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**Northwest Chicago  
Historical Society**  
*Your Neighborhood Historical Society*

Newsletter July 2021

Number XXXIV

**OLV - The Mother Church of the Far Northwest Side  
When the Squares Ruled the Diamond • Northwest Side Pioneer**

As the Northwest Chicago Historical Society, we take great pleasure in relating stories of our past to the local community. For almost 20 years, we have been sharing historic photos and narratives that showcase events and places from another era. Additionally, we partner with local authors for lectures and seminars that focus on specific elements of our cultural history that would be lost in time without their research. We do this to reminisce, to educate, and to ensure our past is not forgotten. Along with this newsletter, we have been disseminating historic information on our website, Facebook, and Twitter to reach the broadest audience possible.

Recently, it has become apparent that we need to bring greater focus to a key aspect of our mission: preservation. The historic fabric of our community is being demolished at an alarming rate. These buildings have intrinsic value, they attract people, and they are reminders of the culture and complexity of the Northwest Side of Chicago. Once an important place is demolished, it is gone forever. It is not only destroyed for us today, but we have stolen it from future generations.

In December of 2020, the Archdiocese of Chicago announced the closure of one of the most historic and architecturally unique structures on the Northwest Side: Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church ("OLV"). This area of the city has already been decimated, and this tragic loss would remove one of the last beautiful physical vestiges of our history. Preservation Chicago has partnered with the Northwest Chicago Historical Society, naming Our Lady of Victory one of Chicago's "7 Most Endangered" buildings in 2021. We welcome you to join us in our efforts to find a way to preserve OLV. As this is one of the most important structures left on the Northwest Side, this issue exclusively details the cultural and architectural history of the parish and the church complex. Thank you for reading. - *Susanna Ernst*

**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.**



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**Membership:**

\$15.00 per calendar year  
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# Letters

*Letters may have been edited for clarity and space*

I believe it is time for me to become a member. My sincere hope is to inherit more of my time in the coming years. Since we have recently been reminded how easily some can forget history, reminding them becomes all the more important.

Please find a good will contribution to the work being done by your organization. While I am not positioned to contribute frequently, I hope to provide some time and financial support as resources allow.

Best Wishes for you as you go through these times to our next in person meeting.

Michael & Mary Bezanson – Jefferson Park

Do you know the origin of the street name for Marmora in Jefferson Park? Thank you.

Tom McDonough

*Marmora Ave., 5900W 2100 to 6058N. Named after island of Marmora in the Black Sea which is famous for marble. Name comes from the Latin meaning marble. Most of the north/south street had numbers on the northwest side. Marmora was, at one time, called 59th Ave. - NWCHS*

This was an especially fun issue (January 2021).

My cousin who is 97 and I am 92, have memory of Kolze and of church picnics in Harms Woods. We both always feel we are Chicagoans forever!

Dolores Weeda – Wyoming, MN  
NWCHS Member

I really enjoy your publication. I remember Kolze's in its last days.

I have family members buried at Mt. Olive cemetery. On Sundays we would visit the grave sites. My parents would visit Kolze's for dancing and picnics.

I also remember the Times Theater – my wife and I went dancing there when it was the Holiday Ballroom. We would go “up Jeff” to do shopping. I remember Knobe's Stationery Store. I bought my Valentines there!

Jerry Pitzen – Old Irving Park  
NWCHS Member





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# Letters

*Letters may have been edited for clarity and space*

I enjoy your newsletter. I seem to always learn something new by reading it. Thanks for the great newsletter.

Kris Tyler – Des Plaines  
NWCHS Member

---

Enclosed is my check to cover dues.

Today I am 98 years old. I moved with my parents to a new house in June of 1923 at 5929 W. Leland Ave. I attended Prussing School from K to 3rd grade, transferring to St. Robert Bellarmine in 1931 for 4th grade. I graduated from St. Constance High School (later renamed Cardinal Stritch High School) in 1940.

Since I have always been interested in history, I joined the Washington County Historical Society. As time went on I became more active and became a board member and the treasurer. Due to family illness I retired in 1993.

Over the years, I traveled to Chicago many times for visits. To this day, Chicago is part of me, especially Jefferson Park – so many wonderful memories of growing up years.

