

# The Historian

Preserving & Promoting Neighborhood History

Volume 30, No. 4  
Fall 2014

## Board of Directors Monthly Meetings

December 29, 2014

All meetings are held bi-monthly on the last Monday of each even-numbered month at 7 p.m. at the Society, 1447 W. Morse Avenue and are open to all members.

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6125 N. Maplewood Avenue in its holiday trimming in 2013.

## Historical Society Celebrates Holidays With December 7 House Walk

*By Colleen Sen*

The first ever Rogers Park West Ridge Historical Society Holiday House Walk will be held on Sunday, December 7, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The owners of three historic bungalows on the 6100 block of Maplewood Avenue (just north of Peterson) will open their homes to members and guests.

In addition to giving tours of their homes, the owners will serve delicious holiday refreshments -- hot chocolate, hot cider, wine, sweet and savory treats, and more!. Holiday decorations and music will enhance the festive atmosphere.

Registration will be at **Christ Church of Chicago**, 6047 N. Rockwell Street, Chicago from 12:45 to 3:30 p.m.

This historic church, built in 1922, is known for its spectacular stained glass windows. Tours of the church will be offered at 1.30 and 2.30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 each for RP/WRHS members and \$25 each for non-members. (Not a member? Join us to get special event discounts and other perks).

Day-of tickets: You may purchase tickets on the day of the tour using a check or cash. Visit the registration desk at Christ Church of Chicago, 6047 N. Rockwell Street, for your tickets and guidebook.

Advance tickets: Send a check to RP/WRHS, 1447 W. Morse Avenue, Chicago, 60626, or pay using PayPal on our [website](#). ☐

Rogers Park /  
West Ridge  
Historical Society

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# Peterson Woods Was the Site of Society's 28th House Tour

By Colleen Sen



One highlight of the tour was a visit to a fabulous 'castle' at 3007 W. Hollywood Ave.

The weather was perfect for the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society's 28th annual house tour on Sunday, September 14—dry and sunny, with just a hint of autumn in the air. This year the Society visited the Peterson Woods neighborhood, one of several residential districts in the far southwest corner of West Ridge. Called "one of Chicago's best kept secrets," this quiet family-oriented neighborhood is bounded

on the west by the lovely Legion Park that provides a recreational green space sheltering the neighborhood from the traffic on Kedzie Avenue.

Most of its homes were custom built between 1925 and 1935. The original owners belonged to Chicago's middle and upper classes and many were of German or Scandinavian origin. Many of the houses have had only two or three owners and some residents have lived here more than 70 years. Many of the homes are accented with such architectural details as turrets, Tudor-style wood beams, tile roofs, leaded windows, and wrought iron fencing.

**Highlights of the tour** included visits to a fabulous "castle" on Hollywood and Virginia, a newly upgraded mansion on Sacramento, and an elegant garden, and a talk on the history of Legion Park by Historian Arlene Swartzman. □

## Collector's Corner

By Colleen Sen

We thank our Society friends and Rogers Park community leaders, Brian and Sue Kozin, the former owners of **No Exit Café and Gallery** for the donation of the archives of their coffeehouse, including the business records, menus, artwork and files on the many performers who graced their stage. While they no longer live in Rogers Park, they say a virtual "Hi" to all those who shared their magical space.

We were delighted to receive the unexpected donation of a trove of 306 photographs, and numerous route maps and timetables representing the CTA and Metra Rail lines



Sue Kozin



Brian Kozin

from Mr. Eamon A. Rago. These were well documented and will be added to our digital archives. □

# From the President's Desk



Ken Walchak

Greetings,

I hope this finds you all happy and rested after the Thanksgiving holiday. I hope it also finds you in a generous mood, because I'm going to devote my editorial this issue to a request for you to be as generous as possible.

We have had a busy year, not only programming a number of interesting, fun events, but planning for the future of our Society. We have added new Board Members, said goodbye to some others, ramped up our strategic alliance with Loyola University, and spent a great deal of time and energy becoming a more modern historical society.

All of these initiatives have cost precious resources that are in short supply. When I took this job, I promised you in one of my first messages, that we would be careful stewards of what is, after all, your money. We have been that. We have trimmed expenses wherever we have been able. We are looking for less expensive space in which

to hang our hats. But, that being said, we can only trim so much. We need your help in two areas. We need you to participate in our programs. I hope that that is something you all want to do. Our newly revamped website and Cabbagehead are doing a great job keeping you informed of upcoming events. If you are not receiving them, please contact us and make sure that we have your contact information. At the same time make sure that your friends, relatives, neighbors, and former Rogers Park and West Ridgers are all in touch. Oh, and did I forget to mention to like us on Facebook?

The second area where we need your help is to keep our budget balanced. We have a team working on grants, but those take time to bring to fruition. Organizations also want to know things like how many people we serve, and how much they are donating. In other words they want to see that we have skin in the game. With the year closing out in just a few short weeks, we need to put some real money in the bank.

Please, be as generous as you can, and be cheerleaders for the Society. Talk to friends, neighbors, relatives, employers (many of them have matching programs). Do it by the end of the year so you can deduct it. You'll feel good, and I know the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society will feel good.

