



# Lockport Area Genealogical & Historical Society

Issue No. 25

NEWSLETTER

August 2003

## Crest Hill Hosts Membership Meeting

by Jeanne Juricic

Members of the Lockport Area Genealogical and Historical Society met in the Crest Hill City Building early on a beautiful Saturday morning July 26.

Mayor Donald Randich presented the history of the city and some current pending projects. Starting in September all city water will be treated with iron removal putting an end to rusty white shirts and orange toilet tanks. There are presently nine shallow wells with a capacity to pump four million gallons a day. Current usage is one million gallons. No radium is present in the system. Since there is no shortage of water, citizens may water lawns, fill pools, and wash cars to their hearts' content with no watering bans in sight. The water is metered and the mayor pointed out that the water rate is the lowest rate in Will County. Every single street in the city has been refinished with new curbs and gutters. There was no assessment to property owners for this project. The city tax rate is 52 cents which is less than half of some neighboring cities. That rate has come down from \$1.05 in 1981. The city of Crest Hill has 16,000 in residence with a projection of 25 – 30 thousand built out by 2010. Also, the population of Stateville prison contributes to the city coffers for each resident of the prison. The mayor says he gets no phone calls from that segment of the population.

Crest Hill was incorporated in January 1960. It was started when rumors of a Joliet annexation began circulating. A few neighbors gathered in a Lidice living room and discussed forming a



Mayor Randich related the story of Crest Hill to LAGHS' members and guests.

separate city. From there it progressed, but not without controversy. The biggest issue was the revenue from Hillcrest Shopping Center – the first shopping center of its kind in the area. A court case decided by the Illinois Supreme Court determined that the new city was legal and that sales tax money should be directed to Crest Hill. Originally the city was to be named Hillcrest but upon research, a Hillcrest was already existing in Illinois so city fathers turned it around to Crest Hill. So far, only four have been Mayor, each one building on the foundation of the others. Over the years a fine working relationship has been established with our adjacent city of Joliet. Both sets of city fathers seek to cooperate where possible.

An international claim to fame in the city happened during World War II. As Adolph Hitler took over Czechoslovakia an incident happened that ordered every man and boy in the city of Lidice, Czechoslovakia to be killed and the city leveled. The world heard about it with such horror that it was determined a new Lidice would rise in the USA. A subdivision was being established near Theodore Street

and Raynor Avenue at the time and the president, Franklin D. Roosevelt named it to be the new Lidice, USA. Each June, a memorial ceremony is held at the Lidice monument. The Czechoslovak National Council sends a couple busloads of people to participate. The Crest Hill Library has a collection of historical items on display from the original dedication. Crest Hill residents Kay Thomas and Jeanne Juricic were present to add comments. Kay was a part of the original committee to incorporate and attended Quo Warranto hearings in Morris, Illinois. She was a former president of the Crest Hill Women's Civic League. Jeanne's first love is libraries and she was on the original library board bringing a building and service to Crest Hill in 1969.

At the meetings end a justifiably proud Mayor invited attendees to stroll around the Veterans' and Police Memorial Garden. Fifteen hundred plus names of Crest Hill veterans are inscribed on granite markers as a tribute to their service. The memorial is an ongoing project with new names submitted from time to time. Two Crest Hill police officers were killed in the line of duty and a memorial has been placed to honor them as well. A Memorial Day Service is held each year in commemoration. All work in the garden is done by a wonderfully dedicated team of volunteers.

