



BAY VIEW Historian



VOLUME 2018, NO. 2

JUNE 2018

Story. Stage. You.
EX Fabula

StorySlam: Immigration to Bay View

**Monday, June 4, 6:30pm
Puddler's Hall**

**How did your family
make it to Bay View?**

The Bay View Historical Society is partnering with Ex Fabula on StorySlam on June 4th at Puddler's Hall. The theme of the evening is immigration.

Ex Fabula is a Milwaukee nonprofit that strengthens community bonds through the art of storytelling.

StorySlams are spaces where adults can connect over true, personal stories.

For this curated StorySlam, community members were picked in advance. Come listen to stories on immigrating to Bay View and share your own story via UltraShorts.

**Please join us for this
unique event!**

**For more information, please visit
BayViewHistoricalSociety.org**

Bay View Potluck Picnic & Make Music Day Concert

The Bay View Potluck Picnic and Make Music Day Summer Solstice Concerts will be celebrated at the Beulah Brinton House, 2590 S. Superior Street in Bay View, on Thursday, June 21, 2018 from 4-8:30 pm.

Enjoy a free evening of acoustic music, bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair, and hang out with your neighbors at the lovely new Gazebo at the Bay View Historical Society's Beulah Brinton House on this longest day of the year.



Three Brothers Restaurant to receive landmark status June 2nd

BY RON WINKLER

Three Brothers Restaurant/Globe Tavern, 2414 South St. Clair Street, will receive landmark status by the Bay View Historical Society on Saturday, June 2nd at 1:00 pm. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony, which is free and open to the public. Three Brothers will be the Society's 25th landmark and the first to receive a new plaque designed by Society President, Kevin Petajan.

The building was designed by Charles Kirchhoff as a "tied house" that was built by the Schlitz Brewery in 1897. Taverns built by breweries to exclusively distribute their own products were called "tied houses" because the taverns were "tied" to a particular brewery. Tied houses displayed the logo of the brewery so that the brewery could be identified.

This cream city brick building has a turret, topped with the old Schlitz belted globe logo. The globe is one of only a few left in the United States. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and is also a Milwaukee Landmark.

The Bay View Historical Society has been making the community aware of its history by bestowing honorary landmark status to buildings throughout Bay View since 1983. Each newly landmarked building receives a plaque during a ceremony that is free and open to the public. At the ceremony, the history and significance of the landmark is recounted.



Remembering Ruth Simos

BY KATHY MULVEY

The Bay View Historical Society has lost one of its treasures. On February 22, Ruth Pascoe Simos died in the family home on Herman Street, where she grew up and where she and her husband, George Simos, raised their own family of six children. She was one month shy of her 94th birthday.

The house is one block from Humboldt Park, which was a sheltering presence throughout Ruth's life. In the early 1990s, Ruth founded the Humboldt Park Watch (now Friends of Humboldt Park) and its signature Tree Day, which continues every year to introduce hundreds of Bay View's school children to the wonders of nature.

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\$20 Individual/\$17 Seniors (Age 65+)
\$30 Household/\$25 Senior Household
\$30 Non-Profit/Small Business
\$55 Corporate

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Bay View Historical Society is a non-profit
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for educational purposes.

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President's Report

BY KEVIN PETAJAN

Hello BVHS Friends! I'd like to thank all of our volunteers who made our 2018 Annual Dinner a great success. Thanks to Sonja Nelson-Gurda, our annual dinner committee chair, who has worked tirelessly on this special event for several years. David HB Drake's Sailor's Songbag tunes created the perfect ambiance for our event. John Gurda continued his tradition of delivering insightful presentations on the communities that we love. So many others... Anne Maedke, John and Mary and Laura Fisher, Ellen Tucker, Bob and Erin Lenz, Jane Winston, Nancy Tawney and Susan Ballje helped to make this event vibrant.

Congratulations to our award recipients, Ed Travis and Robert Lenz. Ed Travis has been an extraordinary volunteer as a tour provider for our open houses. Robert Lenz has helped to provide a positive symbol for Milwaukee through his elegant and forward thinking People's Flag of Milwaukee design.

Several businesses and BVHS members contributed to our silent auction which raised over \$1200. Please give them some appreciation by frequenting their businesses (Listed below). Thanks again!

