



**Congratulations Ann Darrow—
Recipient of the Illinois State Historical
Society Lifetime Achievement Award
and Waukegan Park District Jack Benny
Arts & Humanities Award**

see page 4

Summer 2020

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

Calendar of Events

For more information visit waukeganparks.org and waukeganhistorical.org

August

August 22

Waukegan's Ray Bradbury 2020 Centennial Celebration
(more information at waukeganil.gov)

September

September 19

Virtual Oakwood Cemetery Walk (details to come)

September 20

Join us for our Virtual Zoom Annual Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82990352413>
Call In Number 1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 829 9035 2413

October

Waukegan Tour of Homes will be virtual (details to come)

WHS Board

Officers

President

Josh Bill

Vice President

Chris Lanning

Treasurer

Patrick Cosgrove

Secretary

Vicki Mattson

Directors

Harry E. Came

Lori Nerheim

Sandra Pokett

Maryfran Troha

for all or moments where you faced discrimination, past or present. We are the repository of Waukegan's history and we rely on your participation and donations. Donations of a story or personal journey are just as valuable (if not more) than financial contributions. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us, and let's resolve to make our society at large and our historical society a better place.

We also continue to face a public health crisis. I hope that our members as well as their friends and families are staying healthy and safe during this challenging time. The Waukegan Historical Society has found new ways to share the city's history with you throughout the "stay at home" order. Our virtual lunch and learns and program on Ray Bradbury have collectively drawn tens of thousands of views on our Facebook page. These are unprecedented contact numbers for the historical society, and it has inspired us to brainstorm new ways of bringing Waukegan's history to your screens.

The newest means of bringing history to you is through the Waukegan History Companion to the Waukegan Park District App. We know that many of you already have the Park District's app (but if you do not, there is no time like the present to get it. It is available to download onto your mobile phone). Now, thanks to the work of Bryan Escobar, the park district's arts and history specialist, you can take Waukegan history with you on your phone. There is more information within this newsletter about the Waukegan History Companion, but I wanted to give Bryan a shout-out here for his excellent work. Thanks for bringing a history companion to the Park District's app! Thanks also to the Park District for supporting us in this and every endeavor.

Finally, I encourage you to see the proposal for a revised constitution for the historical society in this newsletter. The Board of Directors has been working on potential revisions to our society's constitution for the past seven months. If you are interested in seeing the original (pre-revision) version, as well

President's Letter

Josh Bill

Since I last sat down to write to our membership, our country and community have been reminded of several problems that need our attention and best efforts to solve. The Waukegan Historical Society is deeply concerned about the racial injustices that have happened across the country. As a society, we acknowledge the injustices that have taken place in Waukegan throughout the years. With each injustice, however, the best of the city of Waukegan has risen to help create a brighter future. Still, there is much work to do. I would like to tell our membership that we stand in unity with all in Waukegan who have faced and are facing discrimination. Furthermore, we recognize that as a historical society, we need to take steps to diversify our membership and board of directors. We invite you, if you are comfortable, to share stories of your efforts to bring about justice

as an explanation of the changes, please go to our website: waukeganhistorical.org. We need your approval in order to change the constitution. We have our annual meeting tentatively scheduled for September 20th, 2020, at 2pm. This will be a virtual meeting where we will not only have a vote to approve changes to the society constitution, but we will also be voting on a new slate of board members to fill some vacancies. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for more updates on how to access our annual meeting through your computer or mobile device.

Congratulations Ann Darrow

Ann Darrow, Life Member of the Society, long-time volunteer for both the Research Library and Museum, and founding member of the Oakwood Cemetery Walk, was recently recognized for her dedication to Waukegan's history by the Illinois State Historical Society, Waukegan Park District, and U.S. Representative Brad Schneider.

Ann received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illinois State Historical Society, which is given to an individual for sustained and varied contributions to state and local history. The Waukegan Park District recognized Ann with the Jack Benny Arts & Humanities Award. Ann is definitely deserving of both of these prestigious distinctions.

Ann has volunteered in numerous roles for the Historical Society for over 30 years. She is an integral part of the Research Library and is our resident genealogical specialist.

