

THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

Established 1955

Centennial issue 1921-2021

Museum Hours: Wednesday & Saturday 1 pm to 6 p.m.
www.lphistorical.org

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

313-386-3137

lpmuseum@gmail.com

also visit our Facebook page

At a Crossroads

Lincoln Park becoming a Village in June of 1921 was part of a period of massive social change. In the years after the First World War, the whole country in fact was transforming, with emphasis on vast immigration movement, new voting rights for women, and the passage of prohibition laws. It was also called the Jazz Age and the Roaring Twenties, reflective of the transformation from rural to urban/suburban territories.

Lincoln Park mirrored as much of this change as any community, while also dealing with its own early growing pains. This virtual crossroads at our early history was reflected in the very real crossroads of the Downriver region's two major roads: **Fort Street** which traveled south from urban Detroit and **St. Cosme Road** (soon to be State Street and later changed to Southfield Road) an old property line running from the Detroit River and Ecorse west to Taylor Township and beyond. It was both fate and circumstance that gave form to a community here.

This 100-year-old ad ran in the November 17, 1921 issue of the *Lincoln Park News*, Vol. 1, No.24, published by Edward B. Gibbons who also published the *Ecorse Tribune* and others. This issue is the earliest existing newspaper in the museum's collections.

Owner Herman Quandt's business, built in 1907 on St. Cosme Road, was variously known as Quandt's Hall, Quandt's Saloon and the West Side Inn and served as the early town center dubbed "Quandt's Corners".

A list of the first Village officials (left) appeared in the same issue, as did the Lincoln Park Motor Sales ad below, for the first auto dealership in town owned by Herbert Quandt and Delbert Wilber.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IN MEMORIAM



Doris Blessing

September 2021

Don Kush

October 2021

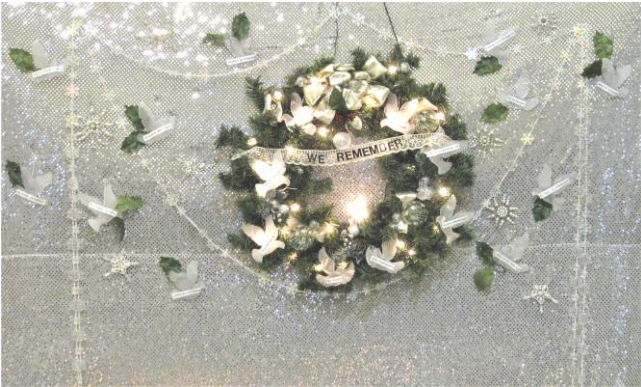
Liselotte Rauch

1921

Mary Todd

April 2020

We extend our deepest sympathies to their families.



This year's Historical Society Memorial Wreath honors the twenty members we have lost over these past two years.

Bill Morrison Art Piece "Made in Lincoln Park" Debuts

Award-winning comic book artist and illustrator **Bill Morrison**, a native of Lincoln Park, releases his latest artwork, "Made in Lincoln Park", in honor of his hometown.

Bill received the "Key to the City" in October 2016 when a major retrospective exhibition of his work opened here at the Historical Museum.

This year, Bill offered to help the community and the museum celebrate the Lincoln Park centennial by creating a tribute to a number of cultural figures from Lincoln Park's past. Represented in Bill's piece are auto pioneer **PRESTON TUCKER**, television and film actor **LYN OSBORN**, women's ballplayer **MARY MOORE**, custom car designer **CHUCK MILLER**, alt rock band **THE MC5**, pop artist **GARY GRIMSHAW**, and **BILL MORRISON** himself. As of December 11, signed prints of Bill's original art are available for purchase at the Historical Museum in person, online, or by mail. Stop in during regular museum hours or call 313-386-3137.

Bill will appear in person here at the historical museum to sign copies of the print on **Saturday, December 11th with Historical Society Members allowed admission at 12 noon.** The public will be admitted at our opening time of 1:00 p.m. Signed prints will continue to be available at the museum after the event.

A perfect gift for all your best Lincoln Park friends !

All proceeds from the print sales will help fund the operations of the historical museum. The signed prints sell for \$35 to MEMBERS AND \$50 TO the GENERAL PUBLIC, plus \$5 for shipping and handling if needed.

