

LOCKPORT AREA GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Preserving the Past is our Present to the Future

We bring the people of the Lockport area together
to preserve and share
our family histories and
our local heritage.

Contact:

Bonnie Packley
1016 Maitland Drive
Lockport, IL 60441

blpackley@att.net
(815) 838.9388

Year 3, Volume 3, No. 10

Newsletter

October 2002

*M*essage from the President

What a great month September was! We made our society known to the community at large by initiating *A Tribute From the Heart: Remembering September 11*. The Lockport East Campus auditorium was filled to overflowing—873 seats and standing room only!

A combined grade school chorus totaled 240 students. Fifty-five adults and high school students formed a community chorus. A dramatic presentation, stunning visuals, and a keynote address by State Representative Brent Hassert created an unforgettable evening. In case you missed it, LCTV Channel 6 is broadcasting the event. LAGHS will keep a record of this moving community event in our archives.

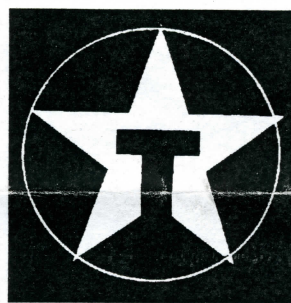
At our October 26th meeting, Bonnie Packley will share her recollections about working at Texaco for 22 years. Texaco provided jobs and an increased tax base for our community. During WWII there were 1500 employees at the plant, many of whom were women whose husbands were serving in the military. Bonnie will provide an overview of the importance of Texaco and lead a Share & Tell, so bring your memories and memorabilia.

Please look for the VOLUNTEER HELP column in this newsletter. We have many programs and events coming up, and we need your help to make them a success.

—Dr. Reno G. Caneva

October 26th, 2002

Meeting Share & Tell



The Big Red Star with Bonnie Packley

Bring your memories
and memorabilia
about Texaco.

Bring a guest!

8:30 a.m.

~
Gladys Fox Museum
Corner of 9th & Washington

**HELP STAFF
THE LAGHS TABLE AT:**

Christmas Crossroads
2 hour shifts between 9 - 5
Saturday, Nov. 23 & Sunday,
Nov. 24

Call Bonnie at (815) 838.9388.
We hand out our new membership
brochures, feature our history and
event displays, and sell our
Postcard Collections.

NEWSLETTER / PROGRAMS
Contact Char with your ideas:
(815)353.5662
email:cgiardina@dnrmail.state.il.
us

LATIN TRANSLATION

Please call Jack Brassal at
815.886.6856 if you can
translate.

WHO IS THIS FAMILY?

Found on a piece of plywood at a
house on Dell Park Ave. Please
contact Erwin Klopstein at
815.588.4402 if you have any
information. My name is Paul
Ward Age 42. My name is Shirley
Ann Ward. I lived here in 1977, I
am 40 years old. We have 4 kids.
Paul 22, Chris 20, Romie 19,
Russell 18. 5 Grandchildren:
Boy, Little Eddie 2 months; Boy,
Adam 2; Girl, Debbie 4; Boy,
Scottie 4.

**From the Treasurer's
Desk** by Bonnie Packley

**Welcome New
Member**

Don Kolczak,
who bought
Chuck Hull's House.

Farewell

Farewell, but not goodbye, to
Chuck and Beverly Hull, who
have moved to Pleasant Hill, TN.
The Hull's will remain members
of LAGHS. We wish them every
happiness in their new home.

Exp. Dates on mailing labels
will be updated periodically.



SEPTEMBER 28TH SHARE & TELL: REMEMBERING FAIRMONT



(Left) Just one of the family
memories LAGHS will record in the
archives is from Bonnie Packley.
Her grandfather, Fred Grant, posed
with his friends, having mustered out
at Fort Robinson, Nebraska in 1899,
fresh from the Spanish-American
War.

(Below, 1933 photo) Grant was a
carpenter and built the family home
in Fairmont at 123 Nobes Avenue in
1923. The house is still there. He
lived out his life in that home and
died there of a stroke on Oct.16,
1942.



Chasing Your Tale— Genealogy News

by Genealogist Jacqueline Munch

TRY THESE WEBSITES!

rootsweb.com/~ilwill US GenWeb, Will Co., IL
Great website for those interested in Will County. You can post queries about surnames and ask volunteers to do look-ups. You will also find the 1850 census, maps, cemetery locations, and 1878 biographies and landowners. By clicking on each square section in the township map, you can get a list of the original landowners in that section. There are also links to other Illinois websites.

iltrails.org Illinois Trails Fascinating site for Illinois history and genealogy. State Data, Queries, Census, Military, Events in IL history, County Data, and Research Help.

alhn.org American Local History Network
Genealogical and historical sites categorized by State or Topic.

