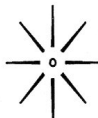


THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

May, June, July 2011



313-386-3137; curator@phistorical.org

Editors: Jeff Day, Muriel Lobb

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new members **Rita Schaeffer** of Lincoln Park, and **Joseph Kaiser Jr.**, Lincoln Park City Council President. An honorary membership has been given to volunteer **Don Daniels** in recognition of his work for the museum over the past year.

Don was raised in Lincoln Park, and is an LPHS graduate, so he knows his Lincoln Park history. He is well versed on the computer, and has been working to update our website presence. Don has also assisted Jeff in initiating our new student volunteer program; we had several members of the National Honor Society at LPHS spend their afterschool hours here this winter working on our digital archive project under Don's tutelage.

Welcome to each of our newest members!



Kay Dudley

May 4, 2011

We are saddened to report the death on May 4 of our long time member (#13) and Historical Commissioner Kay Dudley.

A memorial service for Kay will be held Saturday, May 21, at Messiah Church in southwest Detroit. For more information you can contact us here at the museum.

FROM MURIEL'S DESK

This has been a miserable winter for activities this year. So we are glad that we don't meet in January or February. In March, Leslie Lynch-Wilson, president of the Lincoln Park Preservation Alliance, brought us up to date on the organization's continuing efforts in saving our community's diverse architectural heritage.

The April meeting featured the folks of the planning committee for 'Lincoln Park at 90', who shared their plans and thoughts on the upcoming celebration in June, held on the weekend of the Downriver Cruise. (see next page). The Society will have a reception that Friday evening, June 24; then activities on the grounds and open hours all day Saturday. For any members living in the area who might be interested in being on hand to talk to visitors, or serve refreshments, please do so. When do we not need assistance?

We hope to have some treasures on the porch on Saturday of the birthday celebration (June 25). So, while you are looking for jewelry that we can sell in our store, see if you have something we might sell at our table. We can't sell clothing, but we can sell handbags, or a pretty dish, or lamp - let us know what you might have to offer.

APPRECIATION DINNER— for our “TIME DONORS” – THANK YOU!

It has been 10 years or more since the historical society said "Thank you for your services" to the members who volunteer their time and labor to keep the museum running. This year, after consideration, it was decided to forego our Annual Dinner in favor of a luncheon for these good people. The officers of the Society will be installed at that time. The members of the Historical Commission will be guests. We are still lacking a president of the Society, most regrettably. This situation happens to all organizations at some time or another. But not, in the Historical Society, until now.



photo of Kay Dudley by Morris Sager, 1990

SPECIAL 90TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

1921-2011

(Article by Jeff Day, curator, and member of the 'Lincoln Park at 90' planning committee)

Did you know that there are some 70 residents of Lincoln Park who were born in 1921 and are turning 90 years old this year? The city clerk's office provided this information and addresses for the nonagenarians. They have each been invited as a special guest at the Heritage Festival's 'RECOGNITION AND PROCLAMATION CEREMONY' on Sunday, June 26. We aren't aware that any of these folks were actually born in Lincoln Park, but some have lived here for a good many years. Plus, we feel that celebrating 90 years together is a way to observe our anniversary and rich heritage.

1921 was a heady time for our community. It was both the beginning of a new chapter downriver, and the culmination of many years of change and growth.

A part of historic Ecorse Township, for most of its life, this area was comprised of farmsteads and lots of woody areas. Some of the oldest trees in Lincoln Park are still located in Forest Park, an undisturbed piece of land that abuts Interstate 75, near Richmond, as it winds its way through town.

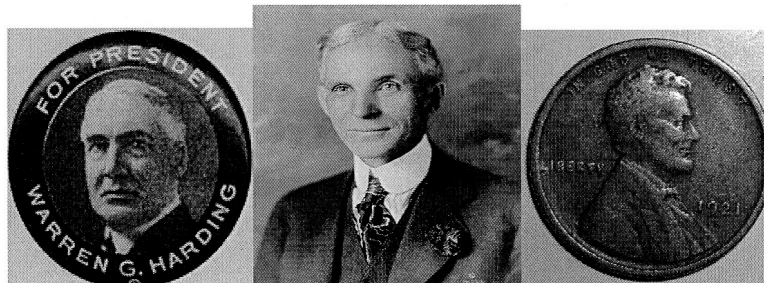
Beginning around 1914, plans were being made to plat the community into subdivisions for real estate purposes. The very first subdivisions to appear were the Lincoln Park Subdivisions No. 1 and No. 2. These and others were developed by the Farnham Brothers, real estate developers from Detroit.

