



THE ROGERS PARK/WEST RIDGE HISTORIAN

"Preserving the Past - Building the Future"

Vol. X No. II

Chicago, Illinois

Spring 1995

Fun! Fun! Fun! On July 23!

Join us for the 20th Founders Day Picnic

A day of fun, food and festivities awaits Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society members and friends on Sunday, July 23, at our 20th Anniversary Founders Day Picnic.

The event will be held on the grounds at St. Scholastica High School, 7416 N. Ridge, from 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Ample parking is available to the south of the building adjacent to the rear entrance.

We encourage all members, especially newer ones, to join us for this gala and traditional summer happening.

In order to attract families to the picnic, there will be plenty of children's activities, such as the Jumping Jack (aka the Moon Walk), face painting, a fire engine, games and sports events in addition to activities for adults.

A special family rate is available, so plan to bring

the entire group for a day of fun and frolic.

Scheduled activities also include a senior oasis (bingo and cards), promotional items and, we hope, oral histories and videotaping.

For your eating pleasure there will be lots of tasty vittles. We're talking about just plain good food plus beverages, snacks and an assortment of goodies.

A silent auction and special raffle will showcase items such as weekend trips, theater tickets, restaurant dinners and much more. We hope that everyone will attend the picnic in this lovely setting filled with a variety of flowers in bloom.

You can support the Society while having a wonderful, fun-filled outing. Since advanced reservations are necessary, please fill out the form on page 9 and mail it in soon.



More ways to win great prizes

Our second annual Super Summer Raffle offers you chances to win great prizes.

As the featured trip, let ATA fly you on vacation to beautiful Nassau, Bahamas, where it is always sunny and warm. You will enjoy a six-day/five-night stay at a luxury hotel on the island.

Be delighted with a three-day/two-night get-away with someone special at the fabulous American Club Resort in Koehler, WI as the 2nd prize.

Find yourself in the scenic Black Hawk Waterways area, the location of the historic Hill and

Dale Bed and Breakfast -- the 3rd prize. As a special remembrance, your hosts will greet you with champagne and a bouquet of flowers.

A three-day/two-night package for two at the newly developed Long Hollow Point Resort in the historic Galena area rounds out the top four prizes.

To celebrate the Society's 20th anniversary, there will be several additional ways to win bonus cash.

A maximum of 750 chances will be sold; cost is \$5 each or six for \$25. See enclosed flyer/order

Forget the Ants!

Rogers Park/West Ridge
Historical Society

20th Anniversary
Founders Day Picnic

Sunday, July 23, 1995
11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

St. Scholastica
High School Grounds
7416 N. Ridge Avenue

form, or visit the Museum or attend one of our special summer programs/events to purchase tickets.

Remember When??

Brown, white, red and black

No, these colors are not about the ethnic diversity that exists in our community today.

They are some of the colors of shoes -- the special ones I will always remember because they were given to the 'home kids' at Angel Guardian Orphanage (AGO).

How about those Buster Brown shoes -- brown and white -- with a picture inside of a young boy and his dog who said, "I'm Spike, look for me in there too!"

Oxbloods, oxbloods? Would you believe a dark reddish shoe? This was a rather unusual color; not the kind worn with a typical school outfit. Plus you really had to keep them clean since this color polish was not readily available.

You knew your black patent leather shoes were clean when, as you buffed them, you could see the reflection of your smiley face.

Do you still have the pennies -- the ones you put in your first pair of penny loafers? These were, by far, the most popular type of shoe whether brown or black, outshining all the others!

Blue suede shoes - Carl Perkins had a Top 40 hit song in 1957 with this title. A guy really thought he was cool if he wore a pair of blue.

Remember white bucks - Pat Boone and I do. I was the only one in my high school class who owned a pair and I wore them everywhere. Soon someone nicknamed me "shoes", a name that stuck with me until they wore out a couple of years later and I stopped wearing them.

Puppies, not the kind that wag their tails, but Hush Puppies, soft, casual, shades of tan and gray, and very comfortable.

Click, clack -- that was the sound of steel cleats, designed to

save wear and tear on your heels and soles. Actually the fellows bought and wore them to attract attention from the girls.

When was the last time anyone you know sat down to polish a pair of shoes? Although the kids had to shine their shoes on a weekly basis, they spread out newspapers and took pride in cleaning them. They were all happy since they had shoes for school, shoes for play and even shoes for Sunday dress.