Sincerely Yours,

Charlotte Sailer Robledo - Bayport, MN  
New NWCHS Member

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I'm looking for some help in finding any information, or a resource that can direct me to the final disposition and location of the artifacts and Native American replica statutes and other displays that were part of the 'Olson Rug Waterfall' attraction, on the Northwest Side, at Pulaski Rd. and Diversey. It was last owned and operated by Marshall Fields, in 1978. Olson Rug sold the property to the Marshall Fields company in the 60s and Fields, later dismantled it in 1978. As we all know, it was an iconic attraction for many Chicagoian's who grew up on the Northwest Side in the '50s and '60s. I'm looking for any records, company archivists, museum donations, auctions, newspaper reports, company newsletter, or other sources anyone might know of to refer me to and locate any remaining items from the Olson Rug Waterfall display and may still be available today. Thank you.

Tim Collins - Facebook

*We have no idea what happened to those Olson Rug Waterfall props. Maybe one of our readers may know and contact us. - NWCHS*



## Our Lady of Victory-The Mother Church of the Far Northwest Side

By *Susanna Ernst*

On December 18, 2020, the Archdiocese of Chicago announced that:

1. “Regularly scheduled Masses at Our Lady of Victory will cease no later than the first Sunday of Advent 2021.”
2. “Concluding regularly scheduled Masses at Our Lady of Victory is deemed necessary by the Commission to create a structure manageable for the parish and to offer a path to explore all options for selling the property...”

With the Archdiocese of Chicago’s intentions of liquidating the Our Lady of Victory complex, the Northwest Chicago Historical Society thought that this would be a good time to do some investigative research on this church for some historical background.



In 1927 a new church with ornate terra cotta arcade entrance was designed by the architectural firm of E. Brielmaier & Sons at 5212 W. Agatite.

6.

*Photo Courtesy of Our Lady of Victory Parish*

## Catholics and Ethnicity

Since before the establishment of St. Mary’s in 1833 (pre-Chicago), Catholic churches and the ethnic groups that comprised them have been an integral part of the landscape of Chicago. In every neighborhood where they were rooted, they built the city from the ground up, changing the landscape and creating places that would be destined for growth.

Today, Chicago is one of the 5 most Catholic cities in the United States, making up over a third of its population. The parishes and churches that comprise this religious group form the backbone of Chicago, building communities, businesses, and social services throughout the city. Their histories, collectively and individually, are so integrated with Chicago’s history that they cannot be separated. To isolate Chicago’s history from the contributions of Catholic churches would tell an incomplete story and not demonstrate an understanding of the growth of this metropolis.

Irish and German immigrants constituted much of the Church’s membership during its founding years. Prior to 1880, territorial parishes, Irish and German parishes were established. By the 1880s and 1890s, Irish and German Catholics had begun their climb out of poverty, the Irish establishing parishes further south, the Germans, further north. Irish Americans—and, to a lesser extent, German Americans—dominated the Catholic Church that Eastern Europeans and Italians encountered when they arrived in Chicago. Much of the interethnic tension that could have resulted from such a situation was muted at the parish level because of the existence of nationality parishes, organized around language rather than geography.



Photo of the inside of the 1927 church. Now the lower church (Marian Chapel)

7.

*Photo Courtesy of Eric Allix Rogers*



## Local History

In the late 1840s, settlers northwest of Chicago organized and petitioned with the state of Illinois to become a full-fledged town (or Township). In 1850, Jefferson Township was formed: a broad swath of land, bordered by North Avenue, Harlem Avenue, Devon Avenue and Western Avenue. The village of Jefferson Park (part of Jefferson Township) was platted in 1855, and before long, new businesses were appearing in the downtown area, near Higgins and Milwaukee. By that time, over 50 buildings were present in the business district. During the 1860's, the population of the Town of Jefferson grew to about 800 persons and the village of Jefferson was officially incorporated in 1872.

During the late 19th century, Chicago was growing rapidly. Not only was the population growing, but the geography was growing through the annexation of suburban communities at its boundaries. In 1889, Jefferson Township was annexed to Chicago along with Lake View, Lake and Hyde Park Townships. This 1889 initiative proved to be the city's largest single annexation with the addition of 125 square miles of property and 225,000 additional people. This made Chicago the nation's largest city by area and second in population at the time.

By the year of annexation, Jefferson had become active and prosperous. As Jefferson Park was now part of Chicago, new methods of transportation and ease of travel were soon to arrive. The transportation opportunities and new city services helped attract new residents to the area. During this period, many first and second-generation immigrants from Poland, Germany, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Italy and Sweden settled in the area.

## Catholic History and the Establishment of Our Lady of Victory

During this early period right after the turn of the century, some Catholics began coming to the area. However, there were no Catholic parishes in Chicago near to the bustling downtown Jefferson Park. Before that time, the religious citizens who dominated life in this part of town were the Congregationalists, who had established themselves as a stronghold in the area since the Civil War. For those living in the oldest parts of this section of the city, the nearest Catholic Church was almost 2 miles away. There were no Catholic Churches at all on the far northwest side of Chicago.

