



Lake Villa Historical Society's Vintage Views

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President's Letter

Dear Members,

As I write this during the "Stay at Home" order, I'm missing all of my Historical Society friends! Looking for something to keep you busy during quarantine? Reminisce with fond memories by looking at your old photos. Take this time to mark them with who, when, where, and what. Use a soft lead pencil with light pressure or a photo safe pen. Documenting your photos will make it more interesting for future generations to appreciate them.

As a side note, I found it funny when I was searching the internet for a safe way to mark photos. Everything that came up was related to electronic pictures. It took three searches to get printed photographs.



I look forward to seeing all of you at our future programs. Check out the details under Coming Events. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,
Lori Heitman

Year Summary

Lake Villa Historical Society has been fortunate to have an exciting and productive year. First, thanks to the LVHS officers and Board of Directors for their dedication this busy year.

The museum is still swamped with work to do to complete reorganization of our archives utilizing the Lake Villa Library donations of shelving, bookcases, atlas stand, wall mounted drawers, desk chairs and stools. Many files, books and clippings about Lake Villa history were also donated. Boy Scout Troop 92 of Antioch donated their time and muscles to make the move a reality.

With our museum temporarily closed we are waaay behind on getting accessions completed and entered into our computer. The 144 bound newspapers donated by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum are all organized and filed now. This year also brought remodeling, furnace and water heater issues.

We had a wonderful lineup of meetings and programs throughout our year. With the reorganization of our building, we did most of them offsite including at Tir Na Nog Estate, Nielsen's Marine Center, LV VFW, the brand new LV District Library, Lehmann Mansion, LV Metra Station, and Lindenhurst Village Hall. Then came the Stay at Home orders that cancelled meetings and programs, including the Annual Meeting and elections.

Annual Meeting and Elections

The Board of Directors has continued to meet via Zoom. In accordance with our constitution, *"The Board of Directors shall decide questions of policy that for any reason cannot be acted upon at a meeting of the Society and perform such other functions as is necessary to carry out the purpose of this organization."* The pandemic certainly has prohibited LVHS from holding our Annual Meeting and elections in a timely manner.



In order to keep continuity with LVHS, the Board decided to cancel the Annual Meeting and post a year summary and treasurer's report here for all of our members to view. ***We welcome comments, concerns and suggestions from everyone.*** This is an unusual time to attempt to navigate. The current Board has agreed to continue until next April as have the current officers. The one change is that the Board will revert to 9 members, from 10. Frank Loffredo will no longer be serving. Next year will see an expanded ballot with three Board members being elected to a two-year term and three others being elected to three-year terms. That would put us back on the proper path.

Treasurer Barb Venturi reports that a donation of \$5,000, expenses of \$654.28 and interest income of \$.68 resulted in a net profit for April of \$4,346.40. Our total cash on hand is \$49,614.27. There is \$6,007.24 in the brokerage account.

We have recurring expenses monthly including gas and electric, sewer, water, telephone and internet. We have expenses relating to the repair and maintenance of the building. This year we replaced the hot water heater and repaired the furnace. We also renovated a portion of the building to maximize our storage capacity.

Recent Donations

- **Lake Villa CCSD#41** donated a quilt made during the 2003-2004 school year by 2nd grade students in the class of Amanda Loar at O.C. Martin School. Each student created a square and drew a picture of a well-known location (total of 24) and titled the quilt ***"A Trip Around District #41."*** The quilt was first presented as an auction item after Mrs. Sterling, a classroom Mom, pieced the pictures together on patriotic fabric. It is believed the same Mrs. Sterling won the quilt and donated it to Martin School where it was on display until 2020.



The quilt/wall hanging was given to the Lake Villa Historical Society in March 2020.

Pictured with the quilt is Dr. Lynette Zimmer, Superintendent of Lake Villa CCSD#41 and Susan Cribb, LVHS, Board of Directors.

Other donations include:

- Gary Schneider – 1885 Lake County and 1907 Atlas/Plat Book of Lake County
- Sandy Collins Villar – Zoning District Map of Lake Villa approved Dec. 3, 1957 and revised March 7, 1980
- Rhoda McMurtray – "Hymnal and Tabernacle Hymnal Five" formerly property of The Village Church, Home of the Old Fashioned Sunday School, Lake Villa, IL
- Village of Lake Villa- Village flag with "Gateway To The Lake Region" logo; Three Villages In Lake Villa Township" written for the July 1, 1776 Bicentennial issue of the Lake Villa Record by Katherine Loftus.