*Jeanne Juricic is a long-time resident of Crest Hill, Plan Commissioner of Crest Hill, Vice President of the Des Plaines Valley Public Library District, President of the Crest Hill Civic League, and active member of other local civic and historical organizations*

# M

essage from the President

## Crest Hill Program

During this summer season LAGHS members and guests took their July meeting to Crest Hill City Hall. Many thanks to Mayor Randich, Jeanne Juricic and Kay Thomas for hosting the fun and informative meeting. Don't miss the front page story by Jeanne, who shares an account of Mayor Don Randich's presentation. *The mayor invited LAGHS back for a complimentary bus tour of the city. The tour is limited to 25 people and anyone interested should call Char at (815) 3535-5662 so we can determine the level of interest and possible dates for a tour.*

## DPVLIB AND LAGHS WEBSITE

LAGHS is coordinating with the Des Plaines Valley Public Library staff on how to organize the history-genealogy room. A work plan has developed to further the process. It will take some weeks before LAGHS can begin to recruit and train volunteers to help assist patrons with historical and genealogical records. In the meantime—

visit [www.dpvlib.org](http://www.dpvlib.org) and click on LAGHS!

## Civil War Days

LAGHS is preparing to staff the OUTREACH table at Civil War Days. *See the inside back cover for details.* This is a fun day of meeting people and sharing what LAGHS's does on behalf of Lockport history and genealogy. Once again this year we are happy to share space in the Voltz building with the Will County Historical Society.

## Annual House in the Park and Dellwood Park Tour

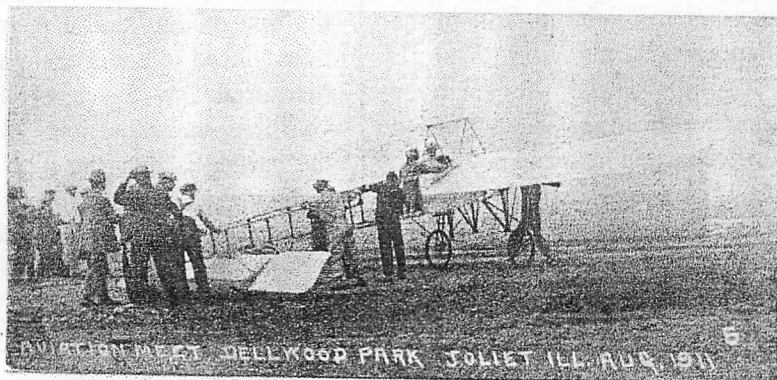
If you attended the program last year, please come again and share the memories. Erwin Klopstein will present a slide show about the amusement park and guide a tour around the grounds. *Tell everyone you meet that the program is open to the public.*

See you in the park! —Dr. Reno G. Caneva, president

## The Dellwood Connection:

### Remembering 100 Years of Flight 1903-2003

Below: "Aviation meet, Dellwood Park, August, 1911"



Let LAGHS know if you remember any meets at the park.



Dr. Reno G. Caneva

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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*Preserving the Past  
is our Present  
to the Future.*

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John Lamb, history

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Bonita Packley

## Snapshots in Time



with Georgene Bankroff

Georgene Bankroff

This following list is titled "Surnames from the Families of Asiago" from a magazine or church bulletin and is based on a postcard bought by Massimo Paganin. Their surnames in the Cimbria dialect serve to distinguish one family from another. These nicknames go back a long way and then pass to the whole family. The Asiago area is close to Austria; therefore, many of the names sound Germanic.

ANTONINI: Rarconatt

BASSO: Betle, Borton, Busch, Cencio, Cherubin, Cuggo, Engele, Grassi, Groz, Mestiera, Natt, Nittar, Romenle, Sol

BENETTI: Bisachese, Camel, Doppio, Selaro

BIANCHI: Felizle, Schenal

BONATO: Camparubar, Stiz

BORTOLI: Capuz, Giandon, Title

CARLI: Bigoli, Castelar, Chejele, Chium, Ciorgolo, Cogo, Duri, Fiamaz, Matta, Muller, Paris

CORA: Ballot, Camparubar, Capo, Casto, Ebegh, Gozzar, Loffar, Pruck, Puferle, Scrivi, Sech, Vush

