

Highwood Historical Society

MAKING HISTORY EVERYDAY

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Letter from the President

HHS continues to stay active within the community. We had a booth and participated in the Highwood Tree Lighting event in November. The Popcorn Factory in Lake Forest generously donated 200 popcorn balls for us to give to the children that day. We also held a very successful holiday raffle and dinner in December. Thank you to all who participated. We sold 423 raffle tickets and registered 81 guests for the dinner at Froggy's Restaurant and enjoyed beautiful holiday music. HHS plans to make this an annual event. Another piece of good news was winning the Highwood Chamber of Commerce's best decorated holiday window. Our prize was a one year Highwood Chamber of Commerce membership.

We are currently in the planning stages for future programs. Watch for information on our May Annual Meeting in the next newsletter. HHS is submitting a grant to the Illinois State Records Advisory Board requesting funding to digitalize many of our photos and records. This is a matching fund grant. This will help us better share with you and the community the many archival items in our collection. These digital items will be for view on our website. Wish us good luck with this project.

Not having an office or building to house our materials makes it difficult to see all the things in our collection. But, we are still looking! We are sincerely grateful to those of you that have donated items. See our recent list of acquisitions listed on another page of this newsletter. We have placed exhibits at the Highwood Library on a fairly regular basis – our last was the holiday window exhibit that showed toys etc, from the early days. Items on the Chicago and Milwaukee North Shore Line Railroad are now on display in the curio cabinet in the library. A variety of other artifacts have also been displayed at our program meetings and at the Wednesday Evening Market in Highwood during the summer. We continue to welcome items of historical interest as well as monetary donations to help preserve our collections.

If you are a facebook follower, you will also see HHS information posted regularly. We work hard to research and answer your questions and keep you up to date on program information.

Watch for our annual membership renewal form that will be in the next mailing. As a small community we are very proud to have 236 members on our list. Our membership year is June 1 to May 30th.

Feel free to contact us at any time via mail, email: highwoodhistory@gmail.com or by phone: 847-682-9039. Our major goal is to educate and present information on the people, places and events that make the city of Highwood so unique.

Teta Minuzzo, President

Holidays in Highwood Froggy's Restaurant December 9th, 2015

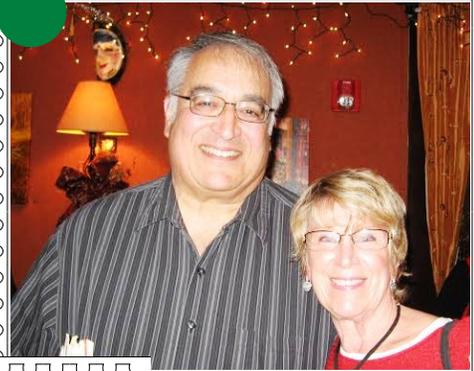
Congratulations to our Holidays in Highwood
Grand Prize Raffle Winner Sharon Palandri and our
Runner Up, Rosemary Espinoza.



Our 1st Place Winning Window at the
Highwood Library



Board Members Diana LoPresti, Sheila Dean,
Shirley Fitzgerald, Barbara Marianetti, Adrienne
Inman, Jack Johnson, Josephine Campagni,
Carole Ugolini & Teta Minuzzo



Tom Scopelliti & Ginny Lemme



Congratulations Cathy Cora and Ellie Soldano!



Eileen Musatto Hemmeter &
Granddaughter Amy Strege

Thank you for supporting the Highwood Historical
Society. We'll see you next year!



N. Central Avenue Know-How

I remember there was always an old coffee can on top of the stove.

Back in the days when eating bacon wasn't looked upon as some sort of mortal sin, we had bacon regularly with eggs for breakfast (not to mention the regular encounters with bacon-lettuce-and tomato sandwiches on toast), between the mornings we ate homemade, fried "cornmeal mush," waffles, pancakes, "left-over meat scrapple." or the occasional morning with Rice Krispies, and the bacon grease was added to the can several times a week, strained through a piece of cheesecloth.

Then, every month or so (when no one was looking, I always thought), Grandma would take the can into the basement to perform some kind of ritual incantations over it, with a couple of cans of crystallized lye—I figured it was something to do with witches and warlocks, passed down from mother to daughter to daughter to daughter, since Medieval times, in the dark and dank forests of Germany—and poured the resulting concoction into old sheet cake pans.

