



RIPS NEWS

Advocates for Historic Architecture

www.RockIslandPreservation.org

Membership Meetings

- November 14, 2017
Tuesday
7:00 PM
Home of Diane Oestreich, 816 22nd Street, Rock Island, IL
General business meeting.
Please note that this is the second Tuesday of the month
- December 12, 2017
Tuesday
6:30 PM
Hauberg Center, 1300 24th Street, Rock Island, IL
Holiday snack/dessert potluck and social meeting. Please bring a appetizer or dessert to share and enjoy our annual social meeting in the holiday decorated Hauberg Mansion. *Please note that this is the second Tuesday of the month and starts a little earlier than usual.*
- January 16, 2018
Tuesday
7:00 PM
Rock Island Police Community Room, 1212 5th Avenue, Rock Island
General business meeting

Remember to keep the third Tuesday of each month marked on your calendar for monthly RIPS meetings and activities

100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LONGVIEW PARK CHALET

Chalet Memories

The Oral Legacy or Oral History project which RIPS had at their Chalet birthday party brought forth some interesting information. A few participants shared their fond memories.

Janice Welch and another respondent remember when the Chalet was used as a preschool in the '70s. Apparently, the Park's Department was very forward thinking in offering this program. Janice remembers her daughter's teachers included a Mrs. Hudson. Her little girl insisted on calling her Mrs. Husband, regardless of how often Janice corrected her.

Alderman James Spurgetis, who lived nearby in Highland Park as a child, remembers playing in Long View. Many of his childhood memories pertain to the park that was literally in his back yard.

Norma Clark Braden remembered the park fondly, as well. Norma's mother and father lived in the Chalet for ten to fifteen years during the '70s and '80s. Her children, now in their 50s, fondly remember going to visit Grandma and Grandpa Clark during their tenure at the Chalet. The kids felt it was so special to come and see their grandparents in a park where they could play.

Music Memories

David Smith is a singer songwriter from Blue Grass, Iowa. David Smith, his wife Sharon Maroney, and his brother, Doug donated their talent and time for the Preservation Society's Long View Chalet Birthday Party and "This Place Matters" event. David is a soulful blues singer and digs one heck of a groove; he makes his guitar look like a natural extension of his body when he plays and produces his homespun music. Go to www.davidgsmithmusic.com for more information. David Smith and Sharon Maroney donate a portion of Hey Dave Music to several national, local, and personal causes.

Thanks to David, Sharon, and Doug
for the music in the air for our
Long View Chalet Birthday Celebration!

Submitted by Clayton C. Peterson

Did you see that November and December meetings are not on our usual 3rd Tuesday? Please update your calendars and join us!

100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LONGVIEW PARK CHALET

Visitors to the “This Place Matters” celebration were asked for their ideas for future use of the Chalet. These are some of the creative visions received.

This Place Matters – Long View Chalet

- Farm to table Swiss restaurant with artwork from local artists for sale
- Small gift store supporting organic soaps, lotions, etc.
- German Restaurant or Micro Brewery
- Café, coffee shop, ice cream parlor (*Suggested a number of times*)
- Café downstairs, private residence upstairs
- Banquet house for special occasions
- Reception Hall
- Wine Bar
- Pre-school
- Youth hostel for travelers
- Short term tourist rentals (AirBnB, vacation rental)
- Chalet at Long View Peace Park: wellness activities, classes & educational connections with related activities like tea, meditation, yoga, garden walks, walking club, painting, “Radish Magazine” type activities
- Art Gallery
- Artists in the park; Story time for children
- Same as original use: first floor – public place; second floor – private residence (for security)
- Story Core Station/Hub; Writer’s Guild Center
- Retreat Center: corporate, spiritual, team building, etc.
- Halfway house for teens
- House Museum similar to Tinker Swiss Cottage in Rockford
- Preserve it. Please do not destroy it.