Museum Funding Update

In June of last year, we discovered the need for additional museum funding in light of the City's financial picture during the ongoing pandemic. Since that time, and with your help, the Historical Society managed to raise over \$11,000 for the museum. Together with a \$7,500 contribution from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), this enabled us to keep paying the bills for the past fiscal year. For our current year – running from July to June - we are again working with an unclear future. The Lincoln Park DDA has once again graciously agreed to supply part of the funding for our annual budget. For their recent contributions, we also thank **Rose Jackson, James and Linda Mixter, Patricia Gall, Lincoln Park Community Credit Union, Flowers By Lobb, Joe Joe's Bar, and Graphic Industries.**

Tax-deductible donations of any amount will help out, and may be sent to the Lincoln Park Historical Society, 1335 Southfield Road, Lincoln Park, MI 48146. Thank You.

WELCOME to

Life Member No. 175 Don and Jan Ferencz

Life Member No. 176 Tom Cunningham

New member Patricia Gall

New members Mr. & Mrs. Allen Salyer

Thanks to our **Benefactor Members**, who have given in addition to their membership dues: Lisa Adkins, Jim and Julie Bademian, Arthur Booth, Lynne Coles, Jackie Geis, Dan & Sandi Horst, Linda Krueger, Sherice Krzywonos, Janice McLaughlin, Geno Muzzin, and Bev Vincent.

We continue to ask ALL VISITORS, whether vaccinated for the coronavirus or not, to please take health precautions and wear face masks when INSIDE the building.

We are following the health protocol recommended by public health experts.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

A big Thank You to all those Historical Society members who renewed their memberships for 2022. Those still needing to do so will find a friendly green reminder slip tucked into their newsletter mailing. Thanks to all for continuing your support !

New members are always welcome !

Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2021-2022

President	Jim Nelson
Vice President	Dolores Walker
Secretary	Linda Mixer
Treasurer	Jim Mixer
Trustee	Alyce Riggs
Trustee	Bea Partridge
Museum Curator & newsletter editor:	Jeff Day
Membership Chair:	Sandi Horst
Website Manager:	Emily Solomon
Director Emeritus:	Muriel Lobb

Board meetings are held at 1:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. The Historical Society Newsletter is published quarterly. To be added to our email list and help us save on postage costs, please send an email to: lpmuseum@gmail.com

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP IDEAS

Whether you're looking for that one of kind holiday gift, a book on local history, posters by popular Lincoln Park artists Gary Grimshaw and Bill Morrison, the Museum Gift Shop is the place to stop by. We are pleased to now accept credit cards for payment as well as cash and checks. The shop is open during regular museum hours and is run by the Historical Society to help out the museum.

The Historical Society & Museum website continues to offer updates with news and additional features covering Lincoln Park history. You will also find virtual editions on the site of some of the exhibits.

www.lphistorical.org

Again, we express a huge Thank You to Emily Solomon for her many hours in establishing the new website.

COLLECTION DONATIONS

Recent donations of pieces to the museum's collections have been received from Pete McInczek, Paul Zatyko, Anita Moore, Jim Goodell, Tim Caldwell, Stan Miciura, Randy Massey, Dan Galeski. Our sincere thanks to all of these donors. Additionally, we are grateful to Doris Blessing's daughter Deanna for the donation of her mother's colored glass bottle collection many of which are being featured in our gift shop.

MORE MUSEUM NEWS

● **A Museum grounds cleanup day** was held on Saturday October 23. Our Thanks to volunteers Sandi Horst, Larry Jesue, Steve Colwell, Annette DeMaggio, Robert French and Jeff Day. All pitched in to help get the museum grounds ready for the coming winter months.

● We are indebted to **Lincoln Park High School's Agriscience class** for helping with major museum landscaping on November 9 and 10. The Heritage Plaza and grounds were repaired and spruced up for the **Annual Veterans Day bell-ringing ceremony**. (see photos below)

● The DDA-sponsored **Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony** was held Saturday evening November 20, featuring a visit with Santa Claus, carolers in period costume, and warming refreshments on the museum grounds.