The city of Detroit's population was growing by day, with an increase of 135% between 1910 and 1920, due to the success and growth of the auto industry, led by the Ford Motor Company and Henry Ford's revolutionary "\$5 a day wages". Soon, as available space in Detroit lessened, efforts began to spread outward into the newer "suburbs", eventually carving out of Ecorse Township the new communities of Lincoln Park, Allen Park, Melvindale, and Southgate. (Ecorse and River Rouge were established villages by 1910.) Detroit itself would annex several adjacent areas, including Redford and Springwells, and attempted unsuccessfully to annex Lincoln Park. Lincoln Park's population growth rate would soon echo Detroit's - and then some. By 1925, population reached over 7,000 and voters elected to re-incorporate as a city in January of that year. Lincoln Park's population explosion during the "Roaring Twenties" made history: the growth rate between 1921 when we became a Village and the 1930 U.S. Census, was over 2,000 percent. Now, that's called "roaring" to life!

Real estate developers flocked to what was still a tiny crossroads of "Quandt's Corners" at Fort Street and State Street (formerly St Cosme Line Road and soon to be Southfield Road). Some of these were nefarious

and unreliable, who moved on once they made a quick deal or two. But a good many were stable and honest businessmen who put down roots. Among the latter were Mark Goodell, Floyd Harrison, George Shanley, and Maurice Levy. M.L. Levy established his real estate office in 1915 and would build Lincoln Park's first brick building at the corner of Fort and State in 1921. He would later bankroll the development and building of the Park Theater in 1925, designed by C. Howard Crane (designer of the Capital, State, and Fox Theatres in Detroit). More realtors arrived throughout the 1920s; by 1929 there were 14 members of the LP Realty Association.

Lincoln Park was designed to be a residential community, with a few central business districts formed along Fort Street and State Street (Southfield Road). Businesses were family-run for the most part. Exceptions to this were the CF Smith grocery chain and the Kroger grocery chain (by 1929 there were seven CH Smiths and three Krogers in the city.) Industrial enterprise was not in the cards, as with River Rouge, Ecorse and Wyandotte, Dearborn and southwest Detroit. Lincoln Park's major employers were the public school district and its two hospitals, Outer Drive Hospital and Lynn Hospital, both of which have been closed now for years.



Warren G. Harding

Henry Ford

1921 Lincoln Penny

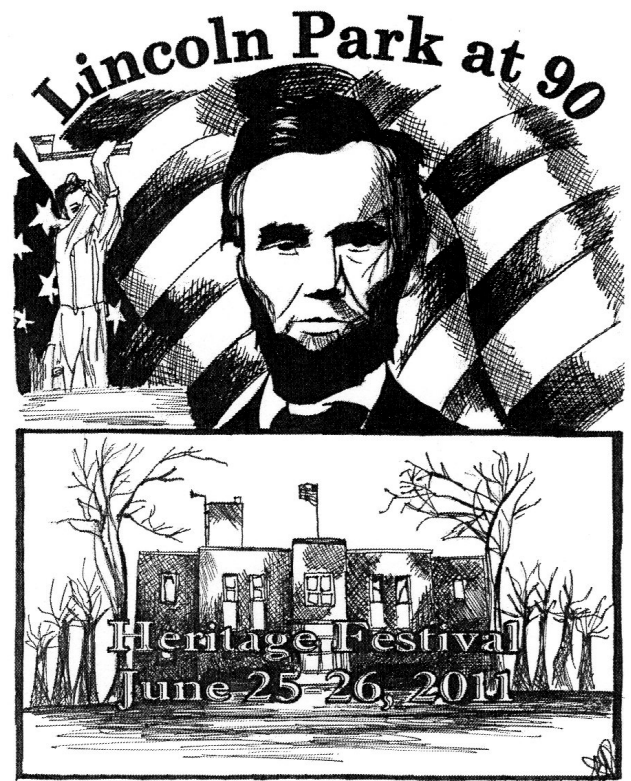
WHO WERE THESE FOLKS?

Our community began as a mixture of the old and the new. Farmsteads had dotted the landscape for nearly a century and became more populous with immigration during the 1800s. The children of these families were instrumental in the birth of Lincoln Park: the Goodells, the Drouillards, the Raupps, the LeBlancs, and the Quandts among others. In the years surrounding the first world war, new residents came to the area, developers, businessmen with an eye toward progress and hopeful for financial success. After the war, young families moved here to start out with the new community as it grew; most were employed in the nearby auto industry and its support industries. Businesses began to spring up along Fort Street which later became the first Superhighway in Downriver.

