

The Historian

Preserving & Promoting Neighborhood History

Volume 30, No. 2
Spring 2014

**Board of Directors
Monthly Meetings**

April 28, 2014
June 23, 2014
August 25, 2014
October 27, 2014
December 29, 2014

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

In This Issue

- Miss Mahacek Remembers the Fire page 2
- From the President's Desk page 3
- Society Member Remembers Harold Ramis page 4
- Society Holds Elections page 5
- The Great Cinder Bridle Path Scandal page 6
- A Brief History of the Former Mansion at 7331 N. Sheridan Rd. page 11
- Gorgeous George in West Ridge page 13
- Two Rogers Park Women Survive the sinking of the RMS Titanic page 14
- Society's Fifties Fundraiser page 15

Our 100th Issue!!!

By Hank Morris

That's right. This is our 100th issue of a newsletter published by the Society. The newsletter, like the Society, has had two names. Below, you'll find the editorial from that first-ever issue. If you [click here](#), you'll be transported to a collection of the various mastheads

that have adorned the first page and all their iterations. It's an interesting stroll through time. Actually, it's surprising just how many times we've changed the face of our newsletter. We hope you will enjoy this look at this collection.

Our FIRST Editorial: Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 1986.

From the President

I am really happy to finally be able to let all of you read our very first newsletter. Last year when we were celebrating our 10th anniversary, some people were still making the comment "I didn't even know that there was a Rogers Park Historical Society." We felt that we had a great deal of exposure, especially during the last five years when the society participated in many neighborhood street fairs. As far back as 1976, we have presented many programs at the Rogers Park Library, our meeting place, and at various Rogers Park organizations. We have had two historical walks, one down our beloved Rogers Avenue (North Indian Boundary Line) and one to several churches with a reception at the lovely Rogers Park Women's Club. We helped celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the village of Rogers Park with a party in 1978.

neighborhood, we have been able to collect over 900 photos of this area going back to the 1870s. Copies of these photos are available to students for history projects, to collectors interested in certain topics, and to anyone who desires to just purchase one as a fond memory. For that is truly the purpose of our society: To gather and preserve the history of the area known as Rogers Park and to foster and perpetuate an interest in the history of the area.

Along the way, we were also fortunate enough to receive many items regarding farms and greenhouses, churches, schools, businesses, and our wonderful directories dated 1897-1901 and 1915 that contain a wealth of information. Our hope is that you enjoy the newsletter and if you feel there is something we should cover, please let us know.

Historically yours,
Mary Jo Doyle

Due to the generosity of many long-time residents and friends of this

Rogers Park /
West Ridge
Historical Society

Board of Directors
2013-2014

President
Ken Walchak

Vice President
Katherine McSpadden

Treasurer
Margaret Ferguson

Secretary
Glenna Eaves

Directors
Glenna Eaves
Margaret Ferguson
Sr. Sue Kilduski
Kay McSpadden
Katie Macica
Hank Morris
Dan Ott
Colleen Sen
Karen Tipp
Hope Shannon
Dona Vitale
Ken Walchak

The Historian

published quarterly by
The Rogers Park/West Ridge
Historical Society

Editor
Hank Morris

Managing Editor
David Richert

Production Editor
Kathryn Siemianowski

Design Consultant
Kathleen Paluch

Editorial Staff
Ellen Credile
David Richert
Sue Sosin

The Cabbagehead
E-Newsletter Editor
Hank Morris

Miss Mahacek Remembers the Fire

By Susan Varno



Miss Mahacek's class at Field School in 1948.
Photo: Susan Varno

To a six-year-old, most grown-ups seem old. But, my first grade teacher at **Eugene Field Elementary School** really was old. Miss Mahacek was a round lady with thin gray hair who smelled of chalk dust and talcum powder. Most of the time she sat at her desk, one leg propped up on a hassock. She may have suffered from **phlebitis**.

One day early in October, 1948, she stood up.

"Children," she said, "this is **Fire Prevention Week**. When I was three years old, my family lived in Evanston. One Sunday this same time of year, my mother woke me up in the middle of the night. She took me to the attic and had me look out the window."

Miss Mahacek pointed toward our classroom's long windows that faced south onto Lunt Avenue.

"Far away across farm fields and over the tops of the houses, the sky was orange and yellow," she said. "Above that was a huge cloud of smoke. Chicago was on fire.

"The next morning and for days afterward, people came to our house. They slept in every room and in the yard and in the carriage house. My mother and the other women cooked and did laundry every day for weeks. There wasn't enough room in the house so everyone had to eat outside. Some of the people stayed for months before they found other places to live."

In the next several months, Miss Mahacek taught me, and thirty other children, addition, subtraction, and the first three multiplication tables. She taught us printing and cursive writing using the **Palmer method**. And, she taught us to read. In today's schools this would be an amazing accomplishment, even more so for an elderly woman who had trouble standing up.

Miss Mahacek telling us about the **Great Chicago Fire** is one of my sharpest childhood memories. Later, I learned that the Great Chicago Fire burned two-thirds of the city, left 90,000 people homeless, and bankrupted seven major insurance companies. Chicago rebuilt as the "world's most modern city." The Great Chicago Fire started October 8, 1871. Miss Mahacek would have been 80 years old when she was my first grade teacher.

Was that possible? I wondered, but I was sure my memory was correct. When I taught seventh grade in 1965, I met an older teacher who said in the 1940s the Chicago Public Schools had no mandatory retirement age. Teachers were not covered by Social Security, and their pensions were barely enough to live on. Many Chicago teachers stayed on until they died or were too ill to teach.

Miss Mahacek taught me a wonderful lesson. History isn't just what we read about in books. By telling us her memories of the Chicago Fire, she was saying, "I have lived history, and you will too."

Susan Varno, nee: Susan Vance, lived at 1527 W. Farwell Avenue from 1942 to 1950.

From the President's Desk



Ken Walchak

100 issues!! It is indeed a privilege to be involved with such a long running, successful publication. Largely the vision of the late legendary Mary Jo Doyle, *The Historian* has changed in format over the years. One thing that hasn't changed over the years is our mission to collect, preserve, and share the story of our community.

That story takes many forms. Everything from the now 24,900+ items in our **HistoryWiki**, to the Oral History collaboration project with Armstrong School, spearheaded by our own **Dona Vitale**. Both of these projects would be recognizable by Mary Jo, and I'm quite sure to every historian of past generations. Incidentally, Dona is looking for volunteers to help with the Oral History project. Contact her through our **website**, or stop in

at the Society, 1447 W. Morse Avenue, on a weekend.

Speaking of volunteers, we are always on the hunt for people who are looking to get involved. I know I often sound like a broken record, but in addition to money, which is always in short supply, we need people. I have a firm, though perhaps naïve view, that if we get people engaged, the money will take care of itself.

As we begin our second hundred issues of what is now called *The Historian*, I am more enthusiastic than ever about our future. Our relationship with the students of the Loyola University Public History Lab is beginning to energize the entire Society, and some of our new initiatives hold great promise. I am hoping to find just the right person to be in place for the 200th issue of *The Historian*. That should be about April of 2039. Let us know if you're out there.

