

# EDGEWATER SCRAPBOOK

"Notes From The Past, News From The Present"

Vol. V No. III

SPRING 1994

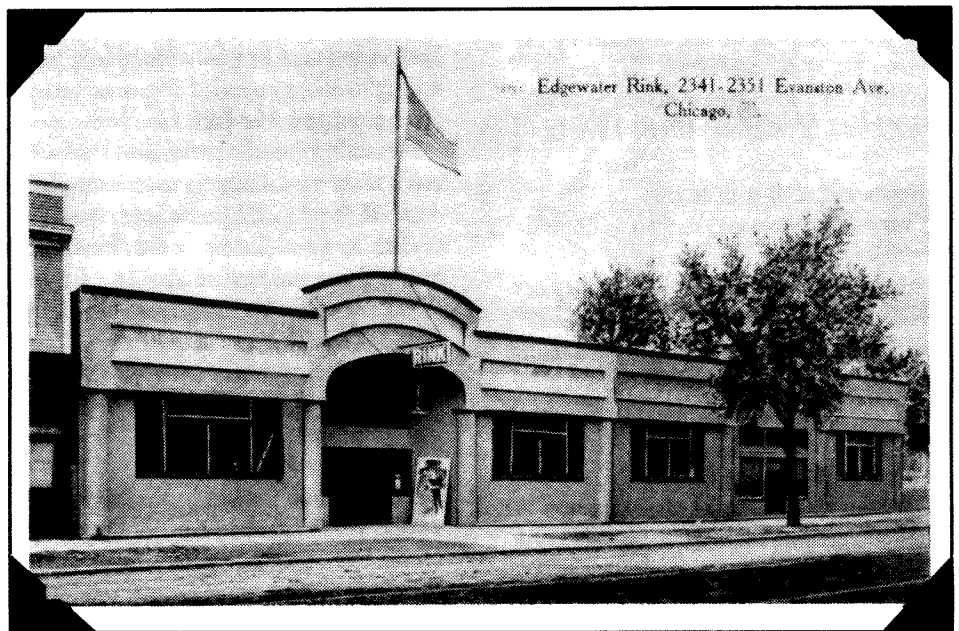
## Postcard Memories

Attendees of EHS' March 26, 1994 Annual General Meeting at the Edgewater Library were treated to an exciting visual and verbal history of the American picture postcard, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1993. The slide presentation and talk by Katherine Hamilton-Smith, Curator of Special Collections at the Curt Teich Postcard Archives, was both enjoyable and very informative.

The industrial archives of the Curt Teich Company of Chicago, which operated from 1898 through 1978 as the world's largest volume printer of view and advertising postcards, is now the Curt Teich Postcard Archives at the Lake County Museum. The Curt Teich Company was originally located at Irving Park and Ravenswood, as noted in the National Register of Historic Places, but the building has since been rehabbed into rental apartments.

The Postcard Archives was created by the company's policy of saving copies of every image printed. The company also saved the printing process production materials, including photographic prints and negatives, client letters (detailing if and how a view should be altered), layout drawings, and physical remnants such as carpet, linoleum, or wallpaper which had been sent to the company to serve as color samples. The Archives contains approximately 100,000 job files. Materials represent all the states of the U.S.A., all provinces of Canada, as well as other foreign countries.

The Archives came to the Lake County Museum in Wauconda, IL, in 1982 and



*Can someone help us identify the exact location of this pre-1909 building on the street now known as Broadway? (Photo from The Curt Teich Postcard Archives)*

has been available for research use since 1985. It is computer indexed by location, date and subject with over 350,000 image records in the computer data base. In addition to the Teich Company collection, the Teich Archives also houses fifteen postcard albums dating from 1899 to 1965, the former Fort Sheridan collection of military postcards, the V.O. Hammon collection of Midwestern postcards dating from 1900 to circa 1925, and other smaller collections of postcards. These other albums and postcards number approximately 10,000 images.

