



Edgewater Scrapbook

“Notes from the Past, News from the Present”

Vol. XVI, No. 3

Fall/Winter 2005

Edmund R. Krause - Edgewater Architect

This is the third in a series of articles about architects who designed buildings in Edgewater. The first was J.E.O. Pridmore (Edgewater Scrapbook Vol. IV No. III); and the second was Julius H. Huber (Vol. XIV No. III).

J.E.O. Pridmore, Julius Huber and Edmund R. Krause both lived in and designed homes in Edgewater. Edmund Krause probably holds the distinction of being the only architect who lived in each of the Edgewater homes he designed. That sounds impressive until one realizes that he designed only two homes in our community. However, they were very substantial homes.

The Man

Edmund R. Krause was born in Thorn, Germany on August 15, 1859, the son of William and Wilhelmina Krause. He studied architecture in Germany, and came to the United States in 1880 at the age of 21. He began his architectural practice in Chicago in 1885 at the age of 25 or 26. For a brief time, he was in partnership with Frederick W. Perkins (1896) but, for most of his working years, he was a sole practitioner.

In February, 1887, at the age of 27, he married Laura A. Faber. That marriage ended in either death or divorce. On October 31, 1891, at the age of 31, he married Katherine Davis. That marriage ended in divorce sometime between 1910 and 1920, because

the 1920 census shows him as divorced and living alone; however, his death certificate shows him being married rather than either widowed or divorced, so it is possible that they reconciled. He and Katherine had two children together: Edmund F. and Lydia F.

Except for one six-year period when he lived in Evanston, he was always a north-sider. Interestingly, he changed his residence quite frequently, even after he married. In one consecutive four-year period, he had a different residence each year. He first came to Edgewater in either 1898 or 1899, because the 1899 City Directory shows him living at 1195 Winthrop (current address 6214), a brick home, not designed by him. The 1900 and 1901 directories show him living one door south at 1189-91 (current address 6212). He did not stay there long (less than three

years) because the 1902 city directory shows him living at the Lessing Apartments (Surf and Broadway). That was a short stay too. The 1905, 1906 and 1907 directories show him living at 3059 Kenmore (current address 6332). Again, he did not stay there long either because the 1908 directory shows him in Evanston; there he stayed for six years before returning to the city. The 1914 directory shows him living at 4621 N. Sheridan, where he lived until moving to the Edgewater Beach Hotel. According to the summer 1930 issue of *Ripples*, the hotel's publication, Edmund Krause was the second longest residing guest at that time, having moved in on July 7, 1916, and he never left. Interestingly, he lived longer at the Edgewater Beach Hotel than at

(Continued on page 6)



Edmund Krause designed this 5700 sq. ft. home at 6332 Kenmore in 1904. It was demolished by Loyola University in 2004.



From the President

Greetings, subscribers and members. Once again the passage of time is marked with the trees shedding their leaves and showing us another end of year. Our garden has been winterized and is getting more and more beautiful with each year that passes. This time of year we also think about our annual membership drive and point out the importance of rejoining us each and every year. Our dues are remaining the same for 2006 as this last year. Note the membership form within the newsletter. We are still the "Best Bargain in Edgewater." No where else do you get the quality publications and website that we provide. No where else do you get the email updates with such regularity that you almost cannot forget one of our events! (p.s. send me your email addresses if you have not received any updates from us - info@EdgewaterHistory.org). Nowhere else are members and neighbors treated to such a plethora of programs and events that are free and offer refreshments free as well. Our costs for membership offer some of the lowest rates there are in Chicago. We are looking for increased numbers of volunteers ranks to fulfill our desires to have the museum open for more hours (via Sunday openings).



Our **Collections** committee meet most regularly. We hear the laughter when they are together passing items around. If you enjoy looking at photos and items from the past - and like to discuss your own history - then join this committee. **Oral history** is for those who enjoy interviewing others for the record. **Fundraising**

is where the party planners go to schedule our own parties and events. **Program** is the committee that schedules the events and programs that bring in speakers, authors, art shows, classes, lectures, etc. into the museum where you may enjoy our free events. **Property** includes the fun **Gardening** committee workers where seasonal and regular meetings and planning are responsible for our successful Victorian Garden. **Historic Sites** can bring out the preservationist in you. **Communications** is just right for the writers, researchers and publishers in our ranks. Even **Membership** can be satisfying for those who are good at bringing in new people into the association. Special skills, such as photography, speaking, writing, computer expertise, etc., are much needed. Wherever you may fit into the mix, be assured that we will welcome you with open arms.



Our volunteers are so inspiring that we intend to throw them a summer party to be held in our Victorian Garden. This may become an annual event. Volunteers are our life blood. Please check the membership form (where we ask you to show your interest in these committees) or call me or email me and I will find a great fit for you.

