



Edgewater Scrapbook

"Notes from the Past. News from the Present"

Vol. XXVII, No. 1

Spring 2016

Voices from Edgewater: Immigration Then and Now

By Dorothy Nygren

The history of our country, our city, and our community is one of immigration. In 1790 Jean Baptiste Point duSable, a Haitian of African descent and his Potawatomi Indian wife built a cabin at the mouth of the Chicago River. With the passage of time Chicago became a destination for diverse groups of immigrants. In Edgewater, the first permanent non-native settlers came from Luxembourg and Germany in the 1840s establishing market farms and greenhouses.

From these early beginnings Edgewater became one of the most significant ports of entry for immigrants in Chicago as it grew into a vibrant community which embraced its diversity. Since 1950, Edgewater has outpaced both national and city percentages for immigrants. Over the years Edgewater's immigration demographics have changed and our community is now home to immigrants from nearly 100 countries making up about one third of the population.

Why would people leave their home countries and settle in Edgewater? What factors contribute to Edgewater's preeminence as an immigrant destination? As you explore the rich history of Edgewater's immigrants presented in our current exhibition at the museum think about why Edgewater has been - and continues to be - so attractive to immigrants.

1840-1890: Early Edgewater Settlers

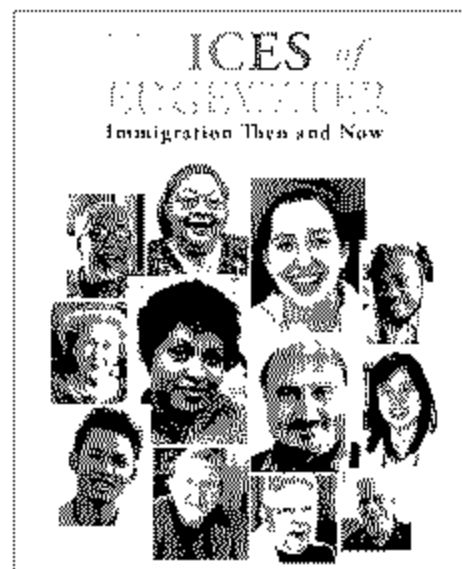
The first wave of immigration to the United States was largely from western and northern European countries. Direct federal regulation of immigration began only in 1875 with a law that prohibited entry of prostitutes and convicts. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 not only barred Chinese people. It also excluded persons convicted of political offenses and those likely to become public charges, as well as placing a head tax on immigrants.

In Edgewater, Luxembourg and German immigrants arrived with enough assets to purchase land and establish market farms. Luxembourg Nicholas Kransz acquired 120 acres on the east side of Clark Street from Ardmore to Devon Avenue. Through intermarriage with other immigrants the Kransz family amassed significant amounts of property that they farmed before turning to other economic activities, such as banking, insurance and real estate. Their story is typical of immigrants from other northern European countries who helped develop Edgewater before it was annexed to Chicago in 1889. By that time these settlers had created a community with churches, social clubs, and other organizations that welcomed new immigrants.

1885-1939: Prosperity & Depression

The second wave of immigration nationwide came from southern and eastern Europe peaking in the first decade of the 20th century. By then, there were almost as many Swedes living in Chicago as Stockholm. World War I and the subsequent Great Depression practically ended

European immigration. The concept of national origins, defined in 1924, established a preferential quota system, limiting the annual number of immigrants who could be admitted from any country to 2% of the number of people from that country who were already living in the United States, restricted the immigration of Africans and banned outright the immigration of Arabs and Asians.



Edgewater became a destination for Swedish, German, Russian, Canadian and Irish immigrants. A number of German Jews settled in the eastern portion, while many Scandinavians settled in the southwestern corner, an area that later became known as Andersonville. A typical immigrant of this time was Oscar Carlson who left Sweden in 1903 at the age of twenty-three with his tool chest seeking his fortune. He found employment in Chicago as a cabinet maker and, in 1910, estab-

(Continued on page 10)



From the President

Edgewater Beach Hotel Centennial 2016

Who doesn't love picture postcards? Our own long gone iconic Edgewater Beach Hotel (EBH) ranks among the most prolific photogenic sites in Chicago's pantheon of picture postcards. As I write, there are over 250 currently on sale on Ebay - more than a quarter of those for all Chicago sites. They tell the wonderful story from the hotel's opening on June 3, 1916 to its closing in the late 1960s.

As you can surmise, the hotel's centennial is upon us and EHS will be celebrating with, among other activities, a delightful exhibit of our extensive and unmatched collection of EBH memorabilia that includes a



wide assortment of picture postcards, particularly the early black and white RPPCs (real photo post cards). Our collections chair LeRoy Blommaert, himself an eminent expert and author on post cards, will raise the curtain on our treasures from silver tea settings to postcards; he will also share his time lapse slide show of the difficult and lengthy demolition of both buildings. Kathy Gemperle, our chair of exhibits, plans to bring the hotel back to life in our gallery - get ready to party!

Since the end of the 19th century, picture postcards have told the history of our world, starting in force with Chicago's 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, when

postcard popularity proliferated along Chicago's picturesque lakefront.

