

# THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

## NEWSLETTER

February, March, April 2014  
1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

Editors: Jeff Day, Muriel Lobb  
313-386-3137; lpmuseum@gmail.com

### CLEMENTE'S EXHIBIT



Joe Clemente Sr. tending his bar on Fort Park, 1930s  
(photo courtesy of Joe Clemente, Jr.)

**First opening in 1930** as a billiard hall at 2180 Fort Park, Clemente's became a beloved Lincoln Park institution for 80 years, from billiard hall to bar following Prohibition, to the 'Italian Village' restaurant. The "new" location on Fort Street at Lincoln opened as a full service restaurant in 1947 and the six lane bowling alley was added two years later. Clemente's closed in June of 2010.

The Clemente family is loaning us a number of materials, photos and memorabilia for a display that will remain up through the end of March. The exhibit officially opens **Saturday, February 15 with a reception held for the Clemente family here at the museum from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.** (also see calendar listings.) An oral history videotaped presentation on the family's long Lincoln Park association is also being prepared in conjunction with the special exhibit.



### "From Rocca Pia to Lincoln Park"

After settling in the new and rapidly growing downriver city of Lincoln Park in 1930, Giuseppe "Joe, Sr." and Natalina Clemente, who had earlier emigrated to the U.S. from the Italian Apennines mountain village of Rocca Pia, opened their first business. It was during the Depression, a time when locals were looking for inexpensive entertainment, that Joe and Natalina opened a billiard hall at 2180 Fort Park at Garfield. By 1932, thirsty Americans sought to end the experiment of 'Prohibition', now considered a social and economic disaster by both "wets" and "drys", and efforts began toward repeal of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Michigan voters in particular were so eager to end the long dry spell that in an election held on April 10, 1933, Michigan became the first state in the country to vote to ratify the new 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment repealing Prohibition. Beer could soon be legally sold in Michigan. The Clemente's were granted the first beer license in Lincoln Park and Clemente's Bar opened later that year. [The repeal of Prohibition was finalized with official ratification of the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment on December 5, 1933 - a date that many folks still celebrate.]

Joe and Natalina were parents of three children, Ettore (Ed), Rosa (Rose) and Joseph Jr., all of whom would grow up to work in and eventually operate the expanding four-generation family business. Prior to World War II, the name "Italian Village" was added in the 1930s. As war broke out and Italy joined the enemy axis against the U.S. and its allies, city officials asked the family to change the name. In 1947, Clemente's moved to its Fort Street location, soon adding a full-service restaurant and later a six-lane bowling alley.

Eighty years is testament to the legacy of an immigrant family who came here to achieve the American Dream and succeeded.



Rocca Pia Italy today

## CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 1, 2014 Saturday, the **Museum re-opens**

FEBRUARY 15, SATURDAY, 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.  
**Opening Reception for Clemente's Exhibit, "From Rocca Pia to Lincoln Park"**, at the historical museum, special recognition ceremony held at 2:00 P.M. The exhibit will run until the end of March.

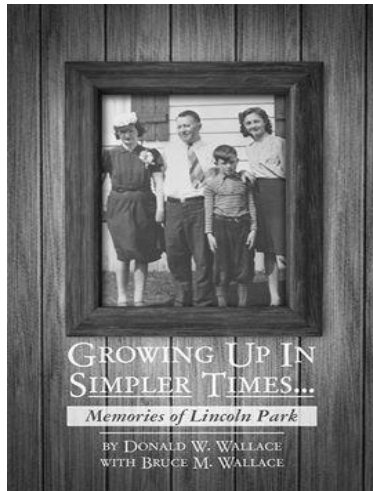
MARCH 12\*\*, WEDNESDAY, 7:00 P.M.  
 Meeting & Public Program: **Don Wallace will talk about his memoir, "Growing Up in Simpler Times: Memories of Lincoln Park"**

Copies of the book will be available to purchase that evening (\$10 per copy). This meeting will include the accepting of nominations for officers to the Board of Directors of the Historical Society for 2014-2015.  
*\*\*note that due to Ash Wednesday falling this year on March 5, the normal first Wednesday of the month meeting is being moved to March 12.*

APRIL 2, WEDNESDAY, 7:00 P.M.  
 Meeting and Public Program - TBA  
 With the election of Officers for 2014-2015

MAY date and location TBA ANNUAL DINNER

Former Lincoln Park resident and retired police officer **Don Wallace** will be with us for The March 12 meeting to discuss and sign copies of his book, "Growing up in Simpler Times" about life growing in Lincoln Park in the 30s and 40s. Thanks to Pat Krause and Don's son Bruce for helping to arrange this program.