Ken Walchak

Membership as of April 1, 2014

Welcome New Members

Individual
Thomas Sulla

Thanks for Renewing

Individual
LeRoy Blommaert
Amy Galibois
Arthur Gilfand
James Hayes
Phillip McGovern

Household
Tina & Thomas Albright
Laurie Erickson & Dennis Sherman
Gwen Gregory & Don Meyer

Senior
Adrian Ford
Michael Pack
Janet Royce
Colleen Sen
Carol Veome
Dona Vitale

Senior Household
Jan & Carleen Lorys
John & Pat O'Neal
Don & Linda Zaloudek

Premium
Linda Bloomfield
Katherine McSpadden
David & Donna Richert
Steve Silverman & Janet Leder
Michael & Karen Tipp

Patron
Dennis Kavanagh
Hank Morris
Larry Shure & Angela Forfia

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 with the subject "Cabbagehead".

Society Member Remembers Harold Ramis

By Colleen Sen

The Rogers Park/West Ridge community lost one of its most famous sons with the death on, February 24, of writer, director, producer, and actor Harold Allen Ramis (Tuesday, November 21, 1944-Monday, February 24, 2014), known for such films as “Groundhog Day”, “Animal House”, “Analyze This”, “Caddyshack I & II”, and “Ghostbusters I & II”.

In 1951, when he was seven years old, Harold’s family owned the Ace Food & Liquor Mart on Chicago’s West Side before moving to Rogers Park. His father owned a store on Devon Avenue near Glenwood Avenue. Harold attended Steven K. Hayt Elementary School at 1518 W. Granville Avenue and Nicholas Senn High School, 5900 N. Glenwood Avenue from 1959-1962 where he participated in the choir (which sometimes took part in the chorus at the Chicago Lyric Opera), the fencing team, and other activities. He graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Later, Harold Ramis served as a Trustee of Washington University.

For his first professional writing gig, he contributed freelance arts stories to the Chicago Daily News in the mid-1960s. He also wrote and edited Playboy magazine’s “Party Jokes” before and during his Second City days.

Harold Ramis one of Hollywood’s most successful comedy filmmakers moved his family from Los Angeles back to the Chicago area in 1996. The writer-director wanted to return to the city where he’d grown up and where he had launched his career as an improv performer at Second City.

“There’s a pride in what I do that other people share because I’m local, which in L.A. is meaningless; no one’s local,” Ramis said upon the launch of the first movie he directed after his move, the 1999 mobster-in-therapy comedy “Analyze This,” another hit. “It’s a good thing. I feel like I represent the city in a certain way.”

RPWRHS member, Howard Fink, a retired judge who grew up in Rogers Park/West Ridge, came to know Harold Ramis when both were active in Senn High School’s Principal for the Day program. “He was a neighborhood kid who never



Harold Ramis grew up in Rogers Park somewhere near Devon and Glenwood, although we don’t have his exact address. Photo from Hank Morris Collection.

forgot he came from the neighborhood and was always ready to come back,” said Mr. Fink. He recalls an occasion when Harold Ramis spoke for 15 minutes about his time at Senn and engaged in a conversation with the students, only mentioning his brilliant career in films at the very end.

“He affected you a great deal when you met him,” said Mr. Fink. “He was very calm, modest, and genuinely humble. But you could tell sitting with him how brilliant he was and how he thought way outside the box.” And, despite his brilliant career in Hollywood, he “always saw himself as a Rogers Parker.”

Harold Ramis’ serious health struggles began in May 2010 with autoimmune inflammatory vasculitis, a rare disease that involves swelling of the blood vessels, his wife Erica Mann Ramis said. Harold had to relearn how to walk. He suffered a relapse of the vasculitis in late 2011, according to Laurel Ward, vice president of development at Ramis’ Ocean Pictures production company.

Ramis, a longtime North Shore resident, was surrounded by family when he died at 12:53 a.m. from complications of his disease. He was 69. Ramis left his wife, Erica Mann Ramis, two sons, Julian and Daniel, a daughter from his first marriage, Violet Stiel, two grandsons, and his brother Steve Ramis.

The Works of Harold Allen Ramis:

1. 1973-1974, The National Lampoon Radio Hour, co-writer
2. 1975, The National Lampoon Show, (stage), co-writer
3. 1976-1979, Second City Television, actor several roles, associate producer, co-writer
4. 1978, National Lampoon's Animal House, co-writer
5. 1979, Meatballs, director, co-writer
6. 1979, Delta House, radio, co-writer
7. 1980, Caddyshack, director, co-writer
8. 1981, Stripes, actor, co-writer
9. 1981, Heavy Metal, voice actor
10. 1982, Second City TV Network 90, actor several roles, associate producer
11. 1982, The Rodney Dangerfield Show: It's Not Easy Being Me, (TV), producer, co-writer
12. 1983, National Lampoon's Vacation, uncredited voice actor, director, uncredited co-writer
13. 1983, The Top, (TV), executive producer
14. 1984, Ghostbusters, actor, co-writer
15. 1986, Club Paradise, director, co-writer screenplay
16. 1986, Back to School, (TV), executive producer, co-writer
17. 1986, Armed and Dangerous, co-writer
18. 1987, Baby Boom, actor
19. 1988, Stealing Home, actor
20. 1988, Caddyshack, II, co-writer screenplay
21. 1989, Ghostbusters, II, actor, co-writer
22. 1990, The Earth Day Special, actor
23. 1991, Rover Dangerfield, co-writer
24. 1993, Groundhog Day, actor, director, co-writer screenplay, co-producer
25. 1994, Airheads, actor
26. 1994, Love Affair, actor
27. 1995, Stuart Saves His Family, director
28. 1996, Multiplicity, director, co-producer, co-writer screenplay
29. 1997, As Good As It Gets, actor
30. 1999, Analyze This, director, co-writer
31. 2000, High Fidelity, actor – but, scenes deleted
32. 2000, Bedazzled, director, producer, co-writer
33. 2002, Orange County, actor
34. 2002, The First \$20 Million is Always the Hardest, (TV), executive producer
35. 2002, Analyze That, director
36. 2005, The Ice Harvest, director
37. 2006, The Last Kiss, actor
38. 2006, The Office, (TV), director
39. 2006, I Want Someone to Eat Cheese With, (TV), executive producer
40. 2007, Knocked Up, actor
41. 2009, Year One, actor, director, co-producer, co-writer
42. 2009, Ghostbusters: The Video Game, voice actor, minor script doctoring

