

Morgan Park annexed to Chicago.

Edris Hoover, as usual, quietly brought in a treasure that barely peeked from a small sheaf of papers. The glimpse of the distinctive corner of this "Abstract of Deed" made my heart beat faster!

We have Abstracts of Deed covering a fair share of the Ridge, thanks to Bob White and other far-seeing individuals responsible for much of what is now contained in the Ridge Historical Society archives. In this region (at least) an Abstract of Deed summarizes ownership of land beginning with its first purchase from the Public Domain – usually as early as the mid-1830s. Mortgages, sales, marriages/partnerships, deaths and loss of the land due to financial difficulty are usually reflected in its pages. Probate references subsequent to the death of an owner can provide extensive information on a family. Wives and residences of obscure out-of-state title holders are often given.

What about this new abstract? It came from the home of the late Cynthia Ruggemeier, venerable local resident and RHS member, at 96th and Damen Ave. It spells out the early history of a good portion of land from there to at least Leavitt St. between 95th and 99th Streets. It lists names of all the earliest owners and, rarer still, also names renters and describes the land as having a log home and the farm as being fenced circa 1850. It can be extremely difficult to find any description of a specific parcel and individual residents for so early a period.

In any case, the most significant part of this document, right in the middle of the earliest owners, was a piece of the Vincennes Trail - or possibly of the Portage Trail in the immediate vicinity of their junction. (* See map and quote from abstract.) It's really just a little piece, but constitutes the first hard clue to solving a very big mystery. None of our other materials has a LEGAL document delineating those early highways. We know they

crossed the Ridge, but have long been looking for their actual footprint.

We have Mrs. (Cora) Heineman's wonderful work, circa 1926, on the early history of the Beverly area, a transcript of which is one of the Bulletins we sell separately or in our Beverly History Packet. The manuscript (in RHS collections) contains her original map with a faint pencil sketch of the Vincennes Trail on the Ridge. Unfortunately, though, her map does not include enough reference points to the present street grid to place the route exactly. It also does not cite her source for that data, beyond general interviews with early residents.

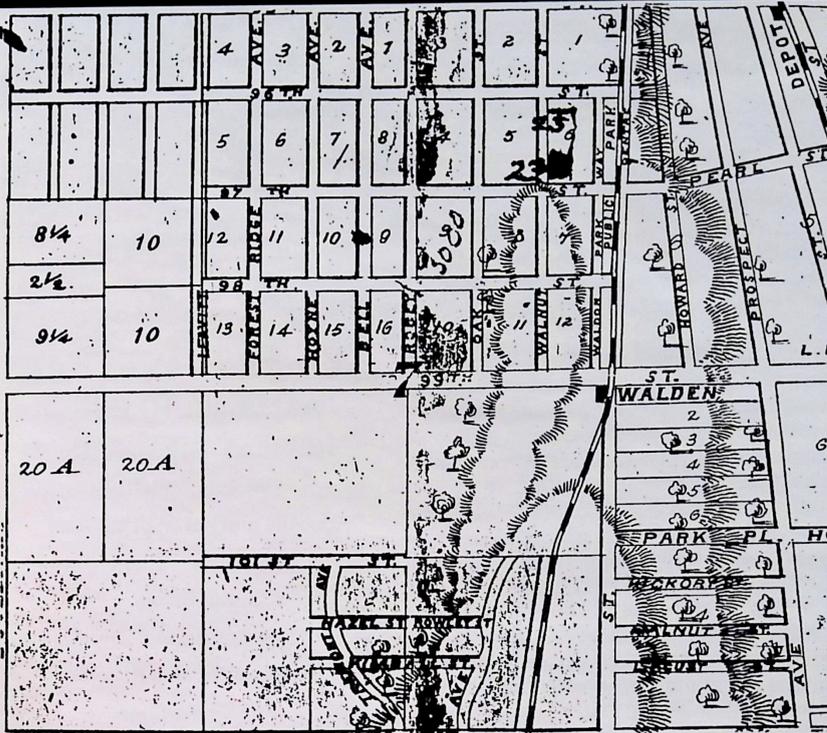
We are in debt to both Edris and Cynthia for preserving history in the form of this faded gem. And to the rest of our readers, PLEASE keep an eye out for anything of possible use to historians! A good photocopy of such a document would serve us as well, should you not wish to donate the original.

