

THE WHISTLESTOP



Villa Park Historical Society & Museum Newsletter – FALL 2014

220 S. Villa Avenue, Villa Park IL 60181 Phone: 630-941-0223 Website: www.vphistoricalsociety.com

OCTOBER 4th ANTIQUE SAFARI BUS OUTING

*Mark down your calendars for Saturday, October 4, 2014. This year's Antique Safari bus outing will be going to Peru, IL. Several stops are scheduled. The bus leaves the museum at 8:00 am and returns at 5:00pm. **The cost is \$45.** Sign up forms are available at the museum. RSVP by September 13th.*



Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney Wright



OCTOBER 19th SPECIAL PROGRAM AT ANNUAL MEETING AT MUSEUM

*Join us for a special program given by Ellie Carlson - **Regretting Mr. Wright: Mamah Tells Her Own Story** on Sunday, October 19 at 2:00 PM following VPHS's brief Annual Meeting. It is an opportunity to meet and talk to a ghost. Mamah was murdered on August 15, 1914.*

VILLA PARK CELEBRATED ITS 100TH BIRTHDAY ON AUGUST 8th, 9th and 10th

The Village of Villa Park's Centennial Celebration and all of its activities had been the talk of the town all year.

Last year, a Centennial Celebration Committee was formed by the Village Board and **Rae Rupp Srch** served as its chair. The committee was responsible for the planning and execution of various Centennial events. Also, The VFW sponsored many Fish Fry's and \$2.00 Pancake Breakfasts. The Village created a special website to keep everyone informed.

The Celebration was a huge success thanks to the Village staff, clubs, churches, organizations, library, businesses, school reps, newspaper reporters, post office reps., and individuals who contributed and volunteered their time to make this happen.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since the last newsletter, most of the activities at VPHS have been spent on preparing for and supporting the Village's Centennial Celebration and other scheduled museum events.

Our museum had record breaking attendance of over **1,000 visitors during three Centennial events**. This was absolutely fun and very exciting for us. VPHS partnered with many new organizations and many new people joined the Society. This will help us to continue to provide the level of support that is expected.

During the summer, I led two tours. The **Methodist Church of Lombard** spent a morning with us. An **Evanston senior group** arrived in a bus and was treated to a ride through Villa Park's historic neighborhoods and a stop at Ovaltine Court.

Paulina Jimenez, Villa Park Community Foundation – President, and her crew has continued to maintain and improve our lovely gardens. **Lena** had donated more perennials. **Valentina Poggi** created the planters facing Villa Ave. The garden has become so colorful and beautiful that we were honored to have our first wedding photography session there!

Recently, the dilapidated c.1864 **Biermann farmhouse** on St. Charles road was torn down. VPHS received a donation of several milking stools, a door lock & knobs from the house and will receive the old back door for our collections. We had the opportunity to photograph the exterior and interior before it was demolished. **Bill Shultz**, the new property owner, found some interesting objects including a collection of old bottles, remnants of a pocket watch and rusted toy parts. Next year, VPHS plans on display some of these findings. Hundreds of extremely large boulders were excavated and saved. Villa Park has three remaining farmhouses.

The museum continues to be a popular meeting place and rest stop for several **bicycle clubs** in DuPage and Cook counties. We have met very interesting people who love coming to our community.

VPHS is appreciative of your recent donations that became part of our artifact collection. One noteworthy item was a portable (weighs a ton!) **1950 Philco portable television** that we put on display. New Ovaltine memorabilia items have been added to our display case and updates to our business collectibles.

