

# THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

## NEWSLETTER

Established 1955  
August, September, October 2018  
Museum Hours: 1:00pm-6:00pm, Wednesday & Saturday

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146  
313-386-3137  
lpmuseum@gmail.com  
[www.lphistorical.org/](http://www.lphistorical.org/) also on Facebook

**FORD ROUGE EXHIBIT** continues:

“From the Eagle Boat to the Model A”

We hope you can stop in to see the museum's summer exhibit which closes on Saturday, September 1. The exhibit looks at the development of the nearby Ford Rouge plant from 1918 to 1928, a period that coincided with the fast growth of the community of Lincoln Park.

Tying in to the exhibit is a “**MODEL A RENDEZVOUS**” to celebrate the legendary Ford automobile's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. The car show has been rescheduled for **Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>** (the original date was planned for June, but had to be moved due to inclement weather). Model A cars from the years 1928 to 1932 will be on display at Youth Center Park, at Dix Hwy and Gregory Ave., from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The car show is offered free to the public. There is also ample free parking there in the community center lot.

The **Downriver Model A Club** is co-hosting this event along with the LP Historical Society and Museum and the Lincoln Park Parks and Recreation Department. After almost twenty years of Model T production, Ford debuted its newly-styled next generation car on December 2, 1927, the culmination of several months of expanding and retooling the Rouge plant; the Model A was the first auto to be completely manufactured and assembled at the plant.



**SPECIAL EVENT**

**FORD'S “EAGLE BOATS”**

We are pleased to announce that **Matt Anderson**, Curator of Transportation for The Henry Ford, will be speaking at the Lincoln Park Museum on Wednesday evening, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Matt's presentation will focus on the Ford Motor Company's “Eagle Boats”, the very first production at the historic Rouge plant. Ford's anti-submarine patrol boats were produced for the war effort in 1918, following the U.S. entry into the First World War. We expect a good turnout for the program, which begins at 7:00 p.m. and is open to the public, so please plan to arrive early to get a seat.

Matt's talk coincides with the museum's current exhibit on the early Rouge plant history. Included in the exhibit is a page (detail shown below) from *The Detroit News* edition of Sunday, July 21, 1918, showing the launching of Eagle Boat No. 1 at the Rouge plant, drawn by News' artist Joseph L. Kraemer. As this took place during war time, the drawing passed government censors prior to its publication.



from the collections of the Lincoln Park Historical Museum

The Historical Society & Museum continues to seek **volunteers** to assist with a variety of tasks. If interested, please call 313-386-3137 for more information.



## WORLD WAR I EXHIBIT & PHOTO PROJECT

Our next exhibit, "The Great War and Its Local Connection", will open on Saturday, September 15 and run through Veterans Day weekend, coinciding with the Centennial anniversary of the declaration of the Armistice (cease-fire) at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on the 11<sup>th</sup> Day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month -- November 11, 1918 -- ending the First World War, originally known as the "Great War".

The exhibit will aim to focus on residents from this area who served in that conflict; American involvement lasted predominantly from 1917-1919. Most early Lincoln Park residents moved and settled here in the years following the war as the village and later city was incorporated and developed over the decade of the 1920s. During the war and prior to the 1920s the area was a part of rural Ecorse Township.

The museum is still in the process of accepting photographs of local military servicepersons from the WWI era to display during the exhibit. We are able to digitally reproduce any photos used and return originals to the families. If you have a photo to include, please call us at 313-386-3137.



Pvt. Paul Sweet



Pvt. Edward Pecsénye, Sr.

While the focus is on the local connections, the exhibit will include a number of original artifacts from the war era from our own collection and other pieces loaned to us from private collections, many rarely put on display. We hope you can visit us during this special exhibit.

### A TALK ON WORLD WAR I

We are pleased to announce that **Elizabeth Clemens**, author of the book "Detroit in World War I", will speak at the Historical Society's November program. Her talk will cover Detroit's role in the U.S. war industries and the effects of the war on the home front. (see speaker series article)

## FALL SPEAKER SERIES ANNOUNCED

The Historical Society begins its fall series on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. That evening we will host representatives of Lincoln Park's two veterans' organizations: **American Legion Post 67** and **Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 552**. The talk will center on the origins of their two posts, founded in the early 1930s by veterans from the First World War.