RECENT INQUIRIES

Jack Braun is researching Michael and Jane Morrison, who were early settlers in Runyontown. Their son John married Catherine Dennis. John and Catherine's daughter Jennie married John Felix Braun. In the 1930 booklet, "Lockport Has a Birthday," they were mentioned along with descendants living in Lockport with the surnames: Morrison, Braun, Kenney, Whelan and Hoppe.

Ron Jost is looking for information on the Gatliff family, especially the burial place of Christina Gatliff.

Conference

Char Giardina attended the Fox Valley Genealogical Society's Fall Conference- Unlocking Ancestral Mysteries with noted genealogist and former actor Hank Z Jones as the speaker. Just as I (Jacquie) did at last year's conference, Char networked with others and gathered information to bring back to share with our members. Jones' presentation outline and other materials are available for everyone to peruse at The Reading Room in The House In The Park. Char enjoyed sharing a table at lunch with seven members of the Will-Grundy County Genealogical Society, including Nancy Bruce Crilly, society president and member of LAGHS.

If you have information to share with the above people, please contact me at jlunch@earthlink.net, 815-838-3795, or mail to me at our society's address.

Dellwood Days— Past and Present

By Erwin Klopstein and Char Giardina

Dellwood Park was originally an entertainment park developed by the Chicago and Joliet Electric Railway to entice the public to ride their streetcars. Many who attended our annual Historic Site Tour this past August recollected a personal memory or story told by relatives about this famous weekend destination. Please continue to share your memories and memorabilia with LAGHS about the park and *The House In The Park*. In upcoming newsletters, you will read about your contributions to the findings that our research committee has been conducting.

Location, Location, Location

The park was located about a mile-and-a-half south of downtown Lockport and about four miles north of downtown Joliet. The park was often designated as "Dellwood Park, Joliet." Why Joliet? The park is not in Joliet or even in the township of Joliet. For instance, thumbing through Steve Potter's extensive postcard collection, we find that "Dellwood Park, Joliet, Ill." is printed on most of the postcards. If you have seen or purchased LAGHS Dellwood Park Vintage Reproduction Postcard Collection, you will also observe the following: Dellwood Park, Lockport-Joliet; Dellwood Park, Lockport; and remarkably, Dellwood Park, Ill.

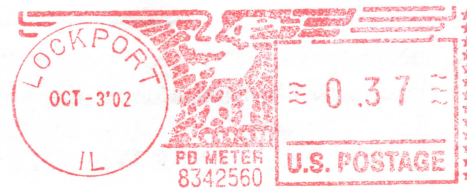


"The Playground, Dellwood Park, Joliet, Ill."

Perhaps some liberty was taken in noting the destination to be Joliet, since the park was, admittedly, a product of a railway bearing its name. And, one might argue that Joliet— ever increasing in population and the site of the county seat, enjoyed a wider name recognition among early 20th century citizens. This was a dramatic shift from the days when Lockport reigned as the headquarters for the I & M Canal. There is that element of town rivalry to explore, but that is the subject for another article by the LAGHS history committee.

Lockport Area Genealogical & Historical Society

c/o Bonnie Packley
1016 Maitland Drive
Lockport, IL 60441



Vintage Reproduction Postcards

~Dellwood Park~

~Downtown Lockport~

\$39.95 (each set of 12)



Inside

Genealogy & History

Membership News

Upcoming programs

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

October 12th 8:30 a.m.
at the
The House in the Park

Membership Meeting

October 26th 8:30 am

~

Gladys Fox Museum
Corner of 9th & Washington

~

SHARE & TELL

The Big Red Star
with Bonnie Packley

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memorabilia about Texaco.

~

Bring a guest!

PRAIRIE STATE PRIMER

Des Plaines Valley Library
Lockport

Wednesday, October 9th

7:00-8:00 p.m.

John Lynn walked the 400-mile length
of Illinois and visited
2400 towns. Lynn highlights points of
interest that are unique to the Prairie
State in this entertaining slide and
lecture presentation.

For information, call 815.838.0755

Lockport Township Park District

Schedule of Senior Activities
and Family Events
www.lockportpark.org
815.838.1183

Will County Historical Annual Benefit Dinner

Saturday, October 12th, 2002

Archeologist Floyd Mansberger will
speak about research projects in
the I & M Canal Corridor.
Call 815.838.5080 for information.

How to Contact Us!

Mailing Address:

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Historical Society
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B. Packley, J. Richardson**