Here's a quick update on our Vision 2020 initiative. As many of you know, we have conducted several listening sessions and meetings to garner ideas from our members regarding the direction of Bay View Historical Society and the management of our most treasured asset, the Beulah Brinton house. These ideas were compiled into a Vision 2020 document that summarizes our organization and provides goals and objectives for the next few years.

Our primary goal is to make the Beulah Brinton house more accommodating and accessible for the Bay View community while restoring and maintaining its historic character. Updates to our kitchen and downstairs bathroom are on our list. We are currently in the process of interviewing several architectural firms to help us navigate through these projects. Exciting times ahead! We'll keep you posted.

Have a great summer!

Kevin Petajan

Special Thanks to Our 2018 Annual Dinner Donors

Businesses

Clearwater Outdoor
Colonial Quality Printing
Discovery World
Enlightened Brewing Company
Harbor House
Milwaukee Art Museum
Milwaukee Boat Line
Rick Hake
Sabrosa Restaurant

Individuals

Anne Meadke
Cherylann Kelly
David HB Drake
Sonja Nelson-Gurda & John Gurda
Kathy Mulvey
Kevin Petajan
Robert Lenz

Letter to the Editor

Hi Lisa,

*I love reading your newsletters and especially I enjoyed your article about the books by Turner.
I love reading about that time period. Thanks for the information about it. I will get the titles.*

*I read what you wrote about Uriel B. Smith. * I know the story behind Milwaukee Smith's name.
I wrote an article about Smith for the Bay View Compass back in 2011.*

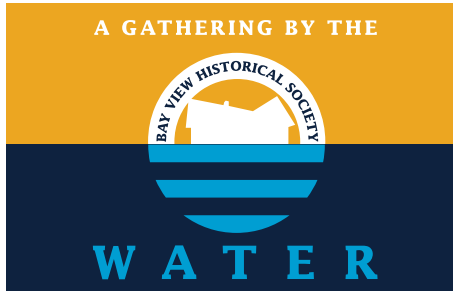
<https://bayviewcompass.com/smith-street-named-for-city's-first-tailor/> I recently revised
the article and am submitting it to you to see if you are interested in publishing it in your newsletter.
Let me know.

I also enjoyed your book on Kinnickinnic Ave.

Anna Passante

President (again) St. Francis Historical Society

* See Page 6



Annual Dinner: Clockwise - Sonja Nelson-Gurda and John Fisher, David Drake, Susan Ballje and Keith Kempksi, Senator Chris Larson / Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, 4th District Rep. /Christine Sinicki, 20th Assembly District, John Gurda, Robert Lenz , Ed Travis.
Photos by Kevin Petajan.

Where in (Historical) Bay View?

Do you recognize this Bay View landmark? Look for the answer in the next issue of The Historian.

Answer to last issue: Keller Winery, 324 E. Deer Place. Frederick Keller (1866-1943) came to the United States from Germany in 1897. He founded his winery in 1910 on three lots at 318 and 324 East Deer Place. He dug the wine cellar into the side of the hill to eliminate the need for artificial cooling. At its peak before Prohibition, the winery produced fifty different wines. The property preserves the wine cellar, stable, home and some of the grape vines. The Keller Winery received landmark designation by the Bay View Historical Society on September 30, 2006.



Leave a Legacy...for your family and for the Bay View Historical Society

We all want the best for our families and the organizations that are important to us. Including a gift to the Bay View Historical Society in your will, trust or beneficiary designation will help ensure that the Bay View Historical Society will be here for your children and grandchildren.

For more information, contact Nancy Tawney at 414.744.5674 or ntawney@aol.com



What to Keep? Part II

BY JOSEPH SLIKER

When travelling or otherwise spending time in other parts of the country it is impossible to avoid the impression that the country is increasingly “homogenized” with the same chains of stores, restaurants, service providers, and similar architecture seen in so many places. Regional language and speech patterns are becoming less distinctive, increasingly influenced by the language heard in mass media. Although this sameness provides a certain convenience to the traveler, it also denies one any sense of adventure, discovery, or ultimately any reason to travel much less remember where one has been. Although I’m sure that while my kids understand what a “bubler” is, I don’t think either one of them have ever uttered the word “Ain’a?” at the end of a question or observation. While they’ve certainly had their share of pizza, they’ve never had the “Pizza Bommer” from a place called Dave’s that used to be around here. The sense that one is from this particular place, this neighborhood, this Bay View, is drifting away, evolving, changing. While this is unavoidable, it might be enjoyable from time to time to take a snapshot of what it is, and what one can recall about what it was for those who came before.