Society Holds Elections

By Hank Morris

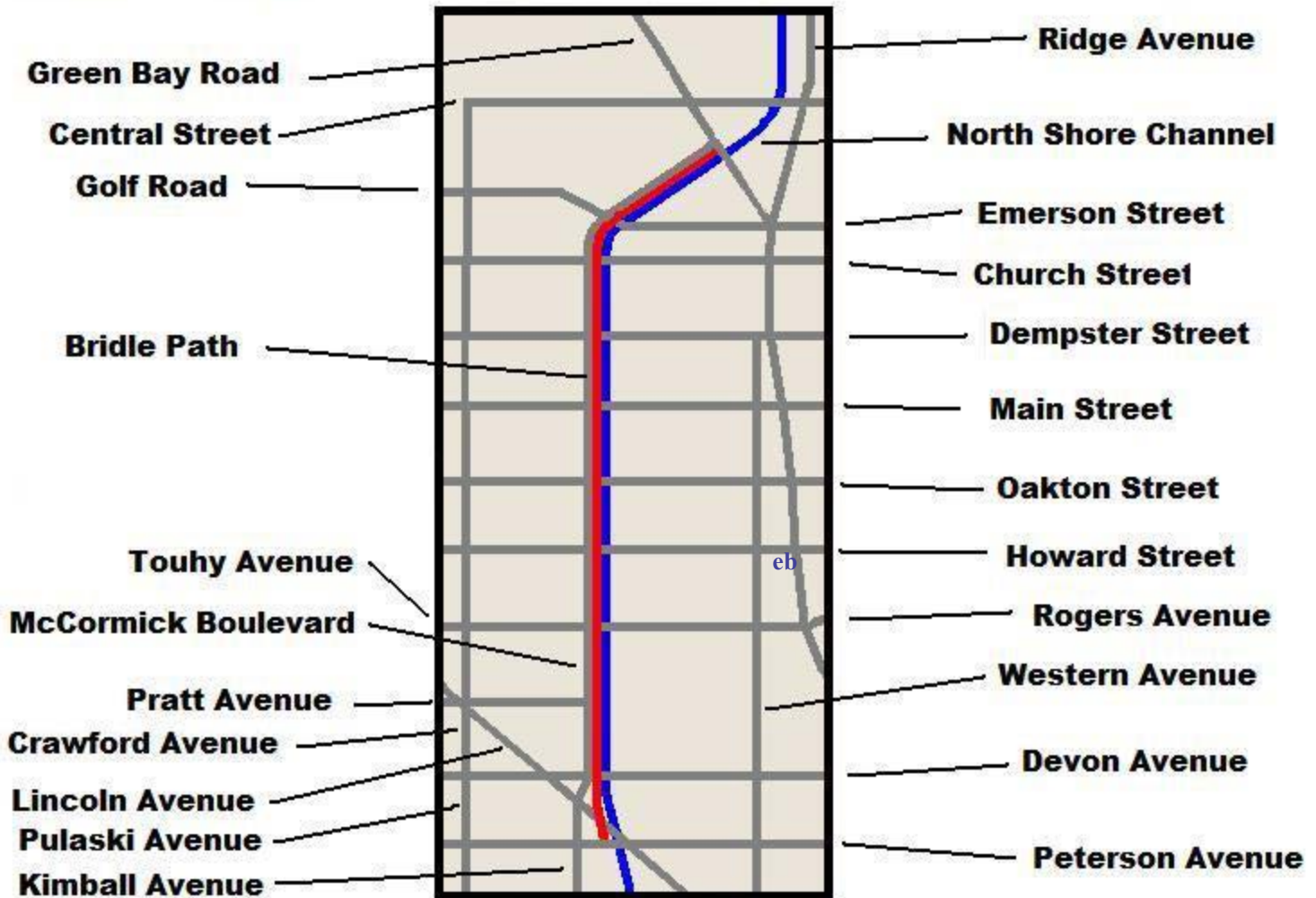
As required by our by-laws, during our Annual Meeting, Saturday, March 29, 2014, we once again elected the members of our Board of Directors. The board will elect the Society Officers, President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer at our next meeting. The Society wishes to extend its thanks to Nancy Jane Lauren, Krisann Rehbein, and Larry Shure who have left the Board of Directors. We appreciate their contributions to our overall efforts.

Your new Board of Directors is:

Glenna Eaves	Karen Tipp
Margaret Ferguson	Hope Shannon
Sr. Sue Kilduski	Dona Vitale
Kay McSpadden	Ken Walchak
Katie Macica	
Hank Morris	
Dan Ott	
Colleen Sen	

The Great Cinder Bridle Path Scandal

By Hank Morris



For several decades, a cinder bridle path occupied the west bank of the North Shore Channel. It was hardly used and its construction was entwined with a scandal that cost taxpayers over \$1 million in 1929. Artwork: Hank Morris

Some of us, albeit very few, remember that there was a cinder bridle path on the west bank of the man-made **North Shore Channel** (a.k.a. canal, drainage canal, or sanitary canal, but never “river”) that ran four miles from the stables in and near the Devon and McCormick area all the way north, to around Green Bay Road.

What most of us didn’t know was that the cinders used for the bridle path, as well as the path, itself, were part of an over \$1 million scandal at the **Chicago Sanitary District**. Of course, we’d have to be over 100 to remember the scandal, itself.

The headline on the front page of the *Chicago Tribune* on Sunday, January 27, 1929, screamed: “Lay Cinder Path: \$1,062,000.” In the body of the article, it’s disclosed that a

Special Grand Jury was convened the day before to begin investigating the fact that the Sanitary District Trustees had laid a four-mile bridle path along the North Shore Channel at a cost of \$1,063,438. The discovery was credited to Otho S. Fastig, who was on the staff of Assistant State’s Attorney **Frank J. Loesch**.

Prosecutors had found that, despite the over \$1 million expenditure, to date, the bridle path was not even finished. It had been started in 1927, when the Trustees spent the first \$616,614 on the money pit that was the bridle path. In 1928, there was an additional \$446,824 spent by the Trustees for the horse trail. That brought the subtotal to \$1,063,438 without the additional funds that were still needed to finish the path.

An audit showed 90% of the \$1 million was spent for cinders and labor. Most of it was for common labor at \$200, or more, a month. Another item listed was for special machinery.

When the smoke cleared, everything focused on the claim that the Sanitary District paid \$1.35 a cubic yard to have cinders removed from its 39th Street disposal station and hauled to the bridle path. Those cinders were subsequently dumped in the bridle path and the district was charged for what had been its own materials.

Investigations showed that the cinders left the 39th Street disposal station in railroad cars that ended up in the Weber Yard in Evanston. Also, the prices varied from \$1.80 to \$2.00 per cubic yard. The question of how the Sanitary District repurchased their own cinders that they paid to have removed from their plant was still unanswered by February 24, 1929. The investigation uncovered vouchers showing that trucking and cartage contractors received as high as \$50 a day for use of their vehicles to haul the cinders from the **Weber Yard** to the bridle path.

For those who don't know, or remember, the **Chicago & North Western Railway's Weber Yard** covered an expanse from Oakton Street to Main Street along the eastern side of the North Shore Channel. It extended into the area where Home Depot now stands. This yard was so large it had a turntable.

How it came about . . .

