



## Waukegan, North Chicago, and the Movies

see page 4

**September 2007**

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

# *A Letter from*

Many of our members no longer live in Waukegan and seem to enjoy reading this newsletter to get just a little taste of their old hometown. Well, I want to tell you that there is a lot happening in the City and at the Historical Society. In downtown Waukegan there are new buildings going up, old buildings being converted to condominiums, very big projects ready to break ground, and new businesses opening. The Genesee Theatre is drawing large crowds, and visitors are walking on beautiful new brick sidewalks under new streetlights and attending some of the new restaurants that have recently opened downtown. While all these positive things are happening, the City is also landmarking buildings to save these treasures for future generations. The City has re-acquired and given landmark status to the Carnegie Library and is looking into an adaptive reuse of the building. The Historical Society is a willing partner with the City in possible uses for the Carnegie and is providing historical photographs for a large exhibit in the new City-owned parking garage on County Street between Grand and Clayton.

Our annual Tour of Homes was held on Sunday, June 24 and was a huge success. It was a beautiful day and we were able to share our beautiful neighborhoods and our Museum with over 625 visitors. Many of these guests come from outside of Waukegan, and the Tour has turned into a yearly event which showcases what we have to offer. Hard work by the homeowners and the tour volunteers made this year's tour a huge success.

The Waukegan Historical Society's Haines Museum and Raymond Library have both been

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# *the President*

hosting increasing numbers of guests. The Museum had hundreds of visitors both on the day of the Tour and for the Annual Fourth of July celebration in Bowen Park. Ty Rohrer, our Museum Supervisor, had decorated the front of the Museum in hundreds of little American Flags and gave out little bags of old fashioned rock candy to many of the children attending the festivities.

We are pleased that Ed Link will be giving a program on Sunday, September 9 at the Schornick Theater in the Jack Benny Center on "Waukegan, North Chicago and the Movies." Ed is the resident expert on a lot of things, but movies, how they were made, and where they were shown, are one of his favorites. We are really looking forward to this program. As always, the program begins at 2:00 pm at the Benny Center, is free of charge, easily accessible, and refreshments will be served afterwards. Please join us and bring a friend to what will be an interesting look into the past.

Please also mark your calendars for the Annual Oakwood Cemetery Walk on September 29. The theme of this year's popular Walk is lakefront industry. The Museum will also be open for tours during the Walk.

Harry Came  
September 2007

## **WHS Board**

### **Officers**

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Harry E. Came  
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Denyse Waters

# Waukegan, North Chicago and the Movies

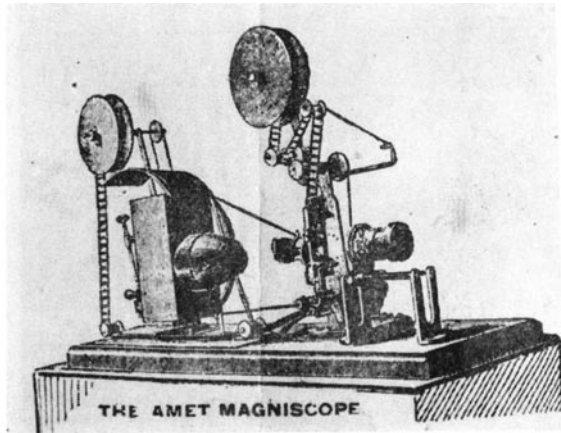
Sunday, September 9

2pm

Jack Benny Center

Ed Link will share his vast knowledge of who made them, who was in them, and where they were shown. When asked about what theaters he had researched Ed said, "There were 48 theaters; do you really want me to tell you about all of them?"

We hope you will join us, and please bring a friend just like you did on a Saturday afternoon many years ago, when it only cost a quarter—this show is free.



**THE FIRST** practical movie projector, the Amet Magniscope, was invented in Lake County in 1894 by Edwin H. Amet (right). A replica of Amet's shop (above left), is among the collection of artifacts at the Lake County Museum.



