



BAY VIEW Historian

VOLUME 2013, NO. 4

AUGUST 2013

NEXT MEETING: There will be no Bay View Historical Society Presents meeting in August. Please join us at the next one, Monday, October 7 at 7:00 pm at the Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay Street - you'll be glad you did!

August Walk to Feature Tippecanoe

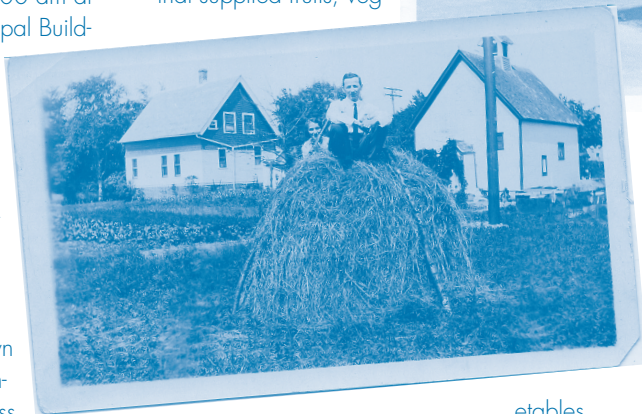
BY RON WINKLER

The Bay View Historical Society's August Walk will be held on Saturday, August 3rd at 9:30 am. The walk, led by Ron Winkler and Greg Wernisch, will be in Tippecanoe, centered at Howell and Howard. It will be a preview of the Tippecanoe chapter of Winkler's book *Milwaukee's Town of Lake* to be published in December.

Walk registration will start at 9:00 am at the Lake Water Tower and Municipal Building, 4001 South 6th Street. The walk will begin with a tour of the water tower. Wernisch's Walk will be approximately two hours. Winkler's walk will go into more detail and will be longer. The cost is \$5.00 for Bay View Historical Society members and \$7.00 for nonmembers.

This neighborhood is also known as the Garden District with its community gardens on 6th Street across from the water tower. The Garden District Neighborhood Association will hold its farmers market on the day of the walk from 1:00 until 5:00 pm.

Tippecanoe was a truck farming district centered at the intersection of Howell and Howard where the Morgan, Howard, Burdick and Austin families operated farms that supplied fruits, veg-



etables and grains to Milwaukee. This truck farming continued after World War II, but by 1960, most of the greenhouses were gone.



Above: This is the number 11 streetcar on Howell Avenue at the end of its southern line at Bolivar Avenue. The view is to the north in the late 1940s. (Courtesy of Duane Matuszak)

Left: This is how the southwest corner of Saveland Avenue and 2nd Street looked in the 1920s. The view is to the northeast. (Courtesy of Thomas A. Richter)

Most of Tippecanoe's boundaries are vague. On the north, Tippecanoe shares a common border with Bay View at Morgan Avenue. The southern boundary is roughly Layton Avenue. The western border is just past 6th Street to include the water tower. There is

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PRYOR AVENUE IRON WELL HISTORIC LANDMARK DEDICATION



Photo by John Utzat

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett was among the fifty attendees at the June 15 Historic Landmark dedication of the Pryor Avenue Iron Well. In addition to the Mayor, official commendations marking this event were also presented by Alderman Tony Zielinski, County Board Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic, County Board Supervisor Jason Haas and State Representative Christine Sinicki.

The program was planned by John and Penny Manke. John Utzat was the Master of Ceremonies. Following the dedication, attendees proceeded to the Beulah Brinton House for a reception prepared by Mary Fisher and Jane Montezon.

Since 1983, the Bay View Historical Society has designated twenty Bay View sites as a Historic Landmark. They are:

- Warren & Beulah Brinton Home – May 15, 1983
- Bay View United Methodist Church – May 6, 1984
- State Historical Marker for Bay View Rolling Mill – June 2, 1985
- Puddler's Hall – May 3, 1986

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The Bay View Historian is published six times a year by The Bay View Historical Society.