For that reason, in 1906, a mission was established in the area (from St. Edward's church). From that movement, a parish would be established that would initially serve the entirety of the Northwest Side. This parish was to be named: Our Lady of Victory. Elizabeth Massman, a local Catholic woman, was instrumental in gathering northwest side Catholics together and soliciting donations for the establishment of the new church. She also lobbied for the name, as "Our Lady of Victory" as it was the name of the church from her previous residence in Ohio.

Initially, Mass was celebrated in a hall on Milwaukee Avenue. On August 18, 1906, a "Lawn Social" for the benefit of the new Catholic church in Jefferson Park, was held on the lawn of the J.S Dietchert home. Today, this site is in Jefferson Memorial Park.

In 1907 a cottage at 4741 N. Linder Avenue was acquired for use as a church. During the Eucharistic celebration in this frame structure, the men occupied one side of the room and the women the other. At that time, the parish boundaries extended from Mayfair (Cicero Avenue) on the East to the Des Plaines river on the West, and all the way south to Belmont Avenue and north to Norwood. After the establishment of Our Lady of Victory, Catholics would finally feel like they could find a welcome home on the Northwest Side. They continued to come to the area in droves.



**Above is a picture of "Our Lady of Victory," the church in Ohio that Elizabeth missed so badly. This particular building was the second church, which stood from 1853 to 1908. The parish still exists today, outside of Cincinnati.**

*Photo Courtesy of the Cincinnati Inquirer*

In the late 1890's, a woman named Elizabeth Massmann moved from southern Ohio to Chicago. She and her young family eventually moved into a home on Leland Avenue on the Northwest Side. After she arrived, she desperately missed the church of her hometown, so she started soliciting donations to start a new parish. She talked to homeowners and solicited shopkeepers along Milwaukee Avenue. Her dream would come true in 1906, when the first parish on the far Northwest side of Chicago was founded. The name was the one she chose herself; it was the name of the beloved church from her childhood: "Our Lady of Victory."

On Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1909, Rev. Francis Cichozki, former assistant at the German parish of St. Joseph in Wilmette, began his tenure of 41 years as pastor of Our Lady of Victory. One of his first acts was to appoint a church committee, the members which were drawn from the three ethnic groups in the parish - German, Polish, and Irish.

This ethnic makeup of the church was very unusual for the time. Typically, non-English speaking people had attended "National Churches" (which utilized the language of the home country). "Territorial churches" (based exclusively on location) were English speaking and tended to be dominated by Irish, who made up a major portion of Chicago Catholics.



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**The first Mass was celebrated in a hall on the 2nd floor on Milwaukee Avenue near Ainslie St.**  
*Photo Courtesy of the Northwest Chicago Historical Society*

The Catholics who had moved to Jefferson Park were from other parts of the city, and many of them were born in the United States. Rather than gathering with their respective ethnic groups, they came together to collectively form the new church. There was no dominant ethnic group upon its formation; it was the beginning of a new way forward for Chicago Catholics: Americanization and the blending of multiple ethnicities. It was not until a decade later, under the leadership of Cardinal Mundelein, that the Archdiocese became reluctant to establish more national parishes and their associated schools.

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## The Physical Church Complex: Our Lady of Victory

In March 1910, 20 lots at the present parish site (5200 – 5240 West, between Sunnyside and Agatite) were purchased, and construction began on a combination church-school building. The cornerstone was laid on May 22, 1910. This three-story structure, located at 52nd Avenue (Laramie) and Sunnyside was dedicated on May 28, 1911, by Archbishop James E. Quigley. Pastoral leadership from St. Benedicts and St. Viator also attended the dedication. This was clearly a landmark event for residents, as a parade was held, marching from Irving Park Road and Milwaukee Avenue to the new church site. The parade was led and managed by the alderman of the 26th and 27th Wards, one being Frank J. Wilson, the namesake for Wilson Park (just north of the church.)

The architect for this new structure was Herman J. Gaul. Gaul was born in Germany around 1870 and immigrated to the United States in 1886. In the 1890's, he apprenticed under Louis Sullivan and joined the Illinois Society of Architects in 1898. His works included many works for institutions, including St. Elizabeth's and St. Anne's hospitals, but he also designed multiple full-scale German Catholic churches. His works include St. Nicholas in Evanston, in the German Gothic style, and the famous and grandiose St. Benedicts, a Romanesque style church in the North Center neighborhood in Chicago. He was also responsible for the design and exterior renovation of St. Michael's in Old Town, which was completed in 1913. In 1919, he designed the exquisite Mother House and church complex for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in Donaldson, Indiana. In 1985, the Chicago Historical Society referenced him as one of the 7 most important architects in the vanguard of architects that emerged between 1891-1945.



