

The Call to Remember

Newsletter - Vol. IV, No. 1

EASTLAND DISASTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jan/Feb 2002

EDHS RETURNS TO DEPAUL

In September and November, EDHS visited the Naperville campus of DePaul University. We met with the graduate students of the *Management-101* class and their instructor, Anna Waring, Assistant Professor of DePaul's *Public Services Graduate Program*.¹ The class spent the first day obtaining information about the Society: its history, operations, expenses, revenues, supporters, marketing strategy, vision and goals. The students then spent the next two months preparing business plans, strategies and tactics for the Society. These plans, strategies and tactics were then shared with EDHS in class on the second day.



(Top photo: Jim Renderman, Annette Carr, Anna Waring, Sandi Murray, Tammy Koehler. Bottom: Anna Waring, Dan Templin, Zeniah Ward, Michelle Dbila, Kevin Murphy.)

¹The Public Services Graduate Program promotes effective management of non-profit organizations and government agencies, and it fosters development of sound public policies affecting the delivery of social services.

EASTLAND CORNER

"Tragedy struck the Hawthorne area when the Eastland capsized - twenty-nine of the Eastland Disaster victims were parishioners of St. Mary of Czestochowa Church. The Reverend Bronislaus Czajkowski (below) performed the funeral services for forty-one victims over the course of Wednesday and Thursday, July 28-29, 1915."



(Editor's note: We have always maintained that the Eastland Disaster is not simply a story about a ship that capsized claiming almost 850 victims. Rather we have expressed to the hundreds of thousands of people with whom we have dealt that the Eastland Disaster is a very compelling human-interest story, a story about thousands of people and their families who were affected by the tragedy. This issue's *Eastland Corner* touches on but one element of the Eastland Disaster story – the ecclesial and religious. Try to imagine going to church on a Sunday morning only to find out that 29 of your fellow parishioners had perished. Try to imagine performing funeral services for 41 victims in just two days.)

ST. MARY OF CZESTOCHOWA

Located in Cicero, Illinois, this congregation lost 29 of its members in the Eastland tragedy. The church building had not yet been built when the Eastland tragedy occurred. Worship services, including funerals, were temporarily held in the school. The photo below was taken in the makeshift church during one of the services. The white caskets can be seen lined up at the front of the church.



One can only try to imagine the devastation felt by this congregation. The church, founded in 1895 by eighty-six pioneer Polish families, had held but thirty funerals from January 1, 1915 through the date of the Eastland tragedy. Days later on July 28 this number nearly doubled when twenty-eight funerals were conducted for the victims of the Eastland Disaster. More information is available here <http://www.eastlanddisaster.org/ecclesialandreligious.htm>.

HISTORICAL MARKER UPDATE

We continue to work with City of Chicago personnel regarding the scheduling of the commemorative ceremony for the rededication of the historical marker. At this time it appears that construction on the LaSalle through Clark Street section of Wacker Drive will be completed in time for a July 24 rededication. This date, however, is still rather tentative.

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PRESENTATIONS – MAR/APR

Please join us: Monday, March 11, 7:30pm, Schaumburg Public Library; Thursday, April 18, 1:00pm, Lake Villa Public Library. Our schedule is here www.eastlanddisaster.org/irc.

THE EASTLAND DISASTER ON WTTW/CHANNEL 11

Those in the Chicago viewing area had the opportunity to view *The Eastland Disaster* on PBS. The program premiered on WTTW Channel 11's *Chicago Stories* series in November.



The Eastland Disaster was written and produced by WTTW's *Wild Chicago* producer Harvey Moshman and former WGN reporter Chuck Coppola. Harvey and Chuck have collaborated on several other broadcast projects, including the news feature, *Mysteries of Lake Michigan*, which was recently honored with an Emmy award.



(Harvey Moshman at the WTTW studios working on editing "The Eastland Disaster.")

THE EASTLAND DISASTER TO BE REBROADCAST IN APRIL

The WTTW documentary is currently scheduled to be rebroadcast on Tuesday, April 16, 8:00pm (Central) and Friday, April 19, 10:00pm (Central). Please check your TV guide for local station availability.

PRESCREENING PARTY



A prescreening party was hosted by WTTW at their studios on Monday, November 5, 2001. The hosts for the evening included Harvey Moshman and Chuck Coppola; John Callaway, host of the *Chicago Stories* series; Mike Leiderman, WTTW *Chicago Stories* Producer; and Bonnie Davies, WTTW Sr. VP, Corporate Development. Special guests included the people and actors who appeared in the documentary (see photo below).

AVAILABLE ON VIDEOTAPE

"*The Eastland Disaster*" will be available on videotape soon!! Watch for an upcoming announcement for how you will be able to purchase a copy.

ST. JOSEPH EXHIBIT CLOSES



"*Lost on the Lakes: Shipwrecks of Berrien County*" closed after a seven month run in St. Joseph, Michigan. Sponsored by the Berrien County Historical Association, nearly 7,500 people toured this exhibit that featured the Eastland Disaster from Jun thru Dec.



(Seated Helen Sclair, Libby Hruby, Georgiana Becker. Standing Harvey Moshman, Dave Nelson, Rosemary Pietrzak, Lt. Cmdr. Eric Christensen, Barb Wachholz, Christine Harmon, Ted Wachholz, Gary Neubieser, Chuck Coppola.)