



The lost cornerstone. See page 6.

**March 2010**

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

# President's Letter

**Sara Griffin**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked so hard on our new publication *Waukegan—A History* by Ed Link. This has been a big project and many people have provided information, talent and labor to complete this excellent book. An order form is available in this newsletter.

The building committee continues work on plans for the proposed addition to the museum. We have presented a concept plan to the Waukegan Park District Commissioners and are investigating grants to help bring the project to reality. Dennis Moisiso and Ty Rohrer are hard at work looking at any and all possible sources of grant funding.

July 18, 2010 has been selected as the date for the Tour of Homes. The committee has selected several excellent homes, a church, and of course the Waukegan History Museum. Further details will be provided very soon.

Please plan to attend our Spring programs in April and May. We are presenting new slides in April and a program on clocks in May.

I am grateful to Ty Rohrer and Bev Millard and the many volunteers for all of their work. The Waukegan Historical Society celebrates its 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary this year; we have served Waukegan very well.

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## Program

# Images of Waukegan

**Meg Goljenboom**

**Sunday, April 18 at 2p.m.**

**Jack Benny Center for the Arts—Shornick Theatre  
39 Jack Benny Drive—Bowen Park—North Entrance**

By popular request, Meg Goljenboom will present her program on the visual history of Waukegan using pictures from the society's collection and her own photos. This program has not been seen in a few years, and we hope you can join us to reminisce about Waukegan's past.

The Waukegan Historical Society will have a brief meeting about our current projects as well as nominations for expired Board of Director seats. Refreshments will be served at the end of the program.

## Annual Meeting and Program

# Time is on Your Side (Clocks)

**Wayne Motley**

**Sunday, May 23 at 2p.m.**

**Jack Benny Center for the Arts—Shornick Theatre  
39 Jack Benny Drive—Bowen Park—North Entrance**

The Waukegan Historical Society will have a brief meeting including elections for nominated Board of Director positions and offices. The program will feature Wayne Motley discussing his passion for clocks and the vast collection that he has accumulated over the years. Refreshments will be served at the end of the program.

## WHS Board

**Officers**

*President*

Sara Griffin

*Vice President*

John Stein

*Treasurer*

Yvonne Sylvester

*Secretary*

Ellen Frew

**Directors**

Betsy Alleman

Harry Came

Gretta Dieck

Tim Hagan

Jim McGuire

Dennis Moisiso

Denyse Waters

## Historically Speaking

# Manufacturer's Terminal

### Ed Link

The November 1912 explosion and fire that struck the Corn Products sugar refinery and caused it to close the following July did not destroy all the buildings. It was taken over by Harry V. Finkelstein who turned the property into the Manufacturers' Terminal Company. Operating until about 1960, the company provided space for a large number of small industries, the majority of which stayed in that location one to three years, but a couple lasted 20 or more years.

Items produced at the Terminal covered a wide variety, with most being machinery or metal products of some type. Many of the company names would be unfamiliar to most readers today. One would be the Ahlbell Battery Container Corp. manufacturers of "One Piece Battery Container and One Piece Cover, Guaranteed for the Life of the Automobile", as their ad read. Little is known about the company except that its president was Marino Bello who married the mother of actress Jean Harlow in Waukegan in 1927. Bello and the family moved to Hollywood shortly thereafter, but Ahlbell stayed in the Terminal for a few more years.

Some others that have been lost to time are Appleton Transformer, Dickerson Foundries, Folwell Ohlskog, Northern Bedding and U.S. Cigar Manufacturers.

A few left the Terminal after a few years, but continued operating at another local site. American Can and Waukegan Paint & Lacquer were two of those.

The Terminal gained unwanted attention on May 3, 1918 when a major fire destroyed several companies and cost an estimated \$500,000 in damages. The companies impacted by the fire give some indication of the breadth of industries located there. The fire is thought to have begun in the seven story building recently leased to the U.S. Government. Trash piles

alongside the building during remodeling caught fire and spread rapidly among the wooden structures. The government had leased the building, the old sugar house during the days of the sugar refinery, to store munitions and clothing, as this was during World War I.

