

Mary Maloy and her son, Brian,
at Gietl Brothers of 109 S. Second Street



LIFE IN HISTORIC HAWTHORNE



Hawthorne Place *Neighborhood Association* September 1, 2008

In 1948, Mary (Gietl) Maloy was six years old and her parents needed a bigger house for their growing family. The house they chose was 1509 Holmes. Twenty-eight years later Mary acquired her own home at 1501 Whittier where she would raise her family. She has been a resident of Hawthorne Place for most of her life.

Mary's son, Brian, owns and operates Gietl Brothers, the family business which has been in operation for over one hundred years.

Learn about the Gietl family and the remarkable story of Gietl Brothers in the following pages.

NEW NEIGHBORS



**The Mahoney family: Niamh, Cian, Grainne,
Mark & Eamon of 1520 Lowell**

Among the newest residents of Hawthorne Place is the Mahoney family. It may come as no surprise that they share a strong Irish heritage. A hearty welcome – céad mile fáilte romhaibh! – to all our new neighbors.

OUR HPNA PRESIDENT



Travis Lobmaster of 1425 Whittier

It's an election year and our neighborhood association president has taken office. Travis Lobmaster has accepted another challenge. He has been busy for the past few years restoring his home on Whittier. He has always been helpful with neighborhood projects and we are fortunate that he is willing to guide our association.

Marty Vandiver continues as treasurer and Ellen Reeder will be secretary.

Travis and his wife Amanda are new parents. Sawyer Lobmaster was born in June. His siblings are Chloe and Gabe. Congratulations!

NEXT BOARD MEETINGS

September 9 (Tuesday) – 7 PM in room 201
October 7 (Tuesday) – 7 PM in room 303
November 12 (Wednesday) – 7 PM in 201

These meetings are scheduled at Laurel Methodist Church (S. Grand & Walnut).

All are welcome. Please join us!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AND A NEW NEIGHORHOOD OFFICER

Marcel and Deb Yoder hosted the National Night Out for our neighborhood at their home (1409 Whittier). It was the 25th anniversary of this national event, which encourages neighbors to work closer together with law enforcement to prevent crime.

Refreshments included lemonade, ice cream, cookies and cake. A fire truck appeared and the kids climbed on board. Four police officers attended including Officer Donald Bevins, who is the new officer covering our area of town.

It was an evening of rain. The kids retreated to the porch for crafts and games. Mike Trojahn had installed two tents on the Yoder's front lawn in anticipation of showers. It all worked out very well.

Our thanks to the Yoders for all their efforts and their generous hospitality.



Officer Donald Bevins is the new police officer covering Hawthorne Place

SNAPSHOTS OF SUMMER

Summer is drawing to a close. Many of the neighborhood kids are back in school. The season was unusually mild. The Japanese beetles were back to invade our flower gardens. But for three continuous months it was a great time to be outdoors.

These neighbors certainly enjoyed their summer. They include Thomas Trojahn (1317 Whittier) – below – who had a great time at the National Night Out event. He has a glow stick wrapped around his left arm. The Lambert sisters (Grace, Hannah & Caroline) of 1525 Lowell - at top right – used the summer to develop their entrepreneurial skills. They did a great business selling lemonade. Hannah was particularly delighted because it was her birthday. Chelsy Hopper (1620 Holmes) - center right – helped weed the daylily beds along Laurel. And Gloria Hinds – below right – beautifully landscaped the front and back yards of 1501 Lowell.





CITY'S FREE LEAF PICK-UP

The city of Springfield usually offers an annual free leaf pick-up program for the month of November. No word has been announced at this time. It may begin earlier in October. But check the local news or call Waste & Recycling (789-2327) to be sure of the dates. The leaves must be placed in paper yard waste bags or marked garbage cans. And they must be placed in front of the home at curbside (not in the alley and never in the boulevard).

Neighbors might also consider recycling their leaves by adding them to a compost pile. The leaves break down quickly and are great for spring mulching.

NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORY



Chelsy Hopper (1620 Holmes) is preparing an update of our Hawthorne Place Directory. It's a handy reference listing our neighbors by name as well as by street address. It also includes information about our neighborhood, the neighborhood association, and city contacts.