I'd like to thank the board, members, volunteers, Village Board & staff, supporters, visitors, Siobhan, and Eric for your contributions and support. The Board hopes to see you at our upcoming outings and programs. *Sincerely yours, Carol Marcus*

VPHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **August 31** - The KRDMA Museum **PASSPORT** program ended.
- **October 4** - Fall Antique Safari Trip to Peru, IL
- **October 19** - VPHS Annual Meeting & Program
- **December 6** - Holidays In the Air / 6:00 pm Joyful Traditions

Museum Hours

- Tuesday-Friday 1:00-5:00 PM
- Saturday-Sunday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
- **Closed on Mondays**

The MUSEUM WILL CLOSE ON DEC. 15 for the season and will open in April 2015

2014 VPHS BOARD

President / Newsletter / Tours– Carol Marcus
Vice-President / Publicity– Gail McGrew
Treasurer / Building – Frank Carlson
Secretary / Gift Shop – Pat Carlson
Membership / Antique Safari – Gail McGrew
Curator / Archives / Computer – Jerry Hughes
Grandma's Attic – Pat Turen
Website – Tom Kopera

Facebook - Kerry Kopera
Obituary Binders – Robert Dollinger
VPHS Museum Greeters/Docents:
Siobhan Gasparotto, Eric Sulzmann

GRANDMA'S ATTIC

I would like to thank everyone who has donated to Grandma's Attic during the year, and I hope you will continue to be generous in the coming year. Proceeds help us to be able to operate the museum, change exhibits and front windows, and purchase acid free boxes and folders to store our artifacts.

We have received generous donation of new greeting cards for all occasion from **Sandy Ziedler** that were from the former **Mr. Z's** in Lombard. Other items have been donated from members, non-members, neighbors and friends of VPHS.

If you are cleaning out your house or having a garage sale, please remember the Museum. We are looking for white elephant items, knickknacks, glasses, dishes, jewelry, books and greeting cards. **We do not accept:** clothing, computer or school books, encyclopedia sets, National Geographic magazines, magazines, records, cassette tapes and large items. **All items donated are Tax Deductible. Pat Turen**

MUSEUM PROVIDES HISTORICAL PHOTOS, INTERVIEWS & DISPLAYS

VPHS board members have been extremely busy assisting the Villa Park Independent, Villa Park Review, Trib Local and Villa Park Argus newspaper editors and reporters with their information requests to support their featured articles regarding the Village's Centennial Celebration. These are keepsake articles for sure.

Al Stasch used the Historical Museum to conduct and tape interviews with long-time residents.

VPHS created a display for the Villa Park Public Library lobby and participated in the development of the **World History/Villa Park Timeline** boards.

We brought over large historic photos to decorate **Illinois Senator Thomas Cullerton's** office window on Ardmore Avenue.

COMMEMORATIVE COINS

VPHS gave out commemorative coins to people attending our Centennial events.



STREET LIGHT BANNERS

A special sponsorship opportunity was developed to fund Centennial Street Light Banners. **Carol Marcus** was responsible for its marketing and collection. **Paulina Jimenez**, a local artist and President of the Villa Park Community Foundation, designed the attractive green banner and its logo. Over 85 businesses and individuals purchased a banner and received a sponsor poster. The Village public works staff installed them along St. Charles Road and throughout the Ardmore Avenue and Villa Avenue historic landmark

business districts and Cortesi Memorial Park. This project was supported by VPHS & VPHPC.



CENTENNIAL PHOTO COVERAGE

Since many of the Centennial Activities were held at the Historical Museum or at Cortesi Memorial Park, VPHS has included representative photos in this newsletter to capture the spirit of this historic occasion. These are some of the events covered:

August 2 - Time Capsule Burial
- Bike Event

August 8 - Special Commemorative Stamp
- Healthy Villa Park (Vision, Hearing Event)

August 9 - Foot Race, Healthy Villa Park (Life Source Blood Drive, Elmhurst Hospital, Easter Seals). Museum stayed open until 9:30 pm.
- **Community Picnic & Music**
- Mustache / Beard Contest
- Fireworks

August 10 - Grand Prix Bike Race
August 17 - 2 PM VPHS Centennial Ice Cream Social
- 4 PM Car Show at Cortesi



Centennial mascot Arthur V. Parker.

Cars all lined up by the c.1926 former Great Western depot.

TIME CAPSULE BURIED ON AUGUST 2nd

Village departments, clubs, organizations, commissions, schools, and churches had been asked to contribute items to be included in the time capsule. On Saturday, August 2nd, in front of the Village Hall, a ceremony was held. The Royal-Airs Drum and Bugle Corps provided the music. **Rae Rupp Srch**, Centennial Celebration Committee Chair and Village President **Deborah Bullwinkel** gave uplifting speeches. The Centennial logo was designed by **Lori Guimond**. A bronze plaque was placed on the location of the buried capsule.



