

EDGEWATER SCRAPBOOK

"Notes From The Past, News From The Present"

Vol. V No. I

SPRING/SUMMER 1993

The Uptown -- Waiting In The Wings

It was noon on Tuesday, August 18, 1925, when the first anxious moviegoers entered the Uptown Theatre under a marquee that read: "ONE OF THE GREAT ART BUILDINGS OF THE WORLD -- AN ACRE OF SEATS." By two o'clock 60 policemen were called to duty to handle the crowd of 12,000 waiting for the second show at the largest theater in the nation.

"The Uptown Theatre," its owners Balaban & Katz enthused in their special magazine, "is beyond human dreams of loveliness...Entering it you pass into another world. The streets, the clangor of iron on cement, the harsh outlines of the steel thickets we call the city, all disappear. Your spirit rises and soars along the climbing pillars that ascend six stories to the dome ceiling of the colossal lobby. It becomes gay and light under the spell of the warm coloring that plays across heavily carved and ornamented walls..."

The Uptown Theatre is like a castle in Old Spain upon which countless artists and sculptors have lavished their talents...In all the house, stand where you will, your eye can rest on nothing but beauty."

Balaban & Katz did not lie -- the theater WAS a "palace of enchantment," built as another link in the B&K world-famous chain of houses that included the Tivoli, the Riviera and the Chicago. Unlike the others, the Uptown was

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Opening day at the Uptown Theatre: August 18, 1925. The weather was hot (note the umbrellas) but the men are properly wearing coats and hats.

Photo: B & K Magazine

From The President



The celebration of our 5-year anniversary at the Prohibition Party at NLCC on March 20 was a great success thanks in no small part to new board members

Renee Anthony and Ann Tice. Renee chaired the silent auction and Ann decorated the party rooms to provide a speakeasy atmosphere.

Other board members who managed the event were Martha Kraeger, Amie Hanson, Mac Scheeff, Thom Greene, Jim Karela, Mark Harding, Betty Mayian and Sandee Remis. Thanks also for the indispensable services of John Kraeger, Ara Mayian and Dave Gemperle, who always pitch in wherever needed.

Amie Hanson and I really had fun while working hard to challenge history buffs with our compilation of a tough trivia test. Bob Remer earned high honors in the Chicago Trivia Contest, appropriately winning an **Untouchable Tour** for two.

Best costume awards went to Ann and Dave Tice - 1st place couple, Marion Lettner (in her own 1920's dress) - 1st place female, LeRoy Blommaert - 1st place male, Betty Jaci - 2nd place female, and Jim Karela - 2nd place male. The photographers for the evening, Neicey Bossette and Pamela Miller, served as judges for the costume contest.

By popular request, the General Meeting on June 5 at St. Ita Church was followed by an updated version of our original THEN & NOW Tour. The tour featured a guided look through St. Ita's and a walk through central Edgewater with choice pieces of our photo collection to show what originally stood on many of the sites. Many thanks to elder EHS members Marion Lettner and Bill Steinfeld who added spice to an already interesting tour with their personal anecdotes and/or photos.

Last spring I had the pleasure of speaking with the third grade class at St. Gertrude's about the history of Edgewater. Their teacher, Gail Smith, had been teaching them about community history by having them create an Edgewater history time line, viewing the Edgewater video, and creating a model

of Edgewater showing where each child in the class lives. Our conversation in class was a journey through the building of the community with a developing appreciation of its historic architecture. Congratulations, Gail, on an exciting program. We'd love to see other schools work on this aspect of Chicago history.

Believe it or not, our **Fifth Annual Edgewater Home Tour** is coming up on Sunday, September 19, 1993, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., beginning at the North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood.

Six late 19th century homes in the Lakewood-Balmoral area will be highlighted in this year's self-guided tour covering four blocks. Several of the homes have been designated as potential landmarks by the Chicago Landmark Commission, and three of the houses were built by J. L. Cochran. Holabird and Roche, who designed the house in the photo on the next page, were also the architects of the Three Arts Club, the Marquette Building and City Hall. Two churches, North Shore Baptist and Unity Lutheran, will also host guided tours.

The tour price is \$8.00 for members; \$10.00 for non-members. This year a small silent auction is being added, so come prepared - you never know what you might find. Mark your calendars now to reserve the date! Advance reservations can be sent to Marion Lettner, 5733 N. Magnolia, Chicago, IL 60660.

On Sunday, September 26, Roschill Cemetery and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will rededicate over 200 Civil War burial sites at the cemetery. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. with a living history Civil War encampment and end with a rededication ceremony recognizing the replacement of the old memorials with new, legible ones.

Also on Sunday, September 26, the Rogers Park Historical Society will hold its annual RPHS House Tour, 11:00 to 6:00 p.m., beginning at 1629 W. Morse. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance; \$12.00 at the door. Call 312-764-4078 or 764-2401 for more information.

Lastly, be sure to watch your mail for notice of "Making No Small Plans," a

program that will be co-sponsored by EHS and NLCC this October at the North Lakeside Cultural Center.

Kathy Gemperle

The Uptown --

Continued from page 1

Spanish Renaissance in design. Its inventory of furniture, paintings, sculpture and artifacts read like a museum catalog.

