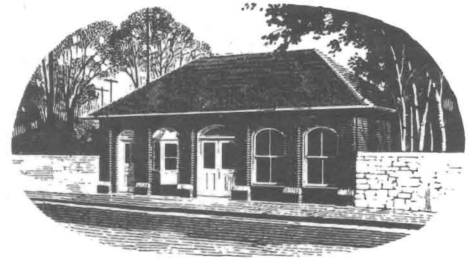


# HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



Volume I, Number 1

January, 1979

Herewith we inaugurate a newsletter which will come to you in January, April, July, and October. Your suggestions and contributions will be welcomed; send them to Muriel Beadle at 1700 E. 56th St., Apt. 401, Chicago 60637. The deadline for each issue is the 10th of the month preceding publication.

## HYDE PARK SOCIAL NOTES

On August 15, 1875, the Chicago Tribune described a fete given by the ladies of St. Paul's Church. It was attended by about 300 persons, and lighted by locomotive search lights and Chinese lanterns.

\*

On Saturday, January 27, 1979 the Hyde Park Historical Society will have its annual meeting--a dinner at the Windermere Hotel. There are no plans to light the scene with anything more exotic than candles. For further details of the event, see p.3 of this newsletter.

**\*** Now is the time to renew your Hyde Park Historical Society membership, the best buy in Chicago because our dues are 1) low and 2) cover all members of a family. Send your check for \$5 to Mrs. John Davey, 5748 S. Harper, 60637.

## JANUARY MEETING FOCUSES ON FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

From Jan. 10 to Feb. 25, "The Decorative Designs of Frank Lloyd Wright", a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition, will be on display at the David and Alfred Smart Gallery, 5550 S. Greenwood. (Tues.-Sat., 10 AM to 4 PM; Sun., noon to 4 PM.)

Hyde Park Historical Society Board member Irma Strauss assisted David Hanks, the Smithsonian's Curator of Decorative Arts, in locating objects and researching their history.

She says, "All his interior details--furniture, lamp shades, rugs, windows, and at times fabrics, ceramics, silverware and even dresses of his clients--were designed to complete the architecture. Since most of his interiors have been destroyed or altered, it is only by viewing the objects in this exhibit along with photographs of the original architecture that his work can be properly understood."

## The Winter Sporting Scene, circa 1912

With our purchase of the old Chicago City Railway Co. station at 5529 Lake Park Ave., people are becoming curious about cable car days in Hyde Park. Gerhardt Laves, who was born here in 1906, recalls how his older brother Ulrich enjoyed exhilarating sled rides down 55th St., with the help of the cable car machinery.

This is how it was done: Ulrich would position his sled in the middle of the street, directly above the sunken cable which was constantly in motion thanks to the power house at 55th St. and Cottage Grove Ave. He would then reach down into the slot, grab the cable, and off he'd go!

These adventures were less dangerous than they seemed, Gerhardt says, for the horses pulling other vehicles shied away from the boy on the sled; and following cable cars, being attached to the same cable and traveling at the same speed, never overtook him.

WRIGHT.... from page 1

On January 17, Mrs. Strauss will give an illustrated lecture, "Frank Lloyd Wright and Hyde Park-Kenwood". Time: 8 PM. Place: KAM-Isaiah Israel Congregation, 5039 S. Greenwood Ave. The program will be co-sponsored by the Hyde Park Historical Society, the KAM-Isaiah Israel Sisterhood, and the Victorian Society, Chicago Chapter.

### Renovation Trade Fair Planned

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, in cooperation with the city of Chicago, is planning an exposition called "City House: A Marketplace of Renovation Ideas for Old Houses." Scheduled for February at Navy Pier, this exhibit will feature preservation materials, skills, and information sources for home owners seeking to renovate older city dwellings.

### 1978 IN REVIEW

Our programs were distinguished by their quality and their variety. Special thanks to Thelma Dahlberg, program chairman, for her fine arrangements. Here's a brief review:

Jan. 29: Arthur Weinberg on "Clarence Darrow As a Literary Figure", at the United Church of Hyde Park. A fresh approach to the biography of a famous lawyer and Hyde Park resident.

