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Hinsdale, Illinois

Echoes

A Publication of the Hinsdale Historical Society

From the President

Dear Society Members,

Two wonderful people have retired from our Board, and I want to give them special thanks on behalf of all of us.

George Bauder has been a stellar member of the Society for many years. He did an excellent job of researching Hinsdale buildings for their history and authenticity, as well as providing articles on local historic buildings for our newsletter. Often this took him to obscure and dusty records in dark rooms in public buildings in Wheaton. His job, done so reliably and with great thoroughness, will be hard to fill. We wish George the very best, and we are sure he will continue his steady support of his alma mater, UWisconsin.

Jim Elder was only on our Board a few years, but he provided critical, wise and humorous input into the start-up tasks needed for Immanuel Hall management and use. Jim helped us devise a user contract, rental rates and insurance needs. He also gave perceptive insight into the major revision of the By Laws done by the Board last year. Keep on truckin', Jim.

The next issue of *Echoes* may reveal further personnel changes and Board turnover.

I hope to see lots of you at our Annual Meeting on June 7th. Not only will some new Board Members and Officers be selected, but there will be a report provided by every Board Member on the year in review.

Sandy Walton

President
Hinsdale Historical Society

Open For Business

Now that Immanuel Hall is open for business, the Society has added to its list of accomplishments the task of learning how to manage a rental facility. In January, the Society formed a management/supervisory committee for Immanuel Hall, the purpose of which is to manage all aspects of the building, including its marketing and use.

Terrific people are on the Immanuel Hall Advisory Committee, and you will recognize their names: Julie Crnovich, Jan Grisemer, Regina Melbourne, Kristy Giltner, Penny Bohnen, Karen Walton, Nickie Byrnes, Karen Lopez, Alice Mansell, and Sandy Walton, Chairman. Bob Saigh, the unofficial protector and coordinator for that building for many years, is working with us. The committee has members from the Society Board as well as the Society's newly formed Women's Board and each member was chosen for their long-standing support for the Hall.

The committee will have had two meetings by the time of this publication, and its first priorities are the development of an information brochure that will be available to those that are interested in renting the space, as well as holding an open house for local caterers and wedding planners, potential sources to market our wonderful facility.

After meetings with helpful personnel from KLM Lodge and the Community House late in 2008, a user contract was developed for Immanuel Hall, insurance put in place, and tentative rental costs were defined with the assistance of Board Member Jim Elder and our new insurance agent. Our hope is to have the Hall pay its own way, or close to it, from rental revenue. In the meantime, word-of-mouth has prompted activity and buzz about the Hall, and a number of events have taken place this year and are scheduled for the days ahead.

Similar committees are being developed for the Hinsdale History Museum and for the Zook buildings at KLM Park. The main Society Board maintains overall supervision, control, coordination, legal responsibility and fund raising for all its venues, but a group of people devoted solely to each venue will enhance each location with maximum management efficiency.

If you are interested in learning more about renting Immanuel Hall for your next event, please contact the Society at 630-789-2600.

Hinsdale Historical Society

P.O. Box 336
Hinsdale, IL 60522-0336
630.789.2600
www.hinsdalehistory.org

The mission of the Hinsdale Historical Society is to collect, preserve and promote the history of Hinsdale, Illinois, and to foster an awareness and appreciation of its history and architecture through education, programs, exhibits and the maintenance of historical resources and properties in the Village.

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Home Research, George Bauder
Research Library, Janet Miller

From the Museum Manager's Desk

Let's face the facts—our economy has seen better days. It seems everyone is feeling the effects and pinching those pennies. But during this uncertain time, let's not forget about museums. Many people see museums as splurges to be focused on and funded when there is a surplus, but tend to be forgotten when times get hard. Thinking along these lines can be dangerous. Museums, especially history museums like our own, are crucial to the morale and identity of the country's citizens. During the Great Depression visitation to museums actually *increased* compared to previous years. I like to think that the museums gave a sense of calm to those who visited. Walking through the quiet, safe rooms filled with art and artifacts of long ago gives an escape to the troubled mind. Learning something new or remembering something forgotten does wonders for the morale. Inside those four walls, one can learn about the struggles of the past and see how they were overcome. Knowing that those stories of hardship came to a resolution gives people greater faith that the current struggle will also pass.



