



THE SPIRIT

Preserving the life of America's unique community

A publication of
the
Park Forest
Historical
Society

Vol. 10, No. 2

November 2014

Stories of Rich Township Settlers

PARK FOREST HOUSE MUSEUM UPDATE

The PFHS Board continues to look for options for a new home either to house the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, or to house a much smaller Park Forest history museum.

We have, to-date, made very little headway on this task with the clock ticking down toward our move-out date of March 31, 2015. We have intensified our efforts to find a solution.

We invite members of the society or the community to join us in this search for a solution. PFHS Board meetings are usually on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Park Forest Village Hall. If you have an idea, join us at a board meeting or call Mike Gans, PFHS President, 708-305-3308.

Watch Comcast Public Access Channel 4 for our September 28, 2014 program to be aired, "How Local Museums Are Funded." The panel discussion was recorded and we will be getting copies if you miss the Comcast airings.

Society to Celebrate 30th Anniversary

Watch for a notice of our 30th Anniversary Celebration in January 2015. We hope to have a dance or sock hop with raffles, etc. It will be a fundraiser, as well as a party!

Can you help plan it or help the week or day of the event?

Richard Stuenkel to Discuss the Area's Early History

Richard Stuenkel, who still farms on the land originally owned by his grandfather, and who lives in the 130-year-old family farmhouse in Monee, will discuss the early history and the first settlers in the area at 2:30 p.m. Sunday November 9, in the Park Forest Village Hall in a free program sponsored by the Park Forest Historical Society.

Mr. Stuenkel, one of the best local history resources in the area, and who worked for a company that supplied the heavy equipment used in the building of Park Forest, has been sharing his family's history with local historical societies for several years.

Stuenkel Road, which runs past Governors State University is named for the train stop, Stuenkel's Crossing, operated by a member of his family.



1950s Park Forest House Museum Exhibit Schedule for the Last Months

Keep in mind, that these may be the last months of the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, and **be sure to visit! We know many Park Foresters have not seen it.**

We also know you assume you know what is there, and know everything already. **NOT SO MUCH!! We invite you to come visit YOUR MUSEUM, with YOUR HISTORY, and learn some new things about the historic village you live in!**

Along the way, you can see what life was like for village pioneer residents in the first five years, 1948-1953, and beyond.

- **September-November 8, 2014.** "It's Halloween."
- **November 12 to November 26, 2014.** We decorate with Thanksgiving Gurley Candles.
- **November 29 through January 3, 2015.** Be sure to **"Step Back Into a 1950s Christmas."** Our gift to the community is the special admission price of \$3 during the Christmas exhibit. Remember, members get one free visit, so bring friends along to take advantage of the discount, and be sure to use your free visits before we close!
- **January 2015.** We will be closed to change exhibits, but will open by appointment **IF** we are presentable when you want to visit.
- **February 4 through February 28, 2015.** **"Step Back Into a 1950s Valentines Day."** The museum is decorated in vintage Valentines Day decorations including die-cuts and Vintage Valentines. The classroom on the second floor is decorated for a 1950s Valentines Day Class Party. It is a colorful way to shake the gray days of February.
- **February 28- March 31, 2015.** Call about appointment visits. We will be packing and preparing for a move to somewhere else, but you may be able to see some things.

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS DUE BY DECEMBER 30, 2014

The Park Forest Historical Society will be accepting nominations for the Park Forest Hall of Fame until December 30, 2014. The official form, which **must accompany the nomination**, is available at the Park Forest Public Library, 400 Lakewood Boulevard, at the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, 141 Forest Boulevard on Wednesday and Saturday from 10:30 to 3:30, in the lobby of Village Hall or on the society's website at www.parkforesthistory.org. Nominations may be mailed to the historical society at 400 Lakewood Blvd, or returned to the library in person. **A nomination form and a copy of the guidelines are enclosed in this newsletter.**

To be eligible for the Hall of Fame, persons nominated must have made substantial, beneficial, and consistent contributions to the life and well being of Park Forest over a considerable span of time. Nominees may now live elsewhere, or be deceased. Individuals or couples may be nominated. The person making the nomination does not have to live in Park Forest, and does not have to be a member of the society. Persons may only make one nomination each year. **The official nomination form is required along with separate sheets indicating why the person is being nominated, and in convincing and thorough detail, describing the nominee's qualifications and contributions which fit the criteria.** A list of those already in the Hall of Fame is on the reverse of the form or on the "Hall of Fame" section of the website.

