



BAY VIEW Historian



VOLUME 2023, NO. 1

www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org

SPRING 2023



2 Present-day views of 2748 South Superior Street: Left side of house is the original puddler's cottage. The addition and the garage were added in 1976.

Three Generations of the Parkes Family Lived in This Puddlers' Cottage

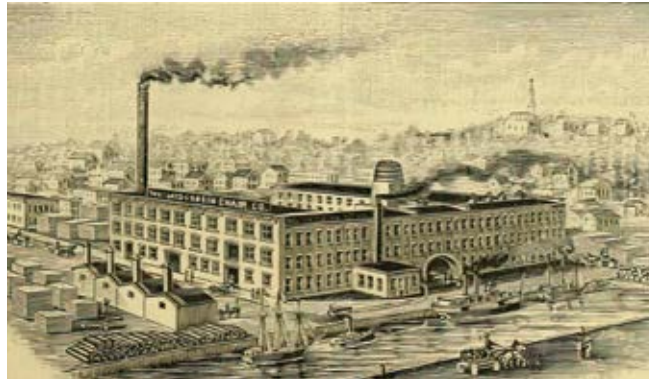
BY ANNA PASSANTE

Here and there you hear about multi-generations of families that have occupied a family homestead. The Parkes family in Bay View was one of those families.

Three generations of the William J. Parkes family have lived in the puddler's cottage at 2748 South Superior Street. Located at the northeast corner of Superior and Nock streets, the house has undergone much change since it was built more than 120 years ago. An easterly expansion in 1976 nearly doubled the square footage.

According to City of Milwaukee assessment records, the house was built in 1890. That is a questionable date, since the Town of Lake tax rolls for 1873 states William J. Parkes ownership of the property. The assessed value of \$500 may indicate a building on the property. Taxes were a whopping \$11.23.

William J. Parkes was born in Staffordshire, England, in 1839 and arrived in New York in April 1868. He married Catherine Richards in 1876. Two fellow rolling mill workers, J. C. Bullock and D. J. Price, witnessed William's naturalization in 1880.



L: Wisconsin Chair Company ad R: Steiner with Lil Hardin Armstrong. Courtesy of Glenn Morris Demlinger.



William and Katherine Parkes had four children, Henrietta, Sadie, Arthur, and Jane. When William died in 1912, his wife continued to live at the Superior Street house with her unmarried daughters Henrietta and Sadie. Widow Katherine remarried around 1916 and continued to live in the house until her death in 1950. Her daughter Sadie had died in 1919 and daughter Henrietta died in 1966. Katherine's son Arthur moved to Montana and her daughter, Jane, married Walter Steiner.

The Steiners lived at 2759 South Kinnickinnic Avenue. Walter Steiner, worked nearby as a labor for the Bay View rolling mill. They had a son named John.

John Steiner – Lover of Jazz

John Steiner took a great interest in music at an early age. His father belonged to a music lodge, and at the age of 12, John worked as a hatcheck person during lodge events. His aunt worked at a music store and brought home chipped photograph records for him to listen to. At age 16, he took the train and at times hitchhiked to Chicago to visit jazz clubs and slept outdoors in parks and alleys to save money. His favorite artists were Duke Ellington and Mix Beiderbecke.

Steiner was a chemistry major at UW-Madison but wanted to be a musician, which lead him to take piano lessons from Jesse Cohen, a jazz pianist who had recorded for Paramount records.

continued page 5



PLEASE JOIN US
BAY VIEW
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2023 ANNUAL DINNER

"SCULPTING MILWAUKEE"

Saturday, April 29, 5:30pm • Dinner 6:30pm

South Shore Yacht Club

See Page 2.



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FEATURING A
PRESENTATION BY

ANNA PASSANTE

Author of **Dick Wiken,**

Milwaukee Architectural Sculptor

Anna Passante will tell the story of Sculptor Dick Wiken, who grew up in Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood. He was a self-taught sculptor and went on to become a well-respected sculptor of wood, stone, and metal. Most of his work was executed during the 1950s thru the 1970s in the area of architectural sculpture. Many examples of his artwork still survive in the Milwaukee area, as well as around the state. His most glorious work, and his most favorite, is located in Guaymas, Mexico.



Music by Michael Bootzin
Wine & Spirits Pull • Silent Auction



RSVP at www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org • Mar. 15–Apr. 15 or Until Full

Cost: \$80/person

MENU ITEMS WILL BE AVAILABLE UNDER SHOP

Coffee Crusted NY Strip • Panko Crusted Halibut • Quinoa Stuffed Peppers

Please let us know of any dietary requirements.