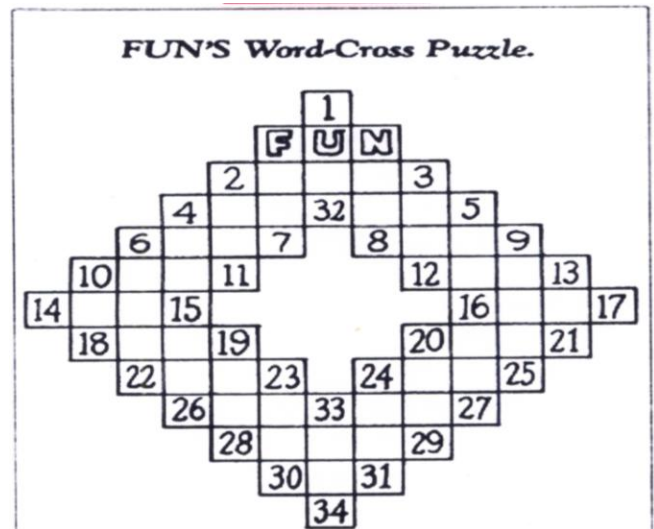
### IN MEMORIAM

Betty (Johnston) Hendricks ~ December 17, 2013  
 Adele (Montie) Woch ~ January 10, 2014  
 Helen (Kirkland) Flynn ~ January 27, 2014

These three distinguished women were more than Life Members of our Historical Society; they were all longtime mainstays of Lincoln Park's historical community and volunteers who gave many hours to the growth of the museum. Betty and Helen both served faithfully for many years on the Historical Commission. Adele was a descendant of one of the earliest settlers in Ecorse Township, Francis Xavier Montie and his wife Mary Goyette. These ladies' life stories centered here in Lincoln Park, where they were each born and raised and lived a full life of service to the community. It is with great sadness that we report their passing.

**If you are a crossword puzzle addict like some us**, you may have noted the recent 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first published crossword puzzle, created by Arthur Wynne for the Sunday Fun section of the *New York World*, on December 21, 1913.

**Parade Magazine** posted that very first puzzle on their website recently; it is reproduced here in our newsletter for your pleasure. If you get stumped, come by and pick up the answer sheet at the historical museum, and Good Luck!



**F**ILL in the small squares with words which agree with the following definitions:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>2-3. What bargain hunters enjoy.<br/>                 4-5. A written acknowledgment.<br/>                 6-7. Such and nothing more.<br/>                 10-11. A bird.<br/>                 14-15. Opposed to less.<br/>                 18-19. What this puzzle is.<br/>                 22-23. An animal of prey.<br/>                 26-27. The close of a day.<br/>                 28-29. To elude.<br/>                 30-31. The plural of is.<br/>                 8-9. To cultivate.<br/>                 12-13. A bar of wood or iron.<br/>                 16-17. What artists learn to do.<br/>                 20-21. Fastened.<br/>                 24-25. Found on the seashore.</p> | <p>10-18. The fibre of the gomuti palm.<br/>                 6-22. What we all should be.<br/>                 4-26. A day dream.<br/>                 2-11. A talon.<br/>                 19-28. A pigeon.<br/>                 F-7. Part of your head.<br/>                 23-30. A river in Russia.<br/>                 1-32. To govern.<br/>                 33-34. An aromatic plant.<br/>                 N-8. A fist.<br/>                 24-31. To agree with.<br/>                 3-12. Part of a ship.<br/>                 20-29. One.<br/>                 5-27. Exchanging.<br/>                 9-25. Sunk in mud.<br/>                 13-21. A boy.</p> |
|---|---|

#### *Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2013-14*

President	Jim Nelson
Vice President	Dolores Walker
Secretary	Mary Cibor
Corr. Secretary & Membership Chair	Alyce Riggs
Treasurer	Mary Meyer
Trustee	Grace Agnello
Trustee	Pat Diaz Krause
Trustee	Bea Partridge
Trustee	Grace Wangbickler

## FROM MURIEL'S DESK

**One month into 2014**, just long enough to forget those New Year's resolutions – good start. With the unusual weather hitting the whole country, be glad you experienced Michigan's, because we know how to cope with anything.

