



# The Historian

Preserving & Promoting Neighborhood History

Volume 29, No. 3  
Summer 2013

## Board of Directors Monthly Meetings

August 26

October 28

December TBA

All meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Society, 1447 W. Morse Avenue and are open to all members.

## Upcoming Event

October 13

Calvary Cemetery Tour:  
Connect with the past and explore a selection of the historic homes and buildings in the Pratt Blvd.-Ridge Blvd. area.

## In This Issue

Have You Paid Your  
Wheel Tax—Yet?  
page 2

Hi to All Historians  
page 3

For Want of a Beer...  
West Ridge  
page 4

Rogers Park Alley  
Between Lunt and Morse  
page 7

## RPWRHS Holds Annual House Walk Sunday, September 8

*By Colleen Sen*

For more than twenty-five years, the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society has conducted tours of homes and gardens in our neighborhood. This year's house walk will visit the Ridge-Pratt neighborhood, which has some of Chicago's most historic homes, including several of the original farmhouses and three of the spectacular mansions on Pratt Avenue, facing what was once one of Chicago's most exclusive country clubs, the Edgewater Golf Club. The route will also include exterior views of several additional buildings, including the famous Bird Cage apartments at the corner of Ridge and Farwell. .

The starting point will be the Robert A. Black Golf Course on the eastern end of Warren Park, where urban park historian Dr. Arlene Swartzman will talk about the history of the park and the golf course. Participants will receive a tour guidebook with a map of the sites, photos, and historical information. The tour is self-guided, but homeowners will be on hand to discuss the history of their houses.

The house walk will take place on Sunday, September 8, 2013, from 1 to 4 p.m. Registration is held in the parking lot of the Robert A. Black Golf Course,



The house of David Fortman, 6836 N. Ridge Blvd.

2045 W. Pratt. Parking is available here. You can register in advance at our office, 1447 W. Morse Avenue, weekends, 11-4, by e-mail, [info@rpwrhs.org](mailto:info@rpwrhs.org) or on the web page at <http://www.rpwrhs.org> through noon on Friday, September 6. You can make advance payment on our website. You can also register and pay on the day of the event.

Advance payment is \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. Same-day payment is \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers, cash or check. Funds raised will support the Society's programming and educational activities. For more information, contact the Society at [info@rpwrhs.org](mailto:info@rpwrhs.org) or (773) 764-4078, at our office (above) or visit our web site at [www.rpwrhs.org](http://www.rpwrhs.org).

Rogers Park /  
West Ridge  
Historical Society

Board of Directors  
2013-2014

President  
Ken Walchak

Vice President  
Katherine McSpadden

Treasurer  
Margaret Ferguson

Secretary  
Glenna Eaves

Directors  
Paul Bluestone  
Glenna Eaves  
Margaret Ferguson  
Sr. Sue Kilduski, O.S.B.  
Nancy Jane Lauren  
Hank Morris  
Krisann Rebein  
Colleen Taylor Sen  
Larry Shure, AICP  
Karen Tipp  
Ken Walchak

The Historian  
published quarterly by  
The Rogers Park/West Ridge  
Historical Society

Editor  
Hank Morris

Managing Editor  
Nancy Jane Lauren

Production Editor  
Kathryn Siemianowski

Design Consultant  
Kathleen Paluch

Editorial Staff  
Ellen Credile  
David Richert  
Sue Sosin

The Cabbagehead  
E-Newsletter Editor  
Hank Morris

Printed by Weber Press  
Subscriptions are a benefit  
of membership  
Press Run: 1000

# Have You Paid Your Wheel Tax—Yet?

By Hank Morris

Wheel Tax?  
Yup! Wheel Tax!  
What's a wheel tax?

Well, back in 1895, 12th Ward Republican Alderman Conrad Kahler prepared an ordinance providing for a “wheel and tire tax” on vehicles of every description used in the city—including bicycles. (He got away with including bikes because he claimed that, presumably, there were a great many people using bikes who do not otherwise contribute to the support of the municipal government’s efforts to fund the maintenance of the streets.) At that time, wagons, carts, and buggies were the major forms of transportation, in addition to streetcars, which rode on their own roadbed, albeit most of the time in the public roadway. The streetcars already were tasked with such maintenance headaches as sweeping the streets, watering to minimize dust, and plowing the snow. They were definitely paying their way and needn’t contribute further.

The wheel tax was supposed to generate the revenues needed to allow the city to maintain the streets without having to dip into the general funds to do it.