We each have our own unique experience of our past, and “Bay View” means to each of us the places that we ourselves and our families frequented. While this writer (born in the mid-50’s...and much of his childhood spent further south, in Cudahy) mostly remembers the Bay View bounded by Howell, KK, and Oklahoma, others probably have stronger associations to other parts of our area (i.e. the area around Russell & Superior, or between Delaware and Wentworth, etc.). Another factor is, of course, age. While some respondents recalled places that existed long before my memory, the online world can be assumed to be composed of a proportionately larger cohort of younger people and it was a revelation to me that many of the places that someone my age would consider “new” as being from back in their “good old days”.

In addition to our own Bay View Historical Society Facebook group, there are other Facebook groups focused on Bay View as well. This writer frequents one called Bay View Vintage Wisconsin, which was founded in 2014 and is thoughtfully moderated by Greg Schultz. Being a less formal group it attracts a wider group of visitors, contributors, and comments. A huge trove of images and topics/discussions has been compiled there that would be

impossible to summarize here. In order to achieve a suggestion of what we might recall or experience as denizens of Bay View I’d like to present a summary of the 400+ replies that were made to the following question which I posted there last Fall:

“What comes to your mind when you think of Bay View? Just name a few things, places, people, events, past, present, good or bad. Whatever. What comes to mind when you read this question?”

The purpose of asking this question was to solicit the interests of a broader group than those of us who are already members of the BVHS and to perhaps think “outside the box” with respect to what might be of interest to other Bay View residents (past or present). Many of the topics/places mentioned have been presented in previous issues of this newsletter and will not be discussed at length here.

The top five things mentioned by respondents (between 9/29/2017 and 4/18/2018) when thinking of Bay View included:

1. **South Shore** (64 mentions) (including comments regarding either the Frolics, or simply the Park itself)
2. **Humboldt Park** (39 mentions)
3. **Pizza** (28 mentions)
4. **The Avalon** (23 mentions)
5. **Groppi’s** (23 mentions)

With the exception of “Pizza” (a subject that may well deserve its own article at some point in the future) these responses refer to specific places that define anchor points in our community that have been here a very long time, and which still attract interest, enthusiasm, and fond memories. Although these have all changed in one way or another, they are thankfully still there. Even if not in their original forms, memory can often take one back the rest of the way.

Most other responses are easier to group as classes of places. Respondents remembered their favorite stores, taverns, restaurants, schools and unique landmarks. Some of these are long gone, some still here, and some present only as the original buildings that have been replaced, remodeled, and repurposed. For example, the building at the intersection of California and KK, originally housed a car dealership; (Al Hundt Studebaker). Later it became Grandma Emma’s Restaurant. It now houses Classic Slice Pizza and Landmark Credit Union. The building at the corner of Lincoln and KK now occupied by Café Centraal

was once a large Rexall drug store. The southwest corner of KK and Oklahoma has been occupied by several structures over the years. Remarkably, the Arthur Treacher’s Fish & Chips fast food restaurant (which I recall being built there back when I was a child, after the bowling alley and other nearby buildings were torn down) now replaced by Walgreens, was a strong memory for several respondents.

The ancient and iconic iron water well/fountain that still flows on Pryor street (between Delaware and Superior) was mentioned a few times among landmarks recalled along with the nearby South Shore Yacht Club, and the remnants of brick and cobblestone streets and alleys (now typically hidden below asphalt pavement in many cases, occasionally exposed by potholes and/or street repair). Missing for many years now, but often mentioned included the steam railroad engine “Old Smokey” which had been placed on display for a number of years (near the Bay View Rolling Mill/Massacre historic marker) at the corner of Russell and Superior. Just east of this there is a small boat slip/pier where a World War II-era submarine (USS Cobia) was displayed and utilized for training during the 1960s. More recently this same spot was a favorite for smelt fishing for some of the respondents.

Before diverting from recollections of waterfront locations, more than one mention was made of those (supposedly) clandestine rituals known during our wayward youth as “beachers” (“keggers” or, quarter barrel parties) which took place along the least-supervised sections of beach and lakefront bluffs. These were sometimes associated with reported opportunities to view “the submarine races”.

