



Join us for the Tour of Homes on **Sunday, June 23.**
See page 4.

Summer 2013

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

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Recent Acquisitions

Calendar of Events

June

June 23

Tour of Homes

June 30

Waukegan's American Independence Day Parade and Festival. The museum will be open during the parade and festival.

July

July 13

Waukegan's Civil War Sites Guided Walking Tour (more info on page 11)

July 20

Discover Bowen Park Guided Walking Tour (more info on page 11)

August

August 10

Waukegan's Civil War Sites Guided Walking Tour

August 17

Discover Bowen Park Guided Walking Tour

August 29

Holding History closes

September

September 21

Oakwood Cemetery Walk

September 28

Play Ball: Baseball in Waukegan exhibit closes

President's Letter

Dennis Moisio

The North Shore Railway was the feature program at our annual meeting on May 19th. Over 50 attendees heard train historian Joe Piersen recap its history and then shared their remembrances of this important north shore railway link. It made its last run fifty years ago.

The program was preceded by the election of officers and directors for the coming fiscal year with all the incumbents being reelected. In addition three dedicated volunteers, Harry Came, Beverly Mallard and Randy Bowcott were recognized for their recent, as well as ongoing contributions, to the Society.

Also recognized were Metro History Fair participants, Hwangchan Yu and Adriana Gonzalez, whose website, "Waukegan in Uniform" was awarded the Society's annual scholarship for the best presentation. This team and a second team of three are currently in Washington, DC competing at the National History Fair, a stellar achievement for these students and this Waukegan High School program.

Once again we are very pleased that our library and dedicated volunteer staff continue to be significant resources for these yearly projects. They not only make Waukegan's history come alive for the students but for us as well.

Early Ticket Prices

\$10

Waukegan Historical
Society Members

\$15

General Public

Advance tickets are now
on sale at the following
locations:

Ace Hardware

(Downtown)

239 N. Genesee St.

(847) 244-3000

Waukegan

History Museum*

1917 N. Sheridan Road

(847) 336-1859

Jack Benny Center*

39 Jack Benny Drive

(847) 360-4740

Raymond

Research Library*

Lilac Cottage

1911 N. Sheridan Road

(847) 360-4772

*cash or check only

Tour of Homes

Sunday, June 23, 2012

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

On the Tour this year we are presenting four great homes in Waukegan, each unique in its own way, along with our History Museum and Lilac Cottage.

The two homes on North Sheridan Road are both from the 1800s but are very different. 629 North Sheridan is a very traditional home with period furnishings and a wonderful sloping back yard. 946 North Sheridan also has period furniture and it represents the personalities of the owners with a wonderful eclectic mix of old, new and in-between!

The 408 Gillette home expresses personality and cultural heritage with an exciting mix of patterns, colors and textures, but still retains all the beautiful original woodwork of the home.

2511 Marshall Parkway is a blast from the more recent past—the 50s-60s! You'll think you've stepped into the Cleaver living room! As a matter of fact, the master bedroom lamps are just like the ones that were in the Cleaver's living room!

We have a wonderful mix of homes this year, and we hope you'll be as excited to see them as we are to bring them to you. See you June 23rd!



Tickets Purchased at the Door

\$20

Waukegan Historical
Society Members and
General Public

The Tour of Homes is a self-guided tour that allows participants to go through carefully chosen homes at their own pace. The Tour of Homes is an annual event that started in 1969, and it is the main fundraiser for the Waukegan Historical Society.