Love a game where you are guaranteed to win? Time to try your luck at the 2023 Annual Dinner.

For a \$20 donation, you are guaranteed to take home a wine or spirit valued at or over \$20.*

Sprinkled in will be bottles valued well over your donation amount.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to support BVHS!

*Participants must be 21 or older • Books will be available for purchase.

Questions? Contact Heather Taylor at 414-218-9598

In addition to or in lieu of tickets consider making a tax-deductible donation at www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org

**THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL DINNER.
A SEPARATE INVITATION WILL NOT BE MAILED.**

President's Message BY MARGARET HERZFELD

Happy New Year Members and Friends of the BVHS! I would like to sincerely thank all of you for your generosity. Since launching our annual donation appeal in November, we have received \$7,693 in donations. What fantastic support you have shown the BVHS! Your donations allowed us to immediately address the falling ceiling in the dining room. The contractors were professional, quick and did wonderful work. Special thanks to Drew Formentini (Chair of the House Committee) for managing this project flawlessly. The total cost of the project was \$4,220, which still leaves us some funds to address other items at the house. The next project will be painting the garage which is peeling and unsightly. The gazebo also needs maintenance to keep it looking tip top for our events. Your donations continue to be very important to keep our organization going and the house well maintained. Thank you for your support!

Our committees are hard at work planning for an exciting year of events and outreach. We hope to host some new events and donation opportunities centered around the 150th anniversary of the Beulah Brinton House. Our first major event coming up is the Annual Dinner on April 29th at the South Shore Yacht Club. We will also be a stop on Historic Milwaukee's Spaces and Traces tour on May 13th. More information on both events can be found later in this newsletter.

Don't forget that you can rent the Beulah Brinton House for your next event or gathering. Additional information can be found on our website. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors. We would like to make rentals our main source of income for long term sustainability of the society and house.

We are in need of volunteers to help run events, assist with social media, archives, fundraising, education, and more. Meet your fellow members and community! Send me an email at President@BayViewHistoricalSociety.org to get involved.

Hope to see all of you at our upcoming events.

Best,

Margaret Herzfeld



Passing Seen

BY BILL O'BRIEN

Fire Fighting at 9° Below!

When *Beertown Blazes* was published in 1971, R.L. Nailen and James Haight included their compilation of Milwaukee's "top 100" fires. Never experiencing anything as devastating as the 1883 Newhall House tragedy, the 1892 Third Ward fire, or the 1905 Exposition Hall blaze, Bay View made their list for a 7-alarm fire that leaped from Allis and Stewart streets to Aldrich and Bay streets in 1929.

Causing \$300,000 in damages (more than \$5.2 million today), that August 14th fire occurred while a high-capacity pumping station was being planned to improve firefighting capacity in the area. (1) Starting in a Pfister & Vogel Leather tanbark shed north of Stewart and driven by 40-mph winds, the blaze jumped to the Wisconsin Malleable Iron works four blocks east on Aldrich. American Malting, Monarch Box, Wisconsin Barrel, and Wrought Washer buildings were affected and hundreds of cars due for salvage at Milwaukee Auto Wreckers also burned. Industrialists criticized the fire department for its response (slowed in part by spectators blocking streets), weak and poorly-placed hydrants in the district, and the Kinnickinnic fireboat's limited reach.

The next extensive Bay View fire occurred 75 years ago, substantially damaging the Milwaukee Valve plant at 2375 South Burrell Avenue, now occupied by Pak-Rite.

Milwaukee Valve opened in 1901 at 871 Robinson Street, where the northernmost Stitchweld apartments stand. (2) The company, relocated to New Berlin in 2005, makes plumbing and heating valves of all sizes, for home plumbing to petrochemical installations, and has provided valves for every U.S. Navy vessel built

since 1964. The first valve plant was lost in a \$20,000 fire only months after the firm's launch and quickly replaced.

The company moved from Robinson in 1911 to the former quarters of Beaver Manufacturing, a Filer & Stowell subsidiary that made gasoline engines. This 2-story, 50' x 170' brick block had the peculiar address of Burrell and Chase. What is now part of Pak-Rite's parking lot was a short east-west Chase Street. The Chase Avenue that we now traverse to the west was then known as the Chicago Road.

A fire started in the basement of the Burrell plant early in the bitterly-cold morning of January 28, 1948. Despite subzero temperatures and great clouds of smoke, large crowds gathered to watch the fire and its extinguishment five hours later. While plenty of water was available to fight this incident, much of it froze as it left the 15 hoses arrayed against it.



Remember when processing dates of pictures went in the margins?