History is extremely important in times of trouble because it gives us a sense of identity. Without the knowledge of our past, how will we know who we are and how we came to be? Every culture has traditions and celebrations of historical events which define that specific way of life. By visiting museums, we get the background story and make a connection to our past which gives us a greater sense of self and community. With stronger communities comes a stronger nation and strong nations have the ability to overcome hardships, even an economic crisis.

So the bottom line is turn off that depressing news cast and get out to a museum. Reconnect with your roots and get a fresh outlook on life. It can do wonders.

Anne Swenson

Museum Manager, Hinsdale Historical Society

Annual Meeting Date Set for June 7, 2009

The Hinsdale Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 7, 2009

3:00 pm

Immanuel Hall

All Society members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Echoes is a publication of the Hinsdale Historical Society and is published 5 times annually.

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Volunteer Spotlight

Richard Olsen

The Anderson Architecture Center is up and running! Let's take a closer look at one of the volunteers who helped to make that happen.

Richard Olsen currently serves on the Advisory Board for the Anderson Architecture Center and has done so since its beginning in 2006. He is a great asset to the Advisory Board, especially since he works as a resident architect. He is one of many who can't wait to see how Hinsdale will benefit from having the Anderson Architecture Center. "I believe that the AAC has begun to lay the ground work as a beneficial resource for enhancing public interest in...the architectural heritage of our community. From creating elementary school programs, assembling lists of local architects' and builders' work, providing walking architectural tours and putting together exhibits, the AAC will be a resource for the residents of Hinsdale."

Richard has lived in Hinsdale since 1987 and has been involved in the community by taking on volunteer roles such as Board Member for the Hinsdale Central High School Ice Devils and President of the Hinsdale Falcons. Besides his current role at the Hinsdale Historical Society, Richard is a Board Member for the Village of Hinsdale Design Review Commission.

"It has been a pleasure to be involved with people such as Ruth Anderson and Sandy Williams. They have given time and resources back to the people of the Village of Hinsdale in an effort to advance public interest in the architectural heritage of our Village." The Hinsdale Historical Society would like to thank Richard as well as all the others who helped make the AAC what it is today!

A Special Invitation to All Society Members

The Hinsdale Historical Society Women's Board presents...

COOK'S NIGHT OUT

A preview party for the 2009

Hinsdale Cooks! Kitchen Walk

Cocktails & Buffet Dinner

Friday, May 1st, 2009

6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Hinsdale Golf Club

140 Chicago Avenue
Clarendon Hills

\$100 per person

Proceeds to benefit Hinsdale Historical Society and Immanuel Hall

Preview Party Co-Chairs

Christie Eddins
Liz Gerami

Ginger Leaven
Joan Templeton

Hinsdale Historical Society

Members' Corner

Notice to Members

We need your thoughts. The Society is considering going GREEN and moving from a paper newsletter to an electronic version. What are your thoughts? Please send your comments to newsletter@hinsdaleshistory.org or give us a call at 630-789-2600.

Society Wish List

Times change, and so have the ways in which educational presentations and programs are delivered. Gone are the days of slide shows using traditional slide projectors (did you know that Kodak stopped manufacturing slide projectors in 2004?), although the Society still owns a traditional slide projector...

The Society is in need of an updated presentation system. This means that we are adding to our Wish List a LCD projector and a screen that would allow us to show digital presentations.

If you would like to help out the Society but are not sure how... here is your chance.

Donating funds towards a LCD projector and screen would support the ongoing efforts of the Society to provide quality educational programs to our community. If you are interesting in finding out more about a Wish List donation, please contact Anne Swenson at the Hinsdale History Museum
630-789-2600.

Thank You!

Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center

Architecture Center Opens with Saturday Hours

The Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center is now open on Saturdays from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. Located on the lower level of Immanuel Hall, Third and Grant Streets, the Center serves as a resource for building and design. Stop by (using the Third Street entrance) to browse the architectural lending library or search the Historical Society files for information about your home...over 120 home histories are recorded in the archives. Bring us your building/renovation questions!

Staffed by our new employee, Kathy Terry, we'd love to help you out. Kathy has over twenty years experience in the design and building fields. As a member of ASID, she's owned her own contract design firm, working with architects and contractors in all aspects of development and implementation. As co-owner of a building company, Kathy has drafted blueprints for high-end residential and light commercial projects. Great experience, extremely knowledgeable...the Anderson Center is thrilled to have her on our team. Come in on Saturday and meet Kathy!

Downtown Hinsdale: An Extraordinary Exhibit of Vintage Photographs

Sponsored by the Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center, this special photo exhibit celebrates the changing views of downtown Hinsdale. Open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, May 16-17, from noon until 4:00 pm, join us for a complimentary

Members Only Preview: Friday, May 15 • 5:30-7:30 pm

Immanuel Hall, Third & Grant Streets, Hinsdale

Enjoy a glass of wine as you stroll through the great room at Immanuel Hall viewing historic photographs from the archive collection of the Hinsdale Historical Society. Scout your favorite downtown buildings; see Hinsdale's early Jewel Food Store, the spectacular building once known as the *Hinsdale Club* and other architectural treasures in the heart of our Village.

For more information visit www.hinsdalearchitecture.org or call 630-654-9500



R. Harold Zook Home and Studio

Much has been accomplished since the Home & Studio travelled through the Village of Hinsdale. The Home & Studio have a new roof that replicates the original, with rolled eaves and an undulating pattern. The exterior masonry has been repaired and restored, as has the interior floor-to-ceiling stone and brick fireplace. The masonry wall found at the original site has been moved and rebuilt. The original steel casement windows have been restored and returned to their original glory. The exterior of the home and studio are just about complete. It will only be through additional funds that the interior of the Home & Studio will be restored to again display the unique details of R. Harold Zook's design.

The work done thus far on the Zook Home & Studio has been funded by the generous support of a few dedicated donors; donors of money, services and time. To see the project to completion, approximately \$750,000.00 must be raised.

The restoration of the interior of the home, including the grand living room with its quarry tile floor and wood-beamed ceiling; the 1924 kitchen with its custom Zook-designed cabinets; the quaint dining room with its floor to ceiling windows; and the restoration of the upper level rooms will need funding in order to be completed. The rehabilitation of the garage/studio into a repository for Zook archives and artifacts, as well as a unique exhibit/programming space will need support from donors. The gardens, both in front and in back of the home; including a replica of the beautiful reflection pool that Zook enjoyed in his own backyard, cannot be completed with the generosity of donors.

Those with a passion for architecture, historic preservation, history and the unique craftsmanship of R. Harold Zook must come together to share in the celebration of the preservation of his Home & Studio. Support the R. Harold Zook Home & Studio with a gift that will become a part of the legacy of an important member of the architectural and local community. Sponsorship levels and a donor form are included in this issue of *Echoes*.

House Histories: Terra Cotta and 134 North Lincoln



This wonderful chateausque styled home, designed by the renowned architectural partnership of William Le Baron Jenney and W. B. Mundie in 1893, has details patterned after the Chateau de Blois in France. French influences were popular in American architecture after the Civil War and Jenney, who had studied in Paris, was quite familiar with the style. Constructed of double brick, the building is faced with a virtual showcase of terra cotta tiles and blocks.

The home's original owner, William Day Gates, was the founder of the American Terra Cotta and Ceramic Company. In 1880, Gates purchased farm land near Crystal Lake, Illinois and soon discovered natural clay deposits on the property. Fireproof building materials were in great demand after the 1871 Chicago fire, and Gates recognized an opportunity in providing baked, molded clay materials.

Terra cotta was hollow cast in blocks which were open to the back. Compared to stone, it was easier to handle, quickly set and more affordable to use. Variations in color made it possible

for buildings to look like granite or limestone, part of the reason the material was so attractive to architects at the time.

