



Lake Villa Historical Society's Vintage Views

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President's Letter

Happy New Year! I hope you are all staying healthy and warm.

The LVHS Board has scheduled member meetings and programs every other month this year. We will begin with Carl Powell sharing his memories of growing up at Camp Hastings on February 15th. In April, we will be meeting at the new Harbor Brewing located on Cedar Avenue where Kyle Wenzel and Joe Vanheirseele will give us a history of beer brewing and a tour of the brewery.



Lori Heitman is pictured at one of Lake Villa Historical Society's first events: an antique appraisal program. It was held at the Lehmann mansion in May 2005.

The Harbor Brewing building is special to me as my grandparents, Earl and Evelyn Hucker, opened Huckers Garage in that location in 1928. Eventually, when their boys, my uncle William and father Charles, joined the business, the name was changed to Hucker and Sons. The Chrysler-Plymouth dealership was expanded when the current building was built in the 1950s adjacent to the original garage. It was in that building that I had my first job at 14 when Dad brought me in to work in the office during the summer and after school. It is also very special to me because it was in that building, right about where the bar is now, that I met my husband,

Glen. The car dealership was sold in 1988 and became Lake Villa Chrysler. Years later, Gregory Chrysler eventually moved it to Gurnee. The building has remained vacant for many years. With an incentive from the Village of Lake Villa, Harbor Brewing recently purchased, remodeled and opened their new, Lake Villa location of Harbor Brewing.

A friend recently asked me what Grandpa would think of the new brewery opening up in his old building. I think Grandpa would be smiling from ear to ear to see that the building was brought back to life with a thriving business. He would love seeing so much activity and people hanging out and having fun. I'm also sure that he would stop in for a beverage or two!

Stay healthy and warm! Hang in there. Spring is right around the corner.

Lori Heitman, President

Museum Hours

The Lake Villa Historical Society is currently open by appointment only. Our volunteers are always happy to open on request for people wanting to do research, view displays, drop off a donation, or just chat about Lake Villa. Text or call either Sue at (847)710-0266 or Peggy at (847)373-3658. If you call, please leave a message since both rarely answer unfamiliar numbers. Both are prompt text and call returners, however. We are hoping to return to being open on Thursday afternoons within the next month or two.

Coming Events

Mark your calendar for our upcoming programs held on the third Tuesday of the month on even numbered months at 7:00 pm. Details are in this newsletter and on our FaceBook page.

February 15th Camp Hastings by Carl Powell

Join us on February 15th at the Historical Society & Museum, 223 Lake in Lake Villa, at 7:00 pm for a program presented by Carl Powell on the history of Camp Hastings YMCA. Carl will share stories and details about growing up in this idyllic setting, where his parents were caretakers of the property. More information on Camp Hastings can be found in the last issue of Vintage Views.



This postcard from our collection has a 1-cent stamp. It is labeled "Hastings YMCA Camp, Lake Villa, Ill. A private camp for boys and girls on Hastings

Lake, 42 miles from Chicago. Horseback riding, water sports, archery, and other outdoor sports."

April 12th Harbor Brewing Company

This will be an opportunity to welcome our latest business to Lake Villa as we meet at Harbor Brewing, 136 Cedar Ave. in Lake Villa at 7:00 pm. Following a brief business meeting, owners Jon Vanheirsele and Kyle Wenzel will give a brief history of beer and take us through the brewing process. The evening will wrap up with a refreshing beer, wine, or seltzer drink. It promises to be a fun and educational program. For history of the Harbor Brewing building, see the article later in this issue.



Grand opening weekend at Harbor Brewing Company, January 2022

Looking Ahead

Mark your calendar for these tentative programs to be held later in 2022:

- June 21—Diana Dretske, Dunn Museum
- August 16—Outing to Allendale
- October 18—East Fox Lake Cemetery

Please plan to join us for these programs celebrating our Lake Villa history.

Amazon Smile: Ongoing Fundraiser

Amazon Smile is an easy way members and friends can help with fundraising efforts. If you order from Amazon .5% of your eligible purchase will be donated to LVHS. It's easy to do. Here are the steps:

From your computer:

1. Log into smile.amazon.com
2. Log into your account
3. In the menu (the 3 horizontal lines) scroll down to Your AmazonSmile
4. Choose your charity - type in Lake Villa Historical Society

From your mobile app:

1. Choose - menu
2. Choose - Gifting & Charity
3. Scroll down to AmazonSmile
4. Type in Lake Villa Historical Society

That's all there is to it! Be sure to shop at smile.amazon.com so that purchases will be credited to LVHS. Please ask your family and friends to also shop using this method if they use Amazon. Every donation helps! Thanks for supporting us in our ongoing endeavors to enrich and maintain Lake Villa history.