Most importantly for the community, Ann Darrow has dedicated over twenty-five years of her life to the research of Waukegan's Oakwood

Cemetery. She found that the City of Waukegan records on the cemetery were lacking. She took it upon herself to create a master database of records, and she has graciously shared this database with the City of Waukegan. Ann is the driving force for collecting and maintaining accurate records pertaining to Oakwood Cemetery and she is the primary contact for the City of Waukegan and for the public on all matters relating to the cemetery.

Ann is a pillar in the successes of the Waukegan Historical Society and Oakwood Cemetery Walk. Her dedication to the preservation as well as showcasing of Waukegan's history is truly amazing. Congratulations Ann!



Independence Day Float

The Waukegan History Museum participated in the Waukegan Park District's Virtual Independence Day Parade—Shoebox Edition. Our shoebox float features some of our doll house chairs that have been featured on the Waukegan History Museum Facebook page's reoccurring story called "SITcom."

If you missed the virtual parade, you can see it on the Waukegan Park District Facebook page. If you have missed out on the chair saga called "SITcom," check that out as well on the Waukegan History Museum Facebook page.



A Minor in History

The Lonely One Strikes Again

Ali Schultz Bill

Ray Bradbury, by his own account and that of his family, was an impressionable kid with a voluble imagination. His grandfather sent off fire balloons into the night sky and Ray saw himself journeying to Mars. A carnival magician's invitation to spend some pennies to see him light up with electricity became a portal to living forever. And the summer that Ray turned eight, Waukegan was both titillated and taunted by a letter-writing burglar calling himself "the Lonely One", and Ray would immortalize this shadowy figure as a strangler doing away with local women in *Dandelion Wine*.

Sometime in February, 1928, when Bradbury was seven and his family had recently boomeranged back to Waukegan from the first of two stints in Tucson, someone began breaking into businesses in Waukegan, stealing a few inconsequential items, and leaving a note for the business owner. The notes apologized for causing a disturbance, explained exactly how he'd broken in, and were signed "The Lonely One".

The police initially were somewhat disinterested in determining the identity of a trinket thief looking to ease his social isolation, so the Lonely One began escalating – not by stealing diamonds or a piano or anything like that, but in leaving two letters behind at each crime scene, the second addressed to the Waukegan Daily News. But the News didn't generate the kind of publicity he was hoping for either, so he switched his salutations to their rival, the Waukegan Sun. Still unsatisfied, the Lonely One began writing a third letter for each burglary, this one to the police, mocking them for their incompetence and sometimes volunteering when and where the next robbery

would take place. Though the record is unclear on whether these letters were pre-written and pre-addressed or composed with the storeowner's pen and paper, it's kind of amusing to imagine the second, the Lonely One munching on some clerk's leftover lunch from the icebox, becoming annoyed that he couldn't find where the envelopes were kept, staring off and tapping the pen as he searched for the right adjective to describe the cops' bumbling.

By late summer, the Lonely One was getting the attention he craved as the police shifted from irritation to embarrassment that he hadn't been caught. In the August heat, Ray Bradbury listened to the cicadas and the adults' whispers about who and where would be next, and he and his friends saw the Lonely One behind every shadow, every curtain that fluttered when there didn't seem to be a breeze. In the introduction to *Dandelion Wine*, Bradbury writes, "Was there a Lonely One? There was. And that was his name. And he moved around at night in my home town when I was six years old and he frightened everyone and was never captured."

But Ray, separated then by forty-six summers from the experience to the writing of those words, misremembered. After investigating more than thirty burglaries without a clue to the phantom's identity, the much-maligned cops can perhaps then be forgiven for bringing the drama to his eventual capture. In the early morning hours of October 17, the Lonely One broke into Frank Burke's hardware store at 18 S. Genesee, just a half-block from the ravine. He made an apparent trade, his empty gun for a pistol and the incorrect caliber of bullets, and was on the roof when spotted by a watchman. Upon the cops' arrival, the Lonely One hid behind a chimney, where he attempted to exchange fire with the police, thus discovering that he'd stolen the wrong bullets, and when he leaped to another building, he was machine-gunned from an aerial fire truck and had "tear bombs" tossed at him. None of this overkill was well-aimed, because instead his capture resulted

from his falling through a skylight into a tailor shop several rooftops away. Sitting on the floor among the jumble of clothes and dummies he'd created with his fall, the Lonely One threatened suicide unless the cops promised to treat him well in custody. One officer teased him about his crimes, giving his partners time to come from behind and tackle him. Orvel Weyant, 19, was presumably lonely no more as he was handcuffed and hauled off to somewhere not the Lake County jail, as the police thought he might be mobbed there by angry Waukeganites.