**Original School building designed by Herman J. Gaul and was combination, church, school and convent.**

12.

*Photo Courtesy of the Susanna Ernst*

The establishment of Our Lady of Victory and the construction of the new church was a turning point for the Catholic community on the Northwest Side. This seminal event encouraged the settlement of an influx of Catholics from denser parts of the city. In the following years, thousands of Catholics moved to the far Northwest Side to begin a new era; an era in which the community was to solidify itself as a Catholic American melting pot, a part of the broader fabric of Chicago.

The Archdiocesan Publication "New World" read: "The development of Our Lady of Victory parish has been phenomenal. Only a few years ago the place where the church is now situated, as well as the surrounding territory, was nothing but farmland and pasture. Today beautiful residences and modern flat buildings are in evidence everywhere...many of the Catholic families of the inner city, who are anxious to get away from the smoke and congestion and who wish to give their children a beautiful home, near a parochial school and church are locating in the new parish. The Milwaukee Avenue car line cuts diagonally through the entire section in which Our Lady of Victory parish is located. The church property is at 52nd [Laramie] and Sunnyside Avenues, only one block West of Milwaukee Avenue."

The School Sisters of St. Francis from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, opened the parish school in the fall of 1911; and the archdiocese reported that nearly 200 children were enrolled.

By the 1920's, Jefferson Park, Portage Park, and the entire Northwest side had seen enormous increases in population. Between the building of the church in 1910 and 1925, the city's population had increased by 1 million, with the bulk of that population moving to the newly established "bungalow belt" in the more outlying neighborhoods in the city. Our Lady of Victory had a full school and enough parishioners to warrant expansion. The growth of the school had been so significant that the Sisters had to move to a house on Windsor Avenue. By 1927, the parish community knew it was time to bring the Catholic community together in one complex that would serve them more appropriately.

To this end, plans for a new convent, church and rectory were created by the architectural firm of E. Brielmaier & Sons, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The firm designed the convent and rectory as symmetric, classical style buildings that would abut each side of the new church. These buildings included two open courtyards and a grotto, harmonious with their placid surroundings in the quiet but growing neighborhood. All the buildings would be internally contiguous, making for ease of travel from one building to the next during the harsh Chicago winters. The church entrance, between the rectory and the convent, was an ornate arcade, decorated with intricate terra cotta designs. It was also uniquely topped with a golden monstrance, to emulate adoration of the blessed sacrament.

On April 27, 1927, ground was broken for the new complex, including the convent at 5240 W. Agatite Avenue and the rectory at 5212 W. Agatite. They were completed on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1927 and Mass was celebrated in the in the new church (a substructure with the ornate terra cotta arcade entrance) on Palm Sunday, April 1, 1928. On May 12, 1929, Cardinal Mundelein dedicated the new church. (continued on page 16)



**A big thank you to Abby Ross for doing a Zoom event with the Northwest Chicago Historical Society on April 21, 2021. Abby's book, *The Poop Diaries*, is still available for purchase at your favorite book seller.**

13.





Photo taken of the front of the church on Agatite Ave. One can see the combination of the 1927 church with the 1954 church added on above. It is believed to be the only Catholic Spanish/Mission style church with the asymmetric steeple design in the city of Chicago. The firm of Meyer and Cook designed the upper church.



The firm of E. Brielmaier and Sons constructed over a thousand Catholic churches, schools and hospitals throughout the United States and Canada in the late 19th and 20th centuries. They were famously known for the designs of the Mayo Clinic and university buildings, such as those at Marquette University. The firm was famous for designing the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee, created from stone and materials of the dismantled US Post Office and Customs House in Chicago. The basilica was designed to emulate St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. In the Milwaukee area, roughly 30 buildings designed by Brielmaier and his sons are designated with historical status.

By 1950, Our Lady of Victory parish numbered 2,500 families with approximately 1,100 children enrolled in the school. Several parishes, including St. Constance, St. Cornelius, St. Pascals, and St. Robert Bellarmine had been formed to absorb the new Catholics coming to the Northwest Side, as the Catholic population outgrew Our Lady of Victory. A new school addition had been completed in 1949, and soon work was to begin on the upper church, that would sit atop the then current church that was on a lower level.