On Thursday, August 19 1926, the *Chicago Tribune* (p. 5) announced that there were plans to beautify and connect McCormick Road with new and improved arteries in every direction. The plans were set forth on Wednesday, August 18, 1926, by future Chicago Mayor **Edward J. Kelly**, then the chief engineer of the Chicago Sanitary District, when he announced that automobiles would be speeding over the four and a half mile stretch along the North Shore Channel by Friday, October 1. The 40-foot wide thoroughfare had the 20 feet in the center paved with asphalt while the 10 feet on either side was made of reinforced concrete, making this the only stretch of reinforced concrete roadway in this section of the country (at that time). There was no mention of any plan for a cinder bridle path along the North Shore Channel. The plans were mostly about

adding the little diagonal bit of McCormick that now runs between Lincoln/Kimball and Devon/McCormick, along where Home Depot is.

A while later, the Tuesday, January 29, 1929, (p. 1) *Chicago Tribune* reported that the special prosecuting staff of Assistant State's Attorney Frank J. Loesch discovered yesterday (Monday, January 28, 1929) that \$51,015 (4.8%) of the \$1,062,438 spent for the McCormick Boulevard Bridle Path was paid to the Lawrence O'Brien Teaming and Trucking company, which just happened to be owned by Illinois State Representative Lawrence O'Brien of the 29th District (D) (50-57th Legislatures, 1917-1933). O'Brien received \$22,710 in 1927 and \$28,305 in 1928. The examination of the vouchers for the payouts found that they were in amounts of \$500 or less to avoid scrutiny, and the subsequent bidding for the job if the amount exceeded \$500. Apparently, in 1929 such bills could be paid by voucher as long as they didn't exceed the \$500 limit.

It should be pointed out that the salary for a State Representative in 1929 was \$1,500 a year and expenses were expected to come out of that amount. So O'Brien was making from 15-18 times more money hauling cinders a couple of miles than he earned annually as a politician. O'Brien's advisors told him to create a "dummy" company because his name would appear way too often in the Sanitary District's financial records, so he created the Red Line Teaming Company.

Nepotism wasn't far behind O'Brien. Sanitary District Trustee August W. Miller's son, George W. was the head of the South Western Cartage Company for the same reason. They received some \$36,000 for hauling cinders. Naturally, August denied any affiliation with his son's company.

It was also demonstrated that the bridle path project was the ONLY project requiring day labor performed by the Sanitary District in 1928—period! Furthermore, the project leader, John T. Miller, reported that about 25% of the monies spent on day labor were wasted because he had to use politically connected workers. As part of the investigation, subpoenas were issued for 20 downstate legislators.

Path actually used! On Sunday, March 24, 1929, the *Chicago Tribune*, (p.3) reported that an Illinois State Senate committee investigated the bridle path and actually found hoof prints, albeit faint ones. The state Senate's

sergeant at arms, T.B. Scoutien, who lived in the area reported that he hadn't seen more than three equestrians on the path in the two years it had been in existence.

Loesch Sues Sanitary District Trustees

State's Attorney Frank J. Loesch, acting as a private citizen, filed suit in the district federal court in July, 1929, against Timothy J. Crowe, the former president of the Sanitary District, and other former officials, to be compelled to account for the millions of dollars wasted by the Sanitary District, of which the bridle path was a large part. The suit included John A. McGarry and Herman Fowler, doing business as John McGarry & Co. The sum of \$1,062,439 was demanded by the suit from the trustees and other defendants because the building of the bridle path was without warrant of law.

Finally, the Friday, May 16, 1930, issue of the Chicago Tribune (p.17) informed its readers that a new Grand Jury had been impanelled by Chief Justice Denis J. Nurmoye (1877-1969) of the criminal court to hear the story of the \$1 million bridle path. First Assistant State's Attorney John E. Northrup had his own auditors and investigators tell the sordid details of the path to the jury. The prosecutor charged that the Chicago Sanitary District had no authority to build this bridle path, and if it had, that the cinders used should have been purchased by contract, not the voucher system.

During the Grand Jury investigation, it was disclosed that John T. Miller, head of the department of permanent plants and structures of the Sanitary District, reported that truck rental accounted for \$400,000, purchase of cinders was \$190,000, and the remainder was labor expenses. All of these were covered by the under \$500 voucher system set up by president Crowe and so were not subject to formal action by the trustees.

Finally, a trial!

It's said that the wheels of justice move slowly. This was certainly true in the case of the illegal bridle path. It wasn't until Wednesday, November 4, 1931, that the Chicago Tribune (p. 1) reported that a trial would finally commence. This was announced by Chief Justice Harry Fisher, after he and two associate Judges, James J. Kelly

and John Prystatski, sitting *en banc*, had finished listening to arguments to quash the indictment. Included in the nine counts would be the bridle path questions.

The defendants were: Timothy J. Crowe, John J. Touhy, and James M. Whalen, who are trustees of the District. Additionally there were Frank J. Link, John K. Lawler, and August W. Miller, former trustees, John T. Miller, former superintendent of permanent plants and structures, and Martin Edelstein, former real estate agent. Timothy Connolly, former purchasing agent of the District was also a defendant but fled and hadn't been apprehended at indictment time. (He was later captured in San Diego and extradited to face charges in Chicago.)

As the case continued, the cinders came under intense scrutiny. For instance, the Sanitary District claimed that it purchased 85,886 cubic yards of cinders and prosecution experts stated unequivocally that only 41,142 cubic yards were needed to pave the bridle path. Why the extra 44,744 cubic yards? And, where were they, if they were purchased at all?

The defense lawyers argued that the judges charges limited the state to showing what the Sanitary District paid for the cinder path project and what the prosecution's engineers said the cost actually was. As a result, the defense stipulated for the record that the District vouchers showed the cost of the cinder path to have been \$1,068,000, not including the approximate figure of \$265,000 for labor, while the prosecution engineer estimated \$292, 375 would have been a liberal price for the honest construction of the path.

As a note, John J. O'Brien, the former state representative, was, by this time, already in federal prison at Leavenworth for income tax evasion.

On Thursday, December 31, 1931, on page 4 of the *Chicago Tribune*, the trial proceedings disclosed that the price of the cinder bridle path had not reached its zenith, after all. This was because "that part of the public treasury ran dry." Can you believe it? They were planning on stealing even more money for the bridle path! The article goes on to say "had not the treasury been emptied by the free spending of the trustees under the leadership of Timothy J. Crowe, another seven miles of bridle path would have been built." This admission from John T. Miller was made to an earlier Grand Jury investigation under an immunity waiver; but,

only was introduced into evidence the day before. One wonders where the additional seven miles might have been put down.

Prosecution witnesses reported that the bridle path was put to use by no more than six or seven equestrians a day. Not much justification for having built the thing.

In his statement, John T. Miller provided a little historical perspective for the judges. He said that the plan to beautify the property adjacent to the North Shore Channel originated before he was employed by the District. Late Trustee Michael Rosenberg had talked to him about the cinder path. He also remembered someone showing him a petition asking for the building of the path and a letter on the subject from **John D. Hertz**, capitalist. (Yep! Yellow Cab, Hertz Rent-a-Car, Chicago Motor Coach, etc. That John D. Hertz!)

