



WESTERN SPRINGS *Historical Society*

Fall 1995

Children's Museum Grand Opening--a "Blast from the Past"

The Western Springs Historical Society Children's Museum officially opened on September 17th. It was a beautiful day, and many kids and parents stopped by to join in the events organized by Children's Museum Chairperson Kim Murphy. In addition to being able to explore the Museum, the children made yarn dolls, natural birdfeeders and learned about Native American children's games. Additionally, kids got to "autograph" ceramic tiles with their handprints--which will be on display at the Museum. (You can still purchase these--stop by the Museum for details.)

Some of the many items on permanent display in the Children's Museum will be a Victorian dollhouse that kids can actually play in and a play area with lots of old-fashioned games like marbles, Pog, jacks and more. On the ceiling are old-fashioned model planes, set off against a handpainted cloud skyscape.

There will also be many special workshops for kids scheduled throughout the year. These include harmonica instruction, puppetmaking, and later putting on a show with the puppets kids have made.

The kids at the grand opening appeared to really enjoy the events and the museum. And we look forward to sharing it with more children. Initially, the Children's Museum will be open the

same times as the Historical Society Museum--every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the first Sunday of the month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (except special events, which will be announced). See the Membership page of the newsletter for how to join. Or, if you are interested in volunteering your time to help with the Museum, please contact Kim Murphy at 246-6986.

"Guess the House" Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of this Spring's "Guess the House" contest:

Robert L. Baumer

The Pete Caris Family

J. C. Helin

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew B. Neely

Winners correctly identified the circa 1888 house as 4539 Woodland. Thanks to all who participated!

New Windows Give Fresh Outlook

Did you notice a boarded-up window in the Tower Museum this summer? The old one was not broken, but being replaced by the Village. Deteriorating wood caused 2 windows to be replaced this year--as funds become available, the Village will replace more.

Upcoming Events

♦ **Playthings from the Past:** This season's Tower Museum special exhibit celebrates playthings prior to the 1940's. In addition to Historical Society memorabilia, there are many items on loan from people within the village.

♦ **Historical Program--Thursday, November 9, 7:30 p.m., at the Village Hall:** The Woodland Indians who inhabited this area years ago will be the subject of Mr. Louis P. Aiello's program. A historian of Native American culture, Mr. Aiello will augment his presentation with numerous artifacts. Mark your calendar.

♦ **Interest in Upcoming Lectures:** Have you attended a WSHS lecture and enjoyed it? Would you like to see us continue to offer events like this? Or do you have a special lecture topic/idea that you'd like us to explore? If so, let us know. Please write or call or use the space indicated on the Membership Application inside.

♦ **Western Springs Historical Society/Children's Museum Hours:**
Saturday 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
1st Sunday of the month 1-3 p.m.



916 Hillgrove Avenue

246-9230

Historical Society Membership

Other Ways to Help the Historical Society

In addition to becoming a member or volunteering at the Society, there are other ways you can help out.

We are always looking for new pieces for the Tower Museum collection. If you would like to donate or loan artifacts, documents, etc. pertaining to Western Springs, please contact our Archives office at 246-9230.

(NOTE: Because of space constraints or duplication, the Society may not be able to accept every item.)

Thanks for your help.

Benefits of Membership

- ♦ **Patron and Life Memberships** include all of the benefits listed below plus a free copy of Centennial History of the Village.
- ♦ **Business Memberships** will be listed in our newsletter. Business Members receive a certificate suitable for framing.
- ♦ **Family and Sustaining Memberships** include discounts on all Historical Society programs (including those in the Children's Museum), a free poster of the Tower Museum, and discounts on all Historical Society merchandise sold at the Tower Museum.
- ♦ **Individual Membership** includes discounts on Historical Society programs (except those in the Children's Museum) and discounts on all Historical Society merchandise sold at the Tower Museum.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Western Springs Historical Society
Box 139
Western Springs, IL 60558
246-9230

PLEASE PRINT THE WAY YOU WISH TO BE LISTED: _____, 19__

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Yes--please reprint Western Springs--19th Century Houses and their Owners. I'd be willing to pay \$30 for one.

Yes--please continue with your seasonal speakers. I am interested in _____.

ANNUAL DUES

Please Circle One

Life Member of the Society \$500

Patron Member of the Society \$100 per year

Sustaining Member of the Society \$50 per year

Business Member of the Society \$30 (min.) per year

Family member of the Society \$25 per year

Individual Member of the Society \$10 per year

Special Gift \$ _____

Renewal

New Membership

Thank you for your support!

I would like to help with:

- Museum Docenting
- Publicity and Mailing
- Typing or Filing
- Museum Display Arrangement
- Genealogy
- Children's Museum
- Membership Promotion
- Preserving Historical Records and Research
- Fundraising
- Other



Western Springs Historical Society

Mailing Address: Box 139
Western Springs, IL 60558

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Western Springs, IL
Permit No. 25

OFFICERS

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Kent Taylor
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OTHER CHAIRPERSONS

Robert Dockum
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Nancy Pegram
Jo Ann Taggart
Larry Taggart
Norm Thompson
Ann Vance

Western Springs Historical Society

Telephone for Archives:
246-9230

Archives and Workshop
Grand Avenue Community
Center--2nd Floor
Open Tuesdays 9 a.m. - 12
noon

The Tower Museum
916 Hillgrove Avenue
Open Saturdays 11 a.m. - 1
p.m.
1st Sunday/month 1- 3 p.m.

Western Springs Trivia Quiz

Test your knowledge of our village's history. If you don't know the answers, they're printed at the bottom. And if you want to find out more, stop by the Historical Society! All answers are from Western Springs--A Centennial History of the Village.

1. In what year did the residents of Western Springs vote to incorporate as a village?
2. What weren't you allowed to ride at more than six miles an hour through town?
3. Which indian tribe frequented Western Springs?
4. Which seed company used to operate 26 greenhouses and 120 acres of plantings in Western Springs?

ANSWERS:

1. 1885 (Dec. 12 to be exact!)
2. Bicycles
3. Pottawatomi--a major attraction was the numerous mineral water springs near the present site of Spring Rock Park.
4. Vaughan Seed Company originally built five large greenhouses in 1889, and by the early 1920's, mailed about 50,000 catalogs out twice yearly to customers in the U.S. and foreign countries.