

Western Springs Historical Society

December, 1998

Presentation of Third Annual Tower Awards At Village Club

The Western Springs Historical Society presented its third annual Tower Awards, on October 14, at a gala dinner reception held at the Village Club.

This award was created to recognize those residents of Western Springs who have carefully maintained, preserved or rehabilitated their homes to maintain their original character and to save them from possibly being razed. This event was organized by Dale Maher, Historical Preservation Committee Chairperson.

The honorary dinner was followed by a discussion on historic preservation given by Terry Tatum, Architectural historian and instructor at Columbia College and the Art Institute. The Tower Awards were presented, along with a reading of the property histories.

Additional contributions were provided by:
Eric Herzog - Photographs of homes
Erinn Checchi of Yardening - Centerpieces
Chantel Caldiera - Catering

The Preservation Committee members are:
Dale Maher - Kim Murphy -Cindy Koziaz
Jan McDermed - Kathryn Price
Erinn Checchi - Carole Cosimano
Joe Pasquinelli - Susan Young

Six homes and one institution were selected to be recipients of the 1998 Tower Award. The homeowners, all present at the ceremony, are:

*Linda and Larry Mura, 1316 Chestnut
Queen Anne house, purchased in 1983
Built around 1875 by Asa Sweateman*

*Jane and John Veldman, 4224 Grand
Purchased in 1988*

*Doug and Jane Westhoff, 316 41st.
Tudor style home, purchased in 1993
Built in the 1930's*

*Ed and Nancy McNulty, 4719 Grand
Mediterranean Style, Italian influence
Built in 1931, purchased in 1983*

*Shawn and Melisa Feeley, 4628 Wolf
Cottage, Built in 1909 by Francis Jenkins
Purchased in 1995*

*Tim and Lynn Irons, 4343 Woodland
Part Queen Anne and part American
Four-Square, Built in 1904*

*Casey's Market, 915 Burlington
Located at original site of Hendrickson
Grocery. Purchased in 1980*



Casey's Market

Each of the award winners was presented a bronze plaque, designed to be prominently displayed on the exterior of the home or institution.

The Tower Award is presented annually to residents and institutions in Western Springs who meet the criteria established by the Historic Preservation Committee.

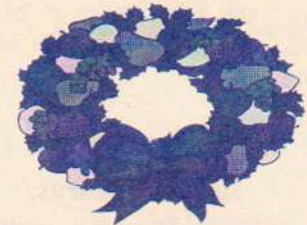
Photos of the 1998 Tower Award winning homes are on display at the Tower Museum.

Special Holiday Exhibits

* Don't miss a special showing of American Girl dolls, courtesy of Sarah Ostrowski. Step back in time and meet Felicity, a colonial girl growing up in Williamsburg, VA. in 1744; Kirsten, a pioneer girl, who journeyed from Sweden to a tiny farm on the American frontier; Addy, a courageous girl determined to be free in the midst of the 1864 Civil War; Samantha, a bright Victorian beauty, an orphan being raised by her wealthy grandmother in 1904, and the American Girl Today.

* In front of the fireplace is a Christmas tree, adorned with antique ornaments, including an assortment from Mrs. Rodney Kimberling. The antique Christmas tree stand was used in Hendrickson's market in the early 1900's.

• View Christmas trimmings from the collections of Alice Perkins and the Historical Society Museum; Storybook dolls from the childhood days of Suzann Woodward and a child's wooden antique sleigh(c.1900).



**Western Springs Historical
Society Museum Hours:**

SATURDAYS 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

*Children's Museum will be
closed January - March.*

Historical Society Updates

Children's Museum Updates

While visiting the Historical Society, take a walk up to the Children's Museum on the third floor of the Tower. Many hands-on permanent exhibits are on display with a special emphasis on historic Western Springs. Special seasonal crafts workshops are also organized throughout the year.

Halloween Crafts

A enjoyable Halloween treat was had by all in October. Children participated in an afternoon of music and seasonal treats, while creating some unusual looking ghosts crafts.

Christmas Reindeer Crafts

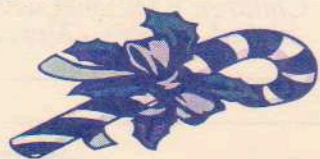
Ring in the holiday season, constructing a special Christmas handicraft. During the month of December, children will be able to design candy cane reindeers, made with pipe cleaners and felt. All ages are welcome. While visiting the museum, try to guess what the item is in the WHAT IS IT? Box.

Request for Donations

The Children's Museum is looking for donated children's books of a historical nature for the children's library. In addition, if you have any dress-up clothes, jewelry, or other playhouse items, call Kim Butler at 246-0972. Thanks again to everyone who has contributed!

Children's Museum Great for Birthdays!

The Children's Museum is available for hosting birthday parties, in conjunction with Snackers Cafe. All Museum members may host a party. For more information, call Kim Butler at 246-0972.