Taverns or bars recalled included the historic Triangle Tavern that once stood on the triangle bounded by Lincoln, KK, and Howell Avenues (now the Art Stop bus stop). At the north end of what is now the Outpost’s parking lot was Beyer’s Tavern. Some of the iconic Bay View watering holes still with us include: The White House, and The Power Plant along KK, and At Random at Russell and Delaware. A number of the following still exist (under new owners with new names) Schiller’s Happy Landing, Grumpie’s, Big Beer Bar, The Commodore, Jim’s, Fast Eddie’s Chatmore, Chuck’s Mad House (of course there are a LOT more... we’ve only included those mentioned in responses)

You may be aware that the low, rectangular building behind the McDonald’s at Potter & KK

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Passing, Seen

BILL O'BRIEN

"It's covered!" That's what we want to hear from the roofers before it rains and from the insurance company after it's rained too much. When wooden-house owners tire of painting clapboards, they ask, "How can we cover this?" The answer is always something new and nice and neat.



The 1930s answer for better, no-maintenance siding came from South Bend's Mastic Asphalt Corporation and its line of Insel products: Inselwood, Inselbric, and Inselstone. With names hinting at their insulating properties, they were made from sheets of Celotex, impregnated

with asphalt, coated with granules, and embossed and patterned to imitate wood, brick, and stone. You can find plenty of examples around the neighborhood.

Installed by overlapping, like traditional boards, Inselwood has exaggerated and repetitive "grain." Inselbric and Inselstone, made in a greater range of colors, have lapped edges for the panels to fit tightly together and give a flush surface to an entire wall. These mock sidings and competitors' offerings have held up surprisingly well through our fierce seasons. When they bake in sunnier, dryer climes, they tend to shrink and cup. Here, the gradual loss of edge and corner granules exposes their artifice and may hasten their replacement.



These asphalt panels were popular for more than two decades, until quickly being displaced in the late 1950s by aluminum siding. Mastic's aluminum product was Inselum; its forerunner to vinyl siding was Inselsyde, a vertically striated plastic panel.

Where one texture might serve, two can serve better, so you'll find

wood-over-brick and wood-over-stone combinations on some blocks. See them soon, for they won't last and can't be replaced. The panels are no longer made and couldn't be exactly replicated; the insulating value of many was complemented by fire resistance, provided by asbestos.

The latest contenders for no-paint, never-fade finishes are wood-grained steel and vinyl imitations of, yes, traditional overlapping clapboards. Once all-weather digital domes are perfected, we'll finally have houses that can be maintained at the push of a button. It won't matter what the walls are made of when we can project a different coat on every holographic surface, marble outside and stainless within.



Famous Milwaukeeans Come to Life at Forest Home Cemetery

Annual event will occur on Memorial Day

BY RON WINKLER

Eight famous Milwaukeeans will be "resurrected" during Forest Home Cemetery's annual Memorial Day Program. They will be next to their monuments and will relate their life stories. The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place on Monday, May 28th from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm. Forest Home Cemetery's address is 2405 West Forest Home Avenue, but the program will be in Section 33 which is at the Cleveland Avenue entrance near Twentieth Street. There will be plenty of free parking, and refreshments will be available for purchase. A tour of Forest Home Cemetery will follow at 2:15 pm.

You can meet J.P. Kissinger who was a liquor manufacturer and salesman. Tommy Bartlett was a broadcaster at age 13 on radio station WISN and then founded Tommy Bartlett's Thrill Show and Robot World in Wisconsin

Dells. Walter Schroeder founded his own newspaper, the Daily Reporter. He then opened a series of hotels, one of which was the Schroeder Hotel on Fifth and Wisconsin (today's Hilton); an MSOE building was named in his honor. The Bay View Historical Society's Ron Winkler will portray Adolph Meinecke, who made toys and furniture in the building on the corner of Wells Street and Front Street that bears his name; he also named Meinecke Street for himself. Ellen M. H. Peck was the prominent wife of businessman James Peck. Gertrude Puelicher was a philanthropist, author, and radio and television personality. August Gallun partnered with Albert Trostel to form a tannery in 1858, but restructured it in 1884 to become A.F. Gallun and Sons. Emil Vilter founded the Vilter Manufacturing Corporation in 1867; it still makes refrigeration equipment.