According to Ms. Smith, valentines and Christmas cards predate postcards, which were first used in Germany a long time ago. But America holds the honor

of producing the first set of ten color picture postcards in 1893, for the World's Columbian Exposition here in Chicago.

"The photograph was still young at the turn of the century," Katherine explained. "Postcards were an accepted form of reporting and sharing local events. (Postcards shown portrayed a burial, a fire, and a collapsed bridge.) This type of postcard almost disappeared in 1925 when photogravure took off.

"Postcards also record historical trends," she went on as she exhibited postcards enjoining people to buy war bonds, and depicting the destruction of Prohibition alcohol, suffragettes with

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# From The President



Congratulations to the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society on the grand opening of its new Historical Museum & Research Center at 6424 N. Western

Avenue on April 16, 1994!

We are pleased to announce that the Edgewater Historical Society has just formed a Building Fund Committee, co-chaired by Thom Greene and J.D. Meacham, with an eye toward making our own dream come true. Anyone interested in helping on the committee can contact me at 312-561-0893. We are looking for a low-cost location that has some historic interest. If you have an idea regarding a site or fundraising - jot it down and send it in to me.

Our last two general meetings contributed nicely to our storehouse of information about Edgewater. Many thanks to our guest speakers, Katherine Hamilton-Smith, Special Collections Curator of the Curt Teich Postcard Archives, and Kathy Cummings, researcher.

During her presentation on March 26 at the Edgewater Library, Katherine Hamilton-Smith shared with us a pre-1909 postcard of an unidentified location on Broadway (see photo on page 3). We'd appreciate receiving any information you might have about this building.

Our May 5th meeting at the North Shore Baptist Church featured a slide and research presentation by Kathy Cummings on the thirty homes built in Edgewater that were designed by George Washington Maher. The presentation included both interior and exterior photographs of the houses and a history of Maher's relationship to J.L. Cochran, the developer of Edgewater. Although most of the homes have been torn down, Kathy came up with some possibilities in the Lakewood Balmoral area and on Winthrop Avenue.

The biggest surprise of the season, however, came from a founding member, Nancy Arnold, who offered EHS the opportunity to hold a fundraising event of stellar proportions! On Saturday, May 14, 1994, Mrs. Arnold opened her home, the Colvin Mansion at Thorndale and Sheridan, for a day of tours, and

provided vintage clothing, jewelry and household items for a sale on her patio to benefit EHS. This last remaining residence on Sheridan Road designed by George Washington Maher was recently sold by Mrs. Arnold to a new owner.

On short notice we notified and mobilized our members. The Lerner News-Star graciously arranged advertising space at the last minute. Only one week away from taking his nuptial vows, trouper Thom Greene trained a team of tour leaders and assistants to manage about 120 tourgoers.

Inside the mansion the Arnolds gave tourgoers a special double treat - the chance to view and bid on some of their antiques, including pieces that were originally part of the William Randolph Hearst estate at San Simeon, while listening to the wonderful live music of celebrated guitarist Jack Cecchini.

Meanwhile on the patio, Sue Davoust and a team of volunteers sold "remainders" of the Arnold household, from stylish hats and hand-painted china, to humidifiers and bunk beds.

Thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Arnold and her children, the gross proceeds of the home tour and patio sale, totalling over \$2300, enabled EHS to establish a Building Fund.

Special thanks to Sue Davoust, who handled all the publicity on one day's notice, Jean Davidson for doing the flyers, and to our impromptu organizers - Sue Davoust, Francine Gemperle, Josette Haig, Martha Kraeger, Suzanne Pierce, Ann Tice, and Bonnie Wagner.

Many thanks to all the EHS Board members and "extras" who covered so many stations I'm still dizzy thinking about it! "Extras" included Carol Beaver, Amanda Blomstrom, Donna Coleman, Jean Haider, Betty Jaci, John Kraeger, Lori Lynch, Jerry Marcoccia, Denise Mason, Ceci Murphy, Rita Ream, Charlotte Rogers, Elisabeth Wilcox-Szegho, and Rose Wandel.

