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

Barker House built for successful inventor

By Carol Flynn

Jennie Brandhorst, Grants/Communications Manager, Beacon Therapeutic Diagnostic and Treatment Center, contacted RHS for historical information on the property the Beacon Therapeutic Day School occupies, the England J. Barker House. Located at the northwest corner of 107th and Longwood, Beacon School is a neighbor of RHS.

England Johnston Barker founded UARCO, United Autographic Register Company in 1892 and moved to Morgan Park in 1899. Photo from Barker family collection.

Landmark design by noted architect

The England J. Barker House has a fascinating and significant history. Called a "house of elegant simplicity" in 2000 by Harold Wolff, architecture historian and past Registrar for RHS, the house was designed by architect H.H. Waterman, who began his career working alongside of Frank Lloyd Wright and George Maher, two masters of the Prairie School. The house, of gray brick with a green tile roof, is quite large and nestles into the ridge. It has four levels, a rear wing, and a porte-cochere on the north side.

The massive columns and arched openings of the front porch and many fine details give the house a distinctive look. It was built in 1910 for the Barker Family and was augmented in 1992 for its current use as a school.

The alterations were designed by Phillip Peecher to retain the original feel of the house. Wolff went on to say that the greatest compliment that successive generations have paid to the Barker House has been its continual use for many decades without substantial alteration to the design.

The timelessness of its simplicity and clean lines, says Wolff, continue to prove an attraction to this day.

Home of E. J. Barker family at 10806 S. Western Ave. Description of home in *The Post*, 1909 at the time of selling: "A ten-room house of modern construction, electric lighted and hot water heated, with barn, garage and chicken house electric lighted. A fine porch around the east, south and west. Shrubs, rare trees, flowers, walks, and ground and garden improvements. It is especially favorable for a Stock Yard business man, being close to electric car line to the Stock Yards." Photo from Barker family collection.

WINTER 2012
Vol. 41, No. 3

RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10621 S. Seeley Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643

773/881-1675

ridgehistoricalsociety.org
ridgehistory@hotmail.com

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

Look for the Ridge Historical Society on Facebook.

2012 RHS Board of Directors
Edris Hoover, President
Bill Sandstrom Treasurer
Paula Everett Secretary
Mary Ellen Cassidy Membership Secretary
Sarah Berkey, Curator
[Vacant], Historian

Directors
Larry Brown
Sue Cummings
Cathi Hogan
Carol Macola
Cathy Majeske
Mati Maldre
Joel Morbito
Joseph O'Connor
Fran Oehmen
Mary Quinn Olsson
Lisa Walsh
James Wognum

Emeritus
Julie DeHaan
Sue Delves
Lois Grayston
Linda Lamberty
Linda Lane
Pat McGrail
Doris Moulton
Herman Schell

Editor
Carol Flynn

Newsletter committee
Sue Cummings
Sue Delves
Carol Flynn
Linda Lamberty
Mary Quinn Olsson

Designer
Greg Lochow

Membership
A newsletter subscription is a benefit of membership.

Annual dues
Student (<18) $10
Individual $25
Family $40
Contributor $100
Patron $150
Guarantor $500

Research requests drive RHS

By Carol Flynn

In a nutshell, the mission of RHS is to gather resources pertaining to the history of our local Ridge communities, and to make this material available to the public.

This mission makes research and information requests the driving force of the Society.

Every year RHS helps students at all levels with projects for school or extracurricular activities such as the Scouts. Historical information on families and houses are frequent requests. Research questions from the media, government, businesses, other organizations and private citizens are received regularly.

RHS handled over 50 requests during the first half of 2012. Often research requests result in new information being unearthed, new materials being added to the collection, and new friends and contacts being made. Sometimes it is just a great reminder of the colorful past of the area. This issue of the newsletter shares two of the interesting exchanges that RHS had this year.

Anatomy of a successful historical research project

While RHS had some materials on the England J. Barker House and several of its owners, RHS researchers Carol Flynn, Linda Lamberty and Robert Langston took this request as an opportunity to gather more information on the residents of the house through the years.

Tracking the cousins

A significant accomplishment was locating a group of 'Barker cousins' as they are affectionately known at RHS who have been working on a comprehensive history of the Barker family for some years now.

