



Phyllis Fowlie, designer of our Village Flag accepting a savings bond from Dave Owen, 1976 President of Kiwanis Club of SCH.



Village Hall Building, 1927. Take note of the fire fighting apparatus.

## The Past ...



...to

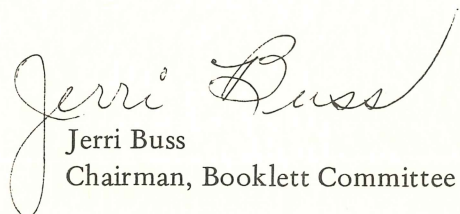


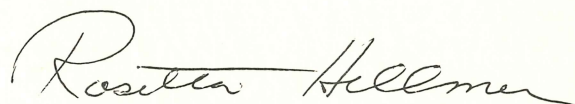
## The Present

## Our Thanks . . .

We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to gather information for this booklet. We want to thank, particularly, Louise A. Michalek, Charlie Praxmarer, Mary Burgel Barman, Lyle Buss, Bill Hellmer, Gini Ogibovic, Diane Gura, Mary Schmitt, Sharon Norris, Reba Robertson, Joseph Bonadona, Bea White, and Ruth Ohlendorf.

We've had a lot of fun compiling this booklet, even though it's been hard work and taken up a lot of time over the last ten months. This attempt at bringing you, the residents of South Chicago Heights, a short insight into your past is only the highlights; much, much more could be written, if time and talent were available.

  
Jerri Buss  
Chairman, Booklett Committee

  
Rosetta Hellmer  
Chairman, Bi-Centennial Committee

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 16, 1976

We now mark the beginning of our Third Century as an Independent Nation as well as the 200th Anniversary of the American Revolution. For two centuries our Nation has grown, changed and flourished. A diverse people, drawn from all corners of the earth, have joined together to fulfill the promise of democracy.

America's Bicentennial is rich in history and in the promise and potential of the years that lie ahead. It is about the events of our past, our achievements, our traditions, our diversity, our freedoms, our form of government and our continuing commitment to better life for all Americans. The Bicentennial offers each of us the opportunity to join with our fellow citizens in honoring the past and preparing for the future in communities across the Nation. Thus, in joining together as races, nationalities, and individuals, we also retain and strengthen our traditions, background and personal freedom.

As we lay the cornerstone of America's Third Century, I commend the officers and members of the Village of South Chicago Heights Bi-Centennial Committee on their Bicentennial activities. Efforts such as this are helping to make our great national celebration a memorable and meaningful one for all.





STATE OF ILLINOIS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHICAGO 60601

DAN WALKER  
GOVERNOR

August 8, 1976

South Chicago Heights Bi-Centennial Committee  
2729 Jackson Avenue  
South Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Greetings:

As Governor of Illinois in our Bicentennial Year, I wish to extend to the people of South Chicago Heights my warm personal greetings.

The 200th birthday America celebrates this year means so much more than fireworks, festivities and an exercise in nostalgia. It is a time for each of us to pause and reflect upon our strong national heritage. It is an opportunity for each of us to reaffirm our commitment to the ideals upon which this nation was founded; to review and reapply the values set forth by our founders to those challenges we will meet in future years.

The development of your village, founded on the Sauk Trail, an old Indian track, exemplifies one of our nations greatest strengths--the ability of our varied nationalities to live, work and grow together as brothers and neighbors.

I am confident that the values and traditions we have carried forth these 200 years will see our nation through its third century, a strong and resilient people.

Sincerely,

*Dan Walker*

# VILLAGE OF SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS

2729 JACKSON AVENUE  
SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60411

SK 5-1880

TRUSTEES  
Joseph Bonadona  
Felix Cristello  
Dominic Fiorenzo  
James Morgan  
Henry Nicolai  
David Owen

DONALD A. PRISCO - *Village President*  
BEATRICE WHITE - *Village Clerk*

TELEPHONES  
Village Clerk  
SK 5-1880  
Police Dept.  
SK 4-7131  
Fire Dept.  
SK 4-7131

To The Citizens of the Village of South Chicago Heights:

As we join in the Bi-Centennial commemoration of our Nation, the past is brought to mind. Our Village, established in 1907, can be proud of its part in the growth of a great Nation.

In this, the 200th year of our Nations' inception, we find ourselves pausing to reflect upon our past. To establish where we have been and affirm where we are going. Along the way many of the original goals were lost, many new strengths found.

As your Village President, it is my sincere desire to serve the citizens of the Village and to achieve our goal of making South Chicago Heights one of the best communities in the South Suburbs.

Very truly yours,

*Donald A. Prisco*

Donald A. Prisco  
Village President

# Village of South Chicago Heights, Illinois

## HISTORICAL NOTES OF OUR VILLAGE

The history of South Chicago Heights, before the coming of the white man, is practically the same as that of all other towns in this part of the country, one Indian tribe holding the land for a time until driven out by a more powerful tribe, the last to hold the territory being the warlike Pottawatomies, who were responsible for the massacre of Fort Dearborn in 1812. The Sauk Trail was originally a Buffalo Trail before the Indians came.

At the historic intersection of Sauk Trail and Dixie Highway (Chicago Road) in 1833 the first permanent white settler chose to make his home. Arriving from Ohio with his wife and small son, Adam Brown halted his ox-drawn covered wagon there. This was his home until his death 60 years later. He erected a log cabin with trees that he had removed to clear the land for farming. It was the spring of the year when Brown arrived, and the flowering wild fruit trees were in blossom. At this site, Adam Brown and his wife had a baby daughter, Lovina, the first white child born in this territory.

