

SESQUICENTENNIAL CITIZEN

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A City of Elmhurst Sesquicentennial Planning and Steering Committee Publication, P.O. Box 1986, Elmhurst, Ill. 60126

Sesquicentennial Celebration Nears

Residents Ready For Two Weeks Of Gala Events

Mark your calendar, call the neighbors and join the party that's been 150 years in the making!

The long-awaited Founders' Celebration — Monday, Sept. 1, through Sunday, Sept. 14 — will honor Elmhurst's Sesquicentennial with something for everyone. Sesqui Special Events coordinator Marie Shapiro promises an old-fashioned extravaganza, complete with marching bands, dancing in the streets, fireworks and of course, birthday cake laced with the mutual pride of the grateful residents of Elmhurst.

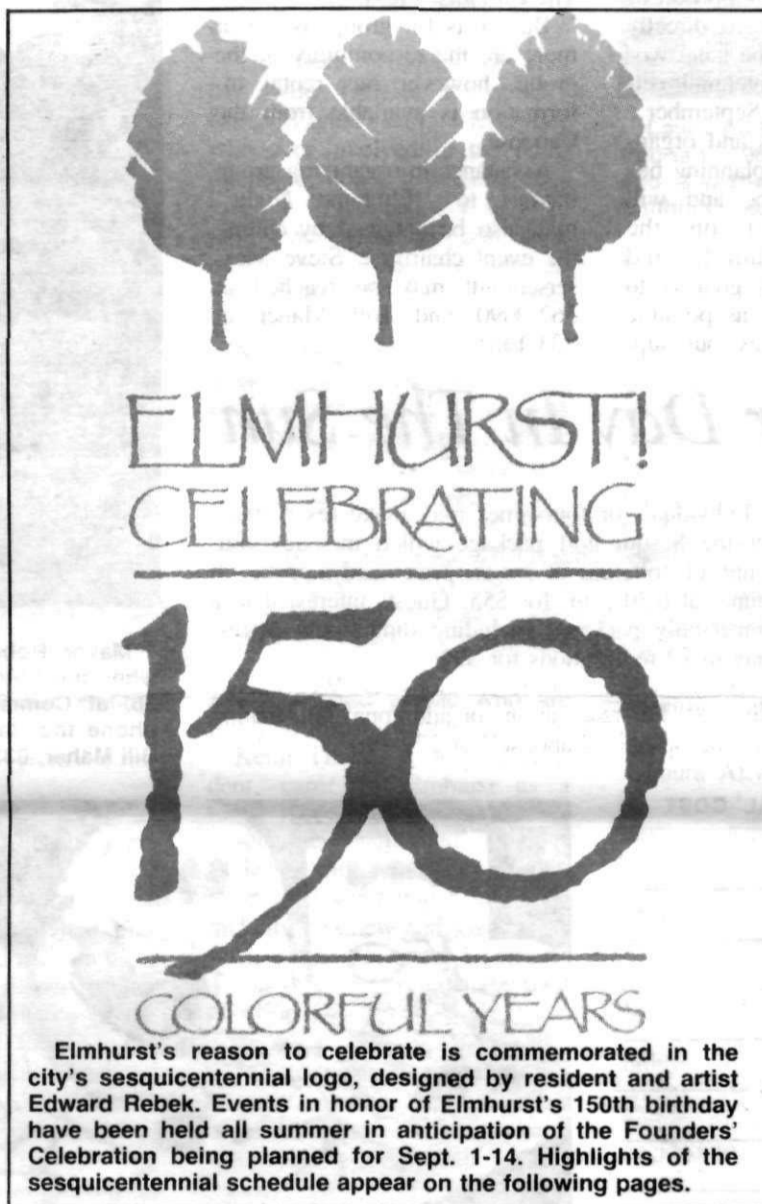
The festivities begin at noon on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1, with **Elmhurst's Birthday Party and Children's Parade**. Every child in Elmhurst is invited to participate in the parade, either with a formal group (Boy and Girl Scouts, Camp Fire, etc.) or with friends and neighbors.

Participants are encouraged to dress in costume or ride their bikes or wagons decorated for this special occasion. Costumed pets are also welcome. The sponsoring Elmhurst Jaycees will award \$150 to the group with the most original float depicting the theme, "Elmhurst...Then and Now."

The parade route will end at Wilder Park and be followed by a community birthday party with free birthday cake for all.

An aerial **Community Photo** will be snapped for posterity from the skies above Wilder Park during the party. Organizers hope this commemorative photo will be used in years to come to promote the City of Elmhurst. Copies will be

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Elmhurst Shaped By Future-Minded Settlers, Leaders

Just as the movers and shakers of today must struggle with often agonizing decisions, Elmhurst's early city fathers had to cope with plans that were changed, deals that failed, natural disasters and political pressures. Sometimes their choices changed the misfortune of one into the blessing of another. But it is these quirks of history, buried deep in the heritage of Elmhurst, that tell a story of "what could have been."

