

# Highwood Historical Society

MAKING HISTORY EVERYDAY

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P.O. Box 132  
Highwood, IL 60040  
tel: 847-682-9039  
highwoodhistory@gmail.com

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## Letter from the President

Hi everyone. With Thanksgiving coming, I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for your support of the Highwood Historical Society. A special thanks to those who have donated items to our museum, those who have helped with our special events, all our Board Members, and all who help support our organization by buying raffle tickets.

The money raised from raffle tickets helps pay a major part of our expenses. It helps pay our rent, it helps us to display our many artifacts and items that you have donated, and it helps us to digitize our holding so that others can see our history on the internet. And the best part is that we give some of the money back to you, the winners!

By the way, the drawing of the winners will be held at our annual Holiday Dinner at Froggy's Restaurant in Highwood, on December 11. Come join us. Ticket sales for the dinner go quickly and are limited. It will be a fun-filled evening with a beautiful dinner, door prizes, raffle drawings, and I will dust off my accordion and try to entertain you before and after dinner with music from song lists that I played in the 1970's at the Sunnyland Tavern. More information is located later in the newsletter. See you there!

Tom Scopelliti

## Recent Acquisitions

Special thanks to the following for donations to HHS:

Dusty Sachen – 13 books (Railroad history, *View from the Tower*, Fort Sheridan Association (1920), The Sentinel- Fort Sheridan and *Houses With Names*); over 70 cc of Xeroxed color and black and white photos of Chicago & North Shore RR buildings and routes; and box of old photos from early years of Fort Sheridan and Great Lakes Hospitals

Patricia Murphy Issel—*Highwood Centennial Book*; Chicago & North Shore Railroad articles and photo of father and RR workers

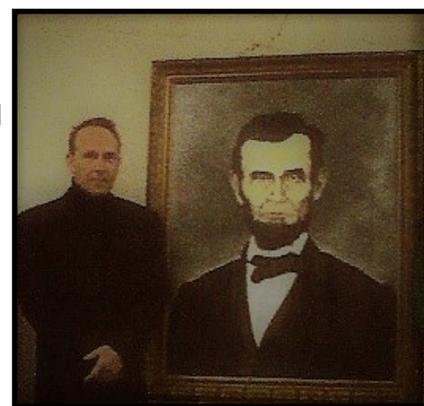
Barbara Baldwin Christopher – Many items including local business' T-shirts and advertising items (calendar, keychain, etc.); cookbooks; Highwood news articles and local program brochures

Michael Koenitz-Hudac – new Highwood Fire Officer Uniform

Roxanne Caringello—Plaques to identify USO chairs; news articles and brochures recognizing father's business, Highwood Paint & Decorating

Susan Rae Bartlett – Tickets from Bartlett Theatre

Daniel Andre—Lithograph copy of painting of Abraham Lincoln- presented to HHS Board in August. Original Painting is in permanent collection of Lincoln artifacts in Springfield.



## Oak Terrace—St. James School Reunion

On October 12th and 13th, graduates (1954-1962) from St. James, Oak Terrace and Northwood got together at the Bocce Club on Friday and the Highland Park Community House on Saturday. We had a wonderful time. We caught up with friends we haven't seen in years, shared memories, laughed, ate and danced through the night on Saturday evening. It was a wonderful two days. People came in from California, New York, Arizona, South Carolina and more. And who says we can't dance?

Thanks to Bob Pasquesi for finding this wonderful band. We might not have been able to walk a few miles the next day, but it was worth every shake, rattle and roll. Highwood has always been a tight-knit community and this past weekend proved that the small-town feeling is alive and well.



- Adrienne Inman

## 2018 FOUNDERS RAFFLE

**IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO  
PURCHASE TICKETS!**

Drawing will be held on  
Dec. 11th  
during the

**Annual Holiday  
Dinner**

at  
Froggy's Restaurant

Raffle Tickets are \$5 ea.  
\$750 - first prize  
\$500 - second prize  
\$250 - third prize

Winners need not be  
present to win.

Call 847-682-9039 or email  
highwoodhistory@gmail.com

### At the Museum . . .

The Museum has been open since Wednesday, June 6th. HHS is most grateful to Sally Quisling and the Pierantoni Family ( PQ Companies LLC) for offering us the opportunity to return to this historic spot in Highwood – original home of Mike's Deli and Market, 122 North Avenue. Students from an Oak Terrace School 3rd grade class were our first excited visitors.

Most of our archival items have been moved out of storage. During these last several months, HHS has welcomed many guests and visitors. Displays and materials have been set up in two rooms. On August 22, we hosted "Happy Birthday Highwood" to celebrate Highwood's 150th anniversary of its founding – 1868-2018. HHS extends special thanks and appreciation to The Bent Fork Bakery who donated 150 delicious and beautifully decorated cupcakes and to Tala Coffee Roasters that provided coffee etc. for this great event. HHS is especially grateful to Highwood artist, Daniel Andre, for donating a lithograph copy of his painting of Abraham Lincoln to the Society. It is on display for all to see as they enter the museum.