By salvaging any history, you become an important part of the greater history. The treasury of information we compile belongs to all!

Linda Lamberty



Driscoll House, home of the
Ridge Historical Society



1923
Morgan Park High School opens.

Beverly State Savings Bank founded.

1947
Beverly Area Planning Association organized.

1969
Beverly Art Center opens.

1970
Ridge Historical Society founded.

PARKING FOR RHS EVENTS

At the time Beacon School was having its new "Mayor Daley Iron Fence" installed last summer, RHS received a note assuring us there would not be a gate and that as always before, our guests are welcome to use the Beacon parking lot any time except during school hours. These are our good neighbors.

ABSTRACT REVEALS LOCAL HISTORY

Section 7

This map is taken from a real estate map of the Ridge which dates to about 1890. To give a perspective of what constitutes a Section of land, this image is a cut-a-way of only Section 7, bounded (using today's street names) on the north by 95th St., on the east by a north/south line that should be an extension of Ashland Ave., on the south by 103rd St. and on the west by Western Ave. A hair above the top center point would have been the location of Thomas Morgan's circa 1844 to 1851 sign, and barely more than a block below it stands Cynthia Ruggemeier's house today. The "East half of the North West quarter of Section 7" is highlighted.

From first page of Abstract, "Josiah C. Goodhue & Catherine, his wife, to Ebenezer Peck. Doc. 5,703. Warranty Deed, dated

Nov. 3, 1837, and recorded Nov. 14, 1837, in Book V, page 381. Consider \$6,000.00. Convey (with other property) all of the East half of the North West quarter of Sect. 7, T.37 N., R. 14 E., of 3rd P. M., saving and reserving to said party of first part, their heirs and assigns, forever, a private road or right of way of 20 feet in width off from and directly across the North West corner of the said East half of North West quarter of Section 7."

Twenty feet was a large road for that path through the wilderness! Consider that Chicago was not much of a destination until the Indians gave up their claim to this region circa 1832-3. After that, the land office opened and people started flooding into Chicago, both to purchase real estate and to bring goods to market. The Vincennes Trail was a major ar

Continued on Page 7

Historic Markers

Ten historic markers were placed at the Rock Island stations in 1922 when the railroad was celebrating its 70th Anniversary. Only one of those bronze plaques survives today at the entrance to the Ridge Historical Society. It is dedicated to the railroad's one-time President, "in affectionate memory of John F. Tracy, who by his industry, courage and loyalty through every vicissitude, singly aided in the development of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad into a great transportation system devoted to public service."

Mr. Tracy's plaque outlasted his railroad, which disappeared in bankruptcy in the 1970's.

JOAN WYNNE MURPHY

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Joan helped promote the Beverly Hills-Morgan Park Sesquicentennial celebration in 1972. (The late Patrick Murphy researched the 1822 exploits of Joseph Bailly deMessein to advance the date by about 10 years "because the Community needed encouragement as it reinvented itself." Shirley Twickler and many others from St. Cajetan's were involved in many extra-special events.)

In 1971-1972, to attract audiences for the new Beverly Art Center, built with little dream of what it would become, she helped plan and present an series of environmental program lectures which culminated with a home tour designed to attract attention to local architecture and quality of life. It was the forerunner of BAPA's annual home tour, and Joan wrote the first guidebook. Jack Simmerling's lecture in that series was "SRO."

All these chapters in Joan's amazing life of promoting the good works of others will be addressed at the luncheon February 28 at the Oak Lawn Hilton. Doors open at 11:30 AM, luncheon begins at noon and the fun program follows. Reservations (\$50 per person) can be made at RHS, 10621 S. Seeley Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643, or by leaving a message at 773-881-1675.