Seven firefighters were injured by smoke inhalation or frostbite and another by a fall on the ice. Seven too-attentive bystanders also needed care for smoke

inhalation. Causing \$308,000 in damages (almost \$3.8 million today), it was the worst fire in a year that the city suffered 60 per cent more fire losses than in 1947.

One patient observer wisely waited for the smoke to clear from the gutted building before photographing the wreckage. Eugene Mayou (1919-2007) captured the ice coating on the big block and interior views of the collapsed roof and scorched machinery.



Eugene would eventually retire from Milwaukee Valve with 42 years of service. His widow, Erma Schmidt-Mayou (1921-2013), left his pictures to a niece, my neighbor Carolyn Schmidt-Fons, who has donated his four post-fire images to the Society.

1. The pump house on South First Street, south of the Kinnickinnic River bridge, came online in 1931 and was last utilized for the Horny Goat tavern.
2. See the October 2016 Historian for more on this site.

Reading recommendation: Matthew Prigge's account of the Newhall House tragedy: *Damn the Old Tinderbox!* (Wisconsin Historical Society, 2019)

Three Generations....from page 1

After earning a bachelor's degree in 1929 and a doctorate in chemistry in 1933, Steiner took a job in 1937 with Miner Laboratories in Chicago. In Chicago he was closer to the jazz world that he loved. He met Hugh Davis and they formed S D Records in 1943. Davis had access to equipment for pressing records, so he and Steiner began recording musicians including some artists from Paramount Records. They also reissued records from the 1920s and 30s. It all began in Steiner's basement, but with success came a new workspace in downtown Chicago.

Steiner Leases Recording Rights From Paramount

Beginning in 1943, John Steiner leased the rights to recordings from Paramount Records, which was owned by the Wisconsin Chair Company. Steiner and Davis released them on the S D label. By 1948, S D Records had purchased all the rights to Paramount Records, allowing the record company to reissue historic recordings of Jelly Roll Morton, King Oliver, Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey and Blind Lemon Jefferson, among others.

The S D Record label got into "race records," which were 78-rpm photograph records marketed to African Americans between the 1920s and 1940s, comprised of blues, jazz,

gospel music, and even comedy. As time went on, white Americans also began purchasing the records.

According to the *Chicago Tribune* (June 9, 2000), Steiner was so obsessed with jazz that in 1946 he dragged a portable recording machine to the Civic Opera House, climbed onto the catwalk above the stage, dangled a microphone below and captured the Duke Ellington Orchestra on recordings. These records would not have existed without such efforts. This passion for jazz, all the jazz research, all the hundreds of hours spent interviewing notable musicians was just a hobby for Steiner.

His day job was a chemistry professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago in the 1960s and 70s. In the 1970s, he helped found the Chicago Jazz Institute and later the Jazz Institute of Chicago.

Steiner Retires and Returns to Bay View

When Steiner retired from the university in 1976, he moved to his grandfather's Bay View house at 2748 South Superior Street. An addition was constructed at the rear, as well as a garage. Steiner was active in the Bay View Historical Society. He donated photos to the historical society that he took of the old rolling mill before it was razed.

According to a *Chicago Tribune* article (June 9, 2000), at the time of Steiner's death in 2000, he had collected 35,000 recordings, sheet music, newspaper articles, and related ephemera. In the same article, Richard Wang, professor of music at the university said, "Without his research and appetite for Chicago music, we would be bereft of information upon which future histories of this music will be based. He was the seminal figure in documenting the history of Chicago jazz." The Steiner collection was donated to the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Paramount records ad



The Bruno Nordberg home, 2940 S. Logan Avenue, will be the Society's 2023 landmark

Bruno Nordberg House to Receive Landmark Status

BY RON WINKLER

The Bay View Historical Society (BVHS) will dedicate its twenty-eighth landmark on Saturday, June 10th at 1:00 pm. The dedication for the Bruno Nordberg house, 2940 S. Logan Avenue will be free and open to the public. It will be held rain or shine.

Landmarks Historian Ron Winkler will give the history of the house. BVHS President Margaret Herzfeld and Ron Winkler will present the landmark plaque. Local politicians have been invited. Following the ceremony, there will be a short piano recital by one of the owner's piano students. Guests can also enjoy refreshments and tours of the house.

From Walker's Point to International

Bruno Nordberg (1858-1924) came to the United States from Finland in 1879. He worked as a draftsman for the E. P. Allis Company before founding Nordberg Manufacturing in 1886 in Walker's Point. In 1900, the company, whose specialty was mining equipment, moved to 3079 South Chase Avenue. In the 1970s it merged with Rex Chain Belt to create Rexnord. When the plant closed in 2004 it was purchased by South Milwaukee's Bucyrus International and the office employees moved to Brookfield.