It was erected at Broadway, Lawrence and Magnolia Avenues at a cost of over \$4,000,000, covering a city block of land where an old beer garden once stood. It was built in an L shape, with the grande lobby fronting 60 feet on Broadway. An amazing amount of heraldry was used in the decor.



The pinnacled towers of the terra cotta entrance rose 104 feet, the equal of an eight-story building. The main auditorium was 213 feet in length and 170 feet wide, with a 92-foot ceiling. The main floor, mezzanine and balcony accommodated nearly 4,400 seats. Each seat was scientifically located to place its holder in perfect eye-and-ear shot of all activity on stage, screen or orchestra platform.

All light on the auditorium ceiling was from coves and hidden grilles and was controlled by an immense dimmer-board backstage. The dimmer-board permitted the mixing of colors to any degree or in any hue anywhere in the entire house. Approximately 17,000 electric light bulbs were used in the theater.

The largest and most modern "freezing and air-washing" plant in the world (at that time) was located deep under the theater. Engines changed the air in the theater every two minutes. According to Balaban & Katz's magazine, physicians all over Chicago used to send convalescents to B&K houses "for the beneficial

effects of the dry pure air that pervades the interiors as on mountain tops."

The orchestra pit held 60 musicians and was on a huge elevator platform which permitted the entire host of musicians to be raised or lowered as the program demanded. The Uptown also claimed the most expensive Wurlitzer grande organ built at the time. 10,000 pipes strong, the organ was capable of reproducing a symphony orchestra, a military band, a jazz band, a cathedral organ, a choir of female and male voices, and, per Balaban & Katz, "effects of the sublimest beauty or most humorous imitation of the animal kingdom."



A \$65,000 radio broadcasting room was situated backstage. It was connected with Station WEBH at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, over whose control Uptown Theatre programs went out to the world.

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FOR THE FAMILY TREE

Congratulations to Renee Anthony and Ann Tice, who were newly elected, and to Mary Cramer, Thom Greene, Jim Karela, Bill Steinfeld and Everett Stetson, who were re-elected to the 1993 EHS Board, and also to Carl Helbig who filled a vacancy left by David Gemperle. Thanks to David Gemperle for his many good years of service on the Board. Dave is still an active member, by the way: he simply resigned from the Board.

Congrats likewise to the new Board officers elected for 1993:

President
Kathryn Gemperle
1st Vice President
Sandra A. Remis
2nd Vice President
Thom Greene
3rd Vice President
Mark Harding
4th Vice President
Martha Kraeger
Treasurer
James Karela
Recording Secretary
Elizabeth Mayian

We are still looking for someone willing to serve as Corresponding Secretary.

EHS also wishes to thank our "old friends" who have renewed their memberships, and to extend a warm welcome to ten new members who joined as of May 1993 --

Families: Richard & Shelly Handschuh
Patricia McGuinness-Orkalis

Individuals: Renee Anthony
Charles J. Fiori
Reggie Griffin
R.J. Hurley, Jr.
Susan Kraeger Kapche
David Lowenstein

Seniors: Mrs. Albert N. Backus
Ann Warren

Special congratulations to Gregg Mann, who recently received an honorary membership in EHS by action of the Board in recognition of all his efforts on behalf of our society.



POSTCARD

An 1898 home by Holabird and Roche is just one of the treasures you'll discover on the **Fifth Annual Edgewater Home Tour**, Sunday, Sept. 19, 1993, noon til 5 p.m., beginning at North Shore Baptist Church, 5244 N. Lakewood. (See President's Letter on page 2 for added details.)

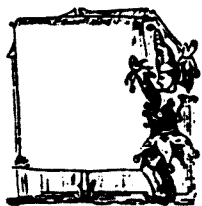
Aren't you just itching to see the inside of this beauty?!

See you there!

News From The Front: Committee Communiques

PROGRAM

Vacancy, chair



We're looking for a chairman for this Committee. The chairman would be responsible for devising and/or making arrangements for three to

four General Meeting programs per year. The Board often offers helpful suggestions. If you are interested, please call Kathy Gemperle at 312-561-0893.

HISTORIC SITES

Co-chairs:
Thom Greene 743-1910
Antigoni Sofious 338-1160



Our sympathy to Edgewater on her loss of the circa 1928, classical, intricately detailed, Art Deco building at Devon and Broadway, making way

for a cheap hamburger joint. I wonder if decades from now architectural pieces from this new place will be seen at antique shops tagged at \$500 each (and that's today's price), as pieces of the destroyed building now are!

On a happier note, the Edgewater Beautiful Committee of ECC completed the restorization/colorization of the Ardmore Beach light tower in time for the July 22, 1993 rededication of the area as Kathy Osterman Beach.

Plans are underway to rehab the J.E.O. Pridmore Manor House at 1029 W. Bryn Mawr, a national landmark building built in 1907. With assistance from the

Edgewater Community Council, the Preservation Development Corp. bought the building last July from the RTC and intends to restore the property to its original historic grandeur. EHS had sent a letter last March to the RTC asset manager strongly supporting ECC's efforts.

