

MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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HOLIDAY HOUSEWALK CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

"It seems especially appropriate that such an event is born now, since the New Year will mark another birth - that of the Society's new downtown museum in another of Mount Prospect's lovely old homes..." wrote Historical Society President and co-founder Dolores Haugh in 1988. The event Haugh was referring to was the Mount Prospect Historical Society's first annual Holiday Housewalk. Twenty-five years later, this event has become a Mount Prospect mainstay and holiday tradition. The original event was proposed by Jean Murphy, a young columnist



(Above) Sofia Ryzewski, of Irys House of Flowers assists Cindy Bork in hanging a wreath at the Bork residence on South Wille in a promotional photo for the first annual Holiday Housewalk in 1988. Today, Bork serves as the Historical Society's office manager. (Below, left) An original 1988 Housewalk advertisement poster highlighting the event details.

for the *Daily Herald* who was inspired by a similar event during her previous tenure as director of public relations for the famous Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation in Oak Park. Murphy currently serves as the Historical Society's co-vice president. The original walk included seven very different and historic homes and businesses. They included the starting point of First Chicago Bank of Mount Prospect (now the Chase Bank building); the Owen Rooney Farmhouse

on South George Street, the oldest building in Mount Prospect; the Victorian Home of William Busse on Central Road; the William H. Ladervicz English Country House in South Edward Street; the Georgia Gewecke Bungalow on South Wille; the Walter Berschet Bungalow and brick Barn; and the St. John Lutheran Schoolhouse, at that time the home of the Historical Society.

Like today, the Historical Society of 1988 was expanding

(SEE "25th", PG. 3)

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE, JAN. 28TH, 1954, "RETIRE AT 90? VETERAN REPUBLICAN LEADER HAS OTHER PLANS"

"Live a regular life, sit in the sun when you can, take a nap at noon, eat three square meals a day, and get a good rest at night."

- *WILLIAM BUSSE*, ON *HOW TO LIVE TO 90*

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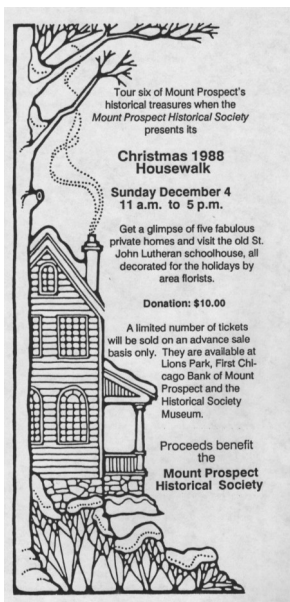
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Greg Peerbolte
Executive Director

***“TRADITIONS
ARE VERY
IMPORTANT
TO THE WORK
OF THE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY”***

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

This year is an especially good time to reflect on traditions. The Historical Society and Village of Mount Prospect are both celebrating milestones. Mount Prospect has been an incorporated community for 95 years, while the Historical Society marks 45 years of existence. Additionally, the Society’s flagship event, the Holiday Housewalk, is turning 25 this year, as you have read.

Obviously, traditions are very important to the work of the Historical Society, and to the work of “doing”

history. In his essay, *What I Saw in America*, English writer G.K. Chesterton commented on the importance of tradition in our republic: “Tradition does not mean a dead town; it does not mean that the living are dead but that the dead are alive. It means that it still matters what Penn did two hundred years ago or what Franklin did a hundred years ago; I never could feel in New York that it mattered what anybody did an hour ago.”

In the same manner, traditions are as meaningful in our own community.

What people like William

Busse did in creating the Village of Mount Prospect 100 years ago also still matters. On that note, we hope you will be willing to embrace tradition by supporting the work of the Mount Prospect Historical Society. What better way to do this than by joining us for an annual tradition that has become synonymous with an even greater Holiday tradition? We hope to see you at the 25th Annual Holiday Housewalk on Friday, November 30th, and encourage you to celebrate and cherish your own traditions this Holiday season.

FROM THE COLLECTION:



Commissioner William Busse is perhaps the figure most synonymous with the creation and development of Mount Prospect. The Society obtained a monumental addition to its collection when it was contacted in 2012 by Ralph A. Wille, Jr. of Tulsa, OK, who is the great-grandson of Commissioner Busse. Mr. Wille contacted the Society to offer the donation of Commissioner Busse’s pristine Victorian suit, which was worn to the funeral of President William McKinley in September of 1901, following his assassination. Over 110 years old, the suit—complete with overcoat, trousers, vest and top hat—arrived in perfect condition. Additionally, the Society holds photographic evidence corroborating the fact this suit was worn to the historic event (which during this period is rare to find). Mr. Wille also donated over a dozen of Commissioner Busse’s political ribbons, convention tickets and political ephemera, some dating back over 100 years. This is one of the Society’s most exciting additions to its collection in recent memory, and as the Village looks with anticipation toward its centennial, the historic significance of these items cannot be overstated.