Sue H. Delves

DONATIONS OF HISTORICAL MATERIALS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT RHS

The next time your cleaning out the closet or garage think about RHS. No, were not looking for junk (except perhaps for the Annual Garage Sale), but items of local interest that help to tell the history of our community. Please contact us at 773-881-1675 if you have items you wish to donate. Before you throw it away, call us first to see if it is something we may want.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Walter Pilditch

Rochelle and Kenneth McGhee

Thomas A. Olson

Judith Busse

Mary Catherine Polley

Asa and Thomas Bacon

Angela Martinez

David Scheffel

Sharon Ostrowski

Donald Scott Burnley

N. Lipman

Jim Kintz/Colleen Flynders

William Nesbit

Fran Oehmen

Annual Fund Surpasses Expectations

Last year, when we inaugurated the Annual Fund, our members and friends contributed generously. This year we are already over \$8000. All Annual Fund money goes for current operating expenses—and we do need it. So, many, many thanks to all of the members and friends whose gifts made this year's Annual Fund a resounding success. And yes, we are still gladly accepting gifts – the more the merrier!

ABSTRACT REVEALS HISTORY*continued from Page 5*

tery into the up and coming city for farmers south in both Indiana and Illinois, and for speculators and others interested in the wild west. By 1844, Thomas Morgan had purchased most of the Ridge, diverted the road at about this point - to bypass his home just north of it - and retired into a brief respite here with his family before dying in 1851.

Morgan's hand-painted sign saying "to Chicago" with a hand pointing straight east down the Section line that is today's 95th Street, was supposedly located at 95th and Damen. The "North West quarter of Section 7" would be that square of land bordered by 95th St., Damen Ave., 99th St. and Western Avenue. The "East half" of it would be that portion east of Leavitt St. SO... if the road was the Vincennes Trail, it likely crossed diagonally north east from 97th and Leavitt to 95th and Damen, meaning the Vincennes Trail would have progressed up from the south to 97th and Leavitt. If it was the Portage Trail intersecting the other, it could have crossed Leavitt anywhere between 95th and 97th, having come from the south and west around today's Mt. Olivet. Cemetery. In other words, we now have documentation to prove that a portion of our trail definitely ran from between 95th and 97th Streets diagonally north east between Leavitt and Damen. What fun, to know that an early Interstate highway ran right through our tranquil backyards!

By the way, both Josiah C. Goodhue and Ebenezer Peck were of considerable note in early Chicago and regional history. Goodhue was a doctor who, among other things, co-drafted the bill for incorporation of Rush Medical School and later drowned after falling down a well in 1847. He owned the land, but most likely never lived on it. Peck, on the other hand, had a fine residence here which had burned by about 1844. Heavily involved in local politics from an early day, he was an attorney and close friend of Abraham Lincoln and he died in 1881.]

Linda Lamberty

CANNING TOMATOES*Continued from Page 1*

small bottle of root beer extract from the grocery store. Following the recipe on the bottle, the proper amount of water, yeast, sugar and extract were mixed together and funneled into the soda pop bottles that were purchased for this purpose. A supply of metal caps were also purchased and by means of a lever operated capper, the bottles of root beer were sealed. After the yeast had time to work, which required several weeks, our favorite beverage was available for drinking.

Grape juice was another of our holiday favorite drinks. The blue Concord grapes were purchased by the bushel and placed in a clean, well-worn pillowcase. This was then twisted until the juice started to run out. It was then hung by an old broomstick between the backs of two kitchen chairs and allowed to drip into a pan placed on the floor. After a sufficient amount was obtained, some sugar was added and then placed on the stove and brought to a boil. The hot juice was then poured into quart Mason jars, sealed and brought to the cellar to wait the next holiday season.

Bill Sabel

RECENT DONATIONS TO RHS

Joan Wynne Murphy gave us a great number of items, including photographs, political brochures, materials from the local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons and other organizations, and materials related to Arthur Baer. Jennifer Kenny gave us a booklet about the Chicago Telephone Company's Beverly Office at 99th and Vanderpoel, issued at its opening in 1914. Barbara McBride gave us the scrapbook of a former neighbor, James Hayes. Dan Brady gave us one of the huge volumes of *Industrial Chicago*, with many references to local manufacturers. Bill Sandstrom gave us several collections of his photographs of new buildings or renovations in progress. Bill also gave us four videotapes of RHS programs given between 2000 and 2002.

*Harold T. Wolff
Registrar*

Wilcox House Marker

Another marker rescued by the Ridge Historical Society once identified the location of the Wilcox House at 9953 S. Beverly Avenue. It reads, "On this site, then in the midst of the prairie, stood the Gardner Home and Tavern, built in 1836. It was bought by William Wilcox in 1844 and became a refuge for slaves during the Civil War". It was placed in 1937 for Chicago's Charter Jubilee after being authenticated by the Chicago Historical Society. After suffering from vandalism it was removed and given to RHS. The plaque is often used by schoolchildren learning about the Underground Railroad, and they will take crayon rubbings of it on paper.

