

# Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

March 2009

## Trivially Speaking...

Name a Long Grove resident (no longer living), that has appeared on a US stamp...here's a few clues::

- 1) It was an 18 cent stamp.
- 2) It was a woman.
- 3) She won two gold medals in the 1932 Olympics.
- 4) She died in 1955, at the age of 45.
- 5) She was named the greatest female athlete of the 20th century, and the 2nd greatest female athlete of all time.
- 6) She's the only woman to ever "make the cut" in a men's PGA (e.g. pro golf) tour event.

Give up? Mildred "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias lived in Long Grove for a few years in the late 1940's when she was the resident professional at Twin Orchards Country Club (then known as Skycrest Country Club).

It's on again! The marvelously entertaining and informative antique and collectibles appraisal program will held at 1pm on Saturday, April 4, at the Reed Turner Nature Center, 3489 Old McHenry Road in Long

Grove. Frederick Dose will be our host. Mr. Dose is an absolute expert with outstanding knowledge and communications skills. We always learn much from his presentation.

There is no charge to attend and watch the show. The show is open to the general public, so bring a friend or two along. No advance reservations are required. Light refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to bring an item or two to be appraised, there is a small charge and we need to know that in advance. We are limited to no more than 50 items, and do not permit jewelry or firearms produced after 1895. To have one of your precious possessions appraised at the show:

☞ Telephone Marie Borg at (847) 438-7656 or Ann Dickson at (847) 438-7902 by Saturday, March 28 to let us know what you're bringing.

☞ Mail your check with \$10 for each item to be appraised to Marie Borg, 4363 RFD Long Grove, IL 60047. Be sure to include your name and phone number along with the check.

☞ Bring your item to the event early (by 12:30pm).

Past years shows have yielded both surprises and disappointments—plan to attend and join in on the fun.



## Mark Your Calendars

- April 4, Annual Antique Appraisal
- June 17, A E Stevenson House Tour
- Sep. 28, Rinella Book Dramatization

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Want to help teach some of our local kids about history? Our educational outreach chairperson, Caroline Liebl, is looking for volunteers during the week of June 15 to help with a camp being organized by Long Grove area Girl Scouts. The camp is about a half hour drive from downtown Long Grove, and any amount of contribution would be appreciated – an hour, a day or all week. Topics not only include pioneering/history, but also nature and science skills. Contact Caroline at (847) 438-7170 or [cliebl1@aol.com](mailto:cliebl1@aol.com) for more information.

# ARTIFACT EXPLORED

How many outhouses exist in Long Grove? We think the answer is one, but there could still be some around we don't know about. Outhouses were common on farms well into the 20th century, though are increasingly rare and often not allowed by regulation.

The one we do know still standing in Long Grove is maintained by our historical society as part of our Archer School site (pictured at right).

Some of our Archer School docents recently requested that the door, which currently "swings in", be modified to "swing out", to make it more orderly for a large group of school children to get inside to see it. After all, does it really matter which way the door swings?



*Years ago, a young woman attempting to place an order for toilet paper with Sears was asked for the catalog page and item number, to which she replied, "If I had a catalog, I wouldn't need to order the toilet paper!"*

Well... yes, it does... to the person sitting inside at the time you're opening it. So, to be authentic, we've kept the door in it's original

"swing in" configuration.

Have you ever seen a sun or a moon carved on an old outhouse? These were common symbols used to denote the gender differences of an outhouse. Men were asked to use the outhouse with the sun, while ladies were asked to use the outhouse marked with a moon.

Oh, and before you ask about that outhouse at Archer School... no it's not open to the public, so you can't try it out. Our building and maintenance department actively discourages it's use... :-)

## FOLLOWUPS

Last issue, based on an old chart, the possibility of an old airstrip (named Skycrest) existing near the corner of 22 & 83 was raised. Further research, and some comments on the article have confirmed that there was an old airstrip at that location. Babe Zaharias references it in her autobiography:

"...in October of 1950 I was invited by Eugene Dyer, the owner of the Sky Crest Country Club outside Chicago, to serve as their teaching pro. I was the first woman ever to hold that job at a swank club...they had a little private airfield right there at the club to make traveling easier..."



In the above photograph from 1947, you can make out two runways as well as a part of the golf course. The tree line that runs across the upper edge of the picture is a branch of Indian Creek— part of the modern day boundary between Oak Hills and Stonehaven Subdivision.

