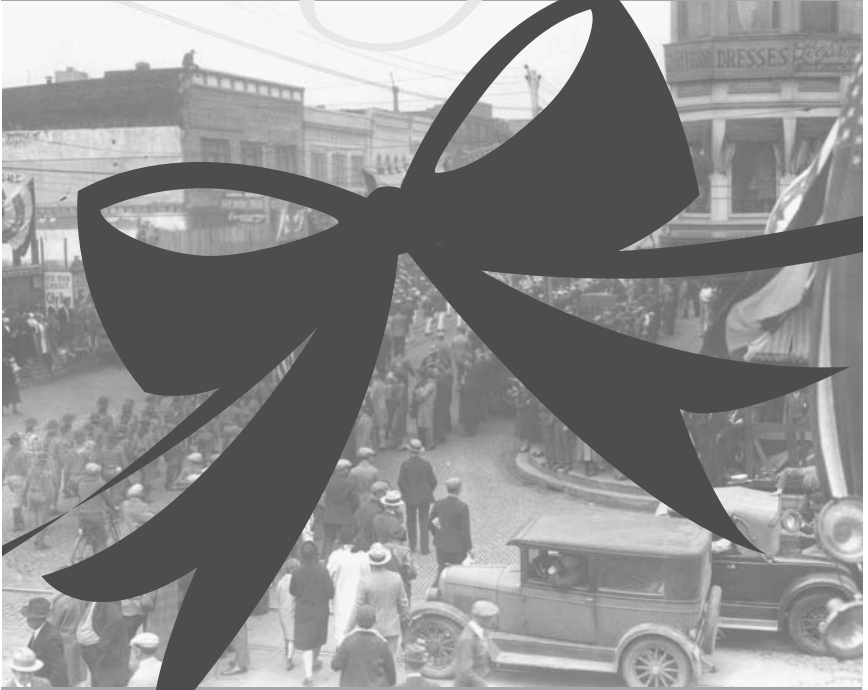


Waukegan

A History



by Ed Link

Great Holiday Gift Idea Inside!

November 2010

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

President's Letter

Dennis Moio

This year, Ray Bradbury, Waukegan's favorite and most famous storyteller, turned 90 years old. Several local events were held to commemorate it, and the 5th annual Ray Bradbury Short Story Festival this past Halloween weekend at the Historic Genesee Theatre was a special one.

The Festival, a great Halloween treat, showcases Bradbury's art as a writer using professional storytellers as narrators. But what makes Bradbury special for many of us is the connections many of the stories make to his early years in Waukegan. These connections were the feature of the Society's fall program by Museum Director, Ty Rohrer, and are also the theme of a new exhibit at the museum.

Like Bradbury, we all have stories to tell and together they weave the fabric of the larger story of Waukegan. And that's what the Historical Society is about – preserving and telling our collective story, the story that makes Waukegan, like Bradbury, unique and special. Our recently published book *Waukegan: A History* is part of that effort as are our other publications, programs and exhibits. We of course, welcome your participation with the Society as well as your financial support as we continue to craft that larger story. Share your recollections with us, donate local memorabilia, and volunteer a few hours if you can.

Once again the Waukegan History Museum will be decorated for the holiday season, so please stop by. We hope it will be a joyful holiday time for you and our best wishes for the coming year.

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Recent Acquisitions

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

Louise deKoven Bowen—Her Life

Waukegan—A History of Immigration

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 can be presented 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.

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The Sauter Building, a Vestige of Waukegan's Past

The Sauter Building has been an important visual feature in downtown Waukegan since it was built in 1894. Dominated by its dramatic copper-clad corner turret, the three-story red brick structure is easy to locate at the northeast corner of South Genesee and Water streets. The building has three ground-level storefronts at 33, 35, and 37 S. Genesee, and two floors of apartments above.

The building was called the "Sauter Block" when it was built by Francis X. Sauter (you can still see "F. SAUTER" embedded in the brick on the third floor of the Genesee Street façade). Sauter, originally from Württemberg, Germany, became a U.S. citizen in 1859 and lived in Waukegan the rest of his life. Before the building was constructed, Francis Sauter operated a tavern and livery business at the site. After it was completed, he operated a saloon there until he died in 1899. Sauter was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Libertyville; his grave was later moved to Ascension Catholic Cemetery nearby.

The Sauter Building's lower floors housed primarily retail stores and upper floors were rented apartments. Around 1922 it became the home of Stern's Store for Men, operated by Max Stern until the 1950s when his son, Mel Stern, took over. In 1975 it was purchased by Harry Stackhouse and William



R. DeVore, who kept the Stern's name. In 1983 DeVore bought out his partner and operated Stern's until it closed in February 2010. Today the Sauter Building remains as a symbol of the important role Waukegan played in early commerce in Lake County.