# Tour of Homes Recap

The Society's annual Tour of Homes, held on Sunday June 24, was a huge success. Over 600 tickets were sold for the event, which is the main fundraiser of the year for the Society. The tour featured a broad range of homes—from a beautifully restored 1870s Italianate to a classic 1950s brick ranch, and from a stately 1920s Sheridan Road estate to a home that showcased the collecting passions of its owners. Highlights included the lovely period costumes worn by the homeowners and room watchers at the Ellis-Buck house, and the refreshing lemonade served in the backyard of the Conrad house. Many of the attendees visited the museum and had a chance to view the newest exhibit, Waukegan Listens! An attendee from Antioch won the door prize, a \$100 gift certificate to the Genesee Theatre.

A successful event of this scope is the result of six months of hard work by the Tour of Homes Committee – Harry Came, Gretta Dieck, Sara Griffin, Chandra Sefton, Bill Tyre, and Denyse Waters, ably assisted by our Museum Supervisor Ty Rohrer. Margaret Martin served as graphic designer and the News Sun once again supported the event as official media sponsor. A special thanks is due to the homeowners for their hard work in readying their lovely homes for the tour—Brian Bailey, Tim Helke, Dan and Yvonne Sylvester, and Craig and Faith Wilson. We also wish to thank the volunteers who served as room watchers and tour guides. Pierce Florist provided the stunning floral arrangements.

Nearly half of the attendees traveled from outside Waukegan for the event, which once again provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase our beautiful residential neighborhoods. Perhaps no other annual event exhibits the dedication that our residents have for making Waukegan a special place in which to live.

Be sure to mark your calendar now for the 2008 Tour of Homes to be held Sunday June 22!

## Historically Speaking

# First Presbyterian Church

by Ed Link

2007 is the sesquicentennial year for the First Presbyterian Church, and it joins Christ Episcopal, First Baptist, First Congregational, First United Methodist, and Immaculate Conception in reaching that milestone.

On November 11, 1857, a meeting was held at Union Hall to create a new Presbyterian Church. Fifty individuals made up the original membership, forty-five of whom had belonged to the First Congregational Church. Early church members included city leaders D.O. Dickinson and James McKay. In later years, the church welcomed merchant Isaac R. Lyon and educator John E. Baggett, among hundreds of others.

After holding services in Dickenson Hall, the congregation chose to build a church at its present location (122 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.) in the middle of downtown Waukegan. The cornerstone was laid June, 1858, and the building was dedicated that October. Architect W.B. Van Osdell provided

a church which cost \$7,600.

By 1893 the church decided a new building was needed. Insuring that enough member subscriptions were available to fund such an endeavor, the church asked architects S. Lietz and Warren H. Milrus of Chicago to provide plans. They were adopted and Mr. Reise of Chicago was chosen to build the new building for \$15,540. The



cornerstone was laid November 18, 1893. Bedford limestone and hydraulic pressed brick were used in the construction. The Romanesque style building features arches, a steeply pitched roof, tower, and smooth stone trim. The sanctuary floor features a 40 inch incline, the first used in a Waukegan church. Stained glass windows are throughout. Dedication of the new building was on March 18, 1894.

A major benefactor of the church at that time was Jane McAlister. She bought the church a new organ and acquired the house and lot north of the church as a residence for the pastor. She also retired the remaining debt for the new building in 1902.

It is interesting to note that during the church's 150 years it has had only 17 pastors. Samuel W. Chidester was there for 45 years. He was instrumental in founding the Waukegan Public Library and Jane McAlister Hospital. Thomas G. Melton was pastor from 1958-1964 and left to go to Independence, Missouri where he became associated with former President Harry S. Truman. R. Norman Herbert succeeded him as pastor and stayed 25 years.

In 1956, Eckstrand, Schad & West designed the Christian Education building which was built where the pastor's residence once stood. It was completed at a cost of over \$150,000. A 1963-64 renovation of the church featured a new pipe organ.

Because of its beauty and elegance, the church has been featured on the Waukegan Historical Society's Tour of Homes in 1984 and 2004.

The sesquicentennial celebration has been going on throughout this year featuring different events. It will culminate on November 11 with a special service and a banquet. This will celebrate not just the church and buildings, but all the people who made the church what it is and will continue to be in the future.



## Collections Cameo

# The Haines Museum: Changing Tastes

By Harry E. Came

Our own Waukegan Historical Society's Museum is a microcosm of the changing styles of architecture, furniture, and household goods from the middle to the late 19th century. As guests walk through each period room, they can see how tastes changed from one decade to another. The museum presents an interesting example of many of the trends which were happening all across our young nation at the same time.