Take for instance the case of Wilder Park, the city's first and showplace park. If the first board of Elmhurst Park District commissioners had followed their original plans, the southeast corner of St. Charles Road and York Street would today be the site of Bryan Park, which would by now have had a long history as Elmhurst's central park.

In fact the first goal of the Elmhurst Park District after its formation on June 5, 1920, was to acquire the Bryan Estate property at St. Charles and York. This was the logical choice for the first Elmhurst park because during its occupancy by Thomas B. Bryan, the estate and its lush gardens had always been open to the citizens of Elmhurst for Sunday afternoon strolls.

While negotiations were taking place for acquisition of the site, however, the Park District's original plans were unraveled when the City of Elmhurst was willed the north portion of the Thomas E. Wilder property on Cottage Hill with a stipulation that a library be founded there. The Park District then stopped negotiations on the Bryan site and purchased the south half of the 12-

(Continued on Page 4)

Generosity Of Business, Individuals Helps Fund Party

Everyone loves a party, and the Elmhurst Sesquicentennial Committee has worked long and hard to guarantee the biggest bash this proud city has ever seen!

But it takes financial backing on a community-wide scale to turn those hours of brainstorming, planning, and tedious scheduling into a celebration befitting of Elmhurst's 150 glorious years.

A committee led by Bill Harris and Abner Ganet, and manned by some 300 volunteers, has helped the finance division of the Sesqui Committee toward its goal of collecting \$125,000 to fund Elmhurst's birthday party. And while the total is still short of the committee's goal, "We're well on our way," Harris commented last month. He said that in mid-July, nearly a year after the finance committee began its work, funds

amounted to \$82,000.

Harris noted that contributions have ranged from \$2 donations made on city water bills to a \$12,000 gift. "They all mean something and they all add up," Harris said. "The thought behind an individual's \$2 check is just as valuable as the thought behind a \$10,000 contribution."

Donations have come from individuals, businesses, professionals and residents, Harris said, stressing that no tax dollars are being used for the celebration. Harris was quick to point out that previous discussion about a sizable grant from Springfield — which was to have totaled nearly \$184,000 — was struck from the state legislation and will not be available to the city.

Instead, gifts have "come from the heart," Harris said. Many donations of \$150 have come in to commemorate

Elmhurst's 150 years. Browning-Ferris Refuse Co. donated \$150 for each of the 35 years the firm has been in business in Elmhurst. Harris also said he was touched by another firm that donated funds, despite the fact that the company has fallen on bad times.

Community groups have aided the committee in fund raising as well, Harris noted. The Elmhurst Kiwanis Club held a dance and was able to add \$1,500 to the Sesqui coffers. A formal dinner-dance sponsored by the Sesqui committee raised \$11,000 in February.

Harris said that all gifts, no matter what the amount, are acknowledged. Names of those who contribute \$150 or more are added to the ranks of the "Sesqui Club" and will be recognized on a plaque that will become part of the city's permanent monument honoring Elmhurst's first 150 years.

With only one month to go until the Founders Celebration, Harris said he hopes residents will continue their generosity to the community and help the committee meet its goal.

"The biggest factor in our success has been that, unlike everything else, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share in the heritage of Elmhurst," Harris said. "We only have one opportunity to be a part of it."

It is not too late to make a gift "from your heart" to the city of Elmhurst in recognition and support of her 150th birthday!

This opportunity is truly unique as it only happens once in a lifetime. Become a part of this historic celebration by returning the enclosed envelope along with your special birthday gift.

White Sox To Host 'Elmhurst Night' Aug. 26

Politicians are often known for their style of pitching ideas to the public-with the responses ranging anywhere from grumbling to gratitude. But when Elmhurst Mayor Robert Quinn gets his chance to pitch something on Tuesday night, Aug. 26, he should make "a hit" with everyone in Elmhurst.

Quinn is warming up his pitching arm in anticipation of "Elmhurst Night" at White Sox Park when Quinn is slated to throw out the ceremonial first pitch in a 7 p.m. game between the Chicago White Sox and their Western Division rivals, the Kansas City Royals.

Quinn will be joined on the field by representatives of various Elmhurst organizations in a pre-game parade scheduled for 6:30 p.m. The honor of singing the national anthem will go to Rev. Ernest Huntzinger, minister of the First Congregational Church of Elmhurst. A home-plate presentation, saluting Elmhurst and its Sesquicentennial anniversary, is also

part of the Aug. 26 game plan, according to Sesqui Special Events Chairmen Steve Messerschmidt and Bill Maher.