The company then moved back to the Milwaukee area with Rexnord's main Milwaukee-area corporate offices at 4701 W. Greenfield Avenue, West Milwaukee. Its smaller corporate headquarters, with offices for top executives, moved to 511 W. Freshwater Way, in the Reed Street Yards business park.

In 2019, the company announced plans to move top executives from Freshwater Way to 111 W. Michigan St. in downtown Milwaukee. The company, known as Regal Rexnord, is one of many high-profile Milwaukee employers that have moved or will be moving into downtown Milwaukee. The West Milwaukee facilities are still in operation. Today the company manufactures industrial equipment and has 6,800 employees worldwide, approximately half in the United States.

Nordberg Home

In 1902, Nordberg and his wife Helena built their house on the northeast corner of Logan and Idaho on a hill overlooking Humboldt Park at 2940 South Logan Avenue. The Nordberg carriage house still stands north of the house and can be accessed from the alley. In 1964, part of the property north of the carriage house was sold and the home at 2932 South Logan Ave. was built.

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.

Famous Milwaukeeans Come to Life at Forest Home Cemetery

Annual event will occur on Memorial Day

BY RON WINKLER

Famous Milwaukeeans will be "resurrected" during Forest Home Cemetery's annual Memorial Day Program on Monday, May 30th. They will be next to their monuments to relate their life stories from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm in the cemetery's Beer Baron's district (sections 36 and 37) in the east central sector.

There will be plenty of free parking and refreshments will be available for purchase. A walking tour of one area of the cemetery will follow at 2:30 pm. Forest Home Cemetery is located at 2405 West Forest Home Avenue.

You can meet Brooks Stevens (portrayed by Bay View Historical Society's Ron Winkler). Stevens was an American industrial designer of home furnishings, appliances, automobiles and motorcycles. Other notables will be John Janssen, Milwaukee's Police Chief from 1888 to 1921. Henry Payne was U. S. Postmaster General under President Teddy Roosevelt.

For the ladies, Miriam Noel Wright was the second wife of Frank Lloyd Wright. Her morphine addiction led to her tumultuous marriage and a gruesome divorce.

Lisette Best Shandelin was the daughter of brewer Phillip Best and vice-president of the Pabst Brewing Company. However, there was a bit of scandal that came to light when her will was read.

Louise Schmitt Braun Blatz was the wife of brewer Johann Braun and when Braun died, she married brewer Valentin Blatz. She rests in a 525-ton granite mausoleum.

Anna Maria Krug Schlitz also married two beer barons, August Krug and Joseph Schlitz and was twice-widowed. Her story has two tragedies.

Before women could vote or be elected to public office, Mary Ellen Freeman Merrill in 1895, was the first woman to serve on the Milwaukee Public School Board. She started the practice of flying a US flag at school entrances.

Here is the schedule of the day's events:

11 – 11:30am.....	Memorial Service in the chapel
11:30am – 2:30pm	Historical figures at their headstones
2:30 – 3:30pm	Walking tour led by Paul Haubrich

.....

Hammer Bill: Bay View Man of Mystery?

BY FRED BETHKE

"Oh, that's just Hammer Bill. They call him that because he always carries a hammer."

I had run into the house to tell my mother I'd seen a strange man walking past. Or rather, a man walking past behaving strangely. The year was 1945 or 46, and we lived on Herman Street, just a few houses from Kinnickinnic.

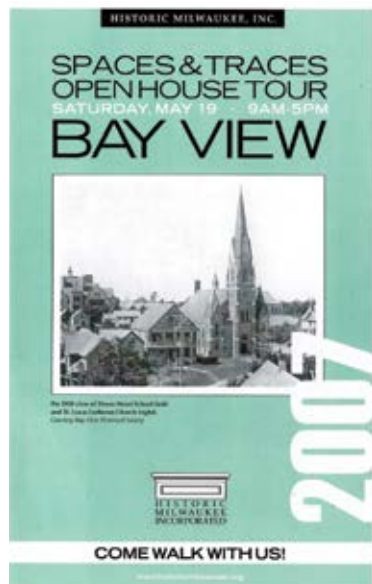
From the way my mother said, "Oh that's just Hammer Bill," it was clear he was well-known in the neighborhood. And not considered dangerous-- even if he did pack a hammer.