Neighborhood block captains may go door-to-door this fall to assist in gathering information for the directory. The directory typically includes family names, address, telephone number, email, and pets.

FALL FESTIVAL

As we go to print with the September newsletter there still is no date for the neighborhood fall festival. It has often been scheduled for the first Saturday in October. If this event is planned we will let all neighbors know through a flyer delivered to your door.

There may also be a survey. We hope all will help us update the directory.

A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION WEBPAGE

Thanks to Chris Oliver (1401 Lowell) there is now – at long last – a webpage for our

neighborhood association. Chris acquired the address (www.hawthorneplace.us) in the past year and has already included a listing for scheduled events, recent issues of the neighborhood newsletter (which is in color), and contact information. It's a work in progress. Chris has been attentive to what neighbors would like to have on the webpage while also being cautious about privacy issues.

We are grateful to Chris. So many other Springfield neighborhood associations have a webpage and now – through Chris – so does Hawthorne Place.

The city of Springfield has redesigned its webpage. It can be found at the same address as in the past (www.springfield.il.us). You will now notice a link for neighborhoods and a link for neighborhood associations. Clicking “Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association” will bring up Chris’s webpage.

A CARRIAGE HOUSE (GONE)



Carriage house at 1405 Whittier

The carriage house at 1405 Whittier – one of the few remaining in Hawthorne Place - was taken down in early August. Carriage houses were often large enough to accommodate carriage, horse, tack, hay, and a room for a driver-groundskeeper-handyman. This structure was a reminder that Hawthorne Place predates the automobile.

CARRIAGES BY GIETL

Carriage houses, or coach houses, are outbuildings that were constructed for horse-drawn carriages. 2008 is the centennial of the Ford Model T, the mass-produced automobile which signaled the end of horse-drawn transportation. In time, the much smaller garage replaced carriage houses. But in 1908, in Springfield, Gietl Brothers (109 S. Second Street) was producing carriages for commercial use. This line of work continued through the 1910s. These mementos from the past are an illustrated parade of commercial enterprise in Springfield from one hundred years ago.



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LIFE IN HISTORIC HAWTHORNE



Mary (Gietl) Maloy & Louis Gietl III

In 1948, Louis Gietl Jr. (1910-1981) and his wife, Angela (1911-1992), were living in a two bedroom house with their five children. They decided it was time to move. They needed a larger home. But it must have been like leaving a family compound. At that time, there were at least five Gietl families living in close proximity in the 900 block of North First Street. Their home was at 945 N. First and across the street was the imposing home of Louis' parents at 944. Today, there is little left of the neighborhood south of where the Gietls lived. The medical community (Memorial

Hospital and the SIU School of Medicine) has taken over much of the land and demolished many of the older homes. But the parents' house still survives.

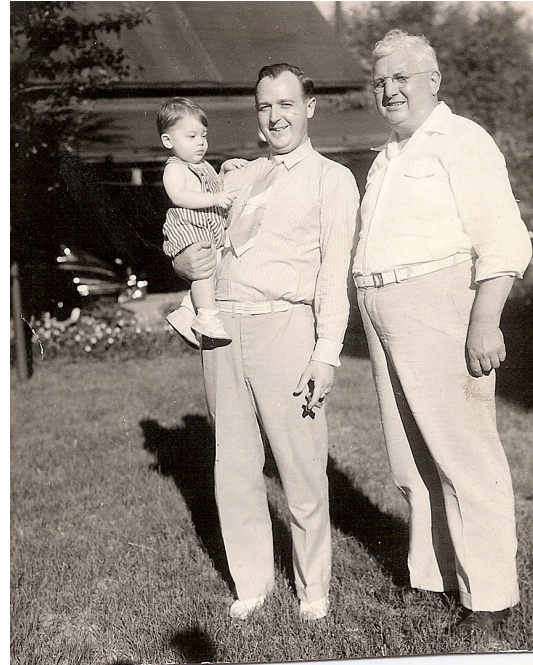


944 N. First – built in 1905

It's a handsome pressed red brick American Foursquare that is trimmed with white sand stone. Although the medical community has allowed it to languish, 944 remains an imposing structure.