We don't want to forget to congratulate our founding President and current Vice President, Kathryn Gemperle. She has become a grandparent for the first time. Her daughter, Francine, gave birth to a son, Miles, on October 27th. Much happiness to all of them.

And lastly I want to wish you all the best of the Holiday Season. This season brings us memories we treasure. It is a time to reminisce - to look at old photo albums and bring up memories to share with your loved ones and, yes, to take new photos for future genera-

tions to treasure. This is what our Museum is all about - memories. We exhibit and catalog these photographic memories which will then be available for generations to come. They will be our records of how we lived in Edgewater throughout our history. This is why we ask for copies of photos of your family, business, and home in Edgewater. We are able to scan them at the museum. See what you can find this year while you are celebrating your own **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Betty Mayian

Celebrating 100 years of Service in Edgewater

The exhibit at the Edgewater Historical Society Museum celebrates the four Edgewater churches that began in 2005. Each has a set of photographs on display from the historical collection of the church. Special thanks goes to the church archivists and volunteers who combed through their collections in order to offer us the best for copying for our archives.

In particular we would like to thank Ole Lyse from Unity Lutheran Church, Barbara Strauss from Bethany Lutheran Church, John Dawson from North Shore Baptist Church and Reverend John Hudson of Granville Avenue United Methodist Church. The exhibit will continue through February so stop by the museum some Saturday afternoon.



Edgewater Historical Society coming events

Saturday, January 21 at 10 a.m. - "The History of Edgewater" - slide presentation by Kathy Gemperle, EHS VP.

Saturday, February 18 at 10 a.m. - **History and biography of John Johnson**, founder and publisher of Ebony and Jet magazines. Guest speaker: Pam Cash from Multimedia Services of Johnson Publishing.

Saturday, March 18 at 10 a.m. - "Reardon's Alleys" presented by Bob Remer, EHS VP. Meeting and Election of Board to follow.

Saturday, April 22 at 10 a.m. - "Magnolia Route" author Joseph M Casey III tells the true history of the link and highway between the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago and the Gulf Coast of Mississippi.

Tuesday, May 23 at 7 p.m. - Karen Kruse, author of "A Chicago Firehouse: Stories of Wrigleyville's Engine 78."

Tuesday, June 27 at 7 p.m. - Bud Wyman Memorial Lecture. (Guest speaker TBA)

Saturday, July 8 at 2 p.m. - Those Were The Days Radio Players will perform two radio comedies from the Golden Age of Radio and a Bob and Ray soap opera spoof.

Tuesday, July 25 at 7 p.m. - Ray Hanania, award winning Chicago journalist, author and humorist will

speak about his book "Arabs of Chicagoland."

Tuesday, August 22 at 7 p.m. (Speaker TBA)

Tuesday, September 26 at 7 p.m. - **Professor Ann Durkin Keating**, co-editor of "The Encyclopedia of Chicago" and author of several books about Chicago, will share her expertise on history and preservation.

Saturday, October 21 at 10 a.m. - "Mapping Chicago" - Robert Remer, EHS VP, will speak about maps of Chicago and display his personal collection.

Saturday, October 28 at 2 p.m. - Those Were The Days Radio Players will perform two comedies from the Golden Age of Radio and another Bob and Ray soap opera spoof.

Saturday, November 18 at 10:00 a.m. - Robert Remer, EHS VP, will present an expanded version of his "Edgewater Counts" lecture, centered on religion and housing.

Saturday, December 2 at 2 p.m. - Those Were The Days Radio Players will perform two comedies from the Golden Age of Radio and another Bob and Ray soap opera spoof.

Special Events

- Wednesday, April 5, 2006 from 6 until 9 p.m. Spring Fundraising Event - "Crossroads: Trails, Roads and Streets of Edgewater" at Leonardo's Ristorante, 5657 N. Clark St.
- Fall Home Tour - Sunday, September 17, 2006 from noon until 4 p.m. Watch for more information.



POSTCARD

The Edgewater Home Tour in Lakewood Balmoral was a great success. There were nine elegant homes and a tour of Unity Lutheran Church. Here I am leading a group into an 1894 home on Lakewood. Thanks to Gloria Evenson for the photo.

LeRoy

Flower Power

No, this isn't going to be an article about the 1970s. It's not about the Mod Squad or the later A-Team, although the people involved were a dedicated, motley crew who managed to make a seemingly impossible "good plan come together" against all odds.

This is about the "Green Team," an alliance of Greencorps Chicago and friends of Edgewater/EHS, who recently performed horticultural wizardry on the land surrounding the EHS Museum. Their mission was to transform the space from a "ho-hum" to an "oh, wow!" garden. It wasn't easy. It didn't happen overnight. The story, in fact, started last January when, as Chair of the (very small) EHS Garden Committee, I innocently applied for a Greencorps grant from the City of Chicago. Little did I know to what that would lead... After all, as a condo dweller I was an "inside" gardener with little "outside" knowledge when I assumed the chairmanship, sort of by default.