In addition, Aug. 26 is Baseball Card Night for the first 15,000 fans entering the park. Some 2,000 choice seats between first and third base have been reserved for the Elmhurst Sesquicentennial Committee and are available for individual or group outings at \$6.50 per ticket. Those purchasing tickets will not only have an opportunity to enjoy a special night at White Sox Park, they will benefit the Sesquicentennial Committee as well. A portion of the ticket sales will go directly into the support of the gala two-week-long Sesquicentennial celebration planned for September.

"Many businesses and organizations are already planning bus outings to the game and will represent Elmhurst on the field," Messerschmidt and Maher noted. "Our goal is to get as many groups as possible involved and to show our sup-

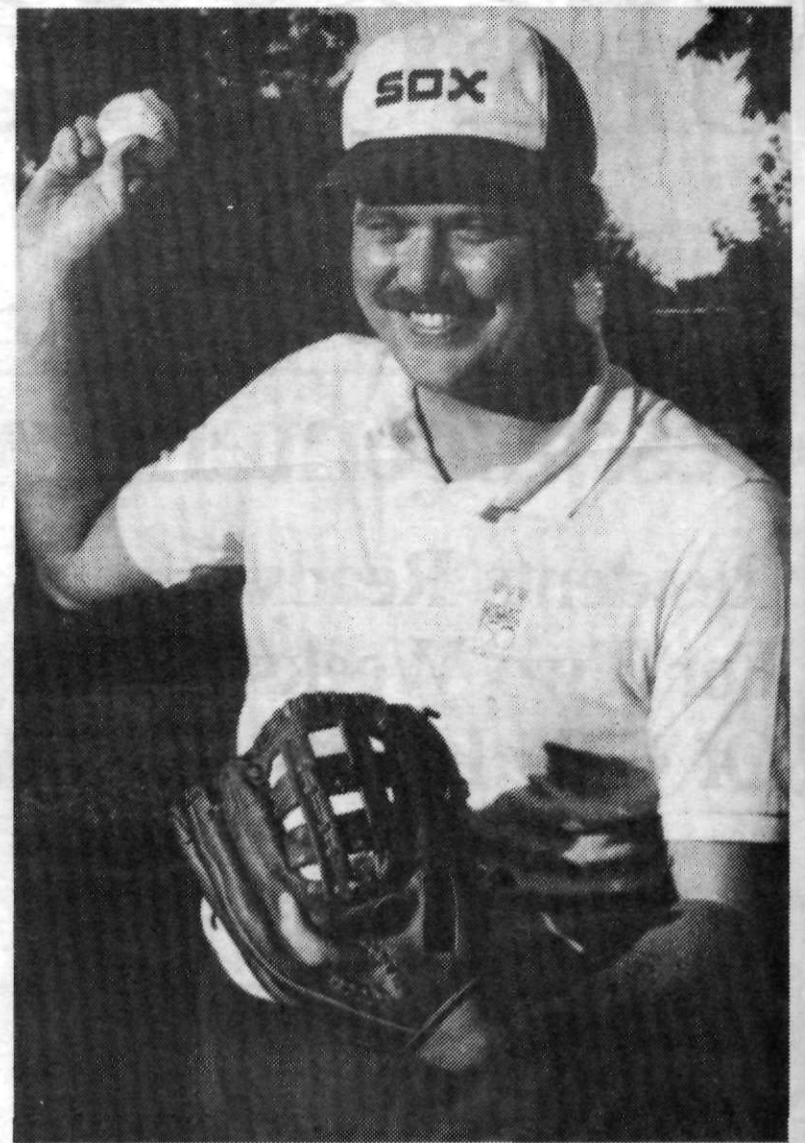
port of the community."

Group and individual tickets are available at the Sesqui Caboose, located in downtown Elmhurst at First Street and York Road, or use the enclosed form for your convenience. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Caboose at 279-1986.

For those in need of transportation to the game, bus service will be provided from various locations throughout Elmhurst for a \$2 fee. These pick-up locations will be determined two weeks prior to the game based on demand and will be listed in The Elmhurst Press.

Bus costs for groups of 45 or more are the responsibility of the group; however bus rental information is available from the Caboose.

Assistance in organizing group outings to "Elmhurst Night" may also be obtained by calling the event chairmen. Steve Messerschmidt may be reached at 562-0090 and Bill Maher at 833-1385.



Mayor Robert Quinn will throw out the ceremonial first pitch when the Chicago White Sox host "Elmhurst Night" Tuesday, Aug. 26, at Comiskey Park. For ticket or transportation information, phone the Caboose, 279-1986, Steve Messerschmidt, 562-0090, or Bill Maher, 833-1385.