Nancy N. Hanks, PhD
Thanks to Ann Darrow for research about the Sauter family and Wayne Munn for the 2010 photograph.



The Heritage Preservation Fund

The Board of Directors recently established the Heritage Preservation Fund to provide the financial support for the long-term preservation of the work and the historical materials of the Waukegan Historical Society. Separate accounts will exist within the Fund for specific projects, activities and collections and for designated memorial funds. The initial focus of the Fund will be to provide financial support for the proposed new building.

Please consider supporting this Fund with a year-end contribution or a gift in memory of treasured person or event.

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.

Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

Happy Holidays from the Waukegan History Museum! The museum will be decorated in the festive Victorian style through December and early January so stop in to get in the holiday spirit. During the winter months, many of the projects at the museum deal with preparing for the upcoming special event season as well as new exhibits. If you are looking for something to do and want to get out please consider us for volunteering. The museum is now staffed by volunteers on Saturday afternoons. If you are interested in learning more about this unique opportunity to help showcase the history of Waukegan, please give the museum a call.

Our community outreach program continues to

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Let the Waukegan Historical Society do your shopping for you—



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.

Make this book the perfect gift for the holidays. Each book will be sent individually gift wrapped with a personalized card.

MAIL ORDER *Waukegan: A History*

CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE:

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

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Waukegan, IL 60087

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.

Historically Speaking

Wet vs. Dry

Ed Link

When the U.S Congress ratified the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors was banned. Prohibition would begin in January 1920. Waukegan didn't wait that long; it went 'dry' long before that date.

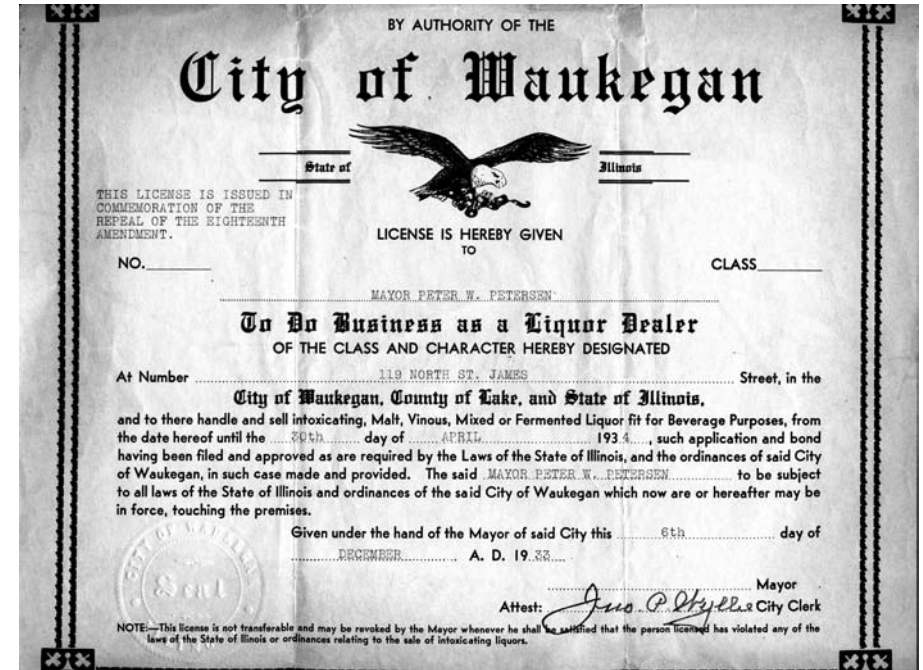
Waukegan had a long history with the liquor business. The Besley family had operated a brewery since the 1850s. Retail outlets abounded. The July 1908 telephone book listed 66 saloons, and that number remained relatively constant for the next decade. In 1906 Miller, Blatz and Pabst each had a depot along a railroad spur near Madison and Dugan streets. By 1912 these depots were joined by the Schoenhofen and Standard depots. Apparently a lot of beer was being brought into the city.

All this activity did not go unnoticed. Attempts to close down the liquor business had been persistent. In 1912 on a vote on local option, Waukegan remained 'wet', with 61% of the voters in favor. That vote was enhanced by the support of Mayor Julius Bidinger and Father Edward Gavin of Immaculate Conception Church. It was also noted that the city collected over \$30,000 in liquor permits and licenses and that money was needed for city operations.

But the writing was on the wall. In 1913 the saloon owners tried to expand the saloon zone on Genesee Street, but failed. A 1914 vote had the "wets" winning again, but this time with only 54%. In county voting on the issue, five townships went dry.

