



Edgewater Scrapbook

“Notes from the Past, News from the Present”

Vol. XIX, No. 1

Spring 2008

The Edgewater Historical Society Celebrates Twenty Years

Twenty years ago, on January 23, 1988, at a meeting held in the Edgewater Library, 50 residents of Edgewater stood up to vote the Edgewater Historical Society into existence. It was a response to a need to preserve community history and a high level of interest in learning more about both history and historic preservation.

Many people who were there at the Library that day remember Dick Bjorklund of the Ravenswood-Lakeview Historical Society and Mary Jo Doyle of the Rogers Park Historical Society sharing their words of encouragement. The community must preserve its own history. We cannot depend on large, city-wide organizations to fulfill that responsibility. The history of our community is our story.

And so we began. Steps were taken to incorporate in the State of Illinois as a non-profit. Meetings were held to create the mission statement and the by-laws. Next, we met with the newly formed board to plan further outreach in the community. Without an office and prior to the possibility of a web site, we decided to create a newsletter, the *Edgewater Scrapbook*, as a means to tell the stories of the community and to share research. The newly formed Historic Sites Committee decided

to offer a community walking tour of the historic areas of the Edgewater Beach neighborhood, which was once called the “North End” of Edgewater.

The Fundraising Committee met and decided that the most exciting event that we could present was a home tour in each of the Edgewater neighborhoods. The first Tour was in the Magnolia Glen neighborhood in 1989.

The program committee set about planning guest speakers for three general meetings per year. Some of our special events included: a Collectibles Auction in 1988; a benefit sale at the Colvin House; “Edgewater Lenscapes,” a photo exhibit at the North Lakeside Cultural Center; a tour of the Uptown Theater in 1991; a joint photo exhibit with the Rogers Park / West Ridge Historical Society called “Then and Now” in 1995; a lecture about Postcards in Edgewater by Kathleen Hamilton-Smith from the Curt Teich postcard archives; a tour of Graceland Cemetery with Al Walavich; an historic tour of Edgewater, with past photos in hand, called the “Then and Now Tour” in 1993; and “Chicago’s Changing Lakefront,” a slide program by Kathy Gemperle.

Through the years, we had a number of Chicago Authors and special community speakers come to our General Meetings, which were always held at the Edgewater Library.

What we learned in forming this organization is that there are many people in Edgewater who are very interested in community history.

Nearly every meeting held at the

Edgewater Branch of the Chicago Public Library was full to capacity with 40-50 people.

We began to receive donations from residents who attended the meetings. During the first year, someone gave us two maps showing the Edgewater area near Rosehill. On other occasions, people brought old photographs and post cards. After a while we realized that we needed to organize what we wanted to collect for

(Continued on page 5)

The Edgewater Historical Society Celebrates 20 Years

Friday, April 18, 2008

6 - 9 p.m. at the

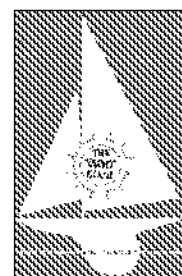
Edgewater Beach Apartments

5555 N. Sheridan Road

Dine in the recreated Yacht Club Bar of the Edgewater Beach Hotel

Paid Reservation \$40
(\$45 at the door)

Parking available \$5





From the President

Our Twentieth Anniversary Celebration on April 18 at the Edgewater Beach Apartments is dedicated to the late Marie Morrisette. Her daughter, Marie Hopkins, noted that Marie was born to J. Perry and Marie Loeffler Quinlan. The Quinlan families were residents of Edgewater and Mr. Quinlan was one of three owners of the Edgewater Coal Company. Our thanks to Alderman Smith for arranging for the Dedication proclamation from the City for Marie.

We are hoping to see all of you at the celebration, which promises to be a lot of fun. It starts at 6 p.m. At 6:45 p.m. there will be a short tour of the building. We will also have a slide program of some historical scenes in our community. The dinner is a buffet and Steve Solomon will be playing keyboard for us. And then, of course, we will have a fabulous Silent Auction with some unusual items, theater tickets and more.

