



Edgewater Scrapbook

"Notes from the Past, News from the Present"

Vol. XXX, No. 4

Fall 2019

Boulevard of bygone dreams

By Ron Cohn

Reprinted from the Malibu East Dialogue

I'm sure that virtually everyone living here at Malibu East knows that Sheridan Road, outside our door, was not always a "condo canyon." Once it was lined, on both sides of the street from Bryn Mawr to Devon, with one of the city's most impressive concentrations of monumental homes. "Millionaire's Row," my father called it. A handful, of course, are still standing as evidence of the grand "mansion mile" they once graced. There are four notable examples within one block of us. To the north, the two Berger Park mansions and Sacred Heart's immense, red brick edifice stand on facing corners at Granville, and to the south, at the corner of Thorndale, the landmarked Colvin House.

Imagine an elm-arched boulevard with homes as big and beautiful as these, one after another as far as the eye could see. This was the Sheridan Road of my Edgewater boyhood, just a block from our Kenmore apartment, but as distant from my reality as an alternate universe.

In the fall and winter of 1948-49, having moved to Edgewater but finishing grammar school with my class in northernmost Rogers Park, I rode the Sheridan Road bus on non-biking days between Howard Street and Hollywood Avenue. Heading home, we passed the beloved Granada Theater and made the turn east onto Devon/West Sheridan for three blocks, passed the Mundelein College skyscraper and rounded the

curve into my boulevard of dreams. This entry corner, which in my impressionable mind should have been marked by a ceremonial gateway, was despoiled by a tiny Standard Oil gas station on the southwest corner, facing the first two great houses on the lake. Its hand-painted curbside sign has stuck in my memory: LAST GAS ON 41 for 20 MILES, it assertively proclaimed, as if the Outer Drive ahead was going to run nonstop through the Gobi Desert to 67th and Jeffery. I hated their location, but I liked their spirit.

Unfamiliar with the sequence of streets at first, I visually memorized the homes and used them as landmarks. Over the course of months, certain houses became favorites, and one I remember clearly. I knew I was halfway to Hollywood when we got to the massive, elaborately detailed yellow brick home just past the only tall building in that stretch. That high-rise, of course, was our vintage neighbor at 6101, and the one home I dreamed of living in, amid unimaginable opulence, was - you guessed it - the one that stood on the land that is now Malibu East. Almost perfectly symmetrical, with third-floor dormers and lines

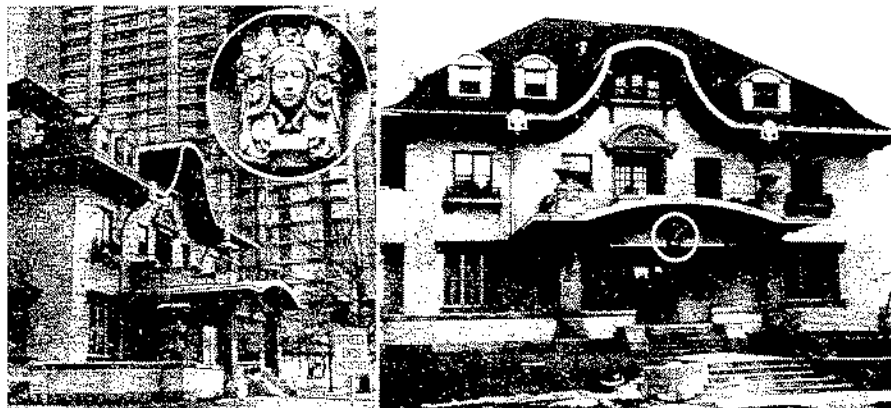
evoking (to me) the mystery of a Tibetan monastery, it had a sculpted ancient coin medallion the size of a manhole cover set into the center of its deep porch overhang (see photo below).

Ironically, I witnessed this site of my adolescent fantasies being demolished less than 25 years later by my client, Dunbar Builders.

An astonishing fact to me is that the present "Great Wall of Condos" has now occupied more of Sheridan Road's history than its days as an avenue of grand homes. Although it seemed at the time so deeply rooted and permanent, the era in fact endured for only about 50 years. The mansions were mostly built between 1905 and 1920, and by the 1960s they were coming down.

The story behind Sheridan Road's name is interesting, with a strong political flavor not unusual in similar circumstances. Gen. Phil Sheridan was a Civil War hero who became the first commandant of the Army base bearing his name, built in the late 1880s. Labor unrest in the 1870s was the reason that local business and political leaders wanted a strong Army presence

(Continued on page 4)





From the President

EHS Needs You – Volunteering Part II

Last issue came out amid our garden's blooming hydrangeas. Now we are facing the winter holidays, with snow covering the garden beds; we start looking inside our warm confines for things to do. I had suggested a number of ways you could help serve your historical society and museum. I'll be blunt. We are looking for new and young blood to start picking up the slack as some of us longer serving volunteers start to slow down; at least I know, I am. Several of your board members, officers, and committee chairs were here over 30 years ago when we were founded.