What a Team!

Kathy Gemperle

*EDITOR'S NOTE: EHS wishes to extend our congratulations to President Kathy Gemperle on her receipt of a Service Recognition Award for Public/Community Service from the Illinois Alliance for Arts Education. The award was presented at a ceremony held at the*

*Art Institute of Chicago on March 22.*

*EHS also wants to thank Kathy for the many, many hours she selflessly devoted to making the Arnold Mansion tour/sale a huge success. She had the most difficult job of all to do - set the event in motion, keep it going, and attend to the myriad of details that needed to be "cleaned up" in the days after the event. What a Team Leader!*

## COLLECTIBLES CORNER

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

Thanks to --

Nancy Arnold and family  
Original telephone-Colvin Mansion  
Rome Arnold Company corporate  
stamp & cuff links  
Dorothy Fischer scrapbook, 1929-33  
2 brandy glasses from the Millionaires  
Club (Broadway & Granville)

Irma Ewert  
Loan of family photos of home at 1310  
W. Bryn Mawr, 1965

G. Mark Harding (donated in memory  
of his father, George M. Harding)  
Senn Fortieth Reunion mug, 1952  
Tentative Report/Proposed Zoning  
Ordinance, Jan. 5, 1923  
Business photo card-Charles H. Noyes

Curt Teich Postcard Archives  
Photo of the Edgewater Rink

## 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.

# Memories Of Mac

EHS mourns the passing of good friend and fellow member, Mac Scheeff, who succumbed to cancer on April 29, 1994. She would have been 76 years young this August. And to her credit, "young" is the operative word, according to her friend of 25 years, EHS-er Bill Steinfeld:

"Mac was an amazing person – the most positive thinking person I've ever met. She never knew her mother, who died in childbirth, but that didn't stop her from anything. During WW II she was a WAC in the Army – a nurse, I believe. We met through the American Youth Hostel. She was an avid long distance hiker and loved to hike and sometimes bike everywhere. Once she hiked 26 miles around Lake Geneva in one day!

"To really appreciate the kind of person she was," Bill continued, "you must understand that 23 years ago Mac was diagnosed as having cancer. The doctors performed a mastectomy on one breast and told her she had less than six months to live. Somewhere along the line she lost a lung. But she made up her mind to live. She just wouldn't accept what the doctors said. Never. Not then, not during remission, not when the cancer returned a few years back, not during

chemo and radiation, not when she entered Weiss Hospital for the last time on April 3, 1994. She had gone cross country skiing this past winter.

"Mac always kept busy and loved to 'couples' dance; she was a terrific dancer. She loved animals, especially her three cats, and was quite involved with animal rights activities. One of her three cats is a stray she took in just a few months ago after it had been hit by a car; Mac paid for the operation it needed. She loved visiting seniors and taught English and math to illiterates. She loved opera, ballet, and ushered with me at the Chicago Theater. Oh, and she loved to eat!"

Another EHS-er, Mark Harding, met Mac when they were both involved in the Republican Party under Committeeman John McNeal: "I joined (Mac) for dinner one night at Wag's in 1988-89. From that point on, we did many things and went many places together.

"Mac wasn't originally from Edgewater, but she lived at 6030 N. Sheridan Road some 20 years before moving a year and a half or so ago to 5100 N. Marine Drive. She lived with her three cats, Spunky, Tina and Lucky.

"Mac and I drank a lot of coffee at Cafe Bryn Mawr, the 'Little Snack Shop' on Thorndale and Broadway, as well as Standee's on Granville. We travelled together to see the Dawes House in

Evanston, the antique shows at McCormick Place, and even to Des Plaines when I had jury duty – she wanted to go. We also went down to Kinsey Street to see the source of the Great Chicago Flood.

"We both took great pleasure in visiting Everett Stetson, after he broke his leg a year ago March, and Frances Posner every other week. Mac seemed to enjoy being the EHS community visitor! I know Everett and Frances enjoyed the visits, for they said so. I did, too, so I shall continue them, even though it won't be quite the same without Mac."

