

## Chapter VIII

Then came the population explosion of the 1940's and 1950's. People once again began to move into Hainesville.

In 1940, the Fred Scheffler Family purchased a parcel of land on Route 120,  $\frac{1}{2}$  block east of Hainesville Road, on the north side of the highway. Mrs. Mary Scheffler said that the Charles Wipper Family had rented the property prior to them purchasing the George Battershall store, which was on the south side of Route 120.

She also recalls the George Sullivan residence east of her, which is presently the Avon Apartments. George Sullivan passed away in 1953 and Sarah Ellen Sullivan passed away in 1957.

Mrs. Scheffler is Hainesville's oldest senior citizen. Mr. Fred Scheffler passed away approximately thirty years ago.

Hainesville's fourth school house was built in 1940. It was a red brick constructed and was directly next to the frame school house built before the turn of the century. The frame school was moved to Round Lake Park and is being utilized as the V. F. W. Hall.

Another well-known family living in Hainesville moved to the village in 1943. They were the Anthony Fontana, Sr. Family.

They moved from Oak Park, Illinois to Hainesville and purchased 59 acres of land on Route 120, two blocks east of Hainesville Road. The land was previously owned by a doctor, who had his medical practice in Chicago. The Hendee Family also once owned and lived there.

The Fontana home is well over a hundred years old and could probably tell us quite a few interesting tales if it could talk. It is understood that the home was once a Speak-Easy. The building west of the Fontana residence was once a service station and small lunch room which serviced many travelers.

Mr. Fontana, Sr., who is deceased, once served as Mayor of Hainesville for several months after the re-organization in 1949. He was very active in the Village politics.

The Fontana children attended the new Hainesville School, which taught grades one through eight. Those who needed to go to high school, went to Gurnee High School. The Grayslake High School was not built until 1948.

Mrs. Fontana recalls vividly the lovely red bricks on Route 120 in front of her home. It really saddened her to see them resurface the street with asphalt in 1944.

In April, 1959, Mrs. Fontana was elected Trustee for the Village and also accepted chairmanship of the Health Committee. She served on the Police, Building and Grounds, and Publicity Committees. Today, Mrs. Blanche Fontana operates an antique shop, called "The Belvidere House" on the main street in Hainesville, Route 120.

In April, 1943, the Robert Legge Family departed from Chicago to make their abode in Hainesville. They purchased a parcel of land on Pineview Avenue, which is located on the west side of Hainesville. There were only five houses on the south side of Pineview and two

houses on the north side, at the time they moved into our area. There were dirt roads and no street lights. There was no door to door mail delivery either. Rural type mail-boxes were placed on Route 134 and the Grayslake Post Office serviced them.

Mr. Fred Scheffler undertook a large project of planting elm trees in the entire area of west Hainesville and Round Lake Park, dressing up the homes and streets in the area.

They recall the George Whitmore farm, which was located on the north east corner of Route 134 and Fairlawn Avenue.

The Beaman Family was living in the old farm house at the time the Legge Family moved here. Mr. Beaman was a superintendent for L. B. Harris Home Builders.

Robert Legge is our present Village President and Amelia Legge, his wife, is the Village Clerk.

Hainesville is also given credit for having an herb green house. Stewart Smith is its proprietor. He grows a fine selection of herbs, the only herb green house in the midwest, specializing in herbs.

He has over a hundred varieties. His business is located on the south side of Route 120, just west of Hainesville Road.

Stewart Smith came to Hainesville from Libertyville in 1948. He opened his business on December 16th of the same year.

The Smith residence has a long line of history behind it. It too

is Hainesville's 100 plus year old house.

Mr. Smith mentioned that the front of his home was once utilized as a barber shop.

Stewart Smith was also active in the Village business. He served as a Trustee on the Village Board; he was Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals; and was given authorization to check on the matter of regulation of restaurants and sale of foodstuffs and the matter of licensing machines for vending of dairy products.

In 1949, William Hall, who was a Trustee for the Village of Hainesville, when it ceased to function, in 1912, was the only surviving member and resident at the time the Village planned a new administration. Mr. Hall was 73 years at that time.