The cost of excavating the right-of-way for the cinder path was examined. The expert witness was Clarence J. Weber, vice president of the National Brick Company, which had facilities between Touhy Avenue and Howard Street on the east side of the North Shore Channel in Niles Center (now Skokie). When asked: "... would your firm have undertaken to build the cinder path for less than \$1,068,000?" "That is a foolish question," he replied laughing, "We certainly would have taken the job for much less."

After the New Year's break, the trial resumed on Monday, January 4, 1932. The Tribune recounted the latest machinations on page 4 of the following day's paper.

Prosecutor John E. Northrup opened saying that he intended to show that the District paid for thousands of cubic yards of cinders which never went into the cinder path and that the District paid three times more for cinders than were actually used.

Northrup said that the state had evidence to show that the District shipped cinders from some of its own pumping plants at its own expense to the vicinity of the bridle path. These same cinders were then resold to the District by favored contractors, who did nothing more than haul them from the freight cars to the scene of activity. The bills show that the District not only bought its own cinders, but paid from 75 cents to \$1 more per cubic yard than the reasonable price at the time; that dummy corporations were formed to conduct such business as selling high priced supplies to the District to evade the law by selling the materials in small lots at or below the \$500 voucher limit, thus defrauding the District. Northrup went on saying that,

had the District purchased these materials and services under competitive bidding, the taxpayers would have seen substantial savings.

Timothy J. Crowe was sentenced to prison in April 1932 for a term of from 1 to 5 years for his part in the conspiracy to loot the Sanitary District of millions of dollars.

Crowe, died at his summer home in Williams Bay, Wisconsin in August 1933, thus escaping his having to serve out his sentence. However, the other defendants did serve out their respective sentences.

Stables?

In 1926 there was a stable at 2100 Devon. It was called the Devon Riding Club. There was also a stable near the site of what is now the Lincoln Village shopping center.

At some point, the cinder bridle path was extended south from Devon to Foster Avenue. Otherwise, it stayed pretty much out of the limelight until sometime in 1949, when the Sanitary District determined that it should be closed. The Sanitary District Trustees felt that the bridle path constituted a traffic menace and because it had fallen into such a state of disrepair it would be too costly to restore.

In response, owners of three stables petitioned the Sanitary District to keep the path open. (Which made sense because, without it they were otherwise pretty much out of business.)

McCormick Riding Stables, 6601 N. Kedzie Avenue, Branford Ure, owner.

Ure estimated his investment at \$30,000 and said he would be forced out of business if the bridle path was closed. He had 40 horses to rent and had been running his company for about five years before the closing hit. "I don't see how they can close it except for putting up no trespassing signs and then it would be a big job to police it."

Chicago Riding Stables, Inc., 2434 W. Berwyn Avenue., Lou Dyer, partner of holding corporation.

Lou Dyer, a member of the corporation that owned the Chicago Riding Stables, Inc., 2434 W. Berwyn Avenue was vehement about the closing.

He said, “I can’t see why they are closing something that means a lot of recreation for the neighborhood. I called the Sanitary District and was told they didn’t have the money to repair the path. It seems to me that they have spent public money a lot more foolishly.”

Dyer said that his company wouldn’t close because of the loss of the bridle path, but it would lose about half of its summer business. “We send out about 100 riders a week.” The saving grace was that their facilities had an indoor arena.

Stardust Stables, 3306 Touhy Avenue, Skokie, Wayne Beck, owner.

Wayne Beck, owner of the Stardust Stables, 3306 Touhy Avenue, Skokie, said he had \$6,000 tied up which he would lose if the path was closed. He said he had about 200 riders a week who used the path in the summer months. He expressed the opinion that countless riders who own their horses and live in the vicinity will be inconvenienced along with his customers.

Should the bridle path go private?

According to the “Proceedings of the Board of Trustees of the Sanitary District of Chicago,” on Thursday, August 25, 1949, the Board of Trustees approved the Committee on Real Estate Development’s recommendation that “the Sanitary District of Chicago discontinue the maintenance of the Bridle Path on the property of the Sanitary District along the North Shore Channel paralleling McCormick Road, as the maintenance therefore is expensive, and in the interest of safety it should no longer be maintained by the Sanitary District of Chicago.”

In September 1949 the Trustees of the Sanitary District tackled the idea of selling the bridle path to other concerns. The meeting was held at the Sanitary District’s offices, 910 S. Michigan Avenue. They started with the Cook County Forest Preserve. The Forest Preserve’s board wasn’t interested. They met again, this time on Thursday, September 22, to discuss whether some responsible group should lease the bridle path from the Sanitary District for “recreational purposes.”

Around 50 people attended that meeting. They were there to protest the closing of the bridle path. They claimed their group, the McCormick Riding Association numbered more than 1,000 riders that used the bridle path. Their president was Dr. Thomas A. Carter, 915 Lakeside Place. They were represented by Russell W. Root, former G.O.P. candidate for mayor. Root, the attorney for the Forest Preserve, said he was acting as a private citizen.

Dr. Carter pleaded with the Sanitary District board for over a half-hour to not close the path. Testimony that the path was in a safe condition was provided by Elmer J. Holdorf, Glenview, who represented the Town and Country Equestrian Association. Also testifying was David Levy, 431 W. Oakdale Avenue, president of the Lincoln Park Riding Association, and Wayne Dinsmore, 9318 Longwood Drive, executive secretary of the Horse Association of America.

Finally, in November 1949, the Sanitary District’s Board considered an offer from the McCormick Riding Association to lease and maintain the bridle path. The District’s attorney, Ernest Buehler, stated that the Board would vote upon the offer at its next meeting, which was Thursday, November 17.

No further *Chicago Tribune* articles deal with this topic. But, growing up next to the path (2 blocks away), I know no horses were seen by me in the 50s. So, I think it’s safe to assume that the Sanitary District didn’t change its position.

All remnants of the infamous cinder bridle path were finally obliterated by Evanston, Skokie, and Lincolnwood as they landscaped the west bank of the canal, for the most part, turning it into a large sculpture park beginning back in 1988.

Today, the North Shore Channel (Bike) Trail extends from the junction of Green Bay Road and McCormick Boulevard in northern Evanston to the junction of Lawrence Avenue and Francisco Avenue in Chicago. All but the last 0.25 mile runs alongside the North Shore Channel. Bikers, inline skaters, hikers, etc., use this trail all year long. Those interested should visit:

<http://www.trailink.com/trail/north-shore-channel-trail.aspx>

A Brief History of the Former Mansion At 7331 N. Sheridan Road

By Susan Olin



While no longer on Sheridan Road, the home was owned by Hyman Holsman, who was a local philanthropist and jeweler by trade. He lived there with his second wife and their three daughters. Hyman's son, by his first wife, did not reside there. Photo: Susan Olin

The now-razed mansion at **7331 N. Sheridan Road** was a 95-year-old (1918-2013), **Prairie-school** style home. It was constructed with cream-colored brick and had colorfully-painted, wood trim. This was the last remaining Sheridan Road mansion in Rogers Park south of Jarvis Avenue.

