



Northwest Chicago Historical Society

Your Neighborhood Historical Society

Newsletter January 2013

Number XVII

Luther North High School • The Northwest Triangle Football Team
The Early Masons of Chicago's Northwest Side Revisited
John Groenier • Henry Wulff

Over the last year, many local historians have provided informative tours and lectures to our organization. Some of our more interesting discussions included a history of Chicago Parks and historic Chicago disasters. Additionally, we were fortunate enough to partner with the Jefferson Masonic Temple on their 100-year anniversary of the building. Local masons offered tours of the building and openly talked about the history of masons in the area and in general.

We are thrilled that these dedicated individuals have volunteered their time to help educate our community on new (and not so new) topics. Often these people have published materials related to their area of expertise. The NWHCS has promoted them in our newsletter as a way to continue to thank them for their time and effort. Some outstanding individuals have lectured on the subject matter of their books: Craig Cleve, author of the *Green Hornet Streetcar Disaster*, and Julia Bachrach, author of *The City in a Garden: A History of Chicago Parks (Second edition)*. We encourage you to find and read these materials to show your support for Chicago's historic legacy. We are forever grateful to all the people who support us, whether they be authors or advertisers in the newsletter. Please support our local authors and advertisers.

If you would like to know about our next event, please visit www.meetup.com/The-Northwest-Chicago-History-Meetup-Group or for general information see us at www.nwchicagohistory.org. Signing up for events is free and everyone is always welcome. We hope to see you at our next event. - Frank Suerth



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Mission Statement:

As the Northwest Chicago Historical Society, our mission is to educate others about the history of the Northwest neighborhoods of Chicago. We will accomplish this through discussion at meetings, public tours and events, and dissemination of historical documents and photos through publications. Additionally, we desire to collaborate with others in the community to continue to maintain and preserve the history of our collective neighborhoods. By linking the past with the present and the future, we will provide awareness and create appreciation for our place in Chicago's and Illinois' history.

The Northwest Chicago Historical Society

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Keep track of what is happening at the Northwest Chicago Historical Society

Join our Meet-up Group (It's FREE)

www.meetup.com/The-Northwest-Chicago-History-Meetup-Group/

NW Chicago Historical Society

P. O. Box 30067

Chicago, IL 60630

e-mail: nwchicagohistory@sbcglobal.net

Membership:

\$15.00 per calendar year

\$10.00 for 65 years old and over

Website: nwchicagohistory.org

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Letters

Letters may have been edited for clarity and space

Because we cannot access "Meetup Group" it is not beneficial for us to be members. The newsletter informs us of the tours we missed and would have enjoyed if we had the information. We are sorry we must end this membership.

Ed & Marilyn Irsch – Jefferson Park

We thank you for your past support of the Northwest Chicago Historical Society. Members dues help our all-volunteer organization pay for various operating expenses including the printing of this newsletter. Our Meetup Group was set up as an efficient way to inform people of up and coming events. Our events are also published in the Nadig Newspaper - NWCCHS

CALL FOR PHOTOS

Our VP Dan Pogorzelski is coauthoring a book about the history of Avondale and Chicago's Polish Village for Arcadia Publishing! Any old photos (or tips on sources of photos) of people or places in the neighborhood would be greatly appreciated. The neighborhood is bound roughly by Addison to the north, Diversey to the south, the Chicago River to the east, and the Milwaukee District West Metra line (past Pulaski) to the west. Thanks!



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Saturday Evening Mass
4:30pm

Sunday Masses
8:00am - 9:30am - 11:15am

Monday-Saturday Morning Mass
7:30am

Wednesday, School Mass
8:15am During the School Year
Holy Day Masses
As Announced

Rosary M-F after the 7:30am Mass

Novena To Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Tuesday 7:00pm
in the Upper Church

1st Friday Adoration
Upper Church 8:00am-5:00pm
1st Saturday Devotion
Lower Church 10:00am-3:30pm

Holy Hour Devotion

First Sunday of month after the 11:15am Mass

Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us, whether visitors, neighbors, long-time residents, or newly arrived in the Neighborhood.

Our parish family extends an invitation to all to join us as we celebrate the Sunday Eucharistic at the Lord's Table.

Our Lady of Victory offers a diverse group of ministries and organizations to fill the varied interests of our 2,500 individual members.

Our Lady of Victory School is open to all regardless of religious affiliation. Our emphasis is, of course, in the Roman Catholic Tradition. This award winning school has room for 500 students from Pre-K through 8th Grade.