Hammer Bill was about 55 or 60, lean, with short white hair. He wore tan overalls, and a white shirt with the sleeves rolled up above his elbows. He seemed unaware of other people -- totally focused inside himself. I saw Hammer Bill one more time a few weeks later, and then never again.

He remains a man of mystery to me. What was his last name? Where did he live? Did he have a family? Had he been a carpenter? How long had he been behaving like this? And what eventually became of him?

Perhaps another member of the Society can answer those questions and shed some light on Hammer Bill.

Please send responses to kpetajan@gmail.com. Thank you!



The 1989 and 2007 Spaces & Traces brochures.



BVHS member Frank Mulvey tells visitors about the Brinton house.



Historic Milwaukee Chooses Bay View for Spaces & Traces 2023

BY RON WINKLER

Historic Milwaukee (HMI) is excited to feature the Bay View neighborhood for its annual Spaces & Traces tour. Much has changed since the first expedition in 1989 and the second in 2007. This year's excursion will highlight thirteen properties that show Bay View's variety and beauty. From S. Shore Drive to S. Logan Avenue, the tour will explore popular styles like Arts & Crafts, Gothic, Tudor Revival and Puddler's Cottages. Modern structures as well as historical buildings will be featured. Lifestyles from the rich and famous to modest will be represented.

Ticket holders will receive a list of addresses and a Google map as the tour date approaches. On the day of the event, everyone will receive a brochure with property descriptions and a printed map.

Sneak Preview

Three of the sites on the tour will be the South Shore Yacht Club (SSYC), the tour's headquarters, Beulah Brinton house, headquarters of Bay View Historical Society (BVHS) and the Bruno Nordberg house. The Beulah Brinton house was BVHS's first landmark (1986); SSYC is BVHS's newest landmark (2022) and the Bruno Nordberg house will be BVHS's 2023 landmark.

TOUR DATE:
May 13, 2023 • 10am – 5pm

TICKETS:
\$30 HMI member • \$40 non-member
Tickets available on HMI website
beginning 10am March 1, 2023

HEADQUARTERS:
South Shore Yacht Club

Where in (Historical) Bay View?

BY RON WINKLER

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

Answer to last issue's quiz (Winter 2022):

Theobald Otjen's Victorian Gothic home doubled as the offices for the law firm of Otjen and Otjen. This elegant home, located at 2501 South Kinnickinnic Avenue, was razed in 1962 and replaced by two apartment buildings. Otjen Street was named for Otjen brothers Theobald and his brother Christian. They were orphans from Michigan who were under the care of Eber Brock Ward's sister. Ward brought them to Milwaukee in 1870 to work in the rolling mill.

Theobald became Bay View's village attorney and Christian was village treasurer. Theobald continued his political career, serving as Bay View's Alderman from 1887 until 1894, followed by a seat in Congress from 1894 until 1906. The brothers founded the law firm of Otjen and Otjen which expanded into real estate. Later, the firm was taken over by Theobald's sons, Henry and Chris. It is still in business today.



Is it Time to Renew Your Membership?

Please look at your Bay View Historian mailing label to see when your membership will expire.

All yearly membership terms run from January 1 thru December 31. Any new memberships will be current through the end of the calendar year (one year plus pro-rated months). Members receive our newsletter, *The Historian*, with interesting articles and the latest information on all our events as well as discounts at a variety of Bay View merchants.

Thanks for supporting the programs of the Bay View Historical Society!

PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP IN THE BAY VIEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership Dues

- ☐ Individual.....\$20
- ☐ Household.....\$30
- ☐ Senior (65 or older).....\$17
- ☐ Senior Household.....\$25
- ☐ Nonprofit/Small Business.....\$30
- ☐ Corporate.....\$55

Philanthropic Levels:

- ☐ \$100 Friend ☐ \$1,000 Patron
- ☐ \$500 Leader ☐ \$2,500+ Benefactor

☐ Also enclosed is a tax deductible contribution of \$ _____

☐ Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
Bay View Historical Society

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐ Please contact me! I'd like to volunteer for a project or committee.

☐ Please save a tree and send The Historian to the email address above.

Send your Membership Renewal to:

The Bay View Historical Society
Attn: Membership
2590 S. Superior Street
Bay View, WI 53207



Lost Photos of The Bay View Rolling Mill

BY KAREN GERSONDE

When I was growing up, my grandparents, Amelia and Augusta Decesari, lived at 2463 S. Superior St. in Bay View. This was the house where my mother and her siblings grew up in. There were no houses across the street from them as the Milwaukee Iron Company Rolling Mill at one time occupied all of this land. As I was going through old family photos from my mom's side of the family, I came across some never seen before photos of this rolling mill. I knew my Uncle Joe Decesari had a camera but I never expected to see photos of this old industrial complex. At first, I thought that he took these photos after the mill shut down, but one photo did have workers in it. Then I remembered that my grandfather did work there, like most of the men in that area at that time. So, I'm not sure at this point if it was my grandfather or Joe, who took the photos. I'll never know as they both passed away. However, I'm glad they did and that these photos survived all these years.