Special Thanks to 1998 Children's Museum

Volunteers:

Joan Belawich - Joan Binder - Rene Sconzo
Toni Cainkar - Jenine Cameron
Suzy Glowiak - Mary Handler
Tracy Henick - Sharon Jones
Sue Ellen Hockencies - Sue Klein
Jill Lovelace - Kim Murphy
Margaret Schnieder - Debbie Bulawich

AND Special thanks to

Justin Cagney, a student at Nazareth Academy.

For more information about the Museum, or if you are interested in volunteering, call Kim Butler at 246-0972.

Charming Dollhouse Exhibit At The Tower Museum

While visiting the Tower Museum, come see the Kuhlman dollhouse, displayed on the second floor. This exhibit was donated by the family of Mrs. Helen Kuhlman. The dollhouse is a near-replica of the house built by Mrs. Kuhlman's grandparents. Their home in Dubuque Iowa, was built in 1859 and torn down in 1893.

In 1978 Mrs. Kuhlman contracted with Richard Hammond, of Peoria, to build a similar dollhouse, working from a photograph of the house. The floor plan follows the original in the general location of the rooms, though not to actual scale.

Mrs. Kuhlman took an active part in the careful planning of every detail to portray the period of 1860-1870, giving close attention to Victorian tradition and the fine art representative of that time. She made the lace curtains with matching bedspreads, the draperies, the petit point rugs and the wall hangings. Furniture throughout the house was collected from all over the world. Some of the pictures on the walls are miniatures of actual family photographs. Don't forget to pay a visit to this fascinating exhibit!

Western Springs Archives

A window to our past!

The Archives of the Western Springs Historical society serves the community by documenting our Village history and furnishing extensive research material for its residents. The staff is comprised entirely of volunteers, and managed by Ann Vance, a long time Western Springs resident.

Information is obtained from various local publications and from within the community. This data is categorized, filed and Microfiched. There are extensive files on Village history, including Village administration, genealogy dating back to the 1800's, schools, businesses, churches, houses, along with a large collection of historical photographs. There is also a newly catalogued collection of over 2,000 historical slides that are available on loan.

The Archives is located on the second floor of Grand Avenue School (access at Grand Ave. entrance). It is open on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-12:00. For information Call 246-9230. Request forms are also available at the Tower Museum.

Recent Acquisitions

The followed items were recently donated to the Historical Society. Special thanks to all of our contributors!

- Wedding dress with headpiece (c.1945), photograph of wedding party - Alice Peterson Thompson.
- Four Lyons Township High School yearbooks dated 1927 - 1930 - Mr. And Mrs. Richard Kriebel.
- Musical cylinder and 1/4" thick record used with early Victrolas - Helen Cooke.

ANNUAL MEETING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

7:30 P.M.

McDermed's Home, 4001 Central

All members of the Western Springs Historical Society are invited to attend. Election of trustees will be held and such other business as may come before the meeting.

Historical Society Updates

Early Village Chronicles

The Village of Western Springs maintains its characteristic small town feel, while preserving its past through the efforts of the Western Springs Historical Society. The following excerpts from archived village records provide some historical and somewhat humorous insight into Village life of yesteryear.

June 28, 1929 - Air Hose Breaks, Stops Freight Train

"A broken air-hose was the cause of the jam-up of an east-bound livestock train on the Burlington Sunday evening. The breaking of the hose set the airbrakes and caused the wreck of two freight cars, one loaded with calves and the other with cattle".

"Several of the calves were killed. Police arrested a driver for a LaGrange cab company who had stopped and stolen a dead calf, stuffing it in the tonneau of his car".

The accident occurred a block or so east of Wolf road crossing. The two engines had to come back around the train and haul it back to Hinsdale. A good part of the population of WS turned out to see the wreck, which occurred shortly before a fireworks stand south of 47th. in LaGrange blew up with a bang".

65-mile Squad Car Arrives!

"Speeders, beware of Western Springs. No longer will the pursuit squad flivver around in the rear of higher powered law-breaking vehicles. For the village has received its new go-getting roller-skate and the squad is able to catch up with almost anything that Detroit is putting out".

"Thursday, the new Whippet squad car arrived, and after receiving all the accessories necessary, was put into service. The car is a five-passenger touring, and is provided with special high gears which are said to give a maximum speed of over 65 miles an hour".

June 10, 1928 - Chief Declares a War On Stray Dogs

"War has been declared by Chief of Police Burg and his men. Already 12 dogs, strays, have been picked up and several of them summarily executed".

"The rabies scare which has hit almost every suburb, has as yet not appeared here, but strict measures against the entrance of the disease are necessary and being taken, according to the Chief".

"A dog pound has been established at the old pump house on 47th. Street, where the unwelcome visitors are entertained, until their death warrant is signed".