When Louis Jr. and Angela Gietl moved, they chose a house in Hawthorne Place at 1509 Holmes. While it had four bedrooms, just two more than the smaller house on North First, they quickly outgrew it. They arrived with five children: Louis III, Mary Eleanor, Maureen, Virginia, and Madonna. In the next three years Lawrence and Bernard were born. But the family fit right into their new neighborhood. All the nearby families, it seemed, were large. You could step outside your front door and see twenty kids at play.

Louis Gietl characterized that block on Holmes as "fertility row." The Stephans at 1512 also had seven children. The Caseys at 1508 had nine. There were ten kids in the Jennings family at 1516; while the Traynors at 1524 had just three girls and a boy.



The three Louis Gietls: Louis III, Louis Jr. and Louis Sr. in 1941.
Each would head the family business.



Spring 1954: back row – Madonna, Maureen, Mary Eleanor: front row – Larry, Stephen (cousin), Richard (cousin) & Virginia

Louis and Mary, the two eldest siblings, remember a childhood filled with fun in a neighborhood with so many playmates. There were a variety of ball games, kick the can, jacks on the sidewalks, and runs through the nearby yards. In those days before air conditioning – a time of open windows and screen doors – kids would stand on the sidewalk and yell out a friend's name to come out and play.

Angela Gietl always led the family in saying the rosary together after dinner. If neighborhood kids stopped by, they were invited to say the rosary also.

A sense of camaraderie among kids was so strong that even in the polio hysteria of the early 1950s, they would find a way to play. A quarantine was in effect. But Louis remembers that kids would throw balls to one another from across the street just to have that much contact. (In 1952, there were 58,000 cases of polio in the United States, the most ever. The epidemic continued in the next year with 35,000 cases in 1953. The vaccine developed by Jonas Salk – the first effective vaccine – became widely available in 1955.) Both Mary and Louis recall the pleasure of porch life on Holmes. Families gathered on front porches in the evening. It was a time for relaxing and talking with one another. And it was an opportunity to see and visit neighbors who might be out for a stroll or sitting on their own porches next door. Since there were fewer cars, there was less auto traffic, which added to an already appealing pedestrian environment. A special sense of community accompanied this era, which diminished when people retreated to air-conditioned interiors and their backyards.

Like many Catholic families in Hawthorne Place, the Gietls appreciated the proximity to Blessed Sacrament Church. All of their children attended Blessed Sacrament School. When their education at Blessed Sacrament was complete they moved onto to other Catholic schools. Louis was among the last

graduates of Cathedral High School. His brothers and sisters attended Sacred Heart and Griffin. Their means of transport to school was always the city bus system.

Each of the Gietls pursued further education, attending Illinois College, University of Dayton, Marycrest University, Marquette University, St. John's School of Nursing, and Regis University in Denver.



Summer 1958: Louis III has graduated from Cathedral High School. The family is at the GM & O train station in Springfield and on their way to New York City.

Back row: Angela (mother), Louis III, Louis Jr. (father), Mary, Maureen, & Virginia
Front row: Larry, Bernard, & Madonna

When Louis Gietl Jr. moved his family to Holmes he had worked all his life in the family trade. In time he became owner, operator and president of Gietl Brothers Inc. Like his father he also served on the Springfield Park Board. Louis Sr. served as a trustee of the park board from 1933 to 1948 and as its president from 1948 until 1951. Louis Jr. was a member of the Springfield Park Board from 1951 to 1975 as well as a past vice-president of the board. He was also past president of the Illinois Association of Park Districts and a member of the Conservation Advisory Board for the State of Illinois under Governor Otto Kerner. His

children remember that he particularly enjoyed his long association with the Knights of Columbus.

Both Louis Jr. and his wife, Angela, worked for charitable causes throughout their lives and served with many organizations affiliated with their church.

Louis Gietl died at his home in 1981 at the age of seventy-one. Angela continued to live at 1509 Holmes until 1991. She passed away in 1992 at the age of eighty-one. The house on Holmes had been in the Gietl family for forty-three years.