Photo by Merritt Solomon

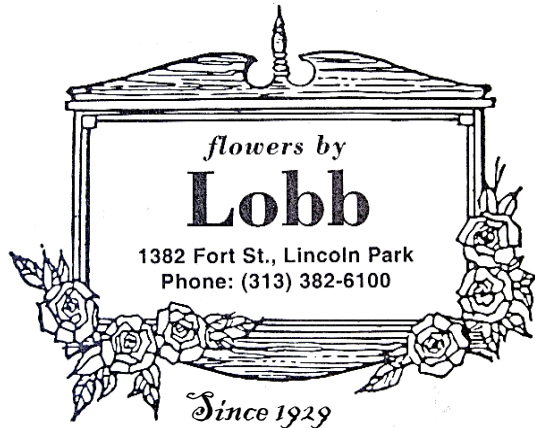
Lincoln Park resident Edward Gazel, World War II Marine combat veteran who turned 100 years old this year, attended the Veterans Day ceremony in his dress blues.

The photo below shows the high school Agriscience class working to re-grade and re-lay the Heritage Plaza on November 9th.

Photo by Mike Suchy



THANK YOU
to our generous
supporters



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AND MORE**

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GRAPHICINDUSTRIES@AMERITECH.NET

The logo for Lincoln Park Community Credit Union features a stylized blue letter "L" inside a speech bubble shape. Below the logo, the text "LINCOLN PARK" is in a large, blue, sans-serif font, with "COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font underneath.

1400 Emmons, Lincoln Park, MI 48146
313 389-2300 www.lpccu.coop

A Long time landmark
Lincoln Park business
at 1800 Southfield Road
313-383-3121



Honoring our friend

MURIEL O. LOBB

On the special occasion of turning
104 years young
born October 31, 1917

Muriel Knoch moved to Lincoln Park Village
with her family when she was three years old.



**In Loving Memory of
Kenneth J. and Charollet Mixer**

**Clemente's Restaurant
Bar & Bowling
1930 to 2010**

Centennial Issue 1921 continued



Herman and Mary (Goodell) Quandt's Victorian style home was located on St. Cosme Road at the foot of Fort Street on property given them by Mary's father Cleophus Goodell. When Fort Street was cut through in 1925, the home was moved to 2119 Fort Park where it remains today.



Quandt's Hall shown above left circa 1910, built by Herman Quandt next to his home on St. Cosme Road, was also moved in 1925 with the cutting through of Fort Street from St Cosme Road.(State Street) to Champaign; the structure eventually settled at 2030 Fort Street where for a time it served as the City Hall, seen at upper right, then the Public Library; it is now part of the structure of Painters Supply & Equipment Co.



THE FAMILIES

While the great majority of the families of today's residents came here after 1921 when Lincoln Park was established, there *are* families in the area today who go back further than that. The names are still familiar to us: Goodell, LeBlanc, Quandt, Montie, Raupp, Keppen, through school and street names. The pioneer families who built the first community in these parts were the children and grandchildren of early Ecorse Township (est.1827) settlers who had built ribbon farms along the Detroit Riverfront in the early 1800s. These later generations began the move inland where they established their own farmsteads, leading to the eventual settling of Lincoln Park.

Structural evidence of those years can still be found in the homes of families named above that have survived. See accompanying photos and descriptions.

Other extant early homes include the Henry Keppen home at Montie west of Fort (at the north section of the Keppen Farm). The William Raupp home on Raupp Place is evidence of the vast property holdings of William's grandfather Matthias Raupp, another German immigrant who acquired farm acreage near Pepper Road (Outer Drive) and what is now Dix Highway around 1870. William Raupp, who served as School District No. 5 board member from 1909 to 1925, was elected Lincoln Park Village president from 1923-1925 and the first City of Lincoln Park mayor in 1925. "Old Bill" Raupp was elected again in 1929, and later served as city councilman for many years.



The Samuel LeBlanc home at 2884 Fort Street, shown circa 1890 is today partially hidden from the street by a single-story business at the same address. His son Joseph and wife Irene later raised their family in the home. A number of homestead items and farm tools were later donated to the museum by the LeBlanc family.



The August and Anna Keppen home was moved from its location on Arlington (shown here on the Keppen farm land) to 1314 Garfield in 1957. It then became a 4-unit apt. building, still in use today.



Cleophus Goodell began this farm home in 1852 when he came to the area. The original structure was added to and enlarged over the past 170 years. Several generations of Goodells lived here, including the family of Mark Goodell – the first Village president. The home stands today on its original lot at 2136 Fort Park.

Centennial Issue 1921 continued

Other families who held farm lands prior to development of the new village were the Eberts, Monties, Riopelles, Bondies, Champagnes, Bourassas, Cicottes, Abens, Wolffs, Theecks, Campaus, DeMeans and Shonshecks. As evidenced by their names, these were mostly descendants of the region's early French, French-Canadian, and German settlers. Over the 1920s, this mix would take a much more diverse turn.