Recent Donations, Continued



Lake Villa Historical Society sends out big thanks to the Lake Villa Firefighters Association as they disband for all they did for our community. We also send a heartfelt thank you for the very generous monetary gift to LVHS.

The Saturday, February 29, 2020 gathering at Lehmann Mansion will long be remembered by the members, retired members and families of the now former Lake Villa Firefighter's Association, formerly Lake Villa Volunteer Fire Department. Together they shared stories of this historic organization in which they all shared a part. They impacted many lives in Lake Villa for 86 years!

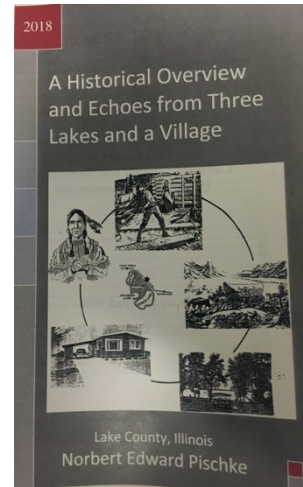
Perhaps best known by the public as hosts of the Annual Lake Villa Days, including the Ham and Bacon Booth, The Big 6 Wheel, the Bingo Tent and Water Fights, they were one big family. All the workers were volunteers, as they hosted the annual fundraiser in Lehmann Park from August 1931-2018.

With Sympathy to

---the extended Weber family on the passing of **RYAN RICHARD POLLI**, 35 years of age, on March 9, 2020. Ryan was the grandson of William Weber and a nephew of Tom Weber, both members of LVHS. His parents are Richard Polli and Linda Polli.

---the family of **NORBERT EDWARD PISCHKE**, 93 years of age, of Venetian Village and Lake Villa, Illinois who passed away February 8, 2020. Norbert and wife Betty have been longtime members and supporters of the LVHS. Norbert was author of "A Historical Overview and Echoes from Three Lakes and a Village" Lake County, Illinois.

** Rob Frank will share Norbert's story at a future LVHS membership meeting/program.



---the family of **LEONARD JAMES MATTSON**, 90 years of age, of Antioch, Illinois. Len was an active member of the LVHS and a frequent visitor to the museum on Thursday afternoons. "Growing Up In Lake Villa and On Cedar Lake 1930s-1950s" written by Len was featured (in part) in the Spring 2019 Vintage Views. Len also donated a crèche he made to be used with holiday displays.



Welcome New Members 2020

Alan Eppers, Salem, WI
Joanne Fleischer, Lake Villa
Dan Hembd, Round Lake Beach
The Pelletier Family, Lake Villa
Kathy Kruse, Lake Villa

Congratulations to

Andy Lentine on her recent retirement as Director of the Lake Villa District Library.



Andy was hired by the Lake Villa District Library in 1991 and was appointed director in November 2013. Andy kept very busy planning the replacement of the library on Grand Avenue. The new library at 140 Munn Road was

successfully completed and opened last summer. Andy was invaluable to LVHS in coordinating the library donations and the shipments of newspapers from the Abe Lincoln Library.

Calendar of Coming Events

The LVHS Board of Directors will continue to meet via Zoom on the third Monday of the month while restrictions make it difficult to hold meetings in person. Please contact us via mail, email or phone if you have ideas, opinions or suggestions you would like considered.

There will not be a meeting and program in June, and July is always an off month. Beyond that is unknown. Some programs that were in place but will now hopefully be rescheduled include:

- True Crimes of Lake County
- Flag Program
- Angola Cemetery Walk
- Norbert Pischke and Venetian Village

Notices will be sent out and posted on Facebook when meetings are resumed.

WE MISS YOU!

Lake Villa/Lindenhurst Music in the Park

Live Music in the Parks is hoping to resume on July 8 at Lehmann Mansion. LVHS will offer an outdoor tour and history of the mansion before 7th Heaven takes the stage. July 22 with ARRA will be another opportunity to enjoy music and a tour at the beautiful Mansion exterior.

History on the Table

The following recipes were printed in the Lake Villa PTA Cook Book from 1957.