March was Women's History Month and we honored that theme on March 15th at our 20th Annual General Meeting. Our program on that date included a display of our new collection items, donated by the North End Women's Club. (Please come and see it.) This group has disbanded after over 100 years of community service. They have turned over their archives, a beautiful silver tea urn and a check to be used to preserve and display their collection.

April 5th is the date for the first of three more Saturday afternoon programs of old time radio shows, performed by the "Those Were the Days Radio Players, Chicago North." We are following the tradition of having them on Saturday from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. There will be a Great Gildersleeve and a Jack Benny hosting Ronald

Coleman. The second hour from the Radio Players group will be August 23rd. November 22nd will finish the year with another hour of fun. Join the growing number of fans seeing how shows were put on in the Golden Age of Radio. As always, admission is free and there will be coffee and cookies.

The next exhibit will be shared with the North Lakeside Cultural Center. Kathy Gemperle will be curating the exhibit at both NLCC and EHS. The dates will be from May 1st to June 7th. Please contact us if you have a chair and a story about that chair. The title of the exhibit is "Once Upon a Chair." Each chair will be displayed with the writing behind it on the wall. We would really like some children's chairs if you happen to have any. The entrance fee is \$5.

A correction has to be noted from the last *Scrapbook* article. I mentioned Thom Greene's exhibit and program and said it would be in May. However, Thom will show his exhibit in the fall (after the Home Tour in North Edgewater). I am so looking forward to this special exhibit by our very own architect, Thom Greene. He will display his "Thom Greene's Lost Edgewater" drawings and plans that will show designs he conceived for our neighborhood, but which never materialized.

The most anticipated and exciting exhibit we have ever had was the one on the 1893 Columbian Exposition (Chicago World's Fair). It was so popular that it will be returning this summer (following the Chairs Exhibit in June and preceding the Thom Greene architectural exhibit). Exact dates will be announced via email. If you don't get our messages, call the museum. There will be new photos, so there will be an excuse to return, even if you have seen it before. Bob Remer will again host this exhibit and give a presentation. Watch for the exact dates. What an amazing interest everyone has in this exhibit.

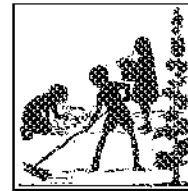
Do you remember our DVD

program: "Edgewater Through the Eyes of Experience"? It has been so well accepted and appreciated that some requests have been made for us to do a follow-up program. This could become a project for 2009. Any ideas? Please send any thoughts via our website or mail it to us at the museum.

Betty Mayian

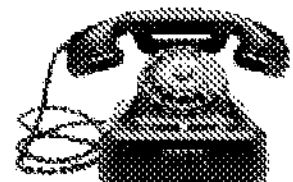
Wanted:

Volunteer gardeners to help with the Spring clean up and planting. Please contact Sandee Remis through our web site or call the Museum at: (773) 506-4849



Collections Search

We are looking for some old phone books. We mean really old, like the 1940s, 50s or 60s. If you've been to the museum, the telephone has become more prominent since we installed the old phone table with dial phone and the wooden phone booth, complete with wooden seat. Now we need a couple of old phone books to complete the display. Please contact us or bring it in on a Saturday.



Preservation Update

The Landmarks Commission of the City of Chicago has researched and photographed the remaining single family homes in John Lewis Cochran's Edgewater development of 1887 and 1889, which is north of Hollywood Avenue from Sheridan Road to Broadway. Where there was once a neighborhood of single family homes and two flats, a number of important homes remain. Many of them were rated orange on the Chicago Resources Survey of the early 1980s. Some are well known because they are owned by institutions, like the two homes at Berger Park and the beautiful home at 6200 N. Sheridan which Sacred Heart Schools is in the process of restoring. Others are known to our members because their owners have participated in one of our Home Tours of the area. But, since the year 2000, seven homes have been demolished in this area.