Many HHS Board members were involved in organizing, hanging photos, renovating and working diligently to make this building a learning experience and source of pride for the community. We are dedicated to sharing Highwood's unique history and the people and places that represent us. Plan to visit this special museum. Our current days and hours are: Sundays – 12 noon to 4 p.m.  
Tuesdays – 10 a.m to 2 p.m  
Wednesdays – 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

HHS will also open at other times if requested, email: highwoodhistory@gmail.com or call 847-682-9039. Volunteers to help at the museum are also needed and welcomed. If you are available during any of the times and days listed above and would like to support and help as a docent for the museum, please call. We will be happy for your assistance.

Watch for our special window display and bring your children or grandchildren to the museum on Friday, October 26th 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. for Highwood's Trick or Treat event. HHS hopes to see you soon.

- Teta Minuzzo, Past President/Archivist

## Highwood and the Spanish Flu of 1918

*I had a little bird  
And its name was Enza  
I opened the window  
And in-flew-Enza*

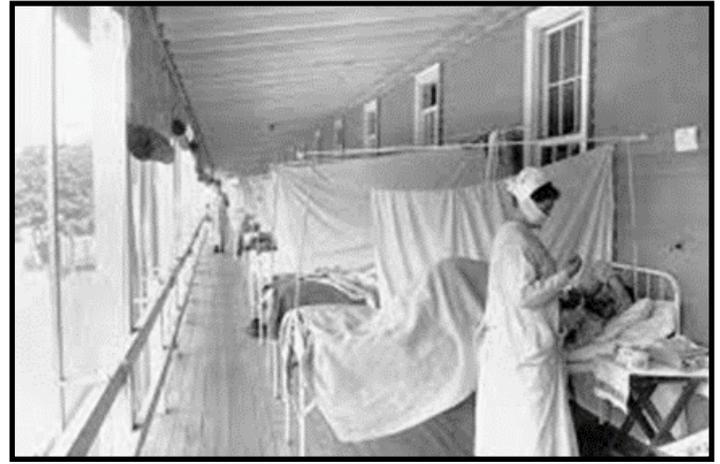
- Playground song, 1918

This month marks the 100th anniversary of the frightening story of the Spanish Influenza. It is difficult to determine exactly where the pandemic might have originated; however, the first recorded case of the Spanish influenza occurred at Fort Riley, Kansas.

On March 9, 1918, a blinding dust storm hit the training base which was overcrowded with troops, cavalry horses, and support animals. The storm created a huge hygiene problem with stagnant, putrid air causing the soldiers to cough and wheeze. Within two days, soldiers came down with a "bad cold". Fever, sore-throat, headache and muscle pain followed. However, new abnormalities appeared – gland issues, eye aberrations, and most alarming, decreased heart action. Of note, "influenza" literally translates to "influence" from the Italian. More than 500 cases appeared in one week, with forty-six deaths attributed to "pneumonia".

In May, the training forces sailed for France on cramped troop ships, perfect breeding ground, and the fever was brought to the trenches and battlefields of World War I. As French troops became sick with fever, it spread over the Pyrenees Mountains and into Spain, attacking an estimated eight million people in two months. The nations fighting in WWI had censored reports of the flu among their troops, not wanting to give any information to the other side. But because Spain was not involved in the War and had no censorship, the rest of the world first learned of the epidemic in Spain, thereby establishing it as "Spanish influenza".

The influenza spread across the globe quickly, wherever truck, rail or ship lines could take it. The spring wave of the flu was serious, but not disastrous. The flu appeared to have died out by the middle of summer only to reappear in late August in a truly deadlier form. Hundreds of millions of people were infected and it is estimated that between 30 and 50 million died. Doctors and researchers began to share their findings: this second strain attacked the respiratory tract and filled the victim's lungs with water to the point of dying as if they were drowning. The lack of oxygen in the lungs caused cyanosis, whereas the victim's skin turned a shade of blue. Furthermore, doctors were baffled as to why the flu preferred young healthy adults. In fact, in the U.S., men between the ages of 25 and 29 years old died at a rate much higher than men three times their age and death



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was usually quick, within 36 to 48 hours.