In the early 1950s, the firm of Meyer and Cook was commissioned to design the upper church of Our Lady of Victory. At a cost of over \$1 Million (well over \$10 Million in 2021 dollars), the magnificent structure was completed in 1954 and opened for services on April 18th (Easter Sunday). The firm designed the upper church in the Spanish/Mission Revival style, an extremely rare style for Chicago and one of a few of its kind. In earlier years, most Catholic churches had been built in the Gothic, Romanesque, or Renaissance style. Some also had Byzantine or Moorish elements. By the 1950's, Catholic Church architecture had abandoned more classical styles and was embracing the modern styles of the mid-century. A structure of this sort was highly unusual.

The outside of the church, which was also constructed in the rare Spanish Mission style, is adorned with an asymmetric steeple on the east side, emulating the famous missions of California. In particular, the architecture replicates that of the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia, in San Luis Rey, California. It is believed to be the only Catholic Spanish/Mission style church with the asymmetric steeple design in the city of Chicago. The Mediterranean red tile roofing and the tan stone of the towers and steeple extend over corridors to the convent and the rectory, harmoniously blending the new and the old styles. Additionally, the tan stone of the Spanish-style exterior was selected specifically to complement the color of the ornate terra cotta around the original entrance.

The warmth of the exterior extends into the sanctuary, which is decorated with lavish tan and pink marble and terrazzo. Polychromatic details can be found throughout, particularly in the stained glass, wooden Stations of the Cross and other painted elements. The dark solid wooden beams that adorn the ceiling of the upper church allude to the Mission churches of California and the Southwest of America. These elements all contribute to a colorful and welcoming space tied together with subtle Art Deco influences, making it stylistically classical but utterly American. The completed church has three worship spaces: the upper church, the Marian Chapel (lower church), and a smaller convent chapel. Once the upper church was completed, the steeple was a beloved landmark for the community, larger than any building around towering over the surrounding blocks for up to 1/2 mile.

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Photo taken of the upper church.

Photo Courtesy of Eric Allix Rogers





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The firm of Meyer and Cook designed elegant and unique buildings throughout the Chicago area. Recently, the beautiful Laramie State Bank Building of this firm has come to the attention of historians and preservationists, with its bas-relief art deco terracotta sculpture, representing many elements of the progressive era. Some architects believe its ornament to be among the most spectacular in the city. The firm was also responsible for the Church of the Ascension in (Oak Park), St. Therese of the Infant Jesus, St. Athanasius School, St. Joan of Arc (Skokie), and the sensational Queen of All Saints Basilica in (Sauganash). Querin Cook, the chief engineer, lived in a home in Oak Park that (now called the Querin H. Cook Home) designed by the firm. Interestingly, it was also in the Spanish Revival style, so it was likely a style that was favored by him. It has both national and local historic designations, and it is part of the Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie School Historic District.

While the debts from these magnificent structures had been paid by 1969 and is solvent today, the Archdiocese of Chicago announced the closure of the church in December of 2020.

**Summary**

Our Lady of Victory has (1) brought growth and historic change to the Northwest Side, contributing to the rapid expansion of the area, and laying the foundation for growth. Its inception would forever alter the community’s landscape and the trajectory of its future. (2) It exemplifies an architectural style that is rare and unique in Chicago, and it is of the highest quality and well maintained. The church was (3) designed by multiple significant Chicago/regional architects in three different time frames. (4) Its complex of structures housed a unique part of the fabric of Catholic Chicago, initiating an era of blended English-speaking ethnicities. (5) It is uniquely located on a side street in a residential district; the steeple of which is a landmark identifying marker for the community and towers over the surrounding blocks.

**Save Our Lady of Victory**

On December 18, 2020 the Archdiocese of Chicago announced its intention to close Our Lady of Victory Parish and Church during 2021. As parishioners, alumni and fellow Jefferson and Portage Park community members, we were shocked and saddened by this news. We decided to come together as a community to ensure that Our Lady of Victory will remain open for the future generations.

The Archdiocese of Chicago is governed by Canon law, passed down from the first apostles, through the generations of Catholic disciples. Canon Law stipulates very specific rationale that must exist to close a Catholic Church. It is much more than just a building!

Save Our Lady of Victory, Inc. was established in March of 2021 to support our efforts as a community to stop the Archdiocese of Chicago from closing this historic church. It is our organization's firm belief that no canonically valid rationale exists for Our Lady of Victory Church to close. We welcome all parishioners and community members to join our crusade. Together, we can make a difference.