This luxury home was graced with large green spaces for front- and side-yards and had many mature-growth trees around it, as well. The historic home had a unique story and fulfilled several functions over its lifetime, many of which some people might remember.

Like all the mansions on Sheridan Road, the residence at 7331 had a colorful and enlightening history. As early as June 1918, Chicago Tribune articles referred to the home's original long-time first owner/resident, **Hyman Holsman**.

The 7331 N. Sheridan house was constructed three years after the nearby 1915 **Frank Lloyd Wright**-designed **Emil Bach House**. As with many pre-1920 Chicago residences, no

building permit, which lists the architect and construction date, is on record. Nevertheless, various Tribune articles from 1918 to 1936 discuss the mansion's long-time resident, Mr. Hyman Holsman, and his family.

According to his **August 29, 1934 Chicago Tribune obituary**, page 12, Hyman Holsman was a local philanthropist and a jeweler by trade. Initially, he owned a jewelry store at 179 W. Madison. Eventually, he owned a store at 5 S. Wabash Avenue, otherwise known as "The Jewelers Center" at the Mallers Building, one the most famous addresses on the historic "**Jewelers Row**" in the Loop. "Jeweler's Row" is a group of Wabash Avenue buildings containing many silver and jewelry businesses since the early 1900s and it was declared a **Chicago Landmark District** in 2003.

Hyman Holsman resided in the home with his second wife, **Nellye**, and his three daughters, **Hortense Hoffman**,

Jeanne Weintraub, and **Elizabeth Bloomfield**. His first wife passed away in 1911. His adult son, **George**, from this first marriage, did not reside in the home.

Also according to his obituary, Mr. Holsman was philanthropic, participating in several important Chicago institutions. He was an early vice-president of the **Edgewater Hospital** founded in 1929. This hospital, now closed, still stands at 5700 N. Ashland Avenue and was one of the primary hospitals in the area for many decades. (**Hillary Rodham Clinton** was born there!)

Mr. Holsman was a member of **Temple Mizpah**, a synagogue at 1615 W. Morse Avenue, which is now the “**Mision Cristiana Elim**” Church (website in Spanish) on the southwest corner of Morse and Ashland. Temple Mizpah was organized as a Jewish congregation in 1919 and the synagogue building on Morse was constructed in 1924. Temple Mizpah was one of the early, “**Reform**” congregations in the city. It relocated to **Skokie** in the 1970s.

Mr. Holsman was also a director of the **Marks Nathan Home for Orphans**, 1243 N. Wood Street. The Marks Nathan home near **Douglas Park** opened in 1912 and took in children during the height of the immigration

boom in America. Many West Side Jewish immigrants were poor and fell on hard times, and an orphanage was needed. This orphanage provided a very good education and environment for its children. Two of the famous people who lived there as children were **Elmer Gertz**, the prominent constitutional law attorney, and **Barney Ross**, the famous boxer.

One Tribune article also indicated that Mr. Holsman’s son, George, attended the aviation school at the **Great Lakes Naval Station** during World War I. In 1936, the Tribune reported that Mr. Holsman’s step-daughter, Jeanne, eloped and married **Philip Weintraub**, at the time the first baseman of the **Cincinnati Reds**. Weintraub subsequently played for the New York Giants and became one of the first notable Jewish baseball players in American history. Weintraub has several impressive career statistics such as the second most runs batted in (RBI) ever in a game at eleven runs! Weintraub started his career playing for the baseball team at **Loyola University** in Rogers Park.

By the 1970s, the mansion at 7331 N. Sheridan Road was used as a children’s daycare center, the **Camelot School**. Many Rogers Parkers remember going there as children. In the 1980s, the building was repurposed as the Illinois Masonic Hospital Women’s Health Center. Starting in 1996, the Shambala Buddhist organization moved in, establishing the popular meditation center. In 2013, the **Shambala Center** relocated to a larger space at 37 N. Carpenter Street in the West Loop. The house was a century old when it was torn down. We know this because it was shown on the 1914 Sanborn map.

It’s clear that research into the background of one building can open doors to many facets of our community’s history and our nation’s history in an often surprising and wonderful way.

“ONE OF THE MOST ACOUSTICALLY AND VISUALLY INVITING SMALL SPACES IN CHICAGO”
-Howard Reich
Chicago Tribune

MAYNE | STAGE
ACT ONE PUB

1328 W Morse | \$5 Valet | Steps from Morse Red Line
www.maynestage.com | 866.468.3401

HEARTLAND CAFE
Good Wholesome food for the mind & body
The Heart of Rogers Park since 1976

- open 7 days a week
- breakfast, lunch & dinner
- live music
- extensive beer list
- vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free and carnivore friendly!

773 465-8005
www.heartlandcafe.com
7000 N Glenwood Chicago, IL

Gorgeous George in West Ridge

By Susan Varno



While dressed as a "Dandy", George Wagner, (1915-1963) was no "fop." His skills as a professional wrestler landed him being inducted into Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2002 and the WWE Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2010. Photo: Susan Varno Collection

In 1950, everyone in our West Ridge neighborhood believed that when Gorgeous George (George Raymond Wagner, 1915-1963) came to Chicago to perform on "Wrestling from Rainbow!" he stayed in the apartment building on the southwest corner of Lunt and California. Gorgeous George was our favorite television personality.

My little brother, Johnny, and I were thrilled when our mother said her friend, Mrs. Bedesem, was going to watch us one afternoon. Mrs. Bedesem lived in Gorgeous George's building. I was about eight, Johnny was five. We walked from Daniel Boone Elementary School to the building where Mrs. Bedesem buzzed us in. Instead of going up to her apartment, we walked the entire first floor hallway. We were looking for the man who marched into the arena bathed in a spotlight, the strains of "Pomp and Circumstances" (Edward Elgar) highlighting his every step. Disappointed, we took the elevator to the second floor where we walked the hall from end to end, hoping for a glimpse of the man whose trademark was bowing to kiss a woman's hand, and kissing his own hand instead.

We knew he wouldn't be wearing his sequin-studded robe, but we would know him by his shoulder length platinum blond hair. Back then few women and absolutely no men wore their hair that way. When we finally ended up at Mrs. Bedesem's apartment, she said she had met the great man. He was quite charming. Every time she took care of us after school, Johnny and I searched the building floor by floor with no success.

One day we had covered the first floor and were waiting at the elevator. A man and woman came down the hall.

The man wasn't tall, but he had the broadest shoulders and thickest arms I'd ever seen. He wore light beige dress pants and a white shirt open at the neck. Draped over his massive frame was a camel-colored overcoat making him look even wider. Adorning his huge head was a lion's mane of platinum blond hair!