Wagons mostly used wheels with iron straps (later steel) fastened around a wooden core. These iron tires were very hard on the roads of that time. Road surfaces were composed of dirt, macadam, stone bricks, wood planks, and very primitive asphalt. Rubber tires were few and far between, being mostly used for bicycles. John Boyd Dunlop had invented the practical balloon tire in 1887 for his son’s

tricycle, but they weren’t in wide use—yet.

Here’s a list of those vehicles meeting the taxing criteria in 1920:

- One-horse wagon
- One-horse buggy
- Two-horse wagon
- Two-horse buggy or carriage
- Three-horse wagon
- Four-horse wagon
- Motorcycles
- Passenger automobile, 35 hp or less
- Passenger automobile, more than 35 hp
- Automobile delivery wagon, capacity 1 ton
- Automobile truck, bus, or coach, capacity more than 1 ton

## Tire Evolution

In 1895, André Michelin was the first person to use pneumatic tires on an automobile; however, not successfully. It wasn’t until 1911, when Philip Strauss invented the first successful balloon tire, a combination tire and air-filled inner tube. (Cars with rubber pneumatic tires were of no concern this early in time, and hard rubber tires were extremely rare.) So when Alderman Kahler raised his concerns about wheels digging up the streets of Chicago, a wheel tax made sense.

Kahler, thinking ahead, suggested since wagons were increasingly carrying heavier loads and required wider tires, the vehicles with the thicker tires should pay more tax because their tires would cause more damage to the road surface than thinner tires.

see *WHEEL TAX* on page 8

## Do you receive our *Cabbagehead*?

Your society sends out an electronic newsletter frequently. It contains news of events that were announced AFTER the previous *Historian* newsletter was mailed and will occur BEFORE the next issue of the *Historian* is mailed. It’s our way of getting the word out to our membership about things they otherwise might not learn about.

Send us your e-mail address to insure that you’re on the distribution list. Just send us an e-mail at [info@rpwrhs.org](mailto:info@rpwrhs.org) with the subject “Cabbagehead”.

# Hi to All Historians-



Ken Walchak

Decades ago I received a degree in medieval history, a degree that has prepared me well for my day job in the hardware business, as well as my job as your president. At that time, one of my professors warned me away from life as an academic. That was one of those warnings I am glad I heeded. While I don’t teach history, I do find learning history a great deal of fun.

Here at the Society we focus on learning about our community. Everyone from the Rogers and Schreiber families, to the newer

folks from more exotic locales like India, Pakistan, and Mexico, bring their unique world views to our local community. History is not only lists of kings and presidents. I found it fascinating to learn about the families who lived in our house before we did. I also found out that our store building was the scene of a moonshine ‘bust’ during prohibition. Go figure! We can often help folks learn about the history of their home and their neighborhood.

All of this is by way of encouraging you to stop in and see us on Saturday or Sunday afternoons. Bring your questions, bring your answers, and bring your enthusiasm. Let’s see if we can learn from one another. You may decide to get involved in one of our ongoing projects.

Its all History!  
Ken Walchak

**57<sup>th</sup> Street Bookcase & Cabinet**

604 Davis, Evanston  
847-492-8780  
[www.57thstreetbookcases.com](http://www.57thstreetbookcases.com)  
[57thstreetbkc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:57thstreetbkc@sbcglobal.net)

Hrs: Tues, Wed, Fri: 11 - 6  
Thurs: 11 - 7 • Sat: 10 - 5 • Sun: 12 - 5

**Standard & Custom**

**HEARTLAND CAFE**  
*Food Wholesome food for the mind & body*  
The Heart of Rogers Park since 1976

- open 7 days a week
- breakfast, lunch & dinner
- live music
- extensive beer list
- vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free and carnivore friendly!

**773 465-8005**  
[www.heartlandcafe.com](http://www.heartlandcafe.com)  
7000 N Glenwood Chicago, IL

**773/764-3610**  
Denny Mondl

**ED AND ERV’S CENTRELLA FOOD MART**

2210 W. Touhy Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60645

*Choice Meats  
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables  
Yes, We Deliver*

**Orca Graphics** Graphic Design  
A full service Graphic Arts Company  
Typesetting  
Printing  
Finishing

**773-465-4652**  
Printing in Rogers Park since the 1950s

1806 W Greenleaf Ave | Chicago, IL 60626

*Coast to Coast*  
**True Value**  
Help Is Just Around The Corner.