"The rabies epidemic has disturbed the situation all over the state, and all villages have been warned regarding it. In Hillside last week, two mad dogs were killed, and there have been flare-ups in Bellwood and Berwyn".

April 14, 1933 - FOR RENT

"Five room house, \$40, located on Rose Avenue near Ogden. Call at 4116 Johnson, Western Springs. Five room brick bungalow, garage, 4116 Linden, Western Springs, \$35".

1928 - FOR SALE

"50X213 residence lot in Ridge Acres, \$1,000".

Slide Programs

Free slide programs with "do-it-yourself" scripts or a Society narrator are available. It's a great way to gain insight into our town. The following programs are available:

- ◇ A history of Western Springs, the first One-Hundred years
- ◇ Village Postcards of the Past
- ◇ Early Western Springs Businesses
- ◇ Low Down on our High Rise (Old Water Tower)

Call Henry Linabury at 630-769-6146 for more information, or the Western Springs Archives at 246-9230.

WSHS: A Gift Resource

With the holidays around the corner, don't forget that the Tower Museum offers a great choice of WS memorabilia and stocking stuffers. These items make great gifts for friends and family.

- ◇ Framed tower/train station prints
- ◇ Christmas cards, posters
- ◇ Western Springs Centennial books
- ◇ Children's Museum T-shirts
- ◇ 8 Watercolor note cards by Peggy Taylor of Village Scenes (Also available at downtown shops).

Archiving Historical Western Spring Homes

One of primary functions of the Western Springs Archives is to document the changing face of Western Springs for future generations. Over the years, numerous WS historical homes have been razed. In many cases, no written history or image of these homes was ever assembled, only to be lost to history.

If you know of any house or business that is scheduled to be, or is in the process of being torn down, please contact us at 246-9320, so we can arrange to photograph and document the structure.

Museum Tours

The Tower Museum is available for special tours beyond the regularly scheduled hours. The tours were tailored to the interest and availability of each group. If you want to take advantage of this program, please contact the museum at 246-9230 or Henry Linabury at 630-769-6146.

Special Thanks To 1998 Museum Volunteers:

Bill & Mary Anderson - Jim Bird - Mary Boland
Charmaine Blessman - Sue Darlington
Jeanette Fanta - Don Finkleston - Judy Gaylord
Marilyn Hanson - Lou Landbeck - Steven Mink
Henry Linabury Jan & Bill McDermed
Kitty Meade - Al Mungai - Kim Murphy
Evie Myers - Pat & Jim Olmstead - Kent Taylor
Marion Paptistella - Nancy Pegram-Adam Szyneł
Alice Perkins - Harriett Potenza Val Price
Lynn Rowells - Betty & Norm Thompson
Ann Vance - Dick Walker - Sandra Waunn



Western Springs Historical Society

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Western Springs, IL 60558

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Pat Olmstead, VICE PRESIDENT
Marilyn Hanson, SECRETARY
Dick Walker, TREASURER

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Charmaine Blessman
Mary Boland
Kim Butler
Carole Cosimano
Don Finkelston
Judy Gaylord
Dale Maher
Steven Mink
Kim Murphy
Jim Olmstead
Alice Perkins
Lynn Rowells
Leanne Schuneman
Kent Taylor
Sandra Waunn

OTHER CHAIRPERSONS

Henry Linabury
Nancy Pegram
Val Price
Norm Thompson
Ann Vance

NEWSLETTER

Steven Mink

Western Springs Historical Society

Archives and Workshop

Grand Avenue Community
Center—2nd Floor
Open Tuesdays 9a.m. - Noon
246-9230

The Tower Museum & Children's Museum

916 Hillgrove Avenue
Western Spring

MUSEUM HOURS:

Saturdays 11 a.m. - 1p.m.
Children's Museum will be closed
January - March

Western Springs Trivia

Ogden Avenue - Originally called Old Plank Road, was later renamed North Boulevard before it was changed to Ogden Avenue, by village ordinance in the 1920's.

Rugeley Road - This street in the Springdale area was so named after the village's sister city Rugeley, England. The English counterpart has a street named Western Springs Road.

Other name changes:

Central Avenue was originally Lake Avenue
Lawn Avenue was originally Ashland Avenue
Woodland Avenue was originally Prairie Avenue
Grand Avenue was originally Park Avenue
Wolf Road was originally East Boulevard
Johnson Avenue was originally Townsend Avenue
Franklin Avenue was originally Ohio Avenue
47th Street was originally South Boulevard

Test your knowledge of our Village's history - If you want to find out more,
stop by the Historical Society

1. What 24-year-old seminarian from Wheaton College became the pastor of the Western Springs Village Church in 1943?
2. What Western Springs resident, who lived on Lawn Avenue in the early 1900's, went on to become well known in the world of real estate?
3. What is the population of Western Springs and the number of households?

ANSWERS:

1. Billy Graham
2. Ben Banker of Caldwell Banker
3. Approximately 12,400 people in 4,300 households