MEMBERSHIP

LeRoy Blommaert 728-1498
J.D. Meacham 274-0005



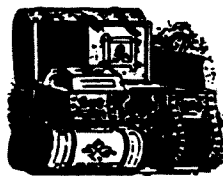
Membership as of May 20, 1993 included 34 Individuals, 33 Families, 5 Patrons, 57 Seniors, 3 Organization, and 5 Honoraries, for a

total of 137 members.

Several hundred letters to prospective members were recently mailed along with flyers for EHS' upcoming home tour, so hopefully we'll soon have new friends to meet.

COLLECTIONS

Evangeline Mistaras, convener
334-7373



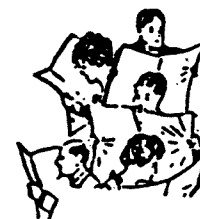
The Committee has been reviewing the collection policies of some other local historical societies that were researched by Evangeline Mistaras, and

has been busy developing a policy for EHS.

Evangeline attended a workshop on how to curate on June 5, 1993 and brought back lots of good ideas.

COMMUNICATIONS

Sandee Remis, chair
275-1836



News releases regarding the Sept. 19 Annual Home Tour have been mailed to local newspapers, magazines, radio and TV, as well as to some churches

(for their bulletins) and local banks (for their automated signs). If you see something in print, I would appreciate your sending me a clipping. If you hear something on the radio or TV, please let me know the date, time and station. Thanks for the help.

FINANCE

Co-chairs:
LeRoy Blommaert 728-1498
Bob Remer 561-6280



We are happy to welcome Carl Helbig and "go-getter" Renee Anthony to the fundraising portion of this Committee. Thanks in large part

to Renee's efforts, the March Prohibition Party proceeds were \$1,362.81, of which \$537.00 came from the silent auction.

Treasurer Jim Karela reported a bank balance of \$10,210.09 as of July 20, 1993.

ORAL HISTORY

Gloria Evenson, chair
275-4028



Renee Anthony and J.D. Meacham have joined the Oral History Committee, which is ever accumulating prospects to be interviewed. J.D., in fact, is currently working on a special

interview with Clayton Moore, who was raised in Edgewater and later became famous as "The Lone Ranger."

A decision was made at the last Board meeting to secure a safe deposit box for our oral history tapes. A bank vault's temperature and humidity controls will help extend the life of the tapes.

The Silent Bandits



A picture may be worth a thousand words -- but not if it's dull and discolored. A bad photo album can silently but surely rob you of all your photographic memories. It doesn't matter whether the photos are color or black and white; you need to take the same precautions for preserving both.

Good photo albums will keep your pictures looking like new for years on end. They also allow you to organize your pictures and to look at them without adding messy fingerprints to their surfaces.

Bad photo albums, the ones to avoid, are magnetic albums and those with plastic pages made of polyvinylchloride (PVC). PVCs speed the deterioration process, often turning photos yellow. Magnetic albums use sticky cardboard and plastic overlays to anchor the photos in place. The trouble is, both the plastic and glue cause the photos to fade.

When purchasing a photo album, find one of "archival quality" that specifically says it has no PVCs. If it doesn't say so, you could be buying a "PVC Pac Man" intent on "eating" your pictures.

An archival quality album contains 100% polypropylene or mylar plastic pages and/or 100% acid-free paper pages. It will keep your photos looking new for 50 years or more -- an absolute "must" for your wedding and baby pictures. When storing negatives, it is also advisable to use archival type pages, and to place each negative strip in a separate sleeve.

Besides photo albums with PVC pages, you may want to avoid another common method of photo storage -- holders that resemble the kind used to store computer diskettes. The problem with these is that your photographs are not protected in individual pockets; they

may stick together and are easy targets for smudgy fingerprints.

By heeding these tips, your photos won't fade and neither will your treasured memories!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The only source, of which I am presently aware, for the archival quality materials referenced above is EXPOSURES, a mail order business that also carries an extraordinary array of picture frames, acid-free paper scrapbooks, and storage boxes.

Archival plastic pages run \$6.95 per set of 10, although the price comes down to \$4.85 per set when ordering 5 or more sets. For more information, write to the Customer Service Dept., 1 Memory Lane, P.O. Box 3615, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3615, or call 1-800-572-5750 Mon.-Fri., 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (EST).



The Bear Truth

Believe it or not -- the original teddy bear here in America is going ... going ... almost gone!

Impossible you say? Absolutely not! It's happening, and soon we might have to say goodbye forever.

Just in case you've forgotten, here's the true story of the origin of the teddy bear:

One day, back in 1902, Teddy Roosevelt was trying to settle a dispute along the Louisiana-Mississippi boundary.

His host took him bear hunting. But, alas, no bear showed up. Nervous and embarrassed, the man snared a cub and offered to let the President shoot it. Roosevelt declined. (Bully for him!)

To the reporters plodding along on the hunt, this made a fascinating story -- carried by newspapers all over the country -- including a cartoon in *The Washington Post* showing Roosevelt refusing to shoot a frightened cub.

But the story doesn't end there.

An enterprising store owner in Brooklyn asked and received permission from Roosevelt to call the adorable stuffed bears made by his wife -- "teddy bears."

Yes, it's a true story. It is also fact that in Roosevelt's time the bears that inspired their stuffed counterparts roamed over four states. But now experts estimate that only 200 to 300 of the animals survive! The villains -- land clearing and hunting.

