

HIGHWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAKING HISTORY EVERYDAY

Fall 2013

Volume 9, Issue 4

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Please Help
us find a
**NEW
HOME**

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Sad News—As of December 1st, all the items that were on display at 122 North Avenue will be placed in temporary storage. The Highwood Historical Society has been seeking a new office location. We hope to find something soon. Be assured that all of our materials and artifacts will be properly stored and will be available for exhibit as needed. The HHS Board has been conscientiously looking and working to find a solution and a new office for our organization. You will be notified as soon as a new site becomes available.

Our grateful appreciation to the Pierantoni Family for providing us with office space. Their generosity allowed us to provide meaningful displays of historical photos and items that share the unique history of Highwood as well as Fort Sheridan. We thank all of you who have made many donations to our collection this year. Everyone has enjoyed seeing these special items. Please continue to donate your photos and artifacts for our collection. We are happy to pick up and receive these materials at any time.

We extend special thanks to our 249 members and supportive friends who have provided us with general assistance or help with programs and events throughout this past year. We are happy to give special recognition to the following: Anna's Mahogany, Carpets of Highwood, Bank of Highwood/Fort Sheridan, Bertucci Restaurant, Buffo's Restaurant, City of Highwood, Del Rio Restaurant, Law Offices of Diambri & Caravello, Fiore Nursery & Landscaping Co, First Bank of Highland Park, Highland Park Rehab & Nursing Center, Highwood Bocce Courts, Highwood Chamber of Commerce, Highwood Library, Raupp Memorial Museum, Rehab and Nursing Center, St. James Church, Sunset Foods, Wayne Hummer Investment Co., US Bank, and Viti Insurance.

Thank you to the 288 individuals who purchased Opera Raffle tickets. Congratulations to HHS Member Eileen Favelli who was our grand prize winner. She will enjoy a special dinner and opera program at the Del Rio Restaurant this December. This fundraiser raised over \$5,000, and these funds plus membership dues and donations help support our newsletters, programs, exhibits, office and building requirements.

2013 has been a great year! I'm very proud of our Board of Directors who have worked tirelessly to provide events and programs that meet the needs of our members. We had a booth at each of the Highwood Farmer's Market Days and Pumpkin Fest. Historical items were on display at the Highwood Library, City Hall and at our 122 North Avenue office. Our Tomato Fest Contest in July was a fun activity and involved many participants. Our recent informative program highlighted Ed Bernardi who shared insights into his book, [The Reluctant Patriot](#). Continue to watch for our email blasts, program announcements, and membership renewal information. We have some great ideas and I know you will enjoy attending future programs.

Please remember the Highwood Historical Society as you make your end of the year charitable contributions. All donations received are tax deductible, our EIN number is: 36-4105011.

Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends. Share your stories of Highwood with them and send those stories to us. Everyone looks forward to reading about your special remembrances.

Best Wishes from the Highwood Historical Society,
Teta Minuzzo, President

Highwood . . . It was my Disneyland

By Mario J. Preti, Jr.

Well may I say that for me, being born in Highwood was the beginning of such a rich and beautiful childhood that all the folks in my life that have asked me about where I grew up and that I have told, for the most part, told me that I was so lucky. I truly believe that part of my life is the greatest gift my parents could have ever given me.

Highwood in the Forties during and after the war for me was full of adventure and nothing but fun. We lived at 135 S. Central Ave., in a little house where my mother took in laundry for the rich folks and my dad did house painting. He was a painter's painter. I went to Oak Terrace School, that was just an alley and a street away, walking back and forth every day. In the winter, being that close, I still would have frost on my eyebrows and runny snots by the time I got home for lunch and after school. Our neighbors on each side were Mr. & Mrs. Smith and old Mr. Wilson. All my aunts and uncles lived in Highwood, Highland Park, and Ravinia.



135 S. Central Avenue

My Nono and Noni Preti had a boarding house on the corner of Burchell & Green Bay Rd. It was a big place with fruit trees, a big chicken coop, and a rooster that would peck at & chase me. He wound up in the soup pot for doing so. I spent many sunny and warm days there, sitting in the cherry tree eating cherries 'til I got sick. The house had a huge basement where my Nono made sausage. He would put his finished product in a wagon and go uptown to sell it. I'm told he made the best Italian sausage in Highwood. That basement scared the be-jeebers out of me because every animal that went down there never came out! I didn't go down there too often, but I remember how clean it was.

West of Town—In the summers, the neighborhood gang of five (myself, Mike Cornell, Francis "Buddy" Cornell, Joey Hurbert, and Wally Bartlett) would hang out a lot in the woods west of town. We built what we called forts, raiding the farmers corn fields, eating fresh corn and playing cowboys and Indians and Army. In those days, west of town, there were a lot of farms and woods. We had BB guns and hunted

everything. One time we went to one of our camps to find it had been taken over by a homeless guy and boy did we run! Another time, my sidekick Mike Cornell and I went to the fields after a heavy rain and walking in the field mud was nearly impossible. We kept getting stuck. I made it to firm ground but there was Mike, stuck and crying. The mud was like quicksand, pulling at his boots. We made it home safe, but Mike's boots are probably still in that farmer's field.