Happy Holidays,

Ken Walchak

## Do you receive our *Cabbagehead*?

Your society sends out an electronic newsletter frequently. It contains news of events that were announced AFTER the previous *Historian* newsletter was mailed and will occur BEFORE the next issue of the *Historian* is published. It's our way of getting the word out to our membership about things they otherwise might not learn about.

Send us your e-mail address to insure that you're on the distribution list. Just send us an e-mail at [info@rpwrhs.org](mailto:info@rpwrhs.org) with the subject "Cabbagehead".

## Membership as of November 20, 2014

### Welcome New Members

#### Individual

Kristine Falck-Pedersen  
Larry Olson  
John Pincine  
Jane Ranshaw  
John Schermerhorn  
Ahndrea Sprattling  
Susan Weaver  
Cliff Zimmernam

#### Household

Sarah Haeffle & Nicholas Bart  
David Kalensky &  
Maureen Gallagher  
Stephen & Ruth Metzger

#### Senior

Linda Henderson  
Judith Kolata  
Bruce Munro

#### Senior Household

Brian & Claire Owen

#### Premium

Kristin Jacobsen

### Thanks for Renewing

#### Individual

Dorel Dittmann  
David Gerber  
Louis Hoffman  
Sharon Kozak  
Amy Kraushaar  
Vicki Kruzel  
David Marshall  
Carolyn Quinn  
Grace Reichert  
Dr Shirley Roy  
Marcee Williams  
Linda Winke  
Jay Woldenberg

#### Household

Bruce Boyd & Wayne Cartwright  
Carolyn Hyson & Mark Badanes  
Nikki Lively & Steven Shay  
Michael & Angela Morrow  
William Siavelis & Vicki Curtis



Membership as of  
November 20, 2014

*continued from page 3*

**Senior**

Stuart Alpern  
Virginia Greninger  
Joseph Gutstadt  
Barbara Isaacson  
James Kepler  
Bette Raef  
Richard Rouse  
Joachim Staackmann

**Senior Household**

Tiana & Bill Benway  
Dennis & Sylvia Hart  
Judith Karpen & Marshall Flapan  
Al & Diane Sofiakis

**Patron**

Glenna Eaves & Chris Boebel  
William Kundert  
David Levinson & Kathy Kirn  
David Stahr & Susan Carlson

# Bowling in Rogers Park and West Ridge

*By Hank Morris*

Back in the 50s and 60s, one of the most popular sports was **Bowling**. In the early 1950s in Chicago, there were 202 bowling alleys listed in the Yellow Pages phone directory. Today there are only 32 bowling centers in the immediate Chicago area.

We went to bowling alleys with our friends; we joined leagues from work; and we watched it on TV. Those of us of a certain generation will remember spending our Saturday nights watching “Championship Bowling” in black & white on Channel 7, starring “**Whispering**” **Joe Wilson**, (Joseph S. Wilson, 1911-1983); broadcast from Faetz-Niesen Recreation, 5961 N. Ridge Avenue, just west of Clark Street in Edgewater (closed).

Our heroes included: **Buddy Bowmar** (1916-1989), **Buzz Fazio** (1908-1993), **Steve Nagy** (1913-1966), and **Dick Weber** (1929-2005). They became household names. Remember when Steve Nagy bowled the first 300 game (on a filmed TV show) on “Championship Bowling”? Even though there are no open bowling alleys in Rogers Park or West Ridge today, bowling is still being enjoyed by 95 million people in more than 90 countries worldwide and continues

to grow through entertainment media such as video games for home consoles and handheld devices.

## **Bowling Alleys in Rogers Park**

Bowl Haven, 1542 W. Devon Avenue (closed).  
Bowling Moderne, 7350 N. Clark Street (closed).  
Morse, 1400 W. Morse Avenue (closed).  
Clark Lunt Bowl, 1772 W. Lunt Avenue (closed).  
Howard Bowl, 1777 W. Howard Street (torn down).

## **Bowling Alleys in West Ridge**

Bud Shabley's Bowl, a.k.a. Nortown Recreation, 2519 W. Devon Avenue - 2nd floor-(above Crawford's on Devon). (Closed 1985).  
Devon Bowl, 2235 W. Devon Avenue (closed).  
Markay Recreation Center, 7221 N. Western Avenue, before 1943 was West Ridge Recreation Parlor (torn down).  
Sunset Bowl and Health Club, 7304 N. Western Avenue (torn down).  
Theatre Bowl, 6800 N. Western Avenue, (1952) (closed).  
West Ridge Recreation Parlor, 7221 N. Western Avenue, until 1943. Afterwards was Markay Recreation Center (torn down). □



