



# Lake Villa Historical Society's Vintage Views

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**Editor:** Susan Cribb & Peggy Bogenschutz  
**Lake Villa Historical Society**  
223 Lake Avenue, P.O. Box 9, Lake Villa  
847-265-8266 - e-mail LVHS@lake-villa.org  
[www.lakevillahistory.org](http://www.lakevillahistory.org)

## President's Letter

Happy New Year!

The beginning of a new year is a time to reflect on the past as well as look forward to new beginnings. This year, I am hopeful that the pandemic will be contained, and we will be able to resume our programs and see all of you sometime soon.



The news and anticipation of COVID vaccines has triggered me to reflect on the past, to remember a time of receiving vaccines as a child. Thinking of getting "shots" brings me back to the gymnasium at Lake

Villa Central School, now known as Joseph J. Pleviak School. I do not recall what grade, or what the shot was for, but it was somewhere between Kindergarten and third grade, late 1960s where they took us down class by class to the gymnasium. We stood in line across the wooden, gym floor. We then went up a few stairs and entered stage left. The line across the stage ended at a nurse or someone from the health department who was holding the dreaded needle. The whole time waiting, we were leaning around the classmate in front of us to see what was happening to the poor kid at the front of the line. The dread causing a pit in our tummies as we watched our fellow students

trying to be brave and not cry. We did not even have our moms or dads there to hold our hands or anyone to kiss it to make it better. We were on our own! I'm not sure which was worse, the actual shot, or the anticipation of it!

Do you have any Lake Villa memories or stories or pictures to share? Please send them to the Lake Villa Historical Society, e-mail to [lvhs@lake-villa.org](mailto:lvhs@lake-villa.org), or contact a Board Member to make other arrangements.

January is membership renewal month. You should have received a membership form in the mail in mid-January. Since the annual fundraiser had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, your membership dues and donations are more important than ever.

There was recently a minor gas leak found in the Historical Society building. Luckily, our faithful volunteers noticed and were able to get the gas company out. They detected several small leaks and locked out our gas meter. With no gas, we were left with no heat in the building. Thankfully, Robert Frank called on Dan Hembd, of Innovative Air, who came to our rescue and was on site within a couple hours. Dan made several repairs to the system, free of charge. Thank you so much, Dan!

Be safe, happy, and healthy.  
Lori Heitman  
President

### Membership Renewal

2020 has made historians of all of us! Were there any among us who, amidst the historic political, civil rights and health crises presented last year, didn't realize we were witnessing unprecedented times? How many of you kept journals or scrapbooks, or took a picture wearing a mask? Did you imagine how 2020 would be remembered in the history books?

Preserving history, keeping it alive and available *and exciting* is what we do here at the Lake Villa Historical Society! We thank each and every member for their interest, participation and financial support. In an effort to protect our members, we cancelled all events, programs and fundraisers beginning in March 2020. A generous donation from the Lake Villa Volunteer Firefighters Association early in the year helped keep us afloat, but we need your support now more than ever.

All current members were mailed a renewal form, so please take a moment to return yours today.

If you just happened upon this newsletter and would love to join us, you will find a membership form on our website [www.lakevillahistory.com](http://www.lakevillahistory.com). If you would like us to mail you a form, please call 847-265-8266, or email us at [lvhs@lake-villa.org](mailto:lvhs@lake-villa.org)

### Congratulations

Congratulations to LVHS members Joyce and Rich Heneberry. Because of their contributions and service to One Hope United for the past 20 years, Joyce and Rich Heneberry are the recipients of the 2020 Ermit L. Finch Impact Award.

Joyce also received a special thank you from One Hope United, for her tireless work as a One Hope United employee who was instrumental in the completion of "One Hope United 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History Book," published in 2020.

### Thank You

A huge thank you to Dan Hembd of Innovative Air for generously repairing gas leaks on the upstairs furnace. Dan's generosity in keeping the furnace going is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to Lori and Glen Heitman for replacing the worn American flag at the LVHS.

### Recent Donations

Recent donations by *Joyce Heneberry, Kelly DiDonato, Lori Heitman, Village of Lake Villa, Nancy Tesch, Bill and Tina Effinger (see Lake Villa Hotel article)* were gratefully received.

Cedar Avenue  
Circa 1905



With Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of LVHS member William 'Duke' Weber, who passed away November 21, 2020.



