

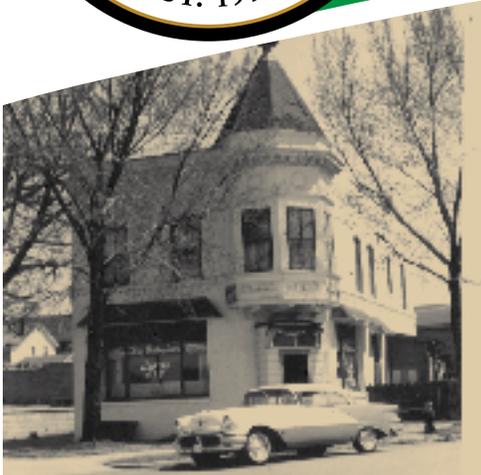


# BAY VIEW Historian



VOLUME 2018, NO. 1

MARCH 2018



Three Brothers Restaurant in 1962.

## Three Brothers Restaurant will be Society's 25<sup>th</sup> Landmark

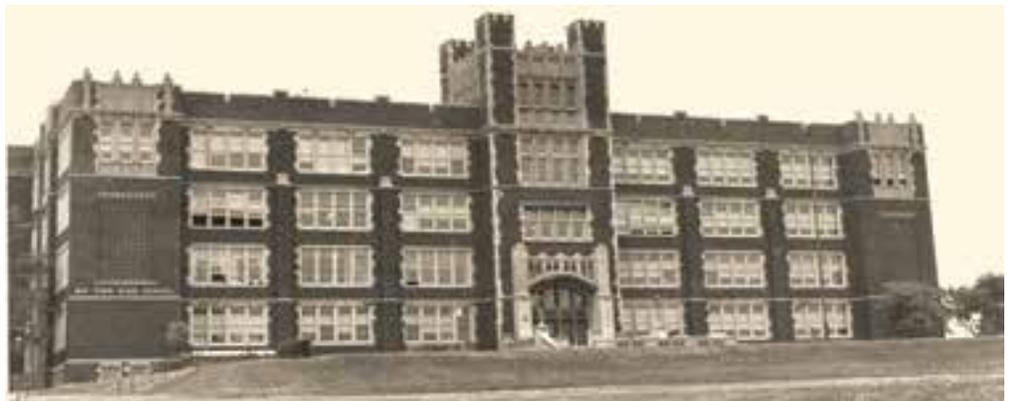
BY RON WINKLER

Three Brothers Restaurant/Globe Tavern, 2414 South St. Clair Street, will be dedicated as the Bay View Historical Society's 25th landmark. The festivities will take place on Saturday, June 2nd at 1:00 pm.

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

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

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



Top: Fritsche Junior High School in 1963. Today it is Milwaukee Parkside School for the Arts. Bottom: Bay View High School before the 1975 addition.

## Bay View High Class of 1968 Plans 50-Year Reunion

BY RON WINKLER

Hey there all you swingers from the Bay View High School (BVHS) Class of 1968! If you're freakin' out because you thought that this summer was going to be the pits, just hang loose. The January and June Classes of 1968 will have their 50-Year Reunion on Thursday, July 5, 2018. Now don't flip your wig! You won't have to get all decked out in fancy threads because it'll be at the South Shore Park Pavilion, 2900 S. Shore Drive. Can you dig it?

There will be a catered dinner, music, and display of memorabilia. We're gonna have such a blast that I won't be able to deal with it! We're planning a tour of BVHS, a walking tour of Bay View, and there might even be a Chinese fire drill! Won't that be nifty?

As more information becomes available, it will be posted on our facebook page, "**Bay View High School Reunion - Class of 1968**" and "**www.classmates.com.**" To be put on our mailing list, contact us at **bayviewhighschool1968milwaukee@gmail.com**. Questions can also be addressed to **Bruce Tammi 262.391.8152, Ron Winkler 414.744.9404, or Mary Hancock 414.861.1061**. Tuff enuff baby, don't blow your cool!

*Continued on page 3*

## Tippecanoe Neighborhood

**At our next membership meeting on Monday, April 2nd**, Ron Winkler will present a slide show about the Tippecanoe neighborhood. This is the neighborhood just south of Bay View where pioneers James Howard, Isaac

Austin, Morgan Burdick, and the Van Beck family had their farms. The old Lake Town Hall was located on the southeast corner of Howell and Howard (site of today's Tippecanoe Library).