Thank You

A big round of applause, and belated thanks, to **Fireman Sealcoat Plus** and Ed Kofoed for donating their time and efforts to sealcoat the front parking lot and driveway. More applause for **Village of Lake Villa Public Works** for keeping the museum parking areas and driveway cleared of snow.

Membership Update 2022**Thank you to all the members who have renewed their memberships for 2022!**

If you haven't already renewed your LVHS membership for 2022, it's not too late. We had to cancel our major fundraiser for 2021 making dues and donations more important than ever. Thank you to the members who have renewed, provided gift memberships and donations. An extra thank you to everyone who included a much-appreciated donation along with their dues:

Judith Haerther Kelley	Gail Maynard
Emily Haerther Ulrich	Donna Rosenberg
Jane Wolff Taylor	Julie Pavlin
Karen Sheehan Powers	Joanne Osmond
Ringa Funeral Home	Robin Ringa
John/Peggy VanCrey	Janice Truelsen
Bill/Betty Burns	Sharon Johnson
Butch/Alyce Brownlee	Mary Erl
Georgia Hrdlicka	Robert Churchill
Suzi Schmidt	Joan Streicher
Karen Sheehan Powers	Joyce Meyer
D/PBogenschutz	Elaine Teltz

We are delighted to welcome new members:

- John and Peggy VanCrey & Family
- Jan Truelsen
- Joe Vanheirseeele
- Kyle Wenzel
- Louise Ryan
- Jeanne Terrell
- American Family Insurance, Bill Stanley Agency
- Jack and Lydia's Resort
- Tom Jennrich and Family

It's also interesting to learn:

- Members from Lake Villa and Lindenhurst are from 74 households.
- Members from Illinois outside the 60046 zip code are from 13 different towns.
- Members from outside of Illinois are from 11 states: PA, AZ, VA, SC, CA, FL, WA, MD, IA, WI, NH and TX.

History On the Table...for the birds!

Let's cook for the feathered friends in our yards. Recipes are from Sharing Our Best, A Collection of Our Best Recipes from the Lake Villa United Methodist Women's Group, Morris Press Cookbooks, 2010

**BIRD SUET**

1 c. crunchy peanut butter	1 c. lard
2 c. cornmeal	1 c. flour
2 c. quick oats	1/3 c. sugar

Elaine Teltz

Melt peanut butter and lard together in 3-quart pan or bowl. Stir oats, cornmeal, flour and sugar into melted mixture. Pour into 8-inch square pan or square plastic container. Cool. Cut into appropriate size for you suet feeder. Extras may be frozen. Won't melt or get rancid in warm weather.

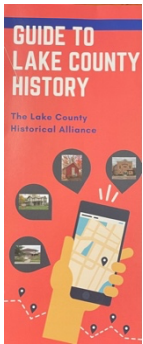
(I can tell you that the birds in our yard love this!! Sue C.)

MELON-SEED BIRD TREATS Elaine Teltz
(Seeds from cantaloupe or honeydew melons)

Rinse seeds removed from melons. Spread on cookie sheet and let them dry for 24 hours. Offer them to the birds on flat tray-type feeders elevated where squirrels and chipmunks won't be tempted.

BLUEBIRD DELIGHTS Elaine Teltz

1 c. peanut butter, chunk or creamy
1 c. peanuts, chopped
Cornmeal
1 c. suet, chopped
1 c. chopped dried fruit (raisins, currants, etc.)
Combine peanut butter, suet, dried fruit and peanuts. Add cornmeal to mixture by hand until it is consistency of medium stiff cookie dough. Crumble mixture on open tray feeder.



Around the Alliance

Lake Villa Historical Society is a member of the Lake County Historical Alliance, “a consortium of historical organizations in Lake and McHenry Counties working together since 1993 to promote museum best practices and to preserve and share local history.”

The Alliance meets quarterly (lately via Zoom). A new brochure listing all 23 members is available. Let us know if you would like a copy.

All historical society members are invited to attend the quarterly meetings of the Lake County Historical Alliance. The next scheduled meeting and will be held at the National Museum of the American Sailor, 2531 Sheridan Road, Great Lakes, on April 20, 2022. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the museum and the history of the navy. Text or leave a message for Sue at (847)710-0266 for further information.