Our Lady of Victory also supports a vital Religious Education Center for all ages. From three and four year-olds to seniors, we have a Religious Education for all.

Leisure time organizations are the heartbeat of Our Lady of Victory, from Scouting for boys and girls of all ages, sport activities, to our Mothers' Club, Parish Men's Club, Teen Club and including our very active Music Ministry with Chamber Choirs, Adult, Teen and special Choirs.

We welcome you to join with us in our celebration of God's Word.

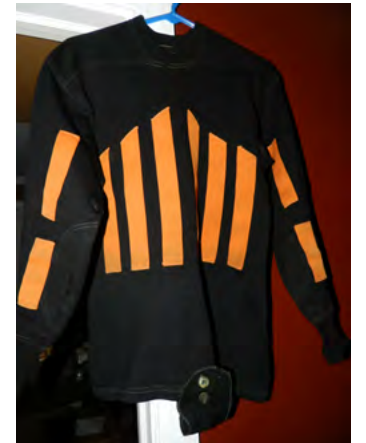
Reverend Robert Fedek, *Pastor*

Letters

I am wondering if you can help me? I recent came across a football jersey that I have been told belonged to Charles P. Skreko. Apparently, the jersey was worn while Charles was playing on a team called the Northwest Triangles (Portage Park) in 1928/1929. During that year, the Triangles (who were a semi-pro team) won the championship.

Do you know of this team, and would you happen to have any press coverage (I believe that an article was in the Daily Herald), or any insight that might confirm its identity, etc. Thanks,

Charlie Rowell - Barrington, IL



In 1930, Charles P. Skreko lived at 5820 West Warwick Avenue in the Portage Park neighborhood. Another team member was Carl H. Peterson who went to Lane Tech High School. He was one of the quarterbacks in the late 20's for the Northwest Triangles. They were one of the teams in the "Prairie Football" league. Most of the Chicago Parks and some suburbs like Schiller Park, Cicero, Maywood, and Evanston had teams in this league. The Northwest Triangles were also a competitive ice skating team. - NWCHS



The Northwest Triangles football team.

Photo Courtesy of Charlie Rowell



The Northwest Triangles football team.

6.

Photos Courtesy of Charlie Rowell

The Early Masons of Chicago's Northwest Side Revisited

John Groenier

On September 21, 1879, John Groenier was born to Ubbo Groenier and Johanna Mayer in Gorredijk, Holland. John immigrated to America with his family at three years old and went to school in Jefferson Park. He graduated from Jefferson High School in 1896.

By 1900, the family was living at what is now 5153 Argyle Avenue, across the street from the future location of Jean Baptiste Beaubien Elementary School. John was employed as a schoolteacher.

Groenier was a Mason and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson Masonic Association during the building of the Masonic Temple on Gale Street. He was Past Master of Providence lodge, No. 711, A. F. & A. M.; Fellowship Chapter, No. 235, R. A. N. and Past Patron in Providence Chapter, No. 287, O. E. S.

In 1914, John married Margaret Kirchoff and the following year he built his bride a fine bungalow at 4706 N. Laramie, located across the alley from Margaret's parents house.

To this day, John was best known for photos he had taken of the Jefferson Park area. It is said the Charles R. Childs was Chicago's first documentary photographer starting in 1908 and continuing through 1912, but we believe John Groenier may have had a head start on Charles. Charles Childs had produced over 5,000 Chicago images on penny post cards, but John Groenier produced hundreds of glass negatives just in the Jefferson Park area. 83-year-old John Groenier died on September 3, 1963, and he is buried at Union Ridge



John Groenier



The Jefferson Park Train Station at ground level. Photo by John Groenier - Colorized by Matt Schademann (pdf version only)

Photos Courtesy of Gail Weber

7.

Mystery Photo? - Mystery Solved!



Photo Courtesy of Gail Weber

In the July 2009 issue of the Northwest Chicago Historical Society Newsletter, we published this photo asking about the identity these people and the location of this house. We now have all the answers.

The house is still standing and located at 5157 W. Strong (southeast corner of Strong & Laramie). We can tell it is a 2 flat by the 2 doorbells in the photo. The old address is posted above the doorbells; therefore, the photo was taken before the address change of 1909

Joseph H. Swart worked as a carpenter and is sitting on the left. His wife Mary Swart, (nee Groenier) a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and Altui Club of Jefferson Park, is sitting in the middle with their two boys, Harvey Swart and Hubert Swart. They lived at this address when the photo was taken.

