

Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

June 2009

Trivially Speaking...

What's the highest and lowest point in Long Grove?

Some quick map reading would suggest:

Highest Long Grove - 812 feet above sea level. A point along the railroad tracks about 300 feet southwest from the end of Cripple Creek Drive in Indian Creek Club.

Lowest Long Grove - 670 feet above sea level. A point just northeast of Blue Heron Drive and Teal Court in Heron's landing.

Those of you who like scavenger hunts and have a good GPS... let us know if you find somewhere higher or lower.

AN AFTERNOON AT ADLAI'S HOUSE

Adlai E. Stevenson II's campaign for president in the fall of 1952 wasn't going well—he was perceived as an aristocrat and an intellectual. Sensing the irony of a wealthy man with a hole in his shoe, photographer William M. Gallagher seized the moment. Afraid that Stevenson would sense his focus on the shoe and change his posture to

hide the embarrassing hole, he pre-focused his camera and casually set it down on the stage in front of Stevenson. Gallagher would only get one shot. When Stevenson sensed the camera fire, he looked at Gallagher and uncrossed his legs. The next day the photo spread around the world, and far from being an embarrassment, it helped Stevenson change his image in a way his speeches never could—he was a man of the people.



His supporters even took to wearing a small lapel pin depicting the worn out shoe. The photo went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for Gallagher in 1953. It was not enough, however, for Adlai to overcome the popular Dwight Eisenhower in the election, and he was eventually defeated 55% - 45%. Want to judge for yourself how common Adlai was? Join us on June 17, 2009 at 1pm for an exclusive one hour tour of his house in Mettawa. The home is located on Saint Mary's Road, south of Illinois Route 60 (Townline Road). There is a large green Lake County Forest Preserve sign near the driveway entrance. No advance reservation or payment is necessary—we'll pass a hat around for a small donation from those that attend. We're the only group at the house at that time, so it should be easy for us to meet up. See you there!



THE COMMONER

A special advanced teaser on our book dramatization for this coming September 28—*The Commoner*, by John Burnham Schwartz. This fascinating fictional novel is based on the real life story of Empress Michiko, the current Empress of Japan. Barbara Rinella will be performing the dramatization again for us this year—in full kimono! We're working on some other surprises for the event also. Mark your calendars early so you can travel to Japan with us on the morning of September 28.



Mark Your Calendars

- June 17, Stevenson House Tour
- Sep. 16, General Meeting and Public Program
- Sep. 28, *The Commoner* Book Dramatization

CELEBRATION!

In celebration of Barbara Turner's 90th birthday, the Long Grove Park District is hosting an Open House/ Reception. The event will be held at:

Reed-Turner Woodland Center
3829 Old McHenry Road
Sunday, June 14
1-4pm

Come visit with Barbara; enjoy birthday cake and snapshots of her life and times.



Long time village resident and historical society member Barbara Turner is celebrating her 90th birthday this year.

Barbara asks...

- Be Green!
- No cards (unless you recycle one).
- No gifts please, though a donation to the Reed-Turner Woodland Trust is always greatly appreciated.

Contact Jane Wittig at 847-566-5761 if you have any questions about the event.

Congratulations Barbara, from your friends at the Long Grove Historical Society.

Back in the Day...

While it may seem like we live in dangerous times, and long for the simpler, safer days of yore, the reality is that many dangers of the past simply have been forgotten. Take one of our favorite holidays for example—Independence Day. Excerpted from the July 29, 1905 issue of The Chicago Tribune:

MORE VICTIMS OF FOURTH

Additional Deaths Reported Bring the Total for the Whole Country to 118

An additional death reported yesterday brings the total fatalities in the United States as a result of fourth of July celebrations to 118.

The Dead.

STEVENS, FRED D., 17 years old. Long Grove, Ill; died of lockjaw; injured by toy pistol on July 4

Of the total fatalities thirteen were in Chicago.