A Brief History of 136 Cedar Ave.

Six months after Earl and Evelyn Hucker were married in 1928, they opened Hucker’s Garage at 136 Cedar Ave. Hucker commented that “In the 1920’s automobiles were the ‘coming thing’, so I opened a garage.” The name was changed to Hucker and Son’s when William “Bill” and Charles “Fibber” joined the business. They affiliated with Chrysler in 1936. Bill and Charlie “Fibber” retired and sold the dealership in 1988.



The business was renamed Lake Villa Chrysler then when it changed hands again it became Gregory Chrysler- Jeep. After 80 years on Cedar Avenue, the dealership relocated in 2008. Since then, it stood largely empty, with a brief stretch being the future home of Busy Brains Children’s Museum that never opened. Welcome Harbor Brewing to the next chapter in the history of 136 Cedar Avenue!

The business was renamed Lake Villa Chrysler then when it changed

Happy 100th Birthday, Rosella!

Lake Villa’s very own long-time resident Rosella McCarthy is celebrating her 100th birthday. Her daughter, Diane Block, wrote a bio of this outstanding woman in our town.

Rosella Ricke was born February 15, 1922, in Menominee, Illinois. She was raised on a farm with her 6 siblings and 7 half-siblings. Rosella met her future husband, Clifford E. McCarthy at a dance in Galena, Illinois. Rosella and Clifford were married in San Diego, California, on December 31, 1944.



Rosella moved to the Waukegan area to live with her sister, Irma, while Clifford was in the Navy. After living in Waukegan for a short while, Rosella and Clifford settled in Lake Villa in 1949 to raise

their family of 4 children: Carol, Janet, Richard and Diane. Rosella is blessed with 8 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Rosella was President of the Lake Villa VFW Women’s Auxiliary from 1956 – 1958. She was also a founding member of Prince of Peace Church. Rosella was the cook at Pleviak Elementary School in Lake Villa for many years. She is the baker of the best peanut butter cookies and lemon bars! She and Clifford, who was a volunteer fireman with Lake Villa Fire Department, ran the carnival rides for many

years at Lake Villa Days. In the 90’s Rosella served as President, Vice President and Treasurer of the Lake



Villa Chapter of AARP, marching and riding in many of the Lake Villa parades. She also served as an election judge for many years.

What a woman. Happy Birthday, Rosella!

Page from the Past
Lindenhurst Garden Club

The cold, dark days of winter have us dreaming of warmer weather, sunshine and being outdoors. If you were a Lindenhurst housewife in the 1950's, you'd be anxious to join the ***Lindenhurst Garden Club!*** This was the most popular club among the ladies of this brand-new village and provided a way to meet and mingle for these stay-at-home wives and mothers. Most newcomers came from the city and dreamt of having their own yards to plant flowers and gardens, yet most needed some direction cultivating their green thumbs.

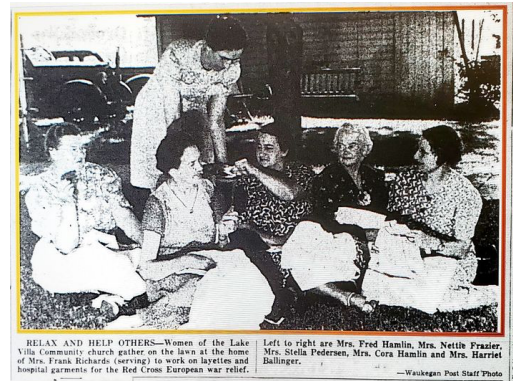


New families moving into town were given a "Welcome plant", courtesy of the Garden Club. Monthly meetings were held in members' homes and included the showing of color slides of homes and gardens in the area, as well as a Question and Answer period led by experienced gardeners. For example, the November 1959 meeting was held in the home of Mary Loblillo. A number of lovely plants were given away as door prizes, and a floor planter was raffled off. The main attraction of the evening was a program given by Bob Willrett from Floral Acres in Antioch. Bob showed the women how to make corsages, and after the demonstration each lady made a corsage to wear home.