Here Brown operated an inn. Sold in 1906 to the Burgel family, the inn was owned by the Burgels until 1968, when the corner was sold and the old landmark demolished to make way for a fourth service station at Brown's "four corners." Today the service station is known as Landmark Service Station.

On the Southwest Corner of Sauk Trail and Dixie Highway was the site of the first service station on Sauk Trail and to our area. It was owned by Johnson Bros. and was called Johnson Gasoline. There was one little catch in buying gasoline at that time — they called it "*Gasolene*." This was an advertising gimmick of the times to attract people to buy their gas. Presently the service station on the previously mentioned site is Bob Ranieri's Standard Service and has been for many years. Johnson Bros. Refinery was also located within the Village on Jackson Avenue.

The Village of South Chicago Heights presently employs 21 regular employees and 7 C.E.T.A. (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) employees. During the summer months the Village employs approximately 8 high school students to work part time. Village Hall is located at 2729 Jackson Avenue. The population is 4,923 as of the 1970 Census.

Located along Dixie Highway (Chicago Road) to the north and south, and Sauk Trail to the east and west, the Village boundaries are 26th Street to the North, Ashland Avenue to the West, 34th Street to the South, and Frederick Road to the East. The boundary goes south 500 feet on Frederick Road off of Sauk Trail.

## BIRTH OF OUR VILLAGE

On May 7, 1907, citizens from the Hannah and Keeney Subdivision to Chicago Heights adopted the Trustee form of government at a public meeting



Browns Corner, The Burgel House, Sauk Trail and Chicago Road, Northwest Corner shortly after the turn of the Century.



Built by Anton Praxmarer in 1910, the original building still stands on the Southwest corner of 27th Street and Chicago Road. The smallest child standing on the front porch is our present Village Administrator, Charles Praxmarer.

held at the C. & E. I. Railroad passenger station formerly located at 29th Street. The following officers presided at the first meeting:

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Village President ..... | John F. Hansen   |
| Village Clerk .....     | John W. Terre    |
| Village Trustees:       |                  |
| W. G. Caldwell          | John E. Sjolholm |
| W. E. Mattox            | Louis Terre      |
| Geo. Mischler           | Peter Terre      |

The first Annual Appropriation Ordinance was adopted July 30, 1907, and specified that \$2,300 was to be raised by taxes and \$1,500 by Saloon License, to defray necessary expenses of the newly created village. Saloon licenses were granted to Michael Burgel, Mary Koeln, and Fred Schroeder.

### ? DID YOU KNOW?

Charles E. Schroeder was our first Village Marshal.  
 Anton Praxmarer, contractor by trade, became the first Village Treasurer in 1908. His son, Charles, carrying on family tradition, was a Village Trustee for awhile and now holds the position of Village Administrator. To carry on family tradition further, Anton's grandson, Donald Prisco, is our Village President.

### 1908

The First Annual Election was held April 21, 1908, with 82 votes cast. The following officers were elected:

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Village President ..... | Samuel W. Flint |
| Village Clerk .....     | G. W. Fanson    |
| Village Trustees:       |                 |
| Michael Burgel          | George Boehl    |
| Joseph Kloss            | George Mischler |
| John Pfeifer            | Peter Terre     |
| Village Treasurer ..... | Anton Praxmarer |
| Police Magistrate ..... | Chas. Schroeder |

President Flint's plan for a Village Hall at 2835 Jackson Avenue was adopted August 4, 1908. Floor plans and specifications were drawn by Trustee Kloss.

### CHRONOLOGY OF PAST PRESIDENTS

In the 70-year history of the village board, 11 men have had the honor to serve as village presidents.

They are John F. Hansen, 1907-1908; Samuel W. Flint, 1908-1912; George Cassatt, 1912-1917; Christian Mager, 1917-1919; Emil A. Barnick, 1919-1923; Fred W. Hartmann, 1923-1929; George A. Hahn, 1929-1935; Nicholas Terre, 1935-1941; Harry Rabe, 1941-1951; Rennie R. Smith, 1951-1969; and Donald A. Prisco, 1969 to the present.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 1911 Village Water works was installed, consisting of a pump and a tank.
- 1920 Mrs. Hattie Keeney leased her water well to the village; it was purchased in 1923 and is one of the present water pumping stations.
- 1926 Bids for our present Village Hall were opened; contract was awarded to Yung & Frintz. The old Village Hall was sold to Stephen Vavrus. Additions to the Village Hall were made in 1954 and again in 1969.
- 1947 Mrs. Hattie Keeney donated the land south of the Village Hall for a park.
- 1959
  - August 17th  
The Fire Department presented a Warrantee Deed to the Village for Lot 5 in Block 9, directly south of the present Village Park. This is the parcel of land where the cars are parked for the annual Firemen's Homecoming and where the water-ball fights are held.
  - September 21st  
The Village Board approved the building of a shopping center south of American Savings Bank, to house the Jewel Tea Co. store. At the present time, the bank is known as the American National Bank, and the Jewel has moved across the street into a larger building. The old Jewel store now houses several offices and a restaurant.
  - December 7th  
Gordon Johnson, Builder, was granted a building permit for a building to be known as Sauk Trail Manor Subdivision Shopping Center. The name of the area has since been changed to LaPetit Plaza and has some 10 businesses in it.
- 1976 There are about 170 businesses within our Village. We have several good restaurants, retail stores, steel manufacturing plants, wood product manufacturers — almost every service is available from barber shops to auto repairs. Any service or product you may need can be found within your Village. Consult the business listing within this book for a partial listing.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT



June 3, 1909, a group of citizens gathered together for the purpose of organizing a Volunteer Fire Department. The meeting was conducted by Charles Allgood, Temporary Chairman, and G. W. Fanson, Temporary Secretary.