The allure of that lakefront endures and EBH evokes a wide range of those emotions, experiences, and aspirations. That is why we think this will be one of our more fun and popular exhibits. If you have any memories or items from the Edgewater Beach Hotel, please let us know and share them with us so we can share them with the larger community. We would love to hear your stories about proms, weddings, dances, or special personal occasions at the hotel - your story can become part of the exhibit or our archives.

Annual Meeting and Immigration Exhibit Programs

While we plan for the next one, our current exhibit, *Voices of Edgewater* (ending May 28), continues to make a major contribution to our understanding of the impact of immigrants on our community and of the varied backgrounds they came from. To help us better understand those experiences we are sponsoring a series of programs to hear firsthand the stories of immigrants and refugees.

Please join us on March 19th at 10 a.m. at the Edgewater Branch Library (6000 N. Broadway) for our annual meeting. We will be electing board members and hearing of our plans for the coming year. We have a distinguished speaker, Ms. Jean Mishima, President of the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, who will speak about her and her family's experience at the World War II internment camps. That was a terrible time of war hysteria, when America rounded up immigrants and loyal American born citizens of Japanese descent and sent them to special detention camps in the U.S. They lost their homes, their businesses and their livelihoods. In the current exhibit, one of our Japanese American

honorees included among her displayed artifacts a copy of the reparations check she received and an apology letter from President Bush many decades later.



(In the meantime, a current presidential candidate points to the internment camps as some kind of beneficent model or historic example to support drastic restrictions on one ethnic religious group. I wonder what grades he received in history classes.) It is interesting to note that given Chicago's distinct first century welcoming immigrants, at the beginning of World War II there were only about 300 people born in Japan then residing in Chicago. By the end of the war that number had reached many thousands who settled on the North Side, primarily in neighborhood along Clark Street. They came to Chicago during the war from the camps as part of a resettlement program. In Chicago, there were a few employers who agreed to hire Japanese Americans, and those few included the Edgewater Beach Hotel. Please join us on the March 19th at the Library.

We will have a number of other interesting programs planned this year, including a panel on better understanding of the refugees' experiences; we will also have programs on Latino immigrants, the different waves of Jewish immigration and the special circumstances of the Bosnian immigrants and refugees. Let's celebrate, better understand and appreciate our Edgewater neighbors from abroad.

Robert Remer

Our Next Exhibit: *The Story of the Edgewater Beach Hotel*

The Edgewater Beach Hotel opened 100 years ago on June 3, 1916.

On June 4, 2016 the Edgewater Historical Society Museum will present an exhibit about the world famous hotel that once stood on the Edgewater shoreline. Memorabilia from the hotel has become a favorite of collectors, many of whom never saw the place or walked its elegant hallways.

On our website is an article about the Edgewater Beach Hotel written by Adam Langer and reprinted with his permission. Despite being known country wide it was torn down in 1970 and replaced with modern high rise apartment buildings.

We are seeking the loan of any memorabilia that could contribute to the telling of the story of the hotel from construction to demolition in 1970. We have plenty of ashtrays and swizzle sticks. We have a door

key and lots of china and silver. We are interested in artifacts from things like the skating rink, the beauty salon, the barbershop or the floral shop. We are interested in any memories of working in the hotel, being a guest or visitor to the hotel, or of living in the hotel at the end of its history as a Loyola dorm. We are interested in any photos of the guest rooms. We have many of the hallways, the Marine Room, the Yacht club and the many other gathering rooms.

So dig into your archives and see what you might be willing to loan us. As a donor to the exhibit you will receive a special invitation to the preview reception. It is going to be a great exhibit and we hope it will be partnered by many businesses in the area. Contact us at www.edgewaterhistory.org or stop by the museum with anything you want to donate.

Kathy Gemperle

The Edgewater Historical Society presents its Spring Event *Voices of Edgewater*

Tuesday, April 19, 2016
at Pork Shoppe
6-9 p.m.



*The former Round Table
restaurant at*

5721 N. Clark Street
Tickets: \$60 each
(2 or more \$55 each)

There is limited parking available
behind the building

POSTCARD



This lovely home in Brockhausen and Fischer's section of Edgewater is at 6316 N. Magnolia. Louis P. Hurter had the home built in 1895 by architect Ernest Mayo. In 1899 and 1900 the house was occupied by the family of Louis P. Hurter, a lumber salesman who had offices at 25 Fullerton Avenue, according to Chicago directories and the 1900 census. Much of the elaborate woodwork inside the home came from the family's millwork company. In 1910 Louis Hurter was president of the Wheelock Lumber and Manufacturing Company. His wife Annie was a member of the North End Women's Club in Edgewater. Annie continued to live in the house after his death in 1918, moving to an apartment on Claremont sometime between 1923 and 1928, when she sold the property to Jacob and Winifred Baumann.

Marsha

Edgewater Subdividers Part 1: Brockhausen and Fischer Profile

By Marsha Holland

Most of us know who John Lewis Cochran was and maybe also William H. Cairnduff. But have you heard these names before: Henry Greenebaum, Louis E. Henry, Samuel H. Kerfoot, Michael Weber, Gustavus Anderson, Zero Marx, Charles Rascher, William D. Fisher? Some of these men lived in, as well as invested in Edgewater, but the large majority lived elsewhere and all looked upon their development activities as wealth-producing investments. What they all have in common is that they made major contributions to the creation of the residential neighborhoods in what we now call Edgewater. This is the first in a series of profiles of these lesser known subdividers.

