



Exhibit: 100 Years of Girl Scouts. See page 3.

Spring 2012

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

President's Letter

Dennis Moisio

When a group of local revelers gathered on Valentine's Day to sing "Happy Birthday" to the Jack Benny statue downtown, it brought to mind the unique and special place birthdays and anniversaries have in both our private and collective lives. Commemorative celebrations abound for each of us throughout every year. And particularly noteworthy are those divisible by 10 or sometimes five where the passage of time seems to have an added significance.

Anniversaries are important events for the Society too, and this year, we will be celebrating three important 100-year milestones, the birth of the Girl Scouts, the sinking of the *Titanic* and the founding of Bowen Country Club. All will be featured in an exhibit at the museum and programs will feature these. We hope you will mark your calendars and join us in these celebrations as well as the other spring and summer activities listed opposite in the calendar of events.

Inside

Page 4

Preservation Corner

Page 7

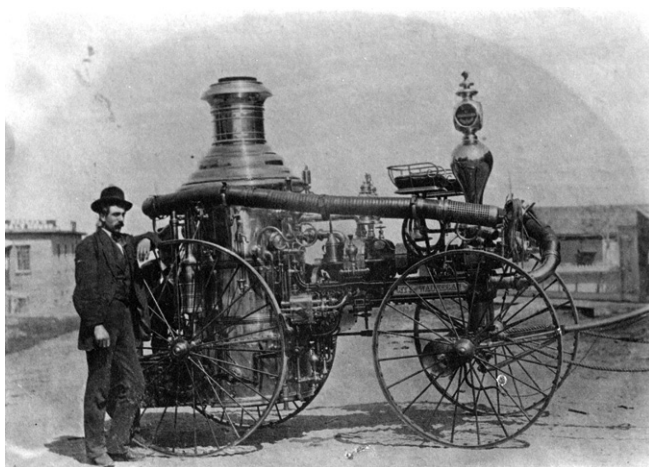
From the Library

Pages 10-11

Historically Speaking

Page 12

Recent Acquisitions



Buy this photograph of a horse-drawn steam pumper from the Waukegan Historical Society. See page 5.

Calendar of Events

Exhibits at the museum

The Civil War: The War Efforts in Waukegan

(through June 2)

100 Years of Girl Scouts

(through June 2)

The *Titanic*: A Fateful Ticket to Waukegan

(June 18-December 21)

Bowen Country Club: The Jane Adams Hull House in Waukegan

(June 24-December 31)

Programs and Events

April 15

Spring meeting of the Society: Board nominations and program on the *Titanic*.

2:00 pm at the Jane Addams Center in Bowen Park

May 20

Annual Meeting of the Society: Update of the past year, election of officers, and Metro History Fair presentation.

2:00 pm at the Lynn Schornick Theatre in Bowen Park

June 24

Annual Waukegan Tour of Homes. Be checking your mail in late May for your advance ticket ordering information.

WHS Board

Officers

President

Dennis Moisio

Vice President

Doug Stiles

Treasurer

Yvonne Sylvester

Secretary

Ellen Frew

Directors

Betsy Alleman

Gail Dever

Gretta Dieck

Mary Goljenboom

Sara Griffin

Jim Maguire

Denyse Waters

Preservation Corner

Volunteer to become part of Waukegan's History... and our future!

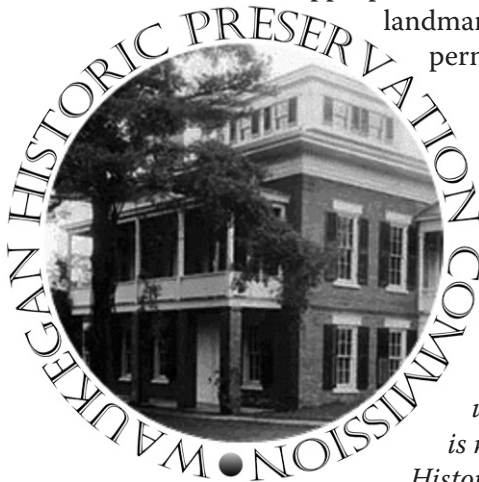
Waukegan's Historic Preservation Commission (WHPC), created by the Waukegan Historic Preservation Ordinance, is inviting people interested in historic city structures to join the effort to identify, acknowledge and protect them. There are two immediate history-making opportunities.

First, WHPC needs volunteers to suggest and submit nomination forms for their Waukegan properties that might be eligible to be designated a Waukegan landmark. The nomination form is simple and we have samples, resources and contacts available to help.

Second, the WHPC needs residents of Waukegan to serve on the Commission. The appointment is made by the City Council following a recommendation by the mayor. The WHPC meets monthly, currently at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Waukegan City Hall Council Chambers. The WHPC's role is to review nominations, landmark applications and, where appropriate, recommend landmarking to the City Council. The WHPC also reviews applications for Certificates of Appropriateness, which are issued to owners of landmarked structures seeking building permits for exterior renovations.

