

# Long Grove Times

Long Grove Historical Society's Quarterly Newsletter

December 2015

## Trivially Speaking...

In 1921, a celebrity made a splash when he acquired the Bunte farm in Long Grove. The farm was renowned for its registered Holstein cattle. The celebrity was Albert Pic. Pic owned a chain of high end hotels (e.g. The Pick Congress Hotel in Chicago). The farm and herd was valued at around \$2 million in today's dollars. Pick lost the farm during the depression a decade later. A few years prior to this Samuel Insul was reported to have considered buying in Long Grove, though ended up purchasing in Vernon Hills (Cuneo Estate).

## The Sunday Tribune

It's early on a Sunday morning, I've got my coffee ready, but my Sunday Tribune didn't get delivered for some reason this morning. With adversity comes opportunity... let's go back in time and read an old Sunday paper, from say... September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1936. My choice isn't completely random - the metro section featured an article about Long Grove on that day, but I'll get to that in time.

The front page is dominated by negative stories of Nazi Germany. Ads in the front section for clothing, jewelry and furniture are there as expected, but I'm surprised by the number of ads for music related items - pianos, instruments, and such. There are a number of ads for radios - I remember my grandmother telling about getting their first radio to get news of the war (WWII), so I guess that foots. Digging deeper in the paper, I'm struck by the difference in tone from today. An example - there's a creepy picture of a smug father with his daughter he just strangled. What does it say about us that something so seemingly inappropriate today was not so much then?

### GIRL, 15, SLAIN BY FATHER



## *Modern Hustle Fails to Blast Peaceful Calm of Long Grove*

I finally make it to the Metro section and find the Long Grove article. I'll repeat most of it, with a few annotation in italics:

Cradled in the rolling country not far southwest of Half Day (*ha... everyone knew where Half Day was, but not Long Grove...*), presenting the appearance of an earlier Illinois village is Long Grove, an unincorporated community of resourceful farmers and tradesmen. Skillfully avoiding the course of concrete roads, it is a contradiction in modern ways, colorfully historic in one aspect and yet as modern as today in others.

*(continued inside...)*

### Mark Your Calendars

- **Have a happy holiday!**
- **Historical Book Club, noon Jan. 4th, Sunset Foods**

# All About Us...



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 Margie Federer, LGHS Membership, 4423 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.

### 2015/2016 Board

- Aaron Underwood, President
- TBD, Vice President
- Diane Trickey, Treasurer
- TBD, Recording Secretary
- Tina Mall, Curator
- Barbara English, Past President
- Laurie Borawski, Publicity
- Chris Campbell, Buildings & Maintenance
- Gerri Campbell, Membership
- TBD, Outreach/Archer School Pgm
- Kathy Wiberg, Programs
- Marie Borg, Programs
- At large—
- Lee Bassett, Georgia Cawley, Margie Federer

The Society was formed in March, 1974, to accept the Drexler Tavern building as a gift. A joint project with the Village Board made possible the relocation of the tavern to a site behind the current Kildeer Country-side School. Today we know the building not as Drexler Tavern, but simply as Village Hall. Two additional structures have also been relocated to this area—one of the area's one room schoolhouses, Archer School, and a mid-1800's barn, Ruth Barn. The school and the barn form the core of the program we run each year for our local schools, so that our children can experience first hand what life used to be like in Long Grove. Last, but not least, a mid-1800's farmhouse was relocated to an area bordering the southwest corner of the Stemple Parking lot. "The Farmhouse", as we refer to it, houses our archives, a meeting room, and several restored "period" rooms that we open occasionally for tours. In addition to maintaining the above properties and our educational programs, we actively acquire items of local historic interest for our archives and conduct a variety of historical programs for current residents. We receive no tax dollars and exist solely from your contributions and our own fundraising efforts.

*Thank you for your support!*

**Historical Society Pictures...** Installing the Bob Borg boulder, Tina giving a Farmhouse tour, and Diane, Angie and Tina at the Ghostwalk check-in table.



## 1936 Sunday Tribune (continued)

Comfort and quiet lie beside two gravel roads intersecting to form the village center – a section road and the old McHenry trail (*it would be another 10 years before the crossroads was paved*). A hitching rail stands before the general store. On another side is a blacksmith shop, alive with a ringing anvil. A quiet church stands away from the crossroads.