[www.saveolv.org](http://www.saveolv.org)



## When the Squares Ruled the Diamond

(Logan's 'unbeatable' semipro baseball team drew huge crowds by flouting the rules)

*By Ian P. Murphy*

(Article originally published by Logan Square Preservation and used with their permission.)

The Cubs and White Sox have a storied rivalry and legions of fans throughout the city. But early in the last century, Logan Square had its own semiprofessional team — the Logan Squares — that gave the two pro teams a run for their money.

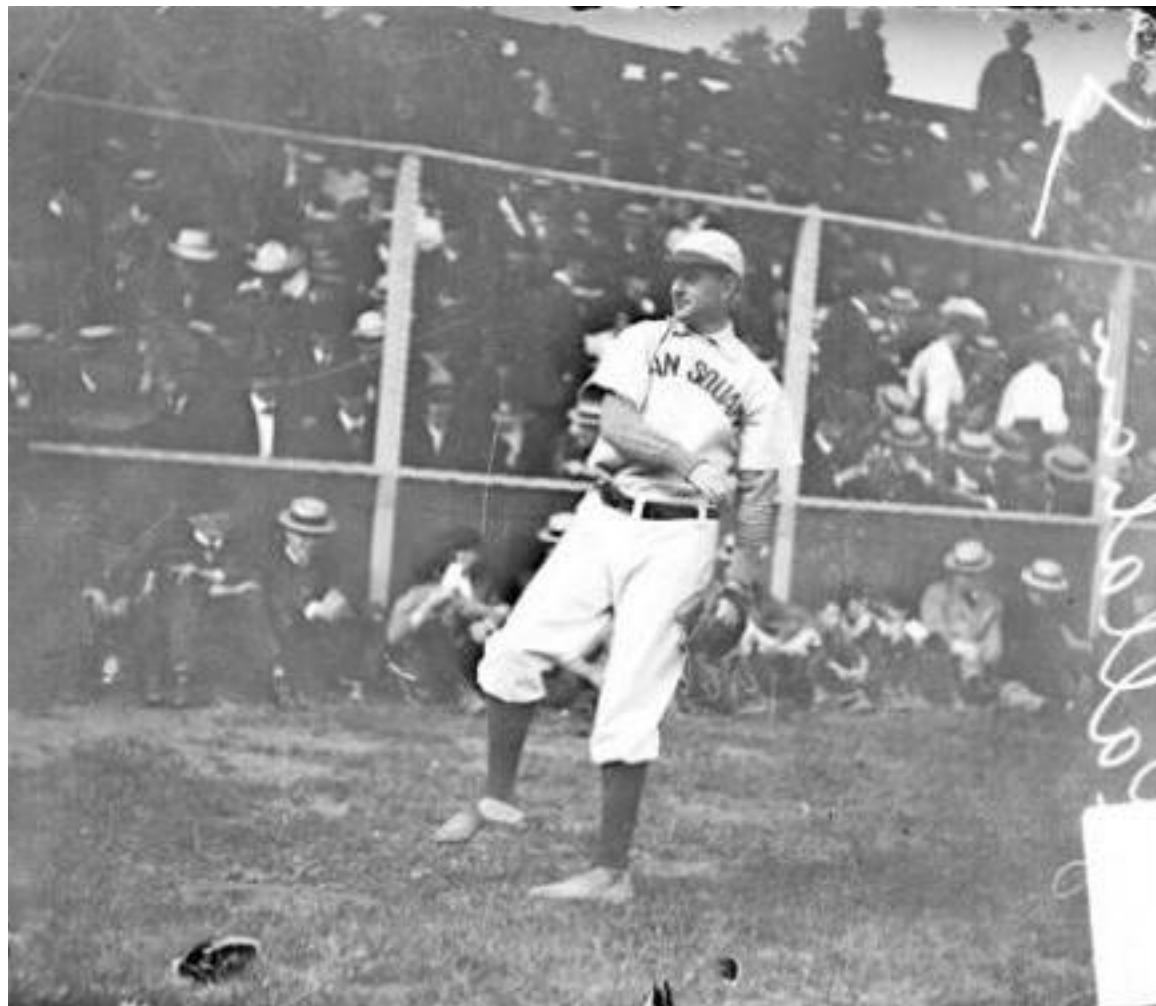


Photo of Jim "Nixey" Callahan in the Logan Squares' uniform. Callahan was famous for pitching the first no-hitter in American League history.