Golfers To Get Their Day In The Sun

Calling all golfers. This day's *fore* you!

Oak Meadows Country Club, formerly Elmhurst Country Club, has reserved Thursday, Sept. 11, for the Elmhurst Sesquicentennial Golf Outing. The club, in conjunction with the Elmhurst Sesquicentennial Committee, will be hosting the day of golf followed by dinner in the historic clubhouse at 4-N-560 Wooddale Road, Wood Dale. Tee-off times begin at 7:30 a.m.

Individuals or foursomes may make reservations for the Sesqui golf package which includes your round of golf, use of a cart, prizes and a prime rib dinner at 6:30 p.m. for \$55. Guests interested in a dinner-only package, including dinner and prizes, may make reservations for \$22.

The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, Aug. 20. For reservations or additional information call the Sesqui "Caboose" at 279-1986.

| ITEM & PRICE | HOW MANY | TOTAL COST |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Pins..... | \$.50 | |
| Weepfuls..... | 1.00 | |
| Tote Bags..... | 6.00 | |
| T-Shirts..... | 8.00 | |
| Leather Coasters..... | 8.00 | |
| Coffee Mugs..... | 10.00 | |
| Frisbees..... | 2.00 | |
| Trays..... | 10.00 | |
| Trivet Wall Plaques..... | 14.00 | |
| Beer Mugs..... | 15.00 | |
| Sweat Shirts..... | 17.00 | |
| Golf Shirts..... | 22.00 | |
| Marble Coasters..... | 22.00 | |
| 3" Brass Medallions..... | 25.00 | |
| Collectors' Plates..... | 30.00 | |
| 150 Years of News book..... | 8.95 | |
| Scenes From Yesterday book..... | 14.50 | |

TOTAL FOR ORDER

Make checks payable to Elmhurst Sesquicentennial and mail to "The Caboose", First St. at York, Elmhurst, 60126.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ ZIP _____



Among the sesquicentennial items available at the Caboose are collector mugs, plates, T-shirts, pins and Frisbees. To order, use the form on this page or call the Caboose at 279-1986.

Markers Help Residents To Look Back In Time

Thanks to the efforts of the Elmhurst Sesquicentennial Planning and Steering Committee, Elmhurst residents will be allowed a unique peek at their past during the coming weeks.

Historical markers will be erected at 15 sites throughout the city which will feature photographs of each location as it looked in days gone by. The photographs will offer residents

the same vantage point as that of their earlier Elmhurst counterparts, explained Sesqui Committee Chairman Richard Weber.

The Sesquicentennial Committee invites all residents to "turn back the hands of time" by visiting the 13 sites in the central business district, and the additional markers located in the area of South York at Vallette and the Spring Road business district.

Remember Elmhurst's Big Event

Elmhurst's Sesquicentennial Celebration comes just once and will no doubt be recorded in the annals of Elmhurst's history as a gala tribute to 150 years of excellence. Photographs, publications and similar items commemorating the event are sure to find a permanent home in the Elmhurst archives.

Residents may hold on to a piece of Elmhurst's history as well through the purchase of Sesqui memorabilia, now available at the Caboose, in downtown Elmhurst at First Street and York (phone 279-1986). Orders may also be made using the form on this page.

Items include a variety of gifts featuring the Elmhurst Sesquicentennial logo designed by artist Ed Rebeck. A solid brass commemorative medallion highlighting Elmhurst landmarks, designed by artist Kurt Mager, is also available as a lasting keepsake to share with generations to come.

Show your Elmhurst pride! Let the world recognize your "Home Sweet Home."

Here's Why We Like Living In Elmhurst

Elmhurst is a city born of the prairieland, nurtured by progress and mature in its standing as a jewel among communities yet with a vision for the future. But above all, Elmhurst is a reflection of the people — past and present — who have called her home.

In interviews conducted recently, five Elmhurst residents discussed their views of the city. Between them, they have shared 167 years with Elmhurst. Their feelings serve as a reminder that Elmhurst contributes something special to those who live here just as surely as they have contributed something special in return.

Hazel Dame moved to Elmhurst as a child in 1912. She recalls violet-hunting in the prairielands and climbing trees in the orchards that dotted much of Elmhurst in those days. Unpaved roads, hitching posts and rural rows of mailboxes were all part of Elmhurst life.

"There were no streetlights in our subdivision and when we walked out at night down Kenilworth, we had to light our way, swinging lanterns as we went," Mrs. Dame noted.