Companions separated by the road are a carpenter shop and a fire house manned and maintained by farmers of the neighborhood. Nearby and seeming abashed is a small garage (*hmm... I'm embarrassed to say I had to look that up...abashed means ashamed*).

The resident families live in some 25 green lawned houses and cottages. Elm, maple and oak trees shade the village from the summer sun and in winter break the force of winds sweeping across the surrounding hills. Kitchen gardens and fruit trees and an occasional grape vine grow between backyards and fields. (*Today there are 2500 homes in Long Grove.*)

The township farmers are predominantly dairy and truck (*truck farms are small farms growing vegetables*), engaged in supplying the Chicago market. Before the development of the motor truck and automobile the area's wealth came from the Long Grove cheese factory, which was the nucleus of the village. It is gone now, its place taken by the Chicago milk shed depots.



The custom of early morning buying while lines of horse-drawn wagons waited their turns to unload clattering milk cans was dropped when the factory ceased its operation, but a healthy trade still exists with families of the countryside in spite of the large commercial centers nearby.

Living an idyllic life in the midst of hurry and unrest the people of Long Grove have attained a stage of perfection in cooperative relations beyond the reach of larger villages and towns. Complete understanding of individual responsibilities has eliminated the necessity of organized administration. In place of town hall meetings and council arguments are peaceful neighborly conversations. Occupied with the problems of successful farming, they have not been faced with the typical problems of other communities – relief, crime, questionable municipal improvements, taxation and no visible results. (*Vestiges of this can culture can still be found in our current home owners groups, minimal village government, and no village property tax—quite unique to this day when compared to the rest of suburbia.*)

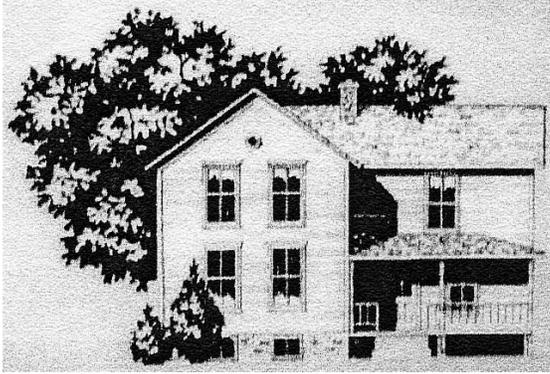
The elements of modern industry, production and distribution, are present, but not in a degree sufficient to cause concern. A few farm wives can and sell excess produce. Some families process selected products for sale in other communities.

Modern diversions are available in towns not far away. Their popularity, however, is challenged by the pastimes rarely familiar to urban residents – town picnics, community dances, baseball games, harvest time, plowing, planting, hunting, the march of the seasons across the fields and through the woods.

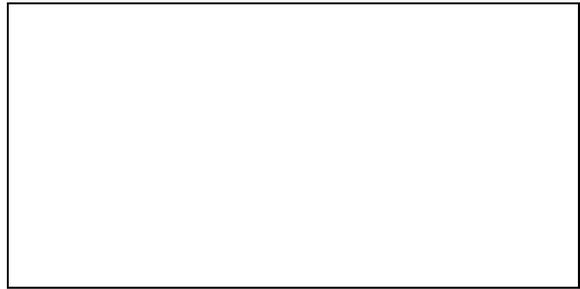
Community interest centers about two district schools, the Long Grove Evangelical church, Community club and the Long Grove baseball club. The church hall, a dance hall, and a portion of land furnished for summer outings by Alois Tins, a carpenter, witness the social activities. (*Alois is a german male name... often changed to Louis in English.*)

In addition to a general store, garage, blacksmith and carpenter shops, the village supports a meat market and a barber shop.





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Fall has really turned out to be our Society's busy season these last couple of years and this year, we were busier than ever. The foot bridge to Archer School was christened in honor of Bob Borg with a very heavy inscribed boulder. Next time you're near the Kildeer Countryside School, swing down by village hall to check it out—you can't miss it. This year's Ghost Walk sold out a week in advance, despite our adding many more tour times. If we had the volunteers, this could definitely be many times bigger than it is currently. Something new which we've started doing is formal docent led tours for the large groups that come into town—we did three of these this fall season and have a few more booked in the spring. Our Archer School program continued, conducting multiple days of programs for our local schools. And of course, there's the ever present maintenance of our buildings—sump pumps that got replaced, buildings that got painted, toilets that no longer leak, etc.

Got a suggestion for a program or event you'd like to see or host? Drop us a note!