These remaining homes should be preserved from demolition. The streets of Kenmore, Winthrop and

Sheridan Road have an overabundance of housing units and limited parking. Because of a zoning change in 1957, this neighborhood was allowed to become dense. The construction of the four plus ones, which were built lot line to lot line, changed the density dramatically. These buildings were outlawed in the early 1960s, but not before they had caused the demolition of single family homes, two-flats and six-flats. A single lot went from housing 6-15 people to housing 50.

Since the 1960s, the community has struggled to preserve the housing stock, which includes a broad range of options that foster economic diversity. The neighborhood is cosmopolitan in style and these landmark quality homes contribute to the diversity.

By preserving these high quality homes, the community would be preserving a part of community history - the earliest part. Without the earliest part, all sense of the community development that was initiated by John Lewis Cochran would be lost. Without this earliest part of community history, the later stages of development will always seem disconnected.

Since 1999, the Edgewater

Historical Society has called for the preservation of these remaining homes. Yet, one by one, important homes have been demolished. Now that the City of Chicago is looking at the community history that they represent, it is time to stand up and support the preservation of these historic buildings. Landmarking is Constitutional and has proven effective in legally preventing demolition or disfiguring of designated homes. We believe the community should support the use of this important tool now that it is being offered for the first time.

Please contact us if you are interested in helping with this effort to preserve these important early Edgewater homes. Email us from our website or call.

POSTCARD



This early photo of the brand new Trumbull school in 1908 shows it before the back wing was completed. In the background down West Foster Avenue is the Ebenezer Lutheran Church.

Note the street lamp and the muddy streets. This beautiful school building was designed by Dwight Perkins. We'll have more on Trumbull in another issue.

Home Tours 1988 - 2008

In 1988, when we founded the Edgewater Historical Society, Board member Ardele Nickels encouraged us to find a way to earn funds for our projects. We discussed a number of ideas, including publishing a cookbook and giving walking tours. But Ardele suggested that we create an annual Home Tour. Because we knew about the twin homes designed by Walter Burley Griffin that were on North Magnolia, near the library, we decided to choose the Magnolia Glen area for the first tour on September 17, 1989. We then set about the task of surveying the neighborhood.

What we found was one of the oldest neighborhoods in Edgewater - Cairnduff's addition to Edgewater. We also found in this neighborhood seven families who wanted to learn more about the history of their homes and were willing to share their home with others for a day. Next was the contact with Bethany Lutheran Church, at Thorndale and Magnolia, to arrange a starting point for the Tour.

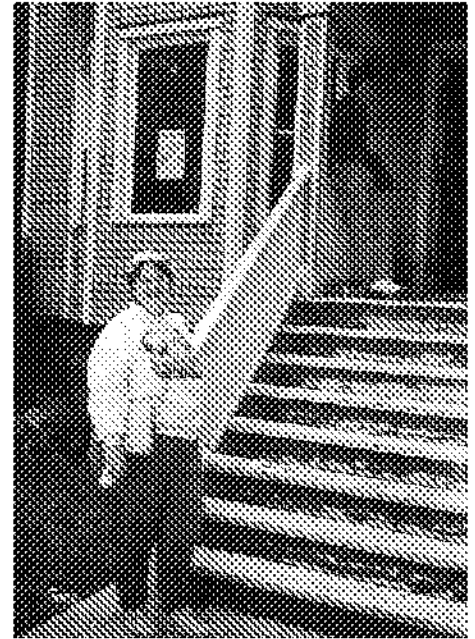
Leroy Blommaert offered to do the research on these homes and Thom Greene offered to create a line drawing of each house. After visiting with each home owner and taking notes, we worked together to create a brief write up about each house. Thom Greene took the lead on this. The tour was set for the third Sunday in September. Next, we began to seek support from various businesses in the community. More than 100 people attended the tour on September 17, 1989, and an annual tradition began.