**FRANK HENGELMANN**

**773-743-1911** M-F 8-7  
ChgoCoast@TrueValue.net Sat 8-6  
6942 N Western Ave, Chicago, IL 60645 Sun 10-3

Membership as of  
June 1, 2013

## Welcome New Members

**Individual**  
Harvey Choldin  
Jorge Encarnacion  
Kenneth Konopka  
Fred Schein

**Household**  
Carol Harper

**Student**  
Amelia Serafine

**Senior Household**  
Robert & Katie Remer

**Premium**  
William Kundert

## Thanks for Renewing

**Individual**  
Leroy Blommaert  
Doris Coussens  
Mike Eischen  
George Glastris  
Margaret Gregory  
Jacob Kaplan  
Phillip Mcgovern  
Charles Metalita  
James Miller  
Thomas O’Keefe  
Carolyn Quinn  
Karen Werner  
Paul Zink

**Household**  
Richard & Kathy Anderson  
Jeffrey & Molly Hapner  
& Bridget & Molly  
Harry & Robin Hunter  
Jeanette Pierce & Stephen Strohl  
James & Sandi Price

**Senior**  
Helen Carlock  
James Corman  
Robert Dostal  
Patricia Duff  
Anthony Eberhart  
Ken Kopper  
Hank Morris  
Dane Nakashima  
Carl Robst  
Richard Rouse  
Pat Shaw  
Renee Sullivan

continued on page 4

Membership as of  
June 1, 2013

*continued from page 3*

**Senior Household**

Tom & Kathleen Conrardy  
Doris Hoyne  
John & Sally Keller  
Michael & Sara O'Connor  
Tom & Ann Serb  
William Siavelis & Vicki Curtis  
David & Ingrid Stalle

**Premium**

Ann & Frank Glapa  
Nancy Jane Lauren &  
Frank Pokorny  
Frank Vodvarka & Joy Malnar

**Patron**

Grace Reichert  
Ken Walchak

## For Want of a Beer ... West Ridge

By Hank Morris

In 1855, the Illinois State Legislature honored the request of Northwestern University to alter its original 1851 charter to include a Four-Mile (Radial) Limit around the University within which the sale and distribution of alcohol, “except for medicinal, mechanical, or sacramental purposes,” was banned.

### Why did this happen?

In 1850, nine serious and devout individuals met in a modest law office above a hardware store in Chicago. These nine Chicagoans — Dr. John Evans, attorneys Grant Goodrich, Andrew J. Brown, and Henry W. Clark, merchants Orrington Lunt, and Jabez K. Botsford, and Methodist Episcopal ministers Richard Haney, Richard K. Blanchard, and Zadoc Hall — decided to found a university for “sanctified” (i.e., Methodist) education in the Northwest Territories (the name of the area in which Evanston and other northern suburbs now exist). In 1851, the Illinois State Legislature chartered what became Northwestern University. After searching for a suitable site, in 1853, co-founder Orrington Lunt pointed to a grove of trees near Lake Michigan and pronounced that this was the spot for their new university. The trustees then purchased more than 400 acres of farmland from Dr. John Foster for a lakeshore campus and, eventually, a surrounding town. In 1854, a plat of the proposed new town, subsequently named Evanston in honor of Dr. Evans, was filed in Springfield. FYI, the original person for whom the town was to be named, Orrington Lunt, declined the honor.

The people who founded Evanston and its major institutions (Northwestern University and Garrett Biblical Institute) were Methodists, and, for several years, the only Protestant church in town was the Methodist church, and Methodist sensibilities

— temperance, abolition, the personal quest to improve oneself, a concern for others, etc. — prevailed. The Four-Mile Limit was an obvious outgrowth of the Methodists’ temperance values.

Abstinence was NOT popular with many Evanstonians and people elsewhere. Those who dared to drink had to do so in the secrecy of their own homes or in hidden saloons called “Blind Pigs.” The term “blind pig” originated in the 19th Century. It usually meant lower-class establishments that sold alcoholic beverages illegally. The operator of an establishment would charge customers to see an attraction (such as an animal) and then serve a “complimentary” alcoholic beverage, thus circumventing the law. Raids on Blind Pigs were frequent and described in, literally, scores of issues of early Evanston newspapers, such as the Evanston Index.

### Rogers Park’s involvement

The southernmost point of the four mile radius was Devon Avenue. This meant that Rogers Park was squarely within the “dry zone.” Because the residents of Rogers Park were predominantly Protestant, white collar commuters who shared Evanston’s social and cultural ethic, the village adopted a “dry” ordinance similar to that of Evanston in 1891.

### What about the unincorporated area destined to be West Ridge?

The unincorporated area, south of the Village of South Evanston (not annexed to Evanston until 1862) and west of the Village of Rogers Park, became the Village of West Ridge on November 28, 1890. It was primarily farmland and the farmers making their living there were composed mostly of Luxembourgers and Germans. Both ethnicities enjoyed having a drink after work.