Greencorps Chicago, established in 1994, is a program of the City of Chicago Dept. of Environment in partnership with WRD Environmental. Their mission is to promote environmental stewardship and improve the quality of life by establishing natural spaces that are safe, healthy and sustainable through hands-on involvement with trainees and community partners. They offer gardening/landscaping assistance to organizations in varying degrees through multiple programs - limited "help" to comprehensive "HELP." EHS was amazed and elated to be accepted as a participant in their 2005 Comprehensive Assistance Program - the big "HELP!" Which is exactly what I said to my best friend, Elisabeth Wilcox Szegho, when I enlisted her aid as a "primary" on the project.

Elisabeth and I attended a

wonderful series of five workshops at Greencorps in February and March (Kathy Gemperle joined us for two of them) to plan the museum's garden on all four sides of our building. We leaned about such things as horticulture, garden evaluation, site planning, maintenance and team building. Dozens of hours of homework included the laborious task of measuring every inch of our "plantable" property, and creating detailed "before" and "after" site maps to scale. Elisabeth drafted the site maps like a "pro," despite nearly crossing her eyes in the process. Full installation of our planned perennial garden, based on a Victorian theme, was scheduled for Sept. 29, and Oct. 1, 6 and 7. But a lot of preparation work needed to be done.



During April and May, the site was cleaned of garbage, historic bricks neatly stacked in the gangway, terra cotta relocated, park bench refinished, excess mulch cleared, soil weeded and amended, trees and bushes pruned, annual planters and beds created, morning glories seeded, dozens of perennials transplanted, and new mulch spread - all in line with the new design. Greencorps donated ten flats of annuals, Kathy Gemperle, the Remers and Elisabeth Szegho added a cherry tree and perennials from their own gardens, and St. Ita contributed Easter lilies and daisies.

Thanks to Dick Carpenter (Greencorps), Marjorie Fritz Birch, Tom Dwyer, Carm Esposito, Kathy Gemperle, Marissa Michaels, Rich Morrow, Sandee Remis, Bob Remer, and Elisabeth Szegho for ho-ho-hoeing their way through all that muscle work. It was a labor of love that yielded a glorious array of flowers in spring and summer. The garden attracted many more bees, butterflies, compliments and visitors to the

museum than in years past. The front beds were ablaze with color and the back garden was a beautiful peaceful place to repose or chat with friends, of which the community often took advantage.

Elisabeth and I spent the summer weeding and watering, researching plants and procuring new glazed ceramic planters, weeding and watering, refining the garden plan and plant order, weeding and watering. Drat the drought! Thanks to Kathy Gemperle, Win Gillis, Betty and Ara Mayian, Marissa Michaels and Tom Murphy for lending a hand from time to time. Thanks also to Bob and Katie Remer for donating a very attractive composter that will help fuel future flower power. Everything was in blooming order for the EHS Summertime Country Garden Party held on August 21.

I spent late August and most of September amassing the largest part of our volunteer "Green Team." Finally it was Fall and time for full installation of our Victorian garden. Our worker headcount over the four-day project was 72, plus another 7 who returned on Oct. 28 to spread mulch and plant bulbs! To qualify for funding, EHS had to match or exceed the Greencorps work crew. EHS mustered 25 volunteers to more than match the 14 people supplied by Greencorps.

Thanks to EHS volunteers: Cameron Bundy and Mark Carriaga from St. Gregory High School, Elizabeth Clayton, Barbara Coleman, Susan Darnall, Carm Esposito, Donald Felsecker, Suzanne Flemens, Kathy Gemperle, Win and Veronica Gillis, Betsey Kane, Marissa Michaels, Paul Morath, Richard Morrow, Raymond Nihlean, Mary O'Brien, Betty Redmond, Bob and Katie Remer, Sandee Remis, Miranda Semb, Jo Sennet, Dr. Judith Rae Swanson, Elisabeth Szegho. And to Olga Bean, Veronica Gillis, Betsey Kane and Julie Wlach, who

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

helped to recruit some of these volunteers.

Thanks to the Greencorps crew: Dick Carpenter (senior horticulturist), Patricia Lee (horticulturist), William Armstrong, Terius Biles, Melvin Bohles, Calvin Brown, Wendell Coburn, Dexter Estes, Ron Johnson, Terrell McCord, Erica Peterson, Alfonso O. Quendo, John Spika, Corey Washington.



Special thanks to those who labored two to five days, and all the Oct. 7 workers who braved the cold and rain. Besides transplanting almost everything we owned, hundreds upon hundreds of new perennials, bulbs and bushes were planted in the amended soil, the tool shed was moved over a foot to make way for a second shed, and an historic brick edging (painstakingly cleaned of tar by hand) added to the raised front beds. A berm was created on the north parkway, five trellises, an arbor and timbered corner were constructed, and a difficult walkway paved to match the existing patio.