The Way Down South Walk

BY RON WINKLER

The Bay View Historical Society's annual August Walk will be held on Saturday, August 4th starting at 9:30 am. The walking tour will begin at Unity Lutheran Church, 1025 E. Oklahoma Avenue and will be led by Society members Ron Winkler and Greg Wernisch. The cost is \$5.00 for members of the Bay View Historical Society and \$10.00 for nonmembers. Anyone who signs up to become a member of the society on the day of the walk will be admitted for \$5.00. Each participant will also receive a copy of the Way Down South brochure. The Way Down South Walk is one of nine in a series of walking tours designed to help Bay Viewites and visitors gain an appreciation of the area's history, architecture and lifestyle.

Length of the walk is approximately two miles and will cover the area from Howell Avenue to the Lake Parkway and from Oklahoma Avenue to Montana Street. Learn about Humboldt Park, one of Milwaukee's five original parks created in 1890. Other sites include the Eugene Jewell Home, Henry Mann Mansion, Bruno Nordberg Home, Jacob Kwarigrock Cottages, Graham's Subdivision and Sijan Field.



This footbridge was built in 1915 over the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad tracks by Milwaukee Forge to connect Rusk Avenue on the east with Manitoba Street on the west. The bridge provided a safe pedestrian walkway across the railroad tracks before the current trestle was built at Oklahoma Avenue. The footbridge was closed in the late 1980s and removed when the Lake Parkway was built



Humboldt Park's pavilion was built in 1932 across the road west of the lagoon. Clas and Clas designed the building to resemble a New England farmhouse.



The Way Down South Walk was last held in 2007.

Uriel Smith

BY ANNA PASSANTE

The first tailor in the early days of Milwaukee's history was Uriel B. Smith. Arriving in Milwaukee in 1835 with his bride of one year, there were a few buildings in what is now downtown Milwaukee, which included a hotel, a fur trader cabin, and a general store.



Smith was born in 1812 in Tully, N.Y. and as a young man was apprenticed to a local tailor. In 1835, Smith and his pregnant wife Lucy traveled by boat to Milwaukee arriving on July 17, 1835. Lodgings were scarce, so the couple lived for a few months in a tent on the property of Joel Wilcox near present-day South Bay and East Becher streets. Other early settlers, including Enoch Chase, also had camped on Wilcox's property for a time upon their arrival. Soon after his arrival, Smith rafted some lumber down the Milwaukee River and built a shanty for his home/tailor shop on present-day North Water Street, between Wisconsin and Michigan streets.

On the boat to Milwaukee, the Smiths had met Colonel McCarty, a wealthy Virginian. McCarty promised to award to Smith's unborn child a choice plot of land in Milwaukee in exchange for naming rights. Smith gave his consent and McCarty named Smith's child Milwaukee Harriet. Born on October 11, 1835, at their home on North Water Street, she was the first white child to be born in Milwaukee. Dr. Enoch Chase delivered the child with the help of Josette, wife of Solomon Juneau. The Juneaus had a number of children but since Josette was one quarter Indian, their children were not considered white. The plot of land that McCarty bestowed on Milwaukee Smith was in the swampy Third Ward.

Upon arrival in Milwaukee, Uriel Smith found such a demand for his tailoring skills that he quickly used up his supply of cloth. Indian blankets were in abundance, and Smith bought large quantities from Juneau's trading post to make men's overcoats and pantaloons---loose-fitting pants that were gathered at the ankle. Soon the ladies of the town requested the blanket pantaloons to help them survive the cold winters.

The Indians however found Smith an oddity. "The young Indians would gather around the tailor shop and make evident their contempt for a white man who sat cross legged and drudged like a squaw," said Bernhard Korn in his book *Story of Bay View*. The Indian women also found the sight highly unusual and often gathered to watch with interest the sight of a man making clothes.

In 1838, Smith moved his home and business to Walker's Point on the northeast corner of Lake and Clinton streets, present-day East Pittsburg and South First Street, where there was more promise of trade. Twelve years later, Smith got the gold rush fever, and on March 13, 1850, he and his second wife (first wife Lucy died around 1837) headed for California. Fourteen covered wagons each pulled by two horses left Milwaukee with twenty-five people led by Captain George Barber. The group had no problems with Indian raids, but Smith had a dispute with a traveling partner. Following an argument, the partner detached one of the wagon wheels and left with it. Being hundreds of miles from a wagon



shop, Smith was forced to devise a substitute for the wheel that enabled him to continue the trip, arriving in California in August. Smith stayed one year accumulating some money and returned to Milwaukee via the Cape of Horn. Upon their return, the couple set up a real estate office in Walker's Point.