There was an election for a President, five Trustees, a Clerk and a Police Magistrate. The election was held at the Hainesville School. Anthony Fontana, Sr. was elected President, he received 45 votes. There was one write-in vote cast for James Norton. Fontana's only opposition. Harold White, received 49 votes for Clerk and Charles Wipper received 45 votes for Magistrate.

The five elected Trustees were: Frank Martin, Lyle Loftus, Robert Coon, John Finch and Herman Baier.

William Hall, the only member of the last board, was automatically made a Trustee of the Village governing body. Three other men who were members of the last Village Board, were also living, but they were not Hainesville residents. They were: Louis Hendee, of Mundelein;

Clint Hendee, of Round Lake; and Jason Renehan, of Round Lake.

While they no longer lived in the Village, they were still interested in seeing the reorganization take place.

There were said to be several reasons for reviving the Village Government. The principal reason was reported to be sentiment.

The Village will be able to obtain fuel tax money for the construction of roads. It would also have full control of police powers and could establish its own license fee.





These men were members of Hainesville's Government in 1912 when it ceased to function as a village. In 1949, they re-organized the village government with William Hall as the sole trustee. From left to right is George Renehan and Clinton Hendee, both from Round Lake; Louis Hendee, from Mundelein and William Hall. from Hainesville.



# **MISSING MAN**

## **William (Bill) Hall**

**Village Trustee, Hainesville, Ill.**

**Age 74 years; 6 feet tall; weight 175 pounds, figure stooped; gray hair; shaggy eyebrows; blue eyes. When last seen was in need of haircut and shave. May have beard now. Was poorly dressed, in old gray trousers, dark jacket and battered brown hat, wool shirt.**

**Walks with shuffling gait. His voice is deep and he talks with an effort.**

**It is feared that Mr. Hall is an amnesia victim.**

**He has been missing from his home since Wednesday, September 22nd. Anybody seeing a man of this description please notify your local police at once, who will please hold him and notify any of the following authorities at Hainesville, Ill.**

**Lyle R. Loftus, Village Pres., Phone Grayslake 3-3271  
C. J. Wipper, Police Magistrate, Grayslake 6091  
Geo. Slepicka, Chief of Police - Round Lake 4424 - 2479**

In 1949, the body of William Hall, Hainesville's Trustee, was found hanging across a fence on the Gelatin Farm property at Cranberry Lake. He had been missing from his home since September 21st. He was found by two boys, Robert Gates, 12, of Round Lake Beach, and Robert Ruge, 13, of Round Lake Park.

Hainesville residents and the Sheriff's Police searched the area for many days trying to locate him.

It was thought he may have suffered a heart attack because he was under doctor's care for a heart ailment.

A few hickory nuts were found in his coat pocket along with 43 cents in change.

Mr. Hall lived in a large old home on the south side of 120 and one block east of Hainesville Road. He was a lifelong resident of Lake County and had a sister Mrs. Sarah Ellen Sullivan, who lived across the street from him.



William Hall



In 1949, Hainesville's businesses included the Round Lake Department Store, George's Fish Store, and County Home Builders, with its headquarters on Route 134, as well as the Wipper Texaco Service Station and Store and the House of Fontana Tavern. The people on the west side of Hainesville were very well pleased when the Commonwealth Edison Company installed brand new street lights to provide lighting for their properties.

In 1950, Hainesville had another election for President. Mr. Lyle Loftus was the elected candidate and he was our Honorable Mayor until 1958. Jane Finch was the elected Village Clerk, George Slepicka Chief of Police, with Robert Legge as Assistant Chief.



Photo of Robert Legge as Assistant Chief of Police

Village meetings were held at the James Wehr home, which was located on the northwest corner of Route 120 and Hainesville Road. Mr. Wehr operated a septic tank business on his property. Mr. Lee Harper was employed by Mr. Wehr, but he later began his own septic tank business, known as the Country Sanitary, which was southwest on Route 120 in Hainesville.

During Mr. Loftus' administration, the west side of Hainesville was most fortunate to have sewer brought in. It was obtained through the Round Lake Sanitary District.