Greencorps provided over \$3000 worth of plants, soil/compost, materials for the arbor, trellises, timber corner and paved walk, new hose and reel. They also brought along all the equipment and tools necessary to accomplish this grand feat, with some additional help from Ray Nihlean. The City provided about seven cubic yards of mulch to protect the garden over the winter. EHS provided lunch and beverages for the toiling minions, and that cost was substantially offset by a generous monetary donation from Elisabeth Szegho.

The EHS garden is meant to be enjoyed by all community residents and visitors. It is fitting that our "Green Team" included

amateur and professional gardeners, teenagers from St. Greg's to seniors aged 83, EHS members as well as members of various Edgewater Block Clubs and organizations, friends, family, neighbors, and "strangers" from outside Edgewater who became friends by project end. They were friendly, enthusiastic and hard-working.

We've already received dozens of compliments from the community this summer on the "interim" floral plantings and garden redesign. Everyone is going to be

and to commend Dick Carpenter, Greencorps senior horticulturist, for his remarkable affability, horticultural expertise, patience, consideration and skill in "organizing chaos."

This was a monumental effort - a "Mission Impossible" - that could not have been accomplished without the City/Greencorps and the community pulling together. Besides the value of materials, consider the value of the man hours granted/donated by Greencorps and our volunteers times even minimum wage of \$6.50/hr.



The "Green Team" is laboring to complete the arbor over the new walkway in EHS's back garden, and figuring out where to plant the wheelbarrows full of new perennials. It was an "undercover" operation in the cold and rain, but the job got done nonetheless. We can't wait for spring to reveal lots of hidden treasures!

dazzled next spring! The community will have a gorgeous place to meet and enjoy, and the museum will attract more visitors and, hopefully, members. We hope our collaborative efforts will educate and inspire people to preserve, improve, restore and protect other properties in the neighborhood as well as their historic legacy in general. Both gardens and historic legacies, after all, need hard work and attention to keep them healthy and growing.

With a green thumb up, we would like to congratulate everyone involved on a job well done

There is no way on earth EHS could have paid for this on our own. It is the largest project we have mounted since the founding of EHS in 1988 and the subsequent acquisition/rehab of the museum. We truly appreciate what we have received.

But all growing things need to be maintained and nurtured. Despite the massive effort this year, next spring we still need to augment the herb garden with a few things we couldn't procure this fall, weed and water, plant new annuals in the planters and

(Continued on page 9)

Krause

(Continued from page 1)

any other address since coming to the United States in 1880.

Edmund R. Krause died on July 2, 1935 at the age of 76. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery

His Work

The *American Contractor* database that covers the period 1898 through and including 1912 shows that he designed 61 buildings. Of these, 25 (or 41 percent) were for either E.J. Lehman, the estate of E.J. Lehman or another Lehman family member. It is a great example of the importance of a major client to an architect. Another major client was the Fair Department Store. He designed six buildings for them - mainly warehouses or delivery stations - between 1904 and 1909.

It appears that the large apartment building was his specialty, for he designed several. Most of them have been demolished, but one prominent commission still stands at the intersection of Surf and Broadway. Originally known as the Lessing Apartments, it was later renamed the Commodore and is now a condominium building. Designed in 1897 and completed in 1898, it originally had 75 apartments, 15 to a floor around a "U"-shaped central courtyard. Later, an Annex was constructed to the north using the same style yellow Roman brick. The Lessing Apartment Complex was one of the first, if not *the* first, large apartment building constructed north of Diversey. He also designed the 20-story Majestic Theatre building, at what is now 22 W. Monroe. It was subsequently renamed the Schubert Theater and, in 2005, was renamed the LaSalle National Bank Theater. George Rapp of the later firm of Rapp and Rapp designed the interior theater while working as an assistant to Mr. Krause. The building itself was recommended for Chicago

Landmark status in 2005. To our knowledge, Edmund Krause designed only three structures in Edgewater: two houses and one commercial building. The first house he designed was at 1189-91 (now 6212) Winthrop. Cook County Recorder of Deeds records show his wife purchasing the lot on August 25, 1898. The permit for the house was issued the next month and he is shown as living in the house in the 1899 and 1900 city directories. It was a rather substantial frame house at 2,800 square feet. The Krauses sold the improved property on January 1, 1902. It was obviously a short stay. This 6212 Winthrop house was featured in the Edgewater Historical Society's 2002 Spring Home Tour. Here is the description of the main room:

The living room has beautiful oak paneling half way up the wall, capped with a ledge. There are two built in bookcases, a window seat and a green tiled, double mantel fireplace. Around the ceiling is an oak cornice. On either side of the fireplace are windows with diamond patterned mullions. All the wood, including the floors is oak.