On a unanimous motion the following volunteers were acknowledged to be Charter Members:

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| C. Allgood   | C. McDonald  |
| G. Cassatt   | G. Michler   |
| J. A. Cook   | J. Pfeifer   |
| G. W. Fanson | J. Pickard   |
| S. W. Flint  | A. Praxmarer |
| J. Kloss     | H. Toepfer   |

W. F. Wiederhold

After formal nominations had been completed the following officers were elected:

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| R. H. Hopkins . . . . . | Fire Chief           |
| G. Cassatt . . . . .    | Secretary-Treasurer  |
| J. A. Cook . . . . .    | Assistant Fire Chief |
| J. Pickard . . . . .    | Lieutenant           |

To this group of men our Village is indebted for starting a very vital service.

**DID YOU KNOW? ?**

The first fire whistle was installed at the Old Tile Yard on March 28, 1910. Negotiations for the purchase of a fire hose cart commenced December 28, 1911. The following year the hose cart was stored in a little shanty next to what is now Ross's Tavern. This cart was hand drawn.

In 1932, Fire Truck No. 1 was purchased at a cost of \$7,000.00. It was capable of pumping 500 gallons per minute. Fire Truck No. 2 was purchased in 1944 through the co-operative efforts of the Office of Civilian Defense, the Bloom High School Welding & Machine Shop pupils, with installation by the firemen. Neither of these trucks are in use today.

Fire Department equipment presently consists of:

- Truck No. 762 — 1954 Howe pumper, 500 gallon tank and can pump at the rate of 500 gallons per minute.
- Truck No. 763 — 1962 Chevrolet van used as a back-up inhalator.
- Truck No. 764 — 1968 American LaFrance, 500 gallon tank with a capacity to pump at the rate of 1,250 gallons per minute. Has a gasoline engine.
- Truck No. 761 — 1972 American LaFrance, 500 gallon tank with a capacity to pump at the rate of 1,250 gallons per minute. Has a diesel engine.
- Truck No. 766 — 1976 G.M.C., 350 engine, used as inhalator and rescue truck, non-transporting.
- Mobile Light Plant — for accidents, night fires, etc.

There are presently 8 E.M.T.'s (Emergency Medical Technicians) on the Fire Department. The Fire Department year runs from November 1 to October 31, and has 5 elected officers, elected yearly on the first Tuesday

in May. There are 35 volunteer firemen, 5 reserves, and one full time fireman. The full time fireman, Emidio "Bugs" Bartolomei, started in September, 1973.

The Fire Department answered 144 calls in the year 1976, compared to the year 1968 when there were approximately 60 calls.

Additions were made to the Fire House in 1954 and 1969.



**VILLAGE GOVERNMENT**

The village government consists of a Village President, Clerk, and six Trustees. They are elected every four years.

Village officials currently holding office are:

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Donald A. Prisco . . . . .   | Village President                       |
| Beatrice White . . . . .     | Village Clerk                           |
| Joseph Bonadona . . . . .    | Village Trustee (Buildings and Grounds) |
| Dominic Fiorenzo . . . . .   | Village Trustee (Streets and Alleys)    |
| James Morgan . . . . .       | Village Trustee (Police and Fire)       |
| Henry Nicolai . . . . .      | Village Trustee (Finance)               |
| David Owen . . . . .         | Village Trustee (Water and Sewers)      |
| Felix Cristello . . . . .    | Village Trustee (Parks and Recreation)  |
| Charles Praxmarer . . . . .  | Village Administrator                   |
| *Carmine Prisco . . . . .    | Building Inspector                      |
| Rennie Smith III . . . . .   | Police Chief                            |
| Donald Arnell . . . . .      | Village Attorney                        |
| James E. Mulford . . . . .   | Village Engineer                        |
| Dr. Charles Baer . . . . .   | Health Officer                          |
| Angelo J. Petrarca . . . . . | Fire Chief                              |

**In Memoriam**

\* Mr. Carmine Prisco, Village Building Inspector, born August 17, 1921, died January 1, 1977. Mr. Prisco worked for the village from 1968 until his death. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.



**Present Village Officials:** Seated, Donald A. Prisco, Village President; Beatrice White, Village Clerk. Standing, left to right, Village Trustees Dominic Fiorenzo, Felix (Phil) Cristello, Henry Nicolai, David Owen, Joseph Bonadona, James Morgan.



**[Left]:** Angelo Petrarca, Fire Chief  
**[Right]:** Rennie Smith III, Police Chief

Saukview's enrollment has fluctuated from as few as 234 in 1957 to as many as 650 in 1966. Presently there are 450 students enrolled in grades kindergarten through six. The staff has increased from eight classroom teachers to 17 classroom teachers and seven members in the areas of special education and fine arts.

### GRANT SCHOOL

Grant School, District 170, was located originally on 26th Street where the present Suburban Convalescent Center is now. The original building was constructed in 1910, made of brick and stone. The building sat on 1.09 acres of land and the total grounds consisted of 1.27 acres. The first building had only a first floor and basement, and grades one thru two went there. Within the next few years there was a second floor built and accommodated thru grade four.

The property was known as U. S. Grant site, lot 14, block 2, Interocean Subdivision in South Chicago Heights 200 feet on 26th Street and extended thru Interocean. The original lot cost was \$5,320.00 and the building cost was \$18,250.00. The building and its furnishings were only insured for \$17,700.00. Before this building, all the children went to Chicago Heights for school.

