Ridge Historical Society
RECORD
BEVERLY HILLS, MORGAN PARK, WASHINGTON HEIGHTS & MT. GREENWOOD

Who was Jim Poole?

BY SUE DELVES

The following was copied from Jane Elizabeth Poole's handwritten reminiscence, shortly after her father's death. Miss Poole was a familiar face in the community as she drove her little 1936 Plymouth from home to Sutherland School daily for many years. She was the efficient school clerk, dressed neatly in what we would now call "Vintage clothing". Jane and her mother had fine taste in clothing, and their hilltop bungalow was furnished with exquisite china, crystal and furniture. On the rare times when the home was opened -- for a DAR house tour or a visit from the BAC Antique Guild, Miss Jane would explain her cabinet of delicate collectibles, saying, "Mother and Father didn't give me toys for Christmas and birthdays. Instead I would get something beautiful like a Faberge egg."

Jim Poole reached his wide audience in the Midwest corn belt and far west cattle country through three channels of expression – newspapers and magazines, public speaking and radio.

When she could no longer drive her Plymouth, she sold it to Roger Shiels, who would always invite her to be his passenger in the Memorial Day Parade.

The question "Who was Jim Poole?" is best answered by a few quotes from newspapers of the 1930s and '40s:

"He is the best informed man in the United States on livestock conditions." (Lexington KY Herald, 1930)

"Veteran mouthpiece of the livestock market." (Chicago Tribune, 1934)

"Probably no man was known to more stockmen in this country than Jim Poole. In many respects he was a remarkable character. He had a great fund of stories which he told well; was a versatile and prolific writer, a popular public speaker and his memory of men and events was well nigh infallible." (The Chicago Daily Drovers Journal, March 1945)

"Those who followed his writings will remember him most especially for his distinctive and colorful style, for the excellent command he had of the English language and the entertaining uses to which he put his original figures of speech." (The American Cattle Producer, March, 1945)

Jim Poole reached his wide audience in the Midwest corn belt and far west cattle country through three channels of expression -- newspapers and magazines, public speaking and radio. Year after year, up to the time of his retirement at age 80, he wrote copy for a dozen or more daily, weekly and monthly publications, besides finding time to appear as principal speaker at livestock meetings, conventions, and colleges all over the mid and far west. For the last 20 of those years he also broadcast live-

PLEASE SEE POOLE, PAGE 2

Privately, Jim admitted the deciding factor was Clay's casual remark that he had just ordered a case of Scotch whiskey for his house party.

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Open to the public
Tuesday 2 - 5 p.m.
Thursday 2 - 5 p.m.
Sunday 2 - 5 p.m.
or by appointment

Transforming the RHS prescence

BY DORIS MOULTEN, PRESIDENT

Some of you may not have been to RHS headquarters lately and so I would like to take you on a tour and show you what changes have taken place since I became President last February. (I am not taking credit for these changes but I am most grateful they have occurred).

On approaching the building you would note that all the trim is now a dark green – no more peeling paint and the new color is the original one. Also, the entrance on the Seeley side has lovely brick pavers framed by small evergreens (planted by Herman and Lois Schell). Inside you would see a new dining room set (donated by Carl and Elaine Spencer), and that the office has attractive chairs and a vertical file that we obtained gratis, through the efforts of Sue Cummings, an active volunteer.

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Since February, we have had Carol Flynn staffing our office from 2 to 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday to answer queries from our members and the community at large.

I think our volunteers and board members are wonderful, and I am very grateful for all they do. We couldn't possibly finish our tour without exploring the real reason for RHS' existence, our collections.

Our latest exhibit, Better Homes in America, which features part of our collections having to do with the '20s, was painstakingly researched and mounted by Carol Flynn, Jennifer Kenny and Linda Lamberty, and will continue through January.

