



Western Springs Historical Society

Fall 2002

HOUSE WALK ~ 2002

The Historical Society sponsored its triennial House Walk on Sunday, May 19, 2002.

Visitors toured seven vintage and new homes, featuring a variety of architectural styles and impressive interiors from the Old Town, Field Park and Commonwealth sections of the village. These homes reflect the variety, diversity and history of the village, which makes Western Springs a special place to live.

A box lunch was provided by Now Serving Café and Catering in La Grange at the First Congregational Church. Music was provided by the Southwest Community Concert Band.

Trolley busses took visitors to and from the houses throughout the day. Busses were provided through the generosity of:

The Doings

The Community Bank of Western Springs
Harris Bank of Western Springs
Mid America Bank
Western Springs National Bank & Trust

Floral arrangements inside the homes were provided through the generosity of:

Amlings

Jane and Maria, Ltd.
Hinsdale Flower Shop
Norm's Cha Lor Flowers & Gifts
Stems & Twigs, Co.
Sweet Pea, Unique Floral Designs

This has been the most successful House Walk to date with nearly 1100 tickets sold. Proceeds from the event went toward maintenance of

artifacts and costumes at the museum and new landscaping at the tower. The Historical Society is grateful to the hundreds of volunteers, individuals, and businesses for their numerous donations and services.

In addition, the event would not have been a success without the generosity of the following homeowners:

Midge and Patrick Furlong
Kate and Tom Hickey
Karen and Fred Holbert
Lisa and Pete Najarian
Collette and Jim Rinn
Anne and Jerry Shea
Jane and Bill Stern

Co-chairs for the event were Sharon Bachmann and Jan McDermed

Ice Cream Social

The Western Springs Historical Society will sponsor an Ice Cream Social to celebrate preservation and honor the award winning homes in the village.

These awards recognize homeowners for restoring or preserving their residences while maintaining each structure's architectural or historic integrity.

All residents are invited for a complimentary ice cream on Sunday, September 15, 2002 from 2 - 4 pm on the Village Green. The Tower Museum and Children's Museum will be open that day.



Rinn Residence

4119 Franklin

916 Hillgrove Avenue - Western Springs, Illinois 60558

246-9230

Historical Society Updates

Children's Museum

Children of all ages are invited to visit the Children's Museum on the third floor of the Tower. It is open every Saturday from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Stay and play with an assortment of old-fashioned toys, blocks, dress-up clothes dolls, and the playhouse.

Call for Docents for Children's Museum

The Children's Museum of the Western Springs Historical Society is looking for Junior Docents to volunteer on Saturdays from 11 AM – 1 PM. If you are in 6th grade (now) or older, like history, enjoy playing with children, and want to serve your community, this is the volunteer activity for you! You may work only one Saturday, or as many as you like, and you are encouraged to do it with a friend. This is a great way to fulfill your stewardship requirements. If you are interested, please call Mary Donnelley (784-0513) or Shaun Gorman (246-3961).

Request for Donations for Children's Museum

The Children's Museum is looking for donated items to create an old-fashioned schoolhouse corner. The following pre-WWII items are requested: school desk, 1892 flag, clock, lunch boxes, globe, maps, pegs for hats on the wall, old fashioned hats, and McGuffey Readers.

In addition, the following musical instruments are being requested for a new music corner: Drums, keyboard, banjo and rattles. Thanks again to everyone who has contributed!

The Train is Running

Thanks to Western Springs resident, Tom Williams, the train and tracks are now in working order. Tom straightened out the electrical system and the train is up and running. Thanks to Tom for his efforts.



Children's Museum Great for Birthdays & Group Tours!

The Children's Museum is also available for birthday parties and group tours. A tour can be designed specially for different groups. Some of the groups who have visited the Museum this year include Brownies, Cub Scouts, pre-schoolers and primary grade school children. It can be educational and fun!

For more information or to make a contribution, please call Shaun Gorman at 246-3961 or Mary Donnelly at 784-0513.

Recent Museum Acquisitions

The Western Springs Historical Society is proud to announce the arrival of two new exhibit collections. Former Police Chief Peterson's family has donated a Hummel collection. Lisa Young has donated a crewel picture of the Water Tower that she made for school. Be sure to stop in on Saturdays between 11:00 am – 1 pm and during the coming Ice Cream Social for a peek at all the exhibits.

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 community. 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)

For more information call the Western Springs Archives at 246-9230.

Archive Volunteers

Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays from 9-12a.m. to help catalog the Historical Society donated items and articles. Please contact Ann Vance at 246-9230.