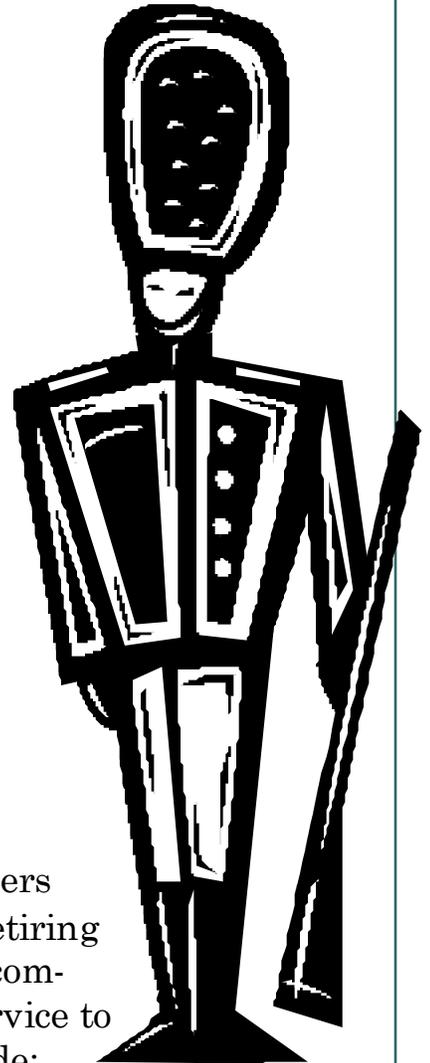
The Fine Print

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.

Society News



*Past President Ann Dickson is congratulated by
Current President Angie Underwood*



OUR BI-ANNUAL CHANGING OF THE GUARD

On April 15th our outgoing and incoming board members gathered at Gridley's Grill for our Annual Meeting. Retiring President Ann Dickson summarized the past years' accomplishments, and was honored for her many years of service to our organization. Other retiring board members include:

Shirley Macarthur, Harvey & Shirley Lease, and Vernadine Martlock.

Thank you one and all!! Our new 2009-2010 Board of Directors includes many clever, creative, energetic, and eager new faces: Barbara English, Diane Trickey, Caroline Liebl, Kathy Wiberg, and Lori Lyman. Please join us in warmly welcoming these new volunteers.

Our entire board is currently hard at work planning a variety of projects and programs to help inspire and tempt YOU to become a more active member in the year ahead!



2009-2011 Long Grove Historical Society Board

Executive Officers

President	Angie Underwood
Vice President	Laurie Borawski
Treasurer	Diane Trickey
Recording Secretary	Barbara English
Past President	Ann Dickson

Committee Chairmen

Communications	Aaron Underwood
Buildings/Maint.	Bob Borg
Membership	Georgia Cawley
Educat. Outreach	Caroline Liebl
Archer School Prog.	Kathy Carlson
Programs Director	Kathy Wiberg
Curatorial Director	Tina Mall
Ways & Means	Marie Borg
Landscaping	Lori Lyman
Village Board Liaison	Lee Bassett

The Long Grove Historical Society was formed in March, 1974, to accept the Drexler Tavern building as a gift. A joint project with the Village Board made possible the relocation of the tavern to a site behind the current Kildeer Countryside School. Today we know the building not as Drexler Tavern, but simply as Village Hall. Two additional structures have also been relocated to this area—one of the area's one room school-houses, Archer School, and a mid-1800's barn, Ruth Barn. The school and the barn form the core of the program we run each year for our local schools, so that our children can experience first hand what life used to be like in Long Grove. Last, but not least, a mid-1800's farm house was relocated to an area bordering the southwest corner of the Stemple Parking lot. "The Farmhouse", as we refer to it, houses our archives, a meeting room, and several restored "period" rooms that we open occasionally for tours. In addition to maintaining the above properties and our educational programs, we actively acquire items of local historic interest for our archives and conduct a variety of historical programs for current residents. We receive no tax dollars and exist solely from your contributions and our own fundraising efforts. Thank you for your support!

Vintage Yarns

Ask most any village resident what happened on December 7, 1941 and they'll likely tell you about the day Pearl Harbor was bombed. Ask Freddie French though, and you'll get an additional story. Says Freddie, "December 7, 1941 was the day my husband Fred and I moved into our new house in Long Grove. We had been living in Evanston prior to that, and wanted to build a house in the country. The previous winter, when we saw the openness and lack of development in Long Grove – we knew we had found the land we were looking for."



