



THE SPIRIT

Preserving the life of America's unique community

A publication of
the
Park Forest
Historical
Society

Vol. 15 No. 1

September 2019

Annual Meeting, "The History of Television: Philo T. Farnsworth" by Dr. Stephen Hofer, Program September 29, 2019 2:30 p.m. at St. Mary's.



Philo T. Farnsworth

Join us Sunday September 29, 2019, 2:30 p.m. for the Society's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. After a brief meeting Dr. Stephen Hofer will give a program on, "The History of Television: Philo T. Farnsworth." On display will be a Farnsworth Image Dissector Camera Pickup tube, a Zworykin Iconoscope tube, numerous TV Guides and other TV related items.

Dr. Hofer is the co-author of, TV Guide The Official Collectors Guide: Celebrating An Icon. Dr. Stephen H. Hofer, has been a professor of communications at Chicago State University and curator of the former Philo T. Farnsworth Television History Center in Auburn, Indiana.

The 1950s Park Forest House Museum will open after the program to show Halloween decorations and our two TV's.

Interested in helping preserve YOUR History?

We are looking for new board members, docents and Archive volunteers. Contact Jane Nicoll, 708-481-4252, or via email on the website,

"Step Back into a 1950s Halloween" Exhibit will be on display September 16, 2019 to November 07, 2019 .

The museum, located at 227 Monee Road (inside St. Mary's) is open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 1-3:30 p.m.; or by appointment. The exhibit shows Vintage Halloween decorations including die-cuts and Halloween Gurley Candles.



Connect with the Society

On Twitter:

@1950smuseum



@parkforeststory

On Facebook:

-1950s Park Forest House Museum



-Park Forest Historical Society

Current Activity at the Archive and Museum.

We have received a donation of a Rich East letter sweater from Reg Green, which was cleaned for us by Tower Cleaners. It made its debut at the August 17 Class of 1969 50th Class Reunion Tour attended by 44. Great to have so many enthusiastic visitors! Volunteers Kerry Adams and Janet Gatz are catching us up on entering collections into PastPerfect. Rose Thomas is in her 6th year documenting collections. Sierrah Floyd, student in Art History at School of the Art Institute, has volunteered many hours this summer, working with documenting our costume collection.

Hall of Fame nomination forms should be available by mid-October. Be thinking of someone who has made a substantial long-term contribution to Park Forest who would be worthy of a nomination. Nominations due in late December.



In My Own Little Corner

By Jane Nicoll

New donations to our collections. We received a WWII collection including uniform jacket and insignia from the estate of James Dougherty II, who lived in Park Forest until his death in 1959. We hope to do a display of the collection to show the life of a WWII soldier. We thank Betty Dougherty who drove from Loves Park, Illinois to donate it. Yearbooks and reunion materials were received from the estates of Ed and Bob Zuckerman from their brother Stuart. Neil Devore donated an Annabelle Gould painting of a local farmstand. Come in and see if you can tell us where it was. Judy Kaufer Safcik donated Passover Haggadah booklets by Maxwell House to be used in our Judaism in Park Forest display. Cynthia Ogorek donated several of her dolls and clothes which had been loaned for "Boomer Toys and Dolls." Ed Kravitz donated a 40" x 30" hand-tinted aerial of Park Forest rental areas before Sears came in ca. 1962, which is on display. My parents' wedding outfits from November 19, 1942 have been on display. I hope to add some of their letters. May be by Veteran's Day?! They never lived in Park Forest, but their lives paralleled those of so many who did come here to live. My father's uniform jacket and hats have been on display for 20 years. I have just added photos of them in these clothes.

Volunteers: We must have more volunteers to be docents/tour guides at the museum in order to maintain these hours!! Please be trained to volunteer, and help us stay open in this new location. Assignments are very flexible. Work a regular day each month, or a different day, or not at all for a month if you aren't free. You will be contacted each month, or every couple of months for scheduling.

We need a Volunteer Coordinator to schedule docents. Thanks to ME for covering this for the 2016-2019 years. Doing this myself keeps me from actual archival work in the office.

Board Service: The Society is looking for Board members. **We need new blood, and more hands to be able to serve our mission.** Currently, the board meets 2nd Tuesdays, 7 p.m., usually in Park Forest Village Hall. If you are interested in applying to be a board member, contact me, 708-481-4252. **The Society will not continue much longer without more involvement!**



September is Membership Recruitment and Renewal Month!

Look for the membership brochure with form in this newsletter.

Use this form or, you can opt to join via PayPal on the website (include a message, "Membership") or print out and mail in your form. **Just Join!!**

Active Volunteers and Members: In order to remain in operation as a Society, we must have more Active Volunteers and more Members.

Part of helping to Save YOUR history is to lend a hand doing it!

Thanks to all those who do pitch in and docent or serve on the board, help with mailings, manning tables at the Art Fair and more.

Our thanks to the Village of Park Forest for renewing our Matching Challenge of \$5,000. We appreciate their support!

Sunday November 10, 2019, Cliff Butz, former Park Forest Chief of Police, will be giving an illustrated talk on the history of the Park Forest Police Department which is celebrating its 70th Anniversary. The program will be in Village Hall Park Forest.

Deepest condolences to the families of Eugene Schmittgens, Sr., Hall of Fame 2019 and of Jan Moore, Hall of Fame 2000. We are grateful for their contributions to Park Forest.