In the late 1950's new Grant was opened at 27th and Miller Avenue. It consists of 15 rooms, a gym, and a library. Fourteen rooms are now used for an enrollment of 298 students.

Students of South Chicago Heights attend Bloom High School District 206, which consists of two schools: Bloom Trail and Bloom Township High Schools. For higher learning within the area, students may attend Prairie State College or Governors State University.

### NORTHERN ILLINOIS GAS

The evolution of the natural gas industry in Northern Illinois Gas area can be traced back more than 120 years, to 1855, the year Ottawa Gas, Light & Coke Company first began selling gas manufactured from coal.

However, the turning point for the growth of gas service in South Chicago Heights, like all of NI-Gasland, came in 1931 with the arrival of a major natural gas pipeline from the Southwest.

Once the area of the old gas plant and facilities which for years had been manufacturing gas from coal, the Village of South Chicago Heights continues to be a thriving NI-Gas community. NI-Gas' first record of a gas franchise with the village dates back to February 5, 1945. During that time John Grzdis, Jr., Village Clerk, along with Harry Rabe, Village President, signed the franchise which, for 40 years, would govern gas service in the area. Over 440 customers were served by the Public Service Company of Northern Illinois, NI-Gas' predecessor company in 1945.

In 1959, a territory realignment saw the community of South Chicago Heights, along with 57 other communities located in the Blue Island-Harvey

and Chicago Heights-Kankakee area combined under a new company office called Eastern Division.

Today, Eastern Division serves over 212,000 customers and 1,407 of those are in South Chicago Heights.

In joining the Village in their Bicentennial year we are proud of the contributions that NI-Gas has made to the area and we look forward to many more years of helpful service.

### ILLINOIS BELL

March 10, 1976, marked the start of a year-long centennial celebration of Alexander Graham Bell's invention of the telephone.

In Chicago Heights, telephone service was introduced in 1894 when the Chicago Telephone Company, Illinois Bell's predecessor, established a toll station in the Chicago Heights Land Association office. This was simply an attended public telephone but it allowed communication with the growing Chicago telephone exchange. Mr. M. H. Kilgallen was manager of the Chicago Heights Land Association and also the first manager of the telephone office.

A year later, 1895, local exchange service was provided to 33 Chicago Heights residents.

In 1902, the company constructed a central office building at 1606 Otto Boulevard. By 1905, this office was providing exchange service to Richton Park, Matteson, Glenwood, Steger and Crete, as well as the area that is now South Chicago Heights.

By 1926, the 50th anniversary of the first successful transmission of sound over wire, Illinois Bell was serving more than 4,000 telephones from its Chicago Heights office.

Today there are 47,000 customers in Illinois Bell's Chicago Heights and Park Forest exchanges.

During one busy hour of an average business day, more than 60,000 telephone calls are handled in this area.

### KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS

The Kiwanis Club of South Chicago Heights was organized in October, 1952. Sponsors were the Kiwanis Clubs of Steger and Chicago Heights. Initial officers were: Joseph Paradiso, President; and William Hoecker, Secretary.

Presidents for the ensuing years were: 1953, Joseph Paradiso; 1954, Jerome Nicolas; 1955, Henry Nicolai; 1956, the late Carmine Prisco; 1957, Roy Gouty; 1958, Robert Leiteritz; 1959, William Ranieri; 1960, the late Walter Malins; 1961, Dominic Fiorenzo; 1962, John Segala; 1963, Vernon Rippe; 1964, Alex Krause; 1965, Richard Bock; 1966, Rollin Bell; 1967, John Schmueck; 1968, Daniel Lindsay; 1969, Donald Prisco; 1970, John Calamari; 1971, Charles Palmer; 1972, William Hoecker; 1973, Richard Bock; 1974, Francis Casey; 1975, Ray Whitten; 1976, David Owen.

Kiwanis Clubs, throughout the world, are dedicated to public service and

are not-for-profit organizations.

In 1953 the club was responsible for the purchase and installation of the first street signs in the village.

Services performed annually are: Christmas food baskets for the needy in the village ... Scholarship awards to two students (local) graduating from either or both Bloom and Marian High Schools ... Contributions to the Spastic Research Foundation ... Christmas Party for the youth of the Village ... Support for the local Little League Baseball ...

These are only a few of the many services sponsored or contributed to by your local Kiwanis Club.

In this Bicentennial year we wish to take this opportunity to thank the citizens and businesses of South Chicago Heights for their support over these many years.

### THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chicago Heights Chapter 252, was organized in 1946. Harry Parkin was Commander from 1946 to 1948.

The Commander for 1976-77 is Julius Heft. The present membership totals 127.

The Chapter opened in their present clubrooms in February, 1951.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary, Unit 252, was organized in December, 1950. The first President was Elsie Parkin. The president for 1976-77 is Nancy Labaj.

From a small membership of 23 in 1950 they have grown to 110 members today.

The Viola is the official flower of the Purple Heart and each fall members distribute Violas in local communities to raise funds for their extensive hospital programs.

The objectives of the organizations are to assist all Purple Heart Medal holders and to perpetuate the memory of all deceased Purple Heart Medal holders.

George Washington was the founder of the first United States Military Decoration, known as the Purple Heart.



### THE CHURCHES OF SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS

#### TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Temple Baptist Church began as a mission in March, 1954, in a rented store at 23rd and Union. It organized as a church in September, 1954, with 38 charter members. In 1956 land was purchased and building begun on a new parsonage and church at Sauk Trail and Euclid in South Chicago Heights.

