



# Lake Villa Historical Society's Vintage Views

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## President's Letter

Dear Members:

Happy Spring!

Hope you are enjoying this beautiful season as everything wakes up and explodes with colorful blooms. I love all the flowering trees and shrubs this time of year.

Those of you who joined us in February learned all about how to explore your ancestors creating a family genealogy. Karen Kunz and Claire Kasamis from the Lake County Genealogical Society led us on a fascinating personal journey of self-discovery, teaching us many different ways to explore our family history and track down our ancestors. They have an office in the Vernon Hills Village Hall where they share their knowledge and resources in genealogy.

Within the next couple weeks we are expecting the emergence of the cicadas. At our April program, members learned about the arrival of a historic double brood of cicadas from a presenter of the Lake County Forest Preserve. Attendees were treated to a special batch of "chocolate covered cicadas" concocted by Kim McCollum. *(No insects were harmed or injured in this recipe).*

Program details can be found in Vintage Views, on facebook, and on the website, [lakevillahistory.org](http://lakevillahistory.org).

We hope to see you at our next programs!

Sincerely,

Lori Heitman  
President



Above: Members sampling chocolate covered "cicadas" pictured below



## A Lake Villa memory written by Virginia Lundblad-Heffernan

Moving from Chicago to Lake Villa in 1951, my parents, Hank and Thelma Lundblad, soon opened *T & H Welding* on the south side of Lake Avenue. In 1955, Herb Damron purchased the property on the north side of the street and opened the original Herbs Used Auto Parts. My Dad bought the shop across the street at 219 Lake Avenue (now LG Automotive) from John Schueler, who was a founding member of the Lake Villa Rescue Squad. Their rescue building is now the home of the Historical Society. I remember we went out to dinner at the Rustic Manor in Gurnee to celebrate the purchase of the building.



*Hank Lundblad designing an iron railing.*

My Dad was always going out on-site to weld farm equipment, village trucks, snowplows broken down in blizzards, Nielsen racecars most Sunday mornings after Saturday night races, and just about anything else! Kids would bring in their bikes, go-carts, and anyone who needed a weld, they knew they could count on Hank! He also did many iron railings for area contractors and ornamental iron and display creations.

My Mom, Thelma, worked down the street as a nurse at the Lake Villa Nursing Home, now a vacant lot. After radical surgery in the early 1960's, she could no longer do a lot of that

heavier work. About that time, Eleanor Johnson was wanting to sell her business. She owned the Lake Villa Variety Store on Cedar Avenue which was part of what is now the Village Hall. My Mom bought much of her inventory and set up the front part of their welding shop as the gift shop. It included sewing notions, giftware, etc. Also, she took over the photo-developing business, which meant people would drop off their film, it would be picked up and developed in labs by a company, then brought back. Then people would pick up the finished pictures there. Quite different from our instant gratification with our cell phones today! Mom also sold gift wrapping supplies and often wrapped items for customers. She also had gag items, party supplies and a few crafts. She loved going through catalogs and ordering stock. It was always fun when an inventory shipment arrived. It was a great go-to place for some yarn or a quick gift. No Walmart or Dollar Stores back then.



*Thelma and Hank Lundblad*

Dad retired about 1985 and they sold the building. Being a workaholic, though, he set up his home garage to be able to still do small jobs for people.

*Thank you to Virginia for sharing her family's Lake Villa history with us. Does your family have history or memories in Lake Villa? We would love to hear about them.*



## A Page from the past:

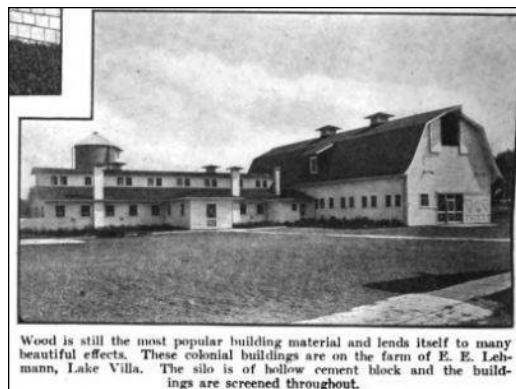
### *From Pekinese to Pizza...*

RJ's restaurant in Lindenhurst has seen many transformations over the years. The youngest Lehmann son, Ernst E. Lehmann, built this mansion in 1914 on the shores of Sand Lake in far eastern Lake Villa township. His was the smallest of the other Lehmann siblings' mansions, encompassing about 400 acres on both sides of Grand Avenue, then just a two-lane dirt road. There was a stately double row of Linden trees planted to keep the mansion hidden from the road. Lehmann named his estate Lindenhurst Farms because of these trees.



There were many outbuildings, barns, an ice house, a milking parlor, a creamery, and even a schoolhouse for the farmhands' children. The driveway to the main house was long and winding, running parallel with Grand Avenue, and leading to a large building used as the chauffeur's quarters and garages. This building still stands today; for years it was known as the Woodland Realty building, but today is a private residence.