A subdivider is someone who submits a conceptual development plan for a given piece of property to county officials for approval. The plan typically divides the property into streets and individual house lots. The street pattern is for creating access and community character (the streets are deeded to the local government) and the lots are the real source of value. Once the subdivision has legal standing, the property can be sold by individual lot, by blocks of lots, or as a whole to another owner who undertakes the overall marketing and sales. In Edgewater, land changed hands many times after it was put on the market by the Federal government in 1835. Some was farmed, but most was owned speculatively, awaiting the time when suburban development would reach northern Lakeview Township. That arrived in 1889 when annexation to the City of Chicago made provision of reliable water and sewer service a certainty.

East of Clark Street, the first steps toward suburbanization were taken

by John Lewis Cochran, who from 1885 to 1888 purchased and subdivided approximately 300 acres of lakefront land east of Broadway between Foster on the south and Devon on the north, giving his new community the name Edgewater. Building on Cochran's successful marketing efforts, in 1890 Theodore C. Brockhausen and William D. Fischer subdivided a twenty acre parcel bounded by Broadway and Glenwood on the east and west and between Devon on the north and a line extending east from Thome Avenue on the south. Their subdivision, which they called "Brockhausen and Fischer's First Addition to Edgewater," was recorded in December 2, 1890. A *Chicago Tribune* article described the new subdivision as being "just west of and adjoining J.L. Cochran's Edgewater addition." A subdivision logo used on the recording map even closely resembles Cochran's distinctively stylized lettering for the word Edgewater.



In 1890, Brockhausen and Fischer had much in common. Both were twenty-one years old, both were the sons of German immigrants who had become successful small town merchants, and both decided to seek their fortunes in Chicago rather than becoming part of their father's businesses. Brockhausen, an only child, came from the small rural town of Lansing in Allamakee County in the northwestern corner of Iowa. Fischer, the fifth of eleven children, followed his druggist older brother Oscar to Chicago from the somewhat larger and less remote town of Mendota in La Salle County, Illinois.

Brockhausen and Fischer first showed up in a Chicago directory in 1887, when they were listed as working as bookkeepers for downtown employers located within a

block of each on Dearborn Street. Brockhausen lived on Ontario near State Street, while Fischer lived on West Lake Street. By 1889 Fischer had relocated to Ontario Street across the way from Brockhausen. In 1890 the Chicago directory listed a new real estate and mortgage company - Brockhausen, O'Connell, & Fischer, with offices in Rooms 50 and 51 in the Inter Ocean Building at the northwest corner of Dearborn and Madison. The partnership with Thomas F. O'Connell was very brief, because by 1892 O'Connell had a job at City Hall, and thereafter the firm was known as Brockhausen, Fischer & Company. An 1891 display ad for the company published in Chicago's Real Estate and Building Journal indicates that firm gave "special attention to the needs of non-residents," meaning the young partners hoped to capture a share of the massive flow of eastern investment money into the Chicago real estate market.

The documents related to the recording of the new subdivision show that Fischer was the owner of the land and Brockhausen was the notary. Most *Tribune* articles about the project reference Brockhausen, Fischer and Company as the active buyer and seller. But one *Chicago Tribune* article dated November 5, 1891, indicates that William D. Fischer was an agent acting for a "syndicate" of unnamed investors. It was this group that provided the \$120,000 purchase price for the thirty acres - the twenty acre future subdivision and a ten acre tract immediately to the south which was sold separately to another group.

The syndicate made a handsome profit on their investment. Land purchased in 1890 for \$4,000 an acre was sold one year later for just under \$10,000 per acre, a profit of 150%. The buyers were a syndicate made up of prominent Kewanee, Illinois, businessmen, and headed by James K. Blish and William E. Haxton. James K. Blish was a lawyer, banker and member of one

(Continued on page 5)

Brockhausen and Fischer

(Continued from page 4)

of Kewanee's most prominent pioneer families, and William E. Haxtun, originally from Dutchess County, New York, owned the Haxtun Steam Company, and was one of Kewanee's newest wealthy residents. A third unnamed group of investors purchased the ten acres adjoining the Brockhausen and Fischer subdivision on the south.

In deals of this type, agents like Brockhausen and Fischer received fees for the work of buying the land and subdividing it, and then for marketing and handling the sale of lots to builders, individual home buyers and speculators. There is evidence that in this case the compensation also included Brockhausen and Fischer receiving ownership of blocks of house lots within the subdivision.

This major accomplishment yielded significant revenue for the new company and kept Brockhausen and Fischer afloat as real estate and mortgage brokers for the next decade. They ended their partnership sometime between 1900 and 1905, with each continuing on their own in the real estate business for several more years. No other real estate deal in their careers would be as large.