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## Membership

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

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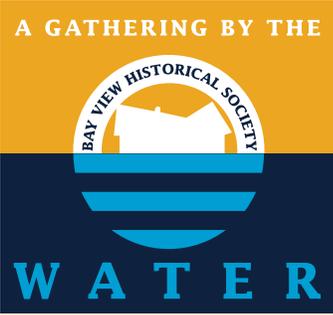
## President's Message

BY KEVIN PETAJAN

Greetings, friends of the Bay View Historical Society. Please join us for our Annual Dinner at the South Shore Yacht Club on April 28. This year's theme is *"A Gathering by the Water,"* a very fitting title for our always wonderful annual dinner location. According to A Short History of Milwaukee by William George Bruce, the name Milwaukee comes from an Algonquian word Millioke meaning "Good", "Beautiful" and "Pleasant Land" or "Gathering place by the water." Hence this year's theme, "A Gathering by the Water." The logo design was inspired by board member Robert Lenz's flag of Milwaukee. Thanks, Bob!

Milwaukee rock star historian John Gurda will headline the evening's activities, who will present his program *"Milwaukee: A City Built on Water."* John's talks are always filled with great facts from the past as well as wonderful wisdom for the future. His talk about water resonates with our current concerns about the precious ecosystem that we interact with in life, work and play. As a lifelong sailor and admirer of the Great Lakes, I'm looking forward to John's presentation.

Don't miss it. Please complete the invitation below or visit our website for more information.



PLEASE JOIN US  
The Bay View Historical Society's Annual Dinner  
***"A GATHERING BY THE WATER"***  
Saturday, April 28, 2018  
at the South Shore Yacht Club  
Social 5:30PM • Dinner 6:30PM  
• Honoring Outstanding Members  
• Featuring John Gurda's Presentation -  
*"Milwaukee: A City Built on Water"*

**Tickets \$50 per person • RSVP by April 6th**  
**Questions? Contact Sonja Nelson-Gurda 414.482.2522**

Name(s) Dinner Request: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes, we're coming!**

**Menu Choices:**

\_\_\_ Poached Salmon w/dill & white wine  
 \_\_\_ Roasted Pork Shank  
 \_\_\_ Chicken Saltimbocca - chicken breast stuffed w/prosciutto & mozzarella w/marinara sauce  
 \_\_\_ Vegetarian option is available by request.

Total meals \_\_\_\_\_  
 @ \$50 each = \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to or in lieu of tickets, I am making a tax-deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Please reserve by April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Please make checks payable to  
**Bay View Historical Society.**

**Mail your reservation to:**  
 Bay View Historical Society | Attn: Sonja Nelson-Gurda  
 333 7 S. Delaware Ave. | Milwaukee, WI 53207

**THIS IS YOUR INVITATION and  
 RSVP TO THE ANNUAL DINNER**

**A SEPARATE INVITATION  
 WILL NOT BE MAILED**



## 50-Year Reunion *continued*

So, don't be a flake; start saving up your scratch. No matter what your bag is, you'll have a boss time rapping with all the hip cats and chicks. Don't forget to bring your slam book. Will this be far out? You bet your sweet bippy.

### The 1960s

The 1960s was a turbulent decade with civil unrest, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy (JFK), and anti-war protests. The epidemic of race riots in America's large cities arrived in Milwaukee in the early morning hours of July 31, 1967. Milwaukee's civil rights activism was led by Father James Groppi (1930-1985), youngest son of the Groppi Grocery family and a 1949 graduate of BVHS.

In early 1968, North Vietnam launched the Tet Offensive against American forces throughout South Vietnam. Americans had been told the U.S. was winning the war, but when TV cameras showed a different story, Americans realized they had been lied to. This led to more opposition to the war and prompted President Lyndon Johnson to abandon his reelection plans. Democrats then put their hopes in JFK's younger brother Bobby, but he was assassinated on June 5th. Prior to that, on April 4th, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

The Class of 1968 was eyewitness to The Beatles and the British Invasion, 1967's Summer of Love, and the Psychedelic Era.

Despite all of the chaos and distractions during the 1960s, the