CUNICO: Cornola, Git, Grofolo, Pasg, Scoa

DAL SASSO: Bet, Ghellar, Tonin

FRIGO: Pontel, Rigo, Ronar

LONGHINI: Cogo, Crack, Teco

MOSELE: Capuzzela, Culi, Gaigar, Peri, Poslen, Sciroter

MUNARI: Carlin

PAGANIN: Cinque, Gent, Giraffa, Gnogne, Nepolo, Obenar, Risle, Razet, Segò, Stunf, Tegnele

PANGRAZIO: Lut

PERTILE: Ragaz

RIGONI: Belo, Boemo, Camplan, Carish, Cassordar, Cocolo, Colombo, Contentissimo, Crestanon, Gambe, Ghetti, Grabar, Guadinalto, Kaus, Laiten, Laitenar, Lella, Longo, Magnalardo, Marendata, Maurar, Mercant, Mesele, Nappa, Niz, Patatela, Pegola, Perlio, Pesce, Podesta, Pun, Rendola, Rocca, Russo, Schirat, Scoio, Snacco, Snechele, Sordo, Stern, Stiral, Suster, Taparo, Tolla, Tomese, Tognolo, Tuzzel, Viao, Xaus, Zanga, Zai, Zurlo. Also, Soot, my family nickname.

RODEGHIERO: Bardoa, Caldana, Cheberle, Folo, Giochele, Moselan, Nichel, Parigin, Polenton, Resciar, Runz, Spera, Tabio.

## Chasing Your Tale



with Jacqueline Munch

Jacqueline Munch

Genealogy researchers find that databases are great sources of information. From the comfort of your own office chair you can log onto the internet. Or, you can take advantage of services provided by libraries. LAGHS'

new partnership with the local library has been a stimulus for the upcoming acquisition of a database for public access in the history-genealogy room. Until that system is available, you might like to take a ride to Coal City. The following is excerpted from the newsletter of the Will/Grundy Counties, Illinois Genealogical Society, August 2003.

### ANCESTRY PLUS

The Ancestry Plus computer program is now available in the research area of the Coal City Library. This program includes not only United States Census Records and primary source documents, but also *Gale's Passenger and Immigration List Index* which lists 2.8 million passengers who came to the U.S. from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and *Biography and Genealogy Matter Index*, a database of more than 13 million indexed biographical sketches. You can find land records, court records, military records, immigration records, and much more. The program is user friendly and so are the wonderful librarians at the Coal City Library.

Contact me at [jlmunch@earthlink.com](mailto:jlmunch@earthlink.com) or (815) 838-3795 with your questions and comments.

### Snapshots

SARTORI: Parent

STEFANI: Canerle, Catus, Cloco, Marcior, Mas, Moro, Pechara, Rampelar, Sech, Stellar

VESCOVI: Bodel, Puledro, Revese, Tumelar

ZERNAR: Claus

*Clarification: Last month's article on Rev. Bengston stated that he rode in the canal days parade. The noted parades are not those we know as the Old Canal Days Parade, which did not commence until 1972.*

Contact me with your questions and comments at:  
E-mail: [KG1990@aol.com](mailto:KG1990@aol.com), or (815) 838-1862.

# This Month in History

## The Great Lockport Fire of August 10, 1895

### LOCKPORT PHOENIX.

VOLUME 20.

LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS, AUGUST 15, 1895.

NO. 33

#### DRY GOODS....

We wish to call the attention of DRY GOODS BUYERS to our large and complete stock of Dry Goods. We are making lower prices on

#### DRY GOODS, CARPETS AND OIL CLOTHES

Than any other house in Will County.

Heavy, yard-wide Unbleached Muslin, 3 1-2 cent.  
Fine Lonsdale Mills Bleached Muslin, 6 cents.  
Challies, 3 1-2 cents per yard.  
Ladies' Waists, 25 cents; worth 50 cents.  
Dress Goods, 3, 10, 15 and 25 cents per yard, worth double the price.