After all, who wouldn’t want a beer or two after walking behind a horse or mule all day? Abstinence was an anathema to them.

It should be noted for fairness that, at that time, Europeans did not enjoy clean, safe water sources. They drank mostly beer, with meals. Drinking water back then made people sick. Beer didn’t. (It wasn’t until much later that scientists learned that the cooking process in beer making was what killed the bacteria in the water that was used for beer.) So, to these farmers, beer drinking was de rigueur. Being mostly of European birth, a majority of the farmers of pre-West Ridge expected to be able to drink beer whenever and wherever they wished.

Also, early West Ridgers and their predecessors, like the Europeans of the time, didn’t benefit from a clean water source. It was only after incorporation that the West Ridgers finally announced that they would buy their water from the Rogers Park Water Company.

Because this area was unincorporated until November 1890, Evanston Police had no compunction in raiding any bar located in this area. Arrests were many and often; fines averaged \$50 per “offense.” (Big money back then.) In October 1890, just over a month before West Ridge was incorporated as a separate village, the Chicago Tribune ran “Rogers Park on the Warpath,” October 26, page 5. The cause of their ire was five saloons operating outside their village limits on the west side of their Ridge Avenue border.

These “impudent” (as viewed by Rogers Parkers) owners had operated there for over 15 years (1875), running in open violation of state law (Four-Mile Limit) all that time. During that time, the Rogers Parkers had been indignant that liquor was being sold so close to their borders. However, until that time, no actual concerted action had been employed to rid The Ridge from these “invaders.” The trigger came when Rogers Park spent over \$150,000 on street improvements and sewer building. It seems that the sewer builders would, at the end of the workday, go to the dram shops on The Ridge and spend their money on booze. Rogers Parkers were extremely upset at the workers making insulting remarks to passing women and men howling through the streets after imbibing their favorite guzzles.

This drove the Rogers Parkers to form the Citizens League of Rogers Park, with the first meeting held on October 10, 1890. The officers elected at that time were: Edward D. Cox, president; William P. Fennell, secretary; and James F. Pratt,



This “antique” bottle once held Kirchoff Beer, brewed in Chicago.

treasurer. The executive committee consisted of the three preceding gentlemen plus: David W. Kean, Joseph M. Kean, and C.E. Beach. Messers Beach and Fennell were retained as attorneys.

Not idle themselves, the owners of the taverns reacted to the implied threat by contacting the Chicago Brewers’ Association for \$5,000 cold cash to help fight the expected efforts of Rogers Parkers’ new temperance league. The

## For Want of a Beer

*continued from page 5*

The Brewers' Association let it be known that they would back the saloonkeepers through the hard times, regardless of cost.

An aside—several Rosehill saloonkeepers pooled their resources and offered \$250 to the Citizens League, mainly to help rid themselves of their competitors on The Ridge.

The first strike was made by the League when it brought Martin Jacques, Dominick Didier, J.P. Jaeger, Henry and Joseph Troust, and Peter Zender up on a civil summons before Justice of the Peace R. Marshall Scholes. Six separate actions were begun against Peter Zender and three each against the other defenders. The League then brought in a writ of prohibition from Judge Baker of the Circuit Court that commanded that Justice of the Peace Scholes cease the trial while giving Justice Scholes the choice of sending it downtown or to South Evanston Judge John C. Murphy. To expedite things, Scholes sent the defendants to South Evanston, where they were sure to be found guilty. If he had sent the case to Judge Baker, there was a good chance that the case would be dismissed. Chicago had no laws against drinking. And since Chicago had been incorporated in 1837, 16 years before Northwestern University was chartered, Chicago had precedence and was not under such restrictions.

Many other cases were reported in various issues of the *Chicago Tribune*. They're basically the same. Saloonkeeper gets arrested, saloonkeeper pays fine, saloonkeeper goes back to selling booze, and saloonkeeper gets arrested, etc., etc., etc. So there's no point in enumerating them here.

### West Ridge is Born!

On November 29, 1890, the *Chicago Tribune* reported on page 7 that "the territory north of the "Church Road," the northern boundary of the city, west of Ridge Avenue, east of the old "State Ditch," and south of Rogers Park, and lying between the latter village and the city, was made an incorporated village yesterday by a vote of the people. Forty-seven of the sixty-nine legal voters cast their ballots for it. There were no ballots against.

"The area of the new village, which will be called West Ridge, is one and three-fourths square miles. ..."

"... The Town of Evanston and the Village of Rogers Park will continue to fight the saloonkeepers ..." (Apparently, Evanston and Rogers Park never got the memo.)