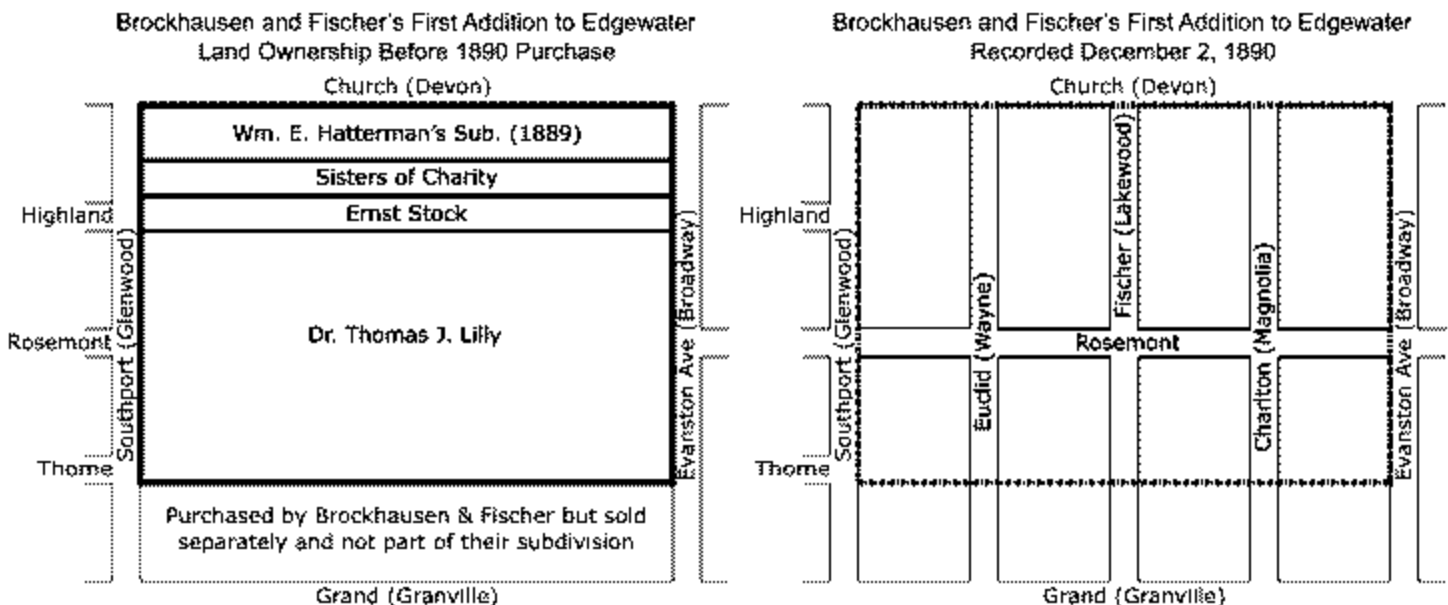
There is more published detail about the transactions involved with assembling the land for Brockhausen and Fischer's subdivision than is often the case. Two Rascher real estate maps from the late 1880s indicate that within the thirty acres they purchased were four narrow east-west strips of land: two with four acres, one of six acres, and one of 16 acres. The six-acre strip, aligned along the south side of Devon and containing the potentially commercially strategic southwest Broadway/Devon corner, was owned by young real estate broker William E. Hatterman, in business with his father, who had in 1889 recorded a small subdivision of just this piece and who went on to develop a larger residential parcel in Jefferson Township. Land records and a *Chicago Tribune* article dated November 5, 1891, indicate that the owners of the other parcels were the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, Ernst Stock, and Dr. Thomas J. Lilly. Ernst Stock was a well-established German-born real estate broker and Dr. Lilly was a Kentucky-born physician living on Chicago's West Side. The Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, a German-language breakaway from the better-known Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul, had purchased the land in 1869, two years before they established their

St. Joseph's Hospital on Dickens just east of Halsted. Perhaps the land was a donation to the Sisters, since there is no evidence of dwelling units on these properties.

It appears that Fischer did not purchase the Hatterman property outright, since land records show that Hatterman's warranty deed to Fischer was immediately followed by a mortgage obligation of Fischer to Hatterman.

The Map accompanying the recording documents shows subdivision layout providing one east-west street corresponding to modern Rosemont, and three north-south streets named Charleton (modern Magnolia), Fischer (modern Lakewood) and Euclid (modern Wayne). The entire twenty acres was divided into 144 lots, a mixture of 50' and 44' front feet in size. This lot division was not necessarily followed in actual practice, particularly on Broadway and Devon. The *Tribune* article stated it was the developers' intention to provide "sidewalks, macadamized streets, and a sewer and water system similar to that of Edgewater proper," which indicates the influence J.L. Cochran had on other developers, as well as the perceived marketing value of the Edgewater concept he created.

(Continued on page 6)



Brockhausen and Fischer

(Continued from page 5)

Despite the brisk turnover in speculative lot ownership, actual building within Brockhausen and Fischer's Subdivision proceeded at a very slow pace. The 1905 Sanborn fire insurance map shows that only sixteen houses had been constructed on the residential lots (See the



Bicycle Club House at Devon and Broadway. 1899

Address 3101 Evanston Avenue (southwest corner of Broadway and Devon).

Peter Evert (1858-1917) operated a saloon business on the site as early as 1896 (opened 1893-1895) with partner James Jaeger. With partner John P. Jaeger (1864-) he purchased land in April 1898 from Nicholas Morper for \$4,000 (*Chicago Tribune* 28 April 1898). He built a new building or expanded the old one in 1898-1899 (the permit has not been found). The new business was called the Bicycle Club House.