Next to be destroyed was the space occupied by the Mutual Film Company. A reported million feet of film were burned and that caused a very hot and spec-

tacular blaze. Also gone were: Oregon Woodenware, Safety Egg Case, Tausch Magneto and Thomas Andrews, a manufacturer of auto parts. The fire also took out the Terminal office and the Chicago House, an adjacent rooming house.

Another victim of the fire was somewhat unusual. A fire truck was parked in an area thought to be safe from the fire. It wasn't. The truck, along with 400 feet of hose, was burned and initially considered totally destroyed. While damaged, it was repaired free of charge by the Manly Motor Corp., another Terminal tenant, and returned to the fire department in less than two months.

At some point the fire was believed to be beyond control. 300-400 sailors from Great Lakes arrived to assist. The utility companies cut wires and shut off gas mains. American Steel & Wire opened water valves to increase pressure and finally the fire was overcome.

The Manufacturers' Terminal continued operating for many years after the fire. Its heyday was in the 1920s and 30s when up to 16 companies were listed in it. The numbers declined into the 1950s when only



Nitro Chemical and Quality Tool Works were there at the end.

## The Lost Cornerstone

**Ty Rohrer**

The Masonic Fraternity has been laying cornerstones at the base of buildings all throughout the nation over the years, and Waukegan is no exception. If you have read Dan Brown's new bestseller *The Lost Symbol*, you know the important part that cornerstones play in it. Locally we know that the second Lake County Courthouse cornerstone was laid by the Waukegan Masonic Fraternity in a ceremony on Thursday, April 18, 1878 at "High Twelve Noon."

The second Lake County Courthouse was lost in the mid-1960s and we had assumed the cornerstone had met the same fate. It turns out it had been saved all these years tucked away on the property of a private residence in the city. But how did it get there?

Howard L. Petersen was the supervisor of all the contractors for architects on the current Lake County Courthouse building. It came time to move the offices from the old structure to the new in order to raze the old courthouse building. The old cornerstone remained at the old site and Petersen felt that it should be incorporated into the landscape of the new building but ultimately it was decided to be left out. Petersen and a few other men saw the historical significance of saving the cornerstone and they moved it to the Petersen home. Here it was sitting in the front yard visible to all yet forgotten by many.

The past year, Howard Petersen and his wife passed away. It was now time for their daughter, Sherrill Eichler, to find a place for her family's historical memorabilia. Sherrill approached the Historical Society to find out what items we would be interested in acquiring. She mentioned that the courthouse cornerstone was at her parents' house.

Our interest was peaked and Sherrill went on to tell the story of how it ended up where it did. The next day a group of us took a visit, and low and behold we were looking right at the cornerstone! We were amazed at the great condition of the huge stone and that we could actually read what was engraved on it.

Sherrill offered the cornerstone to the Historical Society that day knowing that we would take care of the relic. She did not think though that we would actually be able to get it moved. With the assistance of the Parks/Maintenance crew with the Waukegan Park District we got the stone moved and it is now in a secure location.

The Historical Society intends on displaying the cornerstone near the Waukegan History Museum in an outdoor exhibit. After this most unexpected find, we now wonder what else is out there waiting to be re-discovered?



The cornerstone today.

*The Waukegan Historical Society is pleased to announce—*



## Waukegan: A History

Waukegan is a city that has evolved from an area inhabited by Native Americans, to a trading post, to an agricultural hub, to a destination of industry, and finally to a service-based economy. It is a city that reflects the unique cultures and heritages of people who have come from all over the world to call Waukegan their home.

Ed Link's lively text explores the rich and diverse history of Waukegan and takes the reader from its earliest beginnings to today.

