A Journey in Time with the Glenwood Historical Society

What does one do when given a chance to travel in Glenwood's own time machine? One hops on for one of the most fascinating journeys of his or her life! The journey starts with meeting Glenwood's own, Mr. Layle Irwin, President of Glenwood's Historical Society. He is the conductor and tour-guide on the journey back into the late 1800's where one finds the town of Glenwood alive and well. As he meticulously opens, one-by one, the many collections of photographs and displays other artifacts from Glenwood's exciting past, he verbally recounts the fascinating stories attached to each.

A resident of Glenwood for more than 50 years himself, Mr. Irwin has been an eyewitness to many of the national, state and local happenings in and about Glenwood, and has played major roles in the Village's charming history. One of the things he is most verbal about is that he is happily wedded to Mrs. Patricia Irwin. "She is true Glenwood blood. She was born and raised here!" he attests proudly. Together they recount stories of the many parades and picnics, the tournaments and golfing events, and the fancy noon day gatherings in the Village's parks. They also remember together the destruction and rebuilding of many of the structures we now know as Village Hall, Gabe's Place and Nugent Square.

In 1963, Mr. Irwin joined the Fire Department and six years later became the Village's Fire Chief. He served in this capacity for four years and fondly remembers riding the Village's fire trucks those years. However, one of his most memorable moments from Fireman days, he says, is the great burning down of Poor Richards Place which later became The Glenwood Oaks Restaurant. "The fire started about 2 a. m. and lasted until daybreak. Even with help from neighboring communities, Poor Richards was a total loss. It was one of the biggest fires ever," he recalls.

One of his fondest memories, however, is that day in 1986 when the Village put up the old 1936 Fire Truck for sale. Irwin says he asked the Mayor and Trustees, "Why don't you just let the Glenwood Historical Society have it? He says they looked at each other and then said, puzzled, "We don't have a historical society???" Irwin says he then retorted, "You do now!" The next day Irwin officially began the Village of Glenwood's Historical Society and purchased the 1936 fire truck with funds donated by fireman, John Lanski.

The Glenwood Historical Society is presently a chartered organization with seven members. Besides being proud of the rich historical fact that Michael Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's son, began his great School of Boys right in this Village, the Society also is proud that it has successfully stored much of the photographed history of the Village. The Society also houses the old Fire Engine and last year it was grandly displayed during the July 4th Celebration of Glenwood. There are hundreds of pictures and other artifacts from days gone by in the archives that are available for public viewing. Irwin also gives spoken tours during the viewing of those things he has collected from Glenwood residents. "I don't get many pictures anymore- Most of the older people are gone now and their children have disposed of their collections. I am glad we were able to acquire all the ones that we do have, however."

Irwin has provided these amazing pictures printed here from the Society, and he welcomes all who would love to take the fascinating journey through time to visit the Society's archives. You may contact him through the Village Hall for a personal or group viewing of Glenwood's rich history.

Mr. F.G. Jurgensen, store owner, making a delivery

Remodeled Hottinger's Garden

Original Hottinger's Garden

Hottinger's Gardens Main Street