The November meeting will move from Wednesday to a Saturday afternoon, at 2:00 p.m. on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, when guest speaker **Elizabeth Clemens** offers a presentation on Detroit in World War I. Elizabeth is an audiovisual archivist with the Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, at Wayne State University. She has researched and written two Arcadia Publishing books on Detroit history, "The Works Progress Administration in Detroit" (2008) and "Detroit in World War I" (2015).



### NEW WAR MEMORIAL DEDICATED IN MAY

This past spring, the City of Lincoln Park re-dedicated the World War memorial during the city's Memorial Day ceremonies. Shown in the photo above are **Mayor Tom Karnes** and Historical Society representative **Alyce Riggs** standing with the newly-installed memorial (the lower of the two plaques pictured). The Historical Society raised funds needed to replace the plaque which was stolen from Memorial Park a few years ago. It is fitting that the new plaque was dedicated during this centennial year of the close of the First World War. **Our Deep Thanks to Kelly Dwyer and John Fenech** of Michigan Memorial Cemetery for their expert assistance with the plaque's installation.

## IN MEMORIAM



**Jerry Meyer**  
June 9, 2018

Member Jerry Meyer passed away on June 9th after a lengthy illness. Jerry and his wife Mary have for many years been dedicated supporters of the Historical Society, serving in various capacities with us over the decades. Most recently, Jerry had served as Chairperson of the Lincoln Park Historical Commission before retiring five years ago. Both he and Mary grew up in Lincoln Park and married in 1948 after graduating from Lincoln Park High School. They would have celebrated 70 years of marriage this year.

Our deepest sympathies are with Mary and her family.

## A SPECIAL VISIT

On Friday June 29<sup>th</sup>, we had a nice visit from two groups of middle school-aged young people, participants in the summer camp program at Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic School, under the guidance of Sister Rebecca and several camp counselors. A majority of the youths were first-time visitors to the museum and were fascinated by what they discovered here within our walls. We hope they will each come for a return visit and bring their families with them!

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Current members of the Historical Society will find enclosed here with your newsletter a renewal envelope for your 2018-2019 membership. Please check off your membership level and enclose the dues in the return envelope at your earliest convenience. Members not receiving a renewal envelope are those with "Life Memberships" and recently-joined members, who will receive their first renewals next August. Life Memberships are accepted at any time, and are currently set at \$200. Thanks to all of our members for your continued support!

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

The public is invited to attend all Historical Society events.

### Ongoing through Saturday, September 1st

Special Exhibit: *"From the Eagle Boat to the Model A: The First Decade of the Rouge Plant"*.

### Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

Guest speaker **Matt Anderson**, Curator of Transportation with The Henry Ford, will offer a presentation on Ford's Eagle Boats.

### Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

**"Model A Rendezvous"** A car show featuring the classic Ford automobiles; Co-hosted by the **Downriver Model A Club**; at Youth Center Park, Dix Highway and Gregory Ave.

### Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

**Museum Exhibit Opening** "The Great War and Its Local Connection", running through November 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 pm

First Fall program: "Lincoln Park's Veterans Posts and Their Origins".

### Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 7:00 pm

Second Fall program: (note change from Wednesday to Saturday) "Detroit in World War I" with guest speaker, author **Elizabeth Clemens**.

**Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** A Centennial Commemoration of the World War I Armistice and Veterans Day Observance; at the museum, beginning with bell-ringing ceremony promptly at 11:00 a.m.

### *Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2018-2019*

President/Treasurer	Jim Nelson
Vice President/Secretary	Dolores Walker
Trustee/Membership Chair	Alyce Riggs
Trustee	Lucille Stroh

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Board meetings held monthly on the third Tuesday at 1:30 P.M. The Society Newsletter is published quarterly. To be added to the email list and help us save on postage costs – and receive a color version of the newsletter – please send an email to: [lpmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:lpmuseum@gmail.com)

*Museum Curator & newsletter editor: Jeff Day*  
*Director Emeritus: Muriel Lobb*

**LYN 'BUDDY' OSBORN EXHIBIT  
"SMOKIN' ROCKETS!"  
Coming in November**

Lincoln Park-raised actor **Lyn Osborn** will be honored with a new permanent display scheduled to open in mid-November. Along with the new exhibit we will have on temporary display the loan of items highlighting Lyn's Hollywood career which covered most of the 1950s. Sixty years ago, on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1958, his career was cut short when he died tragically at age 32 following brain surgery.