The company prospered, eventually becoming the largest supplier of glazed architectural tile on the continent, providing terra cotta for over 8,000 projects across the country. Gates lived in Hinsdale but travelled weekly to his facility to partake in and oversee operations. In 1928, he moved to a new home built on the Crystal Lake property that was covered, inside and out, with terra cotta.

The Burnham Plan Centennial-Celebrate with Chicago

"One hundred years ago, Daniel Burnham, Edward Bennett and the Commercial Club of Chicago established a bold new plan for the Chicago metropolitan region."

~http://burnhamplan100.uchicago.edu/history_future/plan_of_chicago

Yes, 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the monumental Burnham Plan. As the Centennial website outlines, the plan's focus was on "...improving the lakefront, developing a highway system, improving the freight and passenger railway systems, creating an outer park system, arranging systematic streets and creating a civic center of cultural institutions and government..."

Burnham's vision helped create the Chicago we know, love and utilize today! Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn more about our great city!

Over 100 Chicago-area organizations will mark the Centennial, from libraries and art centers to museums and universities. To view the many activities planned around the centennial, visit the Burnham Plan Centennial website at

<http://burnhamplan100.uchicago.edu/>



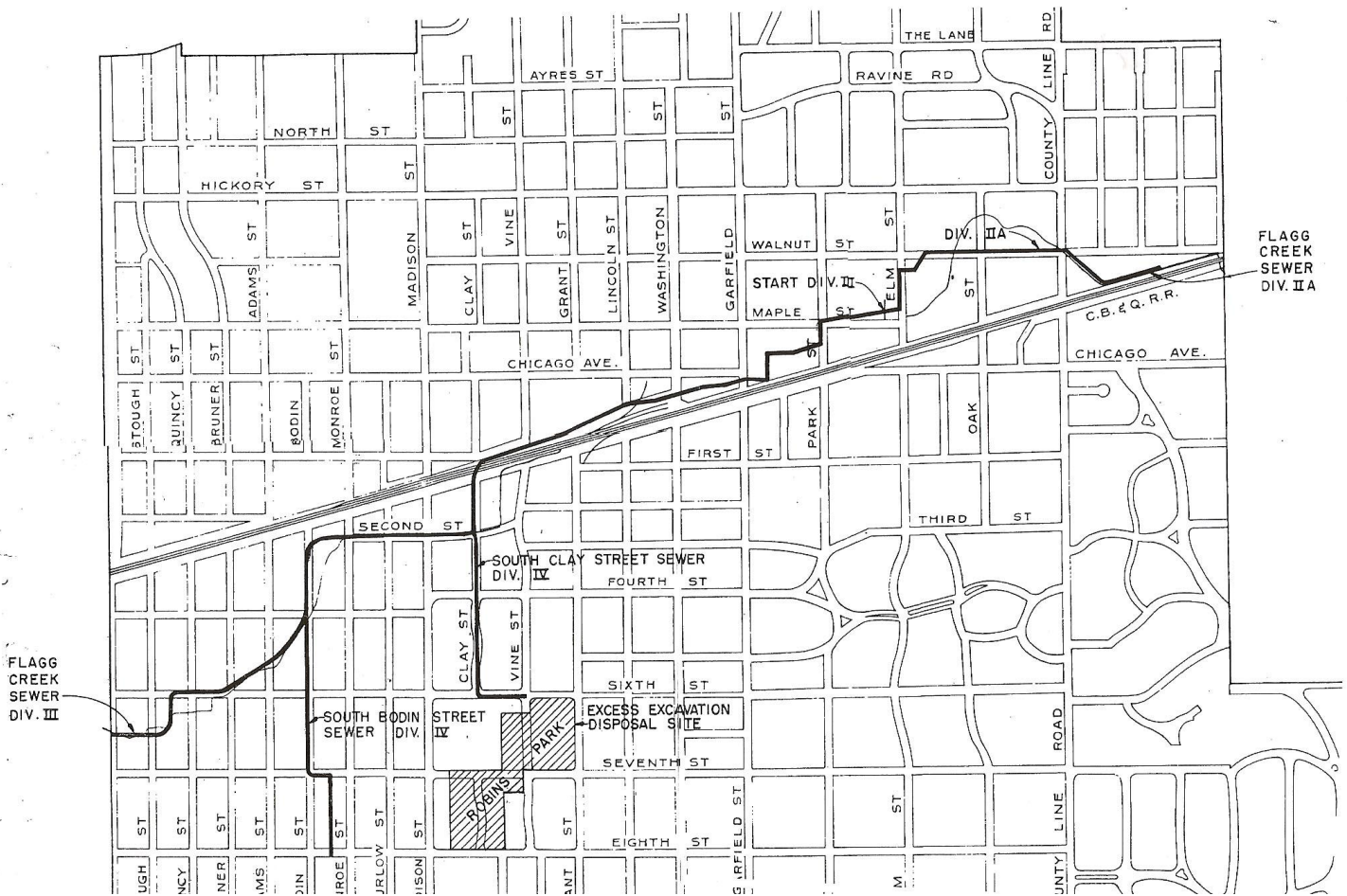
Plan of Chicago by Daniel Burnham

Photo from

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:GuerinChicagoPlan1.jpg>

Historic Highlights

From the Archives: Flagg Creek



The heavy lines on this map indicate the actual sewer lines installed in the Village as of 1959. The lighter lines represent the actual path of Flagg Creek where it does not exactly coincide with the sewer line.

Flagg Creek Water Reclamation District – we all send our money there. Did you know the creek still flows through Hinsdale? The original route of the creek bisects Hinsdale from west to east. (See map).

Flagg Creek was named after an early settler named Reuben Flagg who first came to the area in 1830. His daughter was reported to be one of the first white children born in Will County. The creek was described in bucolic terms by the early developers of Hinsdale. One early resident mentioned catching fish there in the spring when the water was high.

