

Highwood Historical Society

MAKING HISTORY EVERYDAY

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Letter from the President

Hi everyone,

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, I and my fellow Board of Directors of the Highwood Historical Society would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have helped to make this another memorable year for our Society. All of our events were well attended, especially our last one commemorating Highwood weddings. The photographs, memorabilia, and numerous wedding gowns, some of which are soon approaching the century mark, were a sight to behold. Special thanks to the committee members involved in this event as well as all our earlier events this year.

Coming up next will be our Holiday Dinner on December 11, 2019. Please make your reservations early because seating is limited. Our yearly raffle drawing with money prizes will occur that evening! This raffle is our major source of revenue which allows us to pay rent and utilities, take care of expenses, and continue presenting the best events which keep our Highwood history alive. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00 and the 1st place prize is \$750.00.

Here's what I do. I get 4 couples of friends or family, and we each buy \$20.00 dollars' worth of tickets (25 tickets). If any of us win, we'll use the winnings to have a nice dinner together!

See you at Froggy's at the holiday dinner,

Tom Scopelliti

New Winter Hours at the Museum

Tuesdays: 10:00am to 2:00pm

Sundays: 12:00 to 4:00pm

Evenings by appointment, call 847-682-8079

Come in and see our latest exhibits or catch up on a few *Highwood News* from the 1950's and 60's in our bound collection.

At the Museum . . .

“Love is a Many Splendored Thing”

HHS held an amazing September wedding exhibit that was not only successful but demonstrated true community support and involvement. It all began with the donation of Italine Prandini Ugolini's 1940 wedding dress to HHS and ended with two more donations: dresses from Rena Mattei Baldwin (1949) and Elizabeth Curley O'Flarity (1925). HHS also appreciated the loan of dresses from Anita Ori, Stella Fontana, Pat Ugolini Price, Toni Farioli, Linda Lamberti, Fran Pieri, Katherine Amidei, Judy Amidei, Tina Marchetti Menoni, and men's suits from Ermanno Amidei and Arthur Bernardi. Over 200 photos and wedding mementoes were received for display. Wow!

If you missed it, there is a video overview on face book developed by Maria San Ramon from the Highwood Library and a wedding video that can be found on You Tube (“HHS wedding video”) organized by Magdalena Symonds Burgess. HHS is very grateful to the many sponsors who not only made monetary donations but even loaned a wedding cake (Gourmet Frog Bakery) that provided beauty and wedding atmosphere to the exhibit. There were 191 guests who signed in during the 3 days of the exhibit. What was most amazing to me was the camaraderie generated by everyone and the time each visitor spent in reading all the labels on the photos.

Thank you to all who attended.

- Teta Minuzzo

Dress from
Elizabeth Curley
O'Flarity - 1925



Italine Prandini and Armondo Ugolini – 1940



John and Rena Mattei Baldwin - 1949

THE HIGHWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS MOST GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HELPED MAKE OUR 'LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDORED THING' WEDDING EXHIBIT SO WONDERFUL:

ANONYMOUS \$500 DONOR
\$100 DONATION FROM KAREN AND ROGER LUNARDI
IC SIGNS & GRAPHICS AND STREET LEVEL STUDIO:
POSTER DESIGN
GOURMET FROG BAKERY: BEAUTIFUL WEDDING CAKE
THE SILK THUMB: LOVELY BRIDAL BOUQUET
LAKES REGION HISTORICAL SOCIETY--ANTIOCH:
DRESS FORMS
DORIS BRIDAL SHOP: EXTRA MANIKIN
HIGHWOOD RENTALS: ADDITIONAL TABLE CLOTHS
ROXANNE CARENGELLO SMITH: TWO EASELS
SKOKIE VALLEY CLEANERS: GARMENT BAGS
FRANK BOCK AND BILL PRICE: SPECIAL ASSISTANCE
DIANE LOPRESTI: BOMBONIERE & LOAN OF WEDDING DOLL
JOSEPHINE CAMPAGNI: LOAN OF TWO WEDDING DOLLS
TONI FARIOLI AND DONNA KROL: COOKIE TREATS
MAGDELENA SYMONDS BURGESS: WEDDING VIDEO
HIGHWOOD LIBRARY: SPECIAL SUPPORT & COOPERATION

HHS WEDDING COMMITTEE: TETA MINUZZO, CHAIR
JOSEPHINE CAMPAGNI, ANGELA CROVETTI,
PAT UGOLINI PRICE, DONNA KROL, & TONI FARIOLI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HIGHWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AND A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED OR
LOANED ITEMS FOR THE EXHIBIT:
YOU MADE IT HAPPEN!