*Photo Courtesy of Logan Square Preservation*

The team was the pet project of Jim "Nixey" Callahan. An accomplished utility player, Callahan had pitched and played left field for the Philadelphia Phillies, the Chicago Colts (Cubs) and the White Sox. After retiring from professional baseball in 1905 at age 31, he bought an amateur diamond in Logan Square and erected a wooden grandstand and a canvas fence to control admission.

Located between Milwaukee, Diversey and Sawyer, the park's home plate was located approximately where McDonald's sits today. "You could get in three ways," longtime resident Thomas Dale told LSP President Andrew Schneider. "Crawl under the canvas (although you risked being clobbered by irate attendants), find a ball that had been popped out of the park (you presented the ball to Sarge, an ancient guardian with a tin star that was suspiciously of Cracker Jack nature), or — most unorthodox of all — pay your way."



Photo of Logan Square Park

*Photo Courtesy of WTTW*

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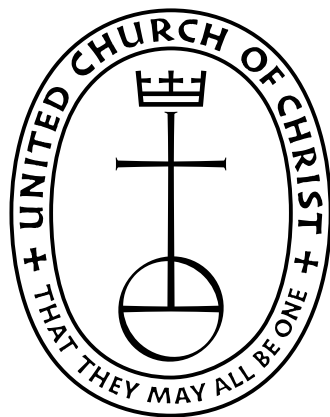


*“Never place a period  
where God has placed a comma”*

*- Gracie Allen*



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*We are your neighbors and we would like to meet you*

In the days before radio and television, semipro and amateur baseball drew big crowds; when the Logan Squares played their first official game on April 15, 1906, more than 400 teams were already playing scheduled games in Chicago. Callahan convinced nine other semipro teams to join the Logan Squares in forming the Chicago City League, including the Leland Giants, a Negro league team owned by Hall of Fame pitcher Andrew “Rube” Foster.

Callahan flouted the rules in building the Squares, however, paying players who were still under contract to professional teams to play. Ringers such as Phillies outfielder Moose McCormick, White Sox second baseman Gus Dundon and Cleveland Naps pitcher Happy Townsend joined under aliases, and the caliber of talent fast made the Logan Squares almost unbeatable — and an immediate sensation. In October 1906, in fact, crowds of more than 5,000 watched the Squares take on the World Champion White Sox and the Cubs in postseason games. The Squares beat both teams handily.

Callahan’s hiring practices soon drew the scrutiny of baseball’s National Commission, however. Calling him “The Anarchist of Baseball,” it began penalizing pros for playing with the Squares and other “outlaw” clubs in 1908. Callahan fought back with a lawsuit calling for investigation of the majors as a monopoly.

When the White Sox’ new stadium opened in 1910, attendance at Logan Square Park fell off. The following year, Callahan buried the hatchet with Sox owner Charles Comiskey and rejoined the team as player/manager. He disbanded the Squares and tore down the fence surrounding the park. It continued to host amateur games until 1925, when it was razed to make way for — what else? — apartment buildings.



**Photo of Andrew “Rube” Foster who is a Hall of Fame pitcher and owner of the Negro league team Leland Giants. The Leland Giants joined the Logan Squares in forming the Chicago City League. Foster is known as the “father of Black Baseball”.**



## Northwest Side Pioneer Speaks

Transcribed from hand-written documents from 1949.

*Mrs. Anna Schalk lived near 6 corners since 1879 and married her husband Charles in 1904.*

As I am considered a Pioneer of Portage Park, I am taking this opportunity, in addition to what has been stated in recent issue of the paper by the Chamber of Commerce, to express more fully of what I can remember of my childhood days:

There were three Gray Brothers living in this community, namely John, Bill and Pratt. John had his mansion right on the site where Schurz High School is now located. Pratt lived where the Irving Hotel is now located and Bill lived in Jefferson Park. These brothers were considered very wealthy. My father rented a farm from Pratt Gray at about Byron and Lamon. All of us children went to the Grayland School when it was but a frame structure – just a little country school. This community was named after John Gray, school, depot and all. He owned most of this land.



The Gray home at 4845 W. Irving Park Road.

