

Friends Newsletter

FRIENDS OF THE
WEST CHICAGO CITY MUSEUM

SPRING EVENTS ANNOUNCED!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 2 Late Night at the Museum
- March 15 Historiography
- March 25 Tea
- April 6 Late Night
- April 8 Town Hall Share: General Mills
- April 19 Historiography
- April 22 Carry Nation Evening
- May 4 Late Night

Join the Friends of the West Chicago City Museum and the West Chicago Historical Society for our Annual Tea Fundraiser, Sunday, March 25th at 1pm at the American Legion 123 Main Street (parking lot in rear). Tickets are \$20 a person and include a tea luncheon and entertainment provided by Ellie Carlson who will be presenting **“Speaking of Unmentionables: The Rise and Fall of Ladies’ Underwear.”** Space is limited; tickets can be purchased at the City Museum, 132 Main Street or by contacting the Museum at wegohistory@gmail.com or (630) 231-3376.



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The Friends will also be hosting an event to transport you by to the time of prohibition with Ellie Carlson’s portrayal of **Carry Nation—The Famous and Original Barroom Smasher** on the evening of April 22nd! This speakeasy event will include food and a cash bar, location to be revealed by password when you purchase your ticket! Tickets for the event are \$20 a person. Want to attend both events or come to either as a couple? Purchase two events for either program or one ticket for both for a **discounted price of \$35!** Tickets can be purchased at the museum or reserved at wegohistory@gmail.com.

WORLD WAR I: WE REMEMBER

As our country honors the 100th Anniversary of World War I, the City Museum is honoring those who fought in the Great War, including Robert Bond, remembered here.

Robert "Bob" Bruce Bond was born on October 12, 1887 in South Dakota. After Bob's mother's death, he grew up with relatives in Libertyville, Illinois.

The western frontier of his birth continued to call him though and he eventually became a homesteader in Montana. While staking his own claim of 320 acres in the Montana wilderness, Bob began a Pharmacy apprenticeship in 1906 to pay for the land. In order to keep the claim per homesteading laws, Bob had to stay on the land at least one day a week. He traveled between his Pharmacist job in Circle, Montana, and his land on the open range by horseback.

Bob enlisted in the Army Medical Corps during World War I and spent the majority of the war at Fort Seward, Alaska, working as a hospital pharmacist.



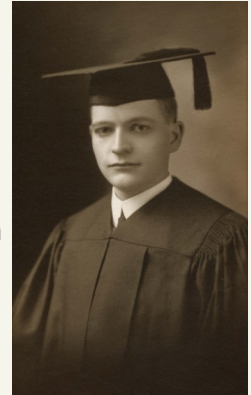
After the war, Bob moved back to the Chicago suburbs and worked in a drug store in Libertyville. A salesman who visited the store told him about a pharmacy that was for sale in West Chicago. In August of 1921 Bob arrived on Main Street, West Chicago. Bob remembered: "I walked through the town to look it over. Then I got to the store and talked to the owner and I bought it in about 30 minutes." At that time the store was in the Atcherson Building on Washington Street. The store moved to Main Street in 1938.

Bob married Beulah Reed, a lifelong West Chicago resident and the sister of Chauncey Reed, in 1925. She was an elementary school teacher and worked her way up to the principal of the West Chicago High School, a post she held until her marriage in 1925. This was also the last year for the High School to be located in North Side School, also known as Washington School (which was located where the current Fire Department sits).

During his 56 years in the drug store business in West Chicago, Robert Bond's name was associated with a host of community activities, including the American Legion Post 300, the West Chicago Building & Loan Association, the West Chicago State Bank, the West Chicago Masonic Lodge and the First Congregational Church.

After working until the age of 91, Bob finally slowed down and retired after working 14 hour days for most of his successful career. Bob lived to be 96 and is buried at Glen Oak Cemetery in West Chicago.

Do you want to read more about West Chicago's history and the people who made our community what it is today? Check out our website at wegohistory.com and follow our blog Sense of Place on the City of West Chicago's website westchicago.org.