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Bay View Historical Society

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Bay View, WI 53207

www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org

The Bay View Historical Society is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization. Your donations and in-kind gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

BY NANCY TAWNEY

It had been twenty years since my last visit there, so I decided to drive out to Old World Wisconsin in Eagle earlier this summer and spent a delightful day there. In less than an hour, I traveled fifty miles from Bay View and was transported to another era. This very authentic re-creation of historic Wisconsin farm and village buildings comprises the world's largest museum dedicated to the history of rural life.

In contrast, the Beulah Brinton House and its archives are a testament to the urban life of people who moved to Bay View over a century ago. Both places strive to tell the story of the past and keep these stories alive so that we can better understand and appreciate what has preceded us and helped form what we are now.

I encourage you to give yourself the opportunity to explore some history soon. Whether it is taking our annual walking tour on August 3 or visiting the Brinton House or participating in some other activity, go for it... you never know what you will discover!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome the following new members who joined the Society since June 1st:
Heidi Cooper • Deborah Ruck

ENJOY THE MUSIC OF LIL' REV AND LARRY PENN

For the third year in a row, Lil' Rev, a Midwestern traveling musician and storyteller, and singer-songwriter Larry Penn will perform an afternoon concert at the Beulah Brinton House. It will be held on Sunday, December 1 at 2:00 pm. The Packers do not play on this afternoon. These performers have drawn capacity audiences to the Brinton House for the past two years. Plan to attend this entertaining event at the Brinton House, 2590 S. Superior Street. Refreshments will be served at the performance and a free-will offering will be taken.

MAY 19 YARD SALE ANOTHER SUCCESS

The weather was great on Saturday, May 19 when the Bay View Historical Society held its annual yard sale. This was the tenth year that the Society has run this event. It was very ably co-chaired by Donna Pogliano and Annie Hahn. They had the assistance of many helpers who priced and sorted items, picked up items from donors, set up the tent and then moved all the items to the tent on the morning of the sale. Items that remained after the sale were taken to the new Goodwill Store in Bay View. LuRae and Terry Brower and their crew ran a hot dog sale during the day. The efforts of all these volunteers netted over \$3,700 for the Society. Thanks to everyone who helped make this sale a very successful one.

USE GOOGLE WALLET TO MAKE DONATIONS

You can now use Google Wallet to make donations to the BVHS! Just go to the homepage of the Bay View Historical Society website, www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org, and click the BVHS Store tab.

Anyone who has a gmail account can email money to the Bay View Historical Society. There is no charge for this process when debiting from a bank account; there is a small fee for credit cards or debit cards. Please call Nancy Tawney for further information at 744-5674.

IN MEMORY

In memory of Dorothy Trommel, a Charter Member of the Bay View Historical Society, who passed away on May 26, 2013.



Archives Digitizing Project Swings Forward

BY KATHY MULVEY

With the help of numerous volunteers and generous donors, work on digitizing the BVHS Archives is swinging along.

Volunteer **Trevor Berman** wrote a program in which we could enter all the appropriate information about the thousands of artifacts in BVHS' archives. However, we found that when we put that program, along with supporting software, on the reconditioned computers that were donated to us several years ago by **John Kopmeier** of the Grohmann Museum and **UWM's Entech Program**, the computers were overloaded, and worked agonizingly slowly.

The BVHS Board allowed the committee to order a new computer, so Board Member **Kevin Petajan** selected and set up a more powerful unit, along with a back-up system. Now we have the program operating on two separate computers. Volunteers **Gail German-son** and **John Sargent** are entering information about books and artifacts, respectively.

In addition to their ongoing work, longtime Archives Committee members, **Janis Leidtke** and **Evelyn Trisco**, help us to locate and give us background information on items to be recorded. **Doug Stone**, who is a professional

paper conservator, has been donating his time to help us properly care for some of our more fragile publications. We also purchased some basic archival labels, tags and marking pens, along with several large plastic tubs for storing collections of like materials.

Volunteer **Diane Piedt** scanned and printed copies of two books that were written by Beulah Brinton and loaned to BVHS by **Ellen Tucker**, Beulah's great-great-granddaughter. Now those books, which are out of print, are available to all. **Keia Rodrigues**, who recently earned her master's degree from UWM's public museum program, has offered to share her expertise for various tasks.