Duke took over the family business, Weber Duck Farm in Lake Villa, after his father William M. Weber died at a young age. William Weber's Duck Farm, surrounding Douglas Lake, was started in

1912 with 2,000 White Pekin ducks and increased to the capacity of 50,000 ducks raised to perfection in 9 weeks. Weber Duck Farm was known around the country as one of the leading suppliers of Pekin Ducks. The Webers advertised that "we sell everything but the quack." Ducks went to restaurants and markets, duck feet and bills shipped to China, innards were sold to mink farms, feathers were sold to merchants, manure was sold locally and to nurseries. Nothing was wasted! After closing the farm in 1989, Duke sold land to the Lake County Forest Preserve to make it accessible to the public. It is now known as Duck Farm Forest Preserve, with a 48 acre off-leash dog park located on Grand Avenue between the villages of Lake Villa and Lindenhurst.



Weber Duck Farm May 1980  
The last year ducks were on the lake.

Sympathy is also extended to the family and friends of LVHS member Jennette Keisler. The daughter of Frank and Mary Arlene Slazes, she resided in Antioch.



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Match the Historical Quote to the Author

1. "History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon."
  2. "History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it."
  3. "We will not march back to what was, but move to what shall be."
  4. "We are not makers of history. We are made by history."
  5. "The more you know of your history, the more liberated you are."
  6. "If you think you have it tough, read the history books."
- A. Maya Angelou
  - B. Amanda Gorman
  - C. Martin Luther King Jr.
  - D. Napoleon Bonaparte
  - E. Bill Maher
  - F. Winston Churchill

(Answers: 1-D, 2-F, 3-B, 4-C, 5-A, 6-E)

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1971

Lake Villa  
Record

### Lake Villa Hotel



1883 was a very good year for Lake Villa's founding father, Ernst Johann Lehmann. Lehmann was a Chicago merchandise magnate and owner of *The Fair* department store. Lehmann purchased the 33-acre Stewart farm and hotel on the eastern shore of Cedar Lake. He spared no expense and transformed it into a resort complex that could accommodate 400 guests. The luxurious grounds included private cottages, bath houses, dancing pavilion, elegant dining hall, bowling alley, billiard rooms, and Shetland ponies for the amusement of the children. A tunnel from the hotel provided access to the beaches of Cedar Lake, and a steam yacht took passengers to the clubhouse and casino tucked away on Cedar Island. Lehmann envisioned a day when Lake Villa would outshine Lake Geneva as a premier resort destination. Consider these words from an 1880's era advertisement:

*"The Lake Villa Hotel, a commodious concern, flanked by large and roomy barns and outbuildings is within five minutes ride from the depot. It is delightfully situated on a rise of ground between three lakes...the house boasts all conveniences, livery and carriage service. The grounds about the hotel are charming with delightful shade trees abounding, which are utilized by the guests with hammocks and rocking chairs.*

*On a high knoll just east of the hotel, an observatory giving a pleasing view of surrounding country has been erected. The*

*manager, John Ebert, is a hotel man of wide experience, and here may be found that quiet sense of homelike comfort and that superior excellence in the table and dining room service so rarely found at summer resorts. Here too, everything is kept scrupulously neat and clean. There prevails an air of independent freedom, so pleasant to guests."*

The grand and opulent Lake Villa Hotel entertained the Chicago elite...politicians, socialites, gangsters and entertainers. Two additional branches of the hotel were built in Fox Lake and Gurnee. Employees of E.J. Lehmann's store in Chicago, The Fair, were encouraged to use the hotel facilities for a reduced rate of \$1.00/day.

A spectacular fire claimed the hotel, with flames visible from Waukegan. Accounts differ on the year of the fire with most stating either 1913 or 1915. The picture below shows two fireplaces from the lobby still standing after the fire. Nothing would be built on this land until 1979, when construction began for a senior housing center, Cedar Village.