Bowl Haven on Devon Avenue



Championship Bowling



Bud Schably on Devon Avenue



Sunset Bowl on Western Avenue



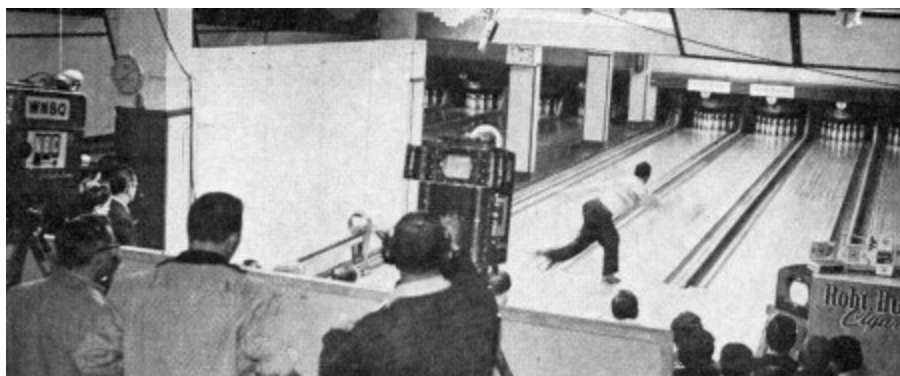
Howard Bowl on Howard Street



What's left of the old Theater Bowl



Markay Bowling on Western Avenue



Faetz-Niesen was where "Champion Bowling" was broadcast.



Whispering Joe Wilson was the commentator on "Champion Bowling".



# Our New Coverage of Marion Mahony Griffin

By Hank Morris and Katherine McSpadden

The Chicago Park District has proposed changing the name of Jarvis Beach to honor Prairie School architect Marion Mahony Griffin (1871-1961) who lived and worked in Rogers Park during the last twenty or so years of her life.

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society has held two programs to acquaint neighborhood residents with this architectural genius. She is especially esteemed for her drawing skills and for the beauty and innovative use of Japanese drawing techniques in her architectural renderings. Since these were frequently done to support the designs of Frank Lloyd Wright and of her husband Walter Burley Griffin, she is one of the least known members of the Pantheon of early Chicago architects.

The Historical Society's first program took place on Monday October 20, 2014, at the Rogers Park Library. Dr. Shiben Banerji, Assistant Professor of Art History at the School of the Art Institute, spoke about Marion Mahony's life and career, including the work she did while living in Rogers Park. Dr. Banerji is a recent graduate of M.I.T., Mahony's alma mater, and his recent dissertation is the most up-to-date study of her work. Banerji commented that the naming of a beach in Mahony Griffin's honor was both amusing and appropriate, since she was distinguished by her love of the natural world and her depiction of foliage and other natural forms in her architectural renderings and drawings. The audience of thirty to forty people included Julia Bachrach, the Chicago Park District's historian. During the question and answer period, Ms. Bachrach explained that the Park District has for many years worked to increase the number of Chicago parks named for women.



Dr. Shiben Banerji

## Biographical Details

Marion Lucy Mahony was the first woman licensed as an architect in the world! She was also only the second woman to graduate from M.I.T. in architecture. A native of Chicago, after graduation in 1894 she returned to the city to work for her cousin, famed architect Dwight Perkins. She soon began working for Frank Lloyd Wright. When Wright eloped with his neighbor's wife to France, it was Marion who was hired to finish some of his pending projects.

She met her future husband, Walter Burley Griffin (1876-1937), while still at Wright's office in 1910 and they married in 1911. The couple secured their international reputation when their designs—chiefly because of Marion's exquisite drawings—won the competition for the planned new capital of Australia. The Griffins moved to Canberra, which was no more than a sheep station at that time, the equivalent of an American ranch.

After the death of her husband in 1937, Marion returned to Chicago in 1938, to reside with relatives in a family home at 1946 W. Estes Avenue. She continued to work on projects, including an autobiography, *The Magic of America*, which was never published but is available online.

## Armstrong School Mural

The second program sponsored by the Historical Society was a tour to view the mural Mahony Griffin created in 1931 at the George B. Armstrong Elementary School at 2110 W. Greenleaf Avenue, where her sister was principal. The mural, in the school hallway, consists of two large panels and is entitled *Fairies Feeding the Herons*. It again reflects Mahony's mystical feelings for nature.

The tour, on Friday November 14, 2014, began with a talk by Dr. David Van Zanten, Professor of Art History at Northwestern University, who has written on Mahony and Prairie School architecture and participated in organizing two exhibits of her work at Northwestern's Block Museum of Art based on that institution's extensive holdings of her drawings. Following the talk, held at the Sixteenth Church of Christ Scientist at 7036 N. Ridge Avenue, Dr. Van Zanten accompanied audience members to the school to view the mural.

## The Beach

Alderman Joe Moore, (D-49th), has also done research about Mahony Griffin to determine how she could be best honored by the ward where she lived and died. Surprisingly, he could find absolutely nothing about R.J. Jarvis for whom the street is named, except that Jarvis was a friend of Patrick Leonard

Touhy and Philip McGregor Rogers, and worked with them in establishing the community of Rogers Park. Alderman Moore, therefore, felt no historic error would ensue if the beach was renamed in honor of someone who has documented historic significance to the area. □



Left half of Griffin's mural



Right half of Griffin's mural



Entering Armstrong to view the Mural



Registration for Dr. Van Zanten's talk



Dr. David Van Zanten (center) describes Marion Mahoney Griffin's mural to attendees



Sixteenth Church of Christ Scientist



# West Ridge Historian Traces Local Park Development

By Kay McSpadden and Arlene Swartzman



Arlene Swartzman making her presentation

If you ever wondered why Chicago parks vary in appearance and facilities, look to their origins in community involvement. In her talk “Park Wars,” Arlene Swartzman pointed out that, while Indian Boundary Park (1923) was intended as an oasis for a middle- and upper- middle-class neighborhood of single-family homes, **Pottawatomie Park** (1931) was established as a community and recreational center for families in a densely populated area of multi-story apartment buildings.