In 2011, several Barker descendants visited RHS and we helped them locate the Barker gravesite in Mt. Hope Cemetery through Find-A-Grave website.

Now, again through this website, we were led to Jennifer Ehle, Winifred (Winky) Houle Cherry, and Katherine Cipolla.

Barker descendents pay a visit to Illinois

We were delighted when Jennifer, from Madison, Wisconsin, and Winky, from Tesuque, New Mexico, were able to visit RHS in person in May. We arranged tours for the several original Barker residences still standing in Beverly Hills/Morgan Park.

Donated new items for our archives

Jennifer and Winky brought valuable Barker documents and items with them, which they shared with and/or donated to RHS.

Barker cousins Winky Cherry and Jennifer Ehle tour the England J. Barker House, now Beacon School, in May 2012. Photo by Larry Wyrobek, Principal of Beacon School.

The Barker Family impacts the Ridge

When you look through the local newspapers from 100 years ago that are in the RHS collection, you come across the name England J. Barker frequently, for he was a prominent citizen of his time. E. J., as he was known, was born in Nova Scotia in 1863. An ambitious young man, he left home and moved to the U. S., where he held jobs in a factory that made pianos and as a machinist in New Jersey.

Early autographic registers, cash registers, duplicating machines and the like were typically made of wood and metal or a combination thereof. It was not unusual for a business to design and make its own machine so there were many different models. This is an early UARCO machine currently for sale from an antiques dealer. It is green-painted cast iron on a wooden base.

While in New Jersey, E. J. was hired to work on a new device, the autographic register. This device allowed a sales receipt to be written up in multiple copies, using carbon paper between forms that were printed on a continuous roll of paper. Usually, one copy went to the purchaser, one was available for the seller, and a third copy stayed on the roll of paper in a locked section of the machine. This type of system had evolved from lawsuits involving altered business records – businesses needed a way to secure a permanent record of a routine transaction.

The company sent Barker west to organize business. He eventually settled in Chicago and in 1892 founded his own company, UARCO, United Autographic Register Company. In 1899 he moved to Morgan Park. The 1900 U.S. Census finds 'Johnston' Barker married 15 years, employed as a secretary, owning his own home, the father of six children; he was residing with his wife Matilda and their children, Bessie, Walter, Florence, Harold, Helen and Lewis. At the time, they resided in a home at 108th and Western, where the north parking lot of County Fair now stands. This first home was also quite nice, as evidenced by the description when it was advertised for sale.

E. J. became a prominent citizen in Morgan Park. He was founder and first president of the Beverly State Savings Bank and a trustee of the Village of Morgan Park prior to annexation to Chicago. His first wife, Nora Matilda Leard

See Barker, page 4

The England J. Barker House at 10650 Longwood Drive, newly built and paved in 1911. Note that Longwood Drive is still a dirt street. Photo from the Barker Family collection.

Owners of the Barker House through the years:
-7/23/1907 – Property purchased by England J. Barker; house built in 1911
-3/20/1925 – Estate of Eng. Barker to Charles E. Davis
-4/15/1927 – C. Davis to Howard W. Elmore
-4/15/1927 – H. Elmore to Chicago Title and Trust
-12/5/1933 – Bank to Earle W. Hardy
-3/31/1938 – E. Hardy to Loring School for Girls
-12/4/1962 – Loring School to Church of Latter Day Saints
-1977 – Church to Beacon School

Barker, from page 3

Barker, also originally from Canada, died in 1919. He married a second time to Reda Fullerton, 29 years his junior. They traveled extensively and wintered in Palm Beach, Florida. Barker brought his sons Walter and Lewis into the UARCO business. He died in 1925 in Palm Beach, and was returned to Chicago for funeral services and burial at Mt. Hope Cemetery. His sons took over UARCO and the family home on Longwood Drive was sold.

Young Lewis Barker, one of the sons who took over UARCO. Photo from the Barker family collection.