Your historical society is now in a good place – we have a wonderful, although, sometimes too small facility; the building has a solid endowment with careful stewards, a new solar installation on the roof, and a great and popular garden. Our collections of photos and local ephemera run in the thousands and we are running out of space. Our membership is at its highest (almost 700), our exhibits and programs are extremely well done and received by the community. Our new challenges are looking to the future, the adequacy of our facility for future needs, to review how to best reach the community, and to consider what should be our role as a repository of local history. To do that we need new visions, fresh ideas, and energetic volunteers to keep up the pace we are maintaining....for now.

Previously, I wrote about volunteering as home tour/museum docents, and the opportunities to serve on our board. This issue explains a few more of our volunteer functions you might consider. If interested, please contact us at www.edgewaterhistory.org.

Help Us Write Our Walking Tour Brochures – Over 30 plus

years we conducted many home tours and walking tours through Edgewater's varied neighborhoods. Our web site is chock full of information from our home tours and information on scores of historic architecture and interesting sites that reflect our history. To encourage year-round exploration of our great neighborhoods, we want to develop self-guided walking tours. Do you have a knack for words and guides? Would you like to learn more about the interesting and unique aspects to our neighborhoods of Edgewater? If so, we could use your help. Just contact our website and address your comments to Kathy Gemperle.



A group from EHS on a tour of the Bryn Mawr Historic District

Window Displays – Had you ever marveled at the wondrous window displays on the winter holidays at Marshall Field's? Have you noticed how our museum window displays are very creative and reflective of the exhibits themes? We have really interesting exhibits with great visual appeal. We need to promote those exhibits through the media, but also through the appeal of our window displays. You would be amazed at how many people come into the museum who say they drove or walked by many times and always wanted to come in. Well, those displays help get their attention. Besides exhibits, we have an interesting and eclectic prop collection. So, do you have a flair for graphics? Do you have a good design sense? Do you have a feel for how to get people's attention? If so, we could use your help. Just address

your comments to Kathy Gemperle.

Documentary Photos – Do you like taking pictures? You don't have to be a professional photographer. We would love to find "pholks" who want to help us document the changing "L" stations as Edgewater faces a several year project to upgrade the Northside Red Line. We would like to document demolition of and changes to our stations at Berwyn and Bryn Mawr and other related changes. For example, the old Toyota dealership on Broadway will be demolished to make way for a staging area for the multi-year construction projection.

Garden – Do you like getting outdoors? Do you enjoy gardening? Well, we could use your help. Marjorie Fritz-Birch heads up our Gardening Committee and has been doing a fabulous job especially having given new life to the shaded north parkway. In particular we could use your help with the periodic watering that is needed especially during the hot summer months. Would you be willing to take an hour or so each summer week to help keep our plants so succulent? Or in the fall, could you give us an hour or two to help with raking the plant beds? Also do you have any favorite plants you might want to recommend? How about helping with floral arrangement in our entry way or in our garden for receptions and events? If you have that special green thumb, join us. If so, we could use your help. Just address your comments to Marjorie Fritz-Birch.

In the next issues we will let you know about opportunities to volunteer for oral histories, exhibit planning, exhibit hanging, historic sites advocacy, research and collections (archiving, indexing, and preparing finding lists)

Volunteering can be really fulfilling, and as a bonus, we play well together and like to picnic and party! Come join us.

Robert Remer
President

November 12, 2019

Alderman Harry Osterman
5533 N. Broadway
Chicago IL 60640

Re: Nordine Mansion

Dear Alderman Osterman:

In our March 19, 2019 letter to the Chicago Commission on Landmarks, on which you were copied, we requested preliminary Landmark status for the Nordine Mansion. It seems clear the Nordine house meets at least two of the seven criteria for designation - enough to be landmarked. Indeed, that has already been affirmed by the Landmark Commission staff.

We are baffled why you have been silent on the question of supporting Landmark designation. To that point, we formally ask you to support Landmark designation when asked by the Landmark Commission staff and that you immediately request the staff to begin the nomination report. We are also baffled why you have apparently have made an unexplained about-face decision regarding a zoning change that might also encourage preservation-focused redevelopment of the property

Because the home has "orange status," meaning it has been identified by the City as a potential landmark, any request for a demolition permit will trigger an "up to 90 day" delay, so the Landmark Commission can further document how the property meets two of the seven criteria (which they already concluded it does). In that event, you will be asked whether you consent to Landmark designation, so why not do it now? We respectfully ask you end the uncertainty and give the Landmark Commission staff ample time to prepare a robust report.

On two occasions when asked at public meetings about the Nordine mansion, you said you were concerned you and the city might be sued. With respect to consent to or even advocacy for Landmark designation, there is absolutely no reasonable basis for such concern. No one in the Preservation Advocacy community or at the Landmark Commission staff knows of a single instance of an

alderman being sued for consenting to or advocating for Landmark designation. Aldermen enjoy legislative immunity and indeed voting on recommendations of the Landmark Commission is what you were elected to do! It is specified in the City of Chicago Landmark Ordinance.

