



Photograph by Jay Stevens

**The Ghosts of Oakwood Cemetery. See page 5.**

**September 2010**

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

# President's Letter

Dennis Moiso

As the days get noticeably shorter and school begins again, we say farewell to summer and look forward to a long and colorful fall season.

For me, as your new Board president, it's been a summer of learning as much as I can about how the Society operates and how we work together with our terrific partner, the Waukegan Park District. It's clear that the Society has done and is doing great work in preserving and promoting the unique history of the Waukegan area. I look forward to continuing to be a part of that effort.

This summer the Society once again conducted its annual "Tour of Homes". There was a nice mix of the old and not so old residences plus St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

And we continued to promote and sell our book *Waukegan, A History* at a number of events including the Tour, at the museum and at several retail locations. It is being very well received, with over 1,200 copies sold. If you haven't as yet gotten your copy, call the Waukegan History Museum to get one. Also available on request or at the Raymond Library is our Annual Report for fiscal year 2009-2010.

In the months ahead we will be focusing our efforts on planning the new addition to the Waukegan History Museum campus. A joint effort of the Society and the Waukegan Park District, this new facility will provide space for our large archive collection, a bigger, more usable research library and greatly expand our ability to creatively display Waukegan's history. We will continue to need your wholehearted and generous support to make this addition a reality. We are confident that it will add immeasurably to advancing our mission and make a wonderful addition to the Bowen Park Heritage Circle and to the community.

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## Meeting and Program

# Ray Bradbury

## Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary

Ty Rohrer

Sunday, October 10 at 2p.m.

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

As a young boy, author Ray Bradbury was influenced by his hometown of Waukegan, Illinois with many of his experiences making it into his writings. In the three books, *Dandelion Wine*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, and *Farewell Summer*, Bradbury writes of events that take place in the fictional town of Green Town, which is a pseudonym for Waukegan. Ty Rohrer's program compares Green Town to Waukegan by analyzing some of the stories, people, and places found in the three books.

The Waukegan Historical Society will have a brief meeting about our current projects that will precede the program. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the program.

## Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

The past fiscal year was busy at the museum and with our education outreach program. We had over 1,500 visitors to the museum the past year with strong numbers from school groups and special events. Our education outreach program experienced the most growth this year. I gave 113 total programs this year for community groups and in the Waukegan schools. In total 2,500 Waukegan students learned about various aspects on the history of Waukegan through our outreach programming. I anticipate our education outreach program to continue to grow in the following years. Developments are already on the way to add to more programs that can be presented in the future.

## WHS Board

### Officers

President  
Dennis Moiso  
Vice President  
John Stein  
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Yvonne Sylvester  
Secretary  
Ellen Frew

### Directors

Betsy Alleman  
Gretta Dieck  
Mary Goljenboom  
Sara Griffin  
Tim Hagan  
Jim Maguire  
Doug Stiles  
Denyse Waters

There are some exciting new exhibits planned for the upcoming year. One exhibit will help celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the start of the Civil War while the other looks at Waukegan's influence on author Ray Bradbury.

The museum is now on Facebook, so please visit for frequent updates.

## Tour of Homes Recap

The annual Tour of Homes was held on July 18, 2010. The event was very successful, even on a blistering hot day, with several hundred tickets sold. The Tour of Homes was first held in 1969 and serves as the main fund raiser for the Waukegan Historical Society. In recent years the tour has become an important community event. The Society works with the City of Waukegan, the Waukegan Park District and the News Sun to showcase the fine architecture and neighborhoods of our city. More than half of the attendees come from outside of the community.

The event serves as an important opportunity to attract new residents who share our vision for a revitalized Waukegan that honors and respects our rich heritage. The 2010 tour included the Waukegan History Museum, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1525 Alexander Court, 335 Glendenning Place, 808 Grove Avenue, and 422 Steele Court.

Significant assistance with the Tour was provided by the City of Waukegan, the News Sun, the Waukegan Park District, the generous home owners, and the many volunteers who staffed the tour homes.

Special thanks to the tour committee; Gretta Dieck, Sara Griffin, Tim Hagan,

Ty Rohrer, Chandra Sefton, John Stein, Yvonne Sylvester, and Denyse Waters, This committee works for many months to make this annual event possible.