Going ... going ... almost gone. Please say good night and not goodbye, sweet teddy bear.

The Nature Conservancy

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy goes to the Mertens/Thiry families on the death of their beloved Mary, a treasured member of EHS. Mary was featured in a front page story in the *Edgewater Scrapbook*, Fall/Winter 1990, after she and her daughter Joan gave the society a wonderful presentation on how families can capture their own memories to pass on to succeeding generations. She was an inspiration to all of us who were lucky enough to meet her.

Heartfelt condolences are also extended to EHS member John Kraeger, whose mother passed away at the age of 104 last February, to EHS Vice President Martha Kraeger, who lost her 98-year-old mother near the end of August, and to EHS Vice President Mark Harding, whose father passed away in late August.

Edgewater Beach

Memories

The following memories of the Edgewater Beach Hotel appeared as part of a lengthy article by Adam Langer in the November 10, 1989 issue of the *Reader*. The author graciously consented to let the *Edgewater Scrapbook* reprint the entire article in serialized form. This is the sixth and final part of the series.

Part VI

Then, in 1967, it happened. The Edgewater Beach Hotel declared bankruptcy and closed its doors.

George Stanton, chief executive steward: It all happened so fast. All of a sudden, new owners. Some guy from New York. When they said that, I said, "Oh boy! What the hell goes on now?" He never showed his face. He just grabbed what he could and got out. I never saw him. If I saw him now, I'd cut his g---mn gizzard out and feed it to him like chopped liver.

I'm forgiving, but it's sad that other people had to suffer on account of him. I don't bear grudges, but when you're hurt you feel it. H.R. Weissberg. How can I forget that name? He locked the door on us. I said, "Who closed it up?" They said, "Your boss." I said, "That son of a b---ch is not my boss. I can't acknowledge him as my boss when he's locking us out." There was nothing wrong with us. The business was there. We had it booked for a thousand people. But he locked it up without a payday. That was the lousiest day -- right before Christmas. That was the lousiest thing you could do.

Dave Kiddy, doorman: I don't know why it closed. The first of September we were running a full house, and we were running a full hotel right before Christmas. And I remember, he said, "We're bankrupt. We're closing." No

money. But we had run a full house just the day before. The Beach Walk was gone, that was true, but the hotel itself was doing a very good business. It closed because somebody wanted to make a fast buck.

Melvin Dolin, drugstore owner, Edgewater Beach Hotel: We sold cosmetics. We had a self-service lunch counter. Liquor. There was a postal substation. There was general merchandise. We had a luncheonette and a soda fountain. But when I came, the hotel was already dying. It was starting to deteriorate, but they always said they were going to do a lot of work to refurbish it. That was my understanding, but it didn't work out that way.

There would be very few people who would just check in off the street. They had a convention and it would be loaded and then it would be emptied out again until the next convention. And then it just got less and less. Ninety-five percent of our business relied on the hotel. And then our business was gone. At 8 a.m., I had a drugstore. At 9, I didn't.

Marian Haggarty, longtime Edgewater resident: The Edgewater Beach Hotel was a beautiful place, and when they tore it down it was the end of an era. We would go there for dinner in the Marine Dining Room. I met my husband there. I was at the Yacht Club with someone else when I met him. When we were young, that's where we were allowed to go. Parents approved of their daughters going to the Edgewater Beach because it was nice and they didn't have to worry about you.

On New Year's they had hats and they blew horns and threw confetti. You could never get in unless you had formal clothes. That was the way most good places in the city were. Young people don't get dressed up anymore and I think that's kind of too bad. I think that's an elegance that's gone. I hope some day it comes back.



Marilou Hedlund, resident: When I went away to college and I told people that I lived in the Edgewater Beach Hotel, I apologized. I used to say, "But it was very different then. It was nothing like it is now."

I used to run around the hotel even though there was a lot of supervision between housekeepers and bellmen and house detectives. In that era when I was there, it was a very elegant hotel and very straight and I broke a lot of rules. I got called into the manager's office a lot of times. I would ride my bicycle down the ramp of the garage, and sneak into the kitchen for cookies from the pastry chef. I would be called in for behaving like a kid.

The hotel, I remember, had its own upholstery shops, so all the rugs in the lobby were changed twice a year. There were winter rugs and winter upholstery and summer rugs and summer upholstery. I've always said that someday I would like to return to the standard of luxury that I had between the ages of 4 and 13.

Carmen Dello, musician: The only time you saw a place like that was in the movies. We had a certain percentage of musicians in town and we used to play with each other. You had theaters, hotels, ballrooms. That was before rock. Today, it's so colorless. It's just rock. It's a different caliber of musicians. There's no comparison.

I remember when everything was so beautiful and high-class and then I remember going with my daughter to see Blood, Sweat & Tears. When we used to come on stage, everything was so beautiful and high-class. I saw them onstage and I couldn't believe my eyes. It was like just getting a bunch of guys from an alley walking onstage dragging their guitars. No curtains. No nothing. And that was the beginning of the end.

You had Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix and Presley. They were all dope addicts and that was the beginning of the end of the good music. There's no class anymore.