Mrs. Dame attended the old Hawthorne school and is proud to have been a member of the class of '22, the first four-year class of York High School. As editor-in-chief of the first York yearbook, Mrs. Dame chose the name "Y's Tales," the title still used 64 years later.

After attending Northwestern University, Mrs. Dame returned to Elmhurst in 1926 to become the first female faculty member at Elmhurst College, even though at the time the college enrolled only male students.

Mrs. Dame and her late husband James raised two sons in the St. Charles Road home they shared for 50 years. She has also been involved with the Evening Womens' Club (serving as the group's first president), Friends of the Library and the Scribblers' writing group. She is a published poet and playwright, who wrote "But That Was Yes-



Hazel Dame



Joanne Wagner



Keith Tilden

terday..." a story about the early days of Elmhurst.

It is no surprise that with such a rich connection to her hometown that Mrs. Dame is proud of Elmhurst. "It's a feet-on-the-ground community, not greatly show-offy," Mrs. Dame commented. "We've lost the rural quality I knew as a girl, the urban has swallowed it up, but Elmhurst has a long history of civic-minded people who have done very well in keeping Elmhurst in a state of progress."

The wide variety of faiths represented here, Elmhurst College, the Lizzadro Museum, the schools and the cultural offerings all play a part in making Elmhurst unique. "We have every reason to be proud of Elmhurst," Mrs. Dame said.

"My wish for Elmhurst is for continued progress, and good health for those who live here," commented Mrs. Dame, adding, "I have no regrets that my dear, far-sighted parents picked Elmhurst."

Joanne Wagner has been an Elmhurst resident for 57 years and still lives in the historic house her parents purchased years ago. The house had previously belonged to the caretaker of the Thomas Bryan estate. Mrs. Wagner was reared in the home and stayed to raise her own two daughters with husband Charles "Chick". The Wagners now have four grandchildren living in Elmhurst.

Mrs. Wagner has served in many civic capacities over the years. A member of the Park

Board for 26 years, Mrs. Wagner is now in her sixth term as Elmhurst Park Board president.

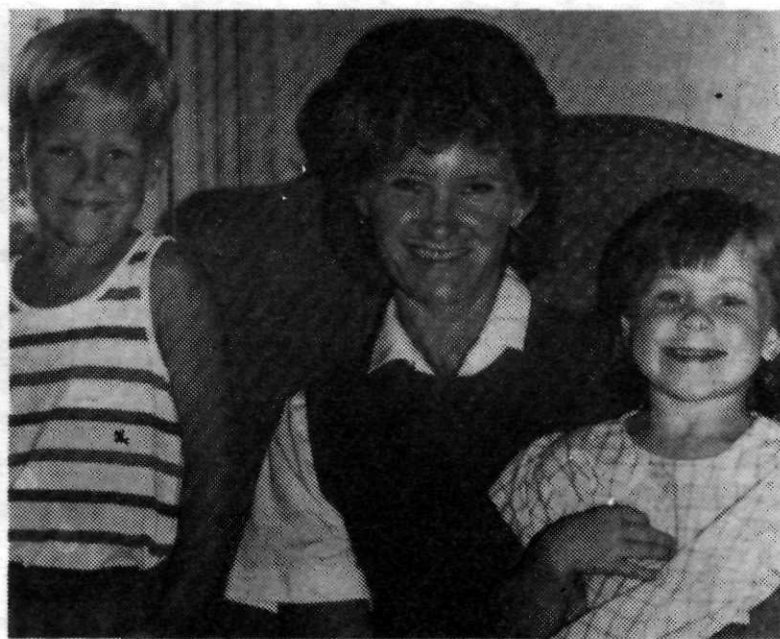
"Elmhurst is typical of what has made America a success," Mrs. Wagner said. "Everyone who gets involved in the community is doing it because they love the town and get satisfaction from knowing that their efforts are keeping the community good and making it even better."

Mrs. Wagner commented that unlike Oak Park and other sprawling towns, this city has been guided by people who have managed to keep Elmhurst a single-family, residential community.

What makes Mrs. Wagner most proud of Elmhurst is straight from the heart. "It's home," she said. "It's not perfect, but there have always been a lot of good people who are trying to make it better."

Keith Tilden, a 30-year resident, came to Elmhurst as a toddler in the 1950s. He was raised here, married Barbara Malecha, his hometown sweetheart, and went into business in this city he knew and loved. The Tildens now have a 5-year-old son and Tilden is adamant that his roots are so deep here, "I'm not going anywhere."

"Elmhurst has a real cross-section of people. Tradesmen and businessmen mix here. There are people with lots of money, but they don't look down their noses at others. The quality of people is what makes



Laura Atchison and her husband Dave moved to Elmhurst from Peoria in 1981. Shown with the Atchisons' children, 5-year-old Nick, and 3-year-old Amy, Laura Atchison says she enjoys living in Elmhurst because "Everybody is just so nice."