In the 1900 census it is listed as restaurant/bar with living space for staff upstairs. Peter Evert moved the business to 1501 W. Devon sometime between 1900 and 1910. In 1910 his business partner was his nephew Frank Baer, son of his sister Anna and her husband Frank Adam Baer. Peter Evert's family immigrated from Luxemburg in 1864, somewhat later than his extended Evert family of cousins, who immigrated in 1857. All are buried in St. Henry's Cemetery. He was also connected to the Winandy family through his mother. He lived at 1225 W. Glenlake at the time of his death in 1917.

postcard on Page 2), and only three commercial buildings had been built along Broadway and Devon.

The largest of the commercial buildings was the Bicycle Club House restaurant/saloon, located at the key Broadway/Devon intersection, and a second commercial building housing another restaurant/saloon and tailor on Broadway just north of Rosedale.

Throughout the rest of 1890-1900 decade, Brockhausen, Fischer and Company represented the Kewanee investor group in the selling of lots. At the same time they were also involved in a range of real estate transactions in other parts of the North and West Sides.

Theodore Brockhausen married Mathilda Irene West in 1892. They had two sons and two daughters. They made their home in the 4300 block of West Washington Boulevard in the West Garfield Park neighborhood. Brockhausen acquired a large tract of land in the vicinity of his Washington Boulevard home and, based on published real estate sales reports, seems to have sold and resold the same lots repeatedly. He also redeveloped a building where he had lived on Ontario Street into a small hotel, and was active with political and real estate industry groups. Brockhausen's independent real estate office was not listed in the Chicago directory after 1905. He apparently died in about 1906 because a 1907 *Chicago Tribune* death notice for his wife does not indicate a surviving spouse and, in the 1910 census, his young children, scattered and living with relatives in Iowa and upstate New York, were listed as orphans. Mysteriously, the deaths of neither Brockhausen nor his wife are recorded in Cook County records, although his wife's *Tribune* notice indicated that she was a former resident of Chicago's Austin neighborhood. She is buried in Graceland Cemetery and, perhaps, he is as well.

The fate of William G. Fischer is better documented and just as sad. Fischer married Anna Scheehan in

1893 and they had two daughters. The family first lived in the 2800 block of West Warren in East Garfield Park and then moved to a brownstone townhouse on Roslyn Place just off Lincoln Park. In 1909 Fischer's financial difficulties drove him to commit suicide by shooting himself in the basement of his brother Oscar's drug store at 16th and South Wabash. At first the family claimed it was ill health that led to his suicide, but the *Chicago Tribune* soon reported that he had been misappropriating the funds of clients for several years. The precipitating incident was his conversion for his own use of \$15,000 received from one client to pay off a mortgage held by a second client. The deceived client, a personal friend of Fischer's, commented that it was "the old story of trying to keep up a champagne career on a beer salary." Although the income of Fischer's wife and two daughters was greatly reduced by Fisher's death and disgrace, they were able to continue to live in their Roslyn Place home, perhaps with the assistance of Fischer's father, who remembered his granddaughters in his will when he died in 1920, or with help from the childless Oscar Fischer.



Louis P. Hurter and Annie Becker Hurter standing next to their home at 6316 N. Magnolia (the postcard on page 2).

Teaser #31

In our last issue we asked: In 1913 what radical action did some Edgewater housewives propose to take to remedy the city's failure to provide regular and adequate garbage pickup?

Answer: In a word: Pigs. The *Chicago Tribune* reported in its November 3, 1913, issue that a group of Edgewater women upset about the city's failure to timely pickup the garbage, decided to take matters into their own hands. They fenced in a vacant lot on either Hood or Glenlake (the article states at Hood and Glenlake, but that is in error), and "stocked it with the old fashioned garbage disposers - large, hungry pigs."

"Mrs. Leonard Peterson, 1320 Glenlake Avenue, who first thought of the plan, said she could see no reason why women should donate their garbage to the city when they could turn the refuse into pigs and get pay!"

The other women engaged "in the new local live stock enterprise" were Mrs. William De R. Knight of 1325 Hood Avenue, Mrs. Robert P. Campbell of 1318 Glenlake Avenue, Mrs. S.M. Schall of 1321 Glenlake Avenue, Mrs. G.H. Bennett of 1330 and Mrs. Henry Krauter of 1314 Glenlake Avenue.

It appears that it was primarily a 1300 block of Glenlake effort. There is no follow-up article, so we don't know how it all turned out, but it was clearly another early example of community activism, the other being the effort to get an "L" stop at Thorndale. In that effort, women also played a key role.



Teaser #32

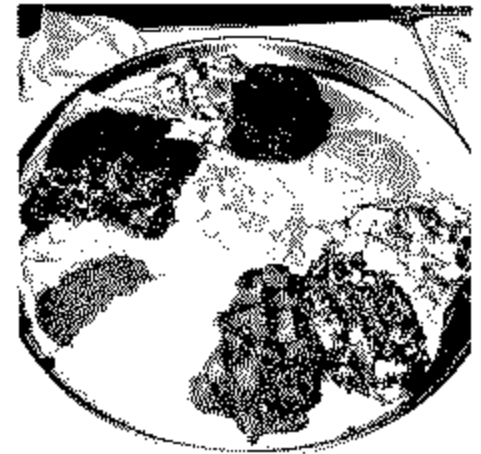
What current Edgewater business has been in operation the longest at the same location and under the same name?