We carry a full line of  
**LADIES' FINE SHOES,**

#### Central Drug Store,

939 State St. - Lockport, Ill.

All kinds of—  
**DRUGS, MEDICINES AND CHEMICALS**

The Flies are Coming!  
Spread the Paper for Them!  
**STICKY FLY PAPER POISON FLY PAPER.**

**SOMETHING NEW.** Pure Borax, manufactured by the Pacific Coast Borax Co. for toilet, laundry, medicinal preservative and household purposes. 2-pound Package, 35 cents.

**TISSUE PAPER.**

Writing Paper, Toilet Paper, Table Paper, Hair Brushes, Clothes Brushes, Violin Strings, Guitar Strings, Banjo Strings.

#### IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORSE.

There Were 'no Lives Lost; There Were but Few Residences Lost; There is a Coozly Number of Business Blocks Still Standing; Everybody who has not Suffered from the Fire is vleiug with Everybody Else to See Who can do the Most to help the Unfortuna'e Ones Along; All who Lost are Making Active Preparations to Rebuild and Open in Basine's Again. Is Lockport Bust-ed? Well, We Should Say Not!

As the PHOENIX office was one of the places wiped out by the fire and the printing plant was almost completely destroyed our office is now "in the saddle" and this edition is necessarily gotten out under difficulties. It is through the courtesy of the Advertiser office that we are enabled to give our readers what we do. We won't apologize, however; you all know how and why it is without any explanation from us.

It is impossible for us to attempt to acknowledge this week our gratitude for the many kind offers of assistance which have been made us. Our means and time for doing so are too much limited to permit it. But we have not forgotten and never will. In the meanwhile we are doing all that can be done to

car upon which it was loaded. This the Alton people have since denied saying that had there been any such arrangements made they would have been only too glad to have done anything in their power. There seems to have been a misun-derstanding somewhere. What ever it was, however, the PHOENIX does not believe that there was any intentional act portemuel or that day by any corporation or person but with the best and kindest intentions on their part toward rendering us assistance.

The Joliet chemical undoubtedly was the means of saving many residences on Hamilton street where the only buildings destroyed were Alexander's and Sullivan's resi-dence property, Beach's wagon shop, Deanning's carpenter shop and the barns belonging to the Boyer and Wilnot property. The most unexpected blow o the day fell when the school house took fire. It caught first in the cupola and there was nothing to do but allow it to burn for there was no means at hand with which to even attempt to save it.

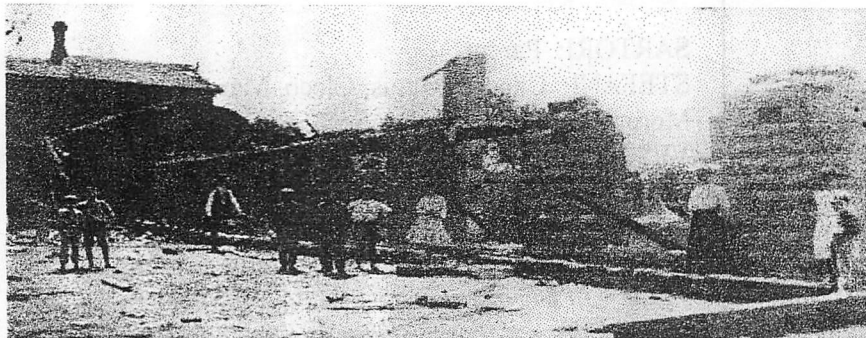
When the flames ate their way through to State street the heat be-came so intense that it seemed fo a time as if nothing could save the opposite side of the street from burning also. Windows began to crack, awnings to smoke and th paint to rise in blisters. The fire-work with buckets and wet blankets finally saved this part of th village. Thos. O'Brien's bar

#### August 1995 events rekindle stories of fire August 10, 1895

The *Phoenix* newspaper (above and right) is from a reproduction of the original of August 13, 1895, printed by Main Street Lockport, Inc. to commemorate the fire's centennial. The organization produced a video that featured interviews with shop owners and historians who researched the effects of the fire on downtown buildings. Store owners painted flames on their storefront windows. A parade and other events enlightened the public about the remarkable day in our downtown history.