Like us on Facebook at "Park Forest Historical Society" and "1950s Park Forest House Museum." Like both, please.

Follow us on Twitter at, "ParkForestHistory@PF60466."

We made a Twitter account for 1950smuseum. We hope to swap it to 1950smuseum@1950smuseum. Please bear with us as we get established on some new Social Media, and learn the ropes.

Can you help? Call Jane Nicoll, at 708-481-4252 or email via www.parkforesthistory.com

Be sure to join us Sunday, November 9, 2014, 2:30 p.m. in Park Forest Village Hall to hear Richard Stuenkel tell us "Stories of Families Who Settled Rich Township."

See the enclosed flier for details. Mr. Stuenkel, who still farms the original property owned by his grandparents and lives in the 130 year-old farmhouse, has been sharing stories, maps and family documents and photographs with local historical societies for years. We want to share those

**In My Own Little Corner
By Jane Nicoll**

stories with you! Be sure to bring questions!

We regret the conflict with the Village of Park Forest's Veterans Tribute, but we have held our November meeting on this Sunday for at least 10 years. Suzanne will be speaking before

our program to update us on her progress with WW II veterans' oral histories she has recorded and is transcribing.

On Saturday, October 18, we hosted a tour of the 1950s Park Forest House Museum for the 50th Anniversary Reunion of the Rich East Class of 1964. One of the first men to come through the door had actually lived in 141 Forest from 1969 to ca. 1973, and we have asked for photographs! We think they enjoyed the visit as much as we did! Thank you to the 7 volunteers who worked the tour, showing rooms, registering visitors, and getting people to sign our Pioneer Sheets showing where they used to live and where they live now. We hope other members of the class will visit in the near future.

If you have a class reunion, be sure to schedule a trip to see the museum!

Our future, is uncertain, but we do hope to have some kind of exhibit space after March 31, 2015, when we lose the 141 unit. If your reunion is before the end of February, call and schedule it now! Call Jane Nicoll, 708-481-4252.

In the Archive Office: I am working with Carla Dinnocenzo on a U of I Library School project to expand the Archive section of the website. GSU intern, Laura Simpson, is being trained to help us with the Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant, including in entering collections into the PastPerfect database. Vera Barber has come on board as a collection volunteer. Noelle Canty has left us to pursue her school work.

Thank you to Noelle for two years of exceptional work!

Rose Thomas is working at getting permissions from people interviewed by Gerald Burns on Park Forest integration, so we can own and administer those interviews, is planning an African American genealogy meeting for February, and is doing a wonderful job listing other collections.

If you have time to volunteer, call me, and I will find you something to do.

This is YOUR history, of YOUR hometown. Help us preserve it!

Thank you to all who do help preserve it, but we need more volunteers!!

Who heard Bob Sirott talk about the Museum on WGN Radio 720?

On October 15, I heard Bob Sirott and Bill and Wendy on WGN Radio 720 talking about vintage toys like Lincoln Logs, Erector Sets, Lego's, and Tinker Toys. I was in the car and could not call them. Later that afternoon, I sent both Bob Sirott and Wendy Facebook messages, ridiculously long, about our museum, including where, how much, when, website, and that we are losing our building. I sent along the usual long description of what toys we have, clothes, furnishings, children's books, etc., listed all the holidays we will be decorated for. I hoped one of them on their respective shows, might just say the name of the museum.

At 2:50 p.m. on Thursday, October 16, Bob Sirott read the whole thing!! **Go Bob!!!**

Thank you so much! Come visit! The museum has been decorated to WGN for years!

Please renew you membership or join the Park Forest Historical Society from the membership renewal form mailed in September or online at parkforesthistor.org.

**MEMBERSHIP AND TIME AND
TALENT SURVEY DUE IN
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER**

HAVE YOU SENT BACK YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORM? It was mailed and emailed in September. Lost it? You can find it on our website. You can mail one in, or pay via PayPal on the website. Mark your donation, "Membership."

DID YOU FILL OUT YOUR TIME AND TALENT SURVEY? It was included with your membership mailing. You can find that on the website, too! Fill it out and please share with us what you can do to help YOUR Park Forest Historical Society continue into the future! Thanks to all of you who **HAVE** done both!!

**VOLUNTEER TO BE A
MUSEUM GUIDE/DOCENT!**

We **MUST** have more museum guides (docents) to keep the museum doors open during our required 10 hours. Beverley Sailer has rejoined us as Museum Volunteer Coordinator. Call her if you are trained and can take shifts, at 708-283-7118.