"Mac was an amazing person," repeated Bill Steinfeld. "I think her motto was 'there's nothing like young old age!' She didn't talk much about her illness. She was too busy being alive and determined to live life to the fullest. Talk about the power of positive thinking. She should be a good example for all of us."

She surely is, Bill. At the June meeting, the EHS Board voted to purchase a gold brick at the North Lakeside Cultural Center in memory of Mac Scheeff, as a tribute to her indomitable spirit and community service.

Our sincere condolences to her surviving brother, Robert Scheeff.

Sandee Remis



## POSTCARD

Mac Scheeff, on the right in the front row, enjoys a sunny day's outing at the Edgewater Beach Apartments with some of her EHS pals, not so long ago.

Back row, left to right:  
Everett Stetson, Bob Remer, Mark Harding

Front row, left to right:  
Ara Mayian, Betty Mayian, Kathy Gemperle, Sandee Remis, & Mac

We'll sure miss you, Mac!

# News From The Front: Committee Communiques

## ORAL HISTORY

Gloria Evenson, chair  
275-4028



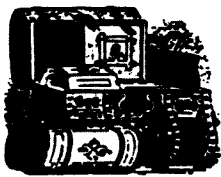
Two neighborhood businesses have or plan to be closed after many years in Edgewater. Farewell to good friends Bob Kahnweiler of Fair

Hardware and, in advance, to Gunther Marx, the jeweler on Bryn Mawr. Bob participated in our original Oral History Project during Edgewater's centennial celebration. Gunther was recently interviewed by Gloria Evenson as part of our ongoing oral history activities. We look forward to a newsletter article soon.

Best wishes for an enjoyable retirement to both Bob and Gunther!

## COLLECTIONS

Evangeline Mistaras, convener  
334-7373



The Committee continues to keep its collective eye open for Edgewater materials. Don't just toss old "stuff" from your attic or cellar into the alley.

Call us first and a team of volunteers will evaluate the "stuff."

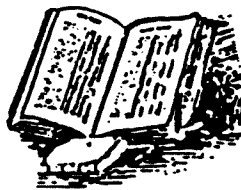
Recently Anne and Mark Parrish of Wayne Avenue took us up on the offer and EHS netted a brochure from Warren Buick along with a variety of documents. We are looking for a Norwegian organization to receive some of the archival material recovered. Thank you, Anne and Mark, and congrats on your new baby girl, Frances!

Similarly, Mrs. Nancy Arnold discovered a 1930's scrapbook in her attic that must have belonged to a previous owner. One of the items inside was a New Year's Eve Party program from the Edgewater Beach Hotel, which we were delighted to get.

So please remember: Your toss may be our loss!

## FINANCE

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

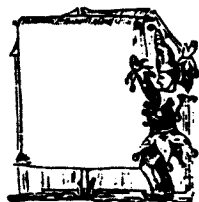


The ad hoc Building Fund Committee, co-chaired by Thom Greene and J.D. Meacham, is busy researching the 20+ buildings open on Broadway

regarding their suitability as sites for EHS. The olde fire station at Ashland and Balmoral has also been suggested. We are looking for approximately 1000-1500 square feet of space, easily accessible by the public.

## PROGRAM

Vacancy, chair



The next Board meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. by the lake in Berger Park on Saturday, JULY 16, immediately preceding the EHS

POTLUCK PICNIC at noon which is OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS. Just

bring a dish to share with everyone and join in the fun! If it should "you know what" (but don't even think it), the Board will meet at NLCC, 6219 N. Sheridan Road, but there will be no picnic.

The October General Meeting, place and date to be determined, will feature an Edgewater Beach Hotel postcard presentation by LeRoy Blommaert.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Sandee Remis, chair  
275-1836



Rence Anthony has volunteered to assume responsibility for writing and distributing news releases for special programs. Thanks, Rence!

