

50th ANNIVERSARY
EST. 1968



WAUKEGAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
50 Years of Preserving Waukegan's History

Spring 2018

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

Calendar of Events

April

April 21, 2018

50th Anniversary Luncheon (see page 5)

WHS Board

Officers

President

Harry E. Came

Vice President

Josh Bill

Treasurer

Dennis Moisio

Secretary

Vicki Mattson

Directors

Jennifer Berzin

Margaret Capitani

Patrick Cosgrove

Matt Crabb

Mary Goljenboom

Chris Lanning

Doug Stiles

Maryfran Troha

May

May 16, 2018

200 Objects That Made History in Lake & McHenry Counties (see page 4)

President's Letter

Harry E. Came

Little did the small group of caring Waukegan citizens know in 1968 that 50 years later the organization they founded would still be going strong. Happy Birthday to the Waukegan Historical Society. I am so proud to be a part of such a deeply-rooted organization that plays such an important role in the city's history — both then, now, and in the future.

There will be several events during the year to celebrate this achievement. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 21 from 1-3 PM for the 50th Anniversary luncheon being celebrated at Bonnie Brook Golf Course. You will be receiving your invitation in the mail. Please make sure to join your fellow members for this once every half-century event. The Board of Directors has voted to make this event also our annual meeting, so we will be electing new officers and directors to serve for the next few years.

Make sure to keep an eye out for the very special project that your Historical Society is arranging for the 50th anniversary — the "Top 50 History Events" about Waukegan's History. More will be presented at the luncheon and you can also find information online on our Facebook page and at waukeganhistorical.org.

With other historical societies and local museums closing all across the country it is a remarkable accomplishment for the Waukegan Historical Society to be going strong after 50 years. Our outreach to the schools and community strengthen each year and it is all because of our volunteer members and our long term partnership with the Waukegan Park District. Our fundraising for the Museum addition continues and you will get an update at the April luncheon on the Park Board of Commissioners Resolution supporting the addition, where we are today, and what are the Society's very doable goals.



Fifth anniversary celebration of the Waukegan Historical Society. Pictured (L to R): Mike Alotti, Merle Cliff, Dick Bairstow, Bessie Cliff, Chandra Sefton, Bus Brumund, John Raymond, Betty Dahlgard, Sara Griffin, Ruth Besley, Chuck Lange, Charlotte Marqui

**Illinois Bicentennial Program & History Fair Award
Presentation**

200 Objects That Made History in Lake & McHenry Counties

Wednesday, May 16

7:00 pm

Goodfellow Hall

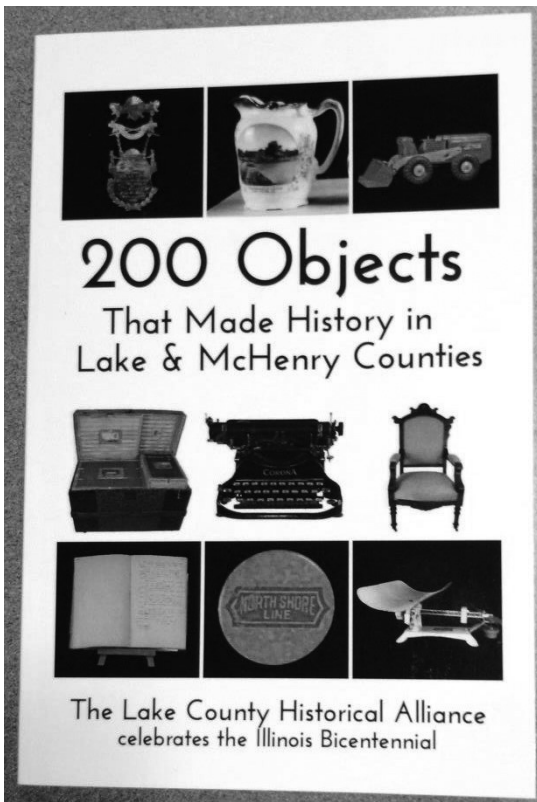
Jack Benny Center for the Arts

39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park

Join us as we celebrate the Illinois Bicentennial with the presentation on the new publication titled *200 Objects That Made History in Lake & McHenry Counties*. The Waukegan Historical Society along with 22 other members of the Lake County

Historical Alliance collaborated on the book to showcase the history of Lake County through stories told through the objects found in their collections. Ty Rohrer, served on the editorial team for the book, and he will present how the book came together and share some of the more unique objects and stories that were selected.

Also, at the beginning of the program, we will present the Waukegan Historical Society History Fair Award. The Society each year awards \$500 to the top project that excels in the study, research, and presentation of a project focusing on the history of Waukegan, Illinois.



Invitations will be sent soon!

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Waukegan Historical Society

Save the Date: April 21, 2018

A select committee of the Waukegan Historical Society is busy planning our special 50th Anniversary celebration. Fifty years ago this coming April, a group of dedicated citizens decided that this community needed to start preserving, protecting, and promoting our city's history.