Western Springs Archives

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 are 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.

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 Western Springs homes have been razed. In many cases, no written history or image of these homes has been assembled. The Historical Society has been collecting photomontages of homes that have received demolition permits.

Society members Rus and Michele Nelson, of Nelson and Nelson Graphics, Western Springs, are providing the Archives with photomontages of houses that have been demolished as well as the new houses that are built. Special thanks to Rus and Michelle.



Historical Society Updates

Western Springs Historical Society: A Gift Resource

Don't forget that the Tower Museum offers a great choice of Western Springs memorabilia. These items make great gifts for friends and family. Members to the Society receive a 10% discount. Items include: framed tower/train station prints, "Images of America: Western Springs, Illinois" by Betsy Green, Western Springs Centennial books, Children's Museum T-shirts, and watercolor note cards of Village Scenes, by Peggy Taylor.

New Western Springs History Book Has Arrived

Village resident, Betsy Green has written a book "Images of America: Western Springs, Illinois", on the history of the village. The book explores our village's origin from farmland to its current status as an upper-class suburb known for its excellent schools, low crime rate and fine homes.

The book is available for purchase at the Tower for \$18 for members of the Society or \$20 for non-members.

Beautiful By-ways

Miss Doris Donaldson of Montreal, Canada, a young journalist and poet who is studying nature spent several days at "Western Springs" and an article entitled "Beautiful By-Ways" will appear in the "Montreal Star" which gives a graphic description of unspaired natural beauties of the Western towns of "Western Springs" and LaGrange," and the charm there is of enjoying real home and out door life.

Newspaper article June 30, 1922

New Landscaping At the Tower!

The Western Springs Historical Society has donated funds for the design and installation of new landscaping at the base of the Tower. Proceeds from this year's House Walk are paying for the new plantings. The design and installation were completed by YARDENINGS of Western Springs.

The project was led by Erinn Checchi and features many site sensitive plantings. Great job Erinn!!

Call for Docents

Any individuals who have a general interest in history or a specific interest in the development of Western Springs and would like to volunteer as a docent for the Western Springs Historical Society should call the Society at 708-246-9230.

Docents are given training and are asked to spend two hours on a Saturday at the Tower Museum. Please leave your name, address and phone number and state that you are interested in becoming a Docent.

Mr. Periscope Man

Mr. "Periscope Man" we thank you for the good word. We speak for our citizens. We are sure when we say we consider it a compliment indeed! There are no houses, nor would there be no apartments, if our village contained such, where children are not welcome. In that matter you are surely correct when you say as a community we are not exclusive along that line, for by the number and quality of our children they are Western Springs greatest asset.

Newspaper article December 24, 1922

Meet our Achive Manager: Ann Vance

Ann moved to Western Springs in 1950 because her husband Gerry was working for United Airlines at Midway Airport and they wanted to be close to his work.

Ann started working at the Western Springs Library as a volunteer in 1955 doing a few hours of typing per week. This job eventually led to Ann being employed by the library and later becoming Head Librarian, a position she held until 1983 when she retired.

Not ready to completely retire, Ann started working for the Western Springs Historical Society at the archives located on the second floor of the Grand Avenue School. There she worked with Maude Erickson, who was instrumental in founding the Historical Society in 1966.

Maude soon retired and Ann took over her duties at the archives. Ann is responsible for cataloging all the artifacts and pictures that are donated to the Society along with organizing the endless stream of news articles-both past and present.

Ann and her many hard working volunteers have so much fun discovering interesting facts about the village and its long time residents. Did you know that Baby Face Nelson lived with his sister over on Howard Avenue for a year in the 1930's?

Wouldn't it be great to help Ann, not to mention the village, by donating a few hours a month to help preserve our past for future generations?

Please call 246-9230 to volunteer your time.



Western Springs Historical Society

Mailing Address: Box 139
Western Springs, IL 60558

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U.S. Postage
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Western Springs, IL
Permit No. 25

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Nancy Pegram
Norm Thompson
Lynn Rowells
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NEWSLETTER

Pete Caris, Jim Havlat

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 Springs

MUSEUM HOURS:
Saturdays 11 - 1 P.M.

Come Celebrate Our Award Winning Homes

*With an
Ice Cream Social On the Village Green*
Complimentary Ice Cream and Music
Provided by the Western Springs Historical Society*

*Sunday, September 15, 2002
2 - 4 pm*

*Preservation Awards given at 3 pm
Tower Museum and Children's Museum open 2-4 pm*

** In case of rain, the Ice Cream Social and Awards will be celebrated at
Grand Ave Center*