Angela Gietl in 1988 with her four daughters

left to right: Virginia, Maureen, Mrs. Gietl, Madonna, and Mary

Many of the Gietl children had left home and worked in a variety of professions in other states. Louis III worked as a sales manager for Northern Electric in Chicago. He was also a sales manager for a division of Sangamo Electric Company. His job allowed him to travel across the United States and Canada. It was an experience that he thoroughly enjoyed. Mary had been residing in another state and working as a teacher. But in the

mid-Seventies Louis Jr. was thinking of retirement. There was a possibility that – after seventy years – Gietl Brothers, the family business, might be sold. As things turned out, both Louis III and Mary returned to Springfield at that time. Louis had worked in the shop when he was growing up, so he knew the ropes. Mary was cajoled to come in and run the office. That was thirty years ago. And when the children stepped in, Louis Jr. got to retire a little early.

Louis III ran the business and kept it going. He also served on the park board just like his father and grandfather before him.

When Louis III decided to retire, Mary's son, Brian Maloy, took over. Mary still runs the office. And Gietl Brothers continues to prosper with the Gietl family still in charge.



Gietl Brothers at 109 South Second Street has been in business for 104 years.

a footnote: Gietl Park at Hastings and Sutherland was named for
It's worth noting that three generations of Gietls served on the Park Board
for a period of more than 40 years.

MARY MALOY ON WHITTIER



**Enduring Hawthorne friendships:
Carolyn Daniels (1505 Lowell), Pat Lloyd
(1525 Lowell), and Mary Maloy**

**They were on a Hawthorne Place House &
Garden Tour (June 17, 2001).**



1509 Holmes

Mary Maloy first moved to Hawthorne Place when her parents acquired the home at 1509 Holmes in 1948. The first listing for this American foursquare was in 1923. Dr. John Pleak acquired the house by 1924 and it remained in the Pleak family until 1948. The Gietls were the houses's second occupants.

Mary moved back to Springfield in the mid-1970s. One of her friends was Maureen Higgins whose aunt and grandparents had lived at 1501 Whittier. Seeing the house was on the market, Mary bought it. It's where she raised her three children: a daughter, Maureen, and her twin sons, Tim and Brian.

The first listing for 1501 Whittier was in 1904. The first occupants were the Power family who resided there for twenty years. The Peter Higgins family were the occupants from 1938 until 1976 when the house was sold to Mary Maloy.



Tim Maloy, Maureen Marks & Brian Maloy



1501 Whittier
GIETL BROTHERS



Left and center are two of Louis's sons:
Louis Jr. (1910-1981) and Alvey (1912-1992)
They eventually became partners and co-
owners of the business. They both retired in
the mid-1970s.



An early photo of Gietl Brothers at
109 S. Second Street when the
company manufactured carriages.



An example of the Gietl Brothers work and a memento of the com

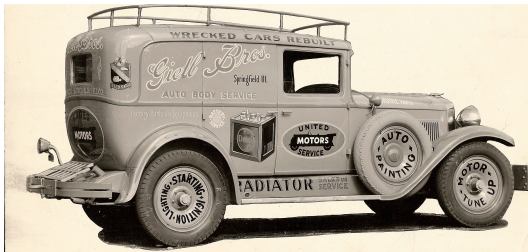
Gietl Brothers is one of Springfield's oldest establishments. It began with two brothers, Louis (1879-1953) and Henry (1880-1968). The two young men founded their company in 1904.

When they started their business they were repairing wagons and making buggies at Third and Washington Streets. John Schnepf, a lawyer and realtor who later became mayor of Springfield, used to stop by and watch them work. He encouraged them to move their operation into one of his buildings at 109 S. Second Street. The

agreement was that they would buy it on time. As they built up the business, they expanded the building four times over the next decades.



When the Gietls stopped manufacturing horse-drawn carriages, they focused on motorized vehicles, making the coach-work or body. The coach-work of A. Wasser (above) advertised “moving furniture and pianos,” “picnic and pleasure drives,” and “transplanting large trees.”