Dr. Swartzman spoke to members and guests of the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society at the **Budlong Woods Library**, 5630 N. Lincoln Avenue. A resident of West Ridge, she is a writer and urban park historian. Her interest lies in the political and social issues that led to the parks’ creation. In a 2006 study covering the years 1889-1909, she focused on the development of Chicago parks. She is currently working on a study of park development in Boston, New York, and Chicago.

Swartzman reviewed the development of the Rogers Park and West Ridge neighborhoods from the time that Philip Rogers arrived in 1834 to their annexation to the city of Chicago in 1893. She pointed out that Rogers’ migration to Chicago was made possible because of the construction of the **Erie Canal**, an important waterway that opened access to the “West” beginning in 1825. His acquisition of land was facilitated by an 1833 treaty by which **Pottawatomie** tribes living in the area ceded territory to the United States government.

The civil township of **Ridgeville**, which encompassed the present areas of **Lakeview**, **Uptown**, **Edgewater**, Rogers Park, and Evanston, was established in 1850. Transportation service improved with the completion of the **Chicago and North Western Railway**. In 1855 **Northwestern University** opened, its devout **Methodist** trustees securing legislative authority to prohibit liquor sales within a **four-mile radius** of the campus, including Rogers Park and West Ridge. While West Ridge remained the province of German and Luxembourg farmers, Patrick Touhy’s Rogers Park Land Trust began in 1872 to divide land along the lakefront into smaller parcels that were sold to individual homeowners.

Aided by the proximity to train lines, “Rogers Parkers” were largely commuters who worked in downtown Chicago. The “Cabbagehead Wars” between the areas east and west of Ridge Avenue developed partly because of lifestyle differences between the commuters of Rogers Park and the farmers of West Ridge. Having opposed incorporation into the village of Rogers Park in 1878, those living west of the Ridge, chafing under the prohibition of alcohol, formed the village of West Ridge in 1890 in order to continue to sell liquor and to socialize in their beloved taverns. Annexation of both Rogers Park and West Ridge to the city of Chicago in 1893 brought instant infrastructure improvements to both villages, now city neighborhoods. It also ended their subjection to the four-mile limit.

A period of relative peace soon ended. Friction arose between the two neighborhoods over park and road development. At stake were the benefits and obligations of an Illinois law, the Park Commissioners Street Control Act (1895). It allowed public funds to be allocated for the improvement of streets, boulevards, driveways, and the like around newly created parks, funded by a special tax on properties neighboring the parks in question. What ensued was the “Cabbagehead War” of 1896, a spirited and tumultuous battle between two urban “tribes” separated by geography, occupation, and their outlook on alcohol.

The war began at a meeting to establish the **North Shore Park District**, capture public funds promised in the Street Control Act, and cement a partnership of the two groups. Instead, an



intemperate remark by Rogers Parker Jimmy Barbour that West Ridgers were “Cabbageheads” proved divisive. Indignant, people of West Ridge reacted by leading a parade, complete with torches and cabbages on poles, to the home of prominent Rogers Park resident Lloyd Kirkland.

Dr. Swartzman then turned to the role of community involvement in the creation and distinct character of two neighborhood parks, Indian Boundary and Pottawattomie. In **West Ridge, the Ridge Avenue Park District** (1896) was established by local citizens interested in having control over park development. As the name implies, their focus was the development of Ridge Avenue to provide access to the park for travelers on foot, or in carriages or automobiles.

A further complication which led West Ridge residents to create their own park district was confusion over the western boundary of Rogers Park. This meant that the park district of faraway Lincoln Park could administer the North Shore Park District. The latter oversaw a large area, extending as far north as Northwestern University.

Land for Indian Boundary Park was first acquired in 1915 under Commissioners **Adam Zender** and **John Muno**; they completed the task in 1923. Park features would include green space for bird watching, curving walkways, and a small zoo in a pastoral setting. In 1929 the field house was added. However, in 1934 the jurisdiction of the Ridge Avenue Park District ceased when it was incorporated into the newly-formed Chicago Park District.

Pottawattomie Park was established later, in 1931, due to the efforts of the Birchwood Improvement Association, a community group which agitated for a park east of Ridge Avenue and north of Rogers Avenue. It was intended as a recreational and social center.



Attendees talking to Dr. Swartzman after her presentation on the “Park Wars.”