Eber Brock Ward established the Milwaukee Iron Company (or Bay View Rolling Mill) in 1868. The mill transformed ore from area mines into iron products, including thousands of tons of rail for the region's growing railroads. By 1855, more than 1500 people were employed at that plant. The village of Bay View grew from a rural crossroads to an industrial community surrounding the mill.

On May 5, 1886, a major labor disturbance occurred at the mill. Nearly 1500 strikers from around Milwaukee marched on the Bay View mill to dramatize their demand for an eight hour work day. The local militia was called in by Governor Jeremiah Rusk. The militia fired on the crowd, killing seven people. The mill closed in 1929, and the buildings were finally razed in 1939.

I was born in 1955 so I never got to see the mill first hand. All I saw growing up in Bay View was the vacant land that the mill occupied, the land across the street from my grandparents' home. The photos below bring to life a glimpse of what the mill looked like; a mill, the Milwaukee Iron Company, that paved the way for Milwaukee to become the "machine shop of the world."

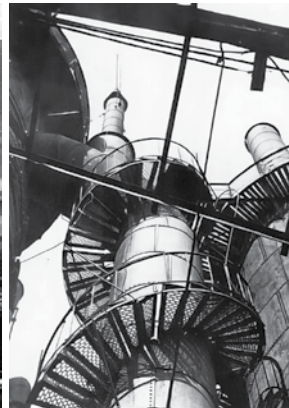
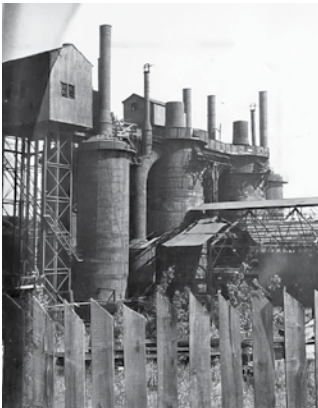
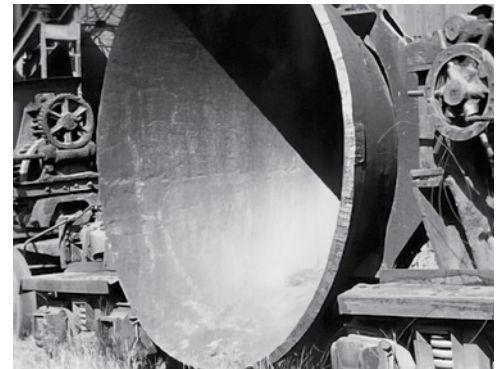
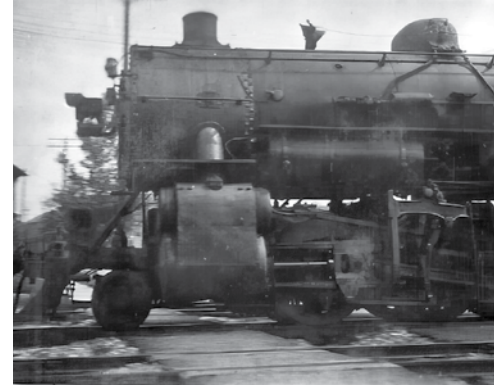
FOOTNOTES: Information from:

Encyclopedia of Milwaukee UWM Web Site

The Historical Marker Data Base

Wisconsin Historical Society Web Site

Photos from the private collection of the Decesari Family (Karen Gersonde)



Bay "View"

BY ROBERT HANSEN

The Bay View community grew around the lands of the Bay View Rolling Mill, 1868 to 1929, later bought by Illinois Steel, on Jones Island. The mill made iron railroad wheels and re-rolled rails as railroad building in America peaked around 1900. Not to be outdone by others, principals of the Bay View mill, E A Bennett, George and William Van Dyke and others incorporated the Bay View & Chicago Railroad company in 1889 to build a road from Milwaukee, Racine and to Chicago. Capital stock of \$100,000. "The organization will own and control all the locomotives and cars which belong to the Illinois Steel Company."⁽¹⁾

Crews surveying a route through the community, aroused many to oppose this construction as the route would isolate much of the Bay View community from the lake as had building the Northwestern route isolated much of the lower east side of Milwaukee. The South Side Civic Association was formed in 1909 to fight this railroad. According to Jaunts with Jamie in 1961, the association held a Carnival to raise funds for the fight that eventually won. Dan Starkey was named first president.⁽²⁾

