JUNE, 2005
...NOT EXACTLY THE....

Ridge Historical Society
NEWSLETTER

VOLUNTEER WANTED BY RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: EXPERIENCED NEWSLETTER EDITOR-WRITER-GRAPHIC DESIGNER TO WORK WITH VOLUNTEER WRITERS. SIX ISSUES PER YEAR. PLEASE SEND RESUME AND EXAMPLES TO: MARY QUINN OLSSON, PRES. ; RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY; 10621 S. SEELEY AVE. CHICAGO, IL 60643.FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 773/881/1675.

A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT MARY QUINN OLSSON

We have regretfully accepted the resignation of Dave Daruszka as editor of our award winning RHS NEWSLETTER. We value his work to bring our already excellent publication to newer graphic possibilities, a different makeup style and improved use of photographs. It also was Dave who monitored the reproduction of all the photographs included in "*Chicago's Beverly Hills and Morgan Park Neighborhood*" by Joseph Oswald. Thanks, Dave, for your dedication and high expectations

On a sad note, the RHS family lost two gentle men in April: Editor Emeritus Elmer Johnson who set the standards for a more upscale, appealing NewsLetter, and Dan Moulton, husband of long time board member Doris Moulton.

These are very busy, energetic times at RHS. The Board has just completed a Strategic Planning Session setting priorities and goals for now until February, 2006. Long range plans will come in another session. New board member Peg Kapustiak was our leader. At the same time, we are in the process of interviewing applicants for the position of Executive Director. That person will be in charge of carrying out these goals, combined with suggestions finally received from last summer's CAPS (Conservation Assessment Program) grant. These identify conservation needs to protect our collection and necessary improvements to the building to house the collections safely. All of this will be EXPENSIVE. So, as members you should be prepared to see us present a variety of fundraising activities and events, and be supportive wherever you can. The tasks ahead also present myriad opportunities for which volunteers will be needed. Broadening our membership base and finding new ways of gaining support for our endeavors are two serious priorities which must be addressed.Our reason for charging fees and having more history related fundraising activities is "This old house, and this aging collection" both of which must be maintained to realize our Mission of preserving local history.

We welcome new board members Edris Hoover, membership chairman Jeff Sebek, Peg Kapustiak, Maureen Gilligan and Larry Busking.

Exhibits: Ladies wore their grandest hats to the opening of OUR CAN YOU TOP THIS? vintage hat exhibit and tea Sunday, May 1. A splendid array of hats, mostly from our collection, is ongoing through June. The day featured a Hat tea and showing of the documentary "What Is It About Hats?" made by New York milliner and filmmaker Andree Kinzy, who flew in to be present. The showing tied in with Hats Off, an exhibit of hat-related art at the Beverly Arts Center. Hats were "mandatory" and those who came with no headgear were allowed to select a hat to wear.

The History of Black Morgan Park exhibit remains in place, somewhat reduced.

I asked Sue Delves to produce this news sheet informing you of all the summer events coming up very quickly. Because we need to get this to you immediately, there is neither time nor space to include more.

Mary

WHAT'S UP?

Lori and Ed McGunn, taking their cue from BAPA's 3rd annual Beverly Hills Cycling Classic, are hosting the **RHS First Annual Race Party Friday, July 8** as a Fundraiser. The spectator event, affording vantage points from both Seeley and Longwood fronts complements activities at BAPA's Race Headquarters at Beacon School, just down the street. The hosts promise "great (catered) food, great fun with great views of the race on Longwood from our front yard and from the terrace, as well as vantage points at the Seeley entrance. The party begins at 5 p.m., but those who want to view the preceding Tour de Beverly finish and the Kids' Big Wheel Race can arrive earlier. The $40 Benefit ticket price includes food, beverages and fun on the terrace until 10 p.m. Appropriate bike

related gift items will be for sale, and guests can visit booths with cycling related party sponsors set up on the lawn, and the RHS exhibit featuring Carl Spencer.