Our mouths dropped open.

"Hello, kids," he said, flashing large, white teeth. "How are you doing?"

We gaped.

He grinned. "Do you live in the building? I haven't seen you around."

We gawked.

The elevator door opened, and he motioned us in. We made our feet move though our mouths were paralyzed. Gorgeous George and the woman followed us inside.

"What floor you going to?" he said; his smile fading into mild concern.

No words escaped our lips.

"Second floor?" he asked, hopefully.

We stared in rapt silence.

Gorgeous pulled the gate closed and pressed a button. The elevator lurched upward.

He kept trying to get even one word from us. I think a little moan or even an "ah" would have satisfied him.

At the second floor, the elevator door creaked opened.

"Well, it's been nice meeting you," Gorgeous George said, waving a handful of neatly manicured fingers.

As the door closed, I think I heard a deep-throated chuckle from Gorgeous George.

Johnny and I stared wide-eyed at each other.

I finally found my tongue. "Gorgeous George talked to us!"

"Yeah," Johnny sighed. "He really did."

Much later, we realized that we had not talked to him.

Susan Varno, nee: Vance, lived at 2743 W. Coyle Avenue from 1950 through 1954.

Two Rogers Park Women Survive RMS *Titanic* Sinking

By Hank Morris

Mrs. Ida Sophia Hippach, the wife of **Louis Albert Hippach**, 7360 N. Sheridan Road, and their only daughter, **Jean Gertrude Hippach**, survived the sinking of the **RMS *Titanic*** on Monday, April 15, 1912.

Ida had traveled to Europe to help her overcome the devastation she had suffered when her two sons, **L. Archibald**, and **Robert A.**, died in the **Iroquois Theater Fire** (Wednesday, December 30, 1903). Jean had accompanied her mother for support.

The ***Titanic survivors website*** published a bio written about Ida which I have excerpted, below. Go to the website for the full account:

The two ladies boarded the RMS *Titanic* in **Cherbourg, France**, travelling **First Class**. They later claimed they had not wanted to board the ship, not trusting a maiden voyage, but **White Star Line** employees had told them that there was only one First Class cabin left, implying that everyone wanted to go on the ship. They felt lucky to get their ticket, only to discover later that the ship was only partially full. They travelled in cabin B-18. "Everyone was saying Sunday evening, (April 14, 1912), that we were ahead of schedule and that we would break the records." Mrs. Hippach and her daughter were asleep when the *Titanic* struck the **iceberg**. Ida thought the shock of the collision was mild. Her daughter continued sleeping until the roar of the steam escaping through the **funnels** woke her. They put on their wraps and rushed out into the corridor. They heard everybody asking, "What is that? Did you hear that?"

Ida heard someone say that they hit an iceberg, but no one was alarmed or thought there was any danger. She decided to go out onto deck because she wanted to see the iceberg as she had never seen one. An officer, walking past, told them to return to their room. "Ladies, go back to bed. You'll catch cold."



Mrs. Ida Hippach's life included two major historical disasters. She lost her two sons in the Iroquois Theater fire, and later, she and her daughter Jean, survived the RMS *Titanic* sinking. Photo: Hank Morris Collection

They went back to their stateroom, but decided to dress and go back out into the corridor. They were told to return to their room and get a lifebelt.

Mrs. Hippach and her daughter came back onto the deck as they were lowering a lifeboat. They thought they would be safer on the *Titanic*, so they didn't get into one of the earlier lifeboats. They watched an officer try to get people into lifeboats 2 and 6, noting how few people were in each as they were lowered. Passengers talked to each other, at first saying the boat was in no danger. Then they were told the boat would stay afloat for at least 24 hours and that they were safer on deck than in the lifeboats. Later, they were told that the RMS *Olympic* was near and some ship's lights in the darkness were pointed out to her. Ida had no clue that actually, there weren't enough lifeboats.

They were walking by Lifeboat 4 as it was being loaded and Colonel **John Jacob Astor IV** told them to get in, although he said there was no danger. Ida and her daughter clambered through the windows and entered the boat, finding that it had a couple of sailors. The boat had a small amount of water in it and a man that Mrs. Hippach thought was a **Third Class** passenger jumped into the boat (although this was probably a crew member). The women had to help row away from the *Titanic*.

Ida now knew the *Titanic* was sinking because the portholes were so near to the water. She heard someone calling for the boat to return to pick up more passengers, but they did not dare. From their position, about 450 feet from the ship, they heard a “fearful explosion” and watched it split apart.

They rowed away, expecting the suction to pull at them. The lights all went out one by one then they all went out in a flash, except for a lantern on a mast. There was a fearful cry from the people in the water. They rowed back and were able to pick about eight men out. In the morning they saw the *RMS Carpathia* as it was picking up survivors and rowed about two miles to the ship. Ida was taken aboard in a **bosun’s chair**. Ida remarked, “My, but it was good to be taken aboard and nursed.”

It was uncertain, at first, whether the women were saved or lost. However, the Wednesday, April 17, 1912, issue of the *Chicago Tribune* announced their rescue. The remaining son, **Howard Henry Hippach**, who worked for an engineering firm in North Carolina, returned to Chicago and accompanied his father, Louis, as he travelled to New York City to greet his wife and daughter.

The family arrived back in Chicago at the **LaSalle Street Station** on Sunday, April 21, 1912, aboard the **New York Central Railroad’s 20th Century Limited**.

Society’s Fifties Fundraiser

By Colleen Sen, Photos By June Finfer

The 1950s were an exciting time in America. Prosperity was finally here after the war, babies were booming — and so was Rogers Park/West Ridge — as America entered a new era. And there were lots of great parties, like the one thrown by the Roger Park West Ridge Historical Society on Saturday, April 5.

Called “**Cruisin’ the Fabulous Fifties**,” the party was held at the historic Lang House B&B (formerly Cat’s Cradle) at 7421 N. Sheridan Road. Designed by architect Edgar M. Newman (1863-1940) in the American Foursquare style, the carefully restored Lang House is noted for its impressive entrance. Arts and Craft-styled murals, mosaic decorated walls, hardwood floors, and leaded-glass windows. Owners/managers Bruce Boyd and Wayde Cartwright were gracious hosts.

The event featured authentic Fifties- style food, cocktails, and a silent auction. Well-known historical interpreter and caterer, Ellie Carlson, brought to life a 1950s housewife to demonstrate historic cooking techniques and prepare dishes typical of the period. The menu featured dishes from the fifties (including one or two from the Rogers Park Women’s Society’s cookbook from the Society’s collection).

Former Society president Jonathan Dixon lent his bartending skills to the occasion, offering guests his special creation, a Mamie Eisenhower cocktail as they entered. Some guests got in the spirit of the occasion by donning fifties’ garb. The party had its share of greasers, beatniks, and prom queens!