In 1920, a group of business men formed the Lincoln Park Improvement Association. From this group, a charter committee was appointed to study and prepare the first Village Charter. The committee,

JUNE 24, 25, 26, 2011

LINCOLN PARK AT 90 HERITAGE FESTIVAL



The above poster art work was created by 11th grader **Beatriz Duran** for the LP at 90 poster contest. Beatriz will be recognized at the City Council meeting on May 16 for her winning entry, and will also receive her \$50 prize winnings. Each of the nearly twenty contest entries will be on view at the historical museum beginning the weekend of June 24-26.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 24 - 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Opening Public Reception at the Museum for the exhibit centering on '1921'—the year of Lincoln Park's founding.

Saturday, June 25 - 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

(also Downriver Cruise day)

OPEN HOUSE throughout the Civic Center area at Fort Park and Cleophus: with vendors, food, activities, and street entertainment. Open House at the Fire Station will take place from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

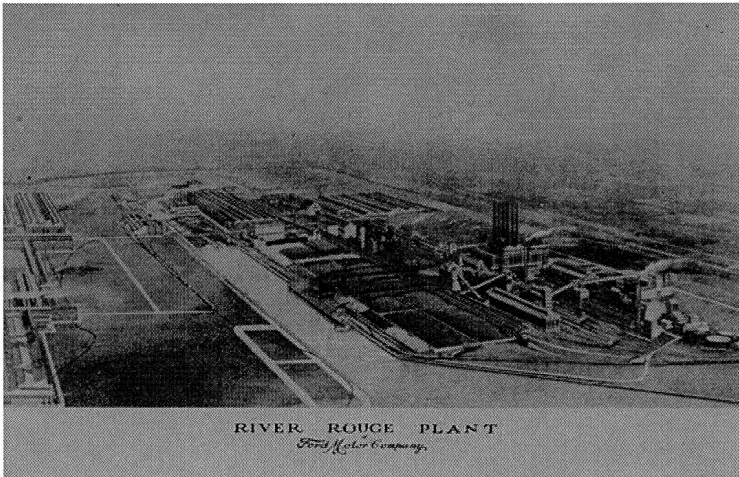
Sunday, June 26, 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Kennedy Memorial Park and Band Shell –

Stage entertainment presented, with a '**RECOGNITION AND PROCLAMATION CEREMONY**' at 3:00 P.M., with reception following inside. Ed Zelenak, City Attorney, will be Master of Ceremonies.

made up of Mistrs Shanley, Drouillard, Goodell, Parkins, and Baldwin, began meeting regularly on April 9, 1921, in Goodell School. In the election held on Tuesday, June 28, the Charter was approved by a vote of residents living within the limits of the new village. This was the second election that area women could vote in, following the presidential election of 1920 (when handsome Warren Harding was elected).

The first churches to establish in Lincoln Park were the First Methodist Church, the First Baptist Church, St Henry's Catholic Church, Calvary Lutheran Church and Dix Methodist Church. All were active by 1925.



Post card of the Ford Rouge plant in the early 1920s

The Rouge plant, a huge city unto itself, and just three miles down the road, would expand to employ over 100,000 workers by the mid-1930s. There is every reason to credit the Rouge, and Henry Ford, with the pace of development in early Lincoln Park.

Others moved to the area and started up businesses in the growing community: Clinton Knoch, Ercoll Chiarelli, Jasper Howard, Lawrence Bailey, Wilfred Crowley, Frank Mixer, the Clemente family, Joseph Renier, John A. Papalas, and the list goes on. Names we are all familiar with today.

On Sunday, June 26, we will have an opportunity to recognize many of these early Lincoln Parkers and their families. Join us, wont you?

"The birth records for the Village of Lincoln Park show the first born was **James Howse**, on July 27, 1921. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Milton Howse. In 1945, on March 3rd, James Howse was killed fighting for his country during World War II.

The second recorded birth was **Virginia English**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony English, on September 19, 1921."