Work is always going on behind the scenes as we try to answer requests, accession our collections and put them in order. Our mission is twofold -- preserve the history of our community and maintain our wonderful, architecturally significant house and grounds. Every dollar and every hour of volunteer work counts. Thank you for your membership, for your purchase of brick pavers, and for your contributions to our Annual Fund drive.

I hope to see you at RHS soon. I hope some of you are inspired to volunteer to assist in areas of interest to you.

POOLE, FROM PAGE 1

stock market news for 15 minutes twice a day, five days a week, from The Chicago Stockyards – on Radio station WLS for 18 years and WGN for 2 years and contributed regularly to 12 different publications.

James Edward Poole was born May 27, 1863 in Poole, Dorset, England, and passed away March 28, 1945 in his home, 10732 Longwood Drive where his family had resided since 1921. He is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery. His wife, the former Catherine Neasey of Clinton, Iowa, and a daughter Jane Elizabeth, survived him.

In his boyhood the family moved to Toronto and his first job was as reporter and later livestock editor of the Winnipeg Free Press in Manitoba. Eventually his interest in the livestock industry brought him to Chicago to join A.C. Halliwell, publisher of the Daily Drovers Journal, later named the Chicago Daily Live Stock World.

[Ed. note: Halliwell, who built the large white house at 10628 Longwood just south of RHS might well have influenced the Poole family to settle in Beverly.]

In 1918 Poole began public relations work for the Chicago Live Stock Exchange. While carrying on the radio and public speaking responsibilities of this position, he also was doing free lance writing for numerous agricultural newspapers and journals. When he left the Yards in 1940 he concluded fifty-three years of work in the Chicago Stock Yards as a reporter of Midwestern agricultural and livestock news. He continued radio reporting for WLS and later WGN, until his death in 1945. Jim the storyteller enjoyed telling how, walking around Market Street in Liverpool in April of 1912, he chanced to meet John Clay, a prominent commission man in the Chicago Stock Yards. Mr. Clay invited him to a house party at his home in Kelso, Scotland. At first Jim chose to return home; however, when he heard the names on Clay's guest list, he couldn't resist the opportunity to discuss livestock trends with some of the leading cattlemen in Scotland. (Privately, Jim admitted the deciding factor was Clay's casual remark that he had just ordered a case of Scotch whiskey for his house party.) John Clay told him the news of the Titanic sinking with these words: "Jimmy, I saved your life."

Pride in our history, pride in our neighborhood

BY CAROL FLYNN

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RHS proudly resides in the beautiful, historic Graver-Driscoll House on Longwood Drive, which was donated to RHS by James Driscoll in 1972. This mansion/museum houses the collection of RHS – all the historic records, photographs, costumes, newspapers, maps and artifacts that have been donated or collected and date back as far as the 1830's to the first settler, Dewitt Lane.

Loads of information

Information and materials about the land and the Native Americans who lived here include fossils, glacial rocks and curios. There is an Architectural Resource Center already in place and the Library is coming along. Volunteer research associates help many people research their historic houses and family trees, and also help people and groups with research projects that involve the history of this area.

Depends on dues

As a non-government, not-for-profit association, the Society's income is dependent upon the dues of its members, donations, proceeds from programs and services, and the sale of merchandise. Increasingly, grants from outside agencies are being applied for to help with specific intentions.

The Society belongs to YOU, its members. Your interest in history and commitment to the mission are what keeps the Society going. Members receive the newsletter quarterly, and free or reduced fees for programs and services.

Please continue to show your pride in your community's heritage by renewing your membership today.

It is now annual membership renewal time for the Ridge Historical Society. An increase in the dues amounts for the various categories has become necessary because of increased costs in utilities, museum maintenance, and archiving and storing the collection. The envelope to submit your membership renewal payment is enclosed with this newsletter.

It's almost time to think spring

BY HERMAN SCHELL

Do you have a rake, work gloves, a little bit of time? We here at the Ridge Historical Society (RHS) are thinking spring. We know that it is on its way and we want to be ready. In preparation we are making plans for cleaning up the grounds around the house and driveway. You can help.