This work will continue for many years. We also have special projects that we want to do – such as indexing the Society's *Historian* newsletters so we can recover all the historical information in them. So, if you would like to help, we would be happy to put you to work! We now work on Monday mornings, but would like to start a second workday. Call Kathy Mulvey at 744-0408, or email kfmulvey@yahoo.com to volunteer.

BVHS RECEIVES AN ESTATE GIFT

Therese Heimann was a member of the Bay View Historical Society until her death in 2010, and she volunteered her services to the Society during her lifetime. Because of her strong interest in the BVHS and a desire to continue helping it, she made plans for a gift to be made to the Society from her estate.

Therese lived in her home until she died. She directed that when her house was sold, proceeds from the sale would be given to relatives and three organizations that were important to her: Wisconsin Humane Society, Salvation Army and the Bay View Historical Society.

Her gift will provide funding for needed maintenance on the Brinton House as well as further reduction the mortgage. Therese continues to help the BVHS because of her generosity and all of us in the Society can be very grateful to her for doing this.

Remembering the Bay View Historical Society in your estate planning can be your way of helping to continue the BVHS mission of preserving Bay View's rich heritage.

For more information on how to do this, please call Nancy Tawney at 744-5674.

STORY ABOUT BEULAH BRINTON WINS ESSAY CONTEST

March is Women's History month and every year the UWM Women's Studies Program invites middle-school and high school students from the Milwaukee Public Schools to explore the histories of Wisconsin women by participating in an essay contest. Josie Newcomb, a Bay View resident who has just completed her freshman year at Rufus King High School, decided to enter the contest last March and write about Beulah Brinton. Josie came to the Brinton House in search of information about Mrs Brinton. She was given a copy of *Beulah Brinton of Bay View*, a recollection written in 1987 by Daisy Estes Kursch, great-granddaughter of Beulah Brinton.

The essay had to include a persuasive explanation of why Josie chose to focus on Mrs. Brinton and what she means to Josie. Among Mrs. Brinton's notable accomplishments, Josie was especially moved by her beginning the first lending library in Bay View and being instrumental in the establishment of South Shore Park. Josie lives near this park spends time there often as well as the Bay View Library, so she wrote about Brinton's accomplishments and won first prize. She was awarded \$50 and read her essay at UWM. Congratulations, Josie!

PRYOR AVENUE IRON WELL HISTORIC LANDMARK DEDICATION

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- St. Augustine School – August 28, 1988
- St. Lucas Lutheran Church – October 16, 1988
- Estes Home – June 4, 1989
- Kneisler's White House Tavern – October 6, 1991
- Club Garibaldi – October 1, 1992
- Trowbridge Street School – May 20, 1994
- Dover Street School – December 5, 2001
- European Copper Beech Tree – September 24, 2005
- Immaculate Conception Church – May 20, 2006
- Keller Winery – September 30, 2006
- G. Groppi Food Market – June 21, 2008
- The Delaware House – June 27, 2009
- Eschweiler House – June 27, 2010
- Williams House – June 4, 2011
- T.H. Stemper Company – September 29, 2012

August Walk to Feature Tippecanoe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

no clear eastern border and Tippecanoe Park bordering on St. Francis, is too far east.

In 1889, retired Great Lakes Sea Captain John Saveland established the Tippecanoe subdivision and hoped it would become a residential suburb. In 1893, he opened Tippecanoe amusement hall and Lake Tippecanoe. He even persuaded the streetcar owners to extend their line out into the country to Tippecanoe.

Saveland liked the Tippecanoe name with its connection to Benjamin Harrison, the President in 1893, and both Harrison and Saveland were Republicans. Harrison's grandfather William Henry Harrison had been President in 1841. The elder Harrison was the hero of the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811. His campaign slogan "Tippecanoe and Tyler too!" was a reminder of his war exploits and included the name of his running mate John Tyler.