Mr. Loftus was born in 1906 and raised here in Hainesville. His father John, had stables and was a horse-trader. His grandfather, Christopher, once lived where Stewart Smith lives presently. His great-grandfather, was from Fremont Township.

In 1954, the Trustees of Lake County Schools had approved the annexation of the Village of Hainesville to Grayslake Elementary School District #46 and High School District #127.

The action ended a campaign which had begun last October by the Village, when the first of 3 petitions were filed asking separation from Round Lake Elementary School District #43 and High School District #116.

The reason they denied the first 2 petitions was the fact that Round Lake Elementary School District was owner of the Hainesville School, serving 1st and 2nd grades. This school was used for the overflow from already crowded Round Lake Schools. John M. Finch, then a

Village Board member said the reasons were several: Hainesville's south and east sectors have from 30 to 33 families having school age children, and it is only a mile from Grayslake. The Round Lake School bus was routed along Belvidere Road, a heavy traveled highway, and the pupils would have to board the bus along this highway. If the children went to Grayslake School most of the pupils would be picked up at their door.

At this time, 1954, the Round Lake School Districts are in a process of planning a long range school building program, which means an increase in school taxes for the Hainesville area. Grayslake on the other hand, has adequate facilities to have room for the 60 Hainesville registrants.

Until the Round Lake Elementary School District became established in 1953, Hainesville pupils were considered in the Grayslake District.

In June, 1956, a head stone was placed at the grave of Hainesville's distinguished founder, Elijah M. Haines.

Trustee, John M. Finch, Sr. was the named chairman for Haines' Memorial Committee. Elijah Haines' grave in Oakwood Cemetery in Waukegan, had been unmarked since his death in 1889.

In the fall of 1956, a dedicatory service was conducted at Oakwood Cemetery, and Chairman John. M. Finch placed a wreath near the new granite marker with its inscription honoring Haines as Hainesville's founder.



John M. Finch placing wreath at grave site of Elijah M. Haines.

The ceremony took place on Sunday, October 21st 1956, at 2:00 P. M.

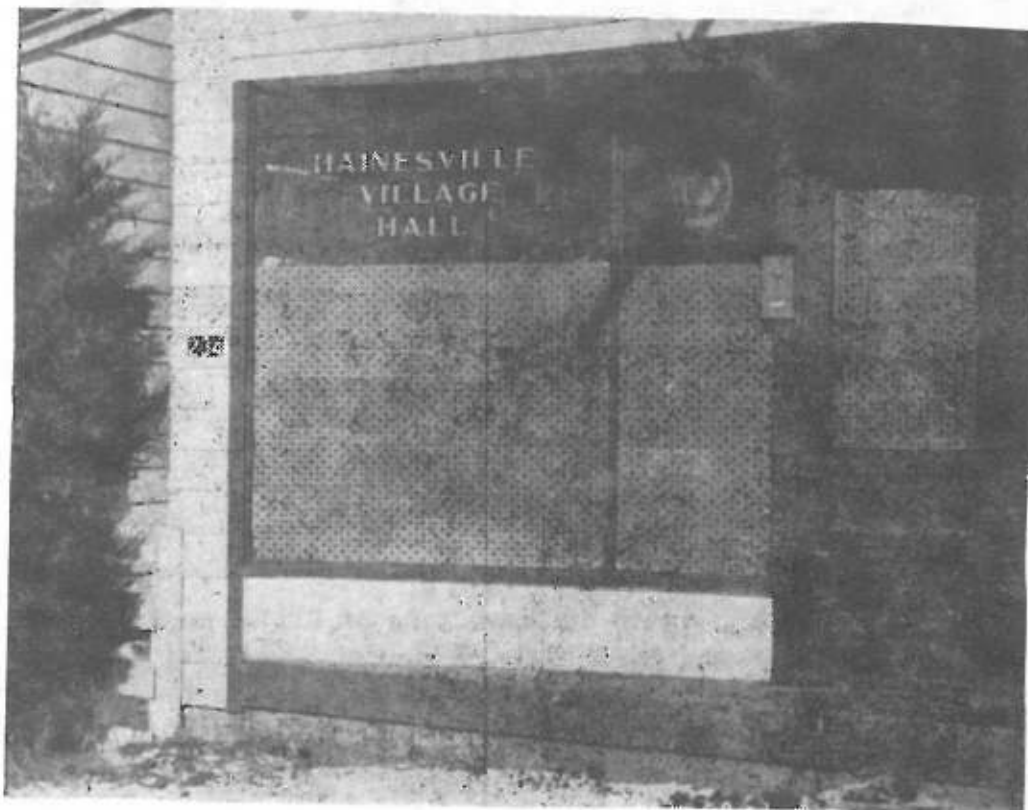
Mayor Coulson was invited to make the speech of acceptance for the family.