EASIEST EVER CORN FRITTERS p. 13

Mrs. E. Roger (Amy) Prosise

Note: Amy was Treasurer of LV for 25 years.

3 eggs, separated

1 can cream style corn

1 ½ c. pancake mix

shortening or oil to fry

pinch of salt

Beat egg yolks slightly; stir in pancake mix and corn. Fold in beaten egg whites. Drop by spoonfuls into hot fat (350-370 degrees) at least 1" deep and fry until golden brown. Drain on paper; serve with syrup if desired. Yield: about 20 fritters. These fritters may be prepared early and reheated on cookie sheet at 350 degrees for about 10-15 minutes.

ORANGE LOAF CAKE p. 38

Mrs. Gordon (Olive) Martin

Note: Olive Martin School is named for her.

Sift together in bowl:

2 c. sifted cake flour

1 ½ t. baking powder

½ t. salt

1 ¼ c. sugar

Add:

½ c. shortening and butter

½ c. orange juice and rind

Mix all with electric mixer (med. speed) 2

minutes. Add: 2 unbeaten eggs and mix 2

minutes longer. Bake at 350 degrees 60-65

minutes in 4 x 8" greased pan. Cake may rise in center and crack; delicious with no icing.

Page from the Past: Pandemic of 1918

Covid-19. Coronavirus. Hardly a thought goes by these days without those words foremost in our minds. We are living in unprecedented times. Or *are* we? When have we known such widespread fear and uncertainty? Our current pandemic has been repeatedly compared to the Spanish flu of 1918, and with good reason. Despite 102 years of scientific advancement, antibiotics and vaccines, the human population is once again at the mercy of disease.

Consider life in Lake County in September 1918. The paint was barely dry on E. Lehmann's new summer cottage. The U.S. had just entered WWI a year earlier, and Great Lakes Naval Base was brimming with new recruits. The first appearance of the flu in our area began there in Waukegan. Sailors were quarantined, but visitors were still allowed on base. Recruits were given disinfecting throat sprays to ward off the virus, however it quickly spread. Officials were slow to respond and by mid-October there were 1200 new cases and 500 deaths each day. The lack of immediate social distancing was having a devastating effect on Chicago. First to shut down were public dance halls, theaters, skating rinks, moving picture shows and lodge halls. The Chicago Health Commissioner then ordered all public gatherings not essential to the war effort, such as banquets, conventions, lectures, social & athletic contests stopped. Schools and churches remained open, however, any student who coughed or sneezed was sent home at once. Some rather mischievous students took to sniffing pepper to induce a sneezing fit, thereby getting themselves sent home for a week! Rascals! Police arrested anyone who coughed, sneezed or spat on the street. Restaurants and bars remained open. Citizens were encouraged to make their own masks, then called 'sneeze-guards' or 'germ-screens'. Kissing was discouraged. Following any necessary public gathering, folks were advised to head home immediately, dress in warm clothing and take a laxative to minimize their chances of catching the virus.

Imagine a self-quarantine in 1918. Imagine the isolation without television, the Internet, or video chats. Most families had no telephone or automobile. News came by way of newspapers, public placards or the "Wireless". No Netflix, Walmart or FaceTime. No 24-hour news channels. No daily updates from the Governor or President. No hand sanitizer or family packs of Charmin. No carry-out pizza.

Hospitals were quickly overwhelmed. Josie Brown, a newly trained nurse on duty at Great Lakes recalled her experiences in a 1986 interview: "There were so many patients we didn't have time to treat them. We didn't take temperatures or blood pressures. We would give them a little hot whiskey toddy, that's about all we had time to do."

Barely two months transpired between the first cases of influenza and the removal of restrictions put into place to stem the spread. History tells us this was a costly mistake, resulting in a second and then a third wave of disease and causing the deaths of many more. All told, the Spanish Flu sickened nearly 40,000 Chicagoans, killing over 10,000. Worldwide, it is estimated that one-third of the world's population, or about *half a billion* people were infected with this strain of the H1N1 virus, and at least 50 million people, including 675,000 in the U.S. lost their lives.