The Nordine mansion is the rare and exceptional case where the stars are favorably aligned for landmarking. Few buildings worth saving are as straightforward as this.

Please note that a significant piece of beautiful architecture is not something that simply brings value to its owner. Indeed, great architecture is something that is appreciated by all those who pass it and helps to bolster the appeal and value of other properties in its surrounding community. Edgewater's Kenmore-Winthrop corridor is already one of the densest parts of the City of Chicago, and already has an abundance of banal, high-density "Four Plus One" properties. Allowing the last of the truly unique and lower density properties to be plowed under in the name of "progress" is something that will greatly diminish the value of our community for all.

We believe this should be an easy call for you. No one in the 48th ward is clamoring for the mansion's demolition but many favor preserving the ultra-significant Nordine mansion. Without your assent, the building goes down. With your assent it can be saved. This decision is yours. I pray you will do the right thing.

Let us know your decision as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Robert Remer
President

cc: Maurice Cox, Dept of Planning & Development
Eleanor Gorski, Dept of Planning & Development
Dijana Cuvalo, Dept of Planning & Development,
Ward Miller, Preservation Chicago
Bonny McDonald, Landmarks Illinois
Block Club Chicago
Edgeville Buzz
Inside Publications

POSTCARD



Dear friends,

This home in Edgewater was once owned by Ken Nordine, a poet, artist and audio broadcaster of WORD JAZZ on WBEZ. He moved to the 6 bedroom mansion and then watched as many of the old original homes were sold to be replaced by four plus ones. He even tried to save the house next door owned by Edward Higgins. Now after his passing his home is threatened and many Edgewater neighbors are hoping to save it and see it developed with attention to the historic nature of the building. Call the alderman's office and voice your support for the preservation of the Nordine home.

The Board of the EHS

Boulevard of bygone dreams *(Continued from page 1)*

near Chicago. While Fort Sheridan was being built some 30 miles north of the city, a direct route was laid out for the caissons to roll in case of trouble. The resultant road was also named after Gen. Sheridan and was completed in time for troops to march to Chicago to quell the Haymarket Riots of 1894 – the first and only time Fort Sheridan’s complement was deployed for its intended purpose.

Another, more recent, military connection to Sheridan Road is a clear recollection of mine. In April 1951, President Harry Truman, bristling at criticism of his policies made by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander of United Nations forces in Korea, relieved the idealized heroic figure of his duties. MacArthur came home to enormous demonstrations in his behalf, one of the largest in Soldier Field on April 26, following a crowd-lined motorcade from Midway Airport. The next day the motorcade headed north for a stop at Fort Sheridan on the way to his next rally in Milwaukee. It came up Sheridan Road on a cold, gray morning at about 20 miles an hour, and passed Hollywood Avenue around 8:45. The general was seated in an enormous, non-military prewar Cadillac convertible. The top was down, he was waving, and I was among the small gathering – jumping, waving, cheering – and late for school.

It is not lost on me that some kind of karma has brought me back to this address on Sheridan Road, to a residence and a way of life that was evidently meant for me – if not the one I dreamed of on a bus ride 70 years ago – one that suits me perfectly well today.

Bryn Mawr, the Main Street of my youth

The name looked funny on the “L” platform sign as we stopped there on the way downtown from Rogers Park – when I was a little kid. The live conductor had an-

nounced the stop as we slowed down, so I knew it should be spelled: Brinmore. The mystery deepened at the next stops: What was the story with those y’s in Berwin and Argyle?

Very perplexing to a new speller when the other stations sounded out properly: Thorndale, Lawrence, Wilson. Loyola looked like how it sounded too, but it was a strange word. I asked my mother and she said it was a Catholic place. That was good enough for me, but she had no explanation on the others except to say she thought they were British and Argyle was a pair of socks.

Bryn Mawr Avenue looked exciting from the “L.” The buildings were big, and exuded qualities I would have described as “charm” and “sophistication,” had the words been in my vocabulary. I just knew it looked special. Remarkably, thanks to responsible owners and a strong preservation movement, it still does.

Most of the structures that captured my imagination 70 years ago stand virtually unchanged today: the great, pink presence of the Edgewater Beach Apartments and the posh piece of 19th century England, the landmarked “Manor

House,” in its shadow, at the corner of Bryn Mawr and Kenmore. The tallest buildings in the two-block commercial area running west to Broadway, the finely detailed, richly decorated Bryn Mawr Apartments and The Belle Shore – both also designated Chicago landmarks – stand as they have for over 90 years in the block to the west. Shorter in stature but no less handsome, Tudor Manor is a third architectural gem surviving splendidly on the block between Kenmore and Winthrop. More subtly detailed than its imposing neighbors, it has a high-pitched red tile roof perched on walls of substantial brick, with four half-timbered gables spaced along its Bryn Mawr frontage.

