

## ODDS AND ENDS OF INFORMATION ABOUT WOOD DALE

By Mary Lou Mittel

1. During President Schwass' two-year term, the streetlights along Wood Dale and Irving Park Roads were installed. An evening ceremony was held and residents stood in the street for the first "lighting of Wood Dale."
2. William Keller, the first Fire Chief, offered to mortgage his home to buy the first fire truck. Later he told how the truck was driven through town with horn honking, calling people from their homes. They made pledges to pay for the truck, making Mr. Keller's noble gesture unnecessary. The truck cost \$750.00.
3. Elmer Kurz, township auditor (?) provided the house number system for Wood Dale. This eliminated the necessity of long directions when calling the Marshall or Fire Department.
4. The Fire Department in 1956 built the building on south Wood Dale Road, north of the Church of the Holy Ghost near Irving Park Road. The firemen were self-supporting with carnivals, dances, and rent from the hall. It is now the Wood Dale Post Office.
5. Dr. Richard Jentzsch, DDS, Mayor of Wood Dale from 1943-1947, helped many Wood Dale children with orthodontistry when he worked from his home on Forest View following his retirement. During his term, the completion of the house numbering system took place to aid the fire and postal service, installed crossing lights, paved Wood Dale Road north of the railroad tracks, and started street lighting for incorporated Wood Dale.
6. Herbert Gilbert, Mayor of Wood Dale 1951-1959, and 1963-1967, was the only mayor to serve three terms. Because he had a cooperative council, his term saw many of the changes necessary for the growing village. He instituted a village office, created revenue with business licenses, a \$2.50 vehicle sticker, then by general consent raised to \$5.00 to pay for oiling of the then-graveled roads and allowed for the construction of additional roads. He hired a road superintendent and purchased road equipment, which was purchased with money borrowed, interest-free from private citizens. He began a mosquito abatement program, dusting by airplane, which was successful, but residents worried about possible tree damage. He established a health department through the combined efforts of county and village because of the health hazard caused by lack of proper sewage treatment. Newcomers were building, and many found drain tiles installed by farmers and hooked the sewer tiles to them instead of installing septic fields. He passed a \$300,000.00 bond issue and saw building (?) completed before the new-elected Mayor John Murray took office. He created the Police Department with Harold Sargent as Chief, then Adolph Sofka in 1952-1959. The first apartment buildings were built on Division Street.

7. South Wood Dale Road was graveled from Irving Park Road to Lake Street in 1916.
8. Ice was harvested from Salt Creek and stored in a house with walls 18 to 24 inches thick. The ice was layered with and covered with straw. The house stood on the south side of Irving Park, next to the tracks, not sure exactly where.

oddsends.doc