The Foods and Traditions of "Home"

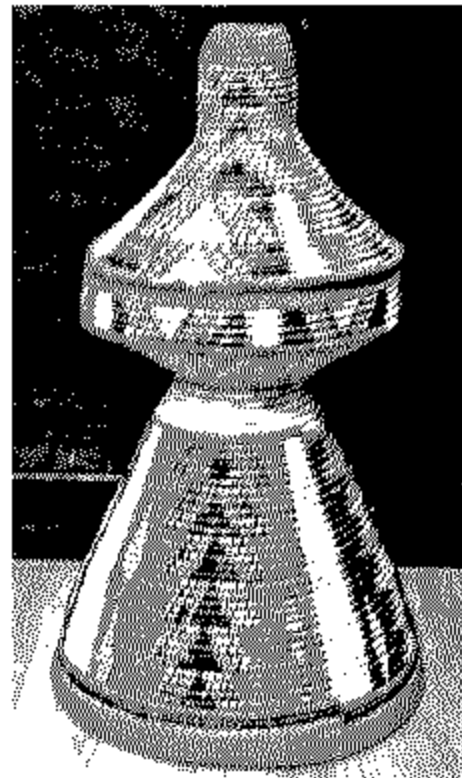
Ethiopian mesobs, woven round wicker baskets, come in many sizes. Smaller ones may be decorative, or they can be good places to store household items. A large mesob, which can be three to four feet tall, plays the role of the dinner table in a traditional Ethiopian home. It has a lid, and when you remove it, there's a place in the center for a common tray of food, called the gebeta. This traditional Ethiopian meal is served on a round of injera, a sour, spongy bread made with teff, the indigenous Ethiopian grain. The meal is shared by everyone at the table. A piece of injera is used as the eating utensil to scoop up small portions of the many dishes, which characteristically consist of seasoned vegetables and thick stews.

Cooking and eating the foods of

home nourishes the soul as well as the body. Food is central to cultural identity, connecting people to their homelands across distance and generations. Inviting another to share a meal is a time honored way to say "Welcome." Over time, the diverse waves of immigrants and refugees who have made Edgewater home have established a rich assortment of ethnic grocery stores and restaurants throughout the community. They offer a warm invitation to all who find themselves wanting to expand their world - one food at a time.



Photos courtesy of Alma Yigizaw



An Ethiopian Mesob shown at the Voices of Edgewater exhibit at the Edgewater Historical Society Museum

Words to ponder when viewing the Voices of Edgewater exhibit

Paw Ku
(Karen tribe from Burma)

"I think that I'm so lucky that I made it here. Because before I didn't have any dreams. I was in a camp. Because our life was limited. We just finish day by day. I didn't dream like I do now, because of the opportunity to go to school and study and also educate myself and try to help other people now and in the future."

News from the Front: Committee Communiqués

HISTORIC SITES

Co-Chairs: Thom Greene and LeRoy Blommaert



We are looking forward to hearing in more detail the plans the successful bidder has for Trumbull School. Those plans are in general terms the conversion of the upper floors to condos and a portion of the first floor and the auditorium to live theater. The request for proposals required that all bidders agree to City of Chicago Landmark designation.

Many restorations are happening in the community. Take a look at the triangle building at Ridge and Bryn Mawr built in 1895 where the new Baker and Nosh will be located. With the new windows it's a perfect spot for people watching.

Congratulations to the Flats company for the work on this landmark quality building

PROGRAM

Co-Chairs: Bob Reimer and Kathy Gemperle



The Chicago history book club continues this year at the Edgewater Library. The meetings are every other month on the second Saturday. Look on the website to learn what books to read. There are often several choices.

We will have a number of other interesting programs planned this year including a panel on better understanding of the refugees' experiences; we will also have programs on Latino immigrants,

the different waves of Jewish immigration, and the special circumstances of the Bosnian immigrants and refugees. Let's celebrate, better understand and appreciate our Edgewater neighbors from abroad.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Reggie Griffin



The upcoming General Meeting in March will include the election of board members. If you are interested in an application, please contact us through the website. Also, if you just want to get involved we have many volunteer positions, museum docents, research for exhibits, help with mailings (always a fun group but usually in the daytime). All these committees have openings for members. Meetings are only occasionally, as there is a lot of work to do on many projects.

MEMBERSHIP

Chair: LeRoy Blommaert



The mailing will be going out soon for your support of the museum with a membership. This is an important part of the budget to keep the museum open. Your contribution is appreciated, but we would also hope that you make at least a yearly visit to the museum to learn about our neighborhood history

PROPERTY

Chair: Thom Greene



Luckily there has not been too much snow so far. The side of the Berwyn Avenue "L" stop ticket booth has been installed in the front entranceway of the museum. More work needs to be done, but it fits perfectly and holds our video screen for watching the introduction to the museum and the current exhibit.