Over 200 photographs, maps, and other images from the Waukegan Historical Society archives and other sources, including many never previously published, bring the story of Waukegan to life.

by Ed Link

**Available now at the Waukegan History Museum and other locations, or by mail.**

### **MAIL ORDER** *Waukegan: A History*

CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE:

1 book for \$20.00 plus \$5.00 s/h = \$25.00

2 books for \$40.00 plus \$7.00 s/h = \$47.00

3 books for \$60.00 plus \$9.00 s/h = \$69.00

*Books will be shipped Media Mail.*



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to  
*Waukegan Historical Society*  
and return to:

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Waukegan Historical Society  
1917 N. Sheridan Road  
Waukegan, IL 60087

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a phone number or email address so we can contact you if there is a question about your order. To ensure prompt delivery, please include your entire address. If you would like the shipment to be sent to another address, please call the Waukegan Historical Society at (847) 336-1859.

# 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.

We are pleased to announce the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Waukegan Historical Society Metro History Fair Winner:

*Lake County Tuberculosis Sanatorium*—Denise Escovar, Julio Guzman, and Mateo Aguirre

Honorable Mentions:

*Fall of Industries, Fall of Waukegan*—Ashley Swank, Valerie Touchton, Dennis Yu

*Abbott Labs*—Elizabeth O'Brien, Jon Bicanic, Jessica Murillo

*Waukegan Hospitals and the Community*—Yesenia Ramirez, Lynneise Jones, Marycarmen Flores

*Underground Railroad*—Samantha Stout, Bryana Wison, Dulce Delgado

*Becoming Part of the Genesee*—Kelly Callen, Holly Vaessen, Ariel Ruting

Free Event

## Beautiful Bowen Park Guided Tour

Schedule a time to take a free-guided tour of beautiful Bowen Park! On the tour you will learn about the early years of the property when it was a farm, the period of time when it was called the Bowen Country Club, and the later years as Waukegan's largest park.

The Bowen Country Club, operated by the Jane Adams Hull House of Chicago, was a summer camp for the underprivileged children of Chicago that operated from 1912 to 1962. You will learn about the buildings that were constructed for the camp and the many things that were offered to the campers.

Walking on the trails in the park, flower and wildlife will be pointed out along with discussion on how the park's natural habitat is being preserved.

The tour will start outside of the Waukegan History Museum and will conclude with a tour of Lilac Cottage.

The tour will last approximately 1 to 1.5 hours. Walking will include hills, trails, and uneven ground.

Please contact the Waukegan History Museum to schedule a tour.



Thank you for your recent donations to our Museum and Library collections.

## Recent Donations

### **Laura Wade**

Photograph of Chief McDonald

### **Chandra Sefton**

House Research, men's hat, photographs, newsletter articles, Bradbury Letter, 1960s clothing

### **Waukegan Public Library**

1968 Waukegan Harbor Pamphlet

### **Betsy Alleman**

Photographs of Waukegan Public Library Book Mobile II, Assorted Memorabilia

### **Daniel P. Drury**

Bernard Stiner Materials and Photographs, Mrs. Bernard Stiner Materials

### **Phil Nichols**

(4) Ray Bradbury Books, Waukegan Yacht Club, brochures from 1989-1995

### **Tim Vavrek**

Photograph of Jerry Orbach

### **Nada Finn**

Old Newspapers & Business Papers from the 1930s

### **Eamon Rago**

26 Identified Photographs, North Shore placemat, HO scale model of RTA commuter car, U-Line catalog, 1985 Shore Line Hist. Soc. calendar, Metra newsletters and timetable, C&NW timetables, First & Fastest magazine, C&NW RR 1989 poster/calendar, model railroad photographs, 2001 RTA map, 1970 C&NW timetable

### **John Osterholm**

Disc of 1968 Waukegan Photographs

### **Roxanne & Scott Swanson**

1991 first day covers with Jack Benny stamp

### **Ann Darrow**

Early death records (1845-1877)

### **Sherill Eichler**

Little Fort station key, Lake County Justice Docket Books, high school yearbooks, Mayor Pete Peterson's Collection: City Records, Political Papers, Correspondence, etc., newspapers, scrapbooks, blueprints, Ganster & Henninghausen Court House specs, second Lake County Courthouse cornerstone, miscellaneous Waukegan items