Over the years, the issue of sewage required action by the Village. Hinsdale Sanitary District was formed in 1926. The district included Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills, and part of Westmont. The idea was to divert the flow of sewage into a water treatment plant. It was designed to handle sewage for a population of 18,000, though the District's population was only 11,000 at the time.

By the mid 1950's with increased development, the sewers in both Hinsdale and Western Springs were polluting Flagg Creek during heavy rains. Most of the creek was covered over at this time. Various solutions were proposed, but as all of us know, problems continue to this day.

Life in the Past Lane: Hinsdale 1934

☞ The new proposed CWA (Civil Works Administration) projects (read stimulus package) in Hinsdale will mean an expenditure of \$54,469.46, and employment for 163 men. Of this amount the CWA will pay \$35,389.46 with the Village financing the balance of \$19,077. Five projects are included in the package: 1) construction of a central stock room and an inventory of all Village equipment; 2) painting of the water plant and recaulking of water mains; 3) cleaning of 24,000 feet of water mains; 4) trimming of trees; and 5) development of Burlington Park, repairing of sidewalks, and mapping and engineering.

☞ Meanwhile work by CCC crews is progressing nicely at the Salt Creek Preserve under the supervision of Lt. Heinrich, formerly an officer in the German army who has since become an American citizen. Lt. Heinrich, speaking to a meeting of the Women's Association, described the progress being made on restoring the area and declared that visitors are welcome to come view for themselves the impressive improvements which are presently underway.

☞ The new and enlarged quarters of the Women's Exchange at 9 West First Street is providing the creative homemakers of our village a means to supplement the family income. The shelves of this attractive store are now stocked with the finest home-made bakery goods, mouth-watering cakes and candies, the most exquisite needle work, the tastiest jellies and other canned goods and an array of gifts -- all offered for sale at very reasonable prices.