**See more
photographs
online!**

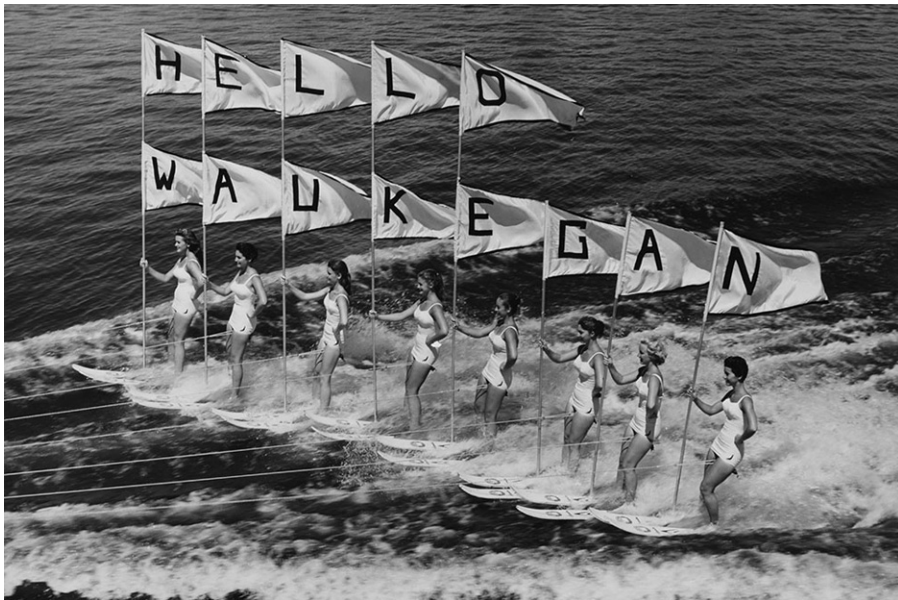
New Historic Waukegan Photographs

Several new prints have been added to those available for sale either as a decorative plaque or matted ready for framing.

Among these is the colorful Besley price list/ advertisement in various sizes along with two photos taken during Waukegan's 1959 Centennial Celebration. Both of these capture the spirit of that celebration as well as the culture of the 1950s. In one, a bevy of bathing beauties water skis on Lake Michigan, and the other features kiddie cars adorning a float in the downtown parade.

All of the images can be seen on the "Images from Waukegan's Past" page of the society's website at www.waukeganhistorical.org.

Contact the museum if you wish to purchase one or more of these mounted prints. Prices range from \$25 to \$45, depending on size.



Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

As we plan our summer vacations please remember to take some time with your family and friends and stop by the Waukegan History Museum and Bowen Park. You will have a fun and adventurous day! Not only will you see the splendid life of the Victorian Age in the museum, but you will also see the exhibit on Waukegan's favorite past-time, *Play Ball: Baseball in Waukegan*. Also, new this summer is *Holding History* which is a hands-on area for kids.

While visiting the Museum you can spend some quality outdoors time at beautiful Bowen Park. There is an award winning playground, skate park, a formal garden, hiking trails that take you down into the ravine, and it is a great place for a picnic. There are many great programs offered by the Cultural Arts Division of the Waukegan Park District for all ages to enjoy. Some of the more popular and free activities include "Movies in the Park" and "Summer HEAT." More information on these events and programs as well as others can be found in the Park District brochure or online at www.waukeganparks.org.

We are excited again to have Jennifer Berzin back on board as our Museum Intern this summer. Jennifer is going to be a senior in History at Marquette University.

If you want to know more about what is happening at the Waukegan History Museum, like us on Facebook. If you want to know more about the history related events occurring throughout Lake County like "Northeast Illinois Historical Happenings" on Facebook.

We can't wait to see you at the Museum this summer!

Historically Speaking

The Circus in Waukegan

Ed Link

"Oh boy, the circus is in town." That cry was heard often throughout Waukegan's history. It meant one or two days in the summer when excitement was felt across the community. None of the current forms of public entertainment existed during most of those years, so the circus was a welcome divergence from daily life and work.

In the early years horse drawn wagons transported the performers, animals and necessary equipment to town. Generally a parade through town marked the circus arrival. The parade served to raise excitement and create an eagerness to attend the performance that afternoon. Only one performance was given since daylight was needed, artificial lighting being unavailable for many years. Following the performance everything was taken down, packed away and loaded for moving to the next town. It was a nomadic existence for everyone associated with the circus. One wonders if they had any home besides the winter quarters each outfit maintained during the off-season.