And, so it went. The teetotaling Citizens League of Rogers Park continued its persecution of the West Ridgers, even after West Ridge's incorporation as a separate village, as reported in the *Chicago Tribune* of Wednesday, December 30, 1890, page 3, column 2. In the article: "Rogers Park Citizens on Top." Apparently, the League considered any saloon operating in the Village of West Ridge area as "unlicensed," ergo, ripe for prosecution in Evanston courts. In this article they laud the fining of saloon owner, Dominick Bidier. The article goes on to name the three saloonkeepers remaining as targets for closure. Peter Zender is quoted as saying that he will fight to the end and that he has an acre of ground in addition to his saloon to back up his contest. Another, Martin Jacques, is cited as saying that he will not close until he has to. And the third, Henry Frausch, was scheduled to stand trial for two cases that morning. A fourth, J.P. Jaeger, had reportedly thrown in the towel and was planning on opening a tavern in Chicago.

This is interesting because one of the major reasons for incorporating as an independent village was the belief that, if they did so, they could make their own laws, and the saloonkeepers of West Ridge could, therefore, be licensed by West Ridge. And that, by being duly licensed under West Ridge governance, the saloonkeepers expected to no longer be oppressed under the Four-Mile Limit.

All the toing and froing became an irritating "cost of doing business" to the saloonkeepers. Evanston and Rogers Park kept harassing them in court and the Brewers Association lawyers kept subsidizing the payment of the attorneys' fees and court-imposed fines. It could have led to an interesting, albeit expensive, court battle in the Illinois Supreme Court, except for one fact. On April 4, 1893, both Rogers Park and West Ridge were annexed to the City of Chicago, which, having no abstinence laws itself, ended the affair, once and for all.

Nothing more would be done about banning the sale of liquor in what was once Rogers Park and West Ridge until the Volstead Act of 1919, a.k.a., the 18th Amendment. But, as they say, that is another story.

## Rogers Park Alley Between Lunt and Morse

*By Larry Shure*

I walk down a lot of alleys in Rogers Park and I have yet to be mugged and/or murdered. But I have discovered a number of mysteries about some of the buildings.

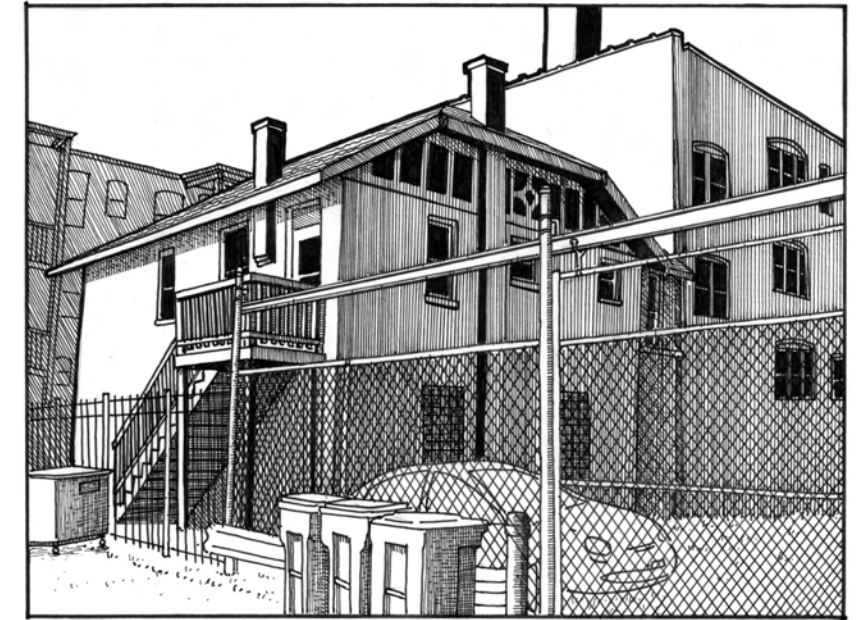
On the alley between Lunt and Morse west of Glenwood there's a two-story single-family home attached to the rear of a three-story apartment building. There's no gap between the two. The front of the house actually connects to the larger building. The remains of the old sun porch are visible at the juncture between the two. The front of the house was clad with a yellow face brick, some of which is still visible on the side return. It retains its decorative half-timbered treatment below the hip-on-gable roof, but a garage door opening has been cut into the first floor facing the alley.

It's possible that this building was on the front of the lot and was moved when the economics of the neighborhood made large apartments viable. I've seen this in older areas of the city where a more expensive house or apartment displaced the earlier structure. Surprisingly, it was common to relocate buildings in Chicago.