June, 1958, saw the members moving into their new church; dedication day was September 14, 1958.

February, 1968 the church purchased additional property on Sauk Trail.



September 14, 1971, was a big day in the history of the church — it was "Note-Burning Day". The indebtedness on the Church building was paid in full.

June 9, 1974, the ground-breaking for the new education building was held. Grand Opening Sunday for this new building was January 26, 1975; there was a record attendance of 384 for worship that day. The new building was dedicated March 23, 1975.

In December, 1976, the church closed the deal for the property west of the church, approximately 3½ acres. The Planning Committee sees this land being used for parking, a bus barn, eventual expansion of the building, and recreation.

The membership has grown to over 435; Rev. Gerald Steffy has served this group since 1971.

Temple Baptist Church has helped other missions, one of which is the Spanish Mission, Chicago Heights. They have an active Youth Program, Keenager for senior citizens, and many other activities.

#### **FOUR SQUARE GOSPEL CHURCH**

A tent revival conducted by 3 young women evangelists was the beginning for the Four Square Gospel Church in 1933. After several months in the tent winter forced them into a rented store. After a few years, they purchased a building on Chicago Road between 23rd and 24th. In the early 1950's, the church in Chicago Heights was built. They then built the parsonage at 2918 Commercial.

A few years later they purchased additional lots.

In 1973 the church started a Day School Nursery and in 1975 added a Kindergarten. With the start of school in 1976, they added Grade 1. The school now employs 8 full-time paid teachers. Principal of the school is Miss Cheryl Dearing.

Present membership is 323; the Rev. Fast came to the church in 1971. There is a full time Assistant Pastor, Rev. Harvey. The Youth Director is Rev. Chandler West.

#### **FIRST GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

The first service of the First General Baptist Church was held in the home of Mrs. Leroy Scott, Richton Park, Illinois, January 6, 1957. A building in Crete was rented in February, 1957, and continued there for several months. There were 12 charter members when the mission was organized to become the First General Baptist Church on March 10, 1957 by the Rev. Howard.

In the latter part of 1957 the church building at 94 West 30th Street, South Chicago Heights, was rented, and purchased in October, 1958. In July, 1971, additional property was purchased and construction on a new building begun. The church moved into their new building in January, 1973, and the old building was demolished.

The present Pastor is Rev. Raymond Beaty.

#### **FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH**

Fellowship Baptist Church started as a mission on September 8, 1968, with a group of five families meeting in the home of one of the members. The First Baptist Church of Thornton sponsored the Mission.

On May 25, 1969, the Mission was constituted into a Church with 73 members.

At the beginning of 1970 the present building at 148 West 26th Street, South Chicago Heights was purchased from the Church of the Nazarene.

The Church sponsored a Mission at Beacon Hill in the fall of 1972 and this was constituted into a Church in April of 1975.

The building was remodeled in 1973. Present membership totals about 375.



## COMPLIMENTARY PAGE

The following people made contributions to help defray the expense of publishing this booklet.

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THE BUSS FAMILY, LYLE, JERRI, JOHN, TIM  
PHIL & SHARON CRISTELLO  
STAN & MILLIE COMINICK  
DOMINIC & VIOLA FIORENZO  
VITAUT, MARGARET & BRIDGET GRUZDIS  
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SAUK TRAIL DRIVE-IN THEATRE  
SCHROEDER'S SALES & SERVICE

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Academy Aqua Sports, 2838 Chicago Road – *Scuba Sales and Instruction*  
Ace Budget Center, 3310 Chicago Road . . . . . 755-2525  
Acme Auto Electric Co., 2626 Chicago Road . . . . . 754-5420  
Aide Rentals, 186 West Sauk Trail . . . . . 756-4020  
All American Screw Co., 3314 Butler Street. . . . . 754-4900  
American National Bank "A Better Way to Bank" . . . . . 756-2815  
American Plaza House of Beauty, 3330 Chicago Road . . . . . 755-8848  
Andy's Courtesy Liquor Mart, 3121 Chicago Road. . . . . 755-9889  
Anonymous  
Archie's Casual Dining, 162 West Sauk Trail. . . . . 755-6948  
B & F Engineering, 210 East Sauk Trail . . . . . 758-7899  
B & F Fabricating, Inc., 210 East Sauk Trail . . . . . 758-7878  
Baum's Body Shop, 220 East Sauk Trail. . . . . 758-7740  
Ben Franklin, American Plaza . . . . . 755-4347  
Bob's Sewer Service, 3116 Jackson Ave. . . . . 755-8080  
M. Cappelletti & Sons Construction, 3275 Butler Street . . . . . 756-3320  
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Carrier Electric Co., 2713 Jackson Ave. . . . . 755-7700  
A. M. Carson, Ltd. *Signs & Advertising*. . . . . 755-9042  
Anthony G. Catullo, Attorney at Law, American Nat'l. Bank Plaza . . . . . 755-8555  
Cheker Oil Company, 2701 Jackson Ave. . . . . 754-5895  
Chicago Heights Pattern & Model Works, Inc., 3244 Butler Street . . . . . 755-8200  
Cipolla-Zerante Floor Covering, 3033 Chicago Road. . . . . 754-8854  
Cliff & Tony's Auto Repair, 3029 Jackson Ave. . . . . 756-0808  
Cosmos Tool & Die Co., Inc., 111 East 34th Street. . . . . 756-1400  
Dixie Plumbing Supply, 120 East Sauk Trail . . . . . 755-0232  
Do-Rite Die & Engineering Co., Inc., 3344 Butler Street . . . . . 754-4355  
Dual Office Suppliers, 2836 Chicago Road . . . . . 754-3010  
Earl's Appliances, Inc., 3359 Chicago Road . . . . . 755-1422  
Emil's TV & Appliances, 643 Halsted . . . . . 754-1400  
Exteriors of Time *Siding – Windows – Doors*. . . . . 754-1616  
Exteriors of Time *Venetian Blinds – Awnings* . . . . . 754-1616  
Frankie's Foods, 2638 Chicago Road  
Giroux Signs "Happy 200th Birthday". . . . . 756-2089  
Goeder-Henrichsen Co., Inc., 29th & State Street . . . . . 757-5030  
Hazel's Tavern & Grill, 33 West Sauk Trail  
James Herr & Sons Repairing, 17 Paulsen Ave. . . . . 754-3490  
Edward Hines Lumber Co., 3220 East End Ave., P.O. Box 595. . . . . 754-0123  
Hoecker's Maytag Home Appliance Center, 2830 Chicago Road . . . . . 755-0522  
Illinois T.V. & Appliances, 2726 Chicago Road . . . . . 754-3176  
Impact Travel Service, 1035 Sterling Drive, Flossmoor. . . . . 799-0112  
Jewel Food Stores, 3220 Chicago Road . . . . . 755-7372