FINANCE

Chair: Bob Reimer and Barbara Strauss



The year has ended, and we are in the black. Thanks to all who support our work in the community. Now we must create the budget for this year and plan for the Edgewater Beach Hotel exhibit

COLLECTIONS

Chair: LeRoy Blommaert



This spring we will be getting some interns to help with cataloging and archiving our amazing collections. We have mostly photos and ephemera from businesses in the area. However, we do not have a source for photos of every house. If you are planning a restoration of a home in Edgewater, we suggest you contact the previous owners first. We can help with research on the homes origins, permits and architects, if listed, but this does not include photos. Other options are to look for a duplicate home in your area, as some builders built homes on several scattered lots.

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Hazards of Early Train Travel

By LeRoy Blommaert

The next time you miss your bus, or your "L" is delayed, reflect on this account of an early train journey from Milwaukee to Chicago over what is now the Metra North division that forms the western boundary of Edgewater. The account appeared in the February 1, 1856, issue of the *Chicago Tribune*.

"On the morning of the ninth of January, Mr. Hibbard, a conductor of passenger trains on the Chicago and Milwaukee road left the latter place [Milwaukee] with his train at the usual hour of starting, arriving at the State Line on time. Here he waited some sixteen minutes for the train from Chicago before it arrived. At Chittenden [renamed Rose Hill in 1859 after the cemetery opened] he had gained nine minutes, behind time, and a fair prospect to get through on time, when he found,

about two miles south of Chittenden, thirteen freight cars standing on the track, having been left there by the accommodation train. [At this early stage, just about a year after the line opened, the line was single track with sidings for passing.] Being obliged to wait for the right to the track for some time and getting out of wood and water, the engine returned to Evanston and got a good supply of fuel and water and then proceeded to remove the freight cars to a side track. In doing this, the coupling bars of the engine broke and our friend Hibbard was forced most unwittingly to the conclusion that the game was up and the train would have to be out all night, it being after ?? o'clock [unable to make out the number]

Determined that his passengers should be made as comfortable as possible, Mr. Hibbard chartered a team and came to Chicago for provisions. Applying to Mr. Drake at the Tremont [an early Chicago hotel], he was supplied with an

ample quantity of good things. Starting back for the train he reached it about 2 o'clock in the morning, finding his passengers contented and cheerful to an astonishing degree and keeping up the glowing fires in the stoves. Breakfast was soon served picnic fashion.

Nothing could be done to get the train clear and neither wood nor assistance came from Chicago, the officials here making no useful effort to relieve the sufferers. At one o'clock p.m. a freight and wood train arrived and Mr. Hibbard at once proceeded to work with the three engines on hand and cleared the track so as to reach this city at 9 o'clock that night - all safe and sound."

Oh... one more thing: The *Chicago Tribune* reported on January 10, 1856: "According to the Tremont House thermometer the mercury fell to thirty-one degrees below zero Wednesday morning" Wednesday was January 9, the day the train left Milwaukee.

Committee Communiqués

(Continued from page 8)

COMMUNICATIONS

Co-Chairs: Kathy Gemperle and Marty Stewart



This newsletter is the first of 2016. We introduced some advertising cards for our current exhibit and all of them have been taken from the various locations. Our weekend attendance has been rising. We urge you not to miss this exhibit, **Voices of Edgewater: Immigration Then and Now** and learn a little about how your community has become a great place to live.

FUNDRAISING

Chair: Martin Stewart



Looking ahead to our annual Spring fundraising event, we have planned a great time at the Pork Shoppe on Clark Street. This event will be held on April 19, 2016, and includes dinner and reuniting friends and neighbors after the winter. Also, the Living Treasures for 2016 will be featured (See the poster on page 3). The Theme is Voices of Edgewater.

If you have a little time to help, please volunteer to work on the silent auction. We need people to solicit donations and pick up donations and an organized person to keep track of donations.

Collectibles Corner



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

- Cherie Calm Frye- 1926 and 1929 Senn High School yearbooks
- Anne Comeau- CD with architectural drawings for Senn Park
- Chuck Belzholtza compilation of news articles about the Edgewater Beach Hotel and the Saddle and Cycle Club; Photo album of interior photos of the Edgewater Beach Hotel.

Voices from Edgewater

(Continued from page 1)

lished his own cabinet making business at 5207 N. Broadway. By 1926 Edgewater was a well established community offering immigrants a growing network of resources such as affordable housing stock, good transportation and economic opportunities.

1939-1965: Post War Patterns

In 1939 isolationism prompted Congress to vote against admitting a larger number of immigrants. However, 1943 legislation provided for the importation of agricultural workers from North, South, and Central America, essentially beginning a migrant worker program. In 1944 President Roosevelt signed an executive order creating a War Refugee Board to rescue victims of enemy oppression in imminent danger of death. Immigration to the United States increased due to people fleeing from the bloodshed and chaos of World War II, which brought many central and eastern Europeans. The Displaced Persons Act, passed in 1948, authorized for a limited period of time the admission into the United States of certain European displaced persons for permanent residence. Then in 1952 Congress combined multiple laws into one comprehensive statute. This reaffirmed the national origin quota system; established preferences for skilled workers and relatives of U.S. citizens; focused on excluding immoral, diseased, and politically radical individuals; and provided for the deportation of immigrants and naturalized citizens suspected of subversive activities.