The Illinois Department of Health issued the following guidelines with failure to follow punishments of \$200 and six months in jail for each offense:

1. Immediate reporting
2. Post recovery isolation for 3 days
3. Face masks
4. Burning of all clothing and bed linens
5. Visitation prohibited
6. Absolute quarantine and house placarding
7. No spitting, wheezing, or coughing in public spaces
8. No attendance at public gatherings for relatives

Local hospitals, including Great Lakes, were so overwhelmed that it was agreed upon by the hospital board to set up an emergency hospital at Exmoor Country Club. At the time, the south porch and locker areas handled female patients and main dining room and dining porch handled males. The old Hotel Moraine supplied beds, linens, and anything necessary to help with the conversion. Exmoor was known as "a haven of refuge in these troubled times" for its 125 patients. It was reported that all Exmoor staff remained on duty and "no one left the ship."

1030 deaths were reported in Lake County in September and October, and Highwood was not spared. A partial list of the deceased follows: Mrs. Oline (Leo) Carlson (38), Sen Jupati (27), Mrs. Mary (John) Unbehan (47), Baby Bernardi (child of Mr. & Mrs. Steve Bernardi), Baby Natri, Agidio Ori (6, son of Mr. & Mrs. Emil Ori), and Pete Ganitarris. The influenza disappeared as quickly as it arrived. New cases diminished by the end of November, 1918, with a brief resurgence in 1919.

It is important to place the Spanish Influenza pandemic in historical perspective, showing how people's attitudes and actions have both changed and remained the same, and more importantly, how even the smallest of communities was affected.

- Cynthia Krol

## Frank Casorio, Highwood's Lucky Guy

I was Born April 10, 1931 in Highwood. My parents were Carmine (Tony) and Angelina Casorio. We lived on the corner of Prairie Avenue and Morgan Place. The house is still there. Some of my friends were Casper Pasquesi, Larry Berube, Bob Llewellyn and Larry Shanley. Growing up in Highwood meant carnivals, going to the Highwood theater, having a coke at Laegeler's, Bernardi's or Aldo's, and playing outside in the summer until dark. We caddied at Exmoor Country. The first time I caddied I did 18 holes and was tipped \$1.00. I ran straight home to tell my parents how rich I was!

I was drafted by the Army in 1955 and switched to the Navy. My training was at Great Lakes. I was then transferred to Norfolk, Virginia where I was assigned to the USS Wisconsin (BB-64). The ship had just returned from Korea. I was a 3rd Class yeoman. On the ship I was in the "R" Division, which is a ship fitter's position but we worked in the office. We travelled to Brazil, Cuba and Trinidad. In Brazil, *Radio Nationale* wanted someone to entertain on the radio and I sang *O Sole Mio*. I had to take a boat to shore in order to get to the show.

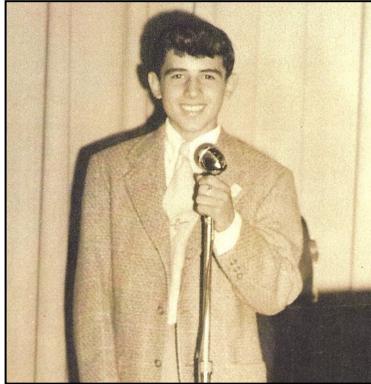
The USS Wisconsin was huge and I slept on the second deck and worked on the upper deck. We had over 800 sailors on the ship. I was never seasick. I worked in the office and there were quite a few guys who used to make fun of us because we didn't have to get dirty. One day they decided I was just too clean so they grabbed me and tossed me down the laundry chute....5 decks down! When I popped out of the chute the guy working down there asked if I was ok and then said I should write up a report. I said no.

They'd probably end up dropping me down another chute even longer than this one! The only thing hurt was my pride. After I was discharged I drove my 1952 Chevrolet to Saratoga Springs, New York where I sang at a shipmate's wedding.

I returned to Highwood and went to design school. Then I went to art school for design work. I worked for a number of design studios and advertising agencies. I eventually moved to Chicago and later to Beverly Shores, Indiana and finally to Michigan City. I worked for quite a few art agencies and as an art director. I retired at 67 and decided to interview for a freelance art design job on Ontario and Orleans in the city. I worked there

for a few years.

I never gave up my singing. When my sister, Mary, put on her dance recitals each year at the Highwood Recreation Center, I sometimes performed during the half-time break. I still do that every so often now that she lives in Florida. She's still putting on recitals and if I can, I fill in at half-time while the dancers change costumes.



Over the years I've performed in several musical theatre productions and soloed as a singer with a number of bands. I had a singing coach. I currently sing in several churches in Michigan City: Baptist, Catholic, Protestant churches. I'm still singing at special events, belong to musical clubs and I'm a member of the Notre Dame Church in Michigan City.

I love to ski. I've skied in Aspen, Utah, California, Europe, Italy, Switzerland and Austria. I would ski for weeks. I have relatives in Naples. Unfortunately I don't speak Italian fluently. Besides skiing and singing, I also go to Zumba classes in Chesterton, Indiana.