The first known circus to visit Little Fort was Howe and Mable's Olympic Arena and United States Circus which was here August 19, 1846. Admission was 25 cents for the pit (?), 50 cents for boxes and 25 cents for children.

Over the years circuses of many names made an appearance in Waukegan. Sometimes two different ones came in the same summer, often within a few days of the other. Probably only a true circus fan would recognize names such as Levi North, J.B. Davis, Al G. Barnes and Gentry Brothers, but all performed here at one time or another. More recognizable names like Barnum and Ringling Brothers also were here. Gollmer Brothers seemed to be the most frequent visitor in the early part of the 20th century.



Elephants assemble in front of Carnegie Library

A variation on the circus as we know it was the wild west show. Buffalo Bill Cody was here twice and Pawnee Bill once. The 101 Ranch from Oklahoma brought their show here. Movie cowboys often came as part of a regular circus and apparently gave the audience a taste of a western show. Harry Carey, Hoot Gibson, Jack Hoxie and Tom Mix, well known in their day if not today, came with different circus companies.

As transportation facilities changed, so did the manner of the circus arrival. A circus train could stop at the downtown station and the parade would begin coming up the bluff on Washington Street. The 1936 Sells-Sterling outfit used 65 trucks and specialty vehicles.

Early performances were held at the old fair grounds near Jackson and Washington Streets. As the city expanded the circus location moved steadily westward. In 1938, Tom Mix appeared at Green Bay Road and Washington Street. Room was needed to hold all the performers and attendees. Sells-Sterling claimed their tent could hold 7,500 guests. Obviously a tent of that size would take a long time to set up and take down.

Camels in downtown Waukegan



High School Reunion Groups

If this is a reunion year for your high school class, the Society is pleased to once again offer its book, *Waukegan: A History* to you as part of your celebration package at a discounted price. Since there is only a limited quantity of books remaining, you may wish to contact us soon to reserve copies for you. Contact the Waukegan History Museum, (847) 336-1859 or museum@waukeganhistorical.org.

The Library Needs Your Support

As noted in the President's letter in this issue, our Raymond Library is an invaluable resource for us locally as well as the wider community, and its use is expanding.

Several equipment needs have surfaced recently that we hope you can help us with. First, our current copier that allows us to copy larger than letter size items is beginning to malfunction. Second, a significant number of microfilmed records of Waukegan history have been donated to us. Unfortunately, we do not have an efficient microfilm reader, so they are extremely difficult to access.

We have created a Library Equipment Fund to facilitate the purchase of these items. Please consider making a financial donation to this Fund so that the library can continue to provide the best service to you as possible.

Guided Walking Tours

There are two different guided historical walking tours taking place this summer. To sign up for these free tours, please stop by or call the Jack Benny Center at 847-360-4740 or register on the web at www.waukeganparks.org. These tours will be lead by Museum Supervisor, Ty Rohrer.

Discover Bowen Park (free)

Discover Bowen Park's history, ecology, and beauty in this guided walking tour. This tour is great for families! The tour starts outside of the Waukegan History Museum and concludes with a tour of Lilac Cottage. The tour lasts approximately 1 hour. Extensive walking will include hills, trails, and uneven ground.

Saturday, July 20 10:00 am
Register by 7/13, Park District Registration #4565

Saturday, August 17 10:00 am
Register by 8/10, Park District Registration #4566

Waukegan's Civil War Sites (free)

Learn the history of Waukegan relating to the Civil War while walking the streets of downtown in this guided tour. The tour starts at the Veterans Memorial Plaza located on the southwest corner of Washington and West Streets in Washington Park

Saturday, July 13 9:30 am
Register by 7/6, Park District Registration #4567

Saturday, August 10 9:30 am
Register by 8/3, Park District Registration #4568

Education Outreach

This past school year, 201 Waukegan history programs were given by the Waukegan Historical Society. The majority of them were presented in Waukegan schools. We not only presented various topics of Waukegan's history, but we were able to assist students and teachers at various schools with their history fair projects.