Memories of Highwood in the Early '50's by Dominic Sherony

I was born and raised in Highwood and lived there for thirteen years. My father owned Sherony Hardware on Green Bay Road in Highwood. We lived in an apartment in Highwood on Green Bay Road just north of Highwood Avenue. My playground was behind the commercial stores on Green Bay Rd: Bernardi's drug store, Fabbri's bar, Natta's shoe repair shop, Sernesi's jewelry, the hardware store and behind the Leonardi building housing Hansen's bakery. There were 4 or 5 of us who played together, my brother Bruce, Dave Perry, Willie Sernesi and several others. We spent a lot of time outside. Our playground covered the first floor roofs, alleys, courtyards, and passageways between buildings. We played cops and robbers, cowboys and Indians, built forts of all kinds and got into mischief together. We built forts out of the discarded cardboard boxes from the hardware store. Ernie Masini picked up trash at the hardware store and would cart away our forts. We caused him a lot of extra work and I don't think he was too happy with us.

In the sixth or seventh grade I was encouraged by a nun at St. James to become an altar boy. The nuns were in charge of training us. One of the requirements was that we memorize all of the responses in Latin. We were given an assignment of a portion of the responses at a time, after which the nun would quiz us. After this, we learned to prepare the altar before mass and the duties during mass. And finally, we were assigned a cassock and alb. One of the problems I had when I was first learning altar duties had to do with the bells at elevation. At St. James, the electronic bell switches were on the side of the altar and were placed so that I could not see when the priest extended his hands over the chalice because he faced the altar. I would ring the bells at the wrong time. At a weekday mass, I remember turning around and looking at the nuns who were seated in the first pew and the sister in charge of altar boys was shaking her head at me because I had rung the bells at the wrong time yet again. It took me some practice to master this task.

I served mass throughout seventh and eighth grade. I would serve weekdays, Sundays, and a few weddings. I can only remember serving one funeral. A funny story from those years

involved midnight mass. Because midnight mass was so crowded, the fire department would restrict how many people could attend church on Christmas Eve. In order to alleviate the overcrowding problem, Father Gleason started a 1 a.m. mass for the overflow crowd and I was asked to serve this mass one year. Father Gleason made this a typical short mass; he was obviously in a hurry. During mass when he washed his hands, instead of handing me the towel, he threw it and it landed up on the Christmas tree next to the side of the altar. I was too short to get it down; I had to retrieve it with the candlestick lighter after mass. I will always remember that weekday masses were very short, never more than twenty minutes.

My 10th birthday, from left: Bill Pigati & me.



In grade school, we all had to go to stations during Lent. I dreaded stations but one treat we looked forward to was buying a fresh donut at Hansen's bakery after the First Friday mass. We'd go home for breakfast and Hansen's bakery was near our apartment.

The Highwood Recreation Center was a great place and I took part in a variety of activities. Who could ever forget the dances and the trips to go to Band Stand Matinee at WGN. I was never very athletic but the two sports that I liked most were basketball and ice skating. I participated in the Bidy basketball league at the recreation center for a few years. Don Skrinar spent time coaching many of the players including myself. We were assigned to a team and played on Saturday morning. There were kids from Highland Park who also played in the league. Although I was never an outstanding player. I always enjoyed it and I did have a few games high scoring games.

I took up ice skating at an early age. One cold winter day, my father took our family to Crystal Lake to go ice skating. I was amazed by how well my father could skate as he had never shown athletic ability and was completely uninterested in

Cont. next page

sports. I persisted with skating and learned how to skate well enough. Highwood always maintained a winter skating rink with a good warming house on Western Avenue. I skated there every winter and I remember the music playing while we skated. One song that stuck with me was Gershwin's It's Wonderful. There were lots of kids there and a popular game was pom-pom pullaway. The park also hosted little league baseball in summer but I wasn't into baseball.

I joined Cub Scouts about fourth grade. Bill Pigati's mother was our den mother and we had den meetings at their apartment. I always loved going to these meetings because Bill's mother would give everyone a small bottle of Coke and that was a big treat. My mother didn't buy soda. It was through Cub Scouts that Bill and I became life-long friends. I remember that we had a variety of activities in Scouts. Some Scout troop meetings were held at the Highwood Community Center where we made crafts. It had a lasting effect on me because I still enjoy wood-working.