Summertime in Highwood was so great for the kids. It seems all the adults knew whose kid was who's and where he or she belonged. I had a cocker-spaniel named Freckles and wherever I was, she was. Freckles was a great bird dog. Maybe some of you reading this remember the dump Old Man Hennaberg had. Well, Freckles ate every chicken and duck he had. Pa had to pay for all of them.

We played kick-the-can, stole berries, soaped windows at Halloween, rang doorbells and ran, and stayed out late. There was nothing to fear in Highwood in those lazy days of summer. We, I mean the gang of five, went to the Highwood movie theater every Friday night to see all the serials: Flash Gordon, Don Winslow of the Coast Guard, and many more. We got in free because of Wally Bartlett's dad, he ran the place. I'll never forget the wood floors. My cousin Sonny and his buddies would stomp that old floor to death if the movie didn't start on time. On Saturdays, we walked the North Shore tracks to the Alcyon Theater in Highland Park. We got to see 25 cartoons and a double feature including the best popcorn ever, all for 12 cents.

My Aunt Della and Uncle Mario ran the restaurant and PX at Fort Sheridan for many years until they retired to their home on Burchell Ave. I got the best malts at the PX and got to play in a C-47 fuselage they had at the base. I remember getting to see General MacArthur and his family when he came to Highwood and Fort Sheridan and hearing the 21 Gun Salute fired over Lake Michigan. What a great day!

Does Highwood remember Cooney's Tavern? It was owned by Cooney Z. He was married to my buddy's mother, and he built a new house across the alley from us. We (the gang) used to sneak in during construction and grab a quick smoke when no one was around. One time when we were there, Mike's brother went upstairs to look around but there wasn't any flooring put in yet. He slipped off the joist and one of his legs came crashing through the ceiling. Mike and I were laughing like mad when my dad came in. Busted . . . for smoking and ceiling damage!

Fall was a good time also, with all the leaves falling. We would rake them up in huge piles next to Mr. Wilson's garage roof and jump off the roof. What a blast. With Halloween coming I was getting anxious for the party the Smiths threw every year. Man, that was a cool party. They would make the basement into a real scary hallway of horrors with fake cobwebs and masked people. The guests would come down the stairs in almost

Cont. on Page 4

VETERANS DAY

As we marked Veterans Day this month, let us not forget the Highwood Men who gave their lives in the wars of our nation.

The Dead & Missing from World Wars I & II,
Korea, and Vietnam

- Norman Bell, World War II
- Edmund Bellei, World War II
- Amelio Biondi, World War II
- Frederick Caldarelli, World War II
- Sergio Canarini, World War II
- Joe Colo, World War II
- Guido Corsini Jr., Korea
- John Duchane, World War II
- Joseph Farina, World War II
- Elio Gentilini, World War II
- Vito Lenzini, World War II
- Dominic Lomoro, World War II
- William Mosteller, World War II
- Lucien Nardini, Korea
- Frank Novello, Vietnam
- James Pasquali, World War II
- Rocco Pellecrini, World War II
- George Smith, World War I
- Frank Spano, World War II
- Walter Stupey, World War I
- Anton Viveni, World War II
- Primo Zanni, Korea

WANTED

OFFICE WITH A VIEW

The Highwood Historical Society is in URGENT need of a new home to display its wonderful array of historical photos and documents.

We are a tax-deductible
501 (c) 3 Not-For-Profit
Organization looking for storefront
space in Highwood.

Please call Teta Minuzzo,
President, if you can help.
Tel: 847-682-9039



Highland Park Selective Service Board Inductees, April 17, 1943

Highwood Men present in photo: Raymond Coomes, Leonard Bergdahl, Caesar Pasquesi, Peter Murphy, Arnie Anderson, Michael Miotti, Hannibal Vanni, Nello Tamarri, Leo A. Cervetti, Amelio Biondi, Ugo Azzi, Sargo Digani, Francis Cantagallo, Bruno Coppi, John Brugioni, and Enrico Rossi.

My Disneyland—Cont. from p. 2

total darkness. My job was to be at the bottom of the stairs with the trusty old Electrolux to blow air up the skirts of the girls as they hit the last step. Boy did they scream!