Old Washington Heights Businesses

Tueffel the Tailor

Vernon Charpier, plumber

Munns & Miller's Drug Store

Getz Butcher Shop

Alex B. Stevens Co. (coke, hard coal, lumber millwork and building supplies)

Sterling Lumber & Supply Company

A.G. Zetterlund Grocery and Meat Market

Hedrich's Dry Goods and Shoes

Marquardt Bros. (dealers in fancy groceries, meats, poultry, fish and vegetables. Free delivery.)

Walter L. Long (horse shoer for your lame horse)

Washington Heights Electric Company

Charles L. Lierman & Son (decorators, painters and paper-hangers)

Mainz & Zeller Hardware



NEWS BRIEFS

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

SMALL WONDER = BIG SUCCESS

Small Wonder was a big success, and it's no small wonder, given all the terrific help and support we have had throughout the event!

First of all, let's go over the numbers: We were given \$3300 and a challenge to bring people through the Driscoll House doors for the Holidays. The preceding year, from Nov. 14 through January 13, we had 272 signatures in our sign-in book. A year later, with Small Wonder in place and growing, that figure zoomed to 801!

Here are all the people we have to thank for this raging success: Ed and Lori McGunn for the financial backing and the challenge! Carol Flynn of the Dollhouse Corner in Worth for her untiring efforts, her wonderful stock and personal collections and her friendship, both to RHS and to me. Julie DeHaan for her smile, hard work and devoted docents. Joan Wynne Murphy for being the most devoted of all. (Which is nothing new for Joan!) Michele Stern and Kate Eaton for publicity efforts. Harold Wolff for fabulous, up-to-the-minute signage, including architectural determinations. Jennifer Kenny for architectural handouts. Linda Stearns for her remarkable southern mansion, her many friends and a seemingly constant flow of edibles for our table. Mel Black for on-site demonstrations. Steve Zang for live-action tank demonstrations. Mati Maldre for a fine selection of photos. And, last but not least, for loan of displays: Naomi Alton, Alissa, Mel and Joyce Black, Michelle Burke, Sue Delves, Jane and Ron Drynan, Paula Everett, Carol Flynn, Victoria Granacki and Monica Wesley, John T. Kelly, Jennifer Kenny, Charles Kimmel, Bonnie and Amy Kintner, Dirk Kitzmiller, Linda Lamberty, (the late) Fanny Noller, Caressa Northcross and Julian Odette, Joan O'Hara, Faicilean and Danette Reilly Cosgrove, Ridge Historical Society Collections, Rose Sauter,

Madeleine Senko, Jack Simmerling, Angie and Lina Steadman, Linda Stearns, Mary, Nancy and Matt Taylor, (the late) John Wohlenberg, and Naomi and Steve Zang.

In the gingerbread house competition, thanks to Noah and Kate Baker and Nathan Lux for fine entries and to Nancy McGourty and Hands On! Children's Museum for the Gingerbread Workshop.

Many RHS Board members have been especially encouraging, for which I am deeply grateful. This has been a work of love for me, and I have seen the same in the eyes of most who brought their dollhouses - be they dusty and worn or fresh and exquisite - through the door. We've shared our toys more than showed them off. Thanks again to all who shared and all who shared with us.

If you were among those who missed it, Never fear, Small Wonder has been awarded the opportunity to return next Holiday season! Take the intervening months to dig your own dollhouses and miniatures out of storage and dust them off. We'll be waiting for you with open arms!

Available for sale very soon: A coloring book of Small Wonder! Included will be dollhouses loaned by the community, along with their stories and architectural styles. What fun!

Linda Lamberty
V.P. and Program Chair

FAN MAIL FROM AFAR

"I would (also) like to take this opportunity to thank your organization for the many delightful memories I delight in each time the newsletter arrives... Thank you for all of your good works - you surely have made a deep impression in my personal memory bank."

Dorothy Lawrence
Bainbridge Island, WA

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

THE NEWSPAPER COLLECTION (PART 2)

The Newspaper Committee has become the Scrapbook Committee this month. We took a survey of the scrapbooks around the Driscoll House and came up with almost 40. There are probably a few we missed since very little of the archive collection is in any order. For this reason we're never really done with any part because there's always something under something else around here.