In April, Kathy Gemperle and Sandee Remis collaborated on an "introductory" four-page letter that was sent to appropriate city officials regarding EHS' potential use of the vacant fire station at Ashland and Balmoral.

## MEMBERSHIP

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



Membership as of June 1, 1994 included 62 Individuals, 39 Families, 6 Patrons, 53 Seniors, 3 Organizations, and 6 Honoraries, for a

total of 169 members. Our ranks include fourteen new members so far in 1994.

If you haven't yet renewed, please remember to do so. Second reminder notices were mailed in June.

The second membership campaign party was successfully hosted by Betty Mayian at Malibu East on April 24. A special welcome to the new members who joined EHS after Betty's cordial introduction.

## HISTORIC SITES

Thom Greene, chair  
743-1910



The Committee is looking for more members to actively help with research on homes in Edgewater. Carl Helbig is currently busy learning the ropes of permit search. We are planning to offer fee-for-service research of property as a way to raise money for EHS' Building Fund. More later.

The 1994 Home Tour will feature the West Andersonville area on Sunday, September 18. A good start has been made, with at least two homes signed up already. If you are interested in assisting with this event, call Kathy Gemperle at 561-0893. We need help now with soliciting ads for the tour booklet, as well as workers for the day of the tour.

## Postcard Memories

*Continued from page 1*

placards, the Panama Canal, sheeted members of the KKK, civil rights marchers, and a commemorative on the death of Martin Luther King.

"Postcards provide historical evidence of 20th century life - of how America sees itself, its culture, at a particular time," she continued. To exemplify, she presented an old postcard printed by an undertakers' supply company, selling embalming fluid, with the message "I'll be seeing you soon!" (A little dark humor here...)

In a lighter vein, she showed a 1959 postcard of a typical, clean-cut, four-member, American family enjoying take-out food in front of a TV at the dinner table - sad but true commentary on two factors contributing to the erosion of the family unit in our culture. "It is interesting to note," she said, "that the most frequently drawn image by kids today is of McDonald's."

A postcard of a prison dining room, dated between 1900 and 1915, demonstrating the use of postcards for architectural and historical documentation, finally brought out the question more than a few were aching to ask - "Who bought

these postcards?" One answer might be "I guess you had to be there." Same reason you buy postcards at Six Flags - Great America.

The words "Having a great time. Wish you were here!" or the like, however, did not appear until 1907 when it finally became legal to write on the back of the postcard. Prior to 1907, only a stamp and the written address could be added to a card.

"Industry and commercial entities loved postcards for advertising," said Ms. Smith. She went on to show us how a biscuit company produced a set of 20 postcards, based on every aspect of biscuit-making in 1915, and how a hospital immortalized its state-of-the-art operating room in 1911. She visually walked us through Curt Teich Company's process of producing a postcard of the Blakely Laundry, from actual photo, to airbrush alterations, to postcard, with American flag flying where none had existed in the photo. "It was quite common for companies to request the addition of American flags to photographs," she said.

While Ms. Smith did not expound on the reasons why clients so often asked to have flags added, she provided copies of the *Image File*, a Journal from the Curt Teich Postcard Archives, Vol. 7, No. 4, 1993, with an article by Emma Gerosa entitled "America in 1926: The Rush To Be Modern."

In the article Emma wondered why, as you might, if a flagpole existed on a certain building, and the owners wanted the flag to be flown in the postcard view, didn't they simply raise the flag? She first concluded that "it may have been impossible for the photographer to have waited until the flag unfurled in the breeze, if his work schedule was tight."

But during her inventory of Teich files, the frequency of the requests to add flags seemed to go beyond anything she could imagine, "even assuming... patriotism was running high." And that did not explain a client requesting that a flag, or "modern auto," be added to a photograph where there was no flagpole, no car.



As she studied the files and photographs, something occurred to her:

"These materials served to suggest... what America may have been, and what it wanted to be. I saw America on its way to becoming a *modern* twentieth century nation. I observed some parts of America still in the process of becoming modern, and if some fell short of the mark, civic pride would not allow such a fault to be shown to the rest of the world. Just as a collage brings together common items that suggest a reality more meaningful than its parts, so too, do these work files evoke an image of America that speaks of the romance and reality of the year 1926."