The Society is grateful for the generous support of our sponsors: The Heartland Café, Mayne Stage Theater, Rogers Park Builders Group, Commissioner Larry Suffredin, Bluestone + Associates, Representative Lou Lang and FMG Designs. We also thank the local businesses and community leaders who donated gifts for the silent auction: Representative Kelly Cassidy, Senator Heather Steans, Fat Blossom Farm, Uncommon Grounds, New 400 Theater, Lifeline Theater, Ellie Carlson, Gullivers Pizzeria, JB Alberto’s Pizza, Lang House Bed and Breakfast, Glenwood Dance Studio, and Taste.

TH TORHOERMAN LAW LLC

Representing individuals injured through the negligence of others.

CHICAGO
312-372-4800

EDWARDSVILLE
618-656-4400

TorHoermanLaw.com
THL@TorHoermanLaw.com

Proud supporters of the Rogers Park Historical Society.



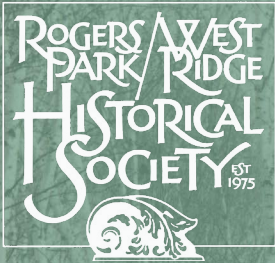
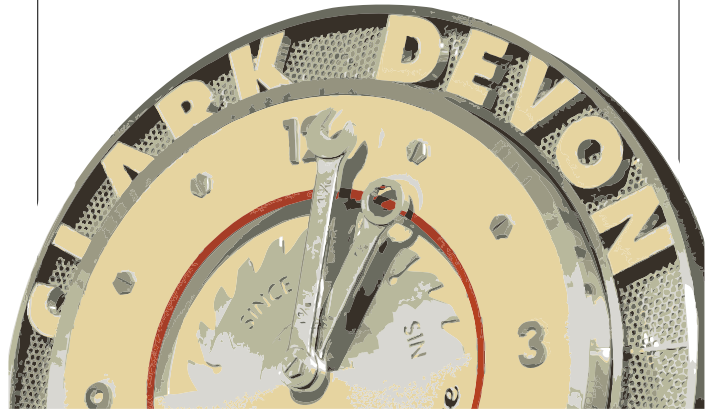
AFTER 87 YEARS IN ROGERS PARK, WE'RE PROUD
TO BE THE ONE OF THE LARGEST INDEPENDENTLY-
OWNED HARDWARE STORES IN THE US.

WHEN IT'S TIME FOR HARDWARE

CLARK DEVON HARDWARE

6401 NORTH CLARK • 773 764 3575

SEE US AT WWW.CLARKDEVON.COM



New Membership

Renewal

New and Renewing Members

Please check the appropriate category box for your renewal or new membership

- | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR/STUDENT HOUSEHOLD \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSEHOLD \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> PREMIUM \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR/STUDENT \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> PATRON \$100 | • SILVER \$500 |
| | | • GOLD \$1,000 |
| | | • PLATINUM \$5,000 |

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:
ROGERS PARK/WEST RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1447 W. MORSE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 60626

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD, PLEASE CALL US AT 773.764.4078 OR USE OUR WEBSITE: WWW.RPWRHS.ORG

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

I would like to volunteer at the Society

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.

#1 in Rogers Park



1326 W. Morse Ave.

• **PICK-UP** • **FAST DELIVERY** • **CATERING**

(773) 973-1700

Order online now at jbalbertos.com

MON - THURS - 4:00PM - 1:00AM • FRI & SAT - 4:00PM - 2:00AM • SUNDAY - 3:00PM - 1:00AM

- THIN CRUST
- DOUBLE DECK
- PASTA
- SHRIMP
- SANDWICHES

- DEEP PAN
- STUFFED PIZZA
- RIBS
- STEAK
- DINNERS

HOME OF

THE GIANT

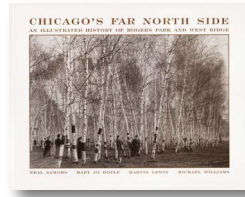
ABSOLUTELY CHICAGO'S
LARGEST PIZZA
452.39 sq. in.



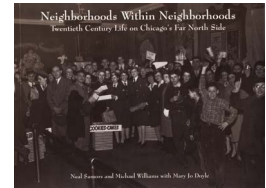
Ceramic "Birches" Mug
Nonmembers: \$4
Members: \$3.25



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



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



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

Ship to

NAME _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

CREDIT CARD TYPE MC VISA DISCOVER AmEx
 CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ BACK _____ EXPIRATION _____

QTY	ITEM	PRICE	S&H (\$6)	TAX	TOTAL
TOTAL ORDER:					

BECOME A REAL ESTATE AGENT

Full or Part Time Positions Available
On-site pre-licensing training classes



7300 N. Western
Chicago, Illinois

(773) 465-0300
www.c21universal.com

Century 21
Universal Real Estate

FREE TRAINING

57th Street Bookcase & Cabinet

604 Davis, Evanston
847-492-8780
www.57thstreetbookcases.com
57thstreetbkc@sbcglobal.net

Hrs: Tues, Wed, Fri: 11 - 6
Thurs: 11 - 7 • Sat: 10 - 5 • Sun: 12 - 5

Standard & Custom

Denis Paluch

- At home in Rogers Park 45 years
- Historical Society Founder • Specializing in Victorian homes & condos of historic significance

773-960-2424
@properties

Chara Carpentry and Construction

Paul Goggin
773-726-0322
CharaConstruction@yahoo.com

Local Irish Carpenter
Fully Insured
Interior & Exterior General Remodeling

Ed & Erv
CENTRELLA FOOD MART 773/764-3610
Denny Mondl

**ED AND ERV'S
CENTRELLA FOOD MART**

2210 W. Touhy Ave.
Chicago, IL 60645

*Choice Meats
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Yes, We Deliver*

Orca Graphics Graphic Design
Typesetting
Printing
Finishing

A full service Graphic Arts Company

773-465-4652
Printing in Rogers Park since the 1950s

1806 W Greenleaf Ave | Chicago, IL 60626

Coast to Coast
True Value
Help Is Just Around The Corner.

FRANK HENGMANN

773-743-1911 M-F 8-7
ChgoCoast@TrueValue.net Sat 8-6
6942 N Western Ave, Chicago, IL 60645 Sun 10-3

Gifts
WITH JOY & PURPOSE

A cut paper lamp will fill holiday homes and hearts with the light of hope.

*Artisans of Shuktara
Handmade Paper workshop*



Rose Window Mood Lamp
Bangladesh, \$38


TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

GIFTS THAT GIVE TWICE®
A Fair Trade Retailer.

Ten Thousand Villages in Evanston
719 Main Street
Evanston, IL 60202
Voice: 847.733.8258
Fax: 847.733.8250
evanston.tenthousandvillages.com


Weber Press, Inc.

- Complete Graphic Service
- Quality Offset Printing
- Digital Color Printing
- Bindery & Finishing

5746 N. WESTERN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60659

TEL.: 773.561.9815
FAX: 773.561.0714
weberpress@sbcglobal.net

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**

Do You Know?

What do you know about this building?
Send your solutions to **info@rpwrhs.org**.
The first person that correctly identifies the building gets a copy of one of our two Society-published books.