Elmhurst unique."

Keith Tilden Roofing Co. began in 1974, and Tilden says he has found Elmhurst to be "a great place to do business." He added, "People here are well-enough off that they are willing to let professionals do the work (on their homes) and it keeps the community in much better shape."

As a young parent, Tilden said he appreciates the top-notch school district and park system and admits it is all part of his emotional attachment to Elmhurst.

Laura Atchison is a native of Peoria and is a relative newcomer to Elmhurst. She and her husband Dave moved here in 1981. The Atchisons have two children, 5-year-old Nick and 3-year-old Amy.

Mrs. Atchison said they chose Elmhurst at first because of its location and because Dave's brother had lived here. But when they needed a bigger house three years ago, they decided to stay in Elmhurst and found a new home in the same neighborhood.

The Atchisons are impressed

with the park district, library, schools, YMCA and all the activities available for families in Elmhurst.

"There is a lot of pride in Elmhurst," Mrs. Atchison said. "You can see it in the homes. They are all very well maintained, particularly considering that this is really an older community. It's really a credit to the community. In other places, houses like these could be falling down."

The people, too, have won the Atchisons over. "Everybody is just so nice. We've been able to meet a lot of people in a relatively short time."

As described through the heart-felt voices in this piece, the tug of Elmhurst may draw others back. The lure of a healthy community, rich in tradition and open to progress, may beckon them as it has other generations of Elmhurst sons and daughters.

Who knows, it may be one of these hometown boosters, or one of their offspring, who will lead the Elmhurst Bicentennial parade down York Street in 2036.

Sesqui Book Tracks Elmhurst's Origins

The story of Elmhurst's first 150 years takes this vital city back to its pioneer roots. It's the story of hard-working people who carved a community out of the prairie a century-and-a-half ago, and of the generations since who have gently ushered in progress, yet held tight to the city's small-town heritage.

The Elmhurst Sesquicentennial Planning and Steering Committee is proud to present the Elmhurst story in "150 Years of News," a new book commissioned in honor of the Sesquicentennial. The book traces Elmhurst's history through remarkable photos and memorable stories, backed by hours of

painstaking research.

Editor Guy Keller, historian and photo editor Maryann Geannopoulos, production artist Laura Sutherland and a team of dedicated volunteers are largely responsible for the commemorative book. The publication committee also welcomed the cooperation of many others who gave of their time for this significant effort.

The Sesquicentennial Committee invites you to order your copy of "150 Years of News" now for the low price of \$8.95. Books may be ordered by using the form on this page or by visiting the Caboose.

Yes, I would like a copy of the book "150 Years of News." Here is my donation of \$8.95 payable to Elmhurst Sesquicentennial or mail to Elmhurst Sesquicentennial, P.O. Box 1986, Elmhurst 60126.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Phone _____

All proceeds will benefit the Elmhurst Sesquicentennial. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. You will be notified when your book is ready for pickup. Add \$1.50 for handling and shipping if you wish to have your book mailed.

Soprano To Present Free Concert At College

Just prior to the two weeks of events and activities scheduled to mark Elmhurst's 150th birthday, the Sesquicentennial Committee has scheduled a free vocal concert to be held at Elmhurst Concert. Soprano Carolyn Val-Schmidt will sing in recital accompanied by David Bates at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24. The concert will be held in Irion Hall of Elmhurst College, and admission is free.

Residents Ready For Two-Week Gala...

(Continued from Page 1)

available for purchase.

On Friday evening, Sept. 5, the members of the Elmhurst Noon Lions Club will be serving up juicy steaks and hamburgers at the **Sesquicentennial Community Steak Fry** from 5-7:30 p.m. at Wilder Park. The Elmhurst Rotary Club will dish up fresh corn on the cob.

Dinner tickets, which include a menu of 12-ounce prime New York strip steak plus corn on the cob, may be purchased for \$15. A child's dinner with one-third-pound hamburger and corn will cost \$8. Use the form on this page to order tickets or call the Caboose (279-1986.)

From 5:30-6:30 entertainment will be provided by the Prairie Schooners square dance group which will give a demonstration. Audience members may be asked to join the Schooners in some good-old country fun.