Lehmann's Lindenhurst Farms main residence had 22 rooms. The focal point was a two-story glass atrium. It had a full basement and billiard room. This original basement still serves today as the foundation beneath RJ's restaurant. The bungalow style home had several long porches overlooking the water. The exterior was white with a green roof. The property was surrounded by a mass of beautiful shrubbery, green lawns and graceful elm trees. A glamorous kennel for Pekinese show dogs was also on the grounds. It boasted hardwood floors and a climate-controlled sleeping room for the dogs, complete with mattresses, pillows and blankets.



Lindhurst Farms also raised and sold prized Guernsey cows and pigs. On the north side of Grand Avenue stood the main barn, a milking parlor, tenant housing and an ice house. Cows grazed on low-lying pasture land that would someday become Lake Linden.

The entire farm was kept scrupulously clean. Herdsmen, dressed all in white, were hired to watch over, care for and clean the animals. The largest employer in the area, Lindhurst Farms provided a means for many local families to survive the Great Depression.

Ernst Lehmann was known as an intense and demanding man. Divorced and with no heirs, his estate and holdings passed to family friend, Edna Siebel, upon his death in 1930 at the age of 43. With no interest in farming herself, Edna put the entire estate up for sale in the late 1940's. Venetian Village developers, Nathan Hale and Mort Engle, purchased the property, subdivided, built homes, and *Lindhurst Estates* was born.

The first reincarnation of the mansion occurred in the early 1960's when it became *Venetian Manor Convalescent Home*, owned and operated by Ed & Olga Caraher.



By the 1970's, the nursing home had closed, and a new German restaurant called *ZurTanne's Pine Tree Inn*, owned by the Sakulenzki's, was offering bratwurst, sauerkraut, Easter duck dinners and lots of German beer.



When this establishment closed, it sat vacant and in disrepair for several years before burning to the ground in 1982.



After clearing the charred remains, it was decided to keep the original foundation and rebuild the same style structure. Robin Brankey, owner of RJ's Eatery in Linden Plaza,



took this opportunity to relocate his restaurant to the lakefront, and until early this year, owned and operated this local favorite.



RJ's Eatery, now under new ownership and rebranded as *RJ's On the Lake*, has recently undergone a major interior remodel. New owner, Raj Thakkar, has further plans for improvements and upgrades for later this year. Another chapter of a Lindenhurst landmark begins!

## Lindenhurst Village Hall

Since its' incorporation in 1956, the Village of Lindenhurst has had four different locations for the Village Hall offices. First Village President Lee Lewis and the Board met in the living room of original Trustee Helen Skelton's house on Fairfield Rd. Other trustees offered the use of their houses as well until Lindenhurst developer, Mort Engle, offered the use of an old Lehmann Estate outbuilding, the cow milking barn. Meetings were held here until 1970 when the building was destroyed by fire.

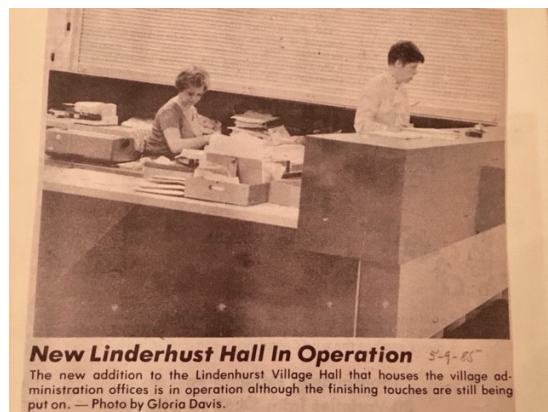
At this time, Village offices moved temporarily to Linden Plaza. Mayor Ted Flanagan and the Board worked quickly to purchase property just east of the Sand Lake Rd. and Grand Avenue intersection, and plans were made to build a modern building, complete with a large maintenance garage. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in March of 1974, and the new facilities were completed within a year.



*Lindenhurst Village Hall groundbreaking ceremony, March 1974 (holding shovels) Judy Kempher, Ted Flanagan (back row left to right) Douglas Getchell, Al Ott, Fred Fabry, Dennis Powell, Don Henderson, Robert Ratch, James Johnson*



This new building housed government offices, as well as the police department, street and water departments, parks department, and a postal sub-station.



**New Linderhust Hall In Operation** 5-9-65

The new addition to the Lindenhurst Village Hall that houses the village administration offices is in operation although the finishing touches are still being put on. — Photo by Gloria Davis.

An addition was built in 1985, and extensive renovations were made in 2014.

## History on the Table

From the 1840-1980 Favorite Recipes from Millburn Congregational Church cookbook

Oriental Beef Stew  
By Dorothy Kidera

1 ¼ lb. boneless beef about ½ inch thick (treat with seasoned tenderizer)

3 Tbsp. cooking oil

1 green pepper cut in thin strips

2 stalks celery cut in thin strips, 2 inches long

2 small onions sliced thin

6 fresh mushrooms

1 (5 oz.) can water chestnuts

2 Tbsp. cornstarch

2 tsp. sugar

¾ tsp. ginger

1½ c. water

3 Tbsp. soy sauce

1 bouillon cube

1. Tenderize beef and cut into strips 2 x ¼ inch.

2. Heat 1 Tbsp. oil. Add Beef and fry over high heat until brown: remove.

3. Add remaining oil and heat. Add next 5 ingredients and cook, stirring until vegetables are crisp tender. Return meat to skillet.