And there the pans sat. On a high shelf in the basement for a week or so, until Grandma returned with an old and mostly dull butcher knife, to slice the now-congealed mixture into fairly even blocks.

Somehow, this leftover grease, lye, hot water, and Grandmotherly knowledge resulted in a soft and gooey "soap" that we rubbed into the grass-stained knees and butts of our pants, before using the old wood and steel washboard, and then putting them into the porcelain tub of the new-fangled washing machine with the hand-cranked roller system to squeeze the water out of them... or, along the sweat-stained collars and armpits of our shirts, before washing them, and taking them out to the back yard in a wooden bushel basket, to hang on the droopy clothesline... or, to massage into filthy and particularly grimy hands after changing the oil on that old beat-up Chevy at the back end of the driveway.

Nowadays, there seem to be hundreds of choices in the local store for cleaning the stove, kitchen sink and counters, cabinets and walls, to pre-treat the laundry and to remove the grunge and muck and to sanitize our hands.

But sometimes, I really miss Grandma's mysterious ways, and her baffling and inexplicable solutions to everyday concerns.

Rick Sachen

Recent Acquisitions . . .

HHS is especially grateful to the following individuals for their recent donations:

Joseph Lolli – Fort Sheridan Closing Ceremony bulletin and related materials and newspaper clippings highlighting Highwood as the Bocce Capital and Highwood as an "Ethnic Haven for food"

Domenic Toni for book, Serramazonesi nel Mondo- Storie di emigrazione by Mario Toni

Richard Kehrwald – Photos and medals from Highwood Volunteer Fire Department (His father was Fred "Dutch" Kehrwald a former Chief in the Fire Dept). North Shore RR stock certificates from 1926 and related NS RR information and photos of 1926 Football team and 1947 Basketball team plus other OTS, Highwood Days, and misc. photos

Bill Sanders –1946 , Highwood event: Welcome Home Vets Program booklet with names of Returning Veterans, post-card with "A Sailors Prayer" and U.S. War Department manual: Spoken Italian

John Minorini – flash drive with video, music and voice – St. James Christmas pageant, Highwood carolers, 4 episodes of radio show *The Challenge* , and a tribute from the Cable Co. on the death of his father, Reno Minorini. Some of these were also documented on You Tube and HHS's Facebook page

Estate of Elda Corrado - military memorabilia including a cap and discharge papers from her brother and misc newspaper clippings

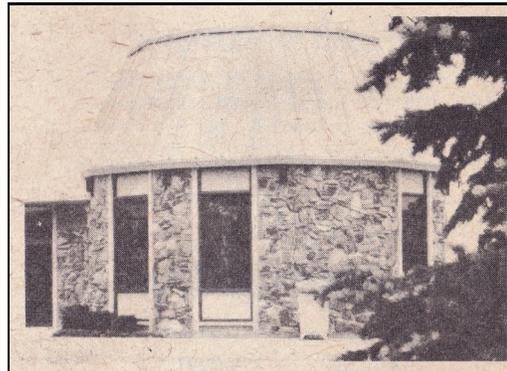
Lot Lines

A friend of our family is retiring to Texas this month and as we gave her our best wishes my sister asked her how long she's lived in her current home in Highwood. Her response? 70 years! This reminded me of my first job at Mid America Title Company in Waukegan. My official title was "Escrow Closer," also known as the young chippy who photocopied and organized all of the mortgage papers and transfer deeds for home closings. The best part of the job was the access I had to real estate title histories and working with the Title Examiners. They were always happy when a Highwood property landed on their desk because they could finish their research in about 20 minutes....houses rarely had more than one owner. Conversely, the Land Surveyors hated Highwood properties. Lot line markers were difficult to locate and there was ALWAYS a surprise easement that was rarely recorded. Their frustration made me smile.

I'm curious. Who has lived in their Highwood home the longest? Is it you? Your neighbor? Please let us know, email highwoodhistory@gmail.com today. .

Cynthia Krol

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Do you recognize this spot? Send info to the
HHS with your memories of this business.
Email: highwoodhistory@gmail.com