



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 519, Lake Villa
847-265-8266 - e-mail LVHS@lake-villa.org
www.lakevillahistory.org

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome Spring! Now that the daffodils and magnolias are blooming, I think it's finally safe to say "Happy Spring."

I hope you had a chance to visit the Historical Society booth at Springfest held at Lakes Community High School. The theme of the booth was "Clothed in History." Part of the display included a variety of hats and accessories where kids enjoyed dressing up and posing for photos. The volunteers also highlighted our 3rd Saturday Market that piqued a lot of interest in the event.



LVHS will once again be giving tours of Lehmann Mansion during the concert in the park series. Interested in helping? Contact Lori Heitman at LVHS@lake-villa.org.

Be sure to check out our calendar in this issue for upcoming programs and events.

Hope to see you soon!
Lori Heitman
President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Susan Smith, Lake Villa
Jean Knoblock, Round Lake Beach
Bill Eiserman, Lindenhurst
Jack and Anna Krupka, Lake Villa
Barbara Beroznski, Lake Villa
Roncone Family, Lindenhurst
Eugene Lucas, Lindenhurst

OUR SYMPATHY TO

the family of Eileen Haerther, 96 of Geneva, IL who passed away January 26, 2019. Eileen was an honorary member of LVHS and a generous donor. Her children Thomas Haerther, Judith Kelley and Emily Ulrich, also members, have donated many artifacts, photographs and documents from the Lehmann families and Peacock Camp.

Alyce Brownlee on the passing of her brother George Shea on March 29, 2019.

Norbert and Betty Pischke whose son Rex A. Pischke, 63 of Trevor, Wisconsin passed away on April 1, 2019. *"He was a teacher of life and an everyday superman who had a smile that you could never forget and was loved by everyone who met him."*

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Deb Hudson, former LVHS board member, who retired from State Bank of The Lakes on March 29, 2019 after 46 years in the banking industry. Deb began her career in 1973 as a teller with Gurnee National Bank, later to become Branch

President of Grand National Bank in Waukegan. Deb left Grand in 2000 when the Bank was purchased by Old Kent/Fifth Third. She worked for four years for Northside Community Bank and in 2004 became President of Lake Villa Community Bank/State Bank of The Lakes, a Wintrust Bank. Deb has been very involved in Lake Villa and Round Lake communities, as a member of the Kiwanis Club, Lake Villa Historical Society and Lake Villa SD Education Foundation. Deb will be enjoying retired life on Duck Lake with her husband Dana and their puppies Max and Midas.

Congratulations are also extended to Jean Mueller on her move to Maricopa, Arizona. Jean has been a long time LVHS member and volunteer.

RECENT DONATIONS

Sandy Bartlett Churchill
Elaine Teltz
Judith Haerther Kelley
Andrew Ringa/Ringa Funeral Home

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Membership Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month except January and July. Business meetings convene at 6:30 pm at 223 Lake Avenue followed by a program at 7:00 unless otherwise noted. LVHS Board meetings are held on the Monday preceding membership meetings.

Tuesday, May 21: A Tribute to Mothers

Members and guests are invited to share a favorite story, pictures or objects about their Mothers, Grandmothers or other significant women in their lives. Memories of past Mother's Days that make you smile (or cringe) are welcome.

Tuesday, June 18: Field Trip to Tir Na Nog

Tuesday, June 18 – LVHS is excited to announce that our summer field trip will be held at Tir Na Nog Country Estate, 38276 N. Deep Lake Road, Lake Villa, IL. from **1:00 -**

3:00pm. A tour of the home will be followed by an ice cream social on the lawn, weather permitting. Originally built by Mildred Peacock Hearther and her husband William, the 80 acre estate has been owned by the Murphy family since 1972 and was annexed to the Village in 2008. The beautiful estate is now a luxurious retreat, perfect for family entertaining, weddings, corporate outings and can comfortably accommodate up to 26 overnight guests. To view this lovely estate, please RSVP by email to LVHS@lake-villa.org or by leaving a message at 847-265-8266 by June 11th.



July: No Meeting this month

Tuesday, August 20: Nielsen Enterprises

Nielsen Enterprises started in Lake Villa in 1969. Join us to hear the story of how Ted Nielsen's love of snowmobiles and motorcycles evolved into a thriving business 50 years ago!

Tuesday, September 17: Lake Villa VFW

It's a field trip to the Lake Villa VFW Post 4308 located at 130 E. Grand Avenue to learn about the history of the VFW and their current projects. Commander George Simons and VFW Auxiliary President Anne Simons will be our hosts and presenters.