In what I think is remarkable for any Chicago neighborhood commercial district, the four 1920s era buildings enclosing the corner of Kenmore and Bryn Mawr, including the gray eminence of the Edgewater Presbyterian Church, look almost exactly as I first saw them when I was dispatched by my father to get a newspaper at Deny’s Drugs in 1948. Standing there today, as I often do, the only changes are that Deny’s is now Francesca’s, and Goldberg’s Delicatessen is now Zanzibar Café.

Bryn Mawr became my local “downtown” when I landed at Hollywood and Kenmore at the age of 12. It was a big step up from the neighborhood shopping I was accustomed to on Chase and Morse Avenues, and it was almost the equal of Howard Street, with more grocery stores, but only one dinky movie theater instead of two big ones. It also had a bowling alley. Not a 30-lane pleasure palace like the Howard Bowl, but a place called Melody Lanes, with a dozen or so lanes strangely enough located up a flight of stairs at the corner of Winthrop. The upstairs recreation theme was carried out at the billiard parlor across the street, which we called Pop’s. On the alley with a worm’s eye view of the “L” platform, the place vibrated like a depth



EDGEWATER BEACH APARTMENTS — CHICAGO

(Continued on page 5)

Boulevard of bygone dreams (Continued from page 4)

-charged submarine when the Evanston Express bypassed our stop at over 60 mph.

Although most of the buildings remain, all the stores have changed – most multiple times since the '50s. Gone are the Bryn Mawr Theater (which, despite being “dinky” by comparison to the ornate Rapp & Rapp movie palaces, was actually designed by that same iconic team) and the Peter Pan Sandwich Shop next door. That combination was the one-two punch for dining and entertainment in my high school years of 1949 to 1953. Of historical note is that the Bryn Mawr Peter Pan was the first of a chain that grew to five or six locations and was the initial restaurant venture for Chris Carson, the rib joint tycoon-to-be.

Across the street from Peter Pan, in the half block west of the “L,” were a Jewel, a Woolworth’s and our go-to Chinese restaurant, The Good Earth. East of the “L” on that (north) side of the street there was a large store for women’s clothing, whose name was a punchline for us – Nuenuebel’s, which we loudly announced as NOO-NOO-BELLS on



Bryn Mawr in 1932

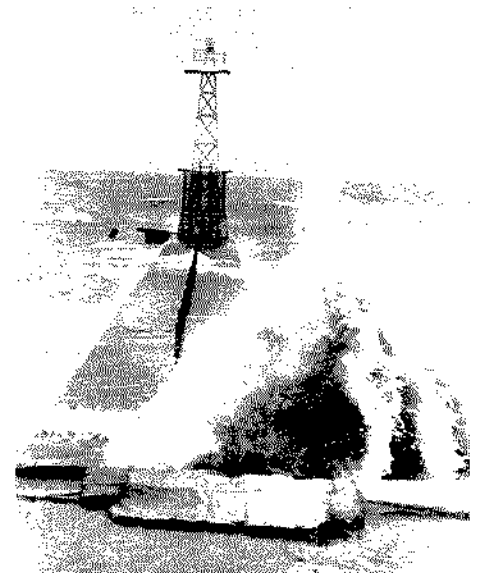
our way to and from Pop’s. Never knew how it was actually pronounced. Virtually under the “L,” on the other side of the street, was a widely renowned jazz spot, the 1111 Club. I didn’t get to avail myself of its entertainment until my college years, but it featured top talent like the famous trombonist Georg Brunis and drummer Claude “Hey Hey” Humphrey.

Our urban archaeology tour comes to an end back at the corner of Winthrop and Bryn Mawr. There were liquor stores where Starbucks and Subway are now located and an A&P grocery store occupied the building that was replaced by Nookies’ new construction. Walgreens was on the corner that is now the Edgewater Mexican Restaurant. That building, extending east to the alley, looks new, but it was re clad with ceramic tiles sometime in the '70s or '80s (I’m guessing). In my day it housed two important neighborhood institutions along with the drugstore. Isbell’s was a relatively upscale white-tablecloth restaurant with a piano bar, part of a small chain that had a location on Rush Street and another on Diversey. Next to it was the third major grocery in the two blocks, and the most innovative. Shop and Save catered to the well-to-do in the vicinity, of which there was no shortage in the Edgewater Beach Apartments, the Sheridan Road mansions and the better homes and fancy buildings on Kenmore and Winthrop. It was part of a small chain owned by the Kamberos family that morphed into Treasure Island in the '60s. Shop and Save was not part of that next phase, however. It changed to Sure-Save in the mid-'50s and ultimately became a National grocery store.

The final vivid personal memory of my Bryn Mawr boyhood was of afternoons and evenings spent looking at roller derby and wrestling in the window of the radio and TV store just west of Deny’s through the fall and winter of 1948, until my father got us a round-screen Zenith.