But any hunch requires confirmation—several editions of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps cover Rogers Park and are accessible online through the Chicago Public Library—the 1937 map and the 1951 map show the current buildings as they are today. The 1914 map shows that there was in fact a smaller building near the front of this lot—but it wasn't shaped anything like the house now at the rear of the property. So where did this building come from?—It doesn't seem likely it would have been moved a great distance. I looked up the permit record (the apartment was built in 1927) but there were no notes indicating a relocated structure. A quick glance at the nearby blocks on the 1914 map doesn't show any footprints similar in size and shape—so this is a bit of a mystery that will have to remain for the time being.

The house itself appears to have been converted into a garage on the first floor while there's residential space on the second floor—this likely connects to the interior corridor of the apartment building. Perhaps this is where the building manager or custodian lives—Not a bad way to create a unique living space attached to an income-producing property.

In general, alleys have become less active spaces over the years. Much of this is due to zoning laws, which limit accessory uses and prohibits detached living units—this is unfortunate, since those odd spaces added a lot to the affordability and diversity of the neighborhood. There are enough of these unusual buildings remaining that alleys are still interesting places to explore.



View of the property looking Northwest.

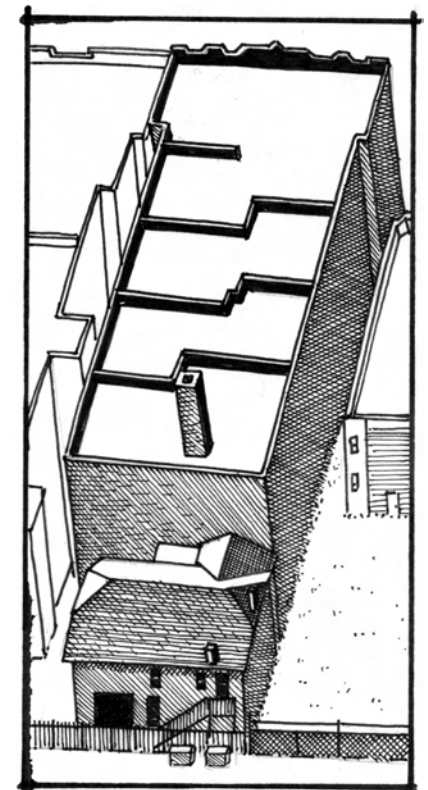


Image adapted from an aerial photo. Structures on roof indicate load-bearing walls between the units.

# Wheel Tax

continued from page 2

Concern about automobiles and a wheel tax on them was a 20th century concern. The first automotive license plates were issued by New York State in 1901. There were only 15,000 motor vehicles in the United States—Period!

A hint of things to come in Illinois were embodied in the New York law which stipulated that “Every automobile or motor vehicle shall have the separate initials of the owner’s name placed upon the back, thereof, in a conspicuous place.” The law did not stipulate license plates, per se, and people were free to take paint brushes and initial the bodies of their cars.

Many owners, instead, made their own primitive plate--oak shingles, flattened tin cans, and saddle leather-- with the owner’s initials stamped or painted on.

In 1903, Massachusetts became the first state to issue license plates. They were made of porcelain enamel and were issued for four-year periods. They bore no date, simply the words “Mass. Auto Register” and the license number.

It wasn’t until 1907 that the Illinois State Legislature passed the Motor Vehicle Act. For a one-time \$2 fee per vehicle, a motorist received a circular aluminum seal with a registration number to affix to the vehicle, known as a dashboard disk. As in New York, it was the motorist’s responsibility to furnish license plates that could be seen from outside of the car.

So, as in the case of New York in 1901, the design and manufacture of one’s license plate was left to the motorist. This included size, materials, and colors.

## Illinois didn’t issue its own plates until 1911.

Viewers have seen Mike Wolf and Frank Fritz discover two of these “ancient” user-made license plates on the “American Pickers” History Channel TV show. These plates have greater value now, as collectables, than when they simply proved that the tax had been paid.

From 1901 to 1910, individual states were not required to respect the legality of each other’s licensing. So, motorists that frequently traveled in other states were advised to purchase each state’s license, or be ticketed and/or arrested. A person living in Washington D.C. had at least three different plates. There was even a mechanism sold which rotated the plates to show the correct plate in the proper state.

And you thought “Q” from James Bond was so clever. It wasn’t until 1913 that license plates carried dates. Until then, there was no easy way to indicate the valid dates. This was a mess for the Illinois police departments and those in other states to determine if the car was legally licensed to operate in a particular state. After all, a license isn’t valid if the wheel tax was not paid up. And, in many states, the car owners were still making their own license plates, not the states.

## Finally, standardization!

As more and more motor vehicles plied the nation’s roads, states felt the need to identify whose plates were whose. So the one of a kind, home-made license plate had to give way to a more standardized version.