Bob's graduation picture from Libertyville High School



R. B. Bond Drug Store
204 Main Street

E D U C A T O R ' S C O R N E R B Y M A G G I E C A P E T T I N I

DIGITAL LEARNING

In addition to our physical collection, our archives of past exhibits hold a vast amount of information about West Chicago's past. Thanks to modern technology and digital sharing, we are able to put some of this compiled information to work. One technology we use for this purpose is Dropbox. This web-based service allows us to upload documents and photographs and to organize them into file folders. We can then share those folders with teachers. As part of their social studies curriculum rewrite, District 33 second-grade teachers reached out to us for information to enrich the local history portion of the new curriculum. To support them in their classrooms, we are creating a series of folders on Dropbox that contain photos and documents relating to these aspects of their curriculum. At Wegner School, third graders will be writing a journal entry about a day in the life of a historic figure in West Chicago history. To assist the teachers with this project, we gathered together biographical information and photographs into a Dropbox folder so that they can use this information in the classroom.



OUTREACH AND IN-HOUSE

We still prioritize programming in person. In the last year, we have done outreach programs at Pioneer School, Wegner School, and Indian Knoll School. We hosted Turner School, pictured to the left, for their annual Downtown Cultural Walk, during which they visit the City Museum, the Library, the City Hall, and the Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce. Pioneer School visited the City Museum and the Library, as well as a few other downtown sites. We love to see young people out in the community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT

Our partnership with the West Chicago Library Youth Services will be expanding this year. Our monthly program for young children, Timeless Tales, is hosted at the City Museum and run by Ms. Kelli of WCPLD Youth Services. At this program, children hear stories and sing songs relating to a theme. Ms. Maggie, Museum Educator, then shares a bit of history in the form of photographs or objects from the collection. The program finishes with a craft, and – often – some time playing at our second floor kids' area. In addition to this popular program, we will be offering evening programs aimed at elementary school children and their families, to be hosted by West Chicago Library. On March 8, Ms. Maggie will present Josefina Story Quilt from 4:30-5:00. An Ice Cream Social will be held at the CB&Q Depot on Turner Court on June 30th from 12-2pm. In the fall, look for a program relating to Historic Technology.



Timeless Tales, Summer 2017

SUPPORTING YOUR
COMMUNITY'S HISTORY



FRIENDS OF
THE
WEST
CHICAGO CITY
MUSEUM

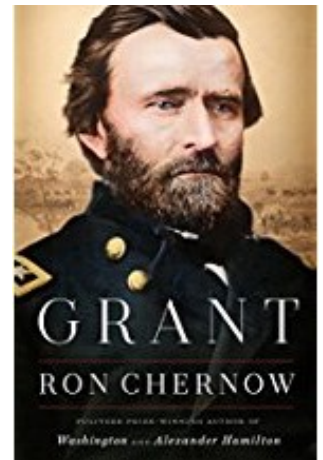
132 Main Street
West Chicago, IL 60185
City Museum Winter Hours
Thursdays 10:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.
Fridays 10:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

Phone: 630-231-3376
www.westchicago.org
www.wegohistory.com
E-mail: wegohistory@gmail.com

The Friends of the West Chicago City Museum
serve to assist the West Chicago City Museum in
fundraising by encouraging museum membership,
donations and community awareness.

HISTORIOGRAPHY NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

The City Museum is continuing its Historiography program in March, a non-fiction book reading group held in collaboration with the West Chicago Public Library. On **Thursday, March 15th** at **1pm** the group will meet to discuss "Grant" by Ron Chernow. On **Thursday, April 19th** at **1pm** the Historiography group will meet to discuss "The 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic: The History and Legacy of the World's Deadliest Influenza Outbreak," in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the terrible pandemic. The book group is open to all, feel free to bring a bag lunch; complimentary drinks and desserts will be provided. Copies of the books being discussed can be checked out from the Museum or Library.



SAVE THE DATE: BLOOMING FEST

Longer days and warmer temperatures will soon be on their way! After winter we are all ready for spring and look forward to West Chicago's Blooming Fest, an annual downtown garden festival. It combines the West Chicago Garden Club's popular plant sale, with a craft show, children's activities, music, food and fun. Downtown merchants and restaurants get into the act with special promotions, in-store specials and sidewalk sales. For those who crave spring, this is one event you won't want to miss! The City Museum will be open with a host of activities on Main Street and don't forget to stop by the C&BQ Depot on Turner Court!