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Scouts and students?

We are open to Scouting groups and students looking for service hours, as well as neighbors who do not have enough yard work of their own to do. (We know that you are all in this same boat.)

Call Herman

The leader of our ground clean-up campaign is Herman Schell, who can be reached at 773-445-8871, or leave a message for him at RHS 773-881-1675. When you call leave your name, phone number and the days that are best for you.

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Many thanks for Annual Fund donors, 2007

Each year, many members give gifts to RHS above and beyond their membership dues through the Annual Fund. This vital source of unrestricted income supports every aspect of museum activity.

Patricia & John Ahern
Jane & David Barclay
Kate Eaton & Bill Barnhart
Norine & Charles Beirne
Grace Borggren
Nancille M. & Eugene F. Broyls
Georgia Jordan & Leroy Bryant, Sr.
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Lori & Tom Daker
Herman & Elnora Daniel
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Mary Catherine Polley
Judith Polzin
Patrick C. Racey
George G., Ralston
Emily & William G. Ririe
Solvig & Harry Robertson
Erin & John Ross
Marie & Bill Sandstrom
Lois & Herman Schell
Wendy Schulenberg
Ruth Secord
Sheila & Mike Sise
Donna & Luke Somerville
Lorraine & Pat Stanton
Marilyn & Bob Stone
Norma & Ellis Stukenberg
Jack Sullivan
Kathleen & Ed Tobin
Lisa & Matt Walsh
Elizabeth & Delbert Wilkins
Mildred Williamson

More thank you's are in order

RHS wishes to thank the following people and organizations for their help in recent months:

- Paula Everett and Mount Greenwood Cemetery for hosting RHS programs
- Sue Cummings for organizing the photograph collection
- Bill Hopper for landscaping and maintenance work
- Signe Morgan for updating the membership files
- The Beacon Therapeutic School for use of their parking lot for RHS events
- Scout Troop #3607, the Wolves Den from Bethany Union for raking leaves and cleaning up the lawn. The Scouts were: Duncan Cleary, Quinn Russell, Michael Foley, Wyatt Wheeler, Dan Fiene, Finn Conlon, Luke Kelly, Liam Cahill, and Kevin Pniewski, and thier families.
- The RHS docents: Mary Ellen Cassidy, Willetta Gary, Don Thompson, Henry and Harriett Melin, Lois Schell, Lois Grayston and Joan Wynne Murphy

Set a goal to challenge yourself, have fun and make a difference

BY MAUREEN GILLIGAN

You know how we all make resolutions in January—all with the best intentions. I've had limited success with annual goal setting, but just because I haven't overhauled myself doesn't mean I won't keep trying.

Resolutions and service

This year I've set yet another goal, perhaps lofty, but truly heartfelt. As a member of Ridge Historical Society and a second term board member I have decided to make this my most memorable volunteer year.

Here are my goals:

Have fun doing my volunteer work.

Do what I find most interesting and challenging.

Do the work among people I really like.

Use my talents—organizing, planning, networking, and motivating.

Give as much as I can of my time and my brain.

So what will I do? My chief "gift" is one of time, ideas, energy, and commitment. If I had more money, believe me, I'd write a check, it's easier for me. But I want to really feel the weight of my contribution so I will give mostly time and, hopefully, make a difference.

I am interested in two things at RHS, the collection and the programs offered to members. I invite any of our members to call or email me with ideas or a commitment of time (ridgehistory@hotmail.com, attn: Maureen). For now, a few friends and I are gathering on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:30 pm to work on organizing our photograph collection. It's fascinating material, although the work is sometimes routine. My mother has always said--many hands ease the work--and from experience I know she is right.