In addition to imparting to us a small portion of her extensive knowledge and love of postcards, Ms. Smith highlighted cards specific to Edgewater and close environs during her presentation: the Belle Shore, Grandeur Hotel, Winthrop Terrace, the Sovereign Hotel, Kenmore Beach, the Coronado, the Winona, Villa Sweden, Brown Bear Restaurant, Angel Guardian Orphanage, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Capitol State Savings Bank, Edgewater State Bank, a Lill Coal truck, and the Edgewater Rink.

Thank you, Katherine Hamilton-Smith, for a wonderful presentation that showed us just how much postcards help us understand past and present times.

Sandra A. Remis

## Postcard Protection

*The following is excerpted from "Postcard enemies... and remedies," an article by Chris Wolff in the Postcard Collector, August 1984.*

Is your postcard collection dying? If it hasn't been stored properly, it slowly but surely is. Poor storage procedures can damage a collection just as surely as fire or flood. However, most damage can be prevented.

First of all, remember that a postcard is simply a small rectangle of printed paper. Paper is one of the most common materials of daily life, yet it is also one of the most fragile and difficult to preserve.

For hundreds of years after paper was invented in China in A.D. 105, paper was made from pure cotton or linen rags or from vegetable fibers. These materials

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# Sonny And The Six-Penny Nail

## *A Child's True Story*

It was 1933, the year of the Century of Progress World's Fair in Chicago.

The boy's given name was Carl. He was eight years old, blonde, blue-eyed, small for his age, with a round baby face. His nickname, Sonny, was a reflection of his happy, always smiling, friendly disposition. He loved to sing and whistle. On Sundays, he would go to the Highland Avenue Methodist Church and sing "Jesus loves me, yes, I know, for the Bible tells me so."

Sonny's favorite toy was his tricycle. One day he took it up on the front porch and tried to ride it down the stairs. He got hurt. His father gave him a spanking as well.



He also got an earache. The home remedy was a cloth sugar bag filled with hot salt, but it didn't help. He developed a fever. His father put a pillow in a wooden wagon and pulled Sonny five blocks to the doctor.

"He needs to be in a hospital," the doctor said.

The next day Sonny and his father took the streetcar to St. Joseph's Hospital. After learning that his father was an unemployed bricklayer without any financial resources, a nun ushered them out the door. She told Sonny that he should go "fishing in the sun" with his father on Montrose Pier. But Sonny was in too much pain to go fishing.

The family lived in a two-bedroom home. His sisters slept in the spare bedroom, Sonny in the dining room. It was the Fourth of July. Sonny pleaded with his father to "please make them stop shooting off firecrackers. They make my head ache." But his father couldn't.

Sonny became delirious with a high fever. His parents continued to pray for him. Their prayers were answered when a neighbor told them about Children's Memorial Hospital. The neighbor, Mr.

Lepper, who owned a Model A Ford, took Sonny to the hospital.

When he awoke in the hospital, Sonny was in a strait jacket. "what a helpless, hopeless, inhuman feeling!" he thought. He was kept in restraints for three days.

Sonny had mastoiditis. He would have to have a major operation. A porous bone behind his ear had become infected. The part that was infected had to be removed.

After the operation, with his head wrapped in bandages, Sonny was given a blood transfusion from his mother. They laid on two separate cots, side by side so they could see each other, with the red tube connecting them.

Every day the nurses would take Sonny's bandages off and put a silver nitrate stick in the hole that was left in his head after the operation. It burned! Now that doctors have penicillin, they no longer perform this operation. But Sonny's doctor did not have any penicillin.

Sonny's mother came to visit every day. On Sundays, his mother and father came. His father usually had a Hershey bar or Cracker Jack for him.