I should also probably mention that I'm accident prone. Once Leo Ferrari and I picked up the Onesti girls and went for a ride. I was standing in the back of the pickup truck and as it went around a corner on Temple Street in Highwood, I fell out of the truck and it ran over me. No one realized that I had fallen out and gotten run over on the right side of my body. Leo Bernardi picked me up and took me to the hospital. Fortunately, the only thing wrong was that I dislocated my right arm. I was lucky because I was wearing a lot of heavy clothing.

A number of years ago I was skiing in Steamboat Springs and somehow managed to ski right off the top of the mountain. I actually fell several hundred feet and

fortunately landed in six feet of snow. I was stunned but realized I was still alive. We didn't have cell phones then so I ended up crawling along until I found a phone over a tree that connected me with the ski patrol. Luck was with me again.

My parents never had pets as I was growing up and I've never had pets either. However, I did end up with a very strange feathered friend when I lived in Beverly Shore, Indiana. We became quite the celebrities and were even photographed and had an article written about us in the local newspapers – the News Dispatch. I was minding my own business doing some yard work and this crazy bird landed at my

Cont. pg. 5



**Casorio, cont.**

feet and kept me company the entire time I was doing my yard work. This was on a Saturday. The following Monday he showed up again and flew right into my chest. From then on he followed me everywhere. He would walk alongside as I was on my way to and from work; he would fly alongside my car for a short distance before returning to his home (wherever that was!). He even tried a number of times to follow me inside my house. So....I ended up with a pet until the day he decided to leave.

I'm enjoying life and keeping busy. I can still sing, dance and drive. I have my friends and my family.

- as told to Adrienne Inman



Wanted:  
**Highwood  
in the '60's**

Please share any stories you may have about the '68 Democratic Convention and riots in Chicago, the news of the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, the first manned orbit around the moon, or just what was happening here in Highwood. Any and all things '60's!

Please send to [highwoodhistory@gmail.com](mailto:highwoodhistory@gmail.com)  
or call 847-682-9039.

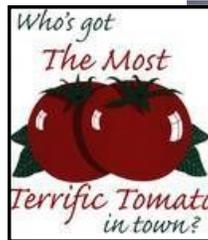
### 12th Annual Terrific Tomato Contest

The Totally Terrific Tomato contest is the Highwood Historical Society's way of celebrating Highwood homes and the gardening tradition that is so much a part of our community. This year, with over 40 participants, the event also helped us raise a substantial amount of money for our organization. Well, I should say, the Tomato Contest Sponsors and our People's Choice Winner, Clayton Mead, (who worked for and raised over \$130.00 in his jar) helped us raise a substantial amount of money. They were champs!

Our *Most Terrific Tomato in Town* winner, Lisa Gurza, and our *People's Choice* winner, Clayton Mead, will surely enjoy the \$100.00 gift certificates from two LUSCIOUSLY delicious Highwood stores, Pastificio and Poeta's Food Mart. Pat Galli, of Pastificio, and Luca and Dominic of Poeta's are among our most loyal supporters.

Also champions were our incredible sponsors who not only donated money, but also worked the event and helped us promote it — Carol DeGrazia Santi of Coldwell Banker, Sandra Amidei of Re/Max, Mada Hitchmough of Baird and Warner, and Jeannine F. Viti of Berkshire Hathaway. These amazing woman, all from Highwood, brought their own inside information about many homes in Highwood and helped answer so many questions from the crowd enjoying the Highwood Homes display.

Also stepping up to support our cause were Charlie Fiore of Fiore Nursery and Landscape Design, and the President of the Highwood Bocce Club, Peter Pieracci. They had so much fun judging and were fascinating to watch. Barb Yurisich and Romana Picchietti were enthusiastic volunteer members of our Terrific Tomato Contest Committee, and we could NOT have done it without their immense effort and assistance. They helped us rock the tomato basket!



Clayton Mead in his garden.

Thank you all for participating and helping us raise funds so that the history of this amazing little community can be memorialized well into the future. Because the Totally Terrific Tomato Contest isn't just about the tomatoes, its about Highwood's History and you!

- Lisa Cervac

**HIGHWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PO BOX 132

HIGHWOOD, IL 60040-0132

Looking for the perfect gift? Give the gift of Highwood History! \$20.00

Annual Membership  
Contact us today!



**PLEASE JOIN US AT THE  
2018 "Holidays in Highwood" Dinner & Raffle**

**Tuesday, December 11th, 2018**

**6:00 pm, Froggy's Restaurant**

**\$50.00 per person, Cash Bar**

**Appetizers, Salad, Choice of Entrée, & Dessert**

**Please Make Checks Payable to: Highwood Historical Society**

**Mail to: HHS  
P.O. Box 132  
Highwood, IL 60040**

**Seating is limited. Please respond by Saturday, Dec. 1st**

**Total Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Payment Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Attendee(s)	Beef Bourguignon	Chicken Paupette	Salmon