

# THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

## NEWSLETTER

Established 1955

May, June, July 2018

Museum Hours: 1:00pm-6:00pm, Wednesday & Saturday

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

313-386-3137

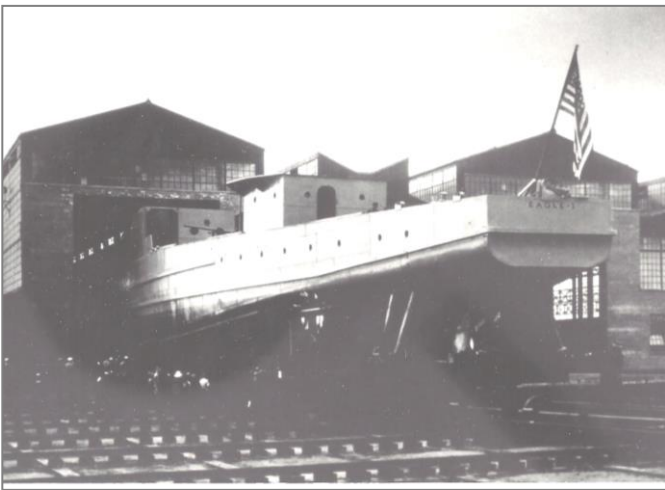
lpmuseum@gmail.com

[www.lphistorical.org/](http://www.lphistorical.org/) also on Facebook

### FORD ROUGE PROJECT & EXHIBIT

#### The First Decade 1918-1928

On **Saturday June 9**, the museum's special summer exhibit on the early years of the Ford Rouge plant will open to the public. The exhibit will look at the plant's years 1918 to 1928, years commensurate with the growth of the community of Lincoln Park. (Lincoln Park became a Village in 1921 and re-incorporated as a City in 1925.) The exhibit will open with a celebration "Model A Rendezvous" commemorating this year's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the legendary auto. This gathering of historic cars – produced between 1928 and 1932 – will be held at Community Center Park, at Dix and Gregory, on Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup> from 10a.m. to 7p.m., and is offered free to the public.



U.S. Navy Eagle Boat No. 1 coming off the line of B Building of the new Ford Rouge plant 100 years ago, in July of 1918.  
(photo courtesy of Dearborn Historical Museum)

This first decade of the Rouge plant's history was a period of enormous growth. Having begun its first production in early 1918 for Eagle submarine chasers to help with the U.S. war effort during the First World War, the plant over the next decade was ever expanding and adding to its industrial might; designed nearly in its entirety by architect Albert Kahn who had earlier designed the massive Ford Highland Park plant and other Ford properties. By late 1918, the labor force at the Rouge was an estimated 8,000. In 1929, the plant was employing over 100,000 workers. Ford's new administration building was also added to the complex in 1928, when offices moved from Highland Park. Model T assembly in Highland Park wound down in 1927.

That year, Ford closed down most production at the Rouge for several months to re-tool for its next historic chapter: production of the Model A.

In the fall of 1927, as preparation for this new era in the plant's development was underway, Ford invited noted artist and photographer Charles Sheeler to visit the Rouge and make a photographic record of what was now the largest industrial manufacturing complex in the world. Sheeler's photographs came to symbolize the strength of American industry in the 1920s and are still considered some of the most iconic images to come out of that era.

We are extremely grateful to have the help of the **Dearborn Historical Museum** with this exhibit. Their archival assistance with documents and photos from their collection, and other contributions, has been immeasurable.

The Ford Rouge exhibit runs from June 9<sup>th</sup> to Labor Day weekend, closing on Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.

In an effort to examine the early history of Lincoln Park and its development in the 1920s we have started the process of searching for Ford auto workers who settled here during those early years and afterward. If you think your family is part of this story we'd like to hear from you. Our aim is to gain a more comprehensive understanding of early LP and its residents in preparation for observing Lincoln Park's centennial anniversary in 2021.



North view of Lincoln Park's Fort Street development in 1924; smoke from the Ford Rouge stacks is seen three miles north.

(photo from the collections of the Lincoln Park Historical Museum)

## HERITAGE PLAZA

The 2018 dedication of eight new bricks for the Lincoln Park Heritage Plaza will be held on **Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon** on the museum lawn. Following the dedication, the Historical Society will hold its annual memorial bell ringing ceremony. An indoor reception follows.

We will continue to take orders for the engraved plaza bricks throughout the year with an annual dedication taking place each May.

## SPEAKER SERIES CONTINUES

On **Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00p.m.** the Historical Society will host guest speaker **Jim Craft**, Oakland County historian, writer and educator, who will share his research into the story of New York State's "Burned-Over District" and the Michigan migration that resulted.