In 1868 Smith purchased land in Town of Lake. The land was part of the Joseph Williams homestead, south of Lincoln Avenue in Bay View. He set about having the land surveyed and platted/subdivided and then he sold the lots. St. Augustine's Catholic Church purchased nine lots from Smith in 1889 to use for school expansion and a convent. In 1871, East Smith Street was named for the family. A short stretch of street, Smith Street runs from Burrell Street to Kinnickinnic Avenue. Smith's former home is still located just south of Smith Street at 2418 S. Howell Avenue.



Uriel was widowed three times and had three children, Milwaukee H., Lucy C., Tully H., and Callie. Son Tully, named for his father's birthplace in New York, worked as a contractor and engineer. He followed his father's sense of wanderlust and took part in the Pike's Peak Gold Rush in 1858 with friend Uriah Balford. "While engaged in drilling, with Balford holding the drill-iron and Smith striking it, a defective blast was encountered and exploded. Both men were shockingly injured, and for days hovered on the brink of eternity." Tully lost sight in his left eye and his face was left "powder-marked" from the explosion. Balford lost sight in both eyes and lost one hand. Despite his injuries, Tully returned home

and became wealthy selling real estate in Milwaukee. He also owned a stone quarry in Wauwatosa.

Tully was greatly bothered by the injury sustained at at Pikes Peak. Doctors said that he may lose sight in his other eye, and he was also diagnosed with heart

problems. On the morning May 10, 1884, Tully complained to his wife of head pains. Before leaving his home in the Town of Lake, he gave his wife valuable documents and the combination to the safe in his office, saying she may need them before he returned from a trip to New Orleans. Sometime after his departure, his wife received a package addressed to T. H. Smith containing \$1,000. The New Orleans return address had the name Uriah Balford, Tully's injured friend. Finding that odd, the family reported Tully missing and contacted New Orleans authorities. The family offered a \$500 reward (over \$10,000 today) for information about the missing Tully. Soon after Tully was found. He had committed suicide

in a bathhouse in New Orleans. According to a newspaper article, at the time of his death, he was "wearing a black diagonal suit and carrying a gold watch, sleeve buttons, knife, rule, and \$50 in money... a soft felt hat of New York made, a pair of No 8 calf-skin boots, a gold watch of Johnson's Liverpool make..." Also found in his belongings was a receipt for the \$1,000 forwarded under the name of Uriah Balford to T. H. Smith of Milwaukee. Tully's body was transported to Milwaukee in a metal box. He left a large estate valued at \$125,000 (over \$2 million today) to his wife, Maria, a son, Leonard, and a daughter, Lottie.

Uriel Smith's daughter Milwaukee Smith did well. She married a wealthy mine owner Bernard Hockleberg in Sierra County, California, in 1874. They had one daughter, Effie. Milwaukee Smith died in California in September 1908.

Uriel Smith died in December 1902 at the age of 90 in the Chicago home of his daughter Callie McDonald and is buried at Forest Home Cemetery.

This article is an adaptation of an article by Anna Passante previously published in the Bay View Compass Jan. 2011. <https://bayviewcompass.com/smith-street-named-for-city's-first-tailor/>



What to Keep Part II...continued from page 4

now houses Milwaukee Makerspace. Before McD's arrived, that building was a Kroger supermarket (which had itself taken over the original IGA Red Owl store). Some of you may recall that the Outpost Natural Foods co-op on KK had been a Kohl's supermarket, and what is now the BMO Harris bank across from Immaculate Conception Church was once an A & P supermarket. Madjecki's was another favorite supermarket. Even though the old style "supermarket" may seem quaint in comparison to the massive stores we've become used to, a number of respondents recalled tiny stores and butcher shops such as Hass on Howell Avenue and Farina's on KK (not to mention Groppi's of course, back when it was, in fact, populated by the Groppis themselves). Small bakery shops also dotted the community. A few that were mentioned specifically included Heinemann's, Gladys, Alberta, Mrs. Grebe's, Meurer, Schipper's. Although butcher shops have generally been absorbed into our larger grocery stores, the stand-alone bakery (such as Canfora, as well as a few others in nearby neighborhoods) still seems to have something of a presence, here in the present.