During Lyle Loftus' Administration, Hainesville acquired their first Village Hall.

It was located at 234 E. Main Street, Hainesville.

Police Magistrate, Edward Powell held his court there and the Trustees who were meeting in each other' homes or at the school house, during prior years, also met there.

The quarters on the second floor was occupied by the law enforcement arm.



There was civic pride over the new Village Hall in Hainesville, which is evidenced by the smiles of these individuals who made up Hainesville's Government.

The center-front was President Pro-Tem John M. Finch, presided in the absence of President Lyle Loftus. Trustee Thorval Peterson is on the left and Trustee Victor Anderson on the right. Standing at rear, from left to right are Officer John Riley, Police Chief Robert Turner, Trustee James Wahrer, Village Treasurer Edythe Powell, Police Magistrate Edward Powell, Officer James O'Halloran and Mrs. Josephine Turner, Police Matron.





In 1958, by an election held, Mr. John M. Finch was elected as Hainesville's third President, after the re-organization of the Village in 1949. Mrs. Jane Finch was elected as Clerk with 36 votes; Edward Powell elected as Police Magistrate with 40 votes; Trustees elected were Victor Anderson,  $45\frac{1}{2}$  votes; Thorval Peterson,  $39\frac{1}{2}$  votes; Stewart Smith, 35 votes; and Gerald Kaminski, 39 votes. Kaminski was elected to the two year term; Anderson, Peterson and Smith to three year term.

Mr. Stewart Smith was named to head a plan commission here that will administer a master plan for the community. The Village Attorney, Richard Bairstow began preparations for ordinances for future development of the Village.

In September, 1959, Hainesville's Village Board approved the re-opening of Gage Street and its designation as an arterial street to furnish an access route to Route 120 involving newly resurfaced Hall Court (North Street). Hall Court was a dead -end street without such access and it is Hainesville's first village street.

Thorval Peterson was the chairman of the street and alley committee. Village meetings were held during John M. Finch's Administration, firstly, in a small building which was located on the north east corner of Route 120 and Hainesville Road, then to the first floor of Seekatz Builders building, on Fairlawn and Pineview Avenues.

The Avon Motel on Route 120 and Gage Street, was built by James Wehr. He also constructed the brick ranch home on Hall Court, which is presently occupied by the George Schlung Family.

Later, in 1965, Mr. Pecor purchased the motel and home from James Wehr. Mr. Wehr also sold his property on the corner of Route 120 and Hainesville Road to the J & L Oil Company. A service station was erected on that property during Mr. Finch's administration.

Hainesville in the 1960's, had feared loss of their identity, but they made it very clear that they opposed to becoming part of Round Lake.

John Finch, Hainesville's President, had appeared before the Round Lake Area Chamber of Commerce with a signed petition from registered voters in Hainesville, stating that Hainesville be excluded from plans to consolidate five villages in the Round Lake Area into the City of Round Lake.

Mr. Finch mentioned that the main reason for declining inclusion in the consolidation was that the residents want to retain the village's identity.

This was not the first time Hainesville had to fight for its identity, and remain the oldest incorporated village in Lake County.

Hainesville's Zoning and Planning Board of the 1960's were optimistic about the village's future development. They were studying and preparing for growth of our community.

Members of the Board were, left to right, seated- Stewart Smith, Chairman; John M. Finch, Sr., Village President; standing- Lyle R. Loftus, Ronald Hamm, Gerald Kaminski and Victor E. Anderson.