One of the most important social movements in American history is the Second Great Awakening, a resurgence of religion enthusiasm in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The result was the creation of the Protestant America we are familiar with today, one very different from that which existed in Colonial America. Western New York played an especially important role in this movement. For example, the Adventist churches and the Jesus Christ Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) both sprang from this area. More significantly was the importance this so-called "Burned-Over District" played as a center of 19<sup>th</sup> Century social and political reform ranging from health food and temperance to abolition of slavery and women's rights. For students of Michigan history these events are of particular significance, as most settlers heading to Michigan during the territorial and early statehood periods came from this cauldron of reform. As a result, it is impossible to fully understand early Michigan history without recognizing the importance of those settlers' roots in the Burned-Over District.

For our **Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>** program, we are pleased to present **Tim McKay** and **Kathleen Mutch** of the "Corktown Experience" project. The non-profit group has been responsible for – among other notable achievements – the preservation of and restoration work on the 1849 Workers Row House, located on the original site on 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Detroit's historic Corktown district. The group has researched and compiled a comprehensive list of the building's owners and residents over its 170 years. (see photo at right)

We think both of these programs are sure to be of interest, and particularly informative for local history buffs.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS !

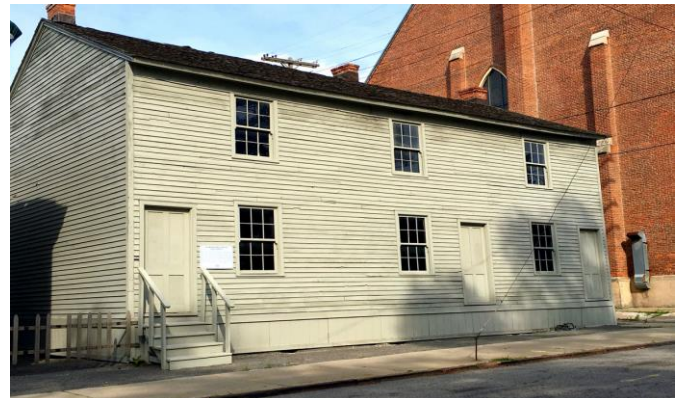
Mary Bachleda of Allen Park  
Tim & Sharron Dey of Lincoln Park



"Criss-Crossed Conveyors", Ford Plant, by Charles Sheeler, 1927

## ANNUAL DINNER MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

Members will receive their mailed invitation to the Annual Dinner in a few days. The dinner will be held on Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. We ask that you send back your reservation card to the museum by Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup> in order for us to provide an accurate count for the caterer. We are looking forward to being at the Lincoln Park High School again this year. The school and food service staffs have been extremely helpful and supportive in past years. Museum curator Jeff Day will give a talk on the early history of the Ford Rouge plant as a prelude to our summer exhibit.



The historic Workers Row House at 1450 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Detroit



## WORLD WAR I REGISTRY PROJECT & AN INVITATION TO WAR MEMORIAL DEDICATION

Enclosed here with our May newsletter is a registry form seeking information on World War I service men and women from this area. If you had ancestors who served in any branch of the service during the Great War, including the many women who served in medical units, military hospitals at home or abroad - or worked in factories on the home front, we would like to know about them. This coming fall, the museum will be presenting an exhibit on the centennial of the final year of the First World War and the Armistice which took place on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1918. That date falls on a Sunday this year, and plans are being put together for a commemorative ceremony beginning at 11:00am here on the museum grounds.

This spring the City of Lincoln Park will be re-dedicating the World War memorial, on **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** during the city's Memorial Day ceremonies. This is an Open Invitation to anyone who is a descendant of the men and women who served in the First World War to attend the dedication. The ceremony takes place on May 20th in Memorial Park following the 1:00 p.m. parade.



Pictured above with the new World War memorial plaque prior to its installation in Memorial Park are lifelong Lincoln Park residents **Ed Pescenye, Jr.** and **Art Jesue**. Their fathers both served in the First World War; **Edward Pescenye, Sr.** served with the U.S. Marines, 45<sup>th</sup> Co. 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and was gravely wounded in the action at Chateau-Thierry/Belleau Wood in June 1918. Art's father, **Panfilo Jesue**, a native of Italy, first served with the Italian army at the start of the war in 1914 and after emigrating to the U.S. joined the U.S. Army serving with the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division of National Guard units, which saw major action at several fronts in northeastern France.

In the years following the war, the veterans settled in Lincoln Park where they raised their families, and both men spent their careers employed at the nearby Rouge plant.

## IN MEMORIAM



### Frank Bredell

February 24, 2018

*Frank Bredell, a long time historical society member, passed away on February 24<sup>th</sup>. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, his longtime companion Jean Carnahan, and many friends at the LP Public Library, where Frank was instrumental in starting the "Friends of the Lincoln Park Library" and published its newsletter for many years.*

## COMIC CON PREVIEW EXHIBIT MAY 2-30

"The Prop Guys", dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of rarely seen movie props, costumes and memorabilia, are curating the museum's month-long exhibit in May featuring pieces from their extensive collection. This exhibit serves as a preview of the upcoming **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Downriver Comic-Con** held the weekend of **June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the Lincoln Park High School gymnasium. Come by and see a piece of Hollywood history!



"Batman Returns" (1992) stunt mask and the Joker's glove from the first "Batman" film (1989) are among the more than one hundred props on view at the historical museum through May.