☞ When three fires broke out at once on a Saturday in March, the local fire department was taxed to its fullest. The first engulfed the top floor of a residence opposite Bronswood Cemetery where damage was considerable. The second call came from the Hinsdale Theatre where fire had broken out in the organ loft during a special morning performance. This one was mostly smoke which was dampened down in short order and the regular afternoon matinee was held as scheduled. The third fire was in the basement of a home on Adams Street where the Watson boy had been painting a model airplane and a candle had ignited a liquid he was using. No damage to the house resulted, and the actual blaze was extinguished before firemen arrived. This was the first time in the history of the fire department that three calls were received on one day at nearly the same time.

☞ With the definite rejection of the long cherished plan for the depression of the Burlington tracks, a suggestion has been made for a practical solution to relieve traffic over the busy downtown crossings: a subway at Adams Street. The height of the roadbed at Adams above adjoining streets is highest of any practical point in the Village so the cost of the job would be reduced to the minimum. An Adams subway would divert much traffic from dangerous downtown crossings, just as the Oak

Street bridge does on the east side of the Village -- plus it would make possible the closing of one or two west side crossings and serve school children who will eventually attend the proposed new south side high school. A big selling point is that it could be built without cost to the taxpayers by using CWA labor, and undoubtedly with cooperation from the railroad.

☞ Those motorists who are unable to stop when backing into parking spaces along Washington will now be kept from knocking over our ornamental light posts. Workmen have begun installing pieces of railroad rails in front of each light post. The rails, imbedded in the concrete, are strong enough to withstand the "charges" of automobiles.

☞ There is considerable joy among some Hinsdale children and adults who now have their cherished pets back home. A dognapping trio has confessed to the theft of pedigreed dogs valued at approximately \$1,000, and to the sale of those dogs to various shops in Chicago. Eight pedigreed dogs were recovered and returned to their owners while fourteen mongrels are being held in the local pound. The three men confessed to stealing 12 dogs in Hinsdale and 14 in adjacent suburbs.

☞ The headline read, "Village Goes Dry by 2 to 1 Vote." A majority of Hinsdaleans cast their ballots for total prohibition when voting on two propositions -- either total prohibition or prohibition with the exception of beer.

☞ In a lawsuit against Western United Gas and Electric Company, Mr. Ralph Pierce whose home is at County Line and Chicago Avenue was victorious to the extent of \$3,750 on his plea that the gas company had failed to repair a leaking gas main. Mr. Pierce's claim was that the leak had caused the death of sixty oak trees on his property.

☞ In national news John Dillinger broke out of an Indiana jail with a wooden pistol on March 3rd. On March 31st he used a machine gun to blast his way out of a police trap in St. Paul, and on April 23rd he escaped two posses near St. Paul, killing two and wounding five men in the process.

☞ It's Springtime in Germany and Hitler plans to put thousands of the unemployed to work with a "spring work battle" project to greatly enlarge Germany's 900-mile network of four-lane highways called autobahns.

☞ Rogue and financier Sam Insull, wanted for mail fraud, embezzlement and violation of bankruptcy laws, was discovered on a ship to Persia. Greece refused to hand him over, but Turkey sent him back to the U.S. the following month.





HINSDALE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

P.O. Box 336
Hinsdale, IL 60522-0336

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HINSDALE, IL

Permit No. 158

Upcoming Programs and Events

Beautiful Blooms

Saturday, June 6th

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Hinsdale History Museum

\$4 per child (members)

\$6 per child (non-members)



Come join us for a tour of the Victorian Garden! Learn about the plants in our historic Kitchen Garden behind our 1874 house museum. Decorate your very own pot and plant Victorian flower seeds.

Registration required:
hinsdalehistory@att.net
630-789-2600

Second Annual Croquet Tournament

Saturday, June 13th

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Immanuel Hall

\$5 per couple

Bring out your competitive side at our 2nd Annual Family Croquet Tournament. Learn a bit about the history of the game and enjoy the day with family and friends!

Registration required:
hinsdalehistory@att.net
630-789-2600

Hinsdale Historical Society's

Hinsdale History Museum

15 South Clay Street

Hinsdale, Illinois

630-789-2600

The Museum is open

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fridays

&

Saturdays

or by appointment