Rising Lake Level Menace Echoes Edgewater History

With Lake Michigan lake levels rising inexorably over the past six years, Edgewater residents are getting a worrisome reminder of the havoc our greatest natural asset wrought on Chicago in the late 1980s.



Have you looked at the lake lately? Don't get too close. The wild winter weather shows the power of the high water in this photo.

A new exhibit at the Edgewater History Museum “High Water or Hell: Rising lake puts Chicago on edge” revisits the extraordinary damage created when Lake Michigan last rose to the record-high levels currently being experienced. It also looks at the civic efforts that followed to find ways to protect the lakeshore land and adjacent property owners from further destruction and where current efforts stand; what was and wasn't done to stop the damage; and what lakefront denizens might expect in the years to come.



Broadway Study

Preserve, Revive, Develop

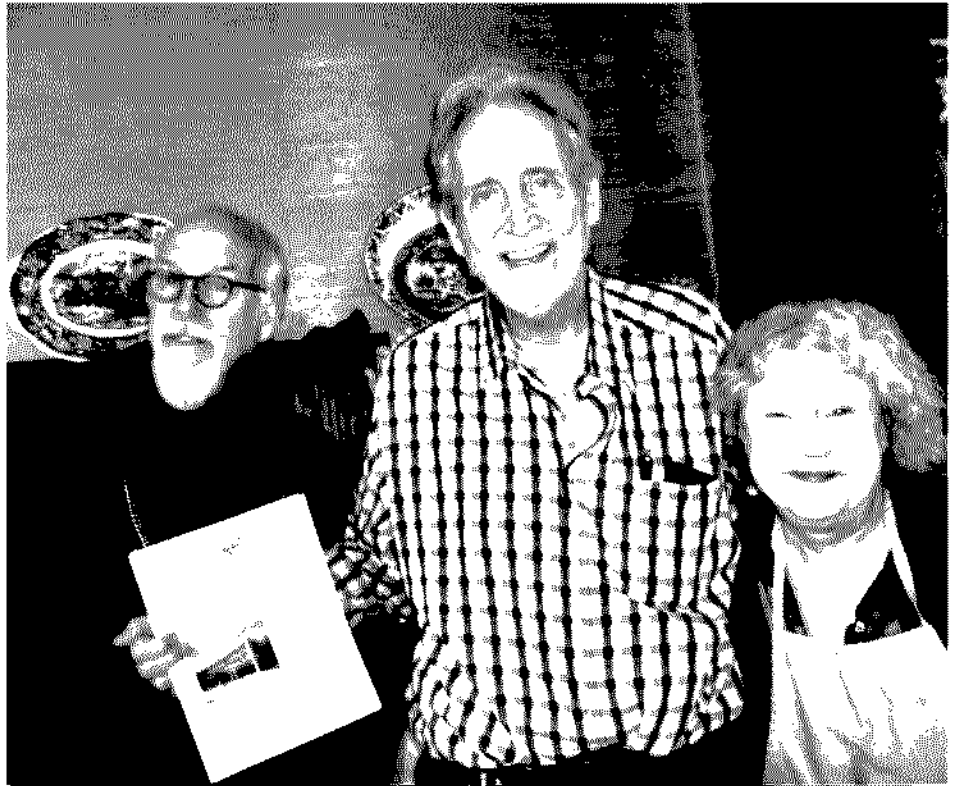
It's been two years in the making – a comprehensive analysis of the historic buildings on Broadway in Edgewater. Years ago, LeRoy Blommaert worked with a group of board members of EHS to make a list of historic buildings on this street. With the idea of expanding the list and adding information, Thom Greene, Marsha Holland, John Holden and Bob Remer got involved. Tiffany and Jonas Middleton worked on the Motor Row exhibit, and found how many buildings were auto related. Edgewater had its own Motor Row.

Thom took the leadership on the visuals and the production of the final book with Greene and Proppe Design covering the costs by having Lauren Artarian work on the production and Greene and Proppe covering all the printing costs.

Marsha contributed more research, and John Holden and Bob Remer kept reviewing and editing. The purpose of gathering all information is to offer information on the buildings for potential development and adaptive reuse. When buildings are torn down and the historic facades altered, the community loses its history. Case in point, the arcade building at Broadway and Devon is now gone forever. Or how about the commercial buildings on the 6300 block of Broadway, where now stands a community garden awaiting development for many years. Hopefully we can do better than demolishing historic buildings and replacing them with misfits.

Thom Greene brought the completed book to the EHS holiday party to present to Bob Remer, EHS President. Now we are looking toward the next steps.

The study will be unveiled at the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce board meeting on Jan 8, 2020.



Thom Greene (left) presenting the complete Broadway study to Bob Remer, President, with Marsha Holland looking on.

Early photo of Broadway



This photo of a wooden restaurant and clubhouse at the corner of Devon and Broadway was taken in 1899 when horse-drawn wagons were the primary means of transport. The wooden structures were gradually replaced with brick buildings, and with the advent of car showrooms, many repair garages. Planning what comes next is the challenge of the twenty-first century.