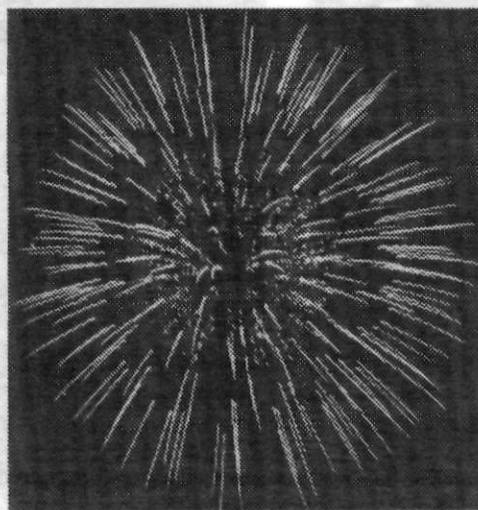
Kick up your heels from 6:45-7:45 at an old-fashioned **Barn Dance**, hosted by Bob Thomas, former master-of-ceremonies on the WLS Barn Dance Show. The jamboree continues from 8-11 with a country band.

Throughout the night, contestants for the **Beard and Bonnet Contest** will be judged. The winners will be announced and prizes awarded during the evening's entertainment.

Men all over Elmhurst are sprouting whiskers to compete in six different categories of beardsmanship! Awards will be given to the gentlemen sporting the scuzziest beard, the fullest beard, the best-shaped beard, the best mustache, the longest beard and the sparsest beard as determined by a distinguished panel of local barbers.

Ladies are invited to compete in a beautiful bonnet contest. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: sun bonnet, wide brim and veiled. Judging will be done by a panel of fabric-and dress-shop owners from the area.

Saturday, Sept. 6, will feature "**A Day in Our Town**" — guided tours of Elmhurst. Buses will leave from Wilder Park and visit points of interest throughout the city. Many businesses and institutions will open their doors to the public to demon-



A display to rival anything ever seen in DuPage County is being promised by the planners of the Elmhurst sesquicentennial celebration. The fireworks show will begin after sunset Sunday, Sept. 14, at Plunkett Park on West Avenue on the west side of Elmhurst.

strate different aspects of their work and its impact on the community. Escorts will share the historical significance of each site on the tour.

On both Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6 and 7, Wilder Park will be host to the seventh annual **Country Fair**. Saturday hours are 11-5; Sunday hours are from noon to dusk.

The two-day event, sponsored by the Elmhurst Lions Club, will feature pony rides, a kiddie carnival, and old-fashioned revival and musical entertainment ranging from barbershop harmonies to marching bands.

Country crafters will be displaying their homemade wares. Food and beverages will be available.

The Sesquicentennial Committee and the Elmhurst Evening Lions Club invite residents to attend the **Sesquicentennial Gala Street Dance** on Saturday evening, Sept. 6. The Illinois Marine Bank parking lot will be transformed into a festive ballroom complete with an outdoor canopy for moonlight

dancing from 7-10 p.m. Dress for the dance is casual.

Tickets for the street dance are \$10 per person or \$19.86 per couple. Ticket-holders will be eligible for a door-prize drawing. Beer, wine, soft drinks and food will also be available for a minimal cost.

To obtain tickets, use the attached form, call the Caboose (279-1986) or contact any member of the Evening Lions Club. Tickets may also be purchased at the door on the night of the dance.

The **Sesquicentennial Parade** kicks off an exciting day Sunday, Sept. 7. The grand marshal, Gov. James Thompson, will lead the festivities down York Street beginning at 12:30 p.m. It's guaranteed to be the biggest and best parade in Elmhurst's colorful history!

The parade will step off at Third and York and travel south down York to Second where it will veer off toward the underpass. The route will meet up again with York Street at Robert Palmer Drive and continue to the reviewing-stand area across from the Bicentennial Fountain.

Among the parade highlights will be the United States Marine Corps Band, Navy Recruit Training Command Band, the Fourth Army Band and the University of Illinois Fighting Illini Marching Band. Twelve bagpipe bands and eight drum and bugle corps are scheduled to march as well as many floats and entries never before seen in an Elmhurst parade.

Monday, Sept. 8, has been declared **Prairie Day** in Elmhurst. Elementary schools throughout the city will gear their history lessons to focus on the early days of Elmhurst. Students in grades one through five will be encouraged to dress in costumes of the period and to bring a pail lunch. Sesquicentennial birthday mementos will be given to all children in kindergarten through fifth grade, and the schools will be recognized for their community spirit. Outdoor church services will be held in the evening.

Thursday, Sept. 11, is the day reserved for a **Sesquicentennial Golf Outing** at Oak Meadows Country Club. (See separate article.) Tickets may be purchased with the

enclosed form or by calling the Caboose (279-1986).

The Elmhurst Historical Society's **House Walk**, Friday, Sept. 12, will highlight six of Elmhurst's fine homes. The house tour will be open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and again from 7-9 p.m. Tickets for the house walk are \$9 with an optional lunch for \$3.50. The luncheon will be served on the grounds of the Doan house, 185 S. York.