Romeo Meltz, handleader: I used to play the Butttery, the Blackstone, the Pump Room. I even worked the Town Club on 22nd and Cicero, which was a Capone joint, and Al was in jail and his brother Matty was running it.

Now there isn't any music in the hotels in Chicago. I remember playing the



HARRY SOSNIK AND HIS ORCHESTRA
EDGEWATER BEACH HOTEL
CHICAGO

Photo postcard courtesy of Raymond C. Jonas

"In its time, everyone stayed there and everyone danced on the glorious Beach Walk of the Edgewater Beach Hotel... In the old days the hands used to play under the sun and moon on the marble-floored Beach Walk, which went practically to the lake."

Adam Langer

Pump Room, and Bogart used to come in drunk as could be and want to start fights. Lauren Bacall used to keep him down, quiet him when he was in that kind of mood. You'd meet people at their best and you'd meet them at their worst.

The business has changed today. You get a broad like Madonna that can fill Soldier Field with 50,000 people with a \$25 base on the ticket price and she takes off her clothes and walks around in underwear and does the filthiest bumps and grinds. And for who? For teenagers. I used to play the strip joints and you never had that. Even with the strippers who used to work the street, they weren't that vulgar.

Gus Travlos, manager, the Captain's Table: They really milked it to death. That was a place that once you started working there, you couldn't help falling in love with it. There wasn't anything you could dislike about the hotel. Name it. The decor. The people who worked there. The customers. The class. The food. The quality. The atmosphere. The surroundings.

Even in the Depression, you couldn't walk into the dining room without a tuxedo. Even when people were starving for bread and butter, the hotel still stood up high. When we found out the hotel was gonna close, we cried. There were people who worked there 40 or 50 years.

We had waiters and bellhops who worked there for 45 years. When we found out, we stood out in front of the hotel with tears in our eyes.

Alice Ann Knepp, Dorothy Hild dancer: It was like a castle. It was just beautiful. It was like the lobby was palatial. The grounds were beautiful. The gardens were beautiful. When you're young, you're just looking for adventure. You never appreciate what you have until it's gone."

Fred Kiddy, doorman: I sure hated to see that thing being torn down. It was built like a fortress. The walls were like three feet thick. They don't build them like that no more. I hated to see it go. Most of the people who worked there have either retired or moved out -- or whatever.

George Stanton, chief executive steward: The first building was well built, but they thought the wrecking ball could knock it down quick. The wrecker said, "Oh, here comes the big one now!" I felt sorry for the guy. He didn't look at the plans. I said, "You poor sucker, you should've looked at the darned plans." They should've looked to see how well it was built. He thought the ball would knock it down in a month or so. It took almost a year. That's how well Mr. Dewey built it.

I remember my old boss, William Dewey. I remember all the executives I

used to work with. God bless them, they're all gone.

Gus Travlos, manager, the Captain's Table: There are no words to describe the Edgewater Beach Hotel. Memories? There are nothing but memories. I've seen a lot of beautiful places, but the memory of that sight can never be replaced. Even now that they have high-rises on it and a senior citizens building and beautiful townhouses, I go sit right in front and I look at the whole thing and it looks like a bunch of junk in the alley. The Edgewater Beach Hotel is still there.

It's almost lunchtime in the Breakers on Sheridan Road. There is a woman dressed in white who sits in a chair, waiting for her daughter to come visit her. Today would have been her 73rd wedding anniversary. She shows me a picture of her at her wedding in 1916. Her husband looks like Cary Grant in a tuxedo. She looks like Gloria Swanson.

"Did you ever go to the Edgewater Beach Hotel?" I ask her as she walks over to the window.

"We had our 25th anniversary there," she says, and smiles.

"What did you think about it?"

She's looking out at the blue water rushing over the sand in the distance.

"It's a beautiful place," she says.

The End

EHS Celebrates 5 In Style

The 1920's-30's Prohibition Party at NLCC last March 20, celebrating EHS 5th anniversary, is an event no one will soon forget. Never, when dress-of-the-period was suggested, did we envision the delightful fashions worn by our party guests! Marion Lettner was stunning in the haute couture she herself wore as young flapper, and Ann Tice was absolutely smashingly attired as an enticing cigarette girl.

Everyone was in high spirits for this event and the speakasy decor, compliments of designer Ann Tice, carried out the theme. Bathtub beer and wine were served by The Boys, a.k.a. Thom Greene and Jim Karella, from an old metal tub. WANTED posters featuring childhood photos of various EHS members plastered the walls and kept everyone guessing just who the culprits were. Our delicious Italian fest - Abundanza! - was prepared by the chefs at Fireside and donated by owner Rich Wohn, who also donated a dinner for two for the silent auction.

Special thanks to lovely and talented Dale D'Anne who donated her time to provide live entertainment for the evening. And, to the Swedish Bakery who took the time to draw our trolley logo on the sheet cake that they donated for the party, "thanks" isn't eloquent enough. The cake left everyone open-mouthed and speechless -- a rare thing for the EHS.