The Cycling Classic, the only professional bike race in Chicago, is the opening race of the 17-day International Cycling Classic Superweek Pro Tour. The Beverly race begins and ends at Beacon School and whizzes down Longwood, up the 108th Pl. hill, north on Hoyne, then to Seeley, and north to 105th Pl., then downhill to Longwood and back around, time after time. Previous race viewers are enthusiastic about the exciting atmosphere and the huge WHOOSH! as the riders pass by enmasse. Reservations for this outstanding party should be mailed immediately, with a check, to 10621 S. Seeley, Chicago 60643, or call 773-881-1675 . Expanding upon the Race theme will be several cycling related presentations at RHS both befoe and just after the Cycling Classic .

"A TRANSCONTINENTAL RIDE" SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2 P.M.

Carl Spencer, one of the community's most acclaimed cyclists, will reprise his 1975 trans continental bicycle ride as his wife Elaine shows slides taken from the Atlantic to the Pacific as he rode in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps. His bike--our permanent exhibit in its custom glass case--and an appropriate expanded array of photos, newspaper stories and memorabilia will be the featured exhibit this summer. **(fee, $5 non- members, $3 members)**

FLAG DAY -- TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2 P.M., Carl's Birthday!

When our old flag became tattered, Carl Spencer sought the help of **American Legion Post 407** in procuring a new, larger new one, of appropriate size to be flown from our giant flagpole, which once stood at the offices of Chicago Bridge and Iron (105th and Vincennes). Carl celebrates his 85th birthday by raising the flag himself. All Veterans are welcome to participate, and to stay for light refreshments afterward.

BASEBALL FUNDRAISER SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 7:05 p.m.

How about a mere $10 for a night at the ball park, with all the family invited?

The game is Saturday night, June 18 at 7:05 p.m., and the location is Hawkinson Field, 140th and Kenton in Crestwood. In an appealing setting catering to families and others who long for a great place to enjoy baseball without high prices, rowdy crowds and difficult parking, the Windy City Thunderbolts play in the Frontier League, an independent minor league.

Board members Mel and Joyce Black undertook the fundraiser for the much needed landscaping project under way on the Longwood hill side of the society. Two years ago Joyce, as Community Service chair of Morgan Park Junior Woman's Club, applied for a Chicago Green Corp Grant which provided plants and development of new flower beds along the Seeley driveway. The baseball benefit will raise funds toward creating a new curving retaining wall designed by landscape architect Wendy Schulenberg, a member of both RHS and the Morgan Park Juniors. The project will be greatly enabled by a grant from the Fiskars Company, which has provided superior tools designed for every gardening task. Volunteer gardeners now wear bright orange tee shirts with the Fiskars logo

To purchase tickets or for further information, please contact the Blacks at (773) 233-3680. You will be supporting a challenging and costly beautification project . Enjoy!

REDISCOVER HORSE THIEF HOLLOW JUNE 25 , 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A walking tour / lecture by Paul Petraitis will take participants along nearby ravines which played a part in the true story of stolen horses brought for hiding in these unsettled wooded hills more than 150 years ago. Meet at RHS and walk to "Snake Hill" --105th St.-- and then to 108th St. Early stories have placed Horse thief Hollow everywhere from Dan Ryan Woods to 119th St. Come and discover the documented truth. **Fee: non members $8, members, $5.**

MORE CYCLING EVENTS "AFTER THE RACE IS OVER" JULY 9 AND 10

Andrew Ritchie, author of the book "*Major Taylor*" about the outstanding African American champion racing cyclist for whom the local bike trail is named, will make two different presentations. The first will be on Saturday, evening, July 9 at 7 p.m. and again on Sunday afternoon, July 10 at 3 p.m. Watch local papers for times.

Proposed LATE SUMMER AND/OR EARLY SEPT. EVENTS :

An ice cream social on the grounds of the historic Platt House on Drew St.; garage and book sale--Begin now saving donations ; a bus tour conducted by our member Herman Schell about the 1871 Chicago Fire who gives the tour for the Chicago Tourism Dept.; Robbins Airfield and the Tuskegee Airmen; and a talk by a U. of C. archaeologist about his current dig in Turkey.