Throughout the years, we have continued to arrange tours in every Edgewater neighborhood. After the tour of Magnolia Glen, we toured Edgewater Glen and the Edgewater Beach neighborhood.

Surprisingly, on the day of that tour in September, the temperature reached the upper 90s.

In 1992, we toured East Andersonville; in 1993, Lakewood Balmoral; in 1994, West Andersonville; in 1995, the Rosehill neighborhood; in 1996, North Edgewater; and in 1997, Edgewater North. The 1998 Home Tour celebrated the hundred year old homes in Lakewood Balmoral, which was listed as on the National Register of Historic Places that year. In 2001, just after the event that became known as 9/11, we gathered before our tour of the Highlands of Edgewater and offered prayers for the victims of that disaster.

During the three years of 2002, 2003 and 2005, we offered a Spring Tour of Homes in the three areas of the Edgewater Beach neighborhoods. In 2002, we also toured the Edgewater Triangle neighborhood and thus completed touring every neighborhood in Edgewater - 14 in all. Since then, we've returned to many neighborhoods and found over 100 people willing to share their homes and the history of



Our President, Betty Mayian, working as a Docent for the 1996 Home Tour.

their neighborhood.

We could never have raised the funds that began our building project without the support of these generous homeowners and our wonderful volunteer tour guides. On our 20th anniversary, please accept our thanks.



The welcome party at the front desk for the 1996 Home Tour. Pictured are Esther Naser, Marie Morrissette, John Taccio and Sister Mary Cramer, B.V.M., in front of St. Gertrude's Church.

Twenty Years

(Continued from page 1)

the neighborhood. The Collections Committee met and created a collections policy. How to organize the collections was another matter.

In an effort to work on community outreach, we created a slide program about Edgewater history and offered it to the various block club organizations.

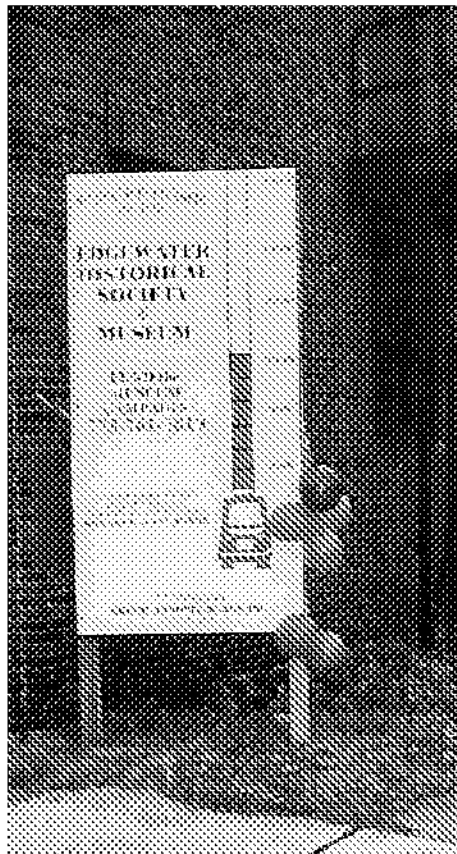
Student participants in the "Chicago History Fair" began contacting us through the Library for help with their research. This was difficult without having an office or place to meet.

After seven years of operating without a location, we began looking at buildings which had some historical character and might work as a small museum. We had a few favorites but, with only \$24,000 saved from our previous years, it didn't seem like we could afford to buy. But Board member Thom Greene was determined and, when Chris Grant from Alderman O'Connor's organization offered to show us the essentially vacant firehouse at 5358 N. Ashland, we began to imagine our future. By 1996 we had purchased the building; we opened the Edgewater Historical Society Museum on October 6, 2002. On Page 6 in this publication is the final list of those who gave their cash to support this project.