Villa Park President Deborah Bullwinkel at podium by Village Hall.

SPECIAL STAMPING AT MUSEUM ON FOUNDER'S DAY – AUG. 8th

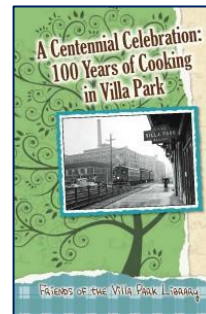
Frank Carlson, VPHS Treasurer, worked with the **Villa Park Post Office** to create a special stamp for the **Founder's Day - August 8, 2014**. Using artist **Paulina Jimenez's** banner design for the envelope, Frank designed the special stamp that also used Paulina's Centennial Banner Logo and coined the phrase.



V.P. Postmaster and Frank Carlson.

CENTENNIAL COOK BOOK

The Friends of the Villa Park Public Library had sought out historic recipes from each decade from the residents. The result was a fantastic Centennial Cook Book filled with Villa Park history time line items and anecdotes.



CENTENNIAL TEE SHIRTS / POSTERS/ TREE PLANTING

Elmhurst Memorial Hospital sponsored the Centennial Tee Shirts for the Centennial Foot Race. Artist **Lori Guimond** sketched the historical view of the CAE Villa Avenue Station with the Ovaltine factory in the background that was used for the back of the tee shirts. This design was also used for the Centennial Poster. The Village Public Works department has developed a special Centennial Tree Planting program.



Larry Soberalski.



Centennial poster.

VPHS HELD ITS CENTENNIAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL ON AUGUST 17

VPHS held its Centennial Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 17 from 2:00-4:00pm. It was a nice day and we had over three hundred people attend this event. **Suzette**, a talented balloon artist, entertained the kids. A musical performance was held by acclaimed musicians **Peter Herz** (violin) and **Marek Kalinowski** (accordion). **Jewel Osco** of Villa Park provided the ice cream. **Robert Shultz**, A-Z Auto Repair brought out their unrestored 1925 Model T Ford Doctor's Coupe. Other car displayed a Willys coupe (**Bill Reeves**), Mustang (**Tom Kopera**) and a hot red Corvette (**Larry Soberalski**).



A very creative balloon hat.



Enjoying ice cream.



Marek Kalinowski & Peter Herz.



The 1925 Model T Ford Doctor's Coupe.



Village Trustees Al Bulthuis & Bob Wagner



Bill Reeves and Helen Dreckman.



Princess and Prince of Villa Park with Al Stasch.

V P H S - EVENT PHOTOS



Lovely maintained gardens. Bike event sponsored by Faith Communities of Villa Park. Rae Rupp Srch.



Family lining up their bikes for the event. Barb Fosnot viewing Ovaltine items. Healthy V.P Elmhurst Memorial Hospital booth. Village Manager Rich Keener, Jr. purchasing some commemorative envelopes from Frank Carlson (Al Stasch, Deborah Bullwinkel and Jerry Hughes in back row).



Stamping event – Princess, Frank Carlson and members from the Villa Park Post Office. Fire Chief Ron Rakosnik & paramedics. Vision and Hearing trucks / Lions member Vydas Juskelis.



Ladies enjoying the 1930's kitchen exhibit. Young lad looking at an item in gift shop. Senator Thomas Cullerton with Carol Marcus by WWI exhibit. Photos by Carol Marcus – VPHS.

VILLA PARK CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY PICNIC PHOTOS – August 9, 2014



Photos by Carol Marcus – VPHS.

VPHS is a 501C3 non-profit volunteer organization. VPHS depends on the ongoing support and generosity of its membership, business community and Village so that we can keep the Historical Museum operating, collect history, maintain its archives, create displays, and provide educational programs.

Newsletter Contributors/Editors

Frank Carlson, Gail McGrew, Carol Marcus, and Pat Turen have contributed articles, and/or edited this newsletter. Photos courtesy of Carol Marcus.

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www.gasprint.com



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STAMP

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