1916 saw the issue come to a head. Another vote was scheduled for April. On March 28 the Times-Review ran a front page editorial cartoon claiming that over a million dollars in salaries was lost yearly

in Waukegan Township between factories and the homes. The named culprits were the saloons. It was obvious how they wanted the vote to go, and it did. Licenses were to expire on April 30, but since that was a Sunday, businesses closed the night before.



There is no need here to recount how Prohibition failed to cure the nation's ills. The 21st Amendment repealed the 18th and liquor trade became legal again in December 1933. Eight states chose to remain dry. The first license issued by the city of Waukegan went to then Mayor Peter W. Petersen. It was to expire the following April 30 and bore the citation "This license is issued in commemoration of the repeal of the eighteenth amendment."

The first liquor license issued by the City of Waukegan after the repeal of Prohibition was granted to the mayor—Peter W. Petersen.

Mayor Peter W. Petersen



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grow with new schools and organizations calling for our services. Keep us in mind if you are in need of a free historical based program, and more information is provided at the beginning of this newsletter. We would love to see you this winter and we know that you will be very pleased with the current and upcoming exhibits as well as other changes throughout the museum.

Chicago Metro History Fair

High School 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. This year's theme is "Debate and Diplomacy in History-- Successes, Failures, Consequences." The Waukegan Historical Society awards \$500 to the best project team or individual that focuses on an aspect of Waukegan history!

Feeling Cooped Up? Volunteer with Us!

Ongoing volunteer opportunities include:

Saturday 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.

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.

Thank You!

New Members

Sarah Foster

Dr. Scott Palumbo

Nancy Inskeep

Eddie Kristan

New Life Members

Mary E. Michael

Donations

Ann Olson

Catherine M. Danson

Jeanne Balmes

Betty Birks Cutler

Diane Schammert

Dorothy Evenhouse

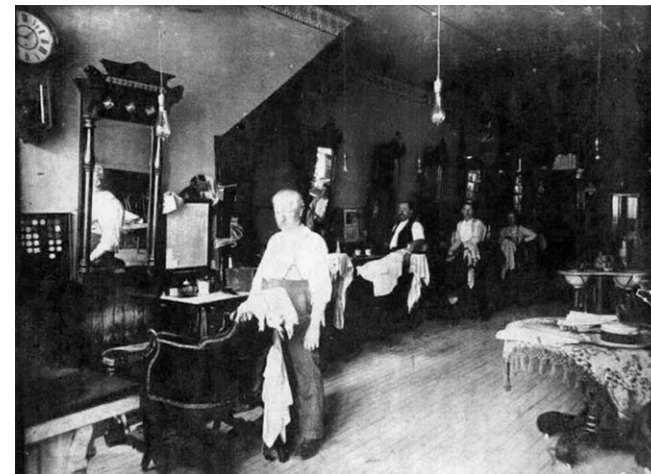
David Rasche

Robert Crombie

Joyce Knutel Ludovic

Vernon Dale

Nancy Inskeep



Philip Brand in his downtown barbershop in 1910.

Recent Donations

Estate of Howard and Cleone Petersen

Fireman's Banquet Photograph
Box of Photographs and Newspaper Articles
Assorted Pencils and Pens
2 Hand Razors

Mrs. Glen Strawsburg

Family Genealogy

Ann Darrow

Genesee Theatre Christmas Tree Card from Haig
Paravonian
Carol Sage
4 Acorn High School Yearbooks
Abstracts for houses at 30 & 34 N. Park St.

Lois Menich

American Steel & Wire Tongs

Shirley Weilman

Photograph of Philip Brand in Barbershop

Cheryl Ptasienski

American National Bank Address Book
Old Newspapers

Richard Hershman

Cookbooks
Railroad Pamphlets
Maps
Records

Newsletters

Telephone Books

Assorted Waukegan Business Items

Chandra Sefton

Lehman House Brochure
Bicentennial Photographs
Jane McAlister Bio

Ellen Frew

Robert E. Abbott Memorial Service Program

Jan Young

Wireco Life Nov. 1940

Harry Came

Postcard of Harbor & Chamber of Commerce Pamphlet

Aynsley Wonderling

Photograph of Jacobson Coffee Store

Victor Sneller

1948 Wetzels turner Salesmen Photograph

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| Patron, Organization | \$50.00 |
| Life, Individual | \$100.00 |
| Life, Couple | \$150.00 |
| My additional gift | \$_____ |

Make checks payable to
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VOLUNTEER

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

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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: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 1pm - 4pm
Additional times by appointment.

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

www.waukeganhistorical.org

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