First Snow—I can remember getting up early every morning and the first thing I would do is look out to see if it had snowed, which usually came the third or fourth week of November. Then it was on with my coat, boots, hat and leather rabbit-lined mittens that came up to my elbows. I grabbed my Flyer and headed off to the entrance of Oak Terrace School. Why? That's where we would fly down the sidewalk, off three steps at the bottom, over the curb, slam the sled into a hard right onto Prairie Avenue and go as far as our momentum would take us. Oak Terrace would bank the snow around the whole play field and flood it so we could ice skate on it all winter. Now that's a skating rink!

In 1950 with my dad getting sick, we moved to California, following my Uncle Carlo's suggestion. We didn't want to leave Highwood but with many tears, we said good-bye to all our friends and family. I can't remember any of the kids getting into trouble any time of the year. Highwood was as good a town as any for a kid to grow up in. It was my Disneyland.

My father Mario Preti Sr., lovingly known as "Midge", was a semi-professional bowler who was well known all up and down the North Shore. His life-long friend, Charlie Crovetti, owner of the Highland Park Bowl, was also his teammate, along with many other Italians from Highwood, some of which were Gus Gaggioli, Dina Paganelli, Louie Medici, and so many more. His bowling talents reached to Los Angeles and Santa Monica, California, where his trophies continued to pile up in our home until a stroke sidelined him. He even tried to bowl after the stroke. He was a very loving father, always had a smile on his face, and loved life. I miss him every day, and will till the day I die.

Mario Preti & his wife, Yvonne, reside in Burlington, WA. Along with his article, Mario gave the Society several copies of bowling photos from the 1940's.



Santi Dairy—Highwood Milk Delivery

As we pack up our collection for storage, we have to return our temporary display of Santi Dairy items including a wooden milk case, photos, a paper cottage cheese container and glass half-pint & quart bottles. These items were a big hit with the many youth groups who visited us. Children were fascinated by the concept of fresh milk being delivered to your doorstep. They particularly liked the Toy Santi Milktruck Bank.



Board Member Barbara Sherony Marianetti fondly recalls Domenic the Milkman walking up the stairs to her family's home above Sherony Hardware. He left the milk and cream in a tin box outside her door. Milk day was always a good day because she knew that upon return from school her mother would have an applesauce or banana cake waiting for her.

Fortunately, we've added a copy of the Santi Dairy history, written by HHS Member Vicki Santi Kucera, to our permanent collection. A special thank you to Marco Santi and the Santi family for their memorable display.

Uptown v. Downtown

By Cynthia Krol

I'm thrilled to read Mr. Preti's reference to our "Business District" as UPTOWN. For some reason it bothers me when I hear the term "Downtown Highwood". I've always been taught that "downtown" refers to Chicago, as in "I'm taking the train downtown" or "I'm seeing a show downtown".

"Uptown" consists of any business or building along Sheridan, Waukegan, and Green Bay Roads or Highwood and Washington Avenues, as in "I'm going uptown for a gallon of milk." Am I the only one who still thinks this way? Can't be. Please feel free to weigh in on this sizzling debate, email highwoodhistory@gmail.com.

L-R: Mario "Midge" Preti, Dino Paganelli, Sam Somenzi, Louie Medici, Charle Crovetti.

Historical Society Memberships Make the Best Gifts!

Do you remember your wish list at
Sherony's Hardware?

Were you sent to Bernardi's
or Laegelar's Drug to find your mother's
favorite perfume?

Why not give the gift of
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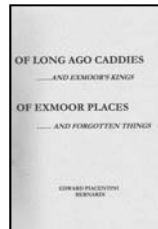
Call 847-682-9039, email
highwoodhistory@gmail.com, or
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and mail today.

Speaking of GREAT GIFT IDEAS . . .

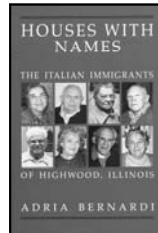
The following items are for sale and all profits benefit
the Highwood Historical Society!



The Reluctant Patriot, by Edward Bernardi. A story of endurance, love and exceptional courage set in the Appenine Mountains of Mussolini's Fascist Italy. \$25.00 ea.



Of Long Ago Caddies . . . And Exmoor Kings, also by Edward Bernardi, a nostalgic tale of caddying at Exmoor Country Club, hole by hole. \$15.00 ea.



Houses With Names, the definitive history of Highwood's Italian Immigrants, by Adria Bernardi, \$25.00 ea.



The Main Event, The History of Sports in Highwood, \$15.00 ea.



HIGHWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY GIFT MEMBERSHIP

JAN 2014- MAY 2015
\$20.00 each

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Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Correction: Summer Newsletter

The Texaco Gas Station was located on the corner of Green Bay Rd & **Prairie Avenue**, not Green Bay Rd & Highwood Avenue.

Where are(were) you?



L to R: Highwood Bank, current home of Washington Gardens, 256 Green Bay Rd. Muzik's Tavern, corner of North Avenue & Green Bay Rd. (previously Al & Jane's, then Pieranton's Restaurant).