Tuesday, October 15: Those Were The Days

What an exciting event this will be! Not only will *Those Were The Days Radio Players* present an oldtime radio program, it will be held at the NEW Lake Villa Library on Munn Road! Come ready for a spine tingling Halloween themed program!



Parking Lot

Vendors - Produce

Arts - Crafts

And other Treasures

For more information lakevillahistory.com

 Lake Villa Historical Society

Mark your calendars for the second summer of 3rd Saturday Market: June 22, July 20, August 17 & September 21 from 10:00am – 3:00pm. If you or anyone you know would like to reserve booth space check it out on Facebook or contact LVHS. This summer we are pleased to offer produce with the proceeds benefitting the Lake Villa Township Food Pantry.



LEHMANN MANSION TOURS

Before each of the summer concerts at the Lehmann Mansion, LVHS is pleased to offer FREE tours of the Mansion. Robert Frank will take interested concertgoers on tours of this historic home beginning at 6:00pm and 6:30pm, finishing up in time to enjoy all the music!

Programs at Lehmann Mansion include:

- June 5 Bella Cain (Country)
- June 19 American English (Beatles)
- July 19 Four C Notes (Frankie Valli/
Four Seasons)
- July 31 Kashmir (Led Zeppelin)

PAGE FROM THE PAST

Leonard Mattson has shared his “Memories of Growing Up at Cedar Lake, Lake Villa, Illinois in the 1930’s, 1940’s and 1950’s”. We are sharing highlights of his childhood memories in Lake Villa. Stop by the museum to read the rest of the story!!



As a young boy, Len lived in Chicago. In the winter of 1938, Len contracted a strep throat infection that triggered a mastoid ear infection that was serious in those days.

His family physician brought a new medication called penicillin to the Mattson home. (*The penicillin was administered by rolling a sheet of paper into a cone and pouring the white powder through the cone and into Len’s ear.*) After his recovery, Dr. Butzo informed Len’s parents that he would probably have health issues in the future including a heart murmur. While the doctor suggested Len take an interest in non-strenuous activities, Len’s Mom and Dad took a very proactive stance and decided what the family needed was an active farm home where Len could get more sun and hopefully outgrow any health issues. They found a summer cottage to rent in a subdivision owned by Charles R. Thorne on the north shore of Cedar Lake in Lake Villa. “Life at Cedar Lake was like a dream—learning to swim, fishing off the front lawn shore, rowing a big wooden boat and eating outdoors...” and learning about different kinds of fish: catfish, bass, bluegill, crappie, gar and dogfish.

One early memory during the summer of 1939, was being awakened by ground shaking and noise caused by the derailment and major train wreck on Soo Line tracks just across Rt. 21 (now Rt. 83) about 300 yards from the cottage.



Len, his Mom and his sister, Ann, went to the site and took pictures.

The 13 summer cottages in the neighborhood were uninhabitable after October, so the Mattsons returned to Chicago for the winters. A different cottage was rented each summer, so the Mattsons met a lot of neighbors. Len developed a pitcher's arm playing ball with "Eddy" who was a varsity baseball pitcher at his school. Len's new pitcher's arm, including grips for the fastball, curves, drop and a true working knuckle ball led him to participate in high school and city league teams.

Len and his friends often carried their rifles to town to buy ammunition at the Effinger Hardware Store. On the way home, they would wade along the shore and shoot dogfish on their spawning beds in shallow water.

By the end of the second summer, 1939, the family decided to stay in the cottage until October. Len was enrolled in the Cedar Lake Grade School on Petite Lake Road about a mile away. The lower level of the Cedar Lake School served as the lunchroom. The upper level was the classroom which seated all 8 grades and 32 students. Mrs. Loftus taught all eight grades.

And then there is Cedar Lake—a very clean lake with a natural island, unusual depth variations, great fishing, very low boat population and no public boat launches.



When both Sherwood Parks were in operation, there were often hundreds of cars in the picnic parking lots and both beaches were crowded. The large dance hall had a bar and a blasting juke box. An attractive offshore raft with a high dive three meters high, two diving boards and low row boat rental rates added to the popularity of the parks.



Len was a lifeguard in 1949/1950 with a crew of nine or ten lifeguards. Most of the lifeguard action was with swimmers going beyond the safe outer limits. Pay was \$1.00 per hour. This job was part of what paid for tuition and books which totaled only \$200 per year at the University of Illinois. (Len was also working nights at Frank G. Hough Company in Libertyville.)