The oldest part of the Haines is the north section facing Sheridan Road with the original front door leading into a hallway and stairs with a room on the left which is now used as the library. Behind that is the kitchen and what was a pantry. This part of the house was built in the early 1840s, probably in the Greek revival style which was popular in Waukegan at that time. There are still many charming homes of that period in the area, with their classical gables facing the street, and some have elaborate architectural

detail. The most elaborate example of this temple-style facade is 414 N. Sheridan Road, the old Chamber of Commerce building that is currently under renovation. Inside a Greek revival one might find Empire style furniture, such as the Lincoln bedroom's sleigh bed and the elaborate classical settee, both originally from the Ferry house (corner of Julian and County Streets) where Lincoln spent the night on his visit to Waukegan.

John C. Haines bought the





property that became the Haines Museum in 1857 as a summer retreat; he became Mayor of Chicago a year later. In the 1870s, Haines added a large addition to the south of the original building, adding what is now the dining room, two parlors, and the beautiful front hallway. He also built a tower, which has since been removed, with a gabled roof and finial, which can be seen in the Society's logo. The addition was in the style known as Italianate, of which there are many interesting examples still graciously adding to Waukegan's neighborhoods. The Peterson Funeral Home on Sheridan Road and, further north along the street, the Ellis house next to Upton Park are well known examples of Italianate design with their deep over-hanging eaves and large decorative brackets.



Empire styled furniture was out of style by this time, and styles of Rococo Revival, Renaissance





Revival, and later Eastlake, became fashionable. Rococo Revival furniture in the Museum can be seen in the west parlor with the beautiful group of French-styled, needlepoint and petit point covered parlor set. Renaissance Revival furniture can be seen in the south parlor with the beautiful parlor set in red velvet and the huge dining room table. Although styles overlap one another, the Empire style was out of fashion by the 1840s on the East Coast but a little later in the frontier town of Waukegan, while the Rococo revival of the 1850s and 1860s was replaced in the 1870s by the Renaissance Revival. By the 1880s the Eastlake style was becoming popular, with more simple and angular furniture and architectural styles such as Stick and Queen Anne were being built around town.

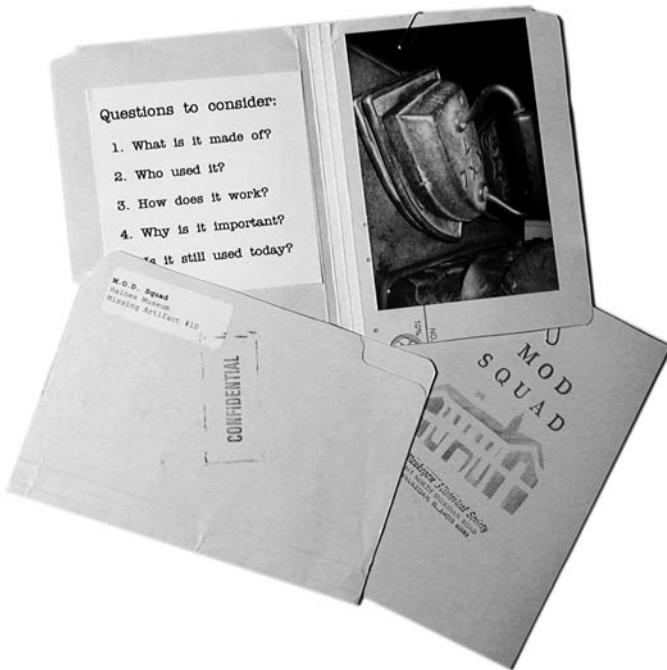
Our beautiful Museum presents several interesting architectural styles which can also be seen around our beautiful City. Because of the generosity of our members we have been able to furnish the Haines Museum with lovely examples of the change of styles in the 19th century.

# Museum Supervisor's Report

September 2007

This summer we were privileged to have Katie Rasmussen, a senior in Art History at DePauw University, as our intern. Katie brought many fresh new ideas and was always eager to learn about the working museum and library. She was instrumental in the research, design, and implementation of a new exhibit for the dining room on Victorian dining and table settings. Katie's past museum experiences also led to the creation of a new museum tour program for school groups called the M.O.D. Squad (short for Missing Object Detectives).

Katie was also a valuable docent during the Tour of Homes and the Independence Day Parade and Festival. We wish Katie well in finishing her degree and in future endeavors.



