

Dedication

No single person has served in a community leadership role in Wheaton for a longer period of time, or with more energy and enthusiasm, than has the city's present mayor, Edward Barlage.

This Centennial History is dedicated to him as a token of appreciation for his many years of service.

A native of neighboring New Effington, South Dakota, born there in 1915, Ed Barlage grew up in Redpath Township, Traverse County, and became a resident of Wheaton in 1938.

He was first elected to serve on the City Council in 1964, and six years later was named the city's mayor. He has continued in that capacity ever since, now in his 17th consecutive year in that office.



During the tenure of Mayor Barlage a host of community improvements have been made. Included in that number:

- ★ Major street and water line improvements throughout the city.
- ★ Construction of the Wheaton Community Health Center, dedicated in 1971 as the first such facility in the state of Minnesota built by a city.
- ★ Construction of a new city hall and fire department building.
- ★ Establishment of a city ambulance service.
- ★ Development of Falk Park.
- ★ Major improvements at Wheaton Airport, including paving of runway and construction of office building.
- ★ Construction of a new city shop.
- ★ Acquisition of the former Hope Lutheran Church building and its renovation for use as city library.
- ★ Acquisition of a fund grant so that the city could take over operation of the Wheaton Swimming Pool.
- ★ Major expansion and remodeling of Municipal Liquor Store.
- ★ Renovation of City Athletic Field and City Park.
- ★ Establishment of a city sanitary disposal service.

And there have been many other endeavors such as work on a doctor procurement committee, improvements at the skating rink, the complete rebuilding of city wells and the addition of a new well, the acquisition of a \$205,000 state grant for industrial development, the acquisition of city equipment. The list goes on and on.

But perhaps more important than anything else has been the personal and constant interest shown by Mayor Barlage in his city. If you rise early in the morning and look out just about any street, you are likely to see the Mayor taking a slow drive around town — just looking, and wondering what city needs require attention.

To Mayor Barlage, we say Thank You for 23 years of service.

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Acknowledgements

Special thanks are expressed to all who helped to make publication of this Wheaton Centennial History a reality.

Gathering information on the various facets of a community over a span of 100 years becomes a monumental task. Without the assistance of a great many people in researching old newspapers and records, the compilation of historical data would have been impossible.

We are grateful to the many who provided photographs and art work and other pertinent information for use in the book, and certainly to those individuals, too numerous to name, who did the writing and editing of the individual chapters included.

An effort has been made to include all major events of history. We know that some items or events may have been overlooked, but we have tried to make this as complete a collection of historical fact as possible for the Wheaton community as it sets out on the journey through its second century of progress.

THE EDITORS