Remember when it was quite common to have your shoes repaired instead of throwing them away, like today? AGO had its very own shoe repair shop where many of the boys learned an early trade. A sign in the shop read "Time wounds all heels".

J. E. Arcand

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Plan to join us for one or more of the informative and historical Summer Programs that also promise to be very interesting.

Sat., June 17 - "Photography: Preservation and Restoration"
A slide presentation by Martin J. Schmidt, Society photographer.

Sat., July 15 - "Meet Fritz Reuter World-famous Local Violin Maker"
A personal interview conducted by Jackie McNicol, Society Historian.

Regular meetings will be held at 11 a.m. (note change of time) at the Society Museum (note change of place). Street parking is available or easy access via public transportation.

Programs will be followed by socializing and refreshments.

Sat., Aug. 19 - An outing to "The Grove" - a national historic landmark since 1976, this 82-acre nature preserve and public museum features notable

buildings. Included is a guided tour of the Kennicott House (1856).

Cost, including picnic lunch, is \$5 members - \$7 non-members. If you plan to attend, please make your reservation no later than Monday, Aug. 14.

If a ride is needed, please call 764-4078.

We will be doing another mailing in August to announce the upcoming Fall program schedule.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Eleanor A. Mars was presented a Spirit of Rogers Park Award at the RP Community Council Brunch on Sunday, May 21.

Eleanor was nominated by our Society for her dedicated volunteer service and support since 1978.

She is one of the 17 Rogers Park area people recognized for their outstanding service to the community during 1994.

Renee Sullivan, another Society member, also received an award for her work with the Northtown-Rogers Park Mental Health Center.

Best wishes Eleanor and Renee from all your friends....and congratulations to all the winners!

OFFICE/MUSEUM LOCATION AND HOURS

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society is located at 6424 N. Western. The office and museum are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on most Thursday evenings from 7 to 9.

Continuing our Sunday schedule, the Museum will be open on selected afternoons.

July 9, Aug. 20 and Sept. 17
from 1 to 4 p.m.

Please call in advance to make appointments for research, pickups, etc. The office phone is 764-4078 or an alternate number is 764-2401.

Calendar of Events

Our Society's 20th Anniversary Year continues! Celebrate and Be Proud!

Sat. June 17

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Society Monthly Meeting
"Photography: Preservation
and Restoration"
Society Office/Museum
(See Coming Attractions on
page 2.)

Sun. July 2

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Spirit of '76:
Revolutionary War
Reenactment
Rosehill Cemetery
5800 N. Ravenswood
(For info, call 561-5940)

Sat. July 15

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Society Monthly Meeting
"Meet Fritz Reuter:
World-famous Violin Maker"
Society Office/Museum
(See Coming Attractions on
page 2.)

Sun. July 16

Devon-North Town Business
Assoc. Taste of Devon
Devon/Rockwell area
(For info, call 743-6022.)

Sun. July 23

10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
RP/WR Historical Society
20th Anniversary
Founders Day Picnic
(See article on page 1.)

Sun. July 30

1 - 5 p.m.
RP Community Council
2nd Annual Garden Walk
(For info, call 338-RPCC.)

Sat. Aug. 19

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Society Outing
"The Grove" - National
Historic Landmark
(See Coming Attractions on
page 2.)

Sun. & Mon. Sept. 3 & 4

11 a.m. to dusk
50 Fest at Warren Park
6621 N. Western Ave.

Sat. Sept. 16

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Society Monthly Meeting
Society Office/Museum

Sun. Oct. 1

12 noon - 5 p.m.
RP/WR Historical Society
11th Annual Fall House Tour
*Followed by Dinner and Super
Summer Raffle Drawing* Please
mark your calendar. (More
info in next Newsletter)

*Rogers Park Library -
6907 N. Clark*

*Society office & Museum
6424 N. Western*

From the president

News of critical importance to the Historical Society is happening much faster than a quarterly publication like the *Historian* can disseminate it. As indicated in the recently mailed member survey, we need your input and support to determine where we are headed in the immediate future and how we can accomplish several longstanding Society goals.

A wonderful opportunity to fulfill the most urgent goal has recently presented itself --- ownership of the building that houses the Historical Museum, Educational Research Center and administrative offices that we currently rent.

