

Address by Mr. Milton Paula at dedication of flag & pole
July 9th, 1955.

Friends:

We are gathered here today to dedicate the flag and pole which has been donated to the cemetery by friends and members of the Wayne Center Cemetery Association. The flag has been donated by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Koukal of Cicero, Ill., and the flagpole by Mr. Wm. Gray of West Chicago, Ill.

I wish to extend the thanks and appreciation of the association to these people for their contribution. Thanks a lot.

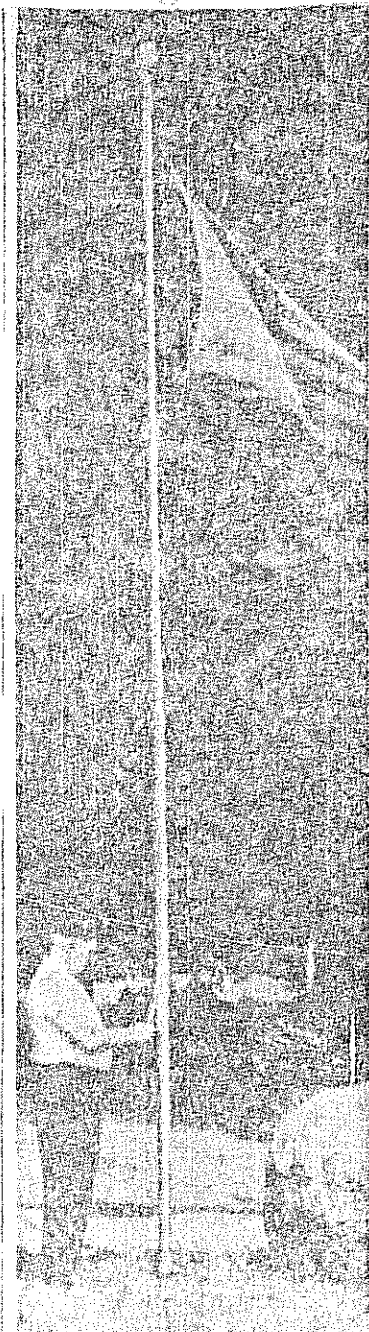
The Wayne Center Cemetery may not be the oldest cemetery in this part of the state of Illinois but the first recorded burial on this site dates back to 1840 which represents 115 years of passing time.

The land surrounding the cemetery and the cemetery itself was owned by the Marcus G. Wheeler family and in 1843 a patent was issued by the government in the family name of Wheeler. By 1850 there were 14 burials although apparently no deeds were issued for them.

In 1853 title was transferred to Daniel Pratt and this family operated the cemetery as a private enterprise until 1894 when an association was formed called the Wayne Center Cemetery Association and the cemetery site was deeded over to Mr. W. O. Pratt and his wife.

The cemetery has been operated since that time under the tender guidance and loving care of the officers and friends of that association. Many notable names are recorded here and as an added indication of the history which is connected to this cemetery on June 19th, 1919 the Elgin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution unveiled a boulder monument in the southeast corner of the cemetery as a memorial to the soldiers in the Blackhawk Wars who lost their lives on the banks of the DuPage river just east of this location.

In memory of all those who are laid to rest here it is fitting and proper that the flag of our country be dedicated at this time. I would like to introduce Mr. Farrell, Commander of the American Legion Post who will proceed with the dedication and our thanks and appreciation are extended to all those who have made this occasion so memorable.



NEW OLD GLORY — Walter Dierschow of West Chicago Legion and V.F.W. posts raises new flag at Wayne Center cemetery Saturday afternoon, when donated flag and flagpole were dedicated. (Daily Journal photo)

Historical Cemetery Gets Flag, Pole

A new American flag and flagpole presented to historical Wayne Center cemetery, Army Trail road, Wayne township, were dedicated in special ceremonies by West Chicago's two veterans' organizations Saturday. The flag is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kenkol of Cicero, while the pole was given and erected by William R. Gray of West Chicago.

Walter Dierschow of West Chicago, member of both American Legion Post 300 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6791 presented the flag to Edward Farrell, Legion post commander.

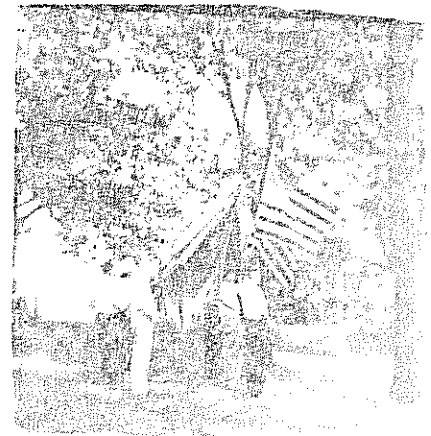
THE COLOR guard remained at the position of present arms while the flag was raised. In the color guard were William Soto, commander of the V.F.W. post, Jerry Walsfeld, Dale LeKander, and Frank Zigman, all V.F.W. members, and Francis Lamb, Paul Fuller, Harry Hummel and Ed Mackert of the Legion.

MILTON PAULA, president of the Wayne Center Cemetery association, read a brief history of the cemetery after offering a short prayer.

One of the oldest cemeteries in DuPage county, it has served as a burial ground since before 1839, when the first recorded burial there was performed. The cemetery was officially recorded in June, 1894.

Fallen fighters of the War of 1812, Civil war, Spanish-American war and World Wars I and II are buried in the Wayne Center cemetery. The cemetery was officially recorded in June, 1894.

Friends from Wheaton, Glen Ellyn, West Chicago, Elgin, Bartlett, J. Plainfield attended the ceremony Saturday afternoon.



To Present Flag At Wayne Cemetery

One of Illinois' oldest cemeteries, the Wayne Center grounds on the old Army Trail road northeast of West Chicago, will be the site of an American flag presentation Saturday at 2 p.m.

Mrs. W. R. Gray, of West Chicago, secretary of the Wayne Center association, said a joint color guard and buglers from both the West Chicago Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion would participate in the

Servicemen from the War of 1812 through World War II and the Korean conflict are buried in the cemetery. A short history of the cemetery and its antecedents will end during the program, said Mrs. Gray.