We will train you if you have not done this before (or for awhile.) To be trained, call Jane Nicoll, Museum Director, at home, 708-481-4252, or email via the website at www.parkforesthistory.org. This is **YOUR** museum, telling **YOUR** history!

Our publicity is working, and people are coming, but sometimes they find a phone number to call instead of a smiling face at the door!

We have worked SO hard for 15 years to be staffed for all our open hours.

Please help us by being one of those smiling faces at the door!!

Help us show that Park Forest Spirit!!

Let's Go Park Forest!!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Join Today

Yes! I want to be a member. As a member I receive one free Museum tour and advance notices of all programs

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

☐

Please send newsletters and announcements via my email.

Membership Category

Student, with I.D. (New 2014-15)	\$ 10.00
Individual	\$ 20.00
Family	\$ 40.00
Contributor	\$ 75.00
Benefactor 1 (One month museum rent)	\$ 565.00
Benefactor 2 (One month Archive rent)	\$ 225.00
Corporate	\$ 50.00

Our membership year begins in September

**Enclosed is a check made payable to:
"Park Forest Historical Society"**

**We also accept cash or PayPal online at
www.parkforesthistory.org.**

Mail to:

**Park Forest Historical Society
400 Lakewood Blvd.
Park Forest, IL 60466-1619**

☐

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Park Forest Historical Society is an independent 501 (c) (3) corporation. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

2014-11

Join The Park Forest Historical Society

Sunday November 9, 2014 2:30 p.m.

Park Forest Village Hall, 350 Victory Drive

For
**"Stories of Families
Who Settled
Rich Township"**

told by
one of the best
Local History Resources
of this area,

**Richard
Stuenkel**



Mr. Stuenkel has been sharing the history of the Stuenkel family, maps, and stories of the days before Park Forest with local historical societies for several years. We want to share his stories, with you!

Familiar with Stuenkel Road that runs past Governors State University? Its named for the train stop, Stuenkel's Crossing, run by one of Richard's family members.

Mr. Stuenkel still farms on the land originally owned by his grandfather, and lives in the 130 year old farmhouse in Monee. After World War II, he worked for a company that supplied heavy equipment to build Park Forest.

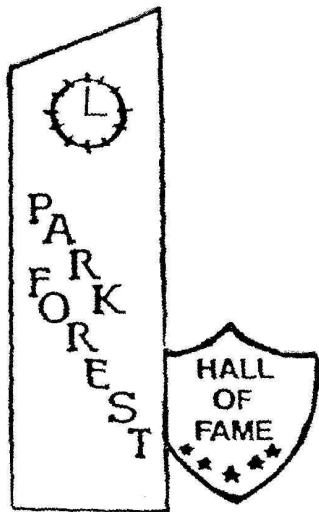
Join us for an afternoon full of stories, and explanations of who lived on the early farms on which Park Forest, Richton Park and Matteson were built.

Mr. Stuenkel being interviewed on the history of Immanuel Lutheran in Richton Park can be seen on YouTube or the church website.

We urge you to come hear him IN PERSON and ask YOUR own questions!

For information on the program, call Jane Nicoll, Archivist, 708-481-4252.

For more information on work of Park Forest Historical Society and the 1950s Park Forest House Museum at 141 Forest Blvd, see www.parkforesthstory.org.



Nomination forms may be mailed to:
Park Forest Historical Society
400 Lakewood Blvd
Park Forest, IL 60466

All submissions must be received by:
December 30, 2014

**PARK FOREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PARK FOREST HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM**

To nominate a Park Forester for possible induction into the Hall of Fame, complete this form and submit it as indicated above. Guidelines are available through the Society. You may make only one nomination each year. A list of those already inducted into the Hall of Fame is on back of this nomination form.

To be eligible for the Hall of Fame, persons nominated must have made substantial, beneficial, and consistent contributions to the life and well-being of Park Forest over a considerable span of time. Nominees may now live elsewhere, or be deceased. Individuals or couples may be nominated. Inductees will be chosen from among the eligible nominees by the Park Forest Historical Society, and announced publicly early in 2015.

Nominee:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Nominated by:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Note: This is an important tool for the committee to use in making the selection. Please be thorough and neat when preparing the qualifications portion of your nomination.