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Junkunc Bros., American Lock Co., Exchange Rd. & Kedzie Ave., Crete, 60417 |                     |
| Kirby Vacuum Cleaners <i>Repair on All Makes</i> . . . . .                 | 754-3551            |
| Kiwanis Club of So. Chicago Heights, 3009 Chicago Road, Steger             |                     |
| Lando's Meats, Inc., 3355 Chicago Road. . . . .                            | 754-2113            |
| Lang's Auto Parts, 2801 Chicago Road. . . . .                              | 755-8000            |
| Little Sam's Place, 2826 Chicago Road. . . . .                             | 754-2190            |
| Victor Martello & Co., Realtors, 1036 Halsted . . . . .                    | 754-3244            |
| Marty's Auto Sales, 3210 East End Ave. . . . .                             | 755-5942            |
| Marvell Restaurant <i>Banquets to 325</i> , 3323 Chicago Road . . . . .    | 755-4300            |
| Meidell GMC Truck, Inc., 3025 East End Ave. . . . .                        | 754-4433            |
| Mr. Plaza Laundromat & Dry Cleaners, 3322 Chicago Road. . . . .            | 754-1090            |
| Muench Millwork Co., 2641 Jackson Ave. . . . .                             | 754-2108            |
| Joseph P. Paradiso Insurance Agency, 3317 Chicago Road . . . . .           | 755-9122            |
| Plastic Converters, Inc., 51 East 34th Street. . . . .                     | 756-2240            |
| Plaza Stationers & Office Suppliers, 172 West Sauk Trail . . . . .         | 754-3800            |
| Portion Packaging, Inc., 3345 Butler Ave. . . . .                          | 755-4483            |
| Carmine Prisco Construction Co., 3009 Jackson Ave. . . . .                 | 754-3009            |
| Maria Prisco Grocery, 3112 Chicago Road, So. Chicago Heights               |                     |
| Quinn Welding Supply Center, Inc., 3300 Butler Ave. . . . .                | 754-6415            |
| Bob Ranieri's Standard Service, Sauk Trail & Chicago Road. . . . .         | 754-9605            |
| Rex Standard, Inc., 25 East 34th Street . . . . .                          | 755-4500            |
| Ron's Market, 30 East Sauk Trail. . . . .                                  | 754-5520            |
| Reno A. Rosati <i>State Farm Insurance: Auto - Life - Fire - Health</i>    |                     |
| Al & Elsie Ross  |                     |
| S & S Service <i>Gas For Less</i> , 2910 Chicago Road . . . . .            | 756-3330            |
| Sam's Arco, Chicago Road & Sauk Trail . . . . .                            | 755-4090            |
| Sauk Steel Co., Inc., Sauk Trail & Butler Street. . . . .                  | 755-3900            |
| Sauk Trail Car Wash, Inc., 51 East Sauk Trail . . . . .                    | 754-2450            |
| Sauk Trail Drive-In Theatre, Sauk Trail . . . . .                          | 754-2505            |
| Sauk Trail Service Center, Chicago Road & Sauk Trail. . . . .              | 754-9513            |
| Schroeder's Sales & Service, 3009 Jackson Ave. . . . .                     | 756-6771            |
| Southtown Television & Appliances, Inc., 2922 Chicago Road                 |                     |
| Sta-Well Health Foods, American Plaza, 3332 Chicago Road . . . . .         | 755-1218            |
| Steger Auto Body, 3300 East End Ave. . . . .                               | 754-2470            |
| Suburban Convalescent Center, 120 West 26th Street . . . . .               | 756-5200            |
| Suburban Heating Company, 3017 Jackson Ave. . . . .                        | 755-5650 & 755-5651 |
| T.R.L. Tire Service, 3349 East End Ave. . . . .                            | 754-7909            |
| Ted Thorek Floor Covering, Inc., <i>Linoleum-Tile-Ceramics</i> . . . . .   | 755-2032            |
| Titan Manufacturing Co., 3327 Butler Street . . . . .                      | 756-2720            |
| Trophies & Awards Unlimited <i>Plaques and Awards</i> , 3038 Chicago Road  |                     |
| Uline Lawn Equipment <i>The Quality Lines Are at Ulines</i> . . . . .      | 755-2227            |
| Valentino's Restaurant & Pizza, 3130 Chicago Road. . . . .                 | 756-2470            |
| Variety Wine & Liquor, 166 West Sauk Trail . . . . .                       | 755-4050            |
| Mrs. M. Venn <i>Tri-Chem Liquid Embroidery</i> . . . . .                   | 754-4591            |
| Vero-Lite Candle Mfg. Co., 22330 Fredericks Road . . . . .                 | 758-7480            |
| WBM Inc., 3324 Chicago Road . . . . .                                      | 755-0710            |
| WCGO-WTAS, 3313 Chicago Road . . . . .                                     | 756-6100            |
| W. M. Walker   |                     |
| Walker Equipment & Supply, 3045 South Jackson Ave. . . . .                 | 754-7070            |