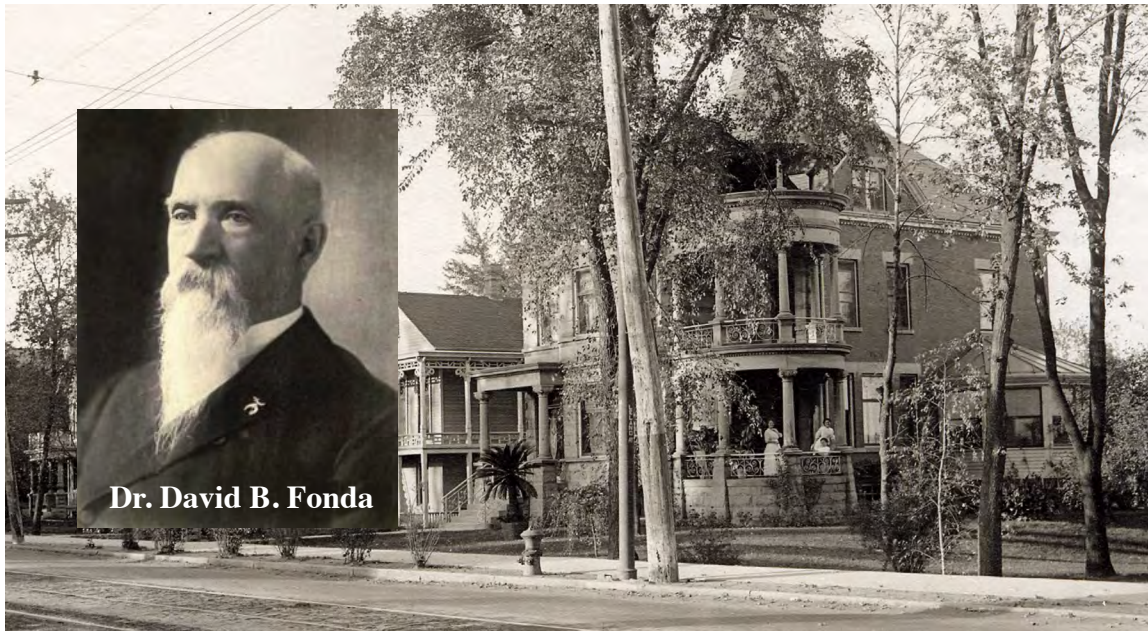
24.

Later we moved to Bernice and Cicero (4817 W. Bernice Avenue) (Cicero Avenue was then know as Jefferson Avenue) where we rented 17 acres of farmland from Amos Snell who owned nearly all the land from the Milwaukee R.R. tracks to Narragansett and from Addison Street to Irving Park Rd., which was then called Stone Road. He also owned the Plank Road, which is now Milwaukee Avenue. He had three tollgates, one at Jefferson Park (Leland Avenue), one at Pulaski Road and one at Fullerton Avenue. My father worked for him some months in the winter, clearing the road of snow, and we had plenty of it in those days. Another landmark vivid in my mind is the Police Station, with a horse-drawn patrol wagon, located on the site of the present Northwest National Bank (corner east of Cicero, South of Irving and east of Milwaukee). I helped parents with farm work and have always been in Sunday school and Church work. I love my Bible, which is the Word of God, and just want to give this verse of scripture, which I dearly love. John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son hat whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. The Bible also says that we are all sinners, so therefore we need a Savior who is Lord Jesus Christ. Accept Him today, for tomorrow may be too late.



Photo of the police station at 6 corners. Notice the barn for the horses at the right of the building.

25.



**Dr. Fonda's residents at 4705 N. Milwaukee Avenue.** *Photo Courtesy of Gail Weber*


Our nearest grocery store was in Jefferson Park at the corner of Short St (Ainslie St.) and Milwaukee Avenue. The names of the merchants were Peter Thomson and Herman Esdohr. There were two butcher shops in the same area. These merchants would send their clerks around once a week by horse and wagon to supply us with everything we needed.

The first mailman was J. W. Sierts. His territory ran from Cicero to Narragansett and from Fullerton to Montrose and rode horseback in the winter.

He had to make one complete round daily, rain or shine. The faithful dog trailed after him as he made his rounds. He would stop at noon at one of the farms and feed his horse; sometimes, the farmers would invite him in for dinner.


Most of the farmers attended St. John's Lutheran Church at Montrose and Lavergne. The pastor's name was Lueke – his father was the teacher of the school connected with the church.

There were only a few churches in the community at the time; they were: the Congregational Church in Jefferson Park, Roberts Court (Giddings St.) and Milwaukee Avenue; and the Reformed Church – now the Presbyterian Church at Keeler and BellePlaine Avenues. A roadhouse stood at the bend in Milwaukee Avenue at Cuyler Street, which was owned by Mr. Dickerson, whose son-in-law, Dr. Lowell, was our druggist in Jefferson Park. Dr. Moore and Dr. Fonda were our doctors – they lived in Jefferson Park and served the entire area for miles around. Dr. Fonda's residence still stands. Henry Wolff was our Alderman – he lived in Jefferson Park



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