### **Janet Bailey**

Waukegan High School 1909 pamphlet

### **Mike Galbraith**

2008-09 First & Fastest magazine

### **Harry Came**

1939 Photograph of US Maritime Freighter "Waukegan"

### **Charles Lange**

Besley photographs, glass negatives, high school year-books, 1976 license plates, 1945 Class Reunion Book, 1976 Calendar

### **Ron Browning**

Washburn Moen & American Steel & Wire blueprints

### **Yvonne Sylvester**

Lake County Map (1952 and 1960)

### **Warren Historical Society**

Yorkhouse Church Info, Newspaper Clippings

### **Antioch Historical Society**

Ingalls Co. Advertising Brochure

### **Robert Ludviger**

photographs, box of school & military memorabilia

### **Jeffrey Miltimore**

Miltimore genealogy information

### **Mary Fran Troha**

Photograph of founders of Slovenic National Home

### **Dr. Steve Rosswurm**

Book—*The FBI and the Catholic Church*

### **John Stein**

Computer

### **Gay Lee Abbott in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Lewis D. Clarke, Sr.**

Portrait of Judge Francis Clarke

## Thank You!

### **New Members**

Gregory Schueneman

Gail Dever and Family

Sherrill Eichler

Shawn and Maria Ford Family

### **New Life Members**

Maj. Ronald I. (RIP) Powell

### **Donations**

Vince and Ann Hughes Johnson

Trinity Lutheran Church

AAUW

Friends of the Library

Jean Windberg in memory of Paul Eagon

Ann Darrow in memory of Paul Eagon

Waukegan Women's Club

Nancy Salmela in memory of Hazel Came

# Museum Supervisor's Report

**Ty Rohrer**

It is time to gear up for another fun and busy spring and summer at the Waukegan History Museum! Volunteers are needed to assist with day to day tours as well as during special events including the American Independence Parade and Festival and the Historical Society's Annual Tour of Homes. If you would like to help out in some capacity at the museum, please give us a call.

Plans are in development for an outdoor exhibit to display the recently donated cornerstone from the second Lake County Courthouse. Also do not miss a new exhibit in the museum titled "What's in a Name." This exhibit looks at different streets in Waukegan and the people they were named after including Besley, Yeoman, Buck, Mathon, Ferry, and Blanchard.

We hope to see you at the museum this spring and summer and would love to give you a tour!

## Congratulations Volunteers!

Five volunteers were recognized for their exceptional efforts and commitment to the Waukegan Park District and the Waukegan Historical Society for 2009.

2009 Community Service Award Recipients:  
Cyndi Braze, Dan Drury, Denyse Waters, Sandy Pokett, and Vicki George Flowers

The late Joan Pfau Callahan, who was a Life Member of the Historical Society, was the recipient of the Jack Benny Award for the Arts and Humanities for her support of the arts, the historical society, and her many other leadership and volunteer roles in the community.

*The Waukegan Historical Society's*  
**Tour of Homes**  
will be held  
**Sunday, July 18**  
1pm - 5pm

## 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.

## Contact Us

### Waukegan Historical Society

1917 N. Sheridan Road  
Waukegan, IL 60087  
847-336-1859  
info@waukeganhistorical.org

### John L. Raymond Research Library

1911 N. Sheridan Road  
Librarian: Beverly Millard  
847-360-4772  
library@waukeganhistorical.org

### Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

1917 N. Sheridan Road  
Museum Supervisor: Ty Rohrer  
847-336-1859  
museum@waukeganhistorical.org

## Hours

### John L. Raymond Research Library

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
10am - 2:30pm

### Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday  
10am - 4pm  
Additional times by appointment.

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

[www.waukeganhistorical.org](http://www.waukeganhistorical.org)





***Schedule a  
guided tour of  
Bowen Park!***

**For details, see  
page 11.**