Its field house had a banquet hall and kitchen, and the park had adequate outdoor space for team sports. Its mission was to serve the needs of community residents in the western portion of Rogers Park rather than of the lakefront dwellers who had hoped to develop Sheridan Road and the eastern portion of Rogers Park with the funds from the Street Control Act of 1895. Unlike Indian Boundary Park, it offered a more active park experience, providing more limited green space and a focus on sports and play.

Dr. Swartzman concluded by saying, “When ‘park wars’ are fought, their reasons are often to promote neighborhood growth, to meet the perceived needs of the community, to allow residents to enjoy nature and recreational activities, and to capture public funds which allow the parks to exist. It’s a case of means, motive, and opportunity—and the determination of community members to assure that public parks exist.” ☐

## RP/WR Historical Soc.



## TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

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# Volunteer Profile, Gwen Gregory

*By Kay McSpadden, Director of Volunteer Resources*

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society has some outstanding volunteers. We want to introduce you to some of them in this and future issues of *The Historian*.

Gwen Gregory is a librarian at the University of Illinois at Chicago. As Resource Acquisition and Management Librarian, she heads the department that purchases and catalogs materials for all of UIC's libraries across the state. Both her job at UIC and her volunteer tasks fulfill her "passion for sharing information and knowledge."

Gwen initially volunteered with the Events Committee. "I had attended one of the house walks and really enjoyed it. I started volunteering with the Historical Society because I didn't always hear about the great events the Society was sponsoring." She offered to update a list of local media outlets and organizations and to contact them with information about events. Since then she has written and sent out press releases for all upcoming events and has expanded the list of outlets. As a result of the recent committee restructuring, she is now Chair of the Publicity Team, though it is a team of one at the moment.

Gwen has also helped in other ways. She solicited donations for last spring's silent auction and has served food and drinks at events. She regularly attends Society events, often bringing her husband, mother, or friends.

I asked Gwen to answer a few questions about herself:

**Did you grow up in Rogers Park? If not, what brought you here?**

I was born in New Mexico and moved to Chicago in 2007 to be near my family. They lived in Rogers Park and loved it, so it seemed natural to come here.

**What do you like about living in Rogers Park?**

It's great to be so close to transportation, shopping, and other amenities, yet still have trees and the lake nearby. I like the mix of people in Rogers Park, too.

**Are you involved in any other organizations?**

I'm on the Board of the Friends of the Rogers Park Library. We were recently successful at getting funding for new carpeting for the library through Alderman Joe Moore's participatory budgeting process.



Volunteer Gwen Gregory

**What else do you enjoy doing?**

My husband Don and I enjoy walking around the neighborhood, sitting at our beautiful beach, and exploring other areas. I am learning more about Chicago and Illinois as I live here and travel around the state. I also like to take advantage of the great musical events in our area, from the Lyric Opera to the World Music Festival. Right now I'm helping to organize a special appearance of the local group Sonos de Mexico at my university.

**What do you like best about volunteering for RPWRHS?**

I'm happy that residents of our wonderful neighborhoods know about our house walks, parties, and lectures. It's rewarding to know that I am connecting people with these programs that can enrich their lives.

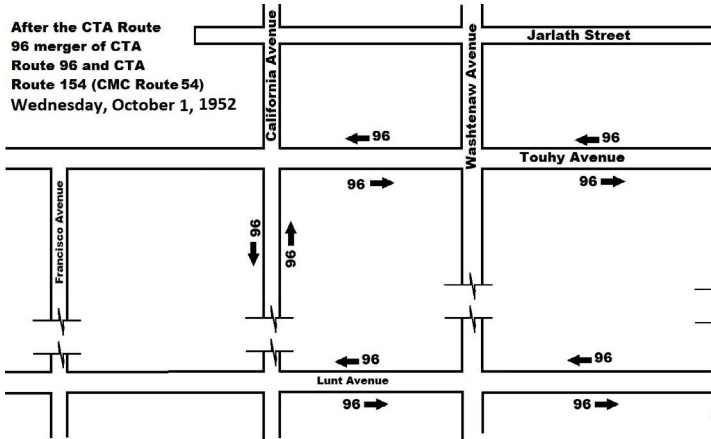
**Since you're a librarian, you must like to read. What are you reading now?**

I'm reading *The Life and Times of Pancho Villa*, by Friedrich Katz, an award-winning book that's much more than just a biography. I'm also reading *The Snow Leopard* by Peter Matthiessen for my book group. □



# Marrying the CTA Route 96 Touhy Bus with the Chicago Motor Coach Route 54 Lunt Bus

By Hank Morris



The map shows the Surviving Route 96's new path at Touhy and California

Motor bus service began in Chicago on Thursday, August 11, 1927, when the first gasoline buses were placed into service on Diversey Avenue.

Bus transportation provided services in places where the building and maintaining of streetcar lines was impractical, too expensive, or where they simply could not fit.

Buses were more flexible than streetcars. If a streetcar broke down or was involved in an accident, because it ran on tracks, it just sat there; the streetcars behind the stricken one could not by-pass the impaired one. Buses could. They could be easily rerouted to pass the problem or the "dead" bus could just be pulled/pushed to the curb to allow other buses to pass by, two things streetcars simply couldn't do.