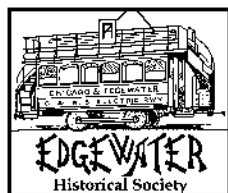
Not listed as cash donors, but of premier importance, are the in-kind donations of several Edgewater businesses. At the top of that list is Greene and Proppe Design, for all the additional work they did on the project. Gethsemane Garden Center came in and landscaped the grounds before the Grand Opening. The City of Chicago reconfigured the front entrance sidewalk to go along with the landscaping. Finally, Charlie's Ale House offered to host a fundraising event to pay off the remaining \$10,000 to our contractor, M.P. Construction.



Carl Helbig and a representative of the General Services department receive the check from Kathy Gemperle to purchase the Fire house as Marie Morrissette looks on.



The fundraising sign in 1997 and the kick off party to raise the funds to fix the firehouse. Note the attempt to appear festive in a building with no heat or bathrooms.



Edgewater Historical Society Building Fund Sponsors



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Everett Charles Stetson

Captain

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Dwight Young

The North End Women's Club 1897 - 2007

A special exhibit is on display at the Edgewater Historical Society Museum until April 26th. The exhibit is a tribute to the women of the North End Women's Club, which has honored the Edgewater museum by donating their archives to the museum. They also supported that donation with a substantial gift. It will take some time to go through the collection and make a more complete report.

What we discovered, in looking at the membership books, is that there is a storehouse of information on the early members, including their home addresses. Just by browsing through these logs, I learned that women from all over Edgewater were members. I found Mrs. Herman Lammers listed as a member; she lived on the 5200

block of Lakewood. Also Mrs. Jenks, who lived on the 5300 block of Lakewood. There is more. Mrs. Louis Hurter was a member and she lived at 6314 Magnolia in the only house still standing on the west side of that block.

Other names we found and recognized were Mrs. Neils Buck, who was married to Edgewater architect Neils Buck. Mrs. Herbert Perkins, who lived at 6106 Kenmore, was also a member and was photographed for the membership book. She lived in a large beautiful home that has been rated orange in the Chicago Historic Resources survey of important Chicago buildings. Also listed as a member is Miss Elsa Eberhardt, probably the daughter of Max Eberhardt, who built the landmark quality home at 6018 North Kenmore.

These early members of this community women's organization were photographed for three keepsake membership books that

are a treasure. But the women who continued as active members are another part of the story. These women worked in all kinds of fundraising projects in order to purchase a club house, the home at 6200 N. Sheridan that Sacred Heart Schools is now restoring. They purchased the home in 1923 for \$123,000 and used it for their events until 1957.

There are a few photos of their activities and many certificates of thanks for donations to relief organizations such as C.A.R.E. In addition, the women hosted talks and lectures and even held fashion shows at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. As we look at Edgewater today, and note the contributions of our many female community activists, it is important to remember how the first women of Edgewater began their commitment to their own community.

Kathy Gemperle

Edgewater Historical Society - 2008 Membership Application

I would like to support the **Edgewater Historical Society** by becoming a member for **2008**.

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"/> Individual Lifetime | \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Organization (Not for Profit) | | | \$25 |

(* fee assistance is available upon written application)

Museum donation: \$ _____

_____ DVDs (mailed at \$20/copy): \$ _____

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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Or EHS voice mail: 773-506-4849

Newsletter Staff: Larry Rosen, David Gemperle, Gloria Evenson and Tom Murphy.

**We Welcome Guest
Columnists At Any Time**



For the Family Tree

Membership to date for 2008:

Individual	62
Family	65
Senior	94
Patron	7
Business	22
Lifetime	11
Non-Profit	3

Total	264

Thanks for your support and encouragement.

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

Visit our Website at:
www.EdgewaterHistory.org

Previous Issue: Vol. XVIII, No. 4
The deadline for the next issue is June 1, 2008

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