On a separate sheet(s), indicate why this nomination is being made, and in convincing and thorough detail, describe the nominee's qualifications and contributions as referred to above. Securely attach any additional sheets to this form. Call Mike Gans with any questions, at 708-305-3308, or email the society at parkforesthstory1 (at) yahoo.com.

Date of submission:

A

Adler, Rhoda 1997
Aunt Martha's Youth Center 2011

B

Baker, Ivan A. "Ike" 2010
Bean, Ron 1997
Bennett, Richard Marsh 2004
Bernstein, Jean 2008
Billig, Mrs. Steven 2000
Blue, Christine 2010
Brandon, Mae, 2010
Brenne, Lynn 1999
Brenne, Wilma 1999
Brooks, Robert E., Sr. 2005
Brown, Harold 1997
Brown, Rose Carol 1997
Brown, Suzanne 2008
Brunner, Helen S. 2011

C

Collins, Norma Jean Crute 2005
Colson, Dorothy M. 2002
Coxworth, Lois 1994
Cruz, Diana 2010
Cunningham, Bernard G. 1994
Cunningham, Florence D. 2011

D

Davidson, Mary H. 2012
DeLue, Leona 1997
DeLue, Ross 1997
Dietch, Henry X. 1994
Dinerstein, Robert A. 1994
DioGuardi, Francis G. 2011

E

Edwards, E.C. 1997
Edwards, Margaret 1997
Engelmann, Gerson, 1994

F

Falk, Gretchen 2004

G

Gallagher, James 2013
Gallagher, Marlene H, 2013
Garretson, Elaine S. 1995
Garretson, James L. 1995
Glassner, Adele 2011
Glassner, Alvin 2011
Gold, Gertrude L. 1995
Goodrich, John 1998
Goodrich, Therese 1998
Gross, Harriet P. Marcus 2000

H

Hamby, William I. 2004
Hauge, Keith 2006
Helmick, Dewey 1994
Henkel, James 2014
Henkel, Ruth 2014
Hill, Doris F. 2002
Hill, John 2002
Hodes, Art 1994
Humbert Richard "Dick" 2011

I

Iafollo, Marie A. 2012

J

Janota, Raymond W. 1999
Johnson, A. Oscar 2004
Johnson, Ralph Gordon 2003
Joyce, John, 2013

K

Kelly, F. Patrick 2001
Klutznick, Philip M. 1989
Knight, Jerry Arthur 2000
Kopycinski, Gary 2009
Kramer, Kenneth W. 2008

L

Lachmann, Rudy 2003
Lawrence, Bo 2002
Lawrence, Helen 2002
Leinberger, Hugo 2001
Loebl, Jerold 2010
Lohr, Judy 2005

M

Maeyama, George 1999
Maeyama, Josephine 1999
Maeyama, Robert G. 2005
Mann, A. Wayne 2014
Manilow, Nathan 1994
Martin, Myrtle C. 2009
Marzuki, James 1996
Marzuki, Mary Lou 1996
Mathews, Jerry 2005
McCall, Mary 2007
McCray, Alicia Rodman 2013
McDade, Tom 1995
McDannel, Leonard 2012
McDannel, Margaret 2012
McDonnell, Betty L. 2004
McLeod, J. Ron 1996
Medhurst, Ralph C. 2014
Medhurst, Terry 2014
Moore, Barbara J. 2008
Moore, D. Stanley 2000
Moore, Janice S. 2000
Moore, Patricia M. 2005
Morrissey, John Lawrence 2001
Muchnik, Dr. Mel 2006
Muchnik, Janet 2006
Myrow, Beverly 1998
Myrow, Gerald "Jerry" 1998

N

Navid, Robert A. 2014
Navid, Ruth P. 2014
Nicholson, Valerie L. 2008
Nicoll (Stover), Jane 2007
North, John C. 1999

O

Oliver, Florence 2004
O'Neill, Georgia C. 2003
O'Neill, Marty 2009
Orsi, Leo E. 1998
Osterling, Blaine "Bud" 2003
Osterling, Hope 2003
O'Sullivan, Rev. Daniel 2007

P

Paris, Roger D. 2012
Park Forest Nurses Club 2013
Peterman, Frederick W. 2003
Pierce, Robert G. 2014

R

Racher, Alice, B. 1996
Racher, Emanuel M. 1996
Ray, John R. 2009
Rich East High School, 2014
Ringerling, Leona 1994
Robinson, Leonard Carl 1999