My Woolworth's Christmas

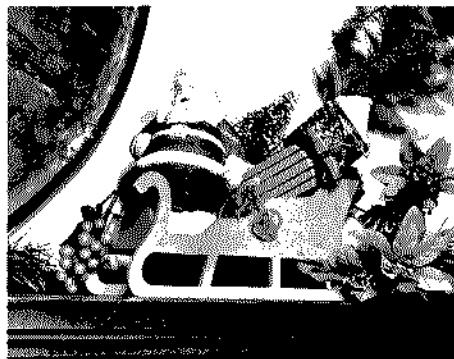
By Kathy Gemperle

Although I grew up in a town west of Chicago, almost all my Christmas decorations came from the Woolworths stores in Uptown and Edgewater. This is because my aunt Joana worked at the Uptown Woolworths for 41 years and she knew that store like the back of her hand. And when Christmas came around, she was on the watch for things that would bring the light of Christmas into the eyes of her niece and nephew.

We, of course, did not know these things came from the five-and-dime nor did we know where her store was. She began working there while a teenager to help supplement the family income of her mother, who was raising three daughters by herself. Joana was the oldest, and the store manager, Mr. Stephens, knew her mother and their circumstances, and was happy to take Joana for holiday help. She was so good at her work that she continued there for a few hours after school until she finished high school. Joana had a great visual memory and was good at keeping track of things. When she first started there, she had a job just standing next to a counter with ribbons and yarn. Next she went to the baby counter, and later she handled glassware and wrapped the items up in newspaper. Her role was to offer help to any customers that came by. She worked in all the departments, and learned the inventory. Eventually she was what was known then as a floor walker, guiding customers to the location of the items they sought.

As years went by she was promoted to bookkeeper, and was even sent to other stores to do the inventory. When it came close to Christmas, she watched for decorations that she thought might interest her niece and nephew. But even before we were old enough to recognize these items, she brought home a plaster Santa and a sleigh for me. It

was breakable, and I did not play with it; it was placed on our mantel as a reminder that Santa Claus was coming. To go with the sleigh she purchased eight plastic reindeer. They are made of a cellulite plastic that is very fragile. I don't think we ever touched these things.



Next came Santa's boots, bright red and about three inches tall. They were made of paper mâché. Then she brought a small Santa made of plaster that was inside a boot. Truly we did not know what to make of this one. Later she found little Santa Claus Christmas bells that we had at our places at the dinner table. They were made of china and, of course, were from China. The decorations at the table on Christmas thrilled us the most. We had snowmen salt and pepper shakers and Santa and Christmas tree salt and pepper shakers. As we grew older the items became more interesting. One year she brought a contraption that had four candles and a turning brass fluted wheel that moved as the heat from the candles rose. This twirling thing rang a delicate chime. When the season was over, it took some work to remove the candle wax and prepare it for next Christmas. In those days we all thought this happy Christmas time would go on forever.

Joana continued to work at Woolworths, riding the bus and the "L" to work everyday. She lived with our grandmother, who had retired and finally bought a house. And then one year she announced she would be retiring.

By that time, my husband and I were looking for a house in Edgewater, not very far from the Uptown Woolworths. We found the house

after her retirement and moved in in 1975. There was also a Woolworths on Bryn Mawr and it announced it was closing sometime after that. The rise of the discount shopping spelled the end for local retail shopping and the marketplace began to change. I made a nostalgic trip to the Bryn Mawr Woolworths wondering if I would find anything "i can't live without." As it turns out, I found charming glass coffee mugs with holly berries on them, and some glass tumblers similarly decorated. I bought all they had, happy to have the joy of a Woolworths Christmas for my new home.



Welcome Alderman Andre Vasquez, 40th Ward

EHS Board members gather round Alderman Vasquez (center) during his visit to the Edgewater Historical Society Museum

Freshman Alderman Andre Vasquez, whose 40th Ward includes EHS' West Andersonville home, visited with members of the EHS board during their September business meeting. Among the issues discussed were preservation and how it can contribute to overall community vitality.



News from the Front: Committee Communiqués

HISTORIC SITES

Co-Chairs: Thom Greene and LeRoy Blommaert

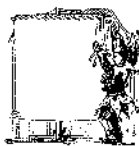


Preservation of the Ken Nordine home at 6106 Kenmore is a primary issue. Edgewater has a wonderful history of development and community activity beginning in 1908, when neighbors near Granville joined Cochran in a suit to prevent teardowns. Losing these historic homes is the destruction of a history that cannot be replaced. See our letter to Alderman Osterman on page 3.

Alderman Osterman's preservation committee held its first meeting on Monday Dec. 9, with about 20 people in attendance. If you want to have a say so on preservation in Edgewater, contact the alderman's office to find out the schedule of meetings.