M.O.D. Squad folders ask visitors to hunt for specific objects in the museum.

# Recent Donations

**Ms. Florence Ford Dart**

Parlor furniture; settee and chair

**Charles Lange**

Tea cup set

**Bill Tyre**

Taylor Wholesale Grocery Co. thermometer, First National Bank deposit bag, "Waukegan Concerto" sheet music, Rotary Club of Waukegan banner, 1926 Abbott Lab Christmas party program, magazines

**Harry Came**

Morse code device

**Gretta Dieck**

Child's cape and bonnet

**Karl Wismer**

Arrowhead

**Betsy Alleman**

North Chicago Lumber nail aprons, Plaza Hotel ashtray

**Faith Clark**

Play program "Mirandy's Minstrels"

**Ruth Brown**

Newspaper clipping

**Sandy Pokett**

Photograph of William and Ann Hatton

**June and Jim Maguire**

Globe Department Store glass vase, Hupp Service Station thermometer

**Thomas J. Lutz**

Book-"James Sears Dunham"

**Family of Lewis Clarke**

1992 Lake County Bar Association List, "Logan Memorial Book," "Prisoner of Zenc"

**Tom Lutz**

Family genealogy

**Cheryl Whitford**

Map of Blumberg subdivision

**Lynn Graham Badamo**

Post Office employees photograph

**Ed Link**

"Orphan Train Rider" book

**Barbara Duna Ken**

Genesee Theatre memorabilia

**Elaine Soble**

1918 Yearbook, 1920 Alumni Association program

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

# Thank You!

## New Members

Wendy J. Hoffman  
Mrs. Shirley Goldman  
Margaret J. Young  
Gloria Mossburg

## New Life Members

Cheryl Sheaver  
Jan Young  
Michael Smole  
Phil Smith  
Steve Rosswurm  
Rick Snap

## Donations

Dorothy Buddenhagen  
Robert Abbott  
Doris Salmon  
Eleanor Moore  
Robert & Susan Welch  
Cora Hammarstrom  
Sophia Ninos  
Yvonne & Daniel Sylvester  
Margaret May  
Lucille Bruce  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Wilkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Raj Bhatt  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Darrow  
Barbara Parmelee Stuessy  
Mark & Laura Mitchell



# Area Events

Please call to confirm dates and times.

## **Cuneo Museum & Gardens, Vernon Hills (847-362-3042)**

September 9. Vintage Car Show and Flea Market, 10am-4pm.

## **Grayslake Historical Society (847-223-7663)**

September 9. Open House, 1:30pm-3:30pm. Continuing exhibit, The 50s.

September 12. Speaker: Rebecca Hunter, Do You Live in a Sears House? State Bank of the Lakes, 7:30pm.

September 30. 10th Annual Cemetery Tour, 1:30pm & 2:30pm. Northeast corner of Belvidere Road and Lake Street.

October 10. Speaker: Larry Leafblad, History of Radio Station WKRS. State Bank of Lakes, 7:30pm.

## **Historical Society of the Fort Hill Country, Mundelein (847-556-7743)**

October 6. Youth Event, Give the Past a Future. 11am-3pm. Children learn about railroad memorabilia, pioneer tools, military uniforms, village photos, and Diamond Lake artifacts. Earn certificate of learning; scavenger hunt.

## **Lake Villa Historical Society (847-265-8266)**

September 15. 5th Annual Civil War Reenactment at Lehman Mansion.

September 16. Civil War Dinner & Ball at Lehman Mansion. Fee. Tickets available at City Hall.

## **Long Grove Historical Society (847-438-7656)**

October 1. Speaker: Barbara Rinella, book reviewer & dramatist. Breakfast, Arboretum Club, Rt. 22, Buffalo Grove, 9:00am. Fee

October 5-7. Apple Fest. 10am-2pm.

## **McHenry County Historical Society (815-923-2267)**

October 7. 34th Annual Cider Festival, 10am-4pm.

October 17. Historic Haunted Séance, 7pm-9pm. Communicate with Prohibition violators of the 1920s.

# 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

### Haines House Museum

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

## Hours

### John L. Raymond Research Library

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

### Haines House Museum

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)



1917 N. Sheridan Rd, Waukegan, IL 60087

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Sunday,  
September 9  
2:00pm  
See page 4.