(From the collections of Dylan Sides and Rudolf Michelle)

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

The public is invited to attend all Historical Society events.

### May 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup>

**Downriver Comic-Con preview** exhibit by “The Prop Guys”; open regular museum hours. And be sure to visit the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Comic-Con held June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the LP High School gymnasium.

### Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 p.m.

Evening program meeting: **“The Burned-Over District”** with guest speaker Jim Craft.

**Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** is the City of Lincoln Park’s Earth Day Spring Clean Up Event, kicking off at City Hall at 9:00am. Check the city website for more information.

### Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm

**The Historical Society’s Annual Dinner**, held at the LP High School cafeteria, will include the election and installation of Board officers. Invitations have been mailed to historical society members. Others may contact us for tickets, \$20 per person; 313-386-3137

### Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 12 noon

Dedication Ceremony for the new Heritage Plaza bricks and the Annual Memorial Bell Ringing; museum lawn.

### Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.

**Lincoln Park Memorial Day Parade** 1:00 p.m., along Fort Street, is followed by the city’s Memorial Day ceremony which will include the **re-dedication of the [First] World War Memorial**; held at Memorial Park.

### Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.

Evening program meeting: **“The 1849 Workers Row House and the Corktown Experience”** with Tim McKay and Kathleen Mutch.

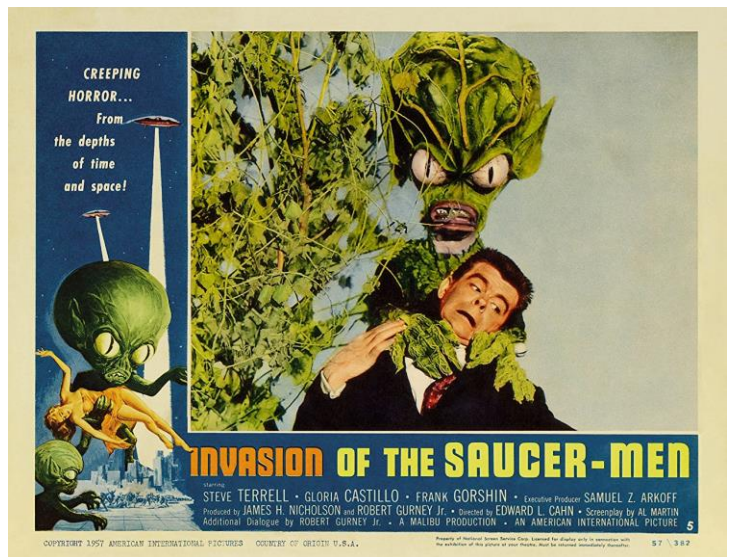
### Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> 10am to 7pm

**“Model A Rendezvous”** A gathering of the legendary Ford autos produced from 1928-1932; hosted by the **Downriver Model A Club**; at Community Center Park, Dix Highway and Gregory Ave.

**June 9<sup>th</sup> through September 1<sup>st</sup>** Special Exhibit: **“From Eagle Boats to the Model A: The Early Rouge”**

### Coming September 9<sup>th</sup> through November 11<sup>th</sup>

**“The Great War and its Local Connection”**



(photo from the internet)

**Actor Lyn “Buddy” Osborn**, who was raised in Lincoln Park, is the human shown in the above lobby card used for the cult film, “Invasion of the Saucer Men”, first released by American International Pictures in 1957. (At the same time, A.I.P. was also boosting the career of native Detroit, producer-director Roger Corman.) In the film, Lyn plays “Artie Burns” a friend of Frank Gorshin’s character and the narrator of the film.

Stay tuned for additional information on the museum’s upcoming holiday season exhibit which will focus on Lyn’s early life and his Hollywood years. His career as an actor was highlighted by playing the role of ‘Cadet Happy’ on TV’s popular sci-fi series, “Space Patrol” in the early 1950s. Lyn died at age 32 in 1958 following surgery for a brain tumor.

We are still in the process of collecting stories about ‘Buddy’ - a 1943 LPHS grad - from older Lincoln Park folks who recall him. Recognizing that many of our members may be of Lyn’s generation, we invite you to share with us memories you might have of him as a young man.

### *Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2017-2018*

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

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*



## World War I Service Registry : Lincoln Park, Michigan

**For those ancestors from our community families - early Ecorse Township/Lincoln Park - who may have served in the U.S. (or Foreign\*) armed forces between the years 1914 and 1919**

**NAME OF INDIVIDUAL WHO SERVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ Death date: \_\_\_\_\_

Local family contact name and contact information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Branch and Unit of Service if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Service if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank if known: \_\_\_\_\_

Other information you would like to provide: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**\*Immigrant families** whose ancestors served in a foreign army during the First World War are also invited to contribute to this commemoration project.

**Please return to:** Jeff Day, Curator, Lincoln Park Historical Museum

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

or via email to [lpmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:lpmuseum@gmail.com) or call 313-386-3137 for additional information