PROGRAM

Co-Chairs: Bob Remer and John Holden



We have had some interesting programs this Fall including the Luxembourg program and the Edgewater demographics talk by Rob Paral.

There is more to come. If you have any suggestions for programs, get in contact with us through the website *Contact Us*. Some of our speakers have authored a book, and are willing to speak to many groups.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Steve Meiss



Board elections will be held at the March General Meeting. If you are interested in serving on the board, contact us. We meet regularly on the third Saturday of the month.

MEMBERSHIP

Chair: LeRoy Blommaert



As the new year begins, we hope you will consider giving a gift membership to a friend who will enjoy the newsletter. It's only \$5.00, and it is good through the end of 2020.

Remember, membership makes up one third of our budget, which enables us to keep the museum open and free.

PROPERTY

Chair: Thom Greene



The snow surprised us a little but our shoveler was on the job.

Any work we had hoped to do this fall is delayed 'til spring. May we have a mild winter.

Notice

If you are a member, and do not receive emails from us, either we don't have your email, or we have an incorrect one (we send at least one email a month). If this is the case, please go to our website (www.EdgewaterHistory.org) and use the Contact Us form to furnish your email.

We rely on emails to notify members of programs and events.

FINANCE

Co-Chairs: Bob Remer and Mark Richardson



Our budget is balanced, and we are looking forward to the new year. All reports will be presented in 2020

COLLECTIONS

Chair: LeRoy Blommaert



Special thanks to Mark Hersch, photographer, for his donation of a digital historic re-photograph of a scene of the 5300 block of Clark Street, combining a postcard from 1900 and a present day photo. Stop by the museum to see the new image. You can view more of Mark's work at www.markhersch.com

COMMUNICATIONS

Co-Chairs: Kathy Gemperle and Martin Stewart



The next newsletter will be coming out in February, before our annual meeting in March. In the meantime, watch for notices on Constant Contact or visit our Facebook page.

FUNDRAISING

Chair: Martin Stewart



We had a very successful and enjoyable fundraiser at Marty's Martini Bar on Sunday Nov 3. We raised \$763.00 in three hours. Already planning another next year on August 30. Put it on your calendar.

Recollections of Mae



Mae Johnson 1935-2019

Mae Johnson loved living in Edgewater, and she loved volunteering at Edgewater Historical Society. She was our longest serving docent, who enthusiastically communicated her passion for Edgewater to all who visited the museum under her "watch." Although recently she had serious health problems, she was determined to continue greeting visitors with a big smile and a hearty welcome the first Saturday of every quarter. Mae was involved in many projects, ranging from ice cream socials, Home Tours, fundraisers and even participated in the Collections Committee. She also served as the financial secretary of Holy Family Lutheran Church, where she was a member for over 50 years.

Through her love of taking pictures, she became the de facto historian for her family, her church, and various EHS events. Her work ethic, perseverance and wonderful vibrancy were hallmarks of her life. Her liberal generosity to family and friends will be remembered by all whose lives she touched.

How Edgewater and the North Lakefront's Demographics Have Changed in the Past Half Century

Noted Chicago demographer Rob Paral spoke to a capacity crowd on Nov. 9 at the Edgewater Library, on how the demographics of Edgewater - and other Chicago lakefront communities - have shifted over the past 50 years. According to Paral, much of Edgewater is becoming part of what he dubbed Chicago's "zone of affluence," with rising household incomes and college attainment. And while much of the area remains racially and economically diverse, it is significantly less so than in past decades.



While showing slides and presenting statistics, Mr. Paral engaged the audience with questions, checking who remembered various Edgewater facts. He asked questions about diversity, and mentioned issues like affordable housing. What is the largest ethnic group in Edgewater and what happened to the Swedish residents? His talk made the information come alive.

Congratulations Tom Walsh

Tom is celebrating 10 years of working for the Edgewater Historical Society inputting and organizing our archives on the Past Perfect system. His help is invaluable in finding photos and items in the collections as well as organizing the information attached to the items. It is so important to have a consistent person working on this, and we appreciate his working for us part time over all these years.



Museum docent volunteers needed

Each day the museum is open we need two volunteers to speak with the visitors, and guide them to the exhibits. You don't have to be able to answer questions, although many of the answers are right there. We have two videos to show, one as an introduction. If you sign up to volunteer, we only expect you to come once a month for three hours, or every other month. It's a nice way to meet people and find out more about your neighborhood. The museum is free to all who come, so you don't have to worry about handling cash. To sign up, contact us on the website, or call the museum and leave a message. We can't wait to meet you and get to know you.



Cas Hardware Closing

We learned recently that one of the last remaining mom and pop hardware stores is closing in Andersonville. It has been an institution on Clark Street for decades.

The building at 5305 North Clark Street was built in 1909 by architect Edward Benson for Charles Anderson. For years it was a bakery run by Carl and Erny Walden. The previous owner/operator of the hardware store was a man named Casmir, from whence the name Cas Hardware came.

