



## **History of the Chicago Connection Chapter of the Pepsi-Cola Collectors Club**

by Phil Dillman – 4/24/06

The Chicago Connection Chapter of the Pepsi-Cola Collectors Club “officially” started when Larry Woestman requested an application to start a chapter in the Chicago area. Meanwhile, Phil Dillman displayed some of his then-modest Pepsi collection at the Homewood Public Library and had that fact mentioned in the PCCC newsletter. Larry went to see the display as did some other local PCCC members. Larry called Phil, they met at Larry’s house and decided on a date and location for their first chapter meeting which ended up being held on October 10, 1992 at the Pizza Hut Restaurant in Midlothian, IL. According to the minutes from that meeting, “Six members and one guest were present.” It also stated that the meetings could continue on the second Saturday of each month. It was suggested that “meetings rotate to different locations followed by visiting member’s homes to view collections.”

One of the most important issues discussed was the agreement that “the purpose of the Organization was generally to be social in nature.” It was hoped that the members would share information about the items they found, any leads to other available Pepsi collectibles and to help each other gain knowledge of what is and what isn’t a good collectible.

Larry and Phil were setting up at a couple of different flea markets on a regular basis selling Pepsi collectibles in hopes of starting a Pepsi store/museum as well as to find things for their personal collections and to promote the Chicago Connection Chapter of the PCCC. They met many people this way, some of whom joined the PCCC and the chapter. Many of those members even helped them sell at the flea markets!

Today, this chapter meets every other month at the homes of those members willing to host a meeting. The meetings are still primarily social in nature with many of the members becoming more like family than just friends. Of course, we still discuss various aspects of the world of Pepsi-Cola, related products and collectibles, using an agenda to keep our meetings moving. Sometimes, it actually works!