Mary Swart's younger brother John Groenier is sitting on the right and her older brother August Groenier is sitting at the top. The photo was taken in 1908 and their approximate ages in 1908 are: August Groenier, 36; Mary Groenier Swart, 34; John Groenier, 29; Joseph Swart, 34; Harvey Swart, 4; and Hubert Swart, 3.

Henry Wulff

Henry Wulff was born on August 24, 1854, in Schleswig Holstein, Germany. At nine years old, he came to the Town of Jefferson with his parents, Claus F. Wulff and Katherine Schmook. Henry was educated in the public schools in Jefferson and graduated from Dyrenfurth's College in Chicago. He married Katherine Ehglehardt of Chicago in Jefferson on December 28, 1874.

They had five children, two of whom died before the age of ten. Frederick Wulff, who was born in 1884, died when he was eleven years old. Two daughters survived into adulthood, Nellie and Lillie. Lillian M. Wulff graduated from Jefferson High School in 1895 and married Robert E. Maypole in 1902. Nellie K. Wulff married John Ray McGurren. Today there are no living descendants of Henry Wulff.

Henry Wulff was a Republican and started out his political career as Deputy Sheriff of Cook County in 1878. Still acting as Deputy Sheriff, he was elected to the Board of Trustees for the Town of Jefferson and later became president of the Board, where he served two terms. Over the next 10 years, he served in multiple capacities: on the Jefferson Finance Committee, as a delegate at the Republican National Convention at Minneapolis, as Treasurer of the Jefferson Street Railway Company, as and President of the Double Eagle Mining Company. In addition, he was elected Illinois State Treasurer and twice as Clerk of Cook County. In 1900, he became Alderman in the City Council. Henry Wulff was never defeated in any election.

Henry Wulff was a Knight Templar Mason, belonging to Siloam Commandery. He also held membership with the Independent Order of Foresters, the Order of Red Men and the Knights of Pythias.

The Wulff family lived at 4923 N. Milwaukee Avenue, the location of the Jefferson Park Bus Terminal. For a picture of his house, see Newsletter July 2007 - Henry Wulff - Political Pioneer, (available at the Northwest Chicago Historical Society's website, www.nwchicagohistory.org .)

After a long illness, Henry Wulff died on December 27, 1902, at the Robert Burns Hospital at Washington Boulevard and Garfield Park in Chicago. His wife Katherine died in Chicago on March 7, 1941. They are both buried in Union Ridge Cemetery.



Henry Wulff 1854 - 1902

Photo taken when he was Illinois State Treasurer ca 1894

Photo courtesy of the Illinois State Historical Library

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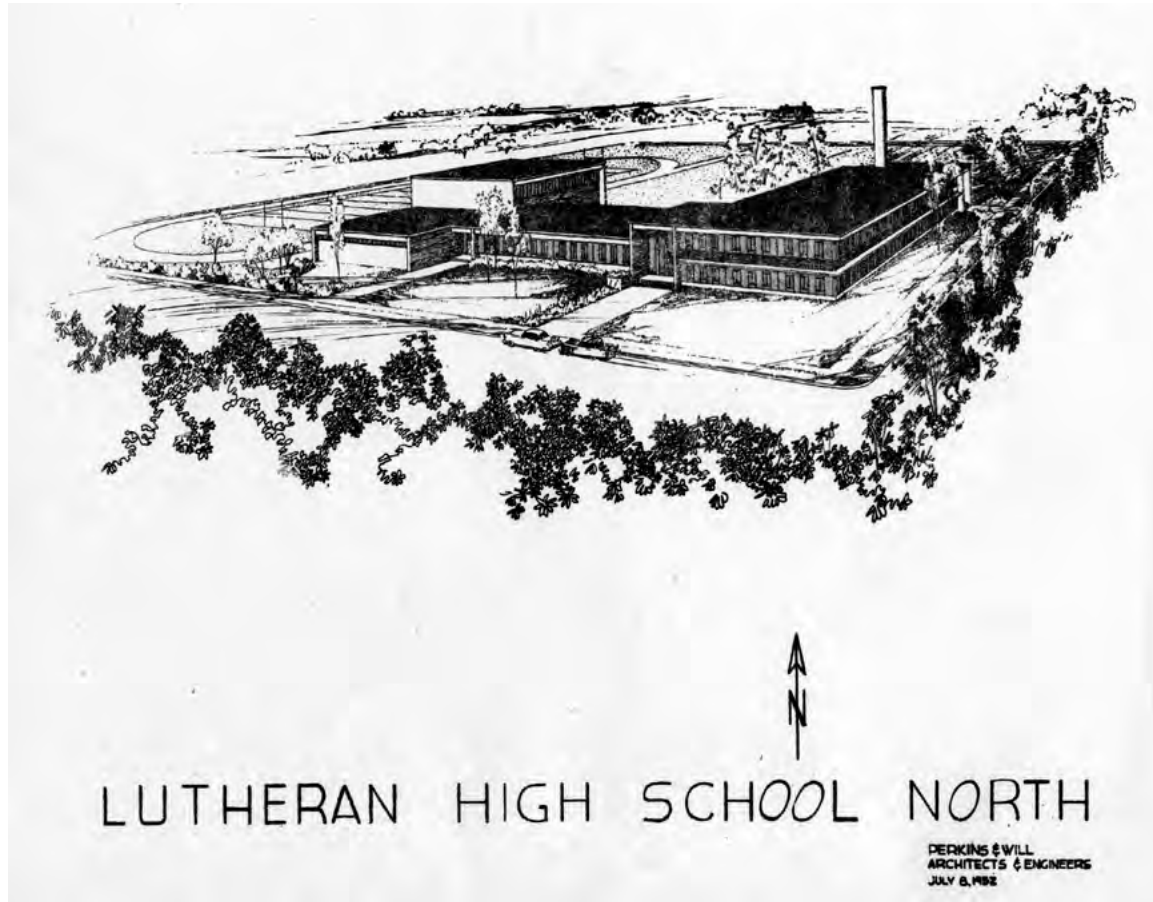
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Luther North High School