Once captured and interviewed, Weyant turned out not to be the kind of guy that anyone found that intriguing. He was kind of whiny, for one thing, and desperate to be interviewed. He complained that he was not being treated with the kind of deference that his burgling spree had warranted. He confessed to everything, and said he knew he was going to be caught some day, but offered no motive. The newspapers at the time give hints of what his childhood had been like – a stint in "reform school", a sister sent away, parents who both seemed indifferent to the fate of their seven children after their divorce – so perhaps Weyant was seeking from law enforcement and Waukegan in general the attention he had never been given at home. He was sentenced to "a year to life" at the Pontiac correctional facility, an absurdly vague amount of punishment for someone who had amassed barely \$100 from his crimes, and at the sentencing, the judge admonished him that he should learn a trade while there to make something of himself. And to some extent, we know that he took the training offered him seriously, because by 1940, he was living in Chicago with his wife, Eva, and working as a foreman on the WPA project at the University of Chicago.

This prosaic ending, and his disappearance from the newspaper and public records, suggests that the notoriety the Lonely One sought was fleeting and maybe even disappointing. But, perhaps ironically, writing more than thirty years later, Ray



Orvel Weyant,
The Lonely One

Bradbury restored to him what his capture erased in Waukegan: his mysterious anonymity, and thus his power. Read a few chapters of *Dandelion Wine* and tell me you don't feel a delicious chill looking furtively over your shoulder, that you don't listen for the Lonely One's echoing step behind you on the stone stairs, that you don't look down to the ravine like Douglas Spaulding did, equal parts delightedly horrified and curious if its green depths are hiding something lurid, something wicked, something fascinating.

Pioneering Families

Ray Bradbury's Ancestors

Ty Rohrer

Waukegan and many around the galaxy are celebrating the centennial of author Ray Bradbury's birth on August 22, 2020. Bradbury's family legacy goes back to the earliest days of Little Fort (Waukegan).

The story starts in 1836, with Dewitt and Leonard Spaulding (Ray's great-great-uncles) leaving New York to settle in Little Fort looking for better opportunities and more available farm land. Dewitt and Leonard traveled the Erie Canal to Buffalo, New York, and from there walked to Little Fort, Illinois.

More Spaulding's followed with Ray's great-great-grandparents, Luther and wife Charlotte (Hinkston), arriving in Little Fort in 1840, with their seven-year-old daughter Mary (Ray's great-grandmother). Luther and his family travelled the full journey from New York to Little Fort by boats on the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes.

Luther purchased 160 acres, and built the first "two-story" log cabin in the county. The Spaulding homestead was located on Green Bay Road and

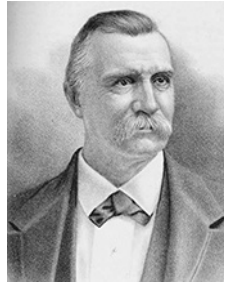
Grand Avenue, and is still known locally today as "Spaulding's Corner."

Samuel I. Bradbury (great-grandfather) arrived in Little Fort, from Albany, New York, in 1847 with his mother Frances Mary Rohead (great-great-grandmother) and siblings, following the death of his father. Samuel first worked as a hand on the schooner *Gazelle* on Lake Michigan. In New York, Samuel had been an apprentice in a printing business. In Little Fort, he resumed this practice, and soon became the editor and publisher of several local papers.

Samuel I. Bradbury and Mary (Spaulding) married in Waukegan on November 25, 1851. Samuel and Mary had five children, including Samuel Hinkston Bradbury (grandfather), who was born on May 3, 1858 in Waukegan.