Lindenhurst Garden Club members kept busy year-round with projects and contests. The summer of 1959 saw the ladies planting seedlings at the new Willow Park, donated by developer Mort Engle. Mr. Alfred Sokolies, nurseryman, drew up the landscape plans for this new park, and volunteers Marge Behrendt, Virginia VonVorhous, Viola Selzer, Marge Fabry, Mary Zanck, Ida DeSomers, Esther Sokup, Lois Ringstmeyer, Helen Skelton and Elaine Randall got to work.

The club held a Holiday home decoration contest each December. First place in 1960 went to the Gus Fabry residence on Fairfield Rd. A \$10 check was presented to them by Mrs. Lois Ringstmeyer, President of the Club.

The highlight of the year was the Annual Flower Show held each August. Blue ribbon prizes were awarded in each of the following categories: Flowering plants, Foliage plants, Vegetables, Perennials, Annuals, Table arrangements, Children's plants, African violets, Miniatures & Roses. 1958 Club President, Helen Skelton, explains "A year ago I couldn't even grow an indoor plant, but with the help of the Club's question and answer forum at each meeting, I won three prizes at last year's Flower Show!" The Flower Show committee members in 1958 were Bernice Frontzak, Vivian Findanzo, Lois Flanagan, Esther LaChance, Lois Ringstmeyer, Mary Zanck, Shirley Mertes, Clara Langager, Esther Sokup, Helen Guski and Evelyn Gilliland. The committee presented "Awards of Distinction" in each category. Winning such an award proved to be "one of the greatest thrills we could ever hope for!"

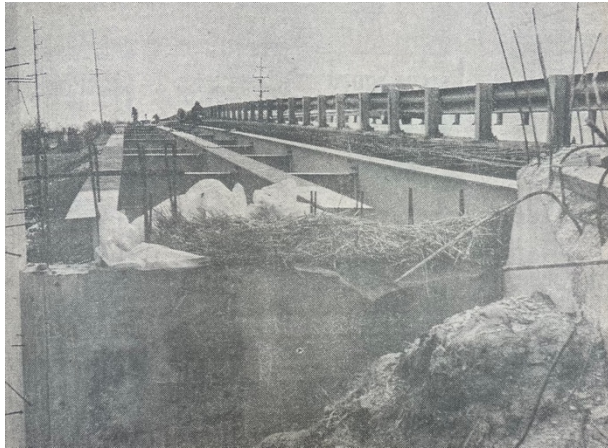


Recent Donations

Thank you to Duke Schneider, Darlene Dorfler, Judy Bock, Bruce Minale, Sue and Jay Cribb and LaVonda Smith for a wide range of donations to add to the museum's collection. From photographs and a map to a cookbook, playing cards, trimline telephone and more, you are helping preserve our history for future generations.

Fifty Years Ago in Lake Villa

The following items appeared in the Lake Villa Record In the winter of 1972.



"Bridge widening progresses---Scene is Rte. 83 bridge over Soo lines north of Lake Villa as two additional traffic lanes are installed..."



EASTER BUNNIES? These members of Lake Villa Township American Legion Post 1219 play Easter Bunny and decorate eggs that will be hidden for Post's Annual Easter Egg Hunt...Decorating eggs from left, Jim Nikolai, Clarence Perkins, and Chairman Clarence Rach.

Library Threatens Move If Parking Not Provided

GRADUATES
Navy Seaman Michael R. Nader, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Nader of 12 Oak Lane Dr., Lake Villa, graduated from recruit training at the Naval Training Center in San Diego. He is a 1970 graduate of Antioch Community High School.

**School District #41 Residents
Support Your
Lake Villa Schools**

On Feb. 26, 1972, there will be an election for a two part referendum. The first part is for approval of a \$210,000 Working Cash Bond to retire a portion of an existing shore term bank loan. The amount of interest would be reduced and the difference used for school needs. The Bond is NOT a permanent tax and will be retired in the time period decided by the School Board.

The second part is for a permanent Educational Tax Rate increase of 17c per \$100 of assessed property valuation. This would provide \$45,000 per year, most of which would be used, initially, to retire loans not covered by the cash bond.

These facts should be considered:

- 1—The debt (\$350,000) exists and must be paid.
- 2—Our Educational Tax rate is 14c below the county average (\$1.11 VS. \$1.25)
- 3—District #41 contributes only 38% of the Educational operating expenses while the average Lake County Elementary School contributes 55%.
- 4—The last Educational Tax rate increase was in April, 1955.
- 5—Rising costs have created cutbacks in school supplies and salary curtailments which cannot be indefinitely sustained.
- 6—Payment on loan principal without additional funds will require program curtailments. These usually are in the Band, Art, Sports and Lunch programs. Increase in class sizes or double shift teaching is a result of this type of "economy." Reduced maintenance and bus service is another "saving."