*Thanks to all who shared
their vision!
This place does indeed matter!*

Early Development of Long View Park

In the middle and late 1800s, the area now known as Longview Park was Bailey Davenport's pasture. At his death in 1891, prominent Rock Island and Moline businessmen Frederick Weyerhauser, Charles H. Deere, Morris Rosenfield, and T. J. Robinson purchased much of Davenport's land with the intent of selling it, without profit, to expand the city of Rock Island.

In 1897, the businessmen were approached by Mayor Medill to deed the land to the city. They agreed with the proviso that the land be used for a public park. A contest was held and the park was named Long View (originally two words).

In 1902, the city secured the services of Chicago landscape architect Ossian Cole Simonds. He recommended the construction of a tower, which allowed him to take aerial photographs to help him in his design of what was to be Long View Park. His vision included two lagoons with a brook connecting them, structures for social and music events, and resting places to appreciate the long views of the river valley. Upon completion in 1908, Mayor H. C. Schaffer encouraged businessmen to release employees from work to attend the dedication of the park. Fifteen thousand citizens attended the afternoon and evening festivities which included speeches, orchestral music, an original anthem “Ye Hills and Bright Vales,” and fireworks!

The Davenport Memorial Pool was donated by Misses Naomi and Catherine Davenport, nieces of the original landowner, Bailey Davenport. The pool was made by the Mott Iron works, arriving in Rock Island by train from New York. At the top of the basin was a girl with a raised hand. At the second level were eight small figures spraying water which drained into a 16-sided pool.

An octagonal band stand and pavilion, built by the upper lagoon, contained flush toilets in the basement, then a novelty to many Rock Islanders. Long time librarian Helen Marshall remembers promenading around the lagoon on Sunday afternoons in the '20s and '30s with her friends in their best dresses.

In 1917 the Chalet, originally called the Inn, was constructed as a cafe and gathering place. Local architect George Stauduhar designed the building using a chalet plan purchased from Swiss-born architect Frederick Ehrsam of Reading, PA. John Volk, a local contractor, completed construction for \$10,000. The picturesque building held to its Swiss precedents by being constructed of stucco with half timbering and decorative bargeboards. The northernmost part of the building featured a large room with marbled wainscoting and a frescoed ceiling. The southern part of the building was purposed as family quarters for the caterers. The building was utilized for a variety of purposes throughout its life, including as a preschool and recently as employee housing.

In 1921, Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Horst donated a children's pool on the hillside of the park in memory of their daughter Helen, who tragically drowned in the Rock River. Mr. Horst, a local contractor, attended to every detail of the 30 x 80 feet structure. Some of the seating and the dressing room building (now restrooms) remain today.

Longview Park has long been a place of beauty and majestic views, a wonderful location for play and rest, and a source of pride for the City of Rock Island.

Submitted by Jaan Sturgis

*Take a moment to revisit the historic features of Longview Park
as featured in the RIPS “Postcards From Home” at
www.rockislandpreservation.org/postcards/.*

2017 DAY OF CARING AT THE LONG VIEW PARK CHALET

Days of Caring 2017

This year RIPS, in cooperation with the Rock Island Parks Department and United Way, coordinated two work days to spruce up the Long View Park Chalet in preparation for its 100th birthday celebration.

Day one involved scraping the peeling paint off of the lower brown walls, repainting them, and removing the dilapidated screens that had been added to the porch. Overgrown shrubs and brush were removed and new landscaping plants and mulch were installed.

The second work day involved scraping and repainting the porch, building new steps for the front door, and repainting the shutters and gables.



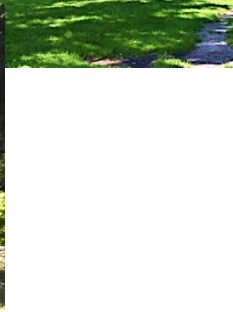
We thank the nearly 50 volunteers for their hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication to preserve the little chalet on top of the hill.