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Wish me luck on my volunteer year. Come join us if you can! www.ridgehistoricalsociety.org

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1916 Morgan Park High School football team returns to life

BY SUE DELVES

A representative of an old Morgan Park family, Dr. Carleton Dangremond, Jr., now of Fountain Hills, Ariz., surprised the Delves at a recent college reunion, handing over an original photograph of the 1916 Morgan Park High School football team, the school's very first season. Because all Dangremonds are tall, it is easy to spot his father Carleton, Sr. and his Uncle "Biggee"--LeRoy.

It's a perfect story.

Reunions, memories and lucky finds

Visiting his sister in a Chicago suburb on his way to the reunion, Dangremond checked out what she was throwing in the trash and salvaged the framed picture, (covered in and out with dust and grime from years in attics).

Historian's dream

Taking the picture from the frame, we discovered the historian's dream: identification, including name, nickname and position and underlined seniors and notation of who received an emblem.

Frequently we attend high school reunions hoping to make RHS contacts with families who have left the area. This past summer we were invited to attend three reunions.

At one of these we sold a number of our Arcadia books, "Chicago's Beverly/Morgan Park Neighborhood," three new memberships, and quite a few prints of a nostalgia montage of old businesses in Beverly/Morgan Park -- "Symbols of the Sixties."

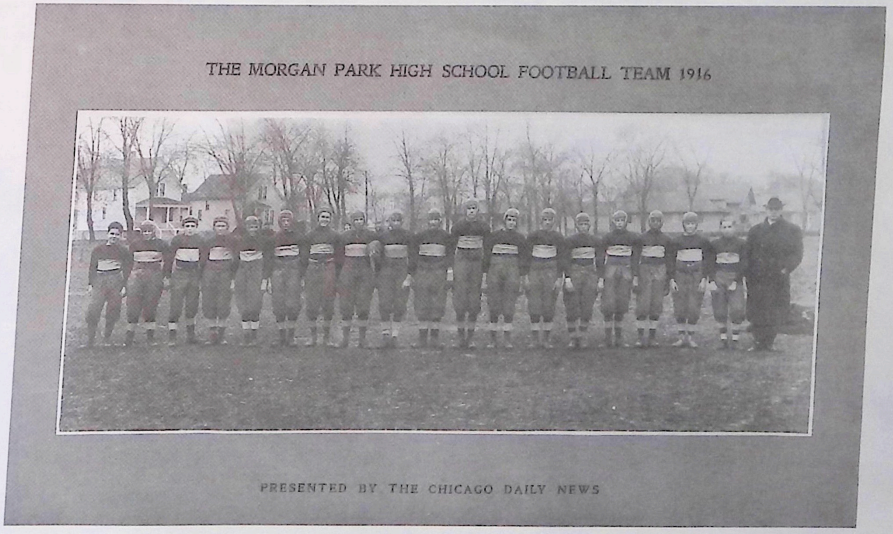
Artist Susan Engle Budash of Buffalo, N.Y., a MPHS graduate in 1966 created the drawing.

We also promoted our brick paver project, a nice opportunity to memorialize someone, or just to honor them.

Books available

We remind you that these are ongoing gift opportunities. Books can be ordered through our website at www.ridgehistoricalsociety.org for $20 plus $1.50 for mailing; a brick paver is $100; and the framable nostalgia print (11" x 14") is $25, plus mailing.

The print is also being sold at Heritage Gallery, 1915 W. 103rd St.



This original photograph of the 1916 Morgan Park High School football team, the school's very first season, includes Carleton Dangremond, Sr. and Uncle "Biggee" LeRoy, was donated by Dr. Carleton Dangremond, Jr.

135 Years of Education and Community

St. Margaret of Scotland Roman Catholic Church 1874 – 2009

Can you help us?

Next year in 2009, St. Margaret of Scotland Church will celebrate its 135th Anniversary. Many of you and many of your neighbors went to school there or lived in Washington Heights.

Recently, we obtained a several more resources on St. Margaret's, which expand its history and tell of its community prior to 1950. That story will be featured in this and subsequent newsletters during 2008. Yet, it is only half the story, because we need you to tell us about its next 60 plus years.