Displaced persons and refugees escaping persecution in their homelands swelled Edgewater's foreign-born population. During the '50s and '60s, Greeks, Cubans, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Japanese and Korean immigrants found a home in Edgewater. Census data reveal Edgewater leading national and city percentages in foreign born

residents. With the redevelopment of lower density housing into high-rise and mid-rise structures, which greatly expanded the number of available and affordable dwelling units, the area east of Broadway became more reflective of the striking diversity of Edgewater's immigrants.

1965-1990: Changing the Rules

The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act removed the racial restrictions on immigration by establishing a new policy based on a seven-category preference system. This policy dramatically changed the demographic makeup of the American population. The third wave of immigration consisted largely of Asians, together with some Latin Americans.

Immigrants are mainly people who choose to leave their countries of origin to seek better economic opportunities. Refugees, as defined by the 1980 Refugee Act, are those pushed out of their homelands due to political, religious, tribal or ethnic persecution. This act created a new definition based on the United Nations Convention and Protocol on the Status of Refugees, provided systematic procedures for admission, and authorized federal assistance for resettlement and absorption. The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act was a comprehensive reform effort designed to combine "amnesty" with tighter border enforcement and practical restrictions for employing undocumented workers. As thankful immigrant Dealina Peon (Cuba) tells it "I am very proud of my heritage and, as well, I am very proud that I am living in the United States. The United States opened a door for me. They didn't have to, but they did. And they gave me the opportunity of being in this country, serve this society the best that I could, and, like I said, I feel at home."

Conflicts in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Africa have resulted in a huge increase in immigration from these countries.

Refugees from the former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Syria arrived in Edgewater. They joined an ever expanding immigrant population, including Vietnamese, Thais and other Asians. Many Assyrians, Nigerians, Bosnians and Ethiopians also found a home here. Unlike many other areas in Chicago, Edgewater has been particularly receptive to these newcomers. Immigrants have settled throughout all nine census tracts in Edgewater. Patrick Augustin (Haiti) offers this perspective "The Edgewater community is one that I can always count on. Refugees are good people, hard working individuals, who have been through trauma, and have lost everything. All they want is to be given the opportunity and the assistance to begin their life in their new society."

1990-present: New Perspectives

The Immigration Act of 1990 constituted a major revision in immigration law. Its primary focus was on increasing total overall immigration, as well as a revised preference system regulating permanent legal immigration to increase skilled labor positions in the United States. Other aspects included revising the English language testing process for naturalization and eliminating the exclusion of homosexuals. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 adopted stronger penalties against undocumented immigrants. In 2014 President Obama signed two executive orders that applied to parents of U.S. citizens and to young people brought into the U.S. illegally, effectively delaying deportation for millions. Since then Congress continues to struggle with the issue of people entering the U.S. under other circumstances. Public perceptions and values continue to dominate the national dialogue on immigration reform.

By 2000 Chicago was the third

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major destination for immigrants to the U.S. with the percentage of foreign born at almost twice the national average. Edgewater was the leading port of entry for immigrants in the city. Five refugee agencies near Edgewater help people resettle. Edgewater also offers them excellent transportation and a range of affordable housing stock. Community organizations, both religious and secular, have emerged to welcome immigrants and to respond to social-justice issues they encounter. Recent immigrant Renata Stowasser (Austria) describes the process of coming to Edgewater. "The first thing that happens when you go somewhere else, you will tend to always be considered not from here and you have to learn to deal with that.. I think that we all need to be friends, and we have to ask questions, and not pass judgment. We can find out a lot." Suhair Jascevicus (Palestine) gives some advice on how to move from one country to another. "I would say

take what you like and leave the rest. So I took what's the best, I think, from my culture and I took from what is the best from the American culture and I made it my own. Sometimes, some people make me feel that I am not American. I am not criticizing this country because I don't like this country; I criticize it because it's my country." It is this sense of ownership and allegiance that makes an immigrant an active participant in their new home.

Over the years, Edgewater's immigration demographics have changed as the mix evolves. The acceptance and celebration of diversity is the hallmark of our community. We see it in the rich cultural heritage all around us. As the influx of immigrants from all over the world continues, how will Edgewater continue to welcome them and respond to a need for support that is greater than ever?



Just like today many immigrants started small businesses or worked in service areas to find their way in America. Since Edgewater had truck farms, one of the jobs was hauling vegetable crops to market and picking up vegetables for local sales.

Edgewater Historical Society - 2016 Membership Application

I would like to support the **Edgewater Historical Society** by becoming a member for 2016.

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Are you interested in learning more about committees and activities of the Edgewater Historical Society? If you check the box below, a board member will call you to discuss where your interests may match our needs.

I would like to volunteer to help EHS continue their work in preserving history in Edgewater.

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Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Public Notice

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**We Welcome Guest
 Columnists At Any Time**



For the Family Tree

Welcome to the new members who have joined in the first month of the new year.

Renewal letters will be going out in February and we ask all of you to renew as soon as you get the letter. It saves is spending funds on reminders and extra mailings

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

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