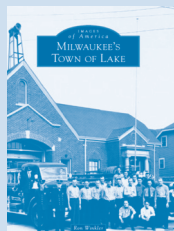
Tippecanoe has a semi-rural and suburban atmosphere due to its large lots. Two areas especially stand out: one is north of Howard between Whitnall and 3rd Street; another is east of Austin between Waterford and Van Norman. House styles are quite diverse, with Bungalows, Colonials and numerous other types.

It could be said that Tippecanoe has an identity crisis - many residents south of Morgan Avenue want to identify with Bay View and many people south of Howard Avenue still insist that they live in the Town of Lake. The name Tippecanoe lives on with the Tippecanoe Library, Tippecanoe School, Tippecanoe Park, and Tippecanoe Hardware. Tippecanoe is also going back to its roots; it is now part of the Garden District and has garden plots on 6th and Howard across from the water tower.



In 1925 this happy group showed flowers they had gathered in the vicinity of Saveland Avenue and 2nd Street. (Courtesy of Thomas A. Richter)

PRE-ORDER RON WINKLER'S BOOK, MILWAUKEE'S TOWN OF LAKE



The Town of Lake was created in 1838 as one of Milwaukee County's seven townships. Its borders were Greenfield Avenue (north), College Avenue (south), (27th Street) west, and Lake Michigan (east). Beginning in 1850 and ending in 1954, Lake

passed out of existence piecemeal as its farmland became developed and was claimed by the City of Milwaukee or incorporated to become Bay View, Cudahy, and St. Francis. The St. Francis Seminary and Convent, Cupertino tree on the lakefront, Lake Band, Lake Town Hall, Airway Theater, Lakeside Power Plant, Patrick Cudahy Company, Mitchell International Airport, Forest Home Cemetery, St. Josaphat's Basilica, Nunnemacher's Distillery, Grebe's Bakery, Gardetto's Bakery, New Coeln, and the Tippecanoe neighborhood with its land-mark water tower are only a small part of what made Lake a unique area of Milwaukee County.

This is the first Town of Lake history containing abundant photos.

The book will be published in December. Books are \$21.99 each, and may be picked up on Saturday, December 14th at the Beulah Brinton House between 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

Pre-order your copy by returning this bottom portion to the Beulah Brinton House by Dec 6, 2013.

Your Name _____

Your Phone Number _____

of copies to be picked up at the Beulah Brinton House _____ X \$21.99

of copies mailed to you (\$21.99 + shipping/handling) _____ X \$25.00 = _____

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Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____



My Life on Herman Street - Part 2

BY RUTH SIMOS

In 1939, I became a freshman at Bay View High School. I was a science major and my elective was art. When I saw the art classroom, I thought I was in heaven! There was a supply room at the back where we could pretty much help ourselves if we needed something. There were kids of all grades in the art class because it was a half credit subject and lots of people took it as a fill-in. There were only four students in my class of over 400 who took art for all four years – two girls and two boys. Back at Immaculate Conception, we had very little art and often if someone misbehaved, Sister could use that as an excuse to cancel, which happened more often than not. One of the disadvantages of taking art as a four-year class is that I had my share of color wheels and block prints. We had three different teachers during those four years however, so we learned from different people and one always learns something new that way, even with repetition.

Much to my amazement, I actually passed algebra and was exempt from the exam. Geometry was another matter. I did not understand any of it, and no one at home could help me out with my homework. I would struggle and work on those darn theorems and be completely original from the rest of the class. If I did happen to do one correctly, I then made a mistake in the arithmetic and my correct method was all for naught because it would still be marked wrong. I squeaked by and passed and vowed to never take another math class in my life – and I never did.

The science classes were lots of fun. Mr. Dennis, who taught biology to the sophomores, should have been teaching college biology - he expected that much of us. He also liked to spring surprise tests on us and since I was in his first hour class, that was a real disadvantage. Kids from later classes would stop us in the hall and ask if there was a test so they could cram for it before their class; we didn't have their luck. One of the great things Mr. Dennis did was keep some of the bloopers that kids made on their exams over the years and in the days before exam time, he would read some of them to us. One favorite of mine that I still remember was that someone said that a female moth was a "myth." There were a lot of original thinkers taking biology!