## DID YOU KNOW?

The following is the text of an ordinance taken from our Municipal Code book of 1925:

The license fee for each wagon or vehicle shall be as follows:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| One-horse wagon or vehicle. . . . .   | \$ 3.00 |
| Two-horse wagon or vehicle. . . . .   | 5.00    |
| Three-horse wagon or vehicle. . . . .   | 8.00    |
| Four-or-more horse wagon or vehicle. . . . .  | 10.00   |
| Motor Truck or commercial Motor Vehicle with a capacity not to exceed one Ton . . . . .   | 7.00    |
| Motor Truck or commercial Motor Vehicle with a capacity not to exceed two Tons. . . . .   | 12.00   |
| Motor Truck or commercial Motor Vehicle with a capacity not to exceed three Tons. . . . . | 16.00   |
| Motor Truck or commercial Motor Vehicle with a capacity exceeding three Tons . . . . .    | 20.00   |
| Taxi-Cab or Public Motor Vehicle. . . . .   | 25.00   |
| Pleasure motor vehicle . . . . .  | 4.00    |
| Motorcycle. . . . .   | 1.50    |
| Saddle horse. . . . .   | 1.50    |



**A Comparison of Real Estate Property Tax Rates  
for the Years 1956 and 1975**

|   | <i>Rate per \$100 Assessed<br/>Valuation as Equalized</i> |         |
|---|---|---------|
| Taxing Body:                            | 1956  | 1975    |
| School District #194                    | \$1.496   | \$2.362 |
| Bloom Township High School #206         | 1.074   | 2.142   |
| Community College District #515         | —0—   | .222    |
| Forest Preserve District of Cook County | .040  | .094    |
| Suburban T.B. Sanitarium                | .078  | .011    |
| Township of Bloom                       | —0—   | .066    |
| Road & Bridge, Bloom Township           | .058  | .070    |
| General Assistance, Bloom Township      | .086  | .091    |
| Bloom Township Sanitary District        | .224  | .458    |
| South Cook County                       |   |         |
| Mosquito Abatement Dist:                | .022  | .015    |
| Village of South Chicago Heights        | .320  | .576    |
| Steger-South Chicago Heights            |   |         |
| Public Library                          | —0—   | .150    |
| County of Cook                          | .272  | .384    |
| Hospital Governing Commission           | —0—   | .172    |
| Jt. Bond 170/173                        | .048  | —0—     |
|   | <hr/>   | <hr/>   |
| Total                                   | \$3.718   | \$6.813 |

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**



The Police Department was established in 1910 with one uniformed officer and three Special Police. Today, there are nine full-time sworn personnel, consisting of the Chief of Police, one Lieutenant, three Sergeants, and four Patrolmen. There are also three Clerk/Radio Operators and three Auxiliary Police Officers.

Throughout the years the Department relied on "Part-Time" Policemen. Ten years ago there were only four full-time police officers and ten part-time police officers. However, due to the ever-increasing crime rate, it was necessary to eliminate the part-time police and hire full-time personnel. Today, all of our police personnel are given substantial training in every aspect of law enforcement.

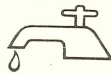
Until 1971, the Chicago Heights Police Department dispatched our radio communications to the patrol cars on the street twenty-four hours a day. It was at that time we began to dispatch from our station, five days a week, eight hours a day. Chicago Heights Police Department dispatched the other sixteen hours each day. In 1973 we began dispatching sixteen hours a day, seven days a week from our own station. Currently, Chicago Heights Police Department dispatches to our patrol cars eight hours a day.

One of the most significant innovations within the Police Department is the adoption of a new multi-community communications system. Planning for this system began in 1972 and we are currently operating under this communication system. Included in the network are South Chicago Heights, Chicago Heights, Steger, Crete, Sauk Village, and East Chicago Heights. The system is called Network One of Communications for Police Departments in Suburban Cook County. The total cost of the Network was \$350,000.00 for the six communities of which actual cost to each municipality was 5% of the total expenditure. The main purpose of this new system is to relieve the severe crowding of the present Police frequency shared by 35 communities.

Our Police Department facilities are periodically inspected by the State of Illinois, Department of Corrections, and we are proud to say our Department has been commended for having well-equipped, clean and modern facilities.

Rennie R. Smith III is the Chief of Police and has been serving in that capacity since February of 1966.

### WATER DEPARTMENT



The South Chicago Heights Village Water Department consists of 3 wells. Wells No. 1 and 2 were drilled in 1956 and are located at the rear of the Village Hall. Well No. 3 was drilled in 1967 and is located near Butler on Sauk Trail. The present water storage tanks are a 150,000 gallon tank at the Village Hall wells and a 250,000 gallon tank on Sauk Trail near Butler. The source of water is pumped by turbine pumps set at 253 feet. The quality of the water is good, although quite hard, which is typical of water obtained from the upper lime stone strata. The water has a hardness of 25.4 grains per gallon, 0.4 parts per million iron content and a total mineral content of 479 parts per million.