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society Board of Directors has voted unanimously to consider the purchase of 6424 N. Western, subject to membership approval, a favorable building inspection and securing the financing.

Many years of thought have preceded this decision. The building fund is very close to the amount needed to make a purchase offer that benefits all parties involved. If we get several key donations and a strong effort by the building committee, the Society's 20th anniversary year will be even more historic, culminating in the ownership of our own facility.

David N. Torrey



WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING

Fri. April 7 - J. E. Arcand, Mary Jo Doyle, Mervyn Ruskow, Marty Schmidt and Dave Torrey were on hand to greet visitors at the "Edgewater-Rogers Park: Then and Now" exhibit at the North Lakeside Cultural Center.

Sun. April 9 - Several members volunteered at Rosehill Cemetery for the reenactment of the 130th anniversary of the Surrender at Appomattox. Although it rained

heavily, many die-hard people attended this historical event.

Sun. April 23 - More than 70 members and guests attended the 1st anniversary open house and reception at our Museum. (See article on page 4.)

Thu. May 11 - Many members went to the Chicago Historical Society to view the Douglas-Grand Boulevard Exhibit and attend the meeting on the *Neighborhoods: Keepers of Culture* RP/WR project.

Sun. May 21 - Mervyn Ruskow and Marty Schmidt were in attendance to honor Life Member Eleanor Mars as she received her Spirit of Rogers Park Award from the Rogers Park Community Council. (See article on page 2.)

Sun. May 21 - More than 130 people attended the tour of the Emil Bach House - the Frank Lloyd Wright Landmark in RP. (See article on page 7.)

Museum's First Anniversary

The Museum's first anniversary was a successful blend of past and present community members who enjoyed the open house and reception. Sundry, April 23.

President David Torrey welcomed visitors and encouraged them to have a wonderful time.

The large array of black and white photos spanning more than a century were copied, mounted and installed by photographer Martin J. Schmidt one year ago, but were the highlight of the day.

The display cases, filled with memorabilia depicting life styles, businesses and organizations in the Rogers Park and West Ridge area were also very popular.

The company was first-rate and the conversation stimulating and friendly. Those present might have espied June Finfer working her way through the crowd with her video camera, recording bits and pieces of conversation, vintage clothing and jewelry, or people relating the history of a particular photograph.

In celebration of the museum's first anniversary, everyone was encouraged to sign up for door prizes and all of the Society's promotional items were specially priced. Refreshments included Amaghetti's famous brownies, homemade cookies donated by Society members, a tasty fruit tray, coffee and soda.

The open house was a huge success with more than 70 people stopping by to enjoy the festivities. Those who visited raised our total attendance to more than 750 and the comments in the guest register expressed delight with our collections.

Executive Director Mary Jo Doyle thanks all the volunteers responsible for making this another special day in the history of the Society.

Just A Note....

Only three more weeks on these crutches and I should be back in full swing.

On April 28 as I was leaving the Museum, I accidently tripped over my precious niece, Nicole Marie, landing hard on the sidewalk and unfortunately, fracturing my hip.

I want to thank all of the wonderful people who called with get-well wishes, visited and sent cards, notes and flowers. The food people prepared was very much appreciated, especially during the first two weeks at home.

Special thanks to the regular volunteers who took over the daily tasks at the office/museum while I worked from home. It's great to be back.

*Mary Jo Doyle
Executive Director*

Members enjoying the Museum's first anniversary open house include President David Torrey and his son Robert, Mary Jo Doyle Executive Director and Sue Davoust Corresponding Secretary



MUSEUM UPDATE

We invite our entire community to share in our rich history and heritage, and we delightfully accept photographs and historical data from all individuals and groups in this area.

The Early History Writeup of Rogers Park and West Ridge is currently being enhanced and copies will be available beginning in late summer.

Our next front window display, going up in July, will feature highlights of the past 20 years of our Society. Please stop by and see this exhibit and some of the new items in the Museum.

Additional names will be added to the permanent plaque under the categories listed below.

Thanks to the following 1995 Museum Fund Donors:

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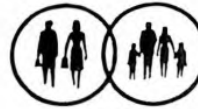


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*Please keep these ads handy and patronize
our Rogers Park/West Ridge sponsors*

Emil Bach House Tour Revisited

On Sunday, May 21, the Society welcomed 135 members and guests to our very special spring event - a tour of the Emil Bach House, a unique Frank Lloyd Wright landmark.