Those of us born since 1945 tend to think of history as "the old days," not as the "current days" or "the days I remember." But history is indeed that. It is your history; it is the history of your childhood and of your children's and grandchildren's childhood.

Part I

St. Margaret of Scotland Roman Catholic Church, located at 9839 South Throop Street in the Washington Heights area of Chicago was founded in 1874, but the history of Catholics in our neighborhood is at least fifteen years older.

1861 to 1874 History of Washington Heights: St. Benedicts Church in Blue Island was the first Roman Catholic Church in the rural area south and west of Chicago. Sometime after 1861 a mission church named Sacred Heart was started. Sacred Heart Church, like St. Benedicts, was along Vincennes Road, which was a major traffic route into Chicago from the southern sections of Illinois and Indiana.

At about the same time the Sister of Our Lady founded a school which they named the Educational Academy of Our Lady, at about 95th and Throop Street.

In 1874 this area was incorporated as the village of Washington Heights. The Blue Island Land and Development Company had began to sell lots in 1872 along and below the Blue Island Ridge in the area now known as Washington Heights, Beverly Hills and Morgan Park. Some lots that were 25 feet wide sold for only $200 and $300 apiece but for many, many yeas most of the surrounding area was still farms and muddy swamps.

From State Street to Palos and from 87th to the Sag Canal: In 1874 the parish of St. Margaret of Scotland was formed. It covered a very large area, from State Street to the east, to 96th Avenue (what is now LaGrange Road) to the west and from 87th Street on the north to 119th Street on the south (the Calumet Sag Channel).

Those areas are now the towns and villages of Palos Hills, Worth, Oak Lawn, Evergreen Park, Alsip, Merrionette Park and the Chicago area neighborhoods of Beverly Hills, Morgan Park, East Morgan Park, Washington Heights, Mt. Greenwood, Brainerd, Gresham, Longwood Manor, Fernwood, Roseland and West Pullman. Masses for St. Margarets were originally held in the chapel of the Academy of Our Lady in Sacred Heart Chapel on 95th Street.

The earliest parishioners of St. Margaret's were German Catholics from Prussia, Westphalia and Bavaria, plus Catholics from Ireland (called Hibernia in the church records) and Luxemburg. The first baptism records date back to January of 1874. The first pastors were Rev. Bruno Riess, O.S.B. an immigrant from Bavaria who served from 1874 to 1876 and Father Utto Huber, who was also born in Bavaria, and was pastor until 1892.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame: The original one room school was operated by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. They named their school the Academy of Our Lady. They also had boarding facilities for local students such as those who lived in Kensington, which was too far to walk back and forth to school. After St. Margaret's built its own school the Academy was renamed Longwood Academy for Girls.

[Ed Note: RHS has very little information in our files about Longwood Academy. Can any of our members share that with us?]

RHS has a map drawn by Mrs. Heinemann who pointed out that in the year 1874 the school "Sisters of Notre Dame (A.O.L.)" was located on the south side of 95th Street just west of what is now known as Throop Street. The abbreviation stands for Academy of Our Lady. It was one of the first schools to open in the area and was co-educational.

Ridge hosts book signing on new Chief O'Neill biography

Ellen Skerret, Morgan Park neighbor and prolific author on the Irish, Catholicism, historic churches and now Chief Francis O'Neill, will sign her new book at the Beverly Art Center, Sunday, March 30th, from 3-5pm. This remarkable memoir penned by O'Neill and edited by Skerret and Mary Lesch, O'Neill's great granddaughter, follows O'Neill from famine ravished County Cork, Ireland to the streets of Chicago shortly before the Great Fire of 1871 until his death in 1936.

Chief O'Neill's Sketchy Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago places the memoirist at the Pullman strike of 1894, the railway strike of 1903, and the packinghouse strike of 1904. He reflected especially on the corruption that kept him subject to powerful aldermen. Yet, O'Neill eventually rose to be chief of police and his story offers perspective on the inner workings of the police department at the turn of the twentieth century.