We lost three member-volunteers recently: Betty Hendricks (Johnston), Adele Woch (Montie), and Helen Flynn (Kirkland). All three gave years of service to develop the museum for Lincoln Park.

For those of you who responded to our annual giving letter, a sincere "Thank You." When the economy is in a crunch, museums and libraries definitely feel it.

On to February with the celebration of the Clemente family history, with a reception at the museum for the family and friends and the rest of us who miss Clemente's Restaurant and Bowling Alley.

The Historical Society is pleased to have former mayor **Pat Diaz Krause** join the Board of Directors as a Trustee. Not only is she filling a vital spot on the Board that has been vacant for several years, she also brings a wealth of knowledge about our city.

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## 1914

**For much of the Detroit area** and Lincoln Park, 1914 was a watershed moment a century ago. On January 5, 1914, Henry Ford announced the revolutionary policy of paying his workers for a "\$5 day." The new wages were more than double what auto workers had been making up to that time and the news travelled quickly. From \$2.40 for the old 9-hour day to \$5 for the new 8-hour shift also allowed Ford to place three round-the-clock shifts in their production schedule. This came just a year after Ford had successfully developed the moving assembly line process, greatly improving efficiency in the production of the 'Model T'; what had once taken 12.5 hours per car could now be accomplished in 93 minutes. It was on February 27, 1914 that the assembly line was completed for the entire manufacturing process. Producing more cars meant a call for more workers. Increase in production at Ford's Highland Park plant where the "T" was manufactured, (note this was years before the Rouge plant would be developed), also allowed Ford to lower the cost of the Model T from \$590 for the less expensive Runabout in 1912 to \$440 in 1914.

This, coupled with the higher wages they were earning, now allowed Ford workers the opportunity to actually purchase one of the cars they were making. A healthier middle class was one result of these developments. A huge influx of new workers from the South and from nations of Europe, which was already feeling the tensions from a coming war, followed. Detroit's population swelled from 465,000 in 1910 to almost one million by 1920, largely due to expansions in the auto and related industries, and to Ford Motor Company specifically. How did this affect downriver and Lincoln Park?

By 1914 the **Farnham Brothers** real estate firm, in Detroit, had purchased acreage in Ecorse Township near the Ecorse Creek and along River Drive, some of this from the Suburban Motor Car Co., a failed enterprise (more about the Suburban Motor Car Co. in our next newsletter); other lots came from old family farms. Charles Farnham initially obtained the land for development between December of 1913 and into the following year. The Farnhams' plans led to the first subdivisions here, which they named "**Lincoln Park Subdivisions 1 and 2**". These two adjoining developments, the oldest in the city, stretched from Ecorse Creek on the east to Fort Park on the west, bordered on the north by St Cosme Line (Southfield Rd today) and on the south by Farnham Street. For the first time, the words "Lincoln Park" came to be identified with this area of venerable farms, themselves soon to be history. It has been written that a couple of the Farnham brothers (there were three: Frank, Hiram, and Charles) were impressed with a visit to the Lincoln Park area of Chicago and chose the name for their new development. So "Lincoln Park", as we came to name it, is about 100 years old. It would be seven more years until the Village of LP would incorporate in 1921. Once Ford began its new massive Rouge auto plant, the population grew rapidly in the area and cityhood for LP arrived in early 1925.

The Great War, which began in August 1914 in Europe and spread into Asia and the Americas, would come to force U.S. involvement three years later, when the first troops were sent to France. With the onset of world war, and great changes in the social fabric and rapid development and growth of U.S. industry and its urban areas, is it possible that perhaps no other single year marked the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century change and the modern era so distinctly as did 1914?

Lincoln Park Historical Society & Museum  
1335 Southfield Road  
Lincoln Park MI 48146



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JOIN US SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2014

1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Opening Reception for the Exhibit

**Clemente's Restaurant**

***"From Rocca Pia to Lincoln Park"***

Celebrating 80 years & 4 generations

The exhibit will remain on view through March 29

Lincoln Park Historical Museum's Regular Hours

Wednesday - Thursday - Saturday

1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.