In November, 1963, one of Hainesville's most historic homes burned to the ground. It is believed to have been more than one hundred years old. The house belonged to William Hall, Hainesville's former trustee who died in 1949. The weathered frame home provided good practice for firemen from Round Lake and Grayslake.



Hainesville's President John M. Finch had announced he would not seek re-election in April, 1965. He had planned to retire and move to Cortez, Florida.

Mr. Finch was active in the village since 1949.

He retired on the 1st of July after 22 years as a freight rate expert with Celotex Corporation in Chicago and also retired from his secretarial post at the Rising Sun Lodge A. F. & A. M., Grayslake.

Mrs. Finch was Hainesville's Clerk for 10 years.

In April, 1965, Mr. Robert Legge was elected as President of the Village of Hainesville and Richard Howell was elected Clerk.

A short time after Mr. Legge was elected President, John M. Finch was stricken with a heart attack while driving his automobile to the Grayslake Post Office. He was pronounced dead by Dr. Peter Teresi.

Mr. Finch was 66 years old at the time of his death.

Antique shops began to blossom forth in the oldest incorporated village in Lake County ----- Hainesville.

"The Country Boutiques", owned and operated by Barbara Bonde, came into existence in our village in 1964. Her shop once was Hainesville's Post Office and George Battershall's store.

The shop is filled with treasures, that would excite any avid collector. Her business is located on the southwest corner of Route 120 and

Antioch Street.

In 1965, Jerry and Daisy Ocheltree began their antique business. Their shop, called "The Old Plank Road Antiques" was truly a fitting name, as the "Old Plank Road" was once part of Hainesville's existence.

Their collection of antiques were proudly displayed, although, their specialty was clocks. Mr. Clyde DeVol, Mrs. Ocheltree's father, was an expert in clock repairing.

The location of their business was Routes 120 and 134.

Two other shops also have since became part of "the things of the past."

They are the "Belvidere House" and Antiques and Things."

Their shops are filled with glassware and precious treasures that would satisfy the hearts of any antique collector.

Hainesville wants to preserve some of these memories of the past, seeing that she is 130 years old.

The "Belvidere House" and "Antiques and Things" are located on the main street of Hainesville, Route 120, Belvidere Road.

In 1968, the Village of Hainesville was offered to have a race track and amusement park establishment built in their village.

The applicants were O'Hare Stadium Inc.

Everyone from the immediate area came to the Village of Hainesville's



meeting to oppose it.

It was given serious attention though, because the revenue would definitely have been worthwhile for the village.

But since the majority of the area residents were against it, the petitioners dropped their request.

In 1969, Hainesville's Village Hall was moved to the Seekatz Builders building on Route 120 and 134. This was due to the fire which destroyed their village hall on Pineview and Fairlawn Avenues. The cause of the fire was not determined.

In November, 1970, the Dan Schappert Family moved into Hainesville from Chicago. They purchased their property from Ocheltree's who owned and operated the antique shop, "The Old Plank Road Antiques." The stately victorian home was once occupied by prominent people of early Hainesville. People such as: Hapgood, Weis, Battershall, Rich, Wait, Rawling, and Finch, Hainesville's former President. Mr. Schappert is currently a Trustee for the village.

The following year, 1971, the Erland Johnson Family left their dwelling in Des Plaines, to move into their old victorian home here in Hainesville. They bought the property which for many years was the Heard's farm. The Fritsch Family also owned the property and had donated use of their land for Hainesville's second school house. Mr. Johnson is currently Hainesville's Building Commissioner.

If these old houses in our village could talk, I'm sure they would have many interesting tales to tell.

In 1974, George Benjamin purchased the property just west of the J & L Service Station.

He built a barn-like structure, which is quite fitting for our country atmosphere here in Hainesville.

Mr. Benjamin is currently on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the village.

For the past five years, Hainesville has been holding annual village picnics. This is a great opportunity for our residents to get together and have a day of fun.

The main idea is for the people of our community to get to know one another a little better and this has helped.

Although Hainesville is a small village today, its future has great potential. May we not only observe its past, but also take notice for tomorrow.