Not to be outdone, son Lewis also built himself a fine home. The gracious historic Tudor mansion of the Mercy Home for Girls at 116th and Longwood Drive was originally known as Fleetwood Farm, the estate of Lewis Barker, also designed by H.H. Waterman and built in 1920. The mansion was later owned by the Charles Walgreen family, which donated it to the Archdiocese of Chicago. The Religious Sisters of the Cenacle used the house for retreats and community activities from 1949 to 1985. In 1988, the Mercy Home for Girls, a residential care facility for young women, was opened and continues to provide a safe haven.

More Barker House history in our next issue.

The Lewis Barker House, a Tudor mansion at 116th and Longwood Drive designed by H.H. Waterman in 1920, originally known as Fleetwood Farm, was later owned by the Charles Walgreen family and is now the Mercy Home for Girls. Photo by M. Maldre.

REAL BULL FIGHT. YES? NO?

Ridge Country Club Plans Defiance of the Authorities.

MORGAN PARK BARS POSTERS

But Matadors, Picadors, and Others Are Ready for Fray.

A genuine bull fight, announced by the Ridge Country club as the leading feature of its annual fair, which will be held on Friday and Saturday, has attracted the attention of the authorities in the village of Morgan Park, near which the proposed bull fight is advertised to be held.

"No such spectacle shall be given or advertised in my jurisdiction," said Mayor Ney of Morgan Park. "I shall even refuse to permit posters of the bull fight no be displayed here."

Defy the Authorities.

Nevertheless the promoters of the affair in the Ridge Country club insist that they will be able to hold the bull fight on schedule time in spite of the authorities.

"Don't be afraid the bull fight will not come off," said President E. J. Barker of the Country club yesterday. "It will start at the tap of the bell Friday afternoon and it will go through to a finish. We expect to repeat on Saturday."

The posters which Mayor Ney refused to allow displayed in Morgan Park have a brilliantly colored picture of a mounted knight. The reading matter is as follows:

"No need to go to Spain to see a

BULL FIGHT.

The Ridge Country club, regardless of expense, will have

THE REAL THING.

An imported, ramping, ferocious Andalusian bull. You will hear him roaring on the grounds.

No police interference.

Beautiful women, Spanish costumes, toreadors, matadors, espadas, rebosas, hijos, hermanas, frijoles."

Promise Big Spectacle.

"That bull and all the matadors and those other things will be costumed under the direction of Director W. M. R. French of the Art institute," finally explained Oscar Frances, secretary of the amusement committee. "That shows what a spectacle we are going to offer. At the end of the fight the bull will be whacked in two pieces, which will walk off in opposite directions. No Mexican or Spanish fiesta has yet introduced that effect."

This article from the Aug. 16, 1910 *Chicago Tribune* provides clues on the social and cultural context of 100 years ago. What did they do for fun? How did they write about it? This is about a mock bull fight that E. J. Barker oversaw as president of Ridge Country Club, then at 103rd and Leavitt.

Traditionally black Morgan Park

By Sue Delves and Carol Flynn

Dr. Sandra Govan, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, contacted RHS to arrange a visit during a planned trip to Chicago. Dr. Govan grew up in the section of Morgan Park east of Vincennes Avenue that was settled by African American families beginning in the late 1800s, and was interested in reviewing the RHS archives on this area. Sue Delves, RHS Board member emeritus, had led a successful campaign to collect materials from this community.

Dr. Sandra Govan visited RHS to review the collection from Traditionally Black Morgan Park. Photo by C. Flynn.

For an entire year, Sue met weekly with the late Dr. Robert Wooten, Mercer Billheimer and Dottie Connie, as they taped interviews and gathered pictures and stories of the families by now in their third generation as residents of that neighborhood. Their extensive collection resulted in an exhibit in 2005 which was in place for six months. During that time, several programs were presented for a crowded RHS.

Sue and RHS research associate Robert Langston, who is organizing these materials for the RHS collection, called upon Ms. Connie and Ms. Billheimer to join them in meeting with Dr. Govan. An informal roundtable discussion ensued, with the guests reminiscing about the Morgan Park of their past, and providing some leads, new names and connections.

