

1949

song My Heart Stood Still

Robert and Mary Lou Mittel were among the young couples who came to Wooddale seeking a small –town atmosphere in which to raise their family. Their first home on N. Oak was the same house in which our 1943 bride was married. They have raised 4 children...3 of whom you will meet this evening.

The Mittel's quickly learned that there is a price to pay for being part of a small-town...community involvement!

Robert Mittel quickly found his role. He enjoyed being a Wood Dale Lion and held many offices including President. In 1966 he was founder-Chairman of the Police Advisory Board, forerunner of the present Police and fire Commission. He was elected to 3 terms as Auditor of Addison Township and was the first person from Wood Dale to be elected Township Clerk since the formation of the Township in 1859. As Committeeman of Precinct 12 he was Chairman of the Republican Party in Addison Township for 12 years until his death in 1975 at age 49.

Mary Lou was a member of the committee, which started the first Kindergarten program in Wooddale in 1955. She was PTA President in 1959-60. She served 3 years as youth counselor and 10 years as Girl Scout Leader and Scout Council Delegate. In 1970, at the request of Mayor Ralph Hansen, she compiled a brief history of Wood Dale for a booklet distributed at the dedication of the Municipal Building.

In 1971 she called her friends together to Charter the Wood Dale Historical Society, served as the first President and is Curator of the Museum. She was the 1976 recipient of the Wood Dale Jr Women's Club first "Woman of the Year" award.

In 1977 at the request of Mayor Jerry Greer, she accepted appointment to the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners, the first woman to hold this post. She resigned to accept another appointment, to the DuPage County Zoning Board of Appeals. She was and is the first woman to hold this position. In 1978 the second presentation of "Yesterday's Brides" began a year of celebration of Wood Dales's 50th Anniversary. We know what she is doing in 1983...she is telling the story of Wood Dale!