This 2,800 square foot home, which once stood at 6212 N. Winthrop, was designed by Edmund Krause and built in 1898

The Krauses must have liked the North Edgewater neighborhood because they came back after living in the Lessing Apartments. On March 22, 1904, they purchased a lot on the 6300 block of Kenmore. In May, a permit was

issued to him for a 3-story brick residence, 40 x 38 feet at 3059 Kenmore (currently 6332); the estimated cost was \$10,000. The house was a substantial one - over 5,700 square feet of living space and red face-brick on all sides. He is shown as first residing there in the 1905 city directory. The family lived there until moving to Evanston sometime in either late 1907 or early 1908.

Surprisingly, both of these houses survived the major waves of changes that resulted in the demolition of most of the original homes along Kenmore and Winthrop - the construction of the common corridor buildings in the 1920s and the 4+1s in the late 60s and early 70s. For many years, the red brick home at 6332 was owned by Emmanuel Rothchild, who lived at 6338 in a house designed by Myron Church. When he died, both properties were sold as a single package at auction. Not surprisingly, Loyola University was the successful bidder. Almost immediately upon obtaining title, Loyola demolished both houses, despite the written request by the Edgewater Historical Society that it not do so. The property remains vacant, though grassed and fenced. The house at 6212 Winthrop survived until 2005, when the developer who purchased it the year before from the live-in owners demolished it to construct condos (not yet built as of this writing).

The Edgewater commercial building that Edmund Krause designed still stands, though extensively modified on the front façade. It was one of three delivery stations he designed for the Fair Department Store in June 1904. The Edgewater building was at 3631-39 N. Clark (currently 5238-46). It is now occupied primarily by the Cheetah Gym. The other Fair warehouses were in Irving Park and on West Madison Street. Interestingly, when constructed

(Continued on page 7)

Krause

(Continued from page 6)

the Edgewater delivery station was the largest building on Clark Street in Edgewater. It was also one of the few buildings on Clark Street in this area. The 1905 Sanborn fire map shows only 24 buildings on both sides of Clark Street between Foster and Bryn Mawr. And this total includes 10 houses.

LeRoy Blommaert

Sources: *Book of Chicagoans, 1911, Chicago City Directories, Economist, American Contractor, Cook County Recorder of Deeds Tract Books, Edgewater Beach Hotel publication, Ripples, 1920 Federal Census, Illinois and Cook County Vital Records.*

Edgewater Teasers

In the previous issue we offered the following teaser:

(2) *Five Edgewater residents ran for Mayor of the City of Chicago, two successfully. Who were they, when did they run, and where did they live when they made their run.*

Answer: The first Edgewater resident to run for mayor was **Nathaniel C. Sears**. The year was 1897. He was the Republican nominee, and like all Republican Edgewater nominees he lost. His major opponent was Democrat Carter Harrison II (the son of the first father and son dynasty). Nathaniel Sears lived at what is now 5701 N. Magnolia in Cairnduff's addition to Edgewater (today's BARGE neighborhood). The modest house still stands, though much altered.

The second Edgewater resident to run was a Democrat and he was successful. His name was **William E. Dever**. He first ran in 1923 and served one term. He was defeated by Republican Big Bill Thompson when he ran for re-election in 1927. Dever was considered a reformer. One of the reasons

commentators give for his defeat was that he vigorously enforced national prohibition, which was not very popular among Chicago's many ethnic groups. He lived in a three-flat at 5901 N Kenmore, which he owned. He died at home and was buried from St. Ita's Church. The three-flat still stands and has been converted to condominium living.

The third Edgewater resident to run was also a Democrat and he too was successful. **Martin H. Kennelly** first ran in 1947 and was re-elected in 1951. He defeated in succession Republicans Russell W. Root and Robert L. Hunter. He sought his party's endorsement for a third term, but was denied by the Cook County Democratic Central Committee, which endorsed its chairman Richard J. Daley. Martin ran in the primary against Richard J. Daley but was defeated. While mayor, Martin Kennelly lived in the Edgewater Beach Apartments, 5555 N Sheridan Road.

The fourth Edgewater resident to run was Republican 48th ward Alderman **Dennis Block**. It was a special election called in 1977 to fill the unexpired term of Richard J. Daley, who died in office. Dennis Block was defeated by Democrat Michael A. Balandic. He lived at the Malibu Condominium, 6007 N. Sheridan Road.

The fifth and last to run was also a Republican and he too was unsuccessful. His name is **Donald Haider**. He was defeated in 1987 by Harold Washington running for re-election. Defeated also were Edward Vrodoyak (Solidarity Party) and Tom Hynes (One Chicago Party). Donald Haider lived at 5347 in the Lakewood Balmoral neighborhood (Cochran's 3rd addition to Edgewater), where he lives still.