We are sincerely grateful to Drs. Fedor and Sirirat Banuchi for the privilege of viewing their architectural masterpiece.

Chairperson Mary Jo Doyle greeted all visitors while handing out booklets and punching tickets.

Tour goers were certainly treated to a bonus when attending the reception held at the Foss house, immediately to the north.

It was beautifully decorated by members Bill and Jean with lovely flowers and plants enhancing all the rooms. They received compliments, not only on their home, but their hospitality.

Kudas to David Torrey, co-chair and booklet author, who conducted all six tours and gave the attendees a unique experience for their money.

Photographer Marty Schmidt took many photos so this unique happening will be in our memory forever.

Deep appreciation goes to the Rogers Park Builders Group who co-sponsored the tour/reception.

Special thanks to Amaghetti's for delectable brownies, Becker's Bakery for delicious cookies, the Caribbean Bakery for mouth-watering rolls and cookies, Dominick's for the appetizing sausage and cheese tray, Rogers Park Fruit Market for savory fruits and vegetables, Superior Coffee for beverages and Sturch's Olde Tavern for the wine.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the reception and promotional items and to all our guests for making this the most successful spring event in our 20-year history.



David Torrey, Society President and tour guide, relates the history of the Emil Bach House and the surrounding area before leading one of the six tours through the landmark home.

BACH BOOKLET AVAILABLE

A revised edition of the Emil Bach House Tour Booklet is now available for purchase. It contains a history of the Frank Lloyd Wright landmark at 7415 N. Sheridan along with photographs, some from the surrounding area. Cost is \$3 for members; \$5 for non-members. To order, call 764-4078.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

An important meeting to decide on the purchase of a permanent home for the Society will be held on Thu., July 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Museum.

A letter will be sent to all members in June explaining this major acquisition.

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Hug a Mug

Celebrate our 20th anniversary by purchasing a commemorative white & green mug for \$5 or a set of four for only \$16. Mugs can be picked up at the museum or at Society events.

To order by phone, call (312) 764-4078. Please add \$3 for postage/handling if it is to be shipped.

RECENT DONATIONS

Mary Ann Barry - Society member
Memorabilia from the Edgewater Golf Club (now the site of Warren Park) including a Sunday Brunch menu and membership information - dated 1950s

Maxine Spiegel Fineberg - former West Ridge / Rogers Park resident
Photos of her in front of Sam the Shoe Doctor, her father's repair shop at 6253 N. Western - dated 1930

James C. McCabe - former Rogers Park resident
Photos of the inside of Shubert's Grocery/Meat Market showing employees, including his father, and customers - dated 1910

Allan Niederman - Society member
Photo of Nathan's Delicatessen and the Woolworth store - SW corner of Devon & Western - dated 1950s

Rogers Park American Legion Post #108
Memorabilia including hats, medals and ribbons from former post commanders and members, some from World War II

Frances Swanson - Edgewater resident
An old-time radio and an old bedroom wash stand - circa early 1900s

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Educational Programs/ Community Outreach

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society will announce the winners of its 1994-95 scholarship program for high school students in our community in July.

Several students completed projects on various neighborhood history topics.

Contributions are always welcome for this ongoing endeavor. If you would like to make a donation, make check payable to RP/WR HS: Scholarship Fund.

LOCAL ANNIVERSARIES

Clark-Devon Hardware
- 70th

Gullivers - 30th

Miller Bros Meat Market
on Devon - 30th

CHICAGO AREA ANNIVERSARIES

Adler Planetarium - 65th
Edgebrook Community
- 100th

Ravenswood-Lake View
Historical Assoc. - 60th
Sulzer Regional Library
- 10th

NATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES

Academy of Country Music
Awards - 30th

Days of Our Lives - 25th
First Automobile Race
- 100th

Spaghetti Os - 30th

INTERNATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES

Planet Pluto Discovery - 65th
Victory in Europe

(V-E) Day - 50th

Vietnam War Ending
- 20th

Volkswagen - 40th

Membership Memos

Show your commitment: Help us grow

Funding for our Society mainly comes from you -- our members. And we need you to help us grow. We hope that you will encourage family, friends and neighbors to join us too. We really need to reach out to more people to keep the Society a vital and dynamic organization.