Samuel I. Bradbury would continue to be important in the printing and publishing business. In 1882, he was elected Mayor of Waukegan. Samuel I. died at the age of 57 in 1885 from heart disease. Mary (Spaulding) Bradbury died July 1, 1911. Both Samuel I. and Mary are buried at Waukegan's Oakwood Cemetery.

Of course, we may believe that Ray Bradbury was from Mars, but his ancestry, the Spauldings and the Bradburys, were true pioneers of early Waukegan.



Samuel I. Bradbury



Mary Spaulding Bradbury

Waukegan History Museum Report

Bryan Escobar

The Waukegan History Museum has released a new way to interact with Waukegan history. It is called the “Waukegan History Museum Companion” and it allows users to take self-guided tours and pull up information about various aspects of Waukegan.

This web-app can be accessed via any internet browser on a computer or phone. Since we weren't able to do our regular end of the year walking tours, we shared a very early version of this with some teachers to see if it would work, and it did. Since then, we have added more content. At the moment, you will find information on Statues and Buildings, Parks, the Harbor, and the Museum. The statues and buildings functions as a traditional walking tour that has been offered the past two summer. The Parks and Harbor tabs teach about specific areas of town. There is also audio available, as well as upcoming Spanish translations. We are hoping to reach more of the Waukegan community with this interactive companion.

In August we will be releasing content related to Ray Bradbury and Waukegan in celebration of his 100th birthday. Keep an eye out for that!

app.waukeganhistorical.org
waukeganparks.org/historycompanion

We have also opened the Waukegan History Museum in a limited capacity. Normally, visitors are able to come in during our regular open hours. We have had to make adjustments due to COVID-19 restrictions. Visitors are asked to reserve free tickets via Eventbrite.com to secure entry to the museum. Each weekday (M-F), a total of 4 scheduled visits are allowed, for a maximum of 1 hour each. Each time slot can hold up to five different people, and

visitors must always wear a facemask while in the building. All tours for the time being are self-guided. Traditionally, we would have binders with room information, but that information has now been transferred to the Companion app. By reservation, we can also now accommodate research library requests. Please send an email to info@waukeganhistorical.org with research requests.



WKGN History

by Waukegan History Museum

Explore Waukegan's Rich History

SHARE APP

SHOW FULLSCREEN

Carnegie Project Update

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, the Waukegan Park District and Waukegan Historical Society have been collaborating and continuing to move forward on our plans to redevelop the historic Carnegie Library. We have developed an operating agreement and are currently working with our state representatives to secure some parcels of land for handicapped parking spaces. The acquisition of land has been slowed because priorities in the legislature have been pandemic-driven. Still, we are making preparations to begin the project as soon as pandemic circumstances allow.

Stay tuned for continued updates. Also, our fund-raising for the Carnegie Project remains ongoing. Your donations will help to offset construction costs. We also have an endowment fund for the society, which will help in our long-term planning beyond the construction phase. We thank those of you who have donated in the past.

Thank You!

New Members

Joseph Kalinowski

Building Fund Donors

Sharon Labelle
Gregory M. Alloian

Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP

Senior (age 60+)	\$15.00
Student	\$5.00
Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00
Patron, Organization	\$100.00
Life, Individual	\$150.00
Life, Couple	\$300.00
My additional gift	\$ _____

Make checks payable to
Waukegan Historical Society.

Volunteer

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Waukegan Historical Society

Founded in 1968, the Society collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits significant materials about the history of the Waukegan area. The Society, in cooperation with the Waukegan Park District, operates the History Museum and Raymond Library and publishes this quarterly newsletter.

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Waukegan, IL 60087
847-336-1859
www.waukeganhistorical.org
info@waukeganhistorical.org

Visit our website for more information
about events, exhibits, and our
extensive library.

www.waukeganhistorical.org

Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Manager of Cultural Arts: Ty Rohrer
847-360-4744
haines@waukeganparks.org
Arts & History Specialist: Bryan Escobar
847-360-4749
bescobar@waukeganparks.org
Tuesday, Thursday: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 1pm-4pm

John L. Raymond Research Library

1911 N. Sheridan Road
Librarian: Beverly Millard
847-360-4772
library@waukeganhistorical.org
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10am - 2:30pm



WAUKEGAN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1917 N. Sheridan Rd, Waukegan, IL 60087