We are very grateful to the many local Edgewater merchants who helped make our party - which was also a fund-raiser - a huge success with their donations and support. Please remember that we can best return the favor BY SHOPPING WHERE WE LIVE and patronizing the establishments of our benefactors. Many thanks to the following merchants, who have not yet been mentioned, for goods, services, and silent auction donations:

A Kind Thought Florist
Dried & silk floral arrangement

Andie's Restaurant
Dinner for two

Ann Sather's-Clark St.(D. Tunney)
Dessert items & dinner for two

Anna Held Florist (Beth Tarrant)
Kitchen wreath made from knobs of garlic & assorted dried herbs

Bylos / Mid-Eastern
Selection of olives

Healthy Mind/Healthy Body
Bath items

We also thank the folks who donated personal memorabilia for the silent auction, including one of Edgewater's own celebrities, Clayton Moore, who contributed an autographed photograph of "The Lone Ranger."

There is a special place in our hearts for non-resident friends of Edgewater who do a good deed. To Cindy and the folks at **Untouchable Tours** -- we are grateful. Not only did they donate two tours for two, and posters, but they did it on two days' notice. Wonderful!



(L to R) President Kathy Gemperle and V.P.s Thom Greene, Sandee Remis and Martha Kraeger discuss the finer points of cutting a rug, er... cake, at the EHS Prohibition Party.

One Touch of Nature (Bud Wyman)
T-shirt & a sweatshirt

Ramsey Florist (Rick Flinn)
An elegant bag of potpourri

Women and Children First
Signed copy of Gerda Lerner's new book, *The Creation of Feminist Consciousness.*

The evening was "fun-tastic"...and profitable. Kathy Gemperle and I would like to thank all of the volunteers who took turns setting up, sitting at the door, helping with the food, and cleaning up after everyone else "23 skidoed." A good time was had by all.

Renee Anthony
Fundraising

The Uptown --

Continued from page 3

The Uptown was once one of 136 movie theaters having 2,800 seats or more across the nation, according to Joseph Duci Bella of the Theatre Historical Society.

The lavish "palaces" were also more than just places one went to see a film. Usually for one admission price, people could see eight vaudeville shows, two short features, a cartoon, a main feature and a newsreel. Three separate orchestras, including the Edgewater Beach Hotel Oriole Orchestra, took part in the Uptown's inaugural program in August of 1925. Besides all that, the sumptuous theaters functioned like "secular cathedrals;" walking around inside was entertainment in itself.

In a *Chicago Tribune* article William McLenahan, director of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, stated: "The Uptown Theatre is a premier example of the movie palace, a unique American architectural type in which the fantasy experience of watching a moving picture was augmented by seeing it in a fantasy environment."

Stage shows were featured weekly at the Uptown well into the late thirties, whereas most other palaces were used this extensively only in the late twenties. A full scale revival of this policy was attempted for the winter 1949-50 season. But in the 1950's and 1960's, attendance at movie palaces waned as the popularity of television grew.

True, Standard Oil of New Jersey held many stockholder meetings in the Uptown until the early sixties. And the popular television program, "Queen for a Day," visited annually until 1963 and was televised across the U.S.A. But the Uptown's death knell had been sounded. By 1981, after a short stint as a Spanish-language cinema, the Uptown was closed. The years had not been kind.



There was talk of turning it into a flea market and, worse, talk of tearing it down.

The theater was built to last a very long time. Balaban & Katz demanded that one-third more steel be put into their buildings than was necessary. They wanted to be doubly sure their theaters would be monuments for future generations of Chicagoans to look at and revel in. And if theater restorationist L. Curt Mangel has his way, the Uptown, currently owned by the infamous Lou Wolf and Ken Goldberg, will survive as intended.

Though the Uptown is now unused and boarded up, for the last eight years Mangel has been patiently "waiting in the wings" for the right deal to surface so he could begin work in earnest. He estimates the first-rate restoration would take a year and cost anywhere between \$8 million and \$15 million.

While waiting for appropriate financing to be worked out, Curt hasn't exactly been twiddling his thumbs. An initial deal was struck with the owners which has allowed some work to be done. Mangel and his Uptown Productions associates drained the flooded basement and installed a new roof over the 46,000 square foot main floor three years ago to prevent further interior damage.



Experts lovingly cleaned chandeliers and floor-to-ceiling "test patches" on terra cotta, Travertine marble columns, brass rails and aluminum leaf surfaces that reveal the extraordinary beauty hidden beneath decades of grime. A concert organ with a pedigree from New York State was secured for the lobby.

The plan is to renovate the structure as a cornerstone of an entertainment district that would attract top-flight acts and theatergoers from city and suburbs. The Riviera Theater, Green Mill Lounge and Aragon Ballroom are all within a block of the Uptown.

Ald. Mary Ann Smith (48th) views the Uptown as an important key to the restoration of the neighborhood's

commercial strip, and was a strong supporter of obtaining landmark status for the building. That status, which protects the Uptown from being torn down or used for a non-theater purpose, was secured in September 1991. The plan has the complete backing of Mayor Daley, although major issues such as parking have yet to be worked out.

Despite the theater's present condition, people have already contacted Mr. Mangel wanting to use it. The Edgewater Historical Society was elated at the opportunity to host a tour of the Uptown in June of 1991. We wish to again thank Curt for directing more than 100 people through the massive space while discussing the building's history and uses. Visitors were more than just pleased to see the beginning of restoration as well as locations where scenes in recent movies such as "Backdraft" were filmed.