Seven months after graduating from St. James we moved to Highland Park and my parents sent me to Loyola Academy. The move, and high school, cut off most of my contact with Highwood and almost all of my former classmates. However, whenever I come back to Illinois from New York State where we reside, I visit Highwood. I have always enjoyed visiting Bill and Connie Pigati, the Scopelliti's, and members of my family who still reside in the area.

- as told to Adrienne Inman,
February 2019



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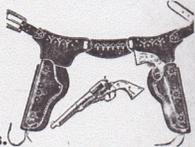
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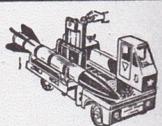
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\$4.88



SHERONY

— HARDWARE —

314
Green Bay Rd.
HIGHWOOD
ID 2-2041

The above ad appeared in the *Highwood News*, December, 1958.

Were you one of the 100's of students who received the infamous multi-page *Sherony's Hardware Flyer* on the last day of school before Christmas Break? Did you repeatedly scan the flyer and dream of the items below your tree? Maybe your were looking for a gift to give. Please help us to continue the sharing of stories like Dominic's by purchasing a **Gift Membership** for that special person who loves Highwood too.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP
\$20.00

Mail your payment to HHS, P.O. Box 132, Highwood Avenue, Highwood, IL, 60040 and we'll send you a Gift Membership you can personally present.

Given By: _____

Tel: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____



**WANTED:
What was your
FIRST job in
Highwood?**

Please respond to
highwoodhistory@gmail.com
or mail to P.O. Box 132,
Highwood Ave, Highwood, IL
60040

**2019
HOLIDAY
RAFFLE**

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

Watch your mail!

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 high-
woodhistory@gmail.com

From the Archives . . .

**HIGHWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER SEES RECORD CROWD AT SATURDAY
DANCE**

The Highwood Community Center expects a record breaking crowd Saturday for its Top Forty Juke Box Record dance. High school students will be guests, and, although the dance will be informal, girls are asked to wear skirts rather than Bermuda shorts or slacks. It will open at 7:30 pm for early birds. More than 200 persons attended the Top Forty dance last week, according to Donald C. Skrinar, director of the Center.

There will be no dance this week for grammar school students. The next dance for this age group will be Nov. 14, when a "Sock Hop" has been scheduled.

Last Saturday's Pancake Day was a success, Skrinar says. Similar events are planned for the next few months, the first probably in November. A precise date and time will be announced later.

A group of fathers will take paint brushes in hand Saturday morning and will attempt to paint the ceiling and beams of the Center gymnasium. Pete Cimbalo will direct the operation, and men interested in helping should report to the Center in work clothes Saturday at nine a.m.

Work will start November 3rd on the gym floor. It will be scrubbed prior to refinishing, and a coat of gym seal will be placed on the floor next Wednesday. It is expected that the floor will be ready for play use Nov. 10.

Youngsters are urged NOT to call the Center asking if the ice skating rink is ready. Skrinar says the parking lot probably will not be flooded until late November or early December. Roller skating, however, is permitted on the lot.

A new Wednesday afternoon class, strictly for the ladies, will be inaugurated Nov. 12, when trampoline instruction will be given. Starting time is 1:30pm. Badminton courts will also be available, but the accent will be on the trampoline. A sign-up date will be held prior to and on the first instructional meeting of the group, Nov. 12.

The Center will sponsor a benefit movie Nov. 2 when two performances of the James Dean success, "Rebel Without a Cause," will be shown. Show times are 2 and 7pm. The movie also stars Natalie Wood and Sal Mineo and is considered a good commentary on juvenile delinquency, said Skrinar.

WOW, lots happening in just one week at the Rec Center. We came across this article while looking for Sherony Hardware ads in the *Highwood News*, 1958. Were YOU or ANYONE you know, part of the "Ladies' Trampoline Group"??? We would love to hear your story! Don't be embarrassed, please come forward. Time heals all wounds.

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!



Back Again!

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE
2019 "Holidays in Highwood" Dinner & Raffle

Wednesday, December 11th, 2019

6:00 pm Cocktails, 7:00pm Dinner

Froggy's Restaurant

\$55.00 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 Friday, Dec. 6th

Total Attending: _____

Total Payment Enclosed: _____

Name(s) of Attendee(s)	Beef Bourguignon	Braised Chicken w/Tarragon Sauce	Salmon w/ Pepper Sauce