We Give Thanks

On Sunday, November 20, 2005, the Edgewater community gathered for an interfaith service of Thanksgiving at St. Gertrude Church, 6200 N. Glenwood. Each year the Edgewater Community Religious Association (ECRA) sponsors this event at a different community house of worship. The Thanksgiving proclamation of Abraham Lincoln is read and the many church choirs and musical performers present beautiful music. Judge Joan Lefkow read the proclamation and both children's choirs and adult choirs performed.

Tom Robb from Care for Real spoke on the changing face of the Edgewater community, noting that the number of applicants for assistance is on the rise but that the community has risen to meet the challenge. A collection for Care For Real is an important part of the Thanksgiving event. The 35 year history of Care For Real in this community has been a beacon of hope for many needy families who arrive in our Edgewater neighborhood without the resources that they need.

The event ended with a social gathering.



The all-community choir at the Inter-faith Community Service singing "This Land Is Your Land." Photo by Gloria Evenson.

Edgewater Teaser #3:

*What Edgewater house was home to two different aldermen?
And who were they?*

News from the Front: Committee Communiqués

HISTORIC SITES

Co-Chairs: Thom Greene and LeRoy Blommaert



The committee worked on a survey of the historic buildings on Broadway in order to update a previous list from 1990. The Edgewater Development Corporation sought information on the historic buildings that remain on Broadway.

The Andersonville shopping district has received a copy of a survey of an Historic District produced by students in the Historic Preservation program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The committee is reviewing the corrections and additions required by the State of Illinois.

The Lakewood Balmoral Home tour was a great success. It is inspiring to see how home owners have preserved and renewed those beautiful homes. A special thanks to Unity Lutheran Church for hosting the opening registration for the tour and a special historic photos display.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

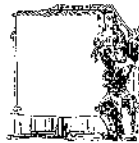
Wally Bradford, Chair



New Board members are welcome. There are a few vacancies. Jim Pletz just joined the Board in October. For application and requirements please check on line or stop by the museum. You must be a member to be on the Board of Directors.

PROGRAM

Linda Komosa, Chair



This has been a busy Fall with the Edgewater Counts program presented by Bob Remer and Chicago author Jim Merrimer's talk on his new book "Grafters and Goo Goos" about reform and corruption in Chicago. Also, the *Those were the Days Radio Players* presented a program on October 29th. We look for more exciting programs in 2006. Check the calendar listings in this issue.

MEMBERSHIP

Co-chairs: Betty Mayian and Marie Morrisette



This is the time of year to give a gift membership to the Edgewater Historical Society. New members who join after September get three free months. Members receive this newsletter which is full of history and stories about Edgewater that you won't find at other locations. Join us in this wonderful community building enterprise.

FINANCE

Robert Remer, Chair



January is the month when we review the expenditures of the past year and prepare the budget for 2006. We believe that we kept to the 2005 budget and that everything is in order. Thanks to Marie Morrisette for keeping track of everything.

COLLECTIONS

Larry Calhoun, Chair



The collections committee continues to work on labeling the collected items and logging their locations. We have expanded the display of the Edgewater Beach Hotel memorabilia to a third case. Please stop by and look at some of these interesting items.

COMMUNICATIONS

Kathy Gemperle, Chair



The newsletter is a little delayed but we hope you enjoy it. Our next deadline will be in February. Remember that all are welcome to submit stories and recollections.

FUNDRAISING

Betty Mayian, Chair



Our *Calendar and Fundraising* Committee meetings were held on December 3, 2005. We put a tentative calendar together, but it is too soon to publish all the dates for our important programs. You will get them before we start the spring garden.

You already know how very successful our Fall Home Tour was. 262 paid attendees and even more when you count others who attended because they were docents, homeowners or business people who took ads in our Home Tour Book. Lakewood Balmoral is always a big draw, but we were pleased beyond expectations with this year's turnout. Thank one and all those who came and made it a great day. We get our income from the

(Continued on page 9)

Flower Power

(Continued from page 5)

garden, remediate what didn't work out and, hopefully, install more of our terra cotta in the garden. Greencorps, as an added bonus, will provide a budget of \$400 for plants plus labor to return next summer for one day of remedial help. Non-gardeners must realize that not everything "takes" or works the first time around. Mother Nature has a big say-so, whatever our best human efforts. We will still need volunteers to help with all this (call Sandee at 773-275-1836).

We are also still looking for donors to fund cement paving of the parking spaces and "Victorian" iron fencing of a portion of the back garden. We welcome dog-owners onto the premises, but ask that they and their pets respect our space. Urine kills plants and so does manure unless mixed with something else.

I was happy to put the garden to "bed" in November, in excited anticipation of what next spring and summer will magically reveal. I am happiest that my friend, Elisabeth, still seems to be my best

friend despite what we went through. I can't thank her enough.