And finally, ***Did you know?*** The "Spanish flu" has absolutely NO Spanish origins. It is a complete misnomer! According to www.chicagodetours.com/1918-flu-chicago; "Modern scientific studies point towards Kansas as the outbreak's most likely origin point. The pandemic is associated with Spain because that country remained neutral in WWI and its news media was not subject to military censorship. Hence, news of the diseases' effects circulated more widely from there. Meanwhile the wartime Allies of the US, UK and France were suffering even more. Racists and nativists at the time used the misnomer in an effort to cut off immigration from the Mediterranean. Thus the name *Spanish Flu* spread just like the viral infection itself."

Top Ten Pandemics in History

1. HIV/AIDS Pandemic (2005-2012 at peak)
Death toll: 36 million
2. Flu Pandemic (1968) "Hong Kong Flu"
Death toll: 1 million
3. Asian Flu (1956-58)
Death toll: 2 million
4. Spanish Flu (1918)
Death toll: 20-50 million
5. Sixth Cholera Pandemic (1910-11)
Death toll: 800,000 (mostly India)
6. Flu Pandemic (1889-90) "Russian Flu"
Death toll: 1 million
7. Third Cholera Pandemic (1852-60)
Death toll: 1 million
8. Black Death Bubonic Plague (1346-1353)
Death toll: 75-200 million
9. Plague of Justinian (caused by bubonic virus) (541-542 AD)
Death toll: 25 million
10. Antonine Plague (65 AD) Cause unknown, probably smallpox
Death toll: 5 million

Membership Reminder

Thank you to everyone who renewed or joined the Lake Villa Historical Society for 2020. Your interest in helping to preserve our community's history is very appreciated. If your renewal made its way to the bottom of the to-do pile, it's not too late. Please consider helping out by sending your own or a gift membership in today.

50 Years Ago: 1970

The following gems were found in the Lake Villa Record during the spring of 1970.

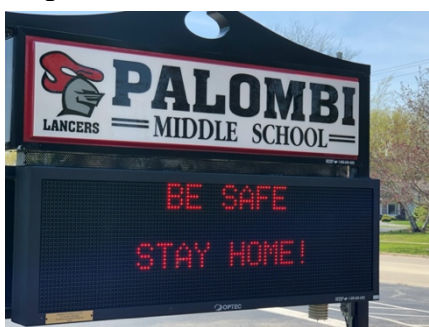


Part of Milwaukee Road commuter ad



History in the Making

This issue of Vintage Views has a common thread throughout. Lake Villa, as well as almost every country in the world, is experiencing the COVID-19 corona virus. The United States alone has recorded 100,000 deaths. LVHS feels a responsibility to document this moment in time for future generations. Here is a small sampling of photos being collected to preserve in our archives. *If you have a story or photos to share, please let LVHS know.*



All schools in Illinois closed suddenly after children left on Friday, March 13th.



Social distancing was required when leaving home. But that made keeping in touch with friends very difficult. Here, Lakes High School students stay safe while meeting friends for breakfast.

Restaurants were closed to dine-in customers. Many offered drive through, take out and a new idea: curbside pickup. Here Galati's puts dinner in the trunk with no customer contact.



Playground equipment was off limits at Lehmann Park and throughout Illinois. Caution tape wrapping parks and playgrounds was a jarring sight.

A trip to the grocery store involved wearing a mask, remaining 6 feet from people outside your household, new shields at the checkout, and lots of hand sanitizer. Some people hoarded toilet paper making it difficult for others to buy.



Many people lost their jobs and even previously stable families became housing and food insecure. Schools and food pantries worked to fill the need. Here staff from Palombi School handing out Grab and Go food to *anyone* under age 18.



Even churches and libraries closed to try to minimize the spread of the virus. Although trains ran on a modified schedule, the Metra station was closed.



Businesses deemed essential such as grocery stores, pharmacies and gas stations were allowed to stay open. Many "non-essential" businesses began offering non-contact means of shopping such as online orders with curbside pickup. Lake Villa Walgreens expanded drive thru to include household items.



What's in Your Attic?

Do you know the history and story of this new item from the Museum collection? The answer will be in the next issue of Vintage Views.

**Meeting Moments**

The last, and only, meeting and program for LVHS of the last quarter was Lindenhurst Trivia Night presented by Kim McCollum at Lindenhurst Village Hall on February 18. A jam-packed hall had a great time while learning everything they never knew they wanted to know about Lindenhurst.

*Lake Villa Historical Society
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