Morgan Park claims one of Chicago's pioneer African American communities. The earliest days of Morgan Park included a small settlement of African Americans, many descended from Southern slave families who had migrated north after the Civil War, who settled east of Vincennes Ave., near the main line of the Rock Island Railroad. They established their own churches, beginning with Beth Eden in 1891 and in 1940 the Catholic Parish of Holy Name of Mary was formed.

This picture from Holy Name of Mary Parish, founded in 1940 to serve the black section of Morgan Park east of Vincennes, is typical of the 1950s. From the RHS collection.

By 1920, almost 12% of Morgan Park residents were African American and whites and blacks in Morgan Park co-existed peacefully in their separate sections. Public institutions such as the Morgan Park High School (1916) and the Walker Branch Library (founded originally in 1890) were always integrated. The RHS collection concentrates on several generations of families who started arriving in the area in the 1920s. Included are photos of families, oral histories on tape accompanied by transcriptions, printed booklets of church anniversaries, and stories of the schools and the top students.

Racial integration throughout Morgan Park began on a large scale in the late 1960s. By then Interstate 57 had isolated the older black settlement east of Vincennes, sometimes referred to as East Morgan Park. Dr. Govan suggested that a designation be used to better reflect its African American roots, hence 'Traditionally Black Morgan Park.'

Attending history conference generates many useful ideas for RHS

By Edris Hoover, president

In October I attended the *Conference On Illinois History,* sponsored by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, a two-day event held every fall in Springfield.

Capital improvements in September included repaving the driveway and parking area of RHS Headquarters, the Graver-Driscoll House. Photo by Joseph O'Connor.

More than 40 speakers presented programs and papers on a variety of subjects pertaining to the history of our state.

Speakers included history professors, graduate students, independent scholars, authors, architects, amateur archeologists, genealogists, photographers, local history buffs and society volunteers. I met interesting people from local historical societies and state agencies.

A highlight was dinner in the Rotunda of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

One program was "Turn a Picture into a Document". The purpose of a document is to preserve and communicate over time information and facts. What do you really see when you look at a picture? What does it tell you about time, place, context, activity? We have a large photo collection here at RHS and these "documents " tell us many things if we but look. A program or exhibit on looking carefully at some of our pictures would be an interesting undertaking.

During September and October we hosted an exhibit on Girl Scouting prepared by Carol Macola and Carol Flynn. Our area's record of scouting is outstanding and RHS has the uniform of Margaret Gear Lawrence, who started one of the first troops here in 1924, in our costume collection.

Marquardt Family leaves endowment to RHS

Walter E. Marquardt, Jr. left a tidy sum to RHS. Photo from colonialchapel.com.

RHS is grateful to Walter E. Marquardt, Jr. (April 11, 1928 – July 21, 2011), who bequeathed a portion of his estate to RHS.

The Marquardt family has long roots in the Ridge communities. Walter's great-grandparents, Henry and Margaret Marquardt, and grandfather, Daniel Marquardt, came to the U. S. from Germany in the 1880s.

D. F. MARQUARDT,

Ours is a building district and, where there is much building going on, there is a natural demand for building material, and somebody to do excavating, teaming and grading. Mr. Dan F. Marquardt's yard at 1040 W. 95th Street, corner of Vincennes Road, unquestionably supplies a great proportion of the building material used in this locality. The yard is a big one, employing eight teams and carrying a big stock of building material of all kinds. Mr. Marquardt, a brother of Mr. Emil Marquardt, the groceryman, has been doing a general teaming business in Washington Heights for twenty-five years. He started his present yard six years ago.

The January 7, 1916 *Weekly Review*, a local paper, ran an article about Daniel Marquardt's business.

Generous financial help

Ridge Historical Society was the beneficiary of two generous and unexpected gifts which have enhanced our financial resources and enabled us to undertake capital improvements.

Marquardt estate gift

Mr. Walter E. Marquardt, Jr. made RHS a beneficiary of his estate and we received an initial payout of $15,000. He had family connections to Beverly/Morgan Park and was a member of RHS.

Morgan Park High School Alumni Organization gift

The Morgan Park High School Alumni Organization of 1942-43, which had maintained a remarkable listing of graduates over the years and held regular reunions, decided to disband and to give their remaining funds to RHS, along with their records.