### The Fine Print

The Long Grove Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization whose purpose is to preserve and disseminate the history of the Long Grove area. Annual membership is available for a donation of \$30 (individual), \$50 (family), or \$100 (sustaining). Members receive our quarterly newsletter as well as access to a variety of events held throughout the year. To become a member, send your donation to Georgia Cawley, LGHS Membership, 4509 RFD, Long Grove, IL 60047, along with your name, address, telephone number, email. If you have any special interests, skills, or things you'd be interested in volunteering to help out with, be sure to let us know that as well.

# Vintage Yarns

In an effort to escape the winter of 1956, a young Massachusetts woman went on a two week Caribbean cruise. Likewise, a young man from Winnetka did the same. Though they had not met before, George and Ann Dickson were engaged to be married on the last day of that cruise.

The young couple established themselves in Palatine – close to the manufacturing business where George worked.

A few years and several kids later, they went searching for a larger house. Ann was attracted to Long Grove, having always liked shopping for antiques here, and because it reminded her of New England. They purchased a home in Mardan Woods. Recalls Ann, “Mardan Woods used to be



a hunting estate, where people would come to hunt and they could even stay overnight in a wood cabin. That cabin still exists at the front of the subdivision, though you wouldn't recognize it today, as it's been remodeled over the years.”

One of their first projects was to put in a swimming pool for the kids. Ann commented, “Fourth of July was the biggest social event of the year for us.

Mardan Woods had a big parade for all the kids, and we'd take turns hosting a cookout and pool party. One year we had 105 people at my house.”

Ann served as PTO president for Kildeer Countryside school. Ann remembers, “It was the local school and it's associated groups that really were our connection to the Long Grove community. I recall people were concerned about losing that closeness when growth in the area required additional schools to be built”.

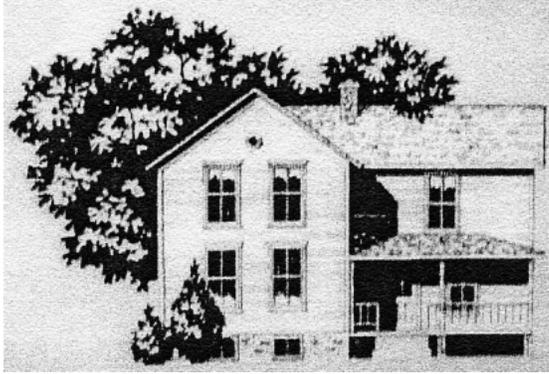
Ann has continued to serve our community, acting as President of the Long Grove Historical society for the past several years.

## OLDE PHRASES...

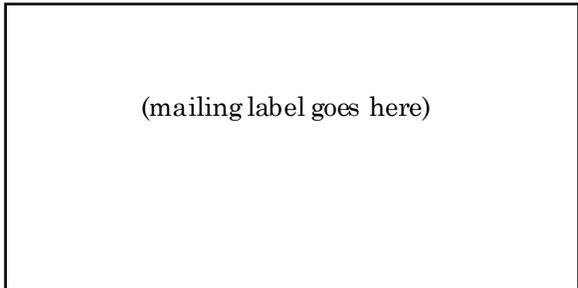
Did you ever let the "cat out of the bag"? You probably recognize this to mean revealing a secret, but did you ever wonder what telling a secret has to do with cats and bags? A bit of unofficial research reveals this phrase is best explained as having been related to buying a "pig in a poke", so let's start with pigs and pokes. The word poke is a medieval word for bag. When you're advised not to buy a "pig in a poke (bag)", what you're being told is not to buy something that's concealed.

Apparently, long ago, a dead cat (or cats) might be wrapped up in a bag and passed off as a pig. One should not buy something in a bag without looking into the bag first. Correspondingly, letting the "cat out of the bag" is the act of exposing what was being concealed - revealing that it was really a cat disguised as a pig in that bag you were thinking of buying.

Now that sounds like advice that could live on for centuries.



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# TREASURE MAPS

## ILLINOIS OFFICIAL AUTO TRAILS MAP

**MAP EXPLANATION**

PAVED ROADS CONCRETE, BRICK, MACADAM, ETC.	MILEAGE FIGURES	IMPROVED ROADS GRAVEL, CRUSHED STONE, OILED DIRT
MAIN TRAVELLED DIRT ROADS	TRAIL NUMBER CORRESPONDS TO NUMBER SHOWN IN TRAIL EXPLANATION (WHITE FIGURES)	STATE HIGHWAY NUMBER EXPLAINED IN STATE HY. EXPLANATION (BLACK FIGURES)
UNIMPORTANT ROADS	LAKE	BRIDGE
FERRY	TOURIST CAMP	STATE LINE
POPULATION FIGURES	ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION	



Long Grove first appeared on a state highway map in 1924. The Long Grove portion of that map is shown to the right. It's interesting to note which communities of that day the map makers found worth mentioning.