The Osborn family moved from Wichita Falls, Texas, where **Clois Lyn Osborn** was born on January 21, 1926. When Lyn was a young boy, and after a short time living in Muskegon, the family settled in Lincoln Park. Here his mother enrolled him and his sister Elizabeth in a local community theater group. He played clarinet, flute and piccolo in the high school band. Following several years of performing in Lincoln Park High School productions, 'Buddy', as he was remembered by his school mates, graduated in the June class of 1943. The war called and Buddy served in the U.S. Navy as a radioman and aerial gunner during the Second World War. Returning to Lincoln Park, he took odd jobs in the Detroit area, including a stint as part-time emcee and candy butcher at Detroit's Empress Burlesque Theater on Woodward Avenue.

In 1947, Lyn ventured west and began his studies, under the G.I. bill, at the Pasadena Playhouse alongside a generation of young actors that included Carolyn Jones, Earl Holliman, and Barbara Rush. It was a public fascination with space travel and science fiction at the time that led to the appearance of numerous television and radio programs as well as a bevy of B-movies throughout the 1950s. Lyn found himself in the thick of it all. Shortly before he was to graduate, he was offered a job co-starring in a new science fiction adventure T.V. show, broadcast live from Los Angeles. From 1950 to 1955 he appeared on the hit series "Space Patrol" as Cadet Happy, the comic sidekick to actor Ed Kemmer's Commander Corry. Cadet Happy's standard catch-phrase was "Smokin' Rockets!" For more of Lyn's Hollywood journey, see our November newsletter and be sure to make time to stop in to see the exhibit during the coming holidays.



*Check out the museum's new facebook page for Lyn Osborn:  
**Facebook.com/smokinrocketswithLynOsborn***

Lyn Osborn seen here as his Space Patrol character "Cadet Happy" on the cover of *TV Forecast*, August 2, 1952

**Special Donation of World War II Collection**

In June, the museum received a donation of items from the family of **John Elroy Pegouske**, a long ago Lincoln Park resident who served in the Second World War with the 21<sup>st</sup> Army Air Corp and was killed in Italy in July, 1944. His daughter, Johnnene, who now lives in London, Ontario, recently visited and donated pieces which had belonged to her mother, Delphine. John and Delphine Pegouske were married in 1941.



Among the items in the family's collection are the military service flag hung in the window of the family home; a framed photograph of John in his army uniform (see above); souvenirs sent home to his wife from Europe; a large number of photo snapshots taken in Italy and at Fort Bragg; and the U.S. flag that draped John's military coffin prior to his burial in Italy in 1944, later presented to the family and now preserved in a framed case.

We are extremely grateful to Johnnene for her gift of these family pieces to the museum. The items have been added to our Military Service Collection with arrangements being made for a display of these new pieces in the fall.

**2019 exhibit preview and beyond**

It's not too early to mention that we will be opening the year 2019 with an exhibit looking back at the beginnings of the museum. Opening in May of 1972 in a newly-added extension behind the Public Library, the Lincoln Park Historical Museum's early collections grew to where we now house over 10,000 pieces. The new display will showcase some of the earliest pieces collected by Historical Society members which became the foundation of our collection. Many of these items have not been on public view for some time.

**Beyond**

With the Centennial commemoration of Lincoln Park approaching in **2021**, the museum will be focusing on the many stories that have helped form our community from its very beginnings. Special exhibits over the next years will include displays on early families, the formation of a municipal government, the oldest structures and long-standing businesses, a history of the Lincoln Park schools and civic organizations, and an expanded military service exhibit.

We are seeking input from the Lincoln Park community to help with these projects. If you can help, please contact us at 313-386-3137.