In the southern part of town near Goddard Road there were several family homesteads in 1921, notably those of Richard LeBlanc (near Fort Street and LeBlanc Street today) and the Drouillard and Longtin families, whose farms were located along Goddard Road near Fort Street and Dix Hwy, respectively. The Longtin home at 2041 Goddard is still standing. The area would develop slower than the north part of town closer to transportation hubs, schools, churches and businesses.

It was in the 1910s that the long-standing farms were subdivided and real estate became the newest and liveliest venture, a response to suburbanization and industry jobs. Most significant of these of course was the Ford Motor Co. factory on the Rouge River that began hiring upon opening in 1918. By the 1930s, over 100,000 would be employed at the Ford plant, the world's largest manufacturing complex. A decade earlier, Henry Ford's attractive \$5 a day wages and 8-hour days - and plentiful jobs - began to draw an increasing number of migrants to the Detroit area from out of state and from foreign shores. Riverfront steel mills and shipbuilding provided other nearby industry. New suburbs sprang up around the newly-motorized city, offering newcomers - many of whom were recent veterans of the First World War - abundant opportunities for work and community. Lincoln Park passed most of these by leaps and bounds, mushrooming from a population of 300 in 1921 to 6,000 in just two years, and over 9,000 by the time cityhood was established in early 1925.

The Real Estate boom struck Lincoln Park head on through the 1920s, having begun in 1913 with the Farnham Brothers agency. Maurice Levy, another early realtor of note, largely focused on developing the central business district leaving the residential plots and subdivisions to the competition. Levy's business grew from a simple stand by the side of the road in 1915 to the very prominent central building at Fort and State streets by 1923, seen in the photo here. Subdivisions were bought up and sold by nearly two dozen realtors before the Great Depression hit in 1929. While real estate became a quickly lucrative business, and some agents came and went, most realtors were responsible minded and dedicated to seeing the community grow.



Maurice Levy realty office at the corner of Fort Street and State Street in 1923.

**Live In--Invest In
SUNNYBROOK--
In Lincoln Park**

All eyes are turning to Sunnybrook—at Fort St. and Montie Road—the new Houseman-Spitzley development—in the heart of Lincoln Park Village, the liveliest suburb of Detroit—a community that's jumping ahead by leaps and bounds. Sunnybrook is one block from a car line, one block from Detroit City Limits, and within walking distance of the great Ford Plant, the Pennsylvania R. R. Shops and scores of other great industries.

All lots are under \$1,000—pay \$9 to \$10 a month for your home site. Every improvement, including sewer, water, sidewalks, cinderized streets. Step out today and see this wonderful property.

*Salesmen on Property
Every Evening and All Day Sunday*

**Houseman-Spitzley
Corp.**

Madison Theatre Bldg. Cherry 4816

Other early realtors included Mark Goodell; B.A. Horger (who developed subdivisions near the central part of the village and who donated space for the new school named for him in 1923); Houseman-Spitzley; Lincoln Park Realty (owned by the Keleman family); Frank Livernois; John O'Connor & Floyd Harrison; Silas Campau; George Shanley; Arthur Weston. Some had local offices while others were headquartered in offices downtown. Realtor Arthur Zirkaloso, a war veteran who ran successfully for mayor in 1931, built his office at 3800 Fort Street near Riverbank, the small wooden frame building is still seen there today.

Centennial Issue 1921 continued

Clinton and Olive Knoch and family settled here in 1921, coming from the Delray neighborhood of Detroit where the Knoch family florist business, near Woodmere Cemetery, was well-established. The Knoch's moved their young family to the new village when eldest daughter Muriel was 3 years old and daughter Jean was an infant. The Knoch family grew along with the city, settling into a home on Euclid from which Clinton established a landscaping business. In 1929, he opened his first florist shop in the city on the very humming Fort Street. "Clinton Knoch, Florist" moved twice before settling into a newly built shop at Fort Street and Hanford in the late 1930s. Clinton retired in 1959, selling the business to his son-in-law Edwin Lobb, husband of Muriel. Today, Flowers By Lobb remains a successful four-generation family business, whose matriarch Muriel Lobb recently celebrated turning 104 years young! Muriel served over 20 years as director of the historical museum until she retired in 2014 at age 97.