Buses were first extended into Rogers Park along Sheridan Road by the **Chicago Motor Coach Company (CMC)**, which was created between 1920 and 1922 through the merger of three Chicago-based motorbus carriers: the Chicago Motor Bus Company, the Chicago Stage Company, and the Depot Motor Bus Lines.

In 1922, when it was the second-largest urban bus company in the United States, Chicago Motor Coach was purchased by **John D. Hertz**, then a Chicago auto dealer and the owner of the Yellow Cab Company. During the time that he was running this company he was also actively involved with many

other transport ventures. Begun as a subsidiary of his **Yellow Cab Company** he started the **Yellow Coach Manufacturing Company** in 1923. Yellow Coach began to manufacture buses, many of which were used by his Chicago Coach Company. Later, Hertz's interests expanded. Yellow Coach started to also manufacture taxicabs. Later he entered the car rental business.

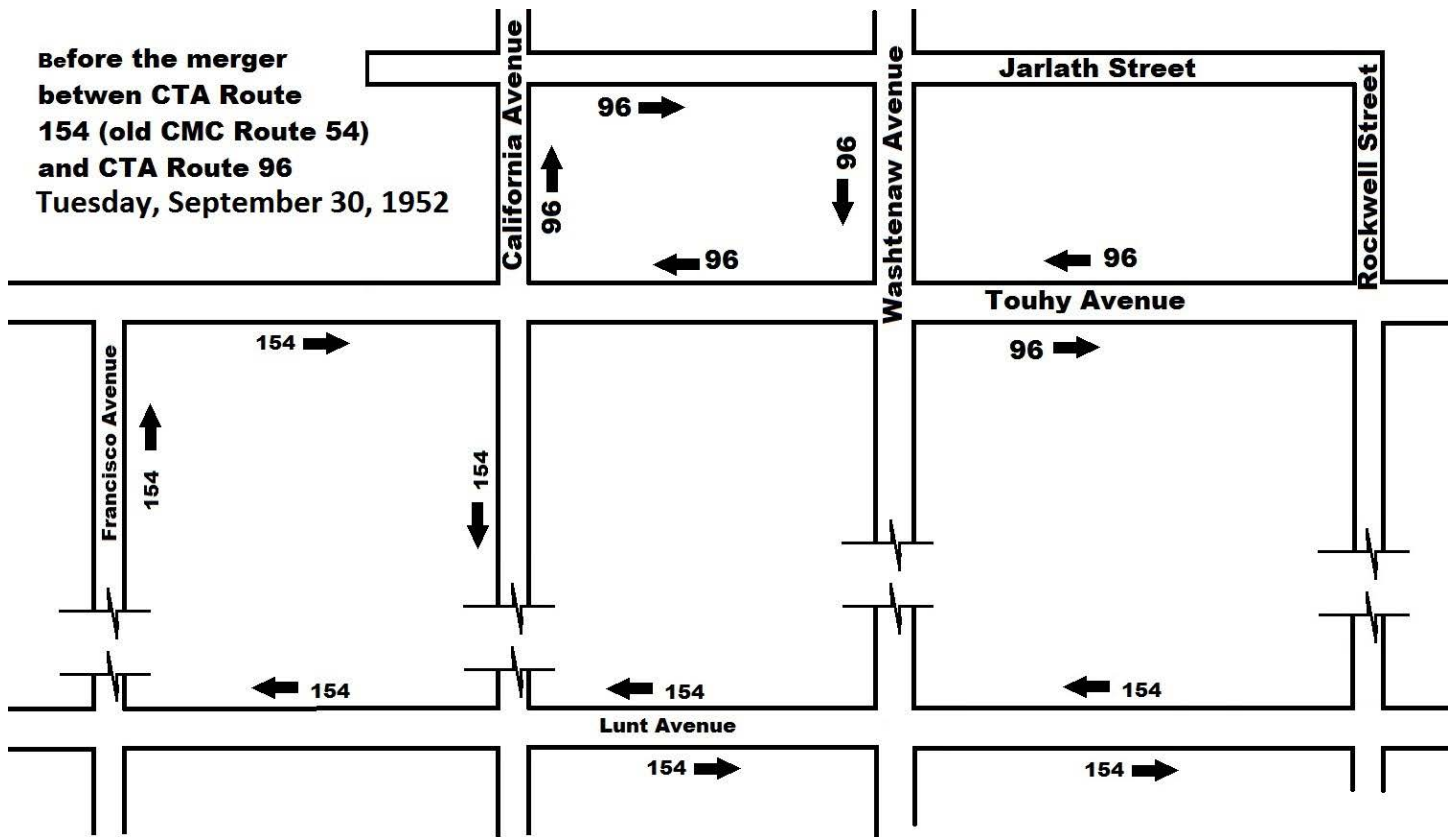
By the mid-1920s, the Chicago Motor Coach Company, with 423 buses and 1,800 employees served 134 street miles within the city. Some of those routes came north along the lake shore. Sheridan Road buses served as Route 55. (In 1947 the CTA took over. To differentiate between CTA and CMC bus routes, the CTA added "100" to the CMC route number. So the CMC Sheridan Road Route 55 became Route "155". This ended in 1952 when CTA purchased CMC. So, CMC 155 became CTA 155.)