To commemorate this auspicious event, we are inviting all members of the society to a luncheon at Bonnie Brook Country Club on April 21st, 2018. Please mark your calendar and watch your mailbox in March for your personal invitation. The luncheon will be free of charge to celebrate our founders and members.

The luncheon will kick off our year-long celebration, which will include an interactive exhibit to mark our 50th Anniversary. The Museum Committee and the Board of Directors have selected our top fifty events to mark our 50th Anniversary. We are counting on you, the membership, as well as the residents of Waukegan to vote on which event you think is the most important in the history of Waukegan. This competition will be launched at the luncheon. Additionally, we will be honoring the founding members and telling the history of the formation of the society. We look forward to seeing you in April!

High School Students Wrestle with “Conflict and Compromise” in Waukegan’s History

At the turn of the 20th century, women fought for the right to vote, industrial conditions inspired reformers to create safe places for children to develop and play, and immigrants faced challenges adapting to their new homeland. While Waukegan High School’s United States history students learn that these are trends that happened throughout America, for the past month and a half, they have been working with the volunteers and archives of the Raymond Research Library to formulate projects on how Waukegan participated in these (and many more) facets of our nation’s history. In focusing on women’s suffrage movements, the establishment of the Bowen Country Club, and the formation and growth of American Steel and Wire, this year’s





students are bringing Waukegan's history to life with documentaries, websites, exhibits, and research papers telling these and many other stories.

The annual Chicago Metro History Fair competition is under way. Waukegan High School students have been working with the library staff for decades on various projects. This year, the history fair theme is "Conflict and Compromise" in history. Those familiar with Waukegan's history know that there has been quite a bit of both in city's rich heritage.

Waukegan High School would like to thank the Historical Society Board for again sponsoring a five-hundred-dollar scholarship for the students who create the best project on Waukegan's history. The students are incredibly grateful for this opportunity and the many volunteer hours from the library staff.

Stay tuned to future newsletters for updates on the judging process and this year's winners.



Waukegan and the Illinois Bicentennial

Ty Rohrer, Manager of Cultural Arts

On December 3, 1818, Illinois became the 21st state in the Union. At that date, the area of northeast Illinois was still years from being settled. The Native American tribe called the Potawatomie was here and the last remnants of the Fur and Silver Trade established by France was still present.

With the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, America's first great westward expansion started. This forever changed the area. Native Americans were removed from this land through treaties with the United States government. Followed were eager settlers looking for success and prosperity.

The first settlers to the area arrived in the mid-1830s. A town was established here and it was first given the name Little Fort-a tribute to the trading post of the fur trade days.

Waukegan, as it became known in 1849, continued to grow in size and importance, and it has played an important part in the successes of the State of Illinois.

During America's greatest trial, the Civil War, at least 470 Waukegan citizens represented the State of Illinois fighting for the Union cause. Since then, in all later wars, other citizens have followed in the footsteps of those first soldiers.

Through the late 19th and early 20th centuries the industries of Waukegan helped Illinois to prosper, even influencing the development of the west.

Later, while everyone was sitting in the comfort of their homes with their radios tuned to the Jack Benny Program, they were often reminded that the person that they were laughing at and laughing with was from Illinois, specifically Waukegan.

As the United States focused on getting a person

on the moon, an Illinois author, Waukegan's Ray Bradbury, had already inspired our first astronauts and scientists to travel among the stars.

Today, as we celebrate 200 years of the State of Illinois we remember the role that Waukegan has played, and we are proud.



Ty Rohrer, Manager of Cultural Arts, Senator Terry Link, and Mayor Sam Cunningham helped Waukegan kickoff the Illinois Bicentennial celebrations with the raising of the Illinois Bicentennial Flag on December 4, 2017.

New Book Celebrating the Illinois Bicentennial

200 Objects That Made History in Lake & McHenry Counties has been published by the Lake County Historical Alliance and is available at three Bowen Park Locations:

Waukegan History Museum

Jack Benny Center for the Arts

Raymond Research Library in Lilac Cottage

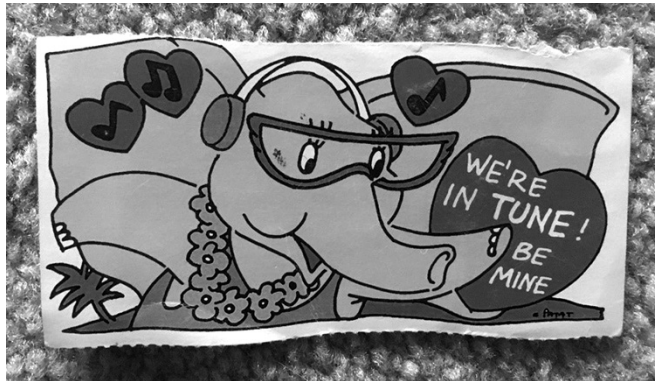
See It Now

This Issue's Unique Artifact – Valentine's Edition

Josh Bill

With the Chicago Metro History Fair in full swing, I did not have the usual amount of time to search through the treasures of the museum to highlight an artifact for this edition of the newsletter. Lately, I have been spending some of my days with Beverly Millard, Bryan Escobar, and Ty Rohrer as they have been sacrificing several hours of their personal time to help Waukegan High School students with their Chicago Metro History Fair Project research.