Freddie French

Like many men of that day, Fred joined the war effort and had to leave his pregnant wife Freddie behind when he was assigned overseas. Freddie remembers, "Before he left, we had agreed we'd name the child Lynn, which would work either for a boy or a girl. In November of 1942, when our son Lynn was born, I didn't know where Fred was, so I sent several cablegrams to the military trying to give him all the details. When days went by and I didn't hear anything back, I sent one telegram, but I guess I was getting a bit brief on the details after sending so many. Years later, when I met some of his friends from the service, I found out that the telegraph he eventually received read:

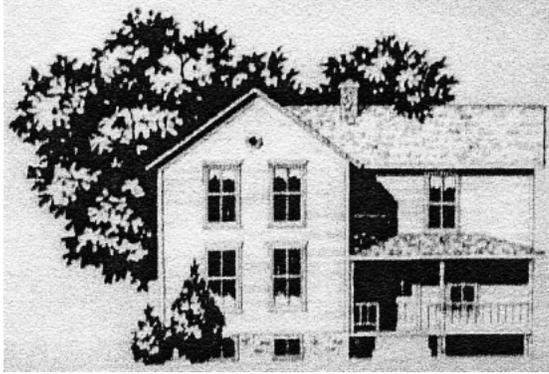
LYNN BORN NOVEMBER 21

Everyone thought it was quite funny when he passed out cigars not knowing if he had a son or daughter." It wouldn't be until December of 1944 that Fred would make it back home and see his then three year old son, Lynn.

"One of the things I used to do socially with other residents was badminton. The high school at that time was in Lake Zurich, and we'd meet there on Wednesday evenings to play. It was a nice informal way to get to know neighbors without having to be so proper. You didn't play against Mrs. Reed – it was Florence." comments Freddie. Speaking of high schools, Freddie remembers the namesake of our current high school – Adlai E. Stevenson. Says Freddie, "We used to vote at the Washburn Church, which was where Adlai voted also, and we saw him when we went to vote."

The Kildeer Players was a local amateur theatrical group that put on performances using the stage at Kildeer School in downtown Long Grove. Freddie remembers, "I attended the first show and had so much fun I had to join in. I was in the chorus for *The Roaring Twenties* production. Mibs Hill directed us and Harold Turner and Charlie Parson provided the music." Mibs Hill's husband, Bob Hill, ran Ferry Hill Farms, a local dairy that Freddie and her friends frequented. Freddie comments, "We used to call it the Dairy Store – it was in the area around Route 83 and Gilmer Road where Gridley's restaurant stands today. We'd go there and buy milk and they had a back room they would let us use to make our own cottage cheese. Another part of the Farms was a little restaurant at the southeast corner of 22 and 83, where Long View Meadows is now. They had wonderful soup and we used to go there for lunch. Years later, after the restaurant closed, there was a player-piano store there."

Freddie still lives in the Willowbrook Woods home that she and Fred built in 1941. While we don't keep records of such things, we're pretty sure Freddie has been a full time Long Grove resident longer than anyone else currently living in the village.



Long Grove Historical Society
Long Grove Times Quarterly Newsletter
Aaron Underwood, Newsletter Editor
338 Old McHenry Road
Long Grove, IL 60047
(847) 634-6155
admin@LongGroveHistory.com



OLDE PHRASES...

What's the difference between a "graveyard" and a "cemetery?" A graveyard is a burial ground on or adjacent to a church and is typically controlled by the church. A cemetery is a burial ground not affiliated with a church. Cemeteries came into being in the 1800's as populations increased and churches ran out of land. Also, as churches tended to be located in densely populated areas, their graveyards were not popular places to bury the victims of infectious diseases that were becoming more prevalent during this time – a more remote cemetery was favored by those who wished to remain uninfected. I'll leave it as an exercise for the reader to figure out if our historic "Long Grove Cemetery" on Robert Parker Coffin road is a graveyard or a cemetery.



Ever see a "tree stump" tombstone inscribed with the letters WOW on it? That stood for Woodmen of the World— an American fraternal insurance company. Beginning in the 1880s the insurance company would provide the widow of a deceased client \$100 and a free gravestone if the logo of the insurance company could be put on the stone. The practice was phased out in the 1920's due to prohibitive costs. WOW even had a TV-Station at one point—WOW-TV in Omaha, where the late Johnny Carson started his show business career.

Did you know the term "graveyard shift" refers to a problem in the 1800's in which people were buried alive? Occasionally, the doctors of that time prematurely pronounced people deceased, and cemetery workers would have to stand watch for signs of life all night... just in case. Well, that story is actually an "old wives tale" - the term did not come into being until the early 1900's and it refers to the fact that, no matter what job you're working at 4am, everything at that time seems as quiet as a graveyard.