

The Call to Remember

Newsletter - Vol. VI, No. 1

EASTLAND DISASTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jan/Feb 2004

FROM THE PRESIDENT

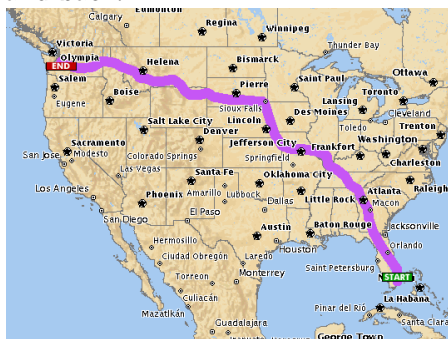
One of our society's guiding principles is **to develop lifelong relationships** - with individuals as well as with other organizations. In fact, and as testament to this, several people have mentioned to us that they believe we do as good a job of developing relationships as any organization that they know.



This focus on developing life-long relationships can be seen in this edition of our newsletter: Of the eight articles that follow, six highlight organizations sponsoring special events that include the *Eastland* Disaster.

FROM COAST-TO-COAST

During 2003 while conducting business on behalf of the Society (giving presentations, setting up displays and exhibits, doing research, etc.), EDHS volunteers traveled nearly 6,500 miles. That is the equivalent of driving across the country from Miami to Seattle - and back!



UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

Irving Park Historical Society
Tuesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.

Dundee Public Library, 555 Barington Ave, 847-428-3661, Thurs, May 13, 7:00 p.m.

EASTLAND CORNER

Bernard Beverley was born in London, England, and had only been in the United States for several years at the time of the *Eastland* Disaster. A Western Electric employee, he had planned to go to the employee picnic to celebrate his July 25th birthday with his wife, Elizabeth. They were going to be joined by two friends, Mr. and Mrs. Kerr.



(Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Beverley & family.)

As it turned out and as luck would have it, Mrs. Kerr, who was typically late for the things they did together, was true to form and was once again late for this date. As Bernard and Elizabeth waited, they became impatient as many passengers were boarding the *Eastland* and the ship was filling up. They finally spotted the Kerr's coming through the crowd. Suddenly, Mrs. Kerr stopped and began pointing toward the *Eastland*. As Bernard and Elizabeth turned around they watched as the ship began to roll over.

During the chaos of the aftermath, Bernard and Elizabeth stayed at the wharf and did whatever they could to help. They did not return home until much later in the day. The news of the disaster, however, reached their neighborhood and their three daughters began to think that their parents had perished in the disaster.

Bernard's name later appeared on a list of the victims, resulting in flowers being sent to Elizabeth.

ISHS ANNUAL MEETING

The *Illinois State Historical Society* **105th** Annual Meeting will feature the rich cultural, business, and educational history of the Fox River Valley. Headquarters for the April 23-24 weekend event will be the elegant new Holiday Inn and Suites in Elgin.

Friday, April 23

To start the morning, registrants will tour *Kline Creek*, a meticulously maintained nineteenth century farm near Wheaton. Lunch will later be served at Cantigny Park, also near Wheaton.

For the afternoon, the group will tour the First Division Museum and the McCormick Mansion - both located in the park. (The First Division is among the nation's finest and most realistic military museums. The McCormick Mansion was the country home of Robert McCormick, one-time editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune.)

Author Jay Bonansinga will speak at the Annual Meeting Banquet on Friday evening. He is the author of a recent history about the *Eastland* Disaster.

Saturday, April 24

The morning will feature local historian Jerry Turnquist, who will lead the group on a tour of Elgin Academy, the Elgin Area Historical Museum, and the city's historic neighborhoods.

The day (and weekend) will conclude with the *Illinois State Historical Society* Annual Awards luncheon.

CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

Join the *Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery* organization on May 1st for a walking tour of Bohemian National Cemetery, 5255 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago. Tours are 10-12 noon as well as 1-3 p.m.



(Bohemian National Cemetery front gate.)

Noted historian Albert Walavich will lead the tour and will answer questions about section 16 (where many of the *Eastland* Disaster victims are buried). As a special tour bonus, the United Moravian Societies Singers, dressed in their colorful folk dress, will sing songs of memory between the tours at 12:15 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the office area before each tour.

(A monument at Bohemian National.)



Tickets are \$8 (prepaid) or \$10 if purchased on the day of the tour. Please indicate the morning or afternoon tour and make checks payable to Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery, c/o Marie Jensen, 3016 Maple Avenue, Berwyn, IL, 60402. Thank you.)

Are you a member of Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery? If so, tour admission is free.

Additional information is available by calling or emailing Marge Sladek Stueckemann (847-362-9036 or mdstueck@aol.com).

CHICAGO RIVER DAY

The *Friends of the Chicago River* organization is hosting their 12th annual Chicago River Day on Saturday, May 8. Participants will remove invasive vegetation, spruce up river-edge paths, plant native seedlings, collect garbage for sorting and recycling, and more.

Volunteers work at a site of their choosing from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Afterwards, all volunteers are invited to attend the Chicago River Day Festival and picnic to celebrate all their hard work. Festival activities will include live music, live animals, a free barbecue for volunteers, canoe rides, and educational booths including one by EDHS. Come make a difference in the morning, and then visit us at the afternoon festival.



(Tire pile from River Cleanup Day 2003.)

EASTLAND DISASTER EXHIBIT

The Wheaton History Center (606 North Main Street, 630-682-9472) will feature an *Eastland* exhibit from May 2004 through January 2005. Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. (closed on Sundays during the months of August and September). There will be a charge for admission. The Wheaton History Center provides unique and captivating educational programs and exhibits to the public.

89TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

The 89th anniversary of the *Eastland* Disaster is Saturday, July 24. As in the past, the *Eastland* Disaster Historical Society will host a commemorative event in downtown Chicago. Early (and very tentative) plans include various activities that will run between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Circle and reserve Saturday, July 24, 2004 on your calendars today - details will be communicated in a subsequent announcement.



(Marker from 2003 anniversary event.)

HISTORY FAIR SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2004 Chicago Metro History Fair finals for exhibits, media, and performance projects will be held at the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago on April 7. The History Fair serves 17,000 students and 350 teachers in 200 area schools who participate in the school, regional, state, and national history contests.

The *Eastland* Disaster Historical Society fully supports the History Fair. Dozens of students each winter and spring contact the society for assistance with their *Eastland* Disaster research and projects. We also sponsor a scholarship - the *Ken Rabe and Grace Rabe Nilsen Eastland Disaster Scholarship Award* (named in honor of two survivors of the *Eastland* Disaster).