On a recent visit, I discovered a folder in the archives marked "Valentines." As I held the file in my hands, my mind wandered to memories of elementary school, where I was often eagerly anticipating valentines like the one featured below from an early childhood crush.



The contents of the valentines file were exquisite compared to the cheap trinkets my classmates and I sent to each other in the '80s. Although none of the Valentines were dated, it was clear that each time period had distinctive styles. It was quite a fitting

way to celebrate the month of love. My personal favorite valentine from the file is pictured below, but you should stop in at the library and choose your own favorite!

In addition to seeing the unique craftsmanship of valentines past, you can also explore the history of the holiday and how it has been celebrated in Waukegan and around the world. Stop by before February is over!



Waukegan History Museum

Ty Rohrer, Manager of Cultural Arts

We are in the planning process for our new exhibit “Waukegan’s Top 50 History Events”! We chose 50 events because the exhibit celebrates 50 years of the Waukegan Historical Society. As I write this, we have so far come up with a list of nearly 200 events. Soon a select group of individuals will need to cut the list down to 50. From there it will be up to you to vote on what you think is the top Waukegan event.

To give you an idea of a couple of the events that you will be voting on, we have Abraham Lincoln’s visit, the world premiere of Jack Benny’s *Man About Town*, and Edward Amet and the first moving picture shown.

The list will be unveiled at the Society’s 50th anniversary event, and then it will be time for you to start voting.

CAST YOUR VOTE!

WAUKEGAN'S

TOP

50

HISTORY

EVENTS

CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF THE
WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 1, 2018–October 12, 2018

Building Addition Update

Preserving the past—Preparing for the future

Our Building Expansion Fund continues to grow thanks to you our generous and faithful members and friends. Our recent year-end appeal raised \$7,065.00 bringing the Fund total to almost \$221,000. The recent contributors are as follows:

Up to \$50.00

Charles Lange
Michael Smole
Janet Young
Margaret Capitani
Beverly Millard
Kris Seegren
June & Pete Zaragoza
Kathleen Hansen
Anonymous
Ann Richter
William & Elizabeth Valko
Therese Ives
Jeanne Balmes
Thomas Bartlett
Patricia Hentosh & Dennis Peffley
Donna Fortney in memory of Fredric Fortney
Ruth Ann Hickman in memory of Ruth Heringlake
Kathleen McShane Kinderfather in honor of the McShane family
Michael & Emily Savage in memory of Florence Dart
Beverly Bogdala in memory of Hank Bogdala & Cynthia Bogdala Lyle

\$51.00 to \$100.00

Waukegan Woman's Club
Faith Clark in memory of Henry I. Clark III
Sara Griffin in memory of Walt Griffin
Judi & Rick Larsen in memory of Lorraine & Dick Larsen
Philip & Sandra Tobin
Marianela & Douglas Peterson
Anonymous
Martha Sherer
Gregory Alloian

Building Addition, \$51.00 to \$100.00, continued

Patrick Cosgrove
Jane & Mike Waller
Michael Rodriguez
Sally Zeit
Katherine Oldham
Sharon Preston Came
Tom & Eleanor Vick
Helen Darsnek

\$101.00 to \$500.00

Harry E. Came
Rebecca Schwartz
Dennis & Marilyn Moio in honor of Ed Link
Anonymous
Randy Bowcott

\$501.00 to \$1,000.00

Douelle Kweder in memory of David & Adele Kweder
Jim & June Maguire
Charlotte Callahan Wozniak
Anonymous
Anonymous



Find Us on Facebook!

Like the "Waukegan
History Museum" on
Facebook!

Thank You!

New Members

Thomas Kimmel

New Life members

Jane Ferry
Stephen Regul
Michael Thurber

Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP

Senior (age 60+)	\$15.00
Student	\$5.00
Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00
Patron, Organization	\$100.00
Life, Individual	\$150.00
Life, Couple	\$300.00
My additional gift	\$ _____

Make checks payable to
Waukegan Historical Society.

Volunteer

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Waukegan Historical Society

Founded in 1968, the Society collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits significant materials about the history of the Waukegan area. The Society, in cooperation with the Waukegan Park District, operates the History Museum and Raymond Library and publishes this quarterly newsletter.

1917 N. Sheridan Road

Waukegan, IL 60087

847-336-1859

www.waukeganhistorical.org

info@waukeganhistorical.org

Visit our website for more information
about events, exhibits, and our
extensive library.

www.waukeganhistorical.org

Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

1917 N. Sheridan Road

Manager of Cultural Arts: Ty Rohrer

847-360-4744

haines@waukeganparks.org

Tuesday, Thursday: 10am - 4pm

Saturday: 1pm-4pm

John L. Raymond Research Library

1911 N. Sheridan Road

Librarian: Beverly Millard

847-360-4772

library@waukeganhistorical.org

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

10am - 2:30pm



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