(Clockwise from top left: Commissioner Busse’s top hat, which includes the original box from the Mallory Hat Company; a close-up of Busse at the funeral of President William McKinley with his fellow Cook County Commissioners; the commemorative ribbon worn by Busse and the Commissioners to the funeral.)

25TH, CON'T FROM PAGE 1

and had acquired a new property in downtown Mount Prospect. While currently, the funds generated from the event benefit the Society's operating fund, the proceeds from the original Housewalk benefited the restoration efforts of what would become the Dietrich Friedrichs Home Museum. Twenty-five years later, the Society is embracing a similar challenge in the restoration efforts on behalf of the Central School building, which was moved to the Society's museum campus in 2008.

Originally, the Housewalk was held on a Sunday afternoon. Nowadays, to accommodate busy schedules (and football lovers), the event is held on the Friday following Thanksgiving. The original event netted nearly \$3,100 (almost \$5,800 at today's values), and attracted over 500 attendees. Following its successful debut, the Housewalk was on its way to becoming a staple event synonymous with the community of



Dolores Haugh (L) and Jean Murphy (R), 1988

Mount Prospect and its Historical Society. While over the years, the event has been tweaked to keep up with the times, the core of the event remains - The celebration of a time of year that allows Mount Prospect residents to give thanks and to reflect on their homes and families.

Following the event, President Haugh concluded it was a success and praised the work of Jean Murphy to make it a reality, naming her a Mount Prospect "VIP."

Today, as the Society looks forward to its 25th annual Housewalk, Murphy continues as the Housewalk co-chair,

sharing these duties with longtime fellow co-chair Jill Tumberger, who also serves on the Society's Board of Directors. Both have organized this year's event. Haugh, who currently resides at The Moorings of Arlington Heights, was the keynote speaker at the Society's Annual Meeting as the organization she helped to found celebrated its 45th Anniversary last January.



The recently-acquired Dietrich Friedrichs Home decorated for the first annual Holiday Housewalk in November of 1988.

MPHS RELEASES NEW HOLIDAY MUSEUM STORE ITEMS



The Mount Prospect Historical Society is pleased to announce another release of uniquely "Mount Prospect" gift items just in time for the holiday season. This year, you can send your regards to friends, family and loved ones across the nation with our unique holiday greeting cards. The cards feature a photo of Christmas at the William Busse, Jr. General Store circa 1925. The photo documents a visit from Santa Claus to every child who was a resident of Mount Prospect at the time, containing a humorous caption. Also, the Society is releasing a very limited number of special-edition "Hotter Than Mother's Music" t-shirts. These vintage-inspired t-shirts were created for last summer's Downtown History Crawl, and the remaining event t-shirts are available first come, first serve until they are gone. Shirts are available in adult sizes small to x-large. These and other favorite Society items, including Sammy Skobel t-shirts and Randhurst history books, are all available via the Historical Society's website, www.mtphist.org, and can be shipped anywhere in the U.S.



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A LONGTIME EVENT MEETS NEW TECHNOLOGY AT 25TH ANNUAL HOUSEWALK



The old adage, "Things change; things stay the same" is certainly an appropriate description of this year's 25th annual Holiday Housewalk. Much like prior events, this year's event will feature beautifully decorated, historic homes and variety of festive seasonal vendors and activities. However, the Housewalk will be implementing new technology this year to help promote and simplify the event in the face of a digital world that was all but unimagined in 1988. For the first time this year, patrons can purchase Housewalk tickets from the comfort of their own homes via PayPal through the Society's website (www.mtphist.org). Tickets can also be purchased using a smart phone equipped with a "QR (quick response) code" reader anywhere you see a Housewalk event poster. If you don't know what a QR code is, it's that funny-looking square object pictured to the left of this column that seems to be popping up all over the place. Using a QR code reader to scan this object, you will be taken directly to the Housewalk event/ticket purchase webpage. Give it a try! Finally, the Housewalk has its own Facebook event page this year. Connect to the event through the Society's fan page, "join" the event and forward the invite to your Facebook friends. It's also a great way to get up-to-the-minute information, news, and tidbits about the event!

***25th Annual Holiday Housewalk
Friday, November 30, 3:30 - 9:00***