If you are interested in exploring the WHPC, please feel free to attend one of our regularly scheduled meetings or please contact Steven Sabourin (847-782-2357 or steve.sabourin@ci.waukegan.il.us).

The WHPC is a commission under the City of Waukegan and is not affiliated with the Waukegan Historical Society.



Buy Historic Waukegan Photographs

We are pleased to announce that copies of photographs from our book, *Waukegan: A History*, are now available for purchase from the Society.

Our initial offering of five prints includes the following:

The Beachfront in summer, ca 1900

The Lighthouse during the winter storm of 1913

A horse drawn bus in front of the Waukegan House Hotel, ca 1890

The Besley Brewery delivery wagon, ca 1910

A horse drawn steam pumper used for fire fighting, ca 1875.

These may be purchased as matted prints you can frame or preserved on a plaque that is ready to hang. Prices range from \$25 to \$35 depending on size and type. Society members receive a \$5.00 discount per image.

We are currently displaying and selling these prints at the ArtWauk on the third Saturday of each month, and they are also available for sale at the Waukegan History Museum.



Free Historical Program

Titanic—A Fateful Ticket to Waukegan

Date: April 15, 2012
Time: 2:00pm
Location: Jane Addams
Center in Bowen Park
95 Jack Benny Drive

Join us on the 100th anniversary of the fateful sinking of the RMS *Titanic* with the free program titled *RMS Titanic—A Fateful Ticket to Waukegan*.

The whole world anxiously waited for word of the fate of the “unsinkable” *Titanic* after newswires started reporting that an accident had occurred.

Waukegan History Museum Supervisor Ty Rohrer will present how the people of Waukegan followed the event and tell the stories of local residents who were aboard the ship.

The program will open with a brief meeting and will conclude with light refreshments.



Last lifeboat filled with *Titanic* survivors. Photo taken by a passenger of the *Carpathia*, the ship that received the *Titanic*'s distress signal and came to rescue the survivors. 15 April 1912

Chicago Metro History Fair Award

The Waukegan Historical Society would like to congratulate all of the Waukegan High School students and their fine efforts in this year's Chicago Metro History Fair competition. The Historical Society gives a \$500 award to the top project in recognition of excellence in the study, research, and presentation of projects focusing on the history of Waukegan, Illinois. This year we judged nearly 50 projects.

We are pleased to announce the winner of the 5th Waukegan Historical Society Metro History Fair:

Waukegan and Motion Pictures—Andres Vences

Special Recognition:

TB San: Waukegan's Past, Present, and Future—Wesley Layug

Ethnic Migrations: A Journey to Waukegan—Maria Pettis and Rodrigo Rogel-Perez

Broken Bottles, Broken Town—Karen Hernandez, Kelly Campos, Amy Sanchez

Five for Fighting—Robert Sabonjian, Sr.—Kristina Schopper



Oil lamp in the red parlor of the Waukegan History Museum. Photo by Mike Tanner.

Historically Speaking

George Chandler

Ed Link

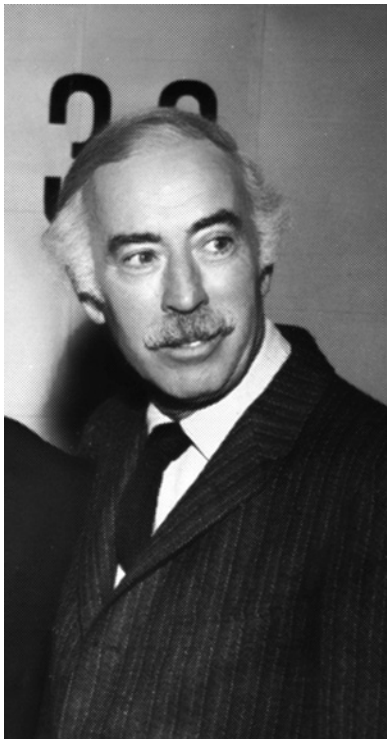
Do you like old movies? Do you notice the character actors in the background who support the stars? Have you identified Waukegan's own George Chandler in any of the hundreds of movies in which he appeared?

George was born in Waukegan June 30, 1898, the son of Abbie Chandler and the grandson of James and Abigail Beck. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1922, having earned money through his college days by playing violin at dances and parties. He continued that act in vaudeville as "The Balloon Boy" before changing to "The Musical Nut."

Entering motion pictures at the comparatively old age of 30, George debuted in a series of Tenderfoot Thriller westerns. He hit the big time when he ap-

peared in 1930's "The Florodora Girl" with Marion Davies, then a reigning queen of screen comedy. When that movie played at the Genesee July 23-24, 1930, George was cited on the theatre's marquee.