We hope to see you on next year's Tour of Homes and if you would like to have your home considered for the Tour please contact the Waukegan History Museum.



## Free Event

# Oakwood Cemetery Walk

Saturday, September 25, 2010

An annual free event, the Oakwood Cemetery Walk provides specific tours of the city cemetery. Visitors to Oakwood have been taken back to a time and place that has ranged from pre-Civil War to as recent as 1979. This year's featured profiles include:

*Elijah Haines:* First teacher in Little Fort, prominent politician, and founder of Hainesville.

*Dr. Vincent C. Price:* Inventor of food products and grandfather of actor Vincent Price.

*Hobart Yard and His Wives:* Longtime journalist and keeper of diaries.

*Myrtle Greenleaf:* Early settler who owned a shoe and boot store and helped open the first county tannery.

*Marcela Bradshaw:* Longtime director of Bradshaw and Range Funeral Home.

Tickets: \$3 in advance and \$5 on the day of the Walk. Purchase advance tickets at Jack Benny Center for the Arts, 39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park, Waukegan. For more information, call 847-360-4740 or visit [waukeganparks.org](http://waukeganparks.org).

Tickets: \$3 in advance, \$5 on the day of the Walk

Start at Lilac Cottage in Bowen Park (1911 N. Sheridan Road).

Buses leave Lilac Cottage at:  
11:45 pm  
1:45 pm  
3:15 pm

Parking is not permitted at the cemetery.

The Cemetery Walk will include unpaved walkways and uneven ground.



Photograph by Jay Stevens

# Waukegan Students Win at Chicago Metro History Fair

Five students from Waukegan High School were awarded the top history project from the State of Illinois. Nancy Gutierrez, Monica White, Daniela Torres, Kathy Estrada and Andres Mendoza produced a documentary about the rise and fall of Waukegan's Johns-Manville plant.

Their project was one of nearly 2,000 documentaries, research papers, museum exhibits, and live performances throughout the United States to qualify for the national history competition in Maryland.

Looking forward to 2011!

Students, don't wait to the last minute to meet with the library staff to assist you with the research on your project that is due in February. The Waukegan Historical Society awards \$500 to the best project team or individual that focuses on an aspect of Waukegan's history!

## Exhibits

### Current Exhibit

#### Ray Bradbury: Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary

In celebration of Ray Bradbury's 90th birthday, the exhibit shows the life of the author from when he was growing up in Waukegan to his prolific career as a fantasy, horror, science-fiction and mystery writer. Exhibit focuses on the books *Dandelion Wine*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, and *Farwell Summer* that take place in the fictional town of Green Town, which is a pseudonym for Waukegan.

Exhibit on display at the Waukegan History Museum through 2011.

### Upcoming Exhibit

#### The Civil War: The War Efforts in Waukegan

The exhibit celebrates the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War (1861-1865) and the involvement of Waukegan, Illinois. Local events leading up to the war, the war years, and the post-war reconstruction efforts in Waukegan are exhibited. Soldiers from Waukegan including the drummer boys, Orion P. Howe and Lyston D. Howe are also profiled. Artifacts on display include uniforms, weaponry, and flags.

Exhibit on display at the Waukegan History Museum from February 1, 2011 through December 10, 2011.

### Continuing

#### Jack Benny: From Waukegan to Hollywood

Exhibit shows the life of Jack Benny from when he was growing up in Waukegan to his prolific career in Hollywood. Memorabilia include historic photographs, programs from Jack Benny performances, and autographed items.

Exhibit on display at the Jack Benny Center for the Arts-39 Jack Benny Drive Waukegan, IL 60087 in Bowen Park. There is no scheduled closing date for the exhibit.

## Attention Scout Leaders

Schedule a private tour at the Waukegan History Museum to fulfill requirements for your scouts to visit a historic place. Tours are free and can be scheduled for weekday evenings.

This is a great way to teach the history of the City of Waukegan and to help youth understand the history of their community.

## Historically Speaking

# The Governor's Trial

Ed Link

The Chicago Tribune once called him "the worst governor the state ever had." If you don't remember reading that quote, it is probably because it was written during the 1920s and referred to then governor Len Small. It was during that time that Small was tried in a criminal case that was held in Waukegan.