Another early arriving family was Mr. and Mrs. Milton Howse. The birth of their son James on July 27, 1921 was the first to be recorded in the new village. Tragically, **James Howse** was killed while serving in Europe during the Second World War, on March 3, 1945 at just 23 years of age.

SCHOOLS

When Lincoln Park became a village, it already had two schools serving families living in this area of Ecorse Township; the township school districts had begun to form in the mid-1800s. Ecorse Township District No. 5 was served by the **Frederick Strowig School** located in the north end of town near Fort Street and Pepper Road (Outer Drive); the students in District No. 10 were served by the **Cleophus Goodell School** near Champaign and Fort Street. In 1921, these schools had just recently grown out of their one-room wooden structures, rudimentarily heated by coal and wood burning stoves, and into newer modern brick buildings. The photos seen here show the new four-room Goodell School opened in 1919, and the old wood frame Strowig School that was replaced in the fall of 1921 by the larger new brick school, partially seen to its right. The earliest photo we find of the new Strowig school is from 1922 showing a large group of students and teachers, including a young **Arnold Gregory**, posing in front of the building. Among the influx of new residents like the Knoch family, Arnold Gregory was just 17 in 1921 and had to wait until turning 18 on August 5, 1921 before signing his teaching contract at Strowig School. Gregory would serve the Lincoln Park schools, including over twenty years as high school principal, until his retirement in 1967. He then served as a city councilman for several terms. Arnold Gregory, for whom Gregory Park is named, died in 1981 at age 78.



The NEW Goodell School, Champaign Street at Fort Street, opened in 1919. Two wings were added in later years. It closed in 1971 and the building was razed in 1976.



The OLD Strowig School, Fort Street and Pepper Road (Outer Drive), soon to be replaced by the large brick school at right, shown in 1921. The new school was razed in 1927 with the widening of Fort Street into the area's first superhighway.

Centennial Issue 1921 continued



Strowig School students and teachers pose in front of the new school, photo dated 1922; young teacher Arnold Gregory can be seen at the far right with jacket and hat at the the end of third row.

When the original one-room school next to it was closed, the building was moved across Fort Street and Outer Drive into Detroit where it served as a confectionary for several decades before being demolished.

By 1927 Strowig school was gone, a casualty of the widening of Fort Street. It was replaced that year by Lafayette School, at Lafayette and Cicotte. The Goodell School continued to serve Lincoln Park students until it was closed in 1971. Both Goodell and Strowig schools had been named for property owners who long ago had given land for the schools. As the 1920s progressed, the community added the William Raupp School (1922), B.A. Horger School (1923), and Lafayette School (and High School) in 1927. The Lincoln Park School District was formed in 1927 incorporating all four existing schools, and finally left the township districts behind. As for parochial schools, Calvary Lutheran School opened with the church in 1925 on Chandler Avenue and St. Henry's Catholic School did the same in 1924 for its parish on Council Street. All of these were located in the more populated north sector of Lincoln Park until Herbert Hoover School opened on Howard Street in 1930. We will take a look at the growing church life in Lincoln Park in the next issue.

Due to space limitations, an overview of Lincoln Park's early business community and the growth of civic life in the early 1920s will be offered in upcoming newsletters.

The museum will be closed the month of January for seasonal cleaning. We will close after December 29, and reopen on Wednesday, February 2.

EXHIBIT NEWS

The museum's "Lincoln Park 1921" Centennial exhibit will remain on display into 2022.

A permanent display on **Chuck Miller's** custom car career has been installed following the close of the "Mobile Masterpieces" exhibition in September. We are indebted to Chuck and to Tim Caldwell and Jeff ("J.R.") Richards for their individual contributions to this exhibit – helping to tell the exceptional story of a hometown fellow and finely skilled artisan.

Updates have been made to our MC5 exhibit, the Military exhibit, and the 1921 centennial exhibit.

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FOR 2022: Plans for a special exhibit of Lincoln Park Sports Legacies, including a showcase of Lincoln Park's seven decades of Little League history; and the story of the Lincoln Park Wolverine Parkettes, AAU-affiliated girls' athletic competitions for track and field and cross-country, which were active in the 60s and 70s.

We are seeking information, memorabilia, photographs regarding both the Lincoln Park Little League and the Wolverine Parkettes to help with these upcoming exhibits.

The historical museum, which opened in May of 1972, will observe its 50-year anniversary with a special display in 2022.