So, after all, peace, love, and power to the flowers - the kind in the ground and those that are grounded in the memories EHS seeks to preserve - for present and future generations to enjoy.

Sandee Remis



Collectibles Corner



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

Granville Avenue United Methodist Church: Copies and CDs of their research for their 100 year anniversary for use in EHS exhibition.

North Shore Baptist Church: Loan of photos for copying for the exhibit Celebrating 100 years of Service in Edgewater. Gift of anniversary booklet.

Unity Lutheran Church: Loan of photos for copying for the exhibit, Celebrating 100 years of Service in Edgewater.

Bethany Lutheran Church: Loan of photos for copying for the exhibit Celebrating 100 years of Service in Edgewater.

Claudia Marciniak Puiszis: Items of interest from the estate of Ed and Virginia Marciniak, including historic gowns and Ed's typewriter and photos.

Nick and Georgia Smith: 1972 Uptown Chicago Commission Holiday decorating Contest Trophy awarded to the 5500 block of Lakewood.

Robert Kradle: Two large scrapbooks with clippings from years of community activities

Joseph Teller: Display cabinets with glass tops for the Museum

We are always looking for Edgewater artifacts and photographs. If you know of anyone cleaning out an attic, please let us know. We would be only too happy to help. Often relatives from out of town are left to remove things when a person passes or moves and they cannot identify the things we might find valuable.

Committee Communiqués

(Continued from page 8)

Spring Fundraiser, our home tours, our yearly subscribers and memberships, and other donations made to us. Remember, we are a 501(c)(3) organization and also accept bequests. We do not charge for most of our programs and all of our workers are volunteers, so we need funding from the membership. Some employers match their employees' charitable donations. Check out what the rules are where you are employed. Help us keep this beautiful museum open for business.

PROPERTY

Tom Murphy, Chair



We can't thank Sandee Remis and Elisabeth Wilcox Szegho enough for the wonderful production of the landscaping site plan for the museum. It is beyond anything we imagined. More than 72 people worked on the project which took six days. We will be celebrating in the summer with a real garden party.

For now we are trying to keep up with the snow and ice and looking forward to Spring when the beautiful garden will be revealed.

Frances Posner

In memoriam

Frances Posner was born in 1913 to Jenny and Joseph Posner who had purchased the home at 1305 Rosedale in 1919. Frances lived there her entire life and sold the home when she moved to St. Paul's Nursing home in 2002. Frances died in September, 2005.

Because she wanted to support the Edgewater Historical Society she gave the contents of the home to the Museum to produce a sale. Kathy Gemperle and Pam Ball organized the sale and an army of volunteers worked at the two day event. While we were at the event a reporter from the WBEZ radio program "This American Life" stopped by and interviewed people who were purchasing items and going through collections of books. Frances had been a librarian and had worked in the Chicago Public Schools. An excerpt of one of these interviews was played on the radio broadcast of "This American Life."

Although the sale was successful in many ways, several items did not sell and have become a part of our museum furnishings. The maple kitchen table and chairs seemed to fit perfectly in the old fashioned kitchen. Her round oak dining room table is used at the entrance of the museum to hold flyers and handouts. Tucked in the corner is a "mini Pianette" which is for sale for \$150. It is in a solid maple case and has been tuned. We also kept some of Frances's lamps because they were in good working condition and could be used.

Frances also left us a memoir of her life at 1305 W. Rosedale. We are in the process of transferring it from handwritten text to computer files. Last issue we published a short story she had written about Thorndale beach. Perhaps in the future we may publish more of her stories. After reading just part of

her writing, I found a picture of a real character who enjoyed her life and was happy to be a little out of the ordinary.

Frances was born after the death of her two brothers who succumbed to the flu in the 1918 epidemic. She had an older sister Helen who lived at the house in her old age and died there. It was Helen who had had the house altered to be two apartments in order to get some income during the depression. This alteration was only reversed after the house was sold in 2002. Her writings about her childhood included stories of how she would be so entranced by a book that when her mother had asked her to do the dishes she found her downstairs in the basement in front of the furnace with her nose in a book. The printed word held a magic for her that transported her to many worlds.

In adulthood Frances became a world traveler, visiting the American West, Mexico and Israel. It seems that everything in life was an adventure for her. In her old age she tried to start an historical society and met with some neighborhood ladies at the Edgewater Library. But through some change of administration the things that they had collected were disposed of and the group disbanded. When we met for the first public meeting to form the Edgewater Historical Society in 1988, Frances was there and she was thrilled to be a part of it.