Prior to becoming governor, Small served as Illinois State Treasurer. It was during this time that he allegedly deposited state funds with a bank that paid the state a reduced interest rate and that Small kept part of the difference for himself. He was indicted by a Springfield grand jury on July 20, 1921 and charged with conspiracy to embezzle state funds. A change of venue was requested since Small didn't feel he could get a fair trial in Springfield. A list of five counties was compiled, and Lake County was selected on October 11 as the site of his trial.

Judge Claire C. Edwards was assigned to hear the case and the legal maneuvering began. Motions were made to quash the indictments, but Judge Edwards ruled that the trial would begin on January 9, 1922. More motions ensued before Governor Small pled not guilty January 30 and the trial was set to begin March 6. Additional situations arose which pushed the start to April 24, when even more problems caused more delays.

Selecting a jury was a tedious process. A total of 444 potential jurors were called before a panel could be put in place. Reasons why individuals were not chosen ranged from holding an opinion to being too busy on a farm to the failure to read and understand English. Throughout the selection process days were set aside so the Governor could conduct state business. Finally, Judge Edwards contracted blood poisoning and needed treatment.

The trial actually began on May 11. The prosecution presented 112 witnesses and thousands of

pieces of evidence. The State rested on June 19 at which time the Governor's lawyers chose to present no defense beyond closing arguments. The case went to the jury on June 24, where after two ballots, Governor Small was found not guilty.

Almost immediately charges of jury tampering or bribing the jurors arose. The jurors themselves indignantly denied those accusations and said they had all been together throughout the proceedings and none of them saw any irregularities. None were ever formally charged with wrongdoing, but four of them eventually received state jobs.

Lake County submitted to Sangamon County (Springfield) a bill for more than \$13,000 for the cost of the trial. That was in addition to any attorney fees involved.

Governor Small's troubles didn't end with this trial. A civil suit was brought against him to recover the money he was said to have taken from the state. A judgment of \$650,000 was made against him and it was upheld upon appeal. He gave that amount to the state on June 15, 1927, but he stipulated he had not received any money from the bank.

Len Small had first taken office as governor January 10, 1921 and his trial did not prevent him from being re-elected. An attempt at a third term failed and he left office in January 1929. He died May 17, 1936.



Len Small.



## Special Thanks!

The Historical Society would like to thank Intern Jennifer Berzin for all of her hard work this summer! Jennifer is a graduate of Warren High School and is a freshman at Marquette University in History where she is focusing on museum work in collections management and archives. Jennifer was a volunteer for the museum prior to obtaining the internship. Her main project for the summer was processing the Society's extensive wax cylinder collection. We thank the Waukegan Park District Cultural Arts Department for the support and funding of our summer internship program.

## Thank You!

### New Members

JoAnn C. Bruce

### New Life Members

Nathan and Colleen Hintz

### Donations

Cribb Fine Foods

Frank and Carolyn Zeller

Antioch Historical Society

Therese Ives

Jeanne Balmes



Wood Working Tool  
Display donated by Everett  
Johnson

## Volunteer with Us

### Oakwood Cemetery Walk

Saturday, September 25 (12:00-5:00pm)

Ticket Sales

Bus Loading/Unloading

Museum Room Watchers

Cemetery Docent

### Ongoing at the Waukegan History Museum

Museum Docent (one 3-hour shift per month)

Exhibit Research

Collections Management

Research Library

To learn more about volunteering for the Society, please call or email the Waukegan History Museum.

## Great Holiday Gift!

The Waukegan Historical Society is pleased to announce their new publication *Waukegan: A History* by local historian/author Ed Link.

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 350 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. The book is available for purchase at the Waukegan History Museum and through a mail order form available at [www.waukeganhistorical.org](http://www.waukeganhistorical.org).

# Recent Donations

## **John Brencheck**

2 Passports, Newspaper Clippings, 25 Rudy Ludviger Photographs

## **Ann Darrow**

Edward Amet Patent List

## **David Vargas**

Harold Callahan's Golden Deeds Award Book

## **Michael Galbraith**

First & Fastest Magazine-Spring 2010

## **Dennis Moio**

Bill Tyre Photographs "Statues & Memorials"

## **Ellen Frew**

Map of Waukegan Park District

## **Martha Sherer**

Photographs

## **Ray Pearson Radio Store Matches**

1930/40s Magazines & Ads, Ruth Pierce Florest Needle Case

## **Galesburg Public Library**

Program-Lake County American Legion Carnival (1920)