Before 1956, there were 34 different plate lengths and 15 different heights in use in the United States--alone, and an almost unlimited number of dimensions, world-wide. Is it any wonder that the car manufacturers didn’t/couldn’t provide standardized license plate mounting? The states got together with the car manufacturers and standardized on 6 inches high by 12 inches wide with a maximum of 7 characters, the standards of today.

The do-it-yourself plates used whatever materials the car owner had available. During World War II, the need for metals forced the State of Illinois to use other materials. A soybean-based plastic was used from 1943 to 1948, when the Secretary of State learned of a cow taking a bite out of the license plate, and metal plates “suddenly” returned. Aluminum, copper, and steel have been the mainstay of license plates across the states. By the way, Arizona used copper for its plates until the cost of copper rose so high that plates were being stolen

## What does this have to do with Rogers Park and West Ridge?

Nothing, really. It’s just too interesting a story to pass up. And, most of us still have to pay our annual wheel tax. We just didn’t know that we were doing so.

For a fascinating look at the history of the Illinois license plates, Jesse White has one on his website. Just go to [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/special/plate\\_history/start\\_history.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/special/plate_history/start_history.html)

BECOME A REAL ESTATE AGENT

Full or Part Time Positions Available  
On-site pre-licensing training classes




7300 N. Western  
Chicago, Illinois

(773) 465-0300

[www.c21universal.com](http://www.c21universal.com)



FREE TRAINING



Printers of  
“The Historian”

- Complete Graphic Service
- Quality Offset Printing
- Digital Color Printing
- Bindery & Finishing

---

5746 N. WESTERN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659

TEL.: 773.561.9815  
FAX: 773.561.0714

[weberpress@sbcglobal.net](mailto:weberpress@sbcglobal.net)

Gifts

WITH JOY & PURPOSE

A cut paper lamp will  
fill holiday homes and hearts  
with the light of hope.

Artisans of Shuktara  
Handmade Paper  
workshop



Rose Window Mood Lamp  
Bangladesh, \$38



TEN THOUSAND  
VILLAGES.

GIFTS THAT GIVE TWICE®  
A Fair Trade Retailer.

Ten Thousand Villages in Evanston  
719 Main Street  
Evanston, IL 60202  
Voice: 847.733.8258  
Fax: 847.733.8250  
[evanston.tenthousandvillages.com](http://evanston.tenthousandvillages.com)

Denis Paluch

- At home in Rogers Park 45 years
- Historical Society Founder • Specializing in Victorian homes & condos of historic significance

773-960-2424

@properties



Chara Carpentry  
and Construction

Paul Goggin  
773-726-0322

[CharaConstruction@yahoo.com](mailto:CharaConstruction@yahoo.com)

Local  
Irish  
Carpenter

Fully  
Insured

Interior & Exterior  
General Remodeling

## T|H TORHOERMAN LAW LLC

Representing individuals injured through the negligence of others.

CHICAGO  
312-372-4800

TorHoermanLaw.com  
THL@TorHoermanLaw.com

EDWARDSVILLE  
618-656-4400

Proud supporters of the Rogers Park Historical Society.

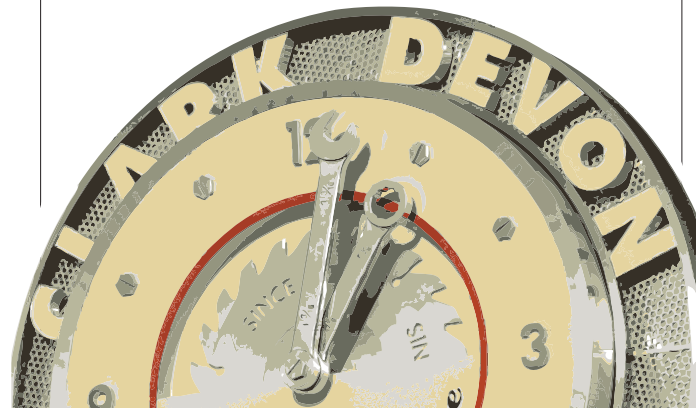


AFTER 87 YEARS IN ROGERS PARK, WE'RE PROUD  
TO BE THE ONE OF THE LARGEST INDEPENDENTLY-  
OWNED HARDWARE STORES IN THE US.

## WHEN IT'S TIME FOR HARDWARE

### CLARK DEVON HARDWARE

6401 NORTH CLARK • 773 764 3575  
SEE US AT WWW.CLARKDEVON.COM



## The Rogers Park / West Ridge Historical Society Store

Your purchases help to support the Society's mission. We have a wide selection of books and other merchandise available for sale at the museum. Below are four of our items.