After college and Army duty in Korea, Len returned to Illinois employed as a travelling representative, married Phyllis Edman and added four beautiful children to the mix. The family returned to visit Len's Mom and Dad who still lived in their comfortable home on Cedar Lake. While there was no time for fishing, Len did see changes. Huge, quiet diesel engines of the Canadian Northern railway now rumbled along the old Soo tracks along the Eastern shore. Eroding of the island shorelines had occurred and some of the landmark trees on the island were gone.

"So, I guess that Cedar Lake can still be a best kept secret to the families and children still living on the North shore. I only hope that the new generations of kids there can enjoy the unforgettable experience of growing up in that paradise, as I did."

HISTORY ON THE TABLE

It's spring and the first available fruit in the Lake Villa area is rhubarb. I couldn't find a rhubarb pie in any of my "vintage" cookbooks, so I am sharing my very own favorite, which when thinking about it, is vintage.

RHUBARB CUSTARD PIE

Sue

Cribb

Mix

1 ½ c. sugar ¼ c. flour

Add

¼ t. nutmeg dash of salt

3 beaten eggs, beat until smooth

Stir in 4 c. 1" slices fresh rhubarb

Line 9" pie plate with pastry. Fill with rhubarb mixture. Dot with 2 T. butter.

Adjust lattice top. Seal.

Bake at 400" for 50 minutes.

**RHUBARB UPSIDE DOWN CAKE**

Judy Rollenhagen

Here is a rhubarb cake from CREATIVE COOKERY Volume 2-A Collection of Favorites From Trinity United Methodist Women and Friends. (Trinity United Methodist Church located at 101 S. Beck Road in Lindenhurst, IL recently closed its doors.)

1 c. packed brown sugar	1 egg
½ c. melted margarine	1 c. milk
2 c. rhubarb (fresh or cooked)	1 t. baking powder
1 c. sugar	2 c. flour
1 T. softened shortening	1 t. vanilla

brown sugar and cinnamon

Into 9 x 13" pan, pour first three ingredients. Mix next 7 ingredients and pour over rhubarb mixture. Sprinkle with brown sugar and cinnamon. Bake at 375 for 45 minutes. Serve warm or cold.

50 YEARS AGO IN LAKE VILLA

In 1969 as reported in the April issues of the Lake Villa Record newspapers:



Camp Fire Girl Project – Girls from Lake Villa Camp Fire Girls Group 10 recently attended a ceramics class. They are making something for their fathers. Left to right are: Michelle Richards, Leader Mrs. Mike Richards, Tammy Norwick, Kathleen Paschke, Sandra Bartlett and Mrs. Andrew Yuetsy an instructor of Lee Ceramic School. Sandra Schneider and Sue Ferro were absent from picture.

Back at Wheels – Mike Wolff of Lake Villa, will be back at Waukegan Speedway to improve his fourth place finish when the track opens Saturday, April 12.

**Lake Villa Cagers—**

Pictured are members of B Team at Lake Villa Grade School: In first row, left,

are: Ron Vickers, Tom Crichton, Jerry Popp, Curt Sheets, Gayle Manual, Kevin Rowley, Scott Swanson, Bill Bocox, Bennie Garcia and Bradley Schneider.

In second row are Coach James Johnson, John Walker, Terry Kraemer, Jim White, Eric Ruckeldt, John Janeska, Art Scottberg, Dan Ducommun, Scott Lynn and Dave Bresemann.

MEETING MOMENTS

LVHS had a wonderful late winter/early spring lineup of membership meetings. Here is a little sampling of what we learned.



Lake Villa Trivia Night presented by Kim McCollum in February had all in attendance pondering, laughing and

scratching their heads as history came to life through little known or little remembered happenings in the area. Here's a sample:

1899

LAKE VILLA, ILL., is a new summer resort on the Wisconsin Central, 51 miles from Chicago, and at an elevation of 210 feet above the level of Lake Michigan. It is situated among romantic hills and valleys, and is justly conceded to be a truly healthy and delightful place. There are few spots in this world, about which cluster such numerous picturesque and charming natural lakes, forty in number, among which is Cedar Lake, Deep Lake, Crooked Lake and Sun Lake, which are within easy walking distance, while Fox Lake, Grass Lake, Loon Lake, Fourth Lake, Sand Lake, Long Lake and numerous

Andrew Ringa presented the March program for LVHS by sharing his legacy of funeral directors in the Ringa family through five generations.