We received a check for $3500 from this generous group. We are indebted to Mr. Frank Hedrick, Jr., who delivered the goods.

These gifts enabled us to pay for our new driveway and help meet other obligations.

Girl Scout Exhibit a hit with the troops

Ann Harper and Carol Macola, adult Girl Scout leaders, at the recent RHS exhibit. Carol (right in the photo, taken by C. Flynn), the exhibit coordinator and an RHS Board member, has been active in Girl Scouts for 40 years and wears a traditional adult uniform.

Ann wears the current adult uniform and can often be found selling Girl Scout cookies while also tending to books at Bookie's Paperbacks and More, 2419 W. 103rd St.

The ladies are standing in front of a quilt from the RHS collection which was sewn by a local Girl Scout troop in 1925.

Thank you to...

We'd like to thank our contributors and sponsors: Kiwanis Club of Southwest Chicago, Ann Harper, Cathy Majeske, Cora Lee Blazek, Diane Rack, Herman Schell, Joe O'Connor, Judy Wagner, Karen Eckert, Linda Lamberty, Lois Schell, Lynn Lucas, Pat McGrail, Pat Walenga, Paula Everett, Carol Macola, Exhibit Chair, and Carol Flynn, Co-Chair.

Searching for the perfect gift?

RHS has available publications and services that make for unique gifts. A flyer on these is enclosed with this newsletter.

Also consider the gift of an RHS membership. Call us at 773-881-1675 or e-mail ridgehistory@hotmail.com.

Do you have a story idea for our newsletter? How about a Prohibition story?

This, the RHS newsletter, belongs to you, the readers. Please let us know if there are topics you would like to see explored, or if you would like to contribute. Next year, 2013, marks the 80th anniversary of the repeal of Prohibition and we are looking for local stories on this era.

Please contact the newsletter editor, Carol Flynn, at 773-434-4216 or flynncarol@comcast.net with your input.

We are counting on your support!

It's RHS Annual Fund time and we appreciate every contribution we receive. Please help us continue to preserve the history of our local communities.

Our gratitude goes out to...

We would like to thank the following for their help with the RHS Annual Garage and Book Sale: Lois and Herman Schell, Cathy Majeske, Sue Delves, Pat McGrail, Doris and Allison Moulton, Mary and Kurt Olsson, Cathi Hogan, Joe O'Connor, Sue Cummings, Paula Everett, Lois Grayston, Lisa Walsh and Bill Hopper.

Mark your calendar for these exciting events

RHS continues its tradition of holiday festivities with two events.

Victorian High Tea

Victorian High Tea is planned for Friday, December 28, at 4:00 p.m. Enjoy a fine selection of savories and sweets and choose from a variety of teas. The cost is $20 per person.

Champagne and Sweets Reception

A Champagne and Sweets Reception is planned for Thursday, January 3, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. Celebrate the New Year with bubbles and goodies. The cost is $25 per person.

Both events will be held at the historic Graver-Driscoll House, 10621 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago, 60643. For reservations call 773-881-1675 or email ridgehistory@hotmail.com.

RHS Annual Meeting

Save this date! The RHS Annual Meeting will be held in the afternoon on Sunday, February 17, 2013, at RHS, 10621 S. Seeley. The agenda will include the annual business meeting, election of Board and Officers, an entertaining and informative program, and refreshments. Free of charge. Watch your mailbox for details.

RHS 'House Doctors' series continues...

'Steam and Hot Water Heating' is the topic for Sunday, February 10, 2013, 3:00 p.m. Cost $5/RHS member; $10/non-member. Dave Bunnell of the company Steam Whisperer will address the specific issues that this type of heating involves, using the Graver-Driscoll House, RHS Headquarters, as an example. The program will be held at RHS, 10621 S. Seeley. Light refreshments will be served. For information on Bunnell, his business and steam heating, please go to this link for an article from the Beverly Area Planning Association: http://www.bapa.org/article.asp?articleid=1379

This vintage postcard depicts Christmas and tea themes.

Ridge Historical Society
RECORD
BEVERLY HILLS · MORGAN PARK · WASHINGTON HEIGHTS & MT. GREENWOOD
10621 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago, IL 60643