For over a century Luther High School North has contributed to church and society. In the early 1900's a group of first and second-generation German Lutheran immigrants who had settled in various parts of the metropolitan area combined their resources to establish one of the first Lutheran high schools in the world (preceded only by the Milwaukee Lutheran High School, 1903.) The concept of a group of local congregations pooling their resources to provide an education beyond elementary school was unique and exciting.

Luther High School North originated as Luther Institute, located until the early 1950's on Woods Street on the west side of Chicago's Loop. The proud traditions held even today by the graduates of that school evidence the power of the Spirit as many laymen and women; clergy and commissioned teachers trace their roots to Luther Institute. The tradition was so valued that when the building in which Luther Institute was housed was scheduled for an urban renewal project, the city of Chicago wisely planned new locations to accommodate the burgeoning Lutheran community. Of the three emergent Lutheran high schools in the Chicago area, Luther North was the first and largest, opening its doors in 1953.



This sketch is what the architects, Perkins & Will envision the finished school to look like in 1952.

Photos Courtesy of Luther North College Prep



The original school, Luther Institute on Woods Street in Chicago. (1909 – 1916)

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3. Taurus, 4024 N. Milwaukee Ave.
4. Las Tablas expansion, 4918 W. Irving Park Road
5. 4038 N. Milwaukee (Not yet named)