Lake Villa Hotel, continued

Recently, the Historical Society received a generous donation of a wash basin, pitcher and shaving cup from lifelong Lake Villians, Bill and Tina Effinger. When making the donation Tina stated, *"The wash basin, water basin and shaving cup were passed down to us from John and Ada Effinger (Bill's grandparents). John and Ada ran a dry goods store (now American Family Ins.) They lived above it till they built their house on Cedar Ave. Later they moved to a larger building and started "Effinger Hardware" (which is where Debbie Daniels Portman's is now). The hardware store was in business for 80 years—3 generations. Edward S. Lehmann would come in the store to purchase items. Bill's father as a young boy would go fishing with him and row the boat on Sun Lake. In 1915 "The Lake City Hotel" burned down. Some items were salvageable. John & Ada acquired these items & a beautiful ornamental bedroom set which is still in the family. On behalf of the Effinger family we wish to donate these items to Lake Villa Historical Society to be appreciated & preserved for future generations."* Thank you, Effinger family, for this very special addition to our historical museum. These priceless pieces will indeed be preserved and appreciated for generations to come.

History on the Table**Roast Wild Duck     John and Terry Hamlin**

1 wild goose or 2 large ducks or 3 small ducks  
 1 packages brown gravy mix  
 1/4 cups flour  
 1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
 2 tablespoons sugar  
 1 cup hot water  
 2 tablespoons orange marmalade  
 1 can 6-oz. frozen orange juice concentrate (thawed)

Place large (14"x20") cooking bag in 2" deep roasting pan.

Combine all the ingredients, except bird(s) and pour into bag. Add bird(s) turning well to moisten. Tie bag and make six 1/2" slits on top. Bake 2-2 1/2 hours at 350. (Small ducks for 1 1/2 hours.)

Pour sauce in bowl and skim off fat. Serve with your choice of noodles, wild rice, spaetzle, etc.

Serves 3-4

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**CATSUP****Mrs. Ada Effinger**

Nancy Cribb Tesch came across this recipe in her Mom's collection of recipes. Think about this recipe the next time you grab a bottle of catsup off the shelf at your grocery store!

Cook tomatoes with skin, strain. Stand overnight in a crock with towel over the top. Take water off top in the a.m. Measure to 1 gallon juice, add 4 tablespoons salt, 2 tablespoons powdered mustard, 2 teaspoons red pepper, 4 drops oil of clove, 6 drops oil of cinnamon, 2 (?) cider vinegar and 1 cup sugar, 6 onions. Cook until tender, strain, add tomatoes, let stand.

Use 4 pans, cook in small amounts until thick, then bottle.

*1 bushel tomatoes = 5 gallons tomato juice=30 bottles of catsup*

### Page from the Past: the Blizzard of 1967

Where were you on January 26-27<sup>th</sup> of 1967? Chances are, you were digging out from the largest snowfall on record here in Lake County! And it would have come as a surprise since the weather forecast predicted “precipitation to total ¼ to ½ inch of rain or snow”. By the end of these historic 29 hours, however, a blizzard would dump 23 inches of snow in greater Chicagoland, blow in 53 mph winds, create 10 foot drifts, and leave 20,000 cars and 1100 CTA buses stranded in snow.

Here in Lake Villa, the snow was efficiently cleared by the Public Works dynamic duo of Don Collins and Russ Goodnow. Excess snow was piled high at the shoreline of Cedar Lake. The local paper reported few complaints, outages or delays, instead printing some lovely snow-covered scenes.



Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1967 became known as “*The Day After*” according to the ***Lake Villa Record***.

In neighboring Lindenhurst, snow cleaning attempts were delayed by multiple equipment breakdowns, at one point searching 14 hours for a welder to repair the frame of a truck. When their largest plow fell apart, an arrangement to purchase a “V” plow (the only kind capable of pushing through such a volume of snow) was made at 9 pm on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Village Trustees were called at home to quickly authorize this emergency purchase. Until then, the only ‘V plow’ in town belonged to Texaco station owner Jimmy Streicher, who (at the State’s request) was busy clearing Route 45.

### Top 10 Snowstorms on Record for Lake County

10. Dec. 17-19, 1929: 14.8 inches
- 9-8. (it’s a tie) Jan. 6-7, 1918 and Jan. 30, 1939: 14.9 inches
7. March 7-8, 1931: 16.2 inches
6. March 25-26, 1930: 19.2 inches
5. Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2015: 19.3 inches (The Superbowl Blizzard)
4. Jan. 12-14, 1979: 20.3 inches (Chicago Mayor Bilandic’s worst nightmare)
3. Jan. 31-Feb. 2, 2011: 21.2 inches (Snowpocalypse)
2. Jan. 1-3, 1999: 21.6 inches
1. Jan. 26-27, 1967: 23 inches

### Flashback to 1967

As we remember the Blizzard of ’67, we might wonder what else was happening in Lake Villa at this time. As we peer through the sands of time, we find Mayor Don Cremin leading our town with a population of 1,024. Picket Fence Farms of Grayslake owned the Lehmann Mansion, where 1,000 head of cattle grazed on the grounds.