In 1970 the current owner, Cornell Laddan Jr. left Yugoslavia and came to Chicago. He purchased the business from Casmir in 1978, and kept the name Cas Hardware. He and his wife moved into the upstairs apartment.

The store continued to serve all the needs of the community from fixing lamps to finding screws and washers and cutting keys. They supplied grass seed in the spring that you could purchase in small quantity. Rather than packaged goods, Cas often had products in bulk that could be purchased one at a time.

When as a new homeowner I needed a shutoff valve for my old stove, I brought the parts to the store and was sold the missing part. When it didn't fit, I brought it back and got the correct replacement. I was even given directions on how to install the part.

So now is the time to stop by and say good by and best wishes for a happy retirement. Everything is on sale and you might find something you will be looking for in the future.

Watch for a notice of a special celebration sometime in February before the closing sponsored by the Andersonville Chamber.

Visiting Russian Journalists



Photo by Doris Davenport

For the second year in a row, EHS hosted more than two dozen Russian journalists who were participating in a program sponsored by the Supporters of Civil Society in Russia organization. During their visit, the journalists learned first hand about one of the most notorious chapters in American history in the Chicago Conspiracy Trial. Marjorie Fritz-Birch, whose mother served as a key juror on the trial, provided a personal perspective on the exhibit, which continues at the museum through early 2020.



A familiar face at the front counter, Cornell operated CAS Hardware for 41 years with his wife and daughter. It will be closing in February.

Teaser #44

In our last issue we asked: Where is Edgewater's first residential building to be organized under the cooperative form of ownership (as opposed to the condominium form).

To our knowledge, Edgewater has had only three housing cooperatives. One is well-known; it is the Edgewater Beach Apartments, but it was not the first, and it was not always a co-op. Though opened in 1928, it was not converted to the co-op form of ownership until 1949.

The first co-op was the 45-unit courtyard building at the northeast corner of Winthrop and Catalpa (5501-5515 Winthrop and 1056-1068 Catalpa). And it too was not always a co-op. It was built in 1922 (permit April 22,) but became a co-op soon afterwards – just a year later in 1923. Designed by Paul F. Olson and built for John J. Lyons, it was named – surprise, surprise – “The Lyons Apartments.” In February 1923, it was sold for \$350,000 to Elizabeth Scott, who converted it to its present form of ownership. What is remarkable is that the association still has the minutes of its first board meeting – on February 5, 1924. How is that for keeping history!

By contrast, the first Edgewater condominium declaration was recorded in 1964, some 40 years later. It is the low rise at 6121 N. Sheridan Rd.

The second housing co-op was 5510 N. Sheridan (“The Renaissance”), which was designed in 1927 by the firm of Quinn & Christiansen, and was planned from the beginning to be a cooperative. It was converted to the condominium form of ownership in 1973, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.

Thanks to Matt Gilbert, who lives in the first co-op, for the inspiration for this teaser.

Teaser #45

Why is our “L” on an embankment instead of on the steel struc-

Home Tour 2019

This year's event was a great success, with over 300 attendees and a small army of volunteers. The featured community was Edgewater Glen, and the starting point was St. Gertrude church.



We want to give a big shout out to Michael Calcagno and Paul Mittleman for participating in the 2019 Home Tour this year. Their home at 1508 W Norwood should have been more properly identified in the tour book as the Calcagno Mittleman Residence. Thank you Michael and Paul!

There were several other families that were equally generous to include their Edgewater Glen home in the Home Tour this year. Each participant receives a free one year EHS membership. This year we had four families who volunteered to be on the tour because they had a previous positive experience.

To all who included their home on the tour, the docents, the volunteers, St. Gertrude's Church, Father Rich, Kevin Cheers, and so many

others: Thank you, thank you, thank you!

A wonderful time was had by all. Good work Marjorie Fritz-Birch, Mike Volini and Steve Miess.

The Chicago Conspiracy Trial: One Juror's Ordeal

An exhibit based on the journals of Jean Brown Fritz, who served on the Conspiracy Trial jury from September, 1969 to February, 1970



Edgewater Historical Society Museum
5358 N. Ashland, Chicago, IL



Celebrating after the tour at the Farm Bar on Granville are the home owners and the volunteers

Past Home Tour Books are available at the museum for only \$3.00 each. Have a friend who used to live here? You might get copies of three or four tours done in their neighborhood as a gift. Contact us thru the website and we will put together a package you can pick up on the weekend for your gift.



Edgewater Historical Society
5358 N. Ashland Ave.
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Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Public Notice

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**We Welcome Guest
Columnists At Any Time**



For the Family Tree

Thanks for your support and encouragement.

If you have not yet sent in your renewal, please remember to do so soon. We count on your support to keep the museum open.

Thanks to our volunteer photographers who are ready at our events to record history.

If this is the first newsletter you have received, and you did not recently join the Edgewater Historical Society, it may be that someone gave you a gift membership. If so, a letter will follow.

Visit our Website at:
www.EdgewaterHistory.org

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