One day while he was getting better, Sonny rang for the urinal. No one came. He was forbidden to get out of bed. There was a wash basin at the end of Sonny's bed. He used it. When the nurse finally came, he said, "Too late. I've already done it in the sink." He thought she'd be glad that he saved her the bother.

The nurse didn't say anything when she left, but came back with help. They wheeled the bed out in the hallway, with him in it. How embarrassing! Everybody going down the hallway would look at him. And his mother was coming that day.

"Please put me back!" he pleaded.

His mother came. "What are you doing in the hallway?" she asked.

He lied and told her, "They are running out of space." Now both he and his mother were embarrassed by being looked at.

That night they put him back in his room. He never did that again, or if he did, he never admitted to it.

One of the foods the hospital served was raisins and chopped carrots. Sonny thought it tasted icky. He did like the chopped apples with raisins and walnuts though.

One of his parents must have told someone that they had taught Sonny to drink raw eggs. One morning two raw eggs were on his tray. All the nurses from that floor came to watch little Sonny suck raw eggs out of their shells. He became a celebrity! Every time he'd get raw eggs to drink, he'd have an audience.

After being in bed for so long, Sonny forgot how to walk. Sonny couldn't believe he couldn't walk! The nurse was kind and told him it wasn't his fault. She helped him balance himself until he wasn't so shaky. When he could walk again, there wasn't any reason to take up space in the hospital. So after being in the hospital for thirteen weeks, Sonny became an outpatient.

Many years later, World War II began. When he graduated from school, Sonny decided to volunteer to become a fighter pilot in the Army Air Corps. He passed the mental test and went to take the physical.

"You wear glasses?" the doctor asked.

"Since I was eight," Sonny said.

"You can't be a fighter pilot," the doctor said. "They should have told you that when you took the mental test."

Sonny waited to be drafted. He became a radio operator with the Combat Engineers. He sent and received Morse Code. Even with his bad ear, Sonny earned two battle stars in the European theater of operations.

"Perhaps the old rhyme was right after all," thought Sonny:

For want of a nail, a shoe was lost.  
For want of a shoe, a horse was lost.  
For want of a horse, a battle was lost.  
For want of a battle, a war was lost.  
For want of a war, a country was lost.  
All for the loss of a six-penny nail."

If it hadn't been for Children's Memorial Hospital, the United States Army would have been one soldier short.

Carl Helbig



## Postcard Protection

*Continued from page 5*

made a fine, strong, lasting paper. In the mid-1800s the growing demand for paper led to experimentation with wood pulp as a paper material, and it was soon being used in commercial paper production. The main problem with wood pulp paper is that the chemicals used in the manufacturing process cause problems later.

The key to maintaining a postcard collection in good condition lies in optimizing the environment where the collection is housed and the conditions under which postcards are handled. Keep one thing in mind: Moderation. Postcards, like people, like it neither too hot, too cold, too wet, or too dry; too bright or too breezy, or subjected to too much handling.

More harm has probably been done to postcards by people than by any other cause. Oils and soil are not easily removed from cards. When handling and examining cards, make sure your hands are clean and gently lift the cards by the edges.

The manner in which you store your cards can hasten or delay the deterioration process. It is the sulfites, left in the wood pulp during its processing, which react with light to form free molecules of sulfuric acid. Moisture in the air interacting with the sulfuric acid begins the destruction of the paper.

Acid in the paper will also migrate. If you place a postcard with a high acid level in contact with a postcard with a

lower acid content, the acid will migrate from the high concentration paper to the lower concentration paper. Then both cards will deteriorate.

The solution to acid migration is to place postcards into individual envelopes so that no card touches another.

Take care in selecting your storage envelopes. Most envelopes are made of polyethylene, polypropylene, or polyvinyl chloride (PVC). These plastic materials are inexpensive but have major drawbacks. PVC degrades over time, and the plasticizers (which make the material pliable) used in manufacturing the polymer can attack the card stored inside the envelope just as acid can. Acetate envelopes are marginally better.