In 1895, Andrew's great, great grandfather Adam Ringa became a funeral director in Chicago, IL when funeral services typically were held in homes. Relatives and families had wakes often lasting for several days. Adam's son Frank joined the business with his father after graduating from mortuary school in 1911. His career was put on hold while he served in WWI. By this time wakes and funerals were held in funeral homes dedicated to serving the needs of families. Adam Ringa built the first Ringa Funeral Home at Lawndale and Roscoe shortly after the war. Frank Ringa opened two additional funeral homes in Chicago, one on Elston Avenue and one on Grand Avenue. Five funeral homes were in operation by the Ringa family by the end of the depression. As

neighborhoods changed, the operations were consolidated.

Frank's sons, Bob and Frank Jr. became licensed funeral directors in the early 1940s. After serving in WWII, the two brothers went to work with their father in Chicago. As the suburbs grew, the family built a funeral home at their current location in Lake Villa which opened in 1959.



Bob Ringa, Sr. served as funeral director in Lake Villa until Bob Ringa Jr. took over the funeral home in Lake Villa in 1994.

Andrew started working with his Dad, Bob Ringa, Jr. in March, 2012 after graduating from Worsham College of Mortuary Science. Bob Jr. retired in 2015 and passed away in 2016.

April brought Diana Dretske, Dunn Museum Curator and Lake County Historian, to present an interesting and very informative program about preservation of Lake County's natural and human history. Starting with the Native



populations and going through early settlers to recent history, Diana showed people and places important to Lake County's natural and human preservation. As settlers first arrived in the area, the environment was to be conquered rather than conserved. It took visionaries to change that way of thinking. The native prickly pear cactus photograph shown here was taken by Georgia D. Clarke, circa 1910, at the Waukegan "sand flats" which are known today as Illinois



Beach State Park. Georgia's grandfather was Robert Douglas, the nationally known nurseryman, who planted 200,000 pine tree seedlings on "the flats" beginning in 1873.

A big THANK YOU to all our presenters!

MORE LVHS HAPPENINGS

Brooke Meadowcroft, a junior at Grayslake North High School used the resources available at LVHS to research the Lehmann family for a History Fair competition. Her media presentation titled *The Lehmann Family: The Uphill Battle to Success and Triumph* earned her a spot at the regional competition. Well done, Brooke. Her presentation is available to view on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/etdGxNt.TxA>



LVHS was well represented in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade by Rob Frank and Trustee Kevin Kruckeberg. Sophia and Jaxson Frank (the dog) added the cuteness!

And speaking of cuteness, check out these cute kids enjoying the dress up clothes at the LVHS booth at Springfest!

**SOO LINE WRECK OF 1939**

In Len Matteson's recollections of growing up in Lake Villa, he referenced a train wreck that he and his family visited. The wreck was the result of sabotage by John Bourne of Wisconsin who tampered with a switch causing the derailment of 19 cars on an eastbound freight train as it travelled through Lake Villa on August 30, 1939. No deaths were reported but disaster was narrowly avoided. Had the freight not gone by when it did, 20 minutes later a full passenger train would have passed by, likely resulting in a tragic outcome. John Bourne was found to be mentally unstable and insane. He was sentenced to hospitalization and psychiatric treatment.

**1969 HUCKERS ADVERTISEMENT**

The GREAT! Plymouth Sale

GREAT! Specially Equipped Plymouths.
The great sale of the year! It's happening here and features specially equipped, Fury, Belvedere, Barracuda and Valiant models. Great Plymouths with the options you want.

GREAT! Unbeatable Buys.
This is it! A sale that brings you not just one or two special cars, but unbeatable buys right across the line. Shop in today! When the Plymouth Unbeatable Buys a car, it isn't just good, it's great!

GREAT! Special Prices.
Special prices on option packages which include whitewall tires, vinyl roof and many other options. Every new car comes specially equipped and you want it all the while.

SEE THE UNBEATABLES. THEY'VE GOT IT GREAT!
Hucker's Sale & Service
136 Cedar Ave. Lake Villa, Illinois

WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC?

Can you identify this object from our museum collection? The answer will be in the Summer 2019 edition of *Vintage Views*. If you can't wait to find out, drop by the museum.

Last issue featured ice harvesting tongs used to lift the huge blocks of ice sawn from the lakes. No additional workout required by the men who did this job!

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

On Friday, February 15, 2019 history was made in Lake Villa when Glenn McCollum turned the valve bringing Lake Michigan water to Village residents. This 43

million dollar project was the culmination of 12 years of meetings and a mountain of paperwork! Now that's trivia worth reviewing with future generations of Lake Villians.

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