You may order by phone, mail, in our store, or from our website. **Please note, for orders in Illinois, we must charge 9.75% sales tax.** For orders to be shipped, please include \$6 shipping and handling per delivery address.



Ceramic "Birches" Mug  
Nonmembers: \$4  
Members: \$3.25



Canvas Tote Bag  
Nonmembers: \$12  
Members: \$9.45



Chicago's Far North Side  
Nonmembers: \$25  
Members: \$20



Neighborhoods within  
Neighborhoods  
Nonmembers: \$25  
Members: \$20

**#1 in Rogers Park**

Pizza...and so much more.

**1326 W. Morse Ave.**  
• PICK-UP • FAST DELIVERY • CATERING  
**(773) 973-1700**  
Order online now at [jbalbertos.com](http://jbalbertos.com)

MON - THURS - 4:00PM - 1:00AM • FRI & SAT - 4:00PM - 2:00AM • SUNDAY - 3:00PM - 1:00AM

- THIN CRUST • DEEP PAN
- DOUBLE DECK • STUFFED PIZZA
- PASTA • RIBS • SEAFOOD
- SHRIMP • STEAK • CHICKEN
- SANDWICHES • DINNERS

**THE GIANT**  
ABSOLUTELY CHICAGO'S  
LARGEST PIZZA  
452.39 sq. in.



## New and Renewing Members

Please check the appropriate category box for your renewal or new membership

- |  |  |                                     |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL \$25     | <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR/STUDENT HOUSEHOLD \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSEHOLD \$40      | <input type="checkbox"/> PREMIUM \$50                  | <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR/STUDENT \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> PATRON \$100                  | • SILVER \$500                      |
|  |  | • GOLD \$1,000                      |
|  |  | • PLATINUM \$5,000                  |

New Membership

Renewal

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:  
ROGERS PARK/WEST RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1447 W. MORSE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 60626  
TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD, PLEASE CALL US AT 773.764.4078 OR USE OUR WEBSITE: WWW.RPWRRHS.ORG

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer at the Society

### Ship to

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD TYPE  MC  VISA  DISCOVER  AMEX  
CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ BACK \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION \_\_\_\_\_

QTY	ITEM	PRICE	S&H (\$6)	TAX	TOTAL
TOTAL ORDER:					



### Been in the "hood" a while? Know somebody who has?

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society is conducting an ongoing oral history project. We are collecting the memories of those individuals who remember what life was like in Rogers Park and West Ridge "way back when."

Oral histories are a wonderful way to learn more about our neighborhoods before all the complexities of "modern life" settled in.

Memories are precious, whether they're yours, a friend's or a relative's. Help preserve our community's past through oral history today.

You can reach **Nancy Jane Lauren** to arrange an interview at **773-338-5365** or **nancyjanel Lauren@sbcglobal.net**

## Do you have photos of Rogers Park or West Ridge?

Our Photo Archives and Cataloging Project is charged with the preservation of our photo collection. In it, we have literally thousands of photographs that have been donated to the Society to be preserved for future generations and today's researchers.

It's one of our most valuable resources. Why not add your old photos to our collection? We will scan them and put them in the Photo Archives. Future generations and today's researchers will thank you for your efforts.

We can scan slides, negatives, prints, whatever. While we would prefer to preserve the originals, we're not greedy. If you want them back, we will honor your request.

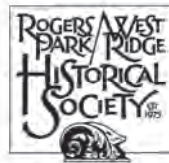
It would be most helpful if you could provide notes as to what is being shown in the photographs. We've never met Aunt Martha. Please tell us who is who. Neighborhoods change. Please tell us where the photo was taken and when. **Your photos can be from any time period, that means even the 2000s.**

For more information, contact the Society's offices.

**Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society**  
**1447 West Morse Avenue, Chicago IL 60626-3481**  
Call **773-764-4078** or e-mail us at **info@rpwrhs.org**

## Do You Know?

What do you know about this building?  
Send your solutions to **info@rpwrhs.org**.  
The first person that correctly identifies the building gets a copy of one of our two Society-published books.



1447 W. Morse Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60626-3481  
773-764-4078 | [rpwrhs@aol.com](mailto:rpwrhs@aol.com)  
[info@rpwrhs.org](mailto:info@rpwrhs.org)  
Open Sat/Sun 10am-4pm, other times by appointment

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Chicago, IL 60645  
Permit No. 5830



To reduce our carbon footprint, we can send you this newsletter electronically instead of in print.

To participate, send an e-mail to **info@rpwrhs.org** with the subject line "Green."