In particular, we were very impressed with the projects from Ms. McMullen's 5th grade class of Lyon Magnet School. These students decided that they wanted to focus their projects on Waukegan instead of doing them on different states. Each student picked a historical building from Waukegan's past. We were very proud of the students and for Ms. McMullen for taking the initiative to learn about their community!



Lyon Magnet School
Students research their
history projects
this Spring.

Thank You!

New Members

Yvonne Martin
Roland & Gwen Yates
Michael & Jane Knutel
Joseph Neumann

New Life Members

Patricia Petittclair
Dorothy Buddenhagen
Ethel Flesher

Donations

Howard & Cleone Peterson Memorial Fund
Carmen Fulkerson
Baxter Employee Giving Campaign

Recent Donations

John Brencheck

Memories of Jackson School (1931-1941)

Al Westerman

2 books belonging to Vincent Fischer

Wayne Munn

Photograph of Interior of Genesee Theater
Photograph of Ted's Restaurant

Betsy Alleman

Johnson Motors Matchbook Cover
USO, Harbor, Factory Photographs
Box of Miscellaneous Photographs

Dan Drury

"History of the North Shore Line" disk

Dennis Moisio

3 Waukegan Zoning Maps
2 Waukegan Topographical Maps

Marlene Graham

Christ Episcopal Church Plate
Pamphlets of 1933 Century of Progress
West School Information
2 Ray Bradbury Articles
Green Waukegan Pennant
Waukegan High School Materials
High School Annuals (1946, 1947, 1948)



Find Us on Facebook!

Like the "Waukegan
History Museum" on
Facebook!

For more information on
local historical events and
programs, like "Northeast
Illinois Historical
Happenings" on Facebook!

Chandra Sefton

House Research Information
 Ray Bradbury Committee Letters
 Assorted Original Research
 Papers for Near North Historic District

David Motley

2 Photograph Albums of Waukegan High School Sports
 Teams
 1914 Photograph of Williams Court Reunion

Joe Goodbody

Magnifier
 1920 Federal Census Microfilm
 Cumberland Co. IL
 1920 Federal Census Microfilm
 Christian Co. IL

Sherrill Eichler

Video of North Shore Railroad
 T-Shirt for North Shore Railroad
 Gold Pyramid Pamphlet
 P.W. Petersen Cigar Lighter
 P.W. Petersen Assorted Memorabilia
 High School Annuals (1953, 1954, 1955, 1956)

Mary Goljenboom

Book "Have Courage-Work Hard"
 Book "First Ladies of Business"

Eleanor Vick

Plate-First Baptist Church
 Shea Baton & Dancing School Case

Tim Vavrek

Chicago Title & Trust Architect Roler
 First National Bank Money Bag

Sandy Pokett

Disc "Russell Pokett of WWII"

Cheryl Whitford

Gretchen Guenette-plaque & photographs
 U.S. Army Flag
 Waukegan Certificate
 Memorabilia, Certificates
 Valentine & Christmas Cards
 Note Cards, Abstracts

Dr. John Schwab

"North Shore" book by Middleton

Joseph Neumann

4 Newspaper Clippings
 Florence Steele
 First National Bank Documents

Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP

Senior (age 60+)	\$7.00
Student	\$7.00
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Patron, Organization	\$50.00
Life, Individual	\$100.00
Life, Couple	\$150.00
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
 Museum Supervisor: Ty Rohrer
 847-336-1859
museum@waukeganhistorical.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

Tour of Homes

Sunday, June 23
1pm-5pm
See page 4.