ALMOST A SCHOOL—These third grade students are not in a prison as the bars on the windows might indicate. They are the students who are forced to attend school in the old Lake Villa Bank because of crowded conditions in the grade school. The students are Gerald Popp, Scott Lynn and Carl Blumenschein.

Lake Villa grade schools were terribly overcrowded, forcing classes to be held in the old Lake Villa Bank Building (Venturi Law Office), and

St. Mark Lutheran Church in Lindenhurst. The school board was pressuring the Village to annex property into Lake Villa to build a new school. This would succeed with the construction of Central Middle School (now Palombi).

1967, continued

Construction was underway for a brand-new Rescue Squad building at 223 Lake Street. Tony Coia, pictured here, was President of the Rescue Squad and the construction foreman for the new



building, which today is the Lake Villa Historical Society Museum. Families bought groceries at Dalgaard's IGA or the Piggly Wiggly in Linden Plaza. Men's dress shirts at The Globe Department Store in Antioch were a bargain at \$3.59. A 7-piece living room furniture

set was a mere \$189 at Gurnee Furniture Warehouse, and a 1966 Thunderbird was on special at Lyons-Ryan Ford in Antioch for \$3345. Diners could have a "Spaghetti Feast" for 95 cents at Tony & Lill's, or a Friday Night Fish Fry at the VFW. Some of our roads had different names. Rollins Rd. was still called Renehan Rd.; Grass Lake Rd. was called Loon Lake Rd.; Fairfield was known as Grub Hill Rd. Lyndon B. Johnson was President and Father Lynch was Pastor of Prince of Peace. A gallon of gas at Cities Service Station (now Timothy O'Tooles) cost 33 cents/gallon, a postage stamp was 5 cents, and the #1 song was "I'm A Believer" by the Monkees. Jerry Lewis was starring in "Way, Way Out," playing at the Antioch Theater, and Miss Pearl Bailey was performing a concert at Waukegan High School.

Following a record-setting winter with the blizzard on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1967 would also bring northern Illinois its worst tornado outbreak on record, just 85 days later. On April 21, 1967, **forty-five** tornados were recorded in the Midwest. Ten of these were in northern Illinois with three F-4 tornados touching down in Lake Zurich, Belvidere and Oak Lawn. Fifty-eight people were killed and over 1,000 injured.

Fifty Years Ago

1971 was a busy time in Lake Villa as shown in the Lake Villa Record.

## Teen Sisters Will Serve At Prince Of Peace Mass

The article read in part, "Women's liberation has finally invaded Prince of Peace Church in Lake Villa. After pleading with the Rev. John Carolan for six months to let them serve as alter girls 15-year-old Julie Quinn and her 11-year-old sister Barbara Jean were given permission to serve last Sunday morning at the 9:15 mass."

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And the new, exciting technology of the day...

## Library Buys 20 Film Loops

Something new is available at the Lake Villa Township Library: 20 Walt Disney Nature Library Super 8mm film loops: 12 study prints; three pictorial books; two children's books, "Follow Me Everybody", "Wild and Tame Animals" and an animal album from the San Diego Zoo.

Loops are viewed on an 8mm super projector, a gift of the Lake Villa Women's Club. Check was presented to the library board in 1968. The board decided to hold the money for future purchase of audio-visual material.

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Apollo 14 launched on January 31, 1971 and was the third U.S. mission to land on the moon. Captioned



"Apollo Watchers— Jack Johnson and Jennifer Harbold connect dots on picture of Apollo 14 as their first grade teacher, Mrs. Ann Picot, read to them about moon shots" at Lake Villa Central.



"Angela Queen and Gail Spacek, of Mrs. Toni Stapely's third grade class at Lake Villa Central, look at filmstrips on individual viewers during a period in school's learning center."

### From our Collection



The pandemic has kept the museum closed but masked and socially distanced volunteers continue to work one and two at a time. One recent project was taking pictures of the very fragile rolled documents in our collection to add to our new cataloging system. This gem, dated 1920, is part of the plat of Lake City, now Lake Villa. The road names have changed but the distinctive “triangle” remains the same.

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