

# Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

December 2008

## Trivially Speaking...

What famous song, written in Long Grove in 1939, continues to be sung and performed many times each day?

U.S. Army Captain Robert Crawford spent a summer here in Long Grove visiting his sister and decided to compose and submit an entry into a song contest being sponsored by Liberty Magazine. His entry won, defeating over 750 other entries, which included songs submitted by such famous composers as Irving Berlin.

Give up on the name of the song? Commonly known by its initial lyrics, "Off we go into the wild blue yonder", the song is officially known as "The U.S. Air Force" and it's the official theme song of the U.S. Air Force.

## Tea Time

Cheerio! Fancy a spot of tea and good conversation? Join fellow Historical Society members for an "afternoon tea" (e.g. small lunch and tea) at 1pm on December 3rd at the Old Victorian Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast, 26668 N. Main in Wauconda. Reservations and pre-payment are required by November 28th. Send your check for \$18 per person to Ann Dickson, 3416 RFD, Long Grove, IL 60047. Questions? Contact Ann at (847) 438-7902.



## TREASURE MAPS

Did Long Grove ever have an airfield? A 1948 chart appears to show an airfield south and west of the intersection of Routes 22 and 83 with a 2000 foot runway named "SKYCREST". The name is certainly familiar as there are even places today (including a subdivision) that bear that name. But a quick check with a couple of area old timers didn't turn up any recollections of there ever having been an airfield in that part of Long Grove. Was it one of the several satellite airfields set up during the war in support of the Glenview air base? Was it related to the golf course and country club in that area? It's a bit of a mystery at the moment – watch for a follow up in a future newsletter on what we discover.



## Mark Your Calendars

- Dec. 3, Victorian Tea
- April (TBD), Antique Appraisal
- June 17, A E Stevenson House Tour
- Sep. 28, Rinella Book Dramatization



How do you learn to write without a paper and pencil? Use a rock! It's hard to believe now, but that's what school kids used, even into the early 1900's, when paper was expensive and scarce. Slate was a type of stone that splintered naturally into thin sheets. Wood or cloth was used to frame the "slates", as they were

called, to protect your hands from the splintering rock. For a writing instrument, chalk worked, as did specially made "slate pencils", which were slivers of slate wrapped in paper. There were probably many materials used as erasers, with lamb's wool being what we illustrate at our 1840's era one room school (Archer School).

In the United States, slate was mined in the northeast—principally

New York, Vermont and Maine. It became the roofing material of choice during the nineteenth century—if you

could afford it rather than wood, because it wouldn't catch fire.

If you get a chance to visit the school during one of our open houses, look for a unique "double slate" we have on display there -

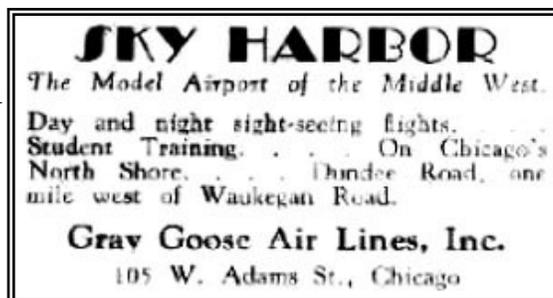


*Archer School docent Teresa Borota explaining a slate during a visit by local school children.*

a foldable slate bound in the middle similar to a book.

## Out and About

If you're intrigued by old airfields, you might enjoy lunch at the 94<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron restaurant which borders the Chicago Executive Airport (formerly called Palwaukee Airport). The restaurant is themed as a 1917 French farmhouse and overlooks the surprisingly busy runways. A



lesser known alternative to

"old airport" dining is Ceiling Zero in Northbrook, which is located in an old hanger of what used to be Sky Harbor Airport.

Sky Harbor airport opened in 1929, but fell into decline during the depression. It was revived during World War II for navy flight training and continued after the war to support small private planes. It closed in 1973.

### The Fine Print

The Long Grove Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization whose purpose is to preserve and disseminate the history of the Long Grove area. Annual membership is available for a donation of \$30 (individual), \$50 (family), or \$100 (sustaining). Members receive our quarterly newsletter as well as access to a variety of events held throughout the year. To become a member, send your donation to Georgia Cawley, LGHS Membership, 4509 RFD, Long Grove, IL 60047, along with your name, address, telephone number, email. If you have any special interests, skills, or things you'd be interested in volunteering to help out with, be sure to let us know that as well.

# Vintage Yarns

In 1986, the Lakes Country-side newspaper interviewed Elsie Krueger (pictured on the right) regarding her Christmas memories. Elsie was born in 1896 and passed away not long after the article was written. The following is excerpted from that article...

Elsie Giss Krueger grew up on farms in and around Long Grove, and recalled the German history of the area. Even into the 1920's some churches in the area conducted their services in German, and Elsie remembered going caroling and singing in German. "That was always my favorite part of Christmas", she said.

Fire safety was a bit differ-



ent then – Elsie also recalled real candles on the tree - "We always had the

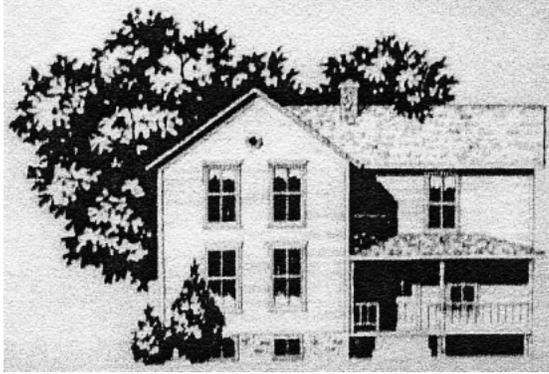
Christmas trees with the wax candles, and the big trees, pretty near to touch the ceiling."

But gifts weren't as plentiful then, and playing games with family members was what one did on Christmas. Elsie recalled "There was never very much. We used to get little bags of candy from the storekeepers in Long Grove. And we generally got a new dress for Christmas. Our mother generally made it for us. Cousins would come over to visit on Christmas day and we'd spend the day playing games. But we always had to quit early and go milk the cows."

## Back in the Day...

Homeowners' associations and their covenants are familiar to many who live in Long Grove. They sure have changed over the years, though. The following tidbits are taken from an old 1937 Long Grove subdivision homeowners agreement:

- "(the premises) shall not include the conduct of intensive chicken farm or hatchery"
- "no outbuildings shall be used as a privy or toilet"
- "(any) house erected for use as a summer cabin shall not cost less than \$4,500"... "an all-year-around dwelling shall not cost less than \$8,500.00"
- "no persons other than of the Aryan race shall be permitted to occupy the said premises except as a servant"
- "all covenants above shall be in effect for a period of thirty years"



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## Family History Corner

Ever wonder what the land you own now looked like 100 years ago? It's not been quite 100 years yet, but over half the state of Illinois was photographed from the air in the late 1930's and early 1940's. We hope to complete a project in the coming months to put the Long Grove area 1939 aerial photos up on our LongGroveHistory.com website—so you can be a bird and fly back in time to see how different parts of Long Grove have changed over the years. For now, here's a teaser of what downtown Long Grove looked like in 1939. Compared to a modern day satellite photo, the lack of trees in 1939 is rather striking.