Stand-alone shoe stores used to be scattered along our main street shopping districts. One of these enticed customers with the cutting-edge scientific precision of a free X-Ray machine to correctly determine the size of their feet. There were also cobbler/shoe repair shops that respondents recalled along KK and Howell. Yes, back then one often had shoes repaired and refurbished rather than simply tossing and replacing them. The big stores in our neighborhood were "five and dime" stores like Champeau's and Woolworth's.

At the very North end of Bay View (intersection of Becher and KK) the Rams's Head Inn was a "fancy" restaurant (the inside of which many of us kids never

saw) it later became The Red Corvette before eventually being torn down to be replaced by the BP station which now occupies that corner. Back down KK, just south of the Triangle at Lincoln was The Ritz (a favorite of my uncle Pete), although I never ate there, I clearly remember the windows lit with an impressive array of bright neon signs that always seemed particularly welcoming on cold, rainy nights whenever I was headed home from Marquette U on the bus. Even further south, almost to Pio Nono High School (now Thomas More) the windows of the George Webb restaurant (now the Landmark) were not so impressive as the Ritz, but they were always lit.

Many things that this writer would have expected to see mentioned in the responses never or rarely were. For instance there were no mentions of Beulah Brinton (either herself, her historic home, or the community centers named for her that have been so important to so many over the decades). There were no mentions of historic Puddler's Hall and its association with the struggle and sacrifice towards fair labor practices during the Industrial Revolution. There was scant mention of schools, church communities and activities and festivals which were clearly part of nearly everyone's experience throughout Bay View history.

The question "What to Keep?" has answers as individual as the person asking it. But part of the answer must lie in those things that are unique to a place or an experience. For any individual it will be those things and memories that provide instruction, comfort, inspiration, and a sense of continuity or belonging. For a community, perhaps much the same.

If you would like to read the complete responses to the original question, navigate back to my original posting of the question on September, 29, 2017 on the Bay View Vintage Wisconsin Facebook page.



Return Service Requested

Programs & Events

Saturday June 2

1pm • Three Brothers Restaurant
Landmark Dedication

Monday June 4

6:30pm • Puddler's Hall
Stories of Immigration with Exfabula

Wednesday June 9

6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House
BVHS Board Meeting

Thursday June 21

4–8pm • Beulah Brinton House Gazebo
Summer Solstice Potluck Picnic and Make Music Day

Wednesday July 4

9am • Humboldt Park
4th of July Celebration

Wednesday August 8

6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House
BVHS Board Meeting

Saturday August 4

9:30am • Unity Lutheran Church,
1025 E. Oklahoma Avenue
Annual August Walk – The Way Down South Walk

Wednesday July 11

6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House
BVHS Board Meeting

Sunday August 26

1:30–3:30pm • Beulah Brinton House Gazebo
Ukulele Sunshine Band and Gazebo Picnic
Bring your lawn chairs and food and listen to great music by the gazebo!

Open House Dates for Beulah Brinton House

Tours of the historic Beulah Brinton House will be given on the following dates:

Saturday, May 26 • 1 - 4 pm

Saturday, June 23 • 1 - 4 pm

Saturday, July 21 • 1 - 4 pm

Saturday, August 18 • 1 - 4 pm

Remembering Ruth Simos...

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Ruth knew every tree in the park, and loved to point out to neophytes where the creek used to run, and where the old pavilion and boathouse and other structures stood. She attributed her physical strength and stamina to the countless hours she spent in the park, climbing, hanging from the playground rings and skating along its paths. In later years, Ruth did hundreds of sketches and paintings of park scenes.

After her children were on their own, Ruth turned her attention to other activities: Bay View Arts Guild, Milwaukee Sketch Club, MATC art classes, Dancing Grannies, tutoring at the Bay View Community Center and, of course, the Bay View Historical Society. There, she edited the newsletter, served on the Board of Directors and as President, and helped with just about everything.

Ruth was awarded the Milwaukee County Senior Citizen of the Year Award and twice was selected by the Bay View Compass as a “Hometown Hero.”