

THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

May, June, July 2014

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

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ANNUAL DINNER HONORS KOREAN SERVICE MEN FROM LINCOLN PARK



Korean War Memorial, Washington D.C.

This year's annual dinner is held Saturday, May 3 at the Grand Harbor Banquet Hall in Wyandotte. Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m., to be followed by the swearing in of Board officers. This evening we will be recognizing our second "Legends of Lincoln Park" recipient, the **Knoch-Lobb family florist shop** (see article). The venerable Fort Street shop, opened by Clinton Knoch in 1929, is entering its 85th year of continuous operation. The evening will conclude with a program honoring those from our city who served in the Korean conflict, and the story of the **re-dedication of Lincoln Park's Korean War Memorial** (to be held May 18), given by historical commissioner and veteran, **Joe Turinsky**. Korea Veteran **Don Wallace** will be offering a personal perspective on the war. The memorial re-dedication process began when Joe initiated efforts to have his friend, **soldier Peter J. Buffa, Jr.**'s name added to the monument. PFC Peter Buffa was listed as missing in action on July 7, 1953 during intense action on Pork Chop Hill, just days from a formal peace agreement. The U.S. Army officially declared Peter Buffa dead a year later on July 8, 1954. His name has not been added to the Lincoln Park Korean War Memorial until now. Young Pete lived with his family on Ford Ave., had played football for the high school, was a 1949 graduate, and a fellow member with Joe of the St. Henry's Catholic Church "Emperors Club". Pete Buffa is memorialized at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, 'The Punchbowl', at Honolulu.

"LEGENDS OF LINCOLN PARK"

85 years+ Knoch-Lobb Flower Shop, 1929

Clinton Knoch, one of Lincoln Park's pioneer businessmen, moved his young family to Lincoln Park in 1922 and began work as a landscaper in the fast-growing new town. He was the second son of Gus Knoch, who owned a flower shop and greenhouse in the Fort-Woodmere area of southwest Detroit. In 1929, Clinton opened his first flower shop in a store front at 1415 Fort Street. After two more moves, in 1937 the business settled across Fort on the corner of Hanford where Knoch built a permanent location on land purchased from Frank Mixer. Daughter Muriel assisted her mother and father until she married. After the war, Mr. Knoch asked son-in-law Ed Lobb to change careers and work for him. Ed and Muriel purchased the shop ten years later when Knoch retired. The family enterprise changed names to "Flowers by Lobb" in 1960. Dan Lobb joined the family business, soon after returning from Navy service in 1963, and has owned it since 1981. His daughter, Amy, is now the manager and main designer. Five generations of florists – a remarkable legacy for any community, and we are very proud to have been served for 85 years by the Knoch-Lobb family.

We are looking for couples who have had their weddings attended to by Knoch or Lobb Flowers to contact us.



Knoch flower shop pictured in 1937 at Fort and Hanford



Memorial Sunday parade of bikes, Fort Street in the 1930s (view is west side between Arlington and Warwick)

CALENDAR

MAY 3, 2014 SATURDAY, 6:30 P.M. Historical Society Annual Dinner; installation of officers; featuring the second in our 'Legends of Lincoln Park' series - the Knoch-Lobb Flower Shop; and program honoring our fallen Korean servicemen and veterans with speakers Joe Turinsky and Don Wallace.

[MAY 18 SUNDAY City's Memorial Day Ceremony at Memorial Park 11:00 a.m., followed by the Annual Memorial Day Parade on Fort Street at 1:00 P.M.]

MAY tba Special Exhibit featuring the history of the Knoch-Lobb flower shop. (call for dates)

MAY 31, 2014 SATURDAY, 1:00 P.M. The Museum's Annual Memorial Day Commemoration & Bell Ceremony; Museum lawn.

JUNE 4, 2014 WEDNESDAY 7:00 P.M. Program & book signing: Wyandotte writer Wallace Hayden will speak on his 2013 book, *Images & Ancestors - Adventures in Local History*; copies of the book will also be available for purchase (\$15.) and signing by Mr. Hayden. Light refreshments served.

JULY tba Shirley Temple Collection Exhibit opens.