- from The Lincoln Parker, June 26, 1946

What is 90 Years?

by Lucille Stroh

Life in 1921 - **Only 8** homes out of a hundred had a phone. The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower (built in 1889 at 984 feet). Yearly wages were between \$200 and \$400. Sugar sold for 8 cents a pound. Eggs were 15 cents per dozen. Coffee was 20 cents per pound. Women washed their hair with borax or laundry soap that had lye. The leading causes of death were influenza, tuberculosis, or heart disease. Six percent of the population had an education beyond eighth grade. Pharmacists gave you morphine and heroin over the counter for help with regulating your stomach and your bowels – and for your complexion. Muriel Lobb, our museum director, was only three years old.

Life in 2011 – **We all** have phones in our homes, cars and hands, but we do not know our neighbor. We have many tall beautiful buildings all over the world today: United State, Japan, Middle East and Europe. Our wages now run into the thousands per month, yet poor Americans are starving. Sugar is now over \$2 per pound, and we use fake sugar in our food, to stay healthy. Eggs are a staple even if we buy organic eggs. Coffee is \$5. to 1\$10 per pound, and we still drink it every morning. Women now wash their hair with one of hundreds of available shampoos everyday. Yet many do not know what it contains. The leading cause of death today in the elderly is heart disease; in youth, drugs or suicide. Today education is free beyond the eighth grade, but are we smarter? Today a drug store would be closed down if it gave any narcotics over the counter; even prescriptions are limited by your medical doctor. Yes, we have changed: in some ways for the better; in other ways, it's nothing to be proud of.

Today, Muriel Lobb is a healthy and hearty 93!! – and Lincoln Park is 90 years old – so let's celebrate!!

THANK YOU, STUDENTS!

We'd like to take one more opportunity to express a "BIG THANK YOU" to the NHS students from LP High School who assisted us with our digital archiving project this past winter. This involved scanning numerous photographs (to jpg and tif files) and newspaper articles (to ocr files). Many of these were in delicate condition and required careful handling. Their work will help to maintain the integrity of the museum's collection for future generations. The students include: Emily Johnson, Kayla Jodway, Brianna Roop, Brandy Zabinski, Carmen Gill-Williams, Leanne Gabriel, John Puttick IV, Matthew Karpinski, Brandon T Lackowski, and Amanda Fillipine.

BURMA SHAVE?

The Burma-Shave-style signs for Heritage Festival weekend (five in the set) – and yes, we know Burma Shave wasn't around until 1925 -- will be installed soon along Fort Street and Southfield Road. You may want to look for them -- but also keep your eyes on the road, of course. **Mike Horvath** of the Planning Committee and the Exchange Club has volunteered to assist with sign duty. We greatly appreciate Mike's help. Thanks to Terry Schneff and ASAP Signs on Fort Street for creating these spiffy looking road signs.

COUNTRY STORE

Past President **Lucille Stroh** has taken over our store with a passion. She has an eye for jewelry display, so our merchandise sparkles, and our sales are up noticeably. As a result we need more articles for our sales case. It's Spring, ladies! Check your jewelry to see what you use, and what you don't. Someone else might just fancy it, and help swell the society coffers.

Recent Acquisitions

We've received a donation of several LPHS Yearbooks, "The Log", for the years 1962, '63, '64 and '65. These came from the home of **Linda Busher**, class of 1965, who passed away earlier this year.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Margaret Shultz, Life Member #5, has been an active member of the Red Cross for 70 years! She just received her latest service pin.

Winter progress

Mike Horvath hung the wall telephone we received from John Harnois on the wall near the telephone exhibit. Mike also recently hung our framed 1925 panorama photograph of downtown Lincoln Park over the entryway. We moved the large oil paintings by **Sam Agnello** into the lower panels of the windows to block out some of the harsh daylight. **Robert French** spent hours polishing the brass plate sills of two doorways, hidden under years of neglect. We now have a cash register from the 1900s, restored for a hands-on exhibit. Robert has spent his spare time and more for five months to make it workable.

Sign up for our emailing list at curator@lphistorical.org

The Historical Society continues its quarterly newsletter publication with this May 2011 issue. During the anniversary year, museum curator, Jeff Day, will also be periodically posting an "electronic newsletter", which will deal specifically with the 90th anniversary of Lincoln Park's founding. These e-letters will focus on matters related to the year 1921, the years leading up to its founding and the early years of Lincoln Park, and our community's pioneers in business, education, civic and religious life. If you'd like to ensure receiving a copy of these e-letters, send your email address to: curator@lphistorical.org. You are invited to contact us with any suggestions for topics on early Lincoln Park that might be covered in one of these letters.