Water rates in the village are 35¢ per hundred cubic feet, with a minimum rate of \$3.50 for a 3 month billing period.

## In Memoriam

Mr. George Sanfratello was employed full time by the Water Department from 1970 until his sudden death on September 10, 1976. He was Superintendent the last 2 years.

Mr. Sanfratello lived at 3308 Lynwood Drive, in the village, for over 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie, and their four children, Cindy, George, Joan and Joey.

### STEGER—SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS LIBRARY DISTRICT

South Chicago Heights joined with the Village of Steger in the fall of 1974 to promote a referendum to form a Library District. On March 15, 1975, this referendum was passed and on September 15, 1975, a building at 3042 Chicago Road was rented to set up the first Steger-South Chicago Heights Library.

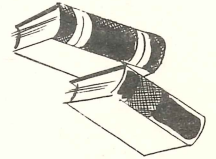
A Board of Trustees was appointed consisting of 7 members, 3 from South Chicago Heights and 4 from Steger. Those appointed from South Chicago Heights were Bob DelCotto, Henry Nicolai and Irving Bock. Mr. Bock served as president of the board.

By September, 1976, the Library had outgrown its first location and the new Board of Trustees voted to move to 3326-28 Chicago Road, in the American Plaza. According to the lease, this will be home for the Library for the next 5 years.

The first elected and present members of the Board of Trustees from South Chicago Heights are Mrs. Kathie Fabie, Mrs. Rosetta Hellmer and Miss Donna Litherland.

The Library Director and Head Librarian is Ms. Linda Miller.

The Library serves 2,517 patrons.



### DID YOU KNOW?



Wolves were so plentiful in the early days that pioneers would take a freshly butchered hog on trips with them and when attacked by wolves would throw out chunks of meat to them. By the time the wolves had finished the meat, the pioneers would be some distance away. At home, many a night furniture would be piled against the doors of the log cabins to keep out the wolves.

Another terror for the pioneers was the prairie fire. The wild prairie grass which covered miles and miles of open prairie grew tall enough so that, in many cases, a man on horseback could easily hide in it. In autumn, this grass would be dry and a fire sweeping over it meant death and destruction to everything and everyone in its path. It was a sight never to be forgotten.

The Trolley Car ran through South Chicago Heights once a week on a special run. The car had bars on the windows and would pick up people and take them to Kankakee State Hospital; thus, the car was commonly known as "the crazy car." The Trolley had regular runs all week long within the Village.

Lincoln Highway originally came in from Dyer, Indiana on Sauk Trail to Chicago Road and then North to what is now 14th Street because it was the only paved road in the area at the time.

The C. & E. I. Railroad, in the early 1950's, wanted to totally eliminate the crossing at 26th Street. The people protested so loudly that it is still there today.

The first speed limit was enacted in 1908 and was 10 miles per hour, rigidly enforced by Marshal Barnick.

## IN SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS ...



### AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK

The year 1976 marks the 60th Anniversary of the American National Bank, located at 3307 Chicago Road, South Chicago Heights. The bank originated in Beecher, Illinois on November 16, 1916 and was known as the First State Bank of Beecher. On April 4, 1959, the bank relocated in South Chicago Heights, and changed its name to American Savings Bank, at which time Mr. Gerauld L. Hopkins was elected to serve as President.

July, 1974 saw the completion of a new addition to the bank, which increased the size of the facilities from 3,500 square feet to 11,000 square feet; the number of teller windows in the main lobby were increased from six to ten, and the drive-in facilities from three to six drive-in stations.

On January 2, 1974, the American Savings Bank changed from a State Bank to a National Bank and was re-named the American National Bank. The bank is a full-service bank, except for a Trust Department. Mr. James Esposito became the president of the bank in July, 1974. There are sixteen Directors on the Board, of which Mr. Howard McKee is the Chairman. There are thirteen other officers of the bank. Thirty-one full-time and twelve part-time employees make up the personnel of the bank.

When the bank moved from Beecher to South Chicago Heights, assets were under two million, and have grown in the past seventeen years to forty-three million.

### SAUKVIEW SCHOOL

Saukview School, District 194, 34th and Miller Avenue, opened its doors for the first time in September, 1957, with an enrollment of approximately 234 students in grades kindergarten thru four, with a total of 8 classroom teachers.



Members of the District 194 Board of Education were Leonard Mannel, Edith Hunt, Marvin Pennington, George Roesner, Elmer Minderhout, Lawrence Buxton, Russell Boettger, and Jack Thomas. Superintendent of Schools was Lloyd Steen. Carl Beckstrom was Saukview's first principal, as well as principal of the other three elementary schools of District 194. Mrs. Velda Busher was secretary for all the Elementary buildings.

In 1958, Mrs. Carolyn O'Neill came to Saukview as principal. Richard Goesel, present principal, returned from military service as a fifth grade teacher that same year. Mrs. O'Neill is now principal of the Parkview School in Steger. Since the original eight classrooms were constructed in 1957, there have been five referendums voted on and passed by the voters of District 194. Additions to the building were completed in 1958, 1960, 1962, 1966, and 1970.

Richard Goesel assumed the position of principal in 1962, and Mrs. Evelyn Basham was employed as secretary in 1960. Both are currently serving in the same capacities.