We finished storing the last of the really old newspapers we uncovered in the fall. These include the Ridge Record, The Morgan Park Gazette, The Morgan Park Standard and The Budget, all local publications that preceded the Beverly Review and, in some cases, The Post. We have one or more issues of these papers in the years 1892, 1894 and 1899 to 1908. We also have one issue of a number of other papers published between 1906 and 1940, not all pertaining to Beverly/Morgan Park. Nonetheless, they are all interesting accounts of social records, property transfers, land auctions and politics of the times.

It was typical of the late 19th century to have an active press in a community like the Ridge District. This press included West Pullman, Washington Heights and Blue Island in its readership. There may have been a German segment in the community because we also have one issue of *Der Friedensbote*, published in 1903. It is in very good condition, probably because few people can read it. (Possibly Gary Sauerman's contribution?) We'd appreciate any member who knows German who might be willing to look at this paper and tell us what it is about.

Unfortunately, the oldest papers are too fragile to handle and researchers will have to ask that photocopies be made of issues they want to read. We are in the process of getting gloves and procedures in place for that possibility.

It looks like all of the scrapbooks in the collection were compiled between WWI and the 1960s. They range from women's club news-

paper clippings to meticulous personal accounts with photos—a genealogist's goldmine. More about them in the next issue.

Last but NOT least: We really need archival quality boxes, folders and protective coverings for the archive collection and have a very limited budget. If you have a personal interest in preservation please consider donating money—or the materials—to RHS for this purpose. We will be deeply grateful for any help in this area.

Eileen Klees

Photographer/historian Paul Petraitis Featured Speaker at February 8th Meeting

Our featured speaker for the February 8th program is historian Paul Petraitis. Paul attended school at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Illinois Institute of Technology, School of Design. He graduated in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science in History of Photography. He worked for two years as an assistant to noted photographer Arthur Siegel in his History of Photography class.

For 16 years he was employed as a photographer with the Chicago Historical Society under Walter Krutz, and taught photography at the Balzekas Museum between 1986-87.

He has curated a number of photography exhibitions, including Chicago's Southwest Side (1988), S.S. Beman in Illinois (1989-90, funded by an Illinois Arts Council grant), Midwest Generic Architecture at the Los Angeles Museum (1991) and Henry Ralph Koopman, photographer (1995).

Paul currently resides with his family in Pullman.

The February program is also Ridge Historical Society's Annual Meeting. Election of the Board of Directors and officers will take place prior to the program.

Old Washington Heights Businesses

Alfred F. Schultz (sash, doors, mouldings, interior finish, window glass glazing)

Theo Mass & Son Barber Shop (five chairs, up-to-date, with first-class "mechanics")

Herman Baer Department Store

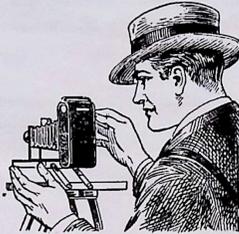
Klien & Casey Real Estate

If there is a blue dot on your newsletter it means we have not received your annual membership renewal. Please renew now by using the envelope you received in the December/January Newsletter. If your payment has been sent we thank you, and thanks to all our members who have renewed.

The next newsletter deadline is April 14th. Please be prompt with your submissions.

NOT TO BE MISSED

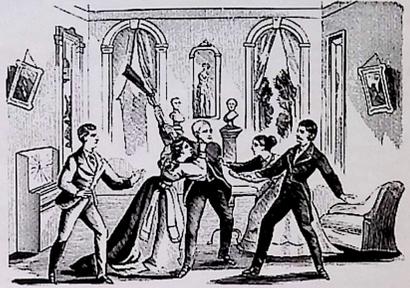
A Calendar of Events and Attractions



History of Photography in Chicago

Guest Speaker: Paul Petraitis
Sunday February 8th
2:30 PM

Driscoll House
10621 S. Seeley Ave.
Program followed by light refreshments
Free to RHS members



**RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**
The Board of Directors of the Ridge Historical Society meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at Driscoll House. All members are welcome, but are forewarned that sometimes between the arguments a meeting breaks out.

Ridge Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

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

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