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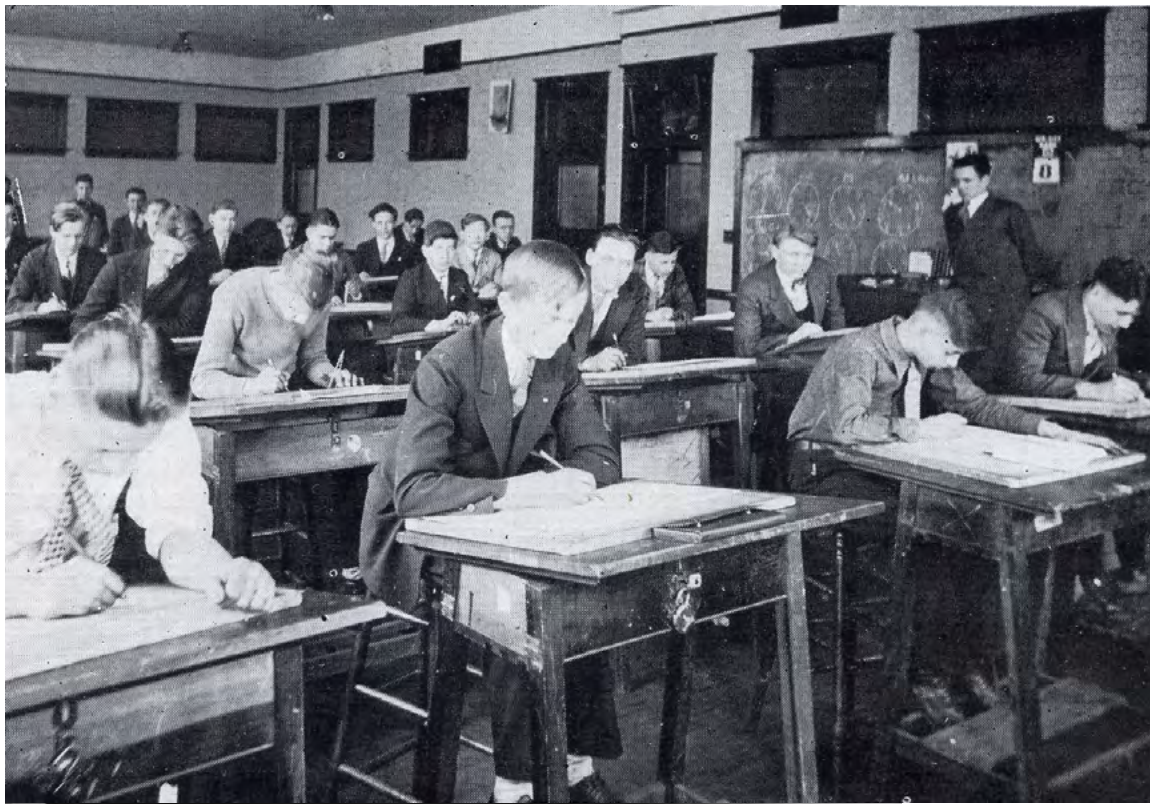


Early Machine Shop

Photos Courtesy of Luther North College Prep



Early students outside the west loop school. 13.



**Early 1900s
Drafting Class
& Spanish Class.**



*Photos Courtesy of
Luther North College
Prep*

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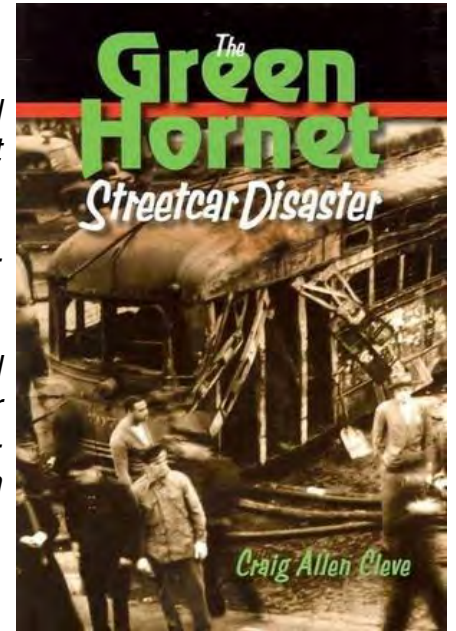
Thank You!

A special thanks to Craig Cleve, who presented his PowerPoint presentation on *The Green Hornet Street Car Disaster*, at one of our meetings.

Here is what some people said about Craig's presentation:

"What a great presentation by an enthusiastic and approachable historian! In addition to the PowerPoint images, there was a sizeable hands-on collection of photographs originally from the Sun Times archives". - Kateri Starczewski

"Well-researched with a focus on people". - Natasha



Early Luther North football.



Science Lab at Luther Institute

Photo Courtesy of Luther North College Prep

By the late 1960's, Luther North's student enrollment exceeded even the largest years of Luther Institute's student enrollment. By 1971, Luther High School North (built for 1000 potential students) had grown to almost 1400 students and was the largest Lutheran high school in the world.

The school is now named Luther North College Prep with many exciting developments in the Business, Fine Arts, and Health Sciences academies. The present location (5700 West Berteau) of Luther North has served the northwest side of Chicago and the suburbs for over 50 years. Ten thousand graduates of Luther North have built a legacy of academic excellence, spiritual growth, and athletic and fine arts achievements. It is certain that graduates will continue to serve church and society as productive and responsible Christian servant-leaders.