1995 membership dues are up for renewal (see label) and we encourage anyone who has not yet paid to please do so at this time.

We particularly encourage you to consider a Sponsor, Sustaining, Donor or even a Life Membership (see rates below) to assist the

operation of our historical museum and research center.

If you cannot renew at one of the higher levels, perhaps you would consider a three-year membership. This not only saves you money, but simplifies our record-keeping, while providing funds that can be put to use right away.

We deeply appreciate the support that everyone has given us in the past and look forward to your assistance in the future.

The top line on your mailing label shows your member number(s), category (see below), New (N) or Renewal (R), an * if a 3-year member, and the month and year your membership expires.

MEMBERSHIP	CATEGORY	PERIOD	DUES
Life	(L)	—	\$500.00
Donor	(D)	Annual	100.00
Sustaining	(Su)	Annual	50.00
Sponsor	(Sp)	Annual	30.00
Family	(F)	Annual	15.00
Individual	(I)	Annual	10.00
Family	(F)	Tri-annual	40.00
Individual	(I)	Tri-annual	27.00

Membership period is from January 1st through December 31st.

FEASIBILITY SURVEY

A feasibility study regarding major aspects of your Society was mailed to all members on May 3.

It was intended to gather important information that would assist our board of directors in future decision-making. It is also a tool to determine if there is support for the purchase of a permanent home for the Society.

Although we asked for a return date of June 9, it is still not too late to send in your response. We would deeply appreciate your input and cooperation.

Since we have been told that some of our members did not

receive the survey, we are asking you to call the office and one will be sent to you.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

The Society is looking for individuals interested in conducting a talk or a slide presentation related to the history of our community. The programs themselves already exist. Please call 764-4078 for further information.

Volunteers needed-

You can make a difference! If you can work just a few hours a month, please call 764-4078.

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society

announces its

20th Anniversary Founders Day Picnic

Sunday, July 23, 1995
11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
St. Scholastica High School
7416 N. Ridge Avenue

** RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY, JULY 19. **

(See article on page 1.)

Adults - \$10 Seniors - \$8
Children 7 - 14 - \$5 6 and under - free

Special Family Rate - only \$25

*(price includes appetizers, entree, deserts, and beverages plus
entertainment, activities, door prizes and lots more)*

JOIN US FOR THIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY "FUN IN THE SUN" CELEBRATION!

For additional information,
call the Society office at 312-764-4078 or 764-2401.

Thanks for your support of our mission to preserve local history.

Membership includes quarterly Newsletter, discounts, mini tours and much more.



ROGERS PARK/WEST RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Application for Membership and/or Founders Day Picnic

(See Membership part on page 8.)

Membership: New Renewal Category _____ Picnic: No. of Persons _____
Picnic: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; \$5 children 7-14; family rate \$25

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ made payable to: RP/WR Historical Society

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Mail to: RP/WR Historical Society
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I would like to help the Society when I am available.

Welcome New Members

INDIVIDUAL

Michael Cicchetti
Anita Garrity
Richard Lew
James McKenna
* Libby Neiditch
Molly Older
Pat Pitawanakwat
Ted Remus
Patricia Severin
* Mark Sherkow
Carolyn Shierhorn
Wilma Stevens
Ivah Urbanski
Mary Wehrle

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and Zack Hobin
Lloyd McElfresh/Lisa LaCloche
and Ned McElfresh
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and Haley & Kirby Rayburn
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Sharon Williams
Marshall Sorkin/Joanne Kalnitz
and Jeremy Sorkin
Peter & Lauren Streff
Michael & Julie Studier
John & Bonita Tricamo

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Norman Ross

Thanks For Renewing

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NEWSLETTER NOTICES

This Newsletter is published by the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society, a nonprofit organization founded in July of 1975 to preserve the roots of our community. Editor: David Richert; Managing Editor: Mary Jo Doyle; Circulation 1500.

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Newsletter designed and typeset by Kirk's Computer Services and printed by Weber Press. For your information, the scheduled mail date is around June 16. Contributors: J. E. Arcand, Martin J. Schmidt, Jeanette Statland and Peggy Swedroe.



Rogers Park/West Ridge
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Celebrating
Our 20th!
1975-1995

Founders Day Picnic
Sunday, July 23