Chemistry came along in our junior year and Thursdays were lab days. I still quake when I think that they turned us loose with both fire (Bunsen burners), and running water. There were four of us to a lab table and I remember that when we were working on a condensation lesson, a klutzy girl who was at our table accidentally knocked a hose off of a tube and surprised her classmate with a shower and made the teacher run to turn off the water. At least we didn't burn the building down.

I loved all of my English classes and was always reading way ahead in the textbooks because the stuff was so good! Our freshman year, we had a mythology class and in our sophomore and junior years we had American Literature. As seniors, we had English Literature, including Shakespeare and all the Lake District poets and Dickens – it was wonderful. In our sophomore year, we had to dramatize some of the poems. This assignment was given to us according to our seating row in class. It so happened that row five was all boys and they chose a poem by James Whitcomb Riley that I can't remember; one of the boys was "Elivery" and wore a babushka on his head. He was an extremely ugly girl. Another boy had brought a picture frame and when it came to that part where her lover looked in through the "winder," another boy held up the frame - and that was the window. This was especially funny because a couple of the guys were fullbacks on the football team and were quite embarrassed by any kind of poetry.

It was getting closer to graduation in 1942 and we were getting more excited to finally be grown up and through with high school. One Sunday in 1941, I had some classmates over to practice a skit we were doing for the election of officers to Round Table, a club at school. That's where we were then we heard the announcement that the Japanese navy had attacked Pearl Harbor. Everyone always remembers when something momentous happens in their lives. The United States then declared war on Japan and also joined the war in Europe – something that had been going on since 1939.

The school went into war-mode and started selling war bonds, having lookouts on the roof of the school and even having some of the boys enlisting before graduation. That

also set us to lobbying for caps and gowns for graduation because the boys would never wear the suits they would need for graduation afterward. We didn't get anywhere with our requests and were told we didn't warrant caps and gowns until we graduated from college. Some of the enlistees were able to stay until June and graduate and some were not.

Life at home changed, also. We received ration books for groceries and no new cars came out of Detroit because all of the production went into war vehicles. People were giving their pots and pans to the war effort to be turned into ammunition and machinery. There also was less clothing and fewer groceries in stores. Now when I tell people about how life changed and the shortages it caused in everyday life, it is hard for them to grasp. It really does seem like ancient history to them – but not to me.

A few years ago when we were remembering Veterans Day (I can remember when it was called Armistice Day – after World War I), I thought to myself, "What a bunch of old guys!" And then I realized, that's me! And I also realize what an impact that period had on me when I see television programs or movies about those days and pictures of the veterans – those that remain. I surprise myself by weeping; something I am not given to doing in public, and then I know that I am still affected by the events of just stepping out into the world of adulthood at such a crucial time in our history and I am still here in the same place when so many of my generation are not.

See Your Name in Print!

Write an article about Bay View history or of historical interest to BVHS members and we may run it in *The Historian*!

Word documents are ideal and articles must be 1,000 words or less — photographs are a plus!

Contact Jenn Kresse at jrkresse@gmail.com or 414-531-0225 to find out more!



Calendar 2013

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Historic Walking Tour
9:30 am

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

Beulah Brinton House
Open to the Public
1:00 - 4:00 pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Beulah Brinton House
Open to the Public
1:00 - 4:00 pm

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

Bay View Historical Society Presents
Beulah Brinton Community Center
2555 S. Bay Street
7:00 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Milwaukee's Town of Lake book
signing with author Ron Winkler
Beulah Brinton House
2590 S. Superior Street
1:00 - 6:00 pm
*Don't forget to pre-order your copy
with the order form in this issue!*

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:

- Monday, August 12, 6:30 pm
Beulah Brinton House
- Monday, September 9, 6:30 pm
Beulah Brinton House

*Board meetings may be subject
to change.*

SIX

ENCOURAGING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY BY PRESERVING, CELEBRATING AND SHARING BAY VIEW'S RICH HERITAGE.

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