Between tours, guests were treated to piano music by Gerald Rizzer of The Chicago Ensemble and a tempting buffet of food from Uptown and Edgewater restaurants including Le Bistro, the Mekong, Ha Mien, Nhu Hoa, Wing Hoe, Ann Sather's and Wikstrom's. Flowers by Anna Held Florist and wines from Foremost Liquors added a touch of elegance. All above services and items were generously donated to EHS by the benefactors mentioned.

Once reopened, the Uptown would regain its stature as the largest theater in the nation in terms of square feet and would rank second, after Radio City Music Hall in New York City, in number of seats.

Architects and brothers C.W. and George L. Rapp, who designed the Balaban & Katz theaters, were especially proud of the Uptown, the largest commission of their career. In 1925, C.W. Rapp wrote that the Uptown was built "Not for TODAY--But for ALL TIME."

Today, Curt Mangel waits in the wings. We sincerely hope it will not be a long wait. Only time will tell.

S. A. Remis

KATHY OSTERMAN Remembered Through The Eyes And Hearts Of Her Community

"Everybody has a Kathy story," said 48th Ward Democratic Committeeman Marion Volini at a memorial mass for a longtime friend and Edgewater legend, Kathy Osterman. Osterman passed away December 8, 1992, in an untimely death from ovarian cancer. Most commonly reputed as President of the Edgewater Community Council (1985 to 1986), 48th Ward Alderman (1987 to 1989) and Director of the Mayor's Office of Special Events (1989 to 1992), Osterman had a way of touching all lives around her.

Born Kathleen Mary Lonergan on July 22, 1943, she grew up in a large, sociable, Irish-Catholic family in the Bronx, with Jewish, Italian and Irish neighbors. Osterman later credited her success as a community activist to growing up in a neighborhood with different kinds of people. When she was 10, Osterman moved to Montreal, where her father was transferred as an executive for Metropolitan Life. There she babysat for families who had marks on their arms from Auschwitz. At age 16 Osterman relocated to Park Forest with her family, and attended Rich Township High School.

After graduating from Bloom Junior College she worked as a bank teller, then as Social Director of Lawrence House retirement home. Upon her marriage to Harry Osterman, she moved to Rosedale in Edgewater where she raised two sons, Harry Joe and Matthew Ivan. She quite naturally became President of the Every Person Is Concerned (E.P.I.C.) block club.

Edgewater resident Kevin Schueller remembers growing up with Harry and Matthew, and going to the circus with their family. Together they also attended midnight mass on Christmas at St. Gertrude Church. "No one could grow up in this neighborhood without knowing Kathy Osterman," he says. "She was a super lady!"

Sharon Skolnick of Okce-Chee's Wild Horse Gallery, 5337 N. Clark, points out that Osterman had great concern for Native Americans and other minorities. Skolnick met Osterman



Kathy "O" -- a lady known for big hats, a big smile, and a big heart. Her graciousness, commitment to community service, and remarkable spirit will be sorely missed.

when asked by her to do Indian crafts for residents at Lawrence House. Osterman encouraged Skolnick as an artist, and cut the ribbon at the opening of Okce-Chee's. Osterman was to receive an Indian name in the spring of 1993, meaning "Lady of Many Hats, Friend to All."

Tiaa Tuntland of the Sweedish-American Museum, 5211 N. Clark, recalls Osterman was also every supportive of the museum's progress. She feels Osterman's whole focus was "where you could do the most good."

In addition to concern for the neighborhood and city adds Fred Kuzel of the Edgewater Community Council, Osterman loved to throw parties. "She knew how to get people involved, and they enjoyed it."

LeRoy Blommaert of the Edgewater Historical Society reminds us that Osterman was instrumental in making the Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway, a Park District facility. She also

took part in community efforts to save and restore two condemned Berger Park mansions, 6205 and 6219 N. Sheridan, as cultural facilities.

Conservation enthusiast Austin Wyman, of the One Touch of Nature art gallery, 5208 N. Clark, particularly admired "Operation Lakewatch," in which Osterman recruited local boaters and fishermen to collect water samples and report illegal dumping.

In a public statement on her death, Osterman's longtime friend and mentor, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, said: "along with being a superb public servant, Kathy was a dear friend to me and my entire family. Our deep loss is shared by all Chicagoans who felt the genuine love and affection she had for everyone who lived in this city."

Osterman had worked with Daley when he was State's Attorney, assisting crime victims as Supervisor of the Community Unity for the Cook County

State's Attorney's Office. As 48th Ward Alderman, she obtained City Council passage of the city's Human Rights Ordinance. Daley appointed her Director of Special Events after he became Mayor. In this "ambassador-like" role of bringing people from a diverse city together for celebrations, Osterman's activities included the "Welcome Home Parade" after Operation Desert Storm, and a reception for Lech Walesa.

Mayor Daley served as a pallbearer at funeral services for Osterman on December 12, 1992 at St. Gertrude Church. Mrs. (Maggie) Daley read from the scriptures. Osterman's diversified following was reflected in music by the Chicago Gay Men's and Windy City Gay Choruses, The Barrett Sisters (a black gospel trio), members of the Chicago Symphony and Civic Orchestras, soloist Cathy Ford and bagpipe player Shannon Rovers. The Guardian Angels were among many attendees.