Mar. 14: A report on the status of proposals to designate parts of the community as Chicago historic districts or to list them on the National Register. Speakers: Robert Wagner of Illinois Dept. of Conservation, our own Board members Dev Bowly and Michael Conzen. An exceptionally large and keenly interested crowd attended. At International House. →

## QUALITY AND VARIETY CHARACTERIZED THE SOCIETY'S 1978 ACTIVITIES

..... from page 2

April 30: Mini-tour of KAM-Isaiah Israel Temple, with Irma Strauss as our tour guide.

June 3 and 4: Members manned a booth across the street from the 57th St. Art Fair, distributed literature about the Society, sold publications, enrolled new members.

July 4: Excursion by bus to the traditional Fourth of July celebration at the Chicago Historical Society, preceded by juice and doughnuts and a quick look at our just-acquired headquarters building (of which, more elsewhere in this newsletter).

Sept. 17: Excursion by bus--in fact, by three buses--to "Sunday on Prairie Avenue, 1893", the official opening of the Prairie Avenue Historic District. Most popular attraction: that modern rarity, an organ grinder man, complete with monkey.

Oct. 29: Sunday afternoon sherry reception for Paul A. Cornell and other HPHS Charter Members, in Fellowship Hall at the United Church of Hyde Park. Speech by Mr. Cornell about his grandfather, the Paul Cornell who founded Hyde Park. At the following social hour, descendants of early Hyde Park families were welcomed as special guests.

Nov. 11: Acting President Jean Block autographed copies of her much-praised book, Hyde Park Houses, at Hyde Park Federal Savings, a portion of each sale going to the Hyde Park Historical Society. Our thanks to the University of Chicago Press and to Hyde Park Federal.

Dec. 10: Another workout for Jean Block--this time at the University Church of the Disciples, where she spoke to the topic, "Researching Your House." For one bit of her advice, and a request, see the next page.

**ANNUAL MEETING & Dinner**

AT WINDERMERE HOTEL ON JANUARY 27

By the end of January, John Vinci will have completed his proposal for the renovation of our headquarters, the old cable car station at 5529 Lake Park. At the annual meeting, Dev Bowly will present a detailed report and show sketches. There will also be entertainment before and after dinner, and a cash bar.

Date: Saturday, Jan. 27. Place: Windermere Hotel. Time: 6:30 PM. Cost: \$10 per person. Guests are welcome. Use form at right.

Mr. Thomas J. Pavelec  
5539 S. Cornell Ave.  
Chicago, Il 60637

I will attend the HPHS annual meeting and dinner on Jan. 27 at the Windermere Hotel. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at \$10 each. My check, drawn to the Hyde Park Historical Society, is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Nancy C. Hays  
5000 Dorchester Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60615

FIRST CLASS



Hyde Park Historical Society  
% 5748 S. Harper Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60637

## CIHSM: Organized Swap Shop

The Hyde Park Historical Society belongs to the Congress of Illinois Historical Societies and Museums (CIHSM). This organization is sponsored by the Illinois State Historical Society in order to "facilitate the exchange of ideas, methods and solutions to mutual problems" among the 135 local historical societies in Illinois who are members. Regional and state meetings are held frequently.

A newsletter, Historically Speaking, is published quarterly. Membership in CIHSM also includes subscriptions to two publications of the Illinois State Historical Society. We expect to print occasional excerpts from these sources.

### Renew Memberships Now

For another year of unusual programs and interesting excursions, send your \$5 per household to Mrs. John Davey, 5748 S. Harper, Chicago 60637. Make checks payable to the Hyde Park Historical Society.

### DO YOU HAVE.....?

Many Hyde Parkers have old title searches and architectural drawings of their houses. These, Jean Block says, should remain with the houses. But the HPHS would like to know of the existence of such material. Will you tell us what you have? Write Mrs. Samuel Block, 1700 E. 56th St., Chicago 60637.