Before



After



Photos and article by Marty Bush

ROCK ISLAND'S NEW DEAL LEGACY

In the depths of the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt implemented a variety of federally sponsored programs that put thousands of jobless Americans back to work. These New Deal programs resulted in hundreds of thousands of roads, schools, theaters, libraries, post offices, parks, forests and artworks that are still in use today.

A mere five weeks after Roosevelt's inauguration in 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was not only established, but had enrolled its first worker. The mission of the CCC was to put unemployed, impoverished young men to work in parks, forests and soil conservation projects across the country. And within two months over 253,000 men were serving in military style camps in all 48 states and territories. While the CCC was originally designed for unmarried men ages 18 to 25, WWI veterans were added to the program in later that year.



Interior of Watchtower Lodge at Black Hawk State Park. Designed by state architect Joseph Booton in 1932, the lodge was built by the CCC in 1933-1935. To the right of the stone fireplace is one of two WPA murals by Otto Hake, both located in the main hall. Photos from www.LivingNewDeal.org

We had a CCC camp right here in Rock Island at Black Hawk Park. Our camp was established on December 6, 1933, and was populated by WWI veterans. The men received food, shelter, medical care, and \$30 per month, \$25 of which was sent home to their dependents. The men in the camp constructed all their own camp buildings and then proceeded to shape the park as we know it today. They built hiking trails, shelters, and the magnificent park lodge designed by state architect Joseph Booton, all constructed entirely from locally sourced limestone and timber. On May 25, 1935, the camp moved on to Decatur, Illinois, having developed a beautiful park and provided much needed support for our local economy.

In 1933 monies came to the Rock Island Arsenal from the Civil Workers Administration (CWA) to widen Rodman Avenue. The following year, the Arsenal received \$375,000 in Public Works Administration (PWA) monies for additions and repairs across the island. In 1935, a CCC camp was stationed on the island working on landscaping and drainage updates. Between 1937 and 1939 eight Workers Progress Administration (WPA) projects employed workers on the island to repair buildings and update plumbing, heating and electrical systems.

The December 31st edition of the 1936 Rock Island Argus recounted that a total of \$4,728,447 of PWA/WPA money came to Rock Island to fund in part Rock Island Senior High School (1400 25th Ave), Francis Willard School (2503 9th St) and a National Guard Armory along the banks of the Mississippi, demolished in 2009. The PWA focused on large projects. The WPA, the largest of the New Deal jobs programs, focused on smaller projects. In November of 1936 there were 65 men working on WPA projects in the city of Rock Island. In the summer months, the number of workers would reach as high as 125.

Two very special WPA buildings, both still standing, were built in the southeast quadrant of Long View Park. A unique three story Shelter and Garage building was built in 1936 into the hillside along 17th Street. The ground floor garage was accessed from 17th Street. The second floor provided storage and work space. The third story was an open picnic shelter with picnic tables, seating for 500 and a large fireplace, all of which could be accessed from inside the park. Over time the Shelter was enclosed and is now used for garage, storage and work space for the Parks Department. The Long View Conservatory was built just south of the Shelter the following year.



*Longview Park Conservatory
Photo from www.RIGov.org*



*Second of the two murals by Otto Hake, located in the Watchtower Lodge main hall
Photo from www.LivingNewDeal.org*

The WPA also hired unemployed artists and writers. Two murals painted in 1936 by WPA artist Otto Hake are now prominently displayed in the main room of the Lodge at Black Hawk State Historic Site. The murals depict the seasonal activities of the Sauk and Mesquakie Indian people.

The Great Depression lasted until we entered World War II. During this time, the programs of the New Deal provided jobs for millions of workers. But more than that, they provided hope. The parks, forests, buildings, writings and artworks that remain with us today are tangible examples of the quality of workmanship produced by these American workers who despite their circumstances took pride in hard work and a job well done.

Submitted by Linda Anderson