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

**Tom Cunningham
Mary Stevens
Ilona Varga
Don Wallace**

FROM MURIEL'S DESK

About 25 plus years ago, Anne Raar and I decided that all of our members should know what the two boards running our fledgling museum were accomplishing, and what was going on in our town for our out-of-town members. It started out a typed sheet of gossipy news, with the addresses of our members written by hand. We didn't worry about checking facts, or doing research, we talked about people, local club activities, and who was running our city. We called our letter, the Lincoln Park Historical Society Newsletter, and so it has remained, with embellishments. Times have changed. Jeff does it on the computer (not I), we can have pictures, and color, we have family history, local history and much more. I'm sure you have noticed the changes over the years. We now print our newsletter on a sophisticated copier at the museum. It is now time for me to close my corner, to say "Adieu", with no regret. I am stepping back a little.

Love, Muriel

IN MEMORIAM

Members we have lost

Christine Hagerman February 8, 2014



DDA Approves Funding -On April 17, the Historical Commission received the good news that the Lincoln Park Downtown Development Authority has approved funding of the museum's annual operating budget for 2014-15, at \$17,000. We are extremely indebted to the DDA for their support, which also includes providing half of our budget for the *current* fiscal year. This is especially important in difficult times when resources and funding of all manner of public institutions and facilities is threatened with severe cutbacks. This is only a reprieve, however, from the necessary mission facing us. The task at hand is to seek alternative sources of funding in the coming years.



If you were here on February 15 for the kickoff event for the 'Legends of Lincoln Park' series, honoring Clemente's Restaurant, you know what an amazing time we all had. Our thanks again to the Clemente family for the loan of many personal items for the exhibit.

The Commission and the Society are looking into providing clean, safe access to the new Chief Pontiac state historical marker at Council Point Park with the use of flat paving stones. Commissioner Joe Turinsky is drawing up some plans as we write this. We'll provide an update on the progress in the August newsletter.

We were contacted recently by LP Middle School teacher **Barbara Banyai** for help with a promotional film project for the LP schools. We were able to provide photos from the early years of the school history that are featured in the video, now viewable on the LPPS website homepage, www.lincolnparkpublicschools.com. Plans are to have the video shown at MJR Theaters in Southgate.

Former mayor and board trustee Pat Krause recently spoke to the 2nd grade students at Carr School, sharing stories of early Lincoln Park and giving a personal take on civic community with her experience as mayor. She was rewarded by the students with gifts and many hugs!

<i>Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2014-15</i>	
President	Jim Nelson
Vice President	Dolores Walker
Secretary & Finance Chair	Grace Wangbickler
Corr. Secretary & Membership Chair	Alyce Riggs
Treasurer	Mary Meyer
Trustee	Mary Cibor
Trustee	Pat Diaz Krause
Trustee	Bea Partridge
The Society's newsletter is published quarterly; to be added to our emailing list – which includes a color version of the newsletter - please contact us at lpmuseum@gmail.com	

The Shirley Temple exhibit later this summer will be highlighted by the extensive collection of long time Lincoln Park resident, **Kathleen Bitzer Seitz**, who passed away in 2012. We are grateful to Arlo Seitz for the generous loan of these items. The exhibit will include objects from the museum's own collection, including the "Heidi" picture book here, published in 1937. Shirley Temple was the biggest box office star during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Her popularity spawned a large array of merchandizing items, such as dolls, hats and dresses. After marrying and in later life, Shirley Temple Black became a respected diplomat and U.S. Ambassador. Shirley Temple, as she will always be known, died earlier this year at the age of 85. **IF YOU** have a Shirley Temple item that you would care to loan to the museum for this temporary exhibit please do contact us. The exhibit will be installed in July and remain on view through Labor Day.



SUBURBAN MOTOR CAR COMPANY
R.I.P.

In the February newsletter I talked about the significance of the year 1914 and briefly mentioned the short-lived **Suburban Motor Car Co.** of Ecorse which was, in 1912, very influential in the early subdivision developments of what would later become the community of Lincoln Park.

As I've delved further into the story of the Suburban company, it seems as if each bit of information that was uncovered led to another bit of information, and so on; so ..., in order to do proper justice to this chapter of our early history, a (hopefully) more comprehensive story will follow in our next newsletter. Stay tuned for some interesting history. (And, if YOU may know anything about the early Ecorse company, or of anyone who had worked there, please contact me, at 313-386-3137, or lpmuseum@gmail.com.) Thanks, Jeff

Lincoln Park Historical Society & Museum
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MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SPECIAL EXHIBIT: KNOCH-LOBB FLORIST SHOP
Celebrating 85 years of continuous operation
Opening at the Museum in May (call for dates)

The second in our series
“Legends of Lincoln Park”
The exhibit will remain on view through mid-July

Lincoln Park Historical Museum ~ Regular Hours
Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.