The success of this fight resulted in the creation of both South Shore and Bay View parks that we enjoy at this writing, mostly by the efforts of Theobald Otjen and Dan Starkey. The Starkey house remains at 2582 Shore Drive. Both of whom used their own money to purchase the land.⁽³⁾

The Milwaukee Journal on January 16, 1909 entitled an article on the new parks with the lead "Bay View will celebrate Park Victory with Fireworks, Music and Speeches." Also quoted was: "Marks end of Long Fight." Now I note that this Dan Starkey was friends with Christian Wahl, then chair of the City Park board. The Parks were City-owned until the December 31, 1936 transfer to the County. It was Wahl who hired F.L. Olmsted to design Lake Park. Wahl's son married Starkey's daughter in 1937. Anyway, the opening of the Parks was celebrated "with speeches, a bonfire, fireworks" and a "little spread later at the residence of Dan Starkey, 372 Beulah-av." Otjen and Starkey put up \$50,000 of the \$133,000 asking price for the Park lands, that were then part of the Ties and Rahn farms.⁽⁴⁾

REFERENCE:

1. *Milwaukee Sentinel*, August 29, 1889
2. *Milwaukee Journal*, February 19, 1909
3. *History of Milwaukee*, Volume 2. Page 658, Paragraph 2
4. *Milwaukee Journal*, January 16, 1909



BVHS Membership Report

BY JOSEPH SLIKER, MEMBERSHIP

As of February 5, 2023 out of 1167 entries in the BVHS Contacts (Past Perfect) database there are 224 active/paid memberships which are paid/up to date at least through the end of the current year.

Current Active (dues paid) Members

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Household	29	35	32	25
Individual	35	55	40	30
Senior Household	72	76	67	71
Senior Individual	87	100	96	95
Corporate	3	2	1	1
Nonprofit-Small Bus	5	4	4	2
Total Paid Memberships (2/5/2023)	231	272	240	224

Lifetime Members*	(not reported)			24
Honorary Members*	80	85	72	47
Mailing Only**	50	35	50	48
Total Historian Mailing List***	361	392	362	343

*Although Honorary & Lifetime members are not required to pay dues, some continue to do so, and/or make annual contributions.

** (Historian sent at no charge to promote visibility in the community)

*** The actual number of Historians sent may be higher than this some months; expired members will see a reminder under their address that their membership is expired in an effort to remind/encourage them to renew.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Angela Sorby	Grace Pelisek
David Blomberg	Brooke Uhl
David Ryder	Karen & Pat Flanagan
Robert Hansen	Jennifer Stevens
Deborah Stankus	Claudia Looze
Paula Andraski	Rachel & Todd Herrenbruck
Leslie Carringer	Ben & Megan Byers
Andres Villanueva	J. Young
Beccca Schnabel	Mary Hammer
Barbara Barrera	

BVHS Financial Statement

BY DANA HANSEN, TREASURER

Assets

• Checking:	\$4,790.13
• Savings:	\$120,259.20
• Total Liquid Assets:	\$125,049.33

Direct Public Support:

• Membership Annual Appeal:	\$11,959.00
• Interest Income - Bank:	\$15.07
(New Landmark Credit Union Account)	
• Total Revenue:	\$11,974.07

Expenses:

• Insurance:	\$2,004.00
• Printing & Publications:	\$860.85
• Restoration/Renovation:	\$4,220.00
• Routine Maintenance:	\$165.00
• Supplies:	\$403.03
• Utilities:	\$637.14
• Total Expenses:	\$8,630.02

Archives Committee: Charmaine DeNoyer Exhibit Now Open

BY KATHY MULVEY, BVHS ARCHIVES CHAIR

Hundreds and hundreds of Bay View residents experienced life in the theater under the tutelage of Charmaine DeNoyer. A graduate of Bay View High School herself, DeNoyer taught music at Bay View High School from the 1970s to the early 1990s. She brought a professional touch to the theatrical productions at the school, and also founded The Bay View Players, a community theater that engaged many community residents.

Ms. DeNoyer recently died, but her sister, Joyce Plewa Richards, donated a large collection of memorabilia to the historical society, including photographs of cast and crew members, posters and programs, recordings of the productions and of musical competitions, and much more.

The exhibit will be on display in the Beulah Brinton House at 2590 S. Superior St., through the end of March, and can be viewed every Monday morning from 10 am to 12 noon (the regular meeting time of the Archives Committee), or at the Open Houses on Saturday, February 4, and March 4, 2 – 4 pm.

Signature Quilt Also on Display

BVHS member Jean Larsen, who donated a large 1911 signature quilt bearing the names of well over 1,000 Bay View residents from that era, including (Beulah Brinton and Spencer Tracy), died earlier this year. In honor of her, we will also have the quilt on display. It is really a remarkable piece of Bay View history, and we hope you will take a look.

Two New Books in Research Library

The Bay View Historical Society has received two new books from publishers that are sure to interest historical society members. Both can be checked out of our upstairs research library for two weeks at a time.

Our own John Gurda has written *Brewtown Tales: More Stories from Milwaukee and Beyond*, and including "Beulah Brinton of Bay View: Neighborhood Activist of 1800s Is Still a Role Model."

The Forgotten Iron King of the Great Lakes, by Michael W. Nagel, tells the story of Eber Brock Ward, founder of the Milwaukee Iron Mill, which is the reason that Bay View exists as a distinct neighborhood. According to Nagel, Ward was super successful at integrating his businesses in steamboats, railroads, lumber, mining and iron. However, Ward's personal life was filled with ruthless competition, conflict and family scandal.

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

One generation plants the trees, and another gets the shade.
- Chinese Proverb

The miracles of spring will soon be abundant as leaves appear again on trees after months of dormancy. Because of the generosity of those who planted trees years ago, we now get to enjoy those trees. Everyone can make a difference by planning today how their generosity will live on after they are gone. One way to do this is by remembering the Bay View Historical Society in your will. The Bay Historical Society is committed to conserving, celebrating and sharing Bay View's rich heritage. Planning a gift for the Society will plant seeds to help assure its future growth.

If you would like further information on how to remember the Bay View Historical Society, please contact **Nancy Tawney; 414-744-5674, ntawney@aol.com**



Calendar of Events

Visit BayViewHistoricalSociety.org
for more information.

House Concert: Featuring Carole Ferrara + Johnny Plankenhorn

Saturday • April 1 • 7:30pm
Beulah Brinton House
To reserve seats: healingqueen19@gmail.com

Gather by the Waters with David HB Drake

Friday • April 14 • 7pm
Beulah Brinton House

BVHS Annual Dinner

Saturday • April 29 • 5:30pm
South Shore Yacht Club

Spaces & Traces Tour: Bay View

Saturday • May 13 • 10am – 5pm
South Shore Yacht Club

Forest Home Cemetery Memorial Day Program

Monday • May 30 • 11:30am
2405 W. Forest Home Avenue

BVHS Landmark Dedication: Nordberg House

Saturday • June 10 • 1pm
2940 S. Logan Avenue

BVHS August Walk: The Northern Border

Saturday • August 5 • 9am
Colectivo Coffee
2301 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue.

Monthly Open House

1st Saturdays from 1-4 pm
Saturday • March 4
Saturday • April 1
Saturday • May 6
Saturday • June 3

BVHS Board Meetings

Board of Directors meetings are usually held the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. The format is hybrid, meeting in-person at the Beulah Brinton House and via Zoom, and are open to members.

Wednesday • March 8 • 6:30pm
Wednesday • April 12 • 6:30pm
Wednesday • May 10 • 6:30pm
Wednesday • June 14 • 6:30pm

“Gather by the Waters” with David HB Drake

David HB Drake will present his Milwaukee history program “Gather by the Waters ~ The life, times and music of the people who came here” for “Milwaukee Day” on **Friday April 14, 2023 at 7pm at the Beulah Brinton House**, 2590 S Superior St, Milwaukee, WI. A free will donation to benefit the Bay View Historical Society is requested at the door.

“Gather by the Waters” presents the history of Lake Michigan in songs, stories, and over 150 PowerPoint images, where the inland seas attracted people of many different heritages to make this place home.

From the first Native Americans and French fur traders to the tall ships of the Yankee land speculators, from Black folks traveling the underground railroad to the mass migrations of German, Polish, and Irish to these shores, David tells the story of the many lives who have gathered by these waters. The program will be presented with guitar, concertina and a variety of handmade instruments including banjo, Native American flute, and dulcimer, plus acapella songs of sailing men. PowerPoint slides illustrate the songs and sing-along slides encourage folks to join the choruses in seven languages.



The common theme of the waters that carried us here will flow in a program that reminds us we are all “in the same boat”.

Call or write David at 414-702-6053
orgarts@gmail.com

Visit www.davidhbdrake.com

Videos at

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DavidHBDrake/>
See “Maritime Songs” on “Playlists”.