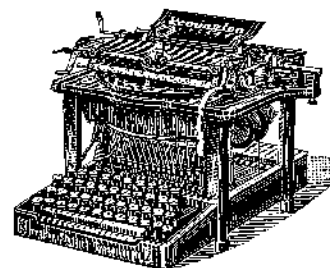
Through the years we held meetings at the Edgewater Library and Frances was always there. She was a college educated woman from the University of Chicago in an era when few of her neighborhood peers went to college. She had her degree in Library Science as well. As she got older and less able to get out, she invited people over for coffee and even lunch. Her house was cramped but warm, filled with unique things that she treasured. When we went

to empty it we found much more than we expected. Many people in Edgewater have beautiful things in their homes now that were once at Frances's house. It's as if we all have a little bit of Frances and that she lives with us still.

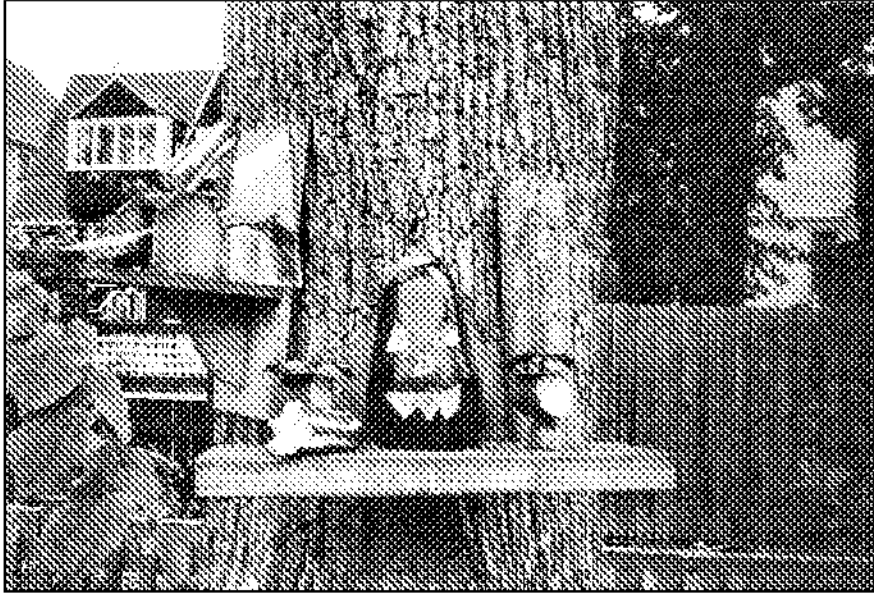
Acquisitions

We are always on the look out for items that are directly connected to the history of Edgewater. In some cases we purchase items we believe will be good additions to our collections. Recently we purchased:

- Stickney School News from the 1930s
- Edgewater Beach Hotel telegram for a reservation and hotel room bills 1936
- Two dining room, Yacht Club and Beach Walk tickets from the Edgewater Beach Hotel
- Governor and Mrs. John Lodge Reception and Buffet Super Invitation held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel 1952 Convention
- Edgewater Beach Commemorative coin 1953
- YMCA name Badge for a meeting held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel
- Edgewater Beach Hotel silver Bowl
- Edgewater Beach Hotel blanket 1930s
- 1952 Republican Convention Mug
- Postcard of the Grandeur Hotel, 1055 W. Granville
- Swizzle stick from "Charter House Cinnabar" of the Edgewater Beach Hotel



Found Art in Edgewater



The mysterious black pumpkin in the photo is part of a decorative feeding station for some very well loved squirrels in Edgewater. Each morning, Dennis sets up a new variation so that our squirrels eat a balanced diet.

Dennis's artistry has expanded to the new parkway tree which now glimmers night and day with the CD hanging from its branches. Holiday lights are not necessary as the CDs twirl and twist in the wind and catch the light from our street lights. Happy Holidays, Dennis!



Edgewater Historical Society - 2006 Membership Application

I would like to support the **Edgewater Historical Society** by becoming a member for 2006.

Type of Annual Membership (Check One):

- | | | | |
|--|-------|---|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20* | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (over 65) | \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$30* | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Org. | \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime | \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Organization (Not for Profit) | | | \$25 |

(* fee assistance is available upon written application)

Museum donation: \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

Edgewater Historical Society

Mail the completed form with your check to:

**Elizabeth Mayian
6033 N. Sheridan Road #36K
Chicago, IL 60660**

For further information, call: (773) 506-4849

I am interested in learning more about the following committees and activities:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collections | <input type="checkbox"/> Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Property |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Bd. Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications |

Special activities:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Research Volunteer |

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____

Email: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Date paid (office use only): / /

The Edgewater Historical Society is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law for 501(c)(3) organizations.

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.

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**We Welcome Guest
Columnists At Any Time**



For the Family Tree

Membership to date for 2005:

Individual	126
Family	78
Senior	99
Patron	7
Business	25
Lifetime	3
Non-Profit	1

Total	339

Thanks for your support and encouragement.

Visit our Website at:
www.EdgewaterHistory.org

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