The best envelopes for long-term storage are those made of Archival Type D Mylar. Mylar is Dupont's trade name for its polyester film. Type D Mylar has been tested and approved by the Library of Congress Paper Conservation Laboratory. It is strong, nearly impervious to gaseous diffusion, and for a plastic, has a high melting point. It is, however, relatively expensive.

At the other end of the expense spectrum is cellophane; it's inexpensive, but when it shrinks it may warp cards stored inside. It is best to avoid it entirely.

If you choose to store your cards in albums, select a sturdily constructed type with smooth heavy rings and solid hinges. Do not use albums with large rings. It is better to have many thin (1") albums with fewer pages each. All albums should be equipped with page-lift-

ers front and back, to keep the first and last pages from being damaged. Albums should always be stored upright. If the album is laid flat and other items are piled on top, you risk pressing and damaging the cards in the bottom album. Select album pages with oversize pockets where the postcards can slip in and out easily without binding.

If you choose to keep your cards in file boxes, select those which are sturdy, clean, and free of harmful chemicals. Metal files are best, especially if they have smooth edges, sturdy rollers, and a non-toxic finish of acrylic-based paint and baked enamel. Wooden drawers or boxes should be treated with two coats of polyurethane varnish, or lined with Mylar to keep acids in the wood from migrating to the cards. Shoeboxes have a high acid content; acid-free cardboard boxes are available though they cost more. Cards should be filed loosely, but not so loosely they slide around, in drawers or boxes.

One of the worst enemies of postcards is the air we breathe. If it is too dry, cards will become brittle. If it is too wet, the glue holding the 2-ply card stock will soften and the plys will separate. The best range is between 50 and 60% relative humidity. Keep air circulation around cards to a minimum.

If you expose your cards to too much light, not only will the colors fade, but the heat will dry the paper and make it brittle. The ultraviolet portion of the spectrum also acts as a catalyst, and the

*Continued on page 8*

## 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 / ORG.	\$50.00

BUILDING FUND: \_\_\_\_\_ (OPTIONAL DONATION)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COMPLETE FORM AND MAIL TO:

LEROY BLOMMAERT  
EDGEWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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*EHS is affiliated with the Edgewater Community Council.  
Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.*

*EHS/MA 1994.0*



# 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.

The deadline for the Summer/Fall issue is August 1st.

WE WELCOME GUEST  
COLUMNISTS AT ANY TIME.



Edgewater Community Council  
*Edgewater Historical Society*  
1112 West Brya Mawr  
Chicago, Illinois 60660

## Postcard Protection *Continued from page 7*

sulfates within the paper will form free molecules of sulfuric acid.

Store your cards in light-tight boxes, or in albums on a dark shelf. Never hang framed postcards where direct light can hit them and always use a special type of glass, available through art shops and framers, that filters out the harmful ultraviolet rays.

Vermin can also be a problem. Cockroaches and silverfish will eat the paste in the cardstock. Mice will nibble on the edges of cards for the paste too. Take prompt action if you notice the signs.

Lastly, we come full circle to the major problem -- people. The safest way to show cards to others is in albums or on display boards where the cards are safely protected from fumbling fingers.

Postcards are fragile. In the long run they will deteriorate. But many problems can be prevented or delayed. With care, cards can travel safely through time to bring enjoyment to future owners.

## FOR THE FAMILY TREE



Congratulations to the Board officers elected for 1994: 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.

EHS also wishes to extend a warm welcome to fourteen new members who joined as of June 1994 --

**Families:** Mr. & Mrs. L. Dietrich, Beth Robinson/Freddy Flores, David Rouse/Richard Cramer, Helen M. Sauve, Barbara Stanley

**Individuals:** Donna Hubbard, Alice A. Payne, Jeanne W. Petterson, John L. Pickens, Nancy Zambon  
**Seniors:** Grace S. Bergbom, Vincent Ferrara, Virginia Kusel, Patricia Williams

Our sincere apologies to new members Larry and Ted Zimski whose last name was misspelled in the Fall/ Winter 1993 issue of the *Edgewater Scrapbook*.

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