In addition to his professional success, O'Neill is widely remembered and beloved for his hobby, preserving traditional Irish music. Join the RHS in welcoming Ms. Skerret and Mary Lesch by listening to their stories of O'Neill, getting a copy of the book for yourself, and if we are lucky, hearing some of the traditional Irish music O'Neill saved from obscurity.

O'Neill provides valuable insights into the two very different and equally remarkable phases of his life: the rise from the ranks to the position of General Superintendent of Chicago Police, and the passion for Irish history and traditional music that drove him to preserve hundreds of tunes for future generations." --Dr. Charles Fanning, director of Irish studies, Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Francis O'Neill was born to a farming family in County Cork in Ireland in 1848. He left home in 1865 and died a true Chicagoan in 1936. Mary Lesch is Francis O'Neill's great-granddaughter. She is now retired and divides her time between Chicago and Harbert, Michigan.

Ellen Skerrett is currently writing a history of Loyola University Chicago. She is the co-author and editor of number of books on Catholicism and Chicago, including At the Crossroads: Old Saint Patrick's and the Chicago Irish (Wild onion Books, 1997).

Books will be available for $30.

Mati Maldre photographs: 1968-2008

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St., Chicago, IL
April 4 - May 4, 2008;
Opening Reception: Friday, April 4, 7-9 p.m.

The exhibit Mati Maldre Photographs: 1968-2008 captures Maldre's diverse photographic work. View camera architectural photographs, documentary and traditional photographs, and experimental photographic projects will fill the Beverly Arts Center's galleries.

Crescent Park, 115th & Bell, was designed by Jens Jensen in 1909. Photographed by Mati Maldre in 2007, printed in 2008.

Maldre's earliest view camera work from the 1968 Chicago Lakefront through his latest view camera project, The Landscapes of Jens Jensen in Beverly, completed during 2006-2008 will be included. Also exhibited will be architectural view camera projects from Galena, Pullman, City Churches, Chicago Lakefront Bath Houses, Beverly Hills/ Morgan Park, Walter Burley Griffin in America, The Griffins in Australia; Chicago Bungalows, Prairie School in Beverly, Commercial Buildings in Beverly, The Streetscapes of Beverly Hills & Morgan Park.

Mati Maldre is an Emeritus Professor of Art at Chicago State University, where he taught photography for 35 years.

Ridge Historical Society Annual Meeting of Members

Sunday, February 24, 2008, 2:00pm at the Graver Driscoll House, 10621 S. Seeley Ave.

The agenda includes election of Board members and officers for 2008, approval of the 2008 budget and recognition of volunteers. There will also be a program on "Better Homes in America Comes to the Ridge" featuring the current exhibit on 1927 demonstration homes built in the Beverly Hills/Morgan Park community. Refreshments will be served.

Historic Chicago Bungalow Association – Ridge Historical Society Programs

Tuesday, February 26: Landscaping the Chicago Bungalow; Speaker: David Giannneschi

Thursday, May 15: Window Restoration: A Viable Option; Speaker: Mike King

Both programs will be held at RHS, 10621 S. Seeley Ave., 7:00pm to 8:30pm

No admission charge required. For information and reservations contact HCBS at 312/642-9900 or reservation@chicagobungalow.org

Local Historian's book signing at BAC

Ellen Skerrett, Morgan Park neighbor and prolific author on the Irish, Catholicism, historic churches and now Chief Francis O'Neill, will sign her new book, Chief O'Neill's Sketchy Recollections of an Eventful Life in Chicago at the Beverly Art Center, Sunday, March 30th, from 3-5pm. Books will be available for sale for $30.

Mati Maldre photographs: 1968-2008

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St., Chicago, Ill.
April 4 - May 4, 2008; Opening Reception: Friday, April 4, 7-9 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

10621 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago, IL 60643

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Ridge Historical Society
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