#### Fire department celebrates 100 years

The Lockport Township Fire & Ambulance District celebrated August 13; the fire prompted the establishment of the fire district just three days after the fire. A newsletter announced events and used the occasion to educated the public about fire prevention, programs, and services.



The photograph (left) is courtesy of John M. Lamb and appears in his book, *Lockport, Illinois: The Old Canal Town*, published by Arcadia and available at the Gaylord Building and local bookstores.

Lamb tells us: ...It was a hot, dry summer and the flames quickly spread, pushed by a strong south wind, and engulfed the east side of State Street. The fire moved faster than a man could run, moving east on Ninth Street and continuing half a block to engulf and destroy the stone school on Central Square.... Many feared that the conflagration would spread north of Ninth Street and destroy the residential area because the town lacked a pumper or a water supply to fight the flames. A telegram to Chicago and an express train, however, prompted the delivery of a pumper. This steam-driven device pumped water from the canal [I & M Canal] to save the city.

#### IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORSE.

There Were 'no Lives Lost; There Were but Few Residences Lost; There is a Coozly Number of Business Blocks Still Standing; Everybody who has not Suffered from the Fire is vleiug with Everybody Else to See Who can do the Most to help the Unfortuna'e Ones Along; All who Lost are Making Active Preparations to Rebuild and Open in Basine's Again. Is Lockport Bust-ed? Well, We Should Say Not!

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

New ☐ Renewal ☐ In addition/in lieu of membership, please accept my donation of \$ . ☐

Individual or Household \$20.00 ☐

Business/nonprofit \$35.00 ☐

Life \$495.00 ☐

Please highlight changes or corrections to your mailing label. CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Name \_\_\_\_\_ Family members \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
Please mail to: LAGHS, c/o B. Packley, 1016 Maitland Drive, Lockport, IL, 60441

Join us today! ~ Please check your expiration date on the mailing label. ~

LAGHS NEWSLETTERS ~ PROGRAMS-SHARE & TELL ~ FAMILY HISTORIES PRESERVED

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## Civil War Days at Dellwood Park

Saturday 6 September and Sunday 7 September

You'll find us staying cool in the **Volz Building**.

**LAGHS shares space with the Will County Historical Society.**

*Together, we help spread the word about our missions to preserve our heritage.*



Civil War School Days is held on Friday. A fun-facts booklet is included in the LTPD's teacher's packet with local historic site school tour info.

Sign up to help  
with the Outreach Table

~

Share the story of the  
Civil War, Dellwood Park,  
Lockport and the I & M Canal

~

Shifts of two hours or more:

Saturday 6 September  
from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

And

Sunday 7 September  
from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Call Char for more information on how to  
volunteer: (815) 353-5662.

**Lockport Area  
Genealogical & Historical Society**  
c/o Bonnie Packley  
1016 Maitland Drive  
Lockport, IL 60441

## **Front Page Story**

"Crest Hill Hosts  
Membership Meeting"

## **INSIDE**

### ***Civil War Days***

Italian surnames

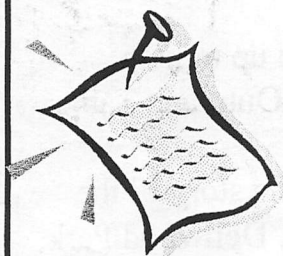
Database at libraries

### ***This Month in History***

## **BELOW**

House in the Park Tour

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**



**Executive Board Meeting**  
Thursday, August 21  
6PM  
**Des Plaines Valley  
Public Library, Lockport**

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

## **Open to the Public**

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> Annual House in the Park and Dellwood Park Tour***

Saturday, August 23, 2003 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

*Join us for a tour of the park and a slide show  
on the amusement park with Erwin Klopstein*

**Light Refreshments will be served.**



**Call Char on her cell phone to RSVP at (815) 353.5662;  
if no answer, please leave a message.**