CMC extended one of its routes across Rogers Park into West Ridge, this was Route 54 (later 154). We now know it as CTA Route 96, Lunt-Touhy. Route 54 began at the southwest corner of Morse Avenue and Sheridan Road. It turned north to Lunt Avenue. There it turned west and followed Lunt Avenue west to Francisco Avenue. At Francisco Avenue, the bus turned north and ended the western leg of the route at the southeast corner of Francisco and Touhy. The return route started at Francisco and Touhy and travelled east to California Avenue. It turned south and went to Lunt Avenue where it turned east along Lunt to Clark Street. Here the bus turned south to Morse Avenue, thence east, back to Sheridan Road.

Much of that original route is still in use.

The first change came on Wednesday, October 1, 1952, when the CTA moved the end of the Route 154 bus from the southeastern corner of Francisco and Touhy avenues to the southwestern corner of Touhy and California avenues, along California Avenue going south. This was done when CTA instituted its Route 96 Touhy bus route.

The original 96 Touhy buses began at the northeast corner of Howard and Paulina on Howard. The Route 97 Skokie bus also started there. The CMC 55, then CTA 155, terminated on the northwest corner of Paulina and Howard Streets, on Paulina.



Map showing the Routes the day before the merger of Routes 154 and 96

The 96 bus traveled west to Hermitage Avenue. It turned south to Rogers Avenue on Hermitage, thence east to Ridge Boulevard where it continued west on Touhy Avenue thence, west on Touhy Avenue to the northeast corner of Touhy and California (on Touhy).

The return trip of the 96 Touhy began on the Touhy side of the northeastern corner of Touhy and California. It turned north on California to Jarlath Street. The bus then turned east to Washtenaw Avenue. At Washtenaw the bus traveled south to Touhy thence east to Ridge. Here, it first went east on Touhy avenue to Ashland Avenue. It then traveled north on Ashland to Howard Street, and finally, west on Howard to Paulina.

This proved awkward and the 96 Touhy was rerouted at Ridge so that east-bound buses followed Rogers Avenue, rather than Touhy. The bus continued eastward to Ashland, then north on Ashland to Howard and west on Howard to Paulina finishing the reroute.

With the 154 route terminating on the southeast corner of Touhy and California, and the 96 Touhy on the northwest corner, it became obvious that the two routes could be connected kitty-corner and one route would result. 96-Touhy won out. Thus the two bus routes came to be the 96-Lunt-Touhy bus route on Sunday, September 9, 1956.

Today, the California to Howard Red Line terminal part of the route no longer exists. The Pace 290 carries the passengers, as both routes covered the same route and the duplicated service was eliminated. □



# *The White City*, Society Member June Finfer's Latest Play

By Hank Morris

In the late 1880s, Chicagoans **Charles T. Yerkes**, **Marshall Field**, **Philip Armour**, **Gustavus Swift**, and **Cyrus McCormick**, offered to finance a **Chicago Worlds Fair**. The exposition corporation and national exposition commission settled on **Jackson Park** as the fair's site. **Daniel H. Burnham** was selected as director of works, and **George R. Davis** as director-general. Burnham emphasized architecture and sculpture as central to the fair and assembled the period's top talent to design the buildings and grounds including **Frederick Law Olmsted** for the grounds. This is about the most that most of us knew, if that much about the machinations that went on out of sight of the public.

In her latest play, long-time Society member, June Finfer, takes us right there, behind the scenes, where we are exposed to the ins and outs, ups and downs that Daniel Burnham had to deal with to bring off the monumental event.

June introduces us to Burnham's almost indispensable partner, **John Root**. **Burnham and Root** was less a partnership and more a symbiosis, each partner's talents complimenting the others. Root's death almost destroyed Burnham's will to go on without him. Margaret, Dan's wife saved the day, giving Burnham the much-needed reinforcement, reminding him that she was there for him, not only as his wife but partner.

Elizabeth Doyle was responsible for the music and jointly with June for the lyrics. The actors were accompanied by a piano and cello. They really didn't need more.

This was NOT a musical like "**South Pacific**" with massive settings and special effects. Costumes and set decorations were courtesy of your imagination. And, this was very apt. Music stands held the large books used by the 12 actors, and the segues into and from the music were natural, never awkward.

Director Stacey Flaster and Musical Director Linda Madonia were reminiscent of the Burnham-Root partnership; almost indistinguishable one from another in the results.



(left to right): George Keating; Nic Hamel; Steve Peebles; Doug Pawlik playing Sullivan, Higinbotham, Gage, and Root



(left to right): Jim Rank and Laura Freeman playing Burnham and Bertha Palmer

The house was full. Nobody got up and left during the performance, —a great example of how well things went, overall.

The award-winning restored auditorium at **Indian Boundary Park Fieldhouse**, site of the production, looked wonderful. You would never have known that there was a devastating fire there. Kudos to Phil Martini the park administrator and the Chicago Park District for such a great restoration.