## **Ed Link**

Handbook for Research In American History  
Book-Chicken Soup for the Soul "Done Wrong" and "Gone Quiet"

## **Dorothy Evenhouse**

Histories for Cooke Magnet School

## **Brian Leekley**

Hobart Yard Photographs and Materials

## **Eamon A Rago**

Model Railroad Photographs, Metra Pamphlet, Metra Newsletter

## **Calabrese & Ferguson**

1965-1978 Waukegan Plat Book by Sidwell

## **Therese Ives**

Brean Family Genealogy and Disc

## **Clayton Christensen & Nicholas Nickertakis**

Patriot Newspaper (1872)

## **Peggy Rommel**

1935 Waukegan Yearbook, 1933 Waukegan Reunion Book  
1933 World Atlas, 1922-23 Waukegan Daily Sun Book

## **Tim Vavrek**

Business Cards

## **Lake County Chamber of Commerce**

Press Clippings from 1954

## **June Maguire**

Women Warriors of World War II

## **Sharon Labelle**

Rankin Family Memorabilia, AAUW Newsletters

## **Marlene Graham**

Red Cross WWII Memorabilia

## **Waukegan Library Booklets**

Retirement Flag Ceremony Info, Waukegan SWAT T-shirt  
Assorted Memorabilia

## **Shirley Garnant Figeas**

High School Annuals, Great Lakes Info and Photographs,  
Sheet Music, Pearce Transfer Co Photographs, Student  
Photos from Local Schools, Photographs of Ethel and  
Howard C. Garnant

## **Bill Roy**

6 Waukegan High School Yearbooks

## **Cheryl Sanderlin**

1990's AAUW Memorabilia

## **Siwula & Sherer Family**

Wire Mill Newsletter (1921), 2 Scrapbooks, Misc. Banking  
Memorabilia

## **Waukegan Public Library**

Microfilm, Local History Documents

## **Gail O'Connor & Sam Readie**

Mildred Diamond Items, Photographs, School Records,  
earbooks, Autograph Album

## **Anne Marie Stohl**

2002 Union Cemetery Walk Video

## **Jim Maguire**

2 Simmons Feed Co. Bags

## **Sue Weiss (in memory of Audrey Siwula)**

Bottle, Bank of Waukegan Auto First Aid Kit, Books

## **Sarah Sardin**

Bible (c. 1900), Various Letters, Women's Daybook, Misc.  
Items

## **Jennifer Moran**

Temporary Loan of "Dr. Robert's House" Painting

## **Cheryl Graham Ptasienski**

Jessie White's Student Desk, Lindberg Tie Box

## **Everett Johnson**

Wood Working Tool Display

## **Steven Ludwig**

Corner Foundation Piece of Former Waukegan Home

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



Jessie White's Student Desk, donated by Cheryl Grhaham Ptasienski

# Free History Programs

## From the Waukegan Historical Society

For your organization, group, social event, or classroom.

Topics include:

Early Native American History of the Waukegan Area

History of Waukegan (settlement to today)

Jack Benny-From Waukegan to Hollywood

Waukegan and the Underground Railroad

Waukegan's Famous Civil War Drummer Boys

Abraham Lincoln Goes To Waukegan

Ray Bradbury: Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary

"What's in a Name?" (learn about streets, buildings, and parks in Waukegan that have been named for early prominent residents of the city)

Bowen Country Club—The Jane Addams Hull House in Waukegan

Lake Michigan Shipwrecks

Waukegan and the Motion Picture Industry

"What-Cha-Ma-Call-It" History Trunk (hands-on program designed for the classroom)

Program length is 45 minutes to 1 hour. Many programs are multimedia presentations with hands-on artifacts. Programs can be given for multiple classrooms on the same day and but can be present to children and adults. Museum Staff or Volunteers will present the program.

For more information and to schedule a free program, please call or email the Waukegan Historical Society.

# 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)





**WAUKEGAN**  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1917 N. Sheridan Rd, Waukegan, IL 60087

## **Oakwood Cemetery Walk**

**Saturday, September 25**

**See page 5.**

**Meeting and Program**

## **Ray Bradbury**

**Waukegan's Influence on a Visionary**

**Sunday, October 10 at 2p.m.**

**See page 3.**