Hotline Open

For information about Elmhurst's Sesquicentennial, the Caboose, 279-1986.

House Walk and luncheon tickets and may be purchased by calling the Elmhurst Historical Museum (833-1457) or Virginia Weber (941-7861). Lunch reservations must be made by Sept. 8.

Elmhurst Memorial Hospital and the Elmhurst Striders Running Club will sponsor a **Sesquicentennial 10-K Run** on Sunday, Sept. 14. The race begins at 9 a.m. at East End Park. An \$8 advance entry fee is required which guarantees participants a specially designed T-shirt. Late entries will be charged \$12 on the day of the race. Prizes will be awarded to the top five male and female finishers. All ages are welcome to compete.

Entry forms may be obtained at the In Stride store, 131 First St. For additional information, call 834-1221.

The Sesquicentennial Celebration concludes with a three-day **Oktoberfest** honoring Elmhurst's German heritage Sept. 12-14 at Plunkett Park. The festival will feature ethnic food, a beer tent, German music, antiques, crafts and entertainment for all ages. A trip for two to Munich will be awarded.

Elmhurst will see a rousing close to its 150th birthday bash on Sunday, Sept. 14, after sunset at Plunkett Park with what is being billed as the biggest **Fireworks** display ever seen in DuPage County. Organizers promise it will be a most fitting finish to Elmhurst's spectacular sesquicentennial salute.

Future-Minded Settlers...

(Continued from Page 1)

acre Wilder tract for \$45,000.

Thanks to the misfortune of a local Boys' Club that had become inactive, the first Elmhurst library was born. The first Elmhurst Library Board was able to secure from the defunct Boys' Club a sizable book collection with which to stock the new library shelves.

A single room in the old Glos Building was rented to house the library on the current site of the Marine Bank at York and Park for \$15 a month. Mrs. H.L. Breitenbach was hired as the librarian and paid \$15 a month for her services, and a janitor was employed for \$5 a month. In its early days the library was only open 10 hours a week.

When the library opened its doors for business on March 22, 1916, it had a book collection of 830 volumes, the majority of which had come from the former Boys' Club.

Without the catchy slogan "Stick for Paving or Stick in the Mud" the civic-minded Elmhurst Boosters' Club may never have convinced the city government to pave Elmhurst's streets. Of course those modern roads would have come sooner or later, but by 1919 residents had grown tired of getting mired in the mud after each heavy rain and sudden spring thaw.

A devastating fire changed the history of education in Elmhurst one cold December night in 1917 when the old Hawthorne School was destroyed.

The Elmhurst School Board and citizens had been concerned about the overcrowded conditions at the school, which was located at the site of the present Hawthorne School — at Cottage Hill Avenue and Arthur streets. Prior to the fire, there had already been discussion about the future of the building which served as both a grade school and a high school.

Much to the disappointment of the students, who thought they were in store for a lengthy vacation, classes were held the following Monday at locations throughout Elmhurst. Classrooms were carved out of space in various churches, Elmhurst College, private homes and even a Chinese laundry on Addison Avenue.

The fire, coming at a time of growth for the city, proved to be the impetus needed for the long-discussed change in school districts. Soon after, Dist. 46 was established for administration of the grade schools and Dist. 88 was founded as the high school district that led to the construction of York High School in 1920.

The U.S. government spoiled the dream of the Elmhurst Plan Commission in 1940 when Uncle Sam announced that a new post office would be constructed on the site Elmhurst planners had in mind for a new city hall. The Plan Commission had envisioned a civic and cultural mall to run from Wilder Park north to the Chicago and North Western tracks.

JOIN THE CELEBRATION THAT'S BEEN 150 YEARS IN THE MAKING!
YES, I want to....

- Purchase tickets for Elmhurst Night at White Sox Park Tuesday, Aug. 26, (\$6.50 per ticket).
_____ Number of tickets
- *Transportation included at additional charge. Call for details.
- Make reservations for the Community Steak Fry Friday, Sept. 5, (\$15 steak dinner/\$8 Child's hamburger dinner).
_____ Number of steak dinners
_____ Number of hamburger dinners
- Purchase tickets for the Gala Street Dance Saturday, Sept. 6, (\$10 per person/\$19.86 per couple).
_____ Number of tickets
- Make reservations for the Sesquicentennial Golf Outing Thursday, Sept. 11. Ticket Deadline; Wednesday, Aug. 20, (\$55 for golf package including Dinner/\$22 dinner only)
_____ Number of reservations

Make checks payable to Elmhurst Sesquicentennial and mail to Sesquicentennial Headquarters, First Street at York, Elmhurst, 60126.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____