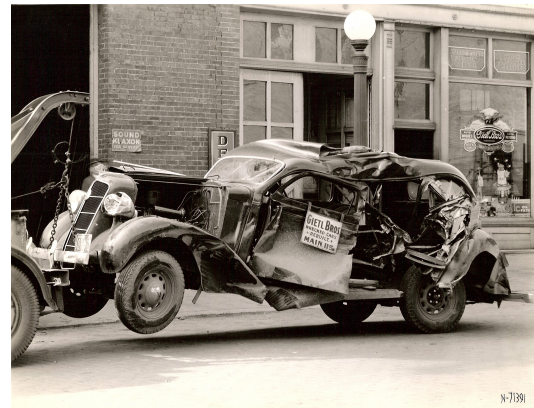
This company van was expertly utilized to promote the variety of services available at Gietl Brothers. You may need a magnifying glass for this small picture but you will see “auto painting” highlighted around the spare wheel, “lighting-starting-ignition” around the back wheel, “motor tune-up” around the front wheel, “radiator sales and services” along the running board, “wrecked cars rebuilt” along the top – and much more. Gietl Brothers wasn’t a specialty shop – they did it all.

In January of 2004, Gietl Brothers was among nineteen local businesses which were honored by the city of Springfield, the Sangamon County Historical Society, and the Illinois Preservation Society. The reception took

place at the Old State Capitol. These companies were recognized for being in continuous operation for 100 years or more.



This Gietl Brothers tow truck became a familiar site at the Illinois State Fair auto races. It was put to use when there were collisions.



Gietl Brothers maintains a large collection of “before” and “after” repair through many decades of service. In the above photo the sign reads: “Gietl Bros. Wrecked Cars Rebuilt.” It’s suspended from the ceiling. Who saw it would know who would be doing the challenging restorations. Gietl Brothers has been known for auto body repair, “the oldest and best” to Louis Gietl Jr.



Gietl Brothers today - 109 S. Second Street

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- **Don Springer of Edward Jones**
- **Ann Vandiver of Sundance Sales**

Larry Gietl, the brother of Mary and Louis, lives in Wisconsin. He recently emailed his recollections of growing up on Holmes Avenue. These memories will be shared in the next newsletter.

- **Mark Yeates of Dick's Shoe Repair**

A WORD OF THANKS

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HAWTHORNE PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

What is it? – The Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association is an organization for residents of Whittier, Lowell and Holmes between South Grand and Laurel – the boundaries of the 1902 Hawthorne Place subdivision. The organization advocates for the neighborhood, sponsors social activities, and is a forum for working on neighborhood issues.

History – The Hawthorne Place Neighborhood Association held its first meeting at Laurel Methodist Church on October 27, 1994. The organization grew out of the effort to get a stop sign installed at Holmes and Cedar. Neighbors discovered the benefits of a group effort and a group voice.

How to join - Membership is \$20 per family for a first time membership and \$10 per family for a renewing membership. To join, contact Membership chair Burnell Heinecke. Also, let Burnell know if you do not want to be listed in the neighborhood directory.

Directories – Neighborhood directories are available to members. Contact your block captain if you need a directory.

Neighborhood Officer – Hawthorne Place is protected by the Springfield Police Department. Donald Bevins, our

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Neighborhood Police Officer, can be reached at 741-0988. If there is an emergency situation call 911.

Alderman – Hawthorne Place is in Ward 6. Our alderman is Mark Mahoney. He can be reached by phone (544-7944), email (mmahoney67@hotmail.com), or regular mail (1520 Lowell).

N. Whittier

Martha LeMay – 1421 Whittier
Lindsey Trojahn – 1317 Whittier

S. Whittier

Linda Riebling – 1500 Whittier
Marty Vandiver – 1528 Whittier

Be a block captain.

Elections are held at the Annual Meetings.

Newsletter – The neighborhood newsletter is published quarterly. And the newsletter is self-supporting – thanks to our advertisers. Three cheers to them! Rates are \$10 per issue for a business card space or \$40 per year. Interested? Call Marty Vandiver.

- jah

Block Captains – The neighborhood is divided into six “blocks,” with block captains elected to represent each block on the association board. The blocks consist of the north or south section of a street, separated by Cedar Street. Three block captains are elected each year to a two-year term at the annual meeting in the spring.

The following is a list of the current block captains.

N. Holmes

Beth Faulkner – 1420 Holmes

S. Holmes

Eva Hawley – 1524 Holmes

N. Lowell

Beth & Mike Trojahn - 1314 Lowell

S. Lowell

Jim Huston – 1524 Lowell
Edward Russo – 1612 Lowell