YOU ARE BEING ASKED TO APPROVE THE CHANGE OF OUR SHORT TERM LOANS TO LONGER TERM BONDS AND APPROVE A TAX INCREASE WHICH WOULD APPROXIMATE THE COUNTY AVERAGE.

**THIS IS SENSIBLE and RIGHT
DO YOUR DUTY
VOTE 'YES' TWICE**

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Just For Fun: The Skunk of Monaville

The following is an edited version of the story as found on the "Chain O Lakes" history FaceBook page. It was reprinted from "The Story of the Atwells: The Monaville Farm"

No account of Monaville would be complete without mention of Skunk. Skunk was probably Monaville's most colorful character, and everyone had stories about him.

Skunk lived with his animals at the old Pop Factory, after it closed. He was known to hunt skunks & raccoon. Some say he was called Skunk because he never bathed and smelled a bit ripe. Or perhaps he got the name because he trapped skunks and saved the skunk-oil in bottles to rub on his chest when he had a cold. It is said that after being jilted by a girlfriend as a young man & he saw no point in washing or staying clean.

Skunk invented a cold remedy he called "Saleratus". Skunk would go to Peterson's grocery store in Lake Villa and ask for sausage ends and meat trimmings. He made Saleratus from skunk oil, sausage & meat ends he would beg for & raccoon parts. He would grind these ingredients with cabbage and garlic, and then he hung the mixture in onion sacks. This concoction would ferment for days & he was convinced it cured the common cold. He was willing to share his remedy, but his generosity was not always appreciated: "One time my mother had a cold and he brought her a bottle about that big, and he said, 'Here missus, before you go to bed tonight rub that on you and that'll get rid of your cold. He no more than left and my mother opened the back door and boom, out it went."

Skunk was so dirty that he was almost black. A little boy new to the area, sent to the neighbor's for a bucket of water, dropped the pail and ran screaming home at the sight of black-faced, long-bearded Skunk walking into the neighbor's yard.

When the saleratus was "ready," he'd make it into patties and fry it. He hung sausage over his

bed, so that if he ever got sick he'd not have to get out of bed to get something to eat.

Skunk once had an accident. "His horses got away and ran into a yard with a circle driveway. The buggy tipped over and Skunk ended up in the woodpile. And he broke some ribs but they couldn't tell at the time - he was lying there knocked out. The lady come out with a bucket of water and threw it on him. First thing he said was, "What the hell you tryin' to do, drown a man?" He didn't like water." He ended up in the county hospital the doctor looked at one of his legs and said, "This must be the dirtiest leg in the whole country." Skunk said, "No it ain't - I got another one here that's just as dirty."

At the hospital they cleaned him up - some say it took scouring powder to do it. "Boy was he mad when he came back. He was white as a sheet. He said, 'By God, they about rubbed the skin off me. Made me take three baths before they even set my ribs."

He was far from anti-social. He would talk an arm off anyone who would listen. He did odd jobs to earn the money he needed. Once he helped a family with sheep-shearing and was invited to stay for dinner. The mother said to her children, "Now don't any of you call him Skunk." But she herself was the one who forgot and let the name slip out.

On Halloween, Skunk was the victim of the pranksters. He had a collection of old buggies and parts outside the pop factory. People sometimes stopped to see him if they needed parts for repairs. The local jokers would steal the buggies and take them all over the area - sometimes as far away as Lake Villa, and even Spring Grove. Skunk would sit up on his haystack with a gun, but somehow the clever ones always managed to get away with a few buggies, and Skunk would have to go around the next day and collect them.

Skunk eventually had to go to a nursing home, where he spent his last few years, disgustingly clean no doubt. His passing was the end of an era and perhaps, even more than the loss of the post office, represented the end of Old Monaville.

From Our Collection

What do you think this rusty old wheel is? It is a donation from Bruce Minale. He lives in a home on Deep Lake and was working on a pier when he came across this item and several others in the water. Neighbors explained that they find similar junk. Many people would have thrown these treasures out, but not Bruce. It turns out that his home is on the site of the former Knickerbocker Ice Company. This wheel can be seen in photographs as part of the conveyor used to move the ice from the lake to the shore. Thanks for thinking of us, Bruce, and saving the treasures for the future.

*Lake Villa Historical Society
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