The cast was composed of James Rank (Daniel H. Burnham); Amanda Horvath (Margaret Burnham); George Keating (Louis Sullivan); Laura Freeman (Bertha Honoré Palmer); Doug Pawlik (John Root and Stein); Steve Peebles (Lyman Gage, Richard Hunt, and Peddler); Nic Hamel (Harlow Higinbotham and Boss); David Hathaway (Michael O'Malley). □

# Trash Turns into Treasure at Annual Members Party

*By Katherine McSpadden*

For the annual Members Party, held on Sunday, November 2, 2014, your Historical Society again invited members to bring items to be appraised, in an “Antiques Roadshow” format. Professional appraiser George Glastris, also a member of the Historical Society, and his colleague Keith Zaransky donated their services to evaluate items that included family heirlooms as well as items purchased by their owners hoping to have snagged a treasure.

The star item of the day was a Revolutionary Era powder horn brought by new member John Schermerhorn. This was a family heirloom that originally came from ancestor Robert Torrance who was a friend of Ethan Allen. Made from a cow horn, the initials “J.F.” were carved into its surface along with scrimshaw-type drawings and a poem, “I am a jolly blacksmith.” Schermerhorn said he had had no expectations that the item was valuable, that he had taken it for granted as it sat on his grandmother’s shelf for many years.



George Glastris appraising member John Schermerhorn’s powder horn.

The event was also an occasion to recognize long-term members. Those present received certificates. Ann and Frank Glapa were honored for thirty-plus years of membership. Two other couples, Karen and Michael Tipp and Sue and Clark Davuost marked more than twenty-five years of membership. Additional members of long standing will be honored with certificates at the Annual Members Meeting early next year.

Those who attended were also able to enjoy artwork currently exhibited at the Greenleaf Art Center, the site of the party. Owner Kathie Paluch was thanked for hosting. Kathie and her husband Denis are the founding members of the Society and former board members.

Glenna Eaves, Historical Society Secretary, and Colleen Sen, member of the Executive Committee, organized the event and provided refreshments.

To enjoy photos of the event [Click Here](#) ☐

## Do You Know?

Congratulations to Ann and Frank Glapa who correctly identified this photo as being the now gone Mary Bartelme Elementary School at 1914 W. Loyola Avenue.





## The Rogers Park / West Ridge Historical Society Store

Your purchases help to support the Society's mission. We have a wide selection of books and other merchandise available for sale at the museum. Below are four of our items.

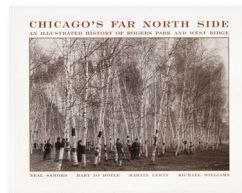
You may order by phone, mail, in our store, or from our website. **Please note, for orders in Illinois, we must charge 9.75% sales tax.** For orders to be shipped, please include \$6 shipping and handling per delivery address.



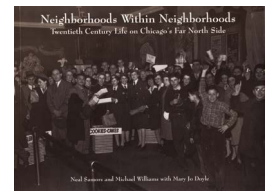
**Ceramic "Birches" Mug**  
Nonmembers: \$4  
**Members: \$3.25**



**Canvas Tote Bag**  
Nonmembers: \$12  
**Members: \$9.45**



**Chicago's Far North Side**  
Nonmembers: \$25  
**Members: \$20**



**Neighborhoods within Neighborhoods**  
Nonmembers: \$25  
**Members: \$20**

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### Been in the "hood" a while? Know somebody who has?

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society is conducting an ongoing oral history project. We are collecting the memories of those individuals who remember what life was like in Rogers Park and West Ridge "way back when."

Oral histories are a wonderful way to learn more about our neighborhoods before all the complexities of "modern life" settled in.

Memories are precious, whether they're yours, a friend's or a relative's. Help preserve our community's past through oral history today.

You can reach the **Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society** to arrange an interview at **773-764-4078** or e-mail us at **info@rpwrhs.org**.

## Do you have photos of Rogers Park or West Ridge?

Our Photo Archives and Cataloging Project is charged with the preservation of our photo collection. In it, we have literally thousands of photographs that have been donated to the Society to be preserved for future generations and today's researchers.

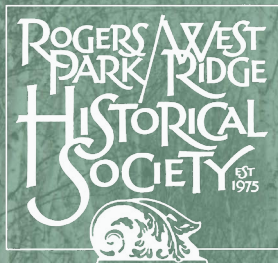
It's one of our most valuable resources. Why not add your old photos to our collection? We will scan them and put them in the Photo Archives. Future generations and today's researchers will thank you for your efforts.

We can scan slides, negatives, prints, whatever. While we would prefer to preserve the originals, we're not greedy. If you want them back, we will honor your request.

It would be most helpful if you could provide notes as to what is being shown in the photographs. We've never met Aunt Martha. Please tell us who is who. Neighborhoods change. Please tell us where the photo was taken and when. **Your photos can be from any time period, that means even the 2000s.**

For more information, contact the Society's offices.

**Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society**  
1447 West Morse Avenue, Chicago IL 60626-3481  
Call 773-764-4078 or e-mail us at **info@rpwrhs.org**



☐ *New Membership*  
☐ *Renewal*

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☐ *I would like to volunteer at the Society*