4. In saucepan, blend cornstarch, sugar, ginger. Stir in water, soy sauce and bouillon cube. Cook and then pour over meat mixture.



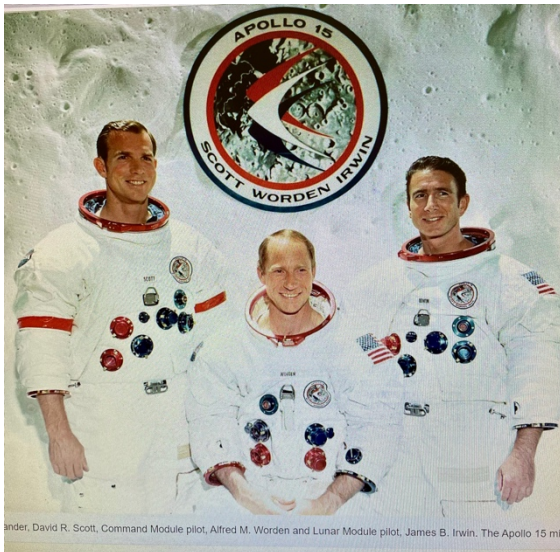
## Time Machine Destination: Summer of 1971

- Lake Villa Village Clerk Charlotte Wagner was asked to explain the \$12,000 increase in this year's Village budget totaling an all-time high of \$301,562. She explained the increase was due to the hiring of a *second* full-time police officer, and a \$1,000 hike of the village group insurance policy.
- The US Congress has just replaced the Post Office Department (created in 1792) with the newly formed United States Postal Service (USPS). This will be an independent entity within the Executive branch. Lake Villa Postmaster Joseph Hucker invites all members of the community to visit their local post office on July 1 to enjoy some hospitality and receive a souvenir envelope imprinted with the new insignia.
- The McHenry Outdoor Drive-In announces that "*Love Story*", starring Ryan O'Neill and Ali McGraw will be ending Thurs. August 5<sup>th</sup>, and will be replaced with "*Big Jake*," a new Technicolor motion picture starring John Wayne and Richard Boone.
- *The Doll House Beauty Salon* in Lake Villa will celebrate its 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary August 1<sup>st</sup> with punch and cake for the operators and customers. Owner Edith Baldassano runs the salon on Rt. 83, next to her husband's business, *Nick's Auto Body Shop*. She's offering her loyal customers special prices on permanents and wigs that day only. Regarding her clients, Edith says, "Some of them don't look so good when they come in here, but they improve a lot before they leave."
- Two brand new shopping malls are scheduled for their Grand Opening this summer, only 35 miles apart; Lakehurst Mall in Waukegan, and Woodfield Mall in Schaumburg.
- On Monday evening, July 26, these wonderful men: Howard Buchholz, William Effinger, Al Fuller, Lou Gillilan, Greg Knopp, Dave Jwiana, William Dean, Jim



Mortenson, Jim Dalgaard and Al Liebert, under the direction of Art Dahl, did a really good job of cleaning the bottom of Lake Miltmore. Some of the junk pulled out included three oil drums, an old rusty aluminum boat, an old ladder, a green lawn chair, tires, logs, and lots of beer cans. After the men were finished diving for junk, they were treated to coffee and cake by the West Miltmore Civic Association.

- The Apollo 15 astronauts made the fourth moon landing on July 30, 1971 and made history by being the first crew to drive the Lunar Roving Vehicle. This allowed Commander David Scott and Pilot James Irwin to travel further away from the Lunar Module than had been possible before. During the return trip, astronaut Alfred Worden performed the first tethered space walk in deep space.



Commander, David R. Scott, Command Module pilot, Alfred M. Worden and Lunar Module pilot, James B. Irwin. The Apollo 15 mission.

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Map showing location: Lake Villa, 132, Circle D, Gurnee, Waukegan, 33, 41, 51. Just West of Lindenhurst on Grand Ave.

**Mark your Calendar!**  
**June 18, 2024 7:00 p.m.**

**A Day That Will Live in Infamy:  
 The Attack on Pearl Harbor**

A representative from the National Museum of the American Sailor from Great Lakes will present a program on the shocking attack and major defeat at Pearl Harbor which was the catalyst for the emergence of a new and determined naval fleet. This presentation will examine events leading up to the attack, how sailors and nurses responded, as well as the aftermath and legacy of the attack that is considered the Navy's greatest defeat. The LVHS member meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by program at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.



**BEAR MARKET?** Phillip Baker, left, doesn't seem entirely certain of return he will receive on his three-cent investment into Kool Aid enterprise located on Cedar Ave. and run by Terry Dewar, 7, center, and his brother, Jeff, 5.

1971 Entrepreneurs and Lake Villa residents: Terry Dewar 7, and brother Jeff 6, set up their Kool Aid stand on Cedar Avenue. Phillip Baker looks on as either a customer, or is he a future competitor?

**Lake Villa Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 9**  
**Lake Villa, IL 60046**