S

Saul, Anna T. 2007
Saul, James D. 2007
Scariano, Anthony 1998
Schechter, I. E. "Pappy" 2000
Scherr, Marge Friedman 1996
Schlossman, Norman S. 2010
Skaggs, Lester S. 1998
Skaggs, Ruth 1998
Shnay Jerry 2010
Shnay, Penny 2010
Singerman, Mayer 2001
Smart, Robert C. 2000
Star, Dorothy Rabin 2004
Star, Jack 2004
Steinmetz, Jane 2006
Steinmetz, Jon D. 2006
Sturges, Al 2012
Sturges, Barbara G. 2012
Sweet, Carroll F. Jr. 1994

T

Tall Grass Arts Association 2012
Taradash, George 2003
Teshima, Harry T. 2001
Thayil, C. Shanti 2002
Tilley, William M. 2013
Toll, Celia-Ann 2011
Townsend, George C. 2007
Townsend, Theresa "Terry" 2007

U

Utes, Warren, 2000

V

Van Horn III, Alfred "Al" 2006
Vande Berg, Lester B. 1995

W

Wade, Earl M.
Waldmann, Charles 1996
Walker, Rita C. 2001
Walker, Sam 1999
Washington, Elmer L. Sr., Ph.D 2008
Waterman, Edward 1998
Wheeler, Michael J. 2008

PARK FOREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nominations by the Board of Directors

Nominations of one or two people to be inducted will be made by the Park Forest Historical Society Board of Directors each year. No current board member may be nominated by the Board of Directors. A nomination of one not for profit organization, founded in Park Forest, will be made by the Board of Directors each year.

The nominee(s) selected by the Board of Directors will be inducted in that year's ceremony.

The Board nominee(s) shall meet the eligibility requirements.

Nominations by the Public

Nominations of people to be considered for induction may be made by any interested person, but must be made on the official form provided.

Induction will be annual, so nominations will be solicited, with appropriate publicity, every year.

Nomination forms will be available in the Park Forest Public Library immediately after October 1, and may be submitted to the Park Forest Historical Society at any time through December 15.

Each nominator may make only one nomination each year.

Persons may be re-nominated in a later year, if they have not been inducted on the first nomination. The nominator should provide a statement of recommendation listing accomplishments of the nominee. This statement will be crucial for the Hall of Fame committee.

Eligibility

Individuals or couples may be nominated.

Consideration shall be given to all nominees who have made consistent, substantial, and beneficial contributions to the life and citizens of Park Forest over a considerable span of time.

Not eligible are those people whose contributions, however noteworthy, have or had nothing to do with the village. Also, not eligible are those who were in Park Forest only for a while, or only in their youth, who attained fame after leaving the village. Accomplishments must have contributed to Park Forest.

Nominees who are deceased or no longer in the area are eligible for nomination and consideration if their contributions meet the requirements of item 2, above.

Persons currently holding elective or appointive office in the village, or who are employed by the village, may be nominated, but the mere fact of current or past such office or employment shall not be an automatic reason for consideration.

Eligibility is not limited to those most frequently-recognized or well-known; persons from any walk of life are to be regarded as eligible—business, religious, educational, volunteer, community service of any kind.

Selection

PARK FOREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Up to seven members of the Park Forest Historical Society shall be appointed annually by the Park Forest Historical Society President to comprise the Hall of Fame Committee, and shall be eligible for reappointment. They are to examine the nominations received, and by January 31, select a list of nominees to be inducted.

Any person who is a voting member of the Selection Committee can not be selected for the Hall of Fame.

Throughout this consideration and selection process, there shall be no “quota” lines of representation drawn, but sensible care shall be taken to make certain that an appropriate variety of Park Foresters get to be considered and finally inducted. Special attention should be paid to the desirability of including people who may have been rather quiet about their substantial, consistent, and beneficial contributions, those who might commonly have been regarded as not very spectacularly important. The simple possession of fame or position should not be the deciding factor in consideration or selection.

Each year the Hall of Fame Committee will also induct the nominees of the Historical Society Board.

Induction

This will be done annually, in March or April. If deemed appropriate by the committee, a tea or buffet will be served. An appropriate induction ritual will be worked out. Nominators will be asked to present to make a brief introduction of their nominees.

Details of the event—time, location, catering, publicity, etc.—shall be in the hands of the annually appointed Hall of Fame Committee.

Inductees will receive a Hall of Fame pin and their names will be listed on the Hall of Fame plaque. A file will be kept in the local history collection to record the accomplishments of each inductee.