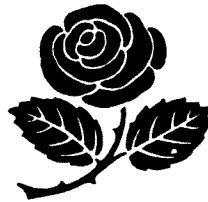
Rev. Jack Wall said Osterman "tried to make a community out of the City of Chicago...and helped us to see what life together in this city can be....She believed that everyone's uniqueness is everybody's specialness."

On what would have been Kathy Osterman's 50th birthday, Thursday, July 22, a newly beautified Ardmore Beach was renamed in her honor. A monument displaying a plaque and a picture of the former alderman now stands at the north end of the beach where Kathy dearly loved to frolic with family, friends and neighbors.

Anyone who enjoyed and was part of Edgewater during her 20-some years of accomplishments here is part of the Kathy story. As LeRoy Blommaert says: "She lived life to the fullest. Some of that's in brick and mortar, and that lasts."

Osterman is survived by husband Bruce Dumont (whom she married in May 1992), sons Harry and Matthew, her parents, four brothers and two sisters. Our sincere condolences are offered to the immediate family.

Gloria L. Evenson



Roschill Introduces Walking Tours

Roschill Cemetery now offers Historic Walking Tours of its 350 beautiful acres. Four hundred of the cemetery's names were deciphered, researched, and data assembled to present a comprehensive look at Chicago's past. This history pre-dates the city of Chicago with its inclusion of Revolutionary War soldiers, and introduces a contemporary perspective with such recent interments as Arthur Rubloff and Richard Ogilvie.

Tours begin at 10:00 a.m. Saturday mornings under the arch of the cemetery's historic landmark gates and vary in length depending on the interests of those participating. Excursions of one to four hours are available. Custom tours have also been developed, concentrating on specific themes including artists and architects, the Civil War, and historic women of Chicago.

For more information on the Saturday General History Tours or a themed tour for yourself or an organization, contact:

Office of Historian Archivist
Roschill Cemetery
5800 N. Ravenswood
Chicago, IL 60660
(312) 561-5940

MEMBERSHIP

The lifeblood of any viable organization is a continuing and growing membership. Your annual dues greatly assist in copying photos, creating this newsletter, and supporting our special programs. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining the Society.

Would you like to assist us? Even an hour or two a month would help. Please contact the chair of a committee that catches your interest, or call: Kathy Gemperle, 312-561-0893, Sandee Remis, 312-275-1836, or the ECC/EHS office, 312-334-5609.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY BY BECOMING A MEMBER.

TYPE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)

<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT (UNDER 18)	\$ 1.00
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN	\$ 5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> PATRON	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION	\$50.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COMPLETE FORM AND MAIL TO:

LEROY BLOMMAERT
EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1112 WEST BRYN MAWR
CHICAGO, IL 60660

Contact 312-334-5609 for further information.

I AM INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE(S):

<input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP	<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC SITES
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<input type="checkbox"/> PROGRAM	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	

NAME _____

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EHS is affiliated with the Edgewater Community Council.

Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

EHS/MA 1993.0

COLLECTIBLES CORNER

EHS appreciates the contributions made to date of money and items of historic value. Thanks to --

Gee Gee Clemency
Photos of EHS' 1992 home tour

Rosemary Dewey
Collection of Academy of the Sacred Heart historical materials

Mark Harding
Matchbook: Rupneck's Nightclub on Thorndale, a club once owned by the Arnolds
Matchbook: Seymour Weiss, a former 48th Ward Alderman

Martha Kraeger
1948 photo of the Sheridan & Foster intersection
Edgewater Beach Hotel postcards

Loren Kringle
Edgewater Beach Hotel postcard and

EBH soap
Senn Forum books, 1916, 1918
Street index from 1905

Gregg Mann
"Kathy Osterman" collection of newspaper clippings
Misc. photos and photocopies of Kathy Osterman & Mary Ann Smith
Photo of Broadway Armory prior to renovation
Scrapbooks on the architecture of Church of the Atonement, Louis Sullivan, Church of the Assumption & Holy Name Cathedral

Mike Podpolucki & Ken Nordine
Photocopies of documents on the Podpolucki residence, built by Maher in 1901 as a coach house and later owned by Dr. Ziegler, a physician and eccentric inventor of a recycling-type furnace
Staircase & set-up for the game "Poolquet," invented by Dr. Ziegler

Frances Posner
Hand-printed books, *1305 - The Story of My Home* and *Thoughts and Poems, 1940-1991*, by F. Posner

Rich Wohn (Fireside)
Photo of Ravenswood looking south

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! PUBLIC NOTICE

This newsletter is published by the Edgewater Historical Society, a not-for-profit organization, founded in 1988, and affiliated with the Edgewater Community Council. Correspondence may be directed to the editor: Sandee Remis, 5445 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60640. Phone: 312-275-1836.

Newsletter Staff: Gloria Evenson, David Gemperle, Kathy Gemperle, Martha & John Kraeger, Mac Scheeff.

The deadline for the Fall/Winter issue is November 1st.

WE WELCOME GUEST
COLUMNISTS AT ANY TIME.



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