L.I.	HOME	V.S.	L.O.	AWAY-FROM-HOME	V.S.
1017	Dec. 9 TULEY	26 23	613	Dec. 2 LAKE VIEW	43 36
2531	Dec. 16 HARVARD	9 12	3123	Dec. 14 Morgan Pk. Mil. Ac.	13 20
2945	Dec. 23 ALUMNI	21 24	1811	*Jan. 13 Chicago Christian	17 23
1721	*Jan. 6 North Park Academy	5 16	1825	Jan. 25 FRANCIS PARKER	11 25
2488	*Jan. 20 CENTRAL Y.M.C.A.	15 20	2321	*Jan. 27 PULLMAN	15 19
1032	*Feb. 10 Chicago Christian	14 20	925	Feb. 3 HARVARD, 3:30 p.m.	8 9
1902	*Feb. 17 PULLMAN	11 18	425	*Feb. 4 North Park, 7.00 p.m.	4
2117	March 3 FRANCIS PARKER	19 27	15	Feb. 18 CONCORDIA	17
			20	*Feb. 20 CENTRAL (Lights)	12
			2026	Feb. 22 Morgan Park Mil. Ac.	11 42
			17	*Feb. 24 CENTRAL (Heavies)	39

Private High School League

Early Luther Institute basketball schedule from the 1932-33 season.



Images Courtesy of Luther North College Prep

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Construction photos for Luther North High School

Thank You!

A special thanks to Chicago Park District historian Julia Bachrach, who presented a PowerPoint presentation on her recent publication of the second edition of "The City in a Garden: A History of Chicago Parks," at one of our meetings.

Bachrach documents the city's 175-year commitment to its public parks and explains how luminaries such as architect Daniel H. Burnham, landscape architect and conservationist Jens Jensen, and social reformer Jane Addams shaped and influenced the city's green spaces.

Here is what some people said about Julia's presentation:

Great the way she tied in things in our specific neighborhood. Amazingly interesting facts mixed with great personal anecdotes on how she learned as she gathered information. - Dottie

Terrific speaker. Knows and cares for her topic. - Frank Chambers Jr

This was a great lecture! What a treasure of information and images! - Susan Levi



1938-1939 Aerial Photograph of the Portage Park Area

Spencer Coal Field (stadium) at 4200 N. Central Avenue (1934 to 1943). It was home to Semi-professional baseball, softball (both men and women) and football teams. The field had lights for night games. Local high school football teams also played here. In winter, the field was flooded for ice-skating. In August of 1940, Jesse Owens, Olympic champion, gave a demonstration of his running ability between games at Spencer Field by running against a motorcycle for 100 yards.



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Illinois Historical Aerial Photography Cook County 1938-1939





Photo Courtesy of Frank Suerth

This photo from 1910 depicts two young children on a donkey. At the time, it was a very common practice to take photos of children on a pony or donkey. We know where the photo was taken and the names of the children.

The house is located in the Logan Square neighborhood at 2956 Belden Avenue. The two boys in the photo are sons of Fredrick and Satten Litzel: 5-year-old Pierre and 3-year-old Fredrick.

1910 Graduation Class from Manierre School



Photo Courtesy of Frank Suerth

This photo was found at an estate sale. The photo was taken by Max Teuber of 326 E. North Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. The George Manierre School is located at 1420 North Hudson in the Old Town area (1885 to present).

All the graduating students had their names listed in pencil on the back.

Top Row: Anna Russell, Evelyn Klumpp, Art Nelson, Roy Clarke, Walter Stollstorff, Arthur Blucker, Edward Muntzner, Otto Ziedslog, Art Meske, Lillie Thiel, and Yetta Feingold.

Second Row: Julia Howard, Anna Hunziker, Myrtle Spiering, Mabel Myer, Mary Weyland, Lillie Krell, Mary Tlaish, and Anna Anderson.

Bottom Row: Otto Ackermann, Oscar Palinquest, and Edmund Lundgren

Thank You!

A special thanks to the Masons at the Jefferson Masonic Temple for inviting us to join the celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the Gale Street building.

Self-guided historical tours were conducted and numerous historic documents were displayed. Mason members helped to found the Town of Jefferson and played important rolls in the history of the northwest side.

The contents of the 100-year-old cornerstone time capsule from the building were on display. The Jefferson Masonic Temple is Chicago's oldest building used exclusively for Masonic groups.



Here is what Kateri Starczewski said about the Masonic Temple History Tour:

I had made it a point to do a little GOOGLE searching beforehand, as I didn't know much about the Masons. I was glad I did. However, it really wasn't necessary as there were blue shirted Masons ready and willing to share without being pushy. I also witnessed some truly kind and understanding interactions among a few of the members. It was obvious that a decided effort had gone into displaying historic artifacts. As I walked ALL around the massive complex, more than one person also informed me that the historical expertise/ resources of the NWCHS group facilitated the exhibition in a big way. Though I am a brand new member and not from the area, I felt proud of NWCHS.

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