But George was never slated to be a leading man or star. He expressed no regrets about that fate but was grateful that as a character actor he was able to appear in many more movies. While no exact count of his films is available, estimates range between 350 and 500. Typically his character was not credited and often referred to by his position (cop, reporter, photographer, bum, etc.) rather than by name. His quantity of work is amazing. During the 17 year period 1932-48 he averaged 16 movies a year. That output was possible because he often appeared in only one or two



scenes of the movie, often without dialogue.

While his mother was living, George made regular visits to Waukegan. Often he made public appearances, renewed friendships and visited with fans. At least once he appeared on the Genesee's stage, following a showing of "The Fatal Glass of Beer", his comedy with W.C. Fields.

During his long career he appeared in many major motion pictures ("A Star is Born" – 1937, "Beau Geste" – 1939, "Roxie Hart" – 1942, "The Ox-Bow Incident" – 1943, as examples) and countless lesser known films, again in small character roles. When even those opportunities dried up he turned to television with many guest appearances. His most notable achievement in that medium was as Uncle Petrie on "Lassie."

George spent many years serving his industry by working for the Screen Actors Guild. He was treasurer 1948-60 and succeeded Ronald Reagan as president 1960-63.

George died in Los Angeles June 10, 1985 from complications from cancer.

From the Library

Library volunteer, Ann Darrow, was recognized at the annual Waukegan Park District Volunteer and Patron Recognition Reception. Ann received the Jack Benny Arts & Humanities Award for her contributions to the Waukegan Historical Society and her assistance and dedication with the Oakwood Cemetery Walk. Congratulations Ann!



Free History Programs

**From the Waukegan Historical Society
and the Waukegan Park District**

For your organization, group, social event, or classroom. Topics include:

Native American History of the Waukegan Area*
Early settlers of Little Fort*
Waukegan and the Underground Railroad
Abraham Lincoln Goes to Waukegan
The Civil War: The War Efforts in Waukegan
Waukegan's Famous Civil War Drummer Boys*
The Early Industry Worker*
"Firsts" in Waukegan*
Waukegan: A History of Immigration
Lake Michigan History and the Lady Elgin Shipwreck
Waukegan's African American History
Influential Women of Waukegan's Past
Prominent Events and Visitors of Waukegan
Edward Amet and the Motion Picture Industry in Waukegan
Ray Bradbury: Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary
Jack Benny: From Waukegan to Hollywood
Haunted Waukegan*
"What-Cha-Ma-Call-It" History Trunk (hands on program)*
Guided Neighborhood Walking Tours*
**for school groups only (all other programs are for both school
and adult groups)*

Program length is 45 minutes to 1 hour. Many programs are multimedia presentations with hands-on artifacts.

Programs presented in the schools are based on Illinois Social Sciences Performance Standards.

Programs can be given for multiple classrooms on the same day. Programs able to be scheduled to be given on a weekly basis.

The Supervisor of the Waukegan History Museum

will present each program. 350 programs have been presented in the last 3 years, reaching over 5,000 students and adults.

For more information and to schedule a free program, contact the Waukegan Historical Society.

Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

With spring around the corner, we look forward to the many school children who will be visiting the Museum during their end of the year field trips. We are happy to be able to provide this necessary service for the local teachers, and we are bargain for the schools-FREE!

Part of the Museum went on the road to downtown Waukegan to help participate in the January 2011 ArtWauk. We were able to display numerous exhibits including *Ray Bradbury: Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary, What's In a Name?, Waukegan's Early African American History*, as well as a timeline highlighting Waukegan events.

Over the winter the Museum was lucky to have Alecia Kubicki as an intern from DePauw University. We thank Alecia for all of her hard work and wish her success in the future.

There are exciting exhibits on the 2012 calendar at the Waukegan History Museum to help commemorate historic events of 1912. The first exhibit, *100 Years of the Girl Scouts*, celebrates the 100th anniversary of the great organization. This exhibit runs through June 2. Opening June 18 is *The Titanic: A Fateful Ticket to Waukegan*. This exhibit will be up through 2012 and will showcase local residents who were aboard the the RMS *Titanic* as well as the local reporting of disaster. Near and dear to us is the 100th anniversary of the Bowen Country Club and we are

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

proud to celebrate it with the exhibit *Bowen Country Club: The Jane Addams Hull House in Waukegan*.

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 and McHenry counties like “Northeast Historical Happenings” on Facebook.

Special Thanks to Marlene Graham and Lavonne and Cal Wilcox for loaning their precious Girl Scout memorabilia for the exhibit. Also, thank you to the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Archives for the use of some of their memorabilia.

Recent Donations

Al Westerman

1848 Waukegan Township Map, 1848 Benton Township Map, 52 Postcards, Mt. Prospect Historical Society, 6 Albums of ComEd Photographs, 4 Instruction Books

Patricia Foley

3 Boxes of Family Glass Plate Negatives (approx. 500) Dady Papers

Kristina M. Simms

News Sun Article by Woodman
6 Photographs of the 1959 Centennial

Nancy Testard

American Weekly Newspaper Featuring Jack Benny

Rob Rissell

Newspapers, Photographs, Blueprints

Cheryl Graham Ptasienski

810 N. Genesee St. Deed, Assorted Magazines, Buttons, Boxes, Otto Graham Video, Poster, Hanger

Eamon Rago

5 CNS R.R. Photographs, 2 N.W. R.R. Photographs
3 Metra Newsletters, Oct. 2011 Ill. Air Team Booklet
2000 IL Handbook of Government

Randy Bowcott

Newspaper Clipping on the Hull House

William H. Tyre

Cyclone Fence Co. Advertisement

Anita Blackman

1924 High School Memorabilia

Norman Carlson

5 First and Fastest Magazines

Dennis Moisio

Book *Growing Up Waukegan* by Fred Scheske

Susan Staben Richards

Waukegan Centennial Plate
Spoon

Patsy and George Emery

Jack Benny Radio Show CD's
Callahan Dairy Milk Jug

Carolyn P. Zeller

Misc. Items

Ann Hughes-Johnson and R. Vincent Johnson

Waukegan Park District Arts and Humanities Award, Vase, Misc. Trophies, Plaque, Scrapbook “Book of Golden Deeds”, 2 Scrapbooks “Waukegan Women’s Club”, Pencil Sketch, Books: *Waukegan: A History* by Ed Link, *Life in the Fabulous 50s*, 2 copies of *Waukegan’s Legacy*, *Waukegan Answer Book*, *Colored Pathways...God* “Illuminated Stained Glass of Trinity United Lutheran Church”, *Come Sit a Spell*, *Waukegan Images*

Lake County Discovery Museum

Bess Dunn Figure

Janice B. Dodson

1 Photograph
Yeoman’s Jewelry Box

Ellen Frew

Envelop Opener-Waukegan Township 25th Reunion

Cheryl Sanderlin

AAUW Memorabilia

Ron Sanderlin

Watercolor of 436 Julian Street by Hoch

Mike Tanner

Photographs of Waukegan History Museum Interior



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!

Thank You!

New Members

Tom White
Alderman Bill and Elizabeth Valko

Donations

R. Vincent Johnson and Ann Hughes-Johnson
Howard & Cleone Petersen Memorial Fund
Baxter Employee Giving Campaign


Society Is Going Green!

The Society is looking to cut printing costs and also help save the environment. If you would like for the newsletter to be sent to you via email, please contact the Waukegan Historical Society to let us know.

High School Reunion Groups

Do you have a high school reunion coming up? If so you may want to include the book Waukegan: A History written by Ed Link as a special favor to all participants. For more information please call the Waukegan History Museum (847) 336-1859.

Upcoming Featured Concerts at

joplin's java 

Kurt Loeffler's Jazz Workshop Saturday, March 10 7:30-9:30 pm \$12.	Susan Merdinger & The Elaris Duo Friday, April 13 7:30-9:30 pm \$12.
Edgar Gabriel's StringFusion Friday, May 11 7:30-9:30 pm \$12.	Kmang Kmang Saturday, June 2 7:30-9:30 pm \$12.

More info & music samples at joplinsjava.com

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

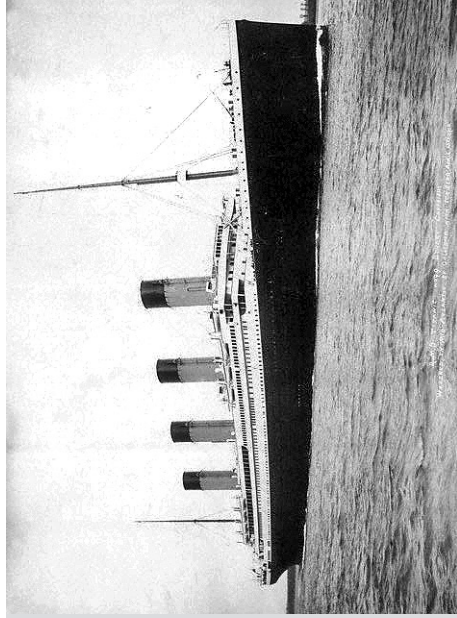
1911 N. Sheridan Road
Librarian: Beverly Millard
847-360-4772
library@waukeganhistorical.org
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10am - 2:30pm



1917 N. Sheridan Rd, Waukegan, IL 60087

Titanic—
A Fateful
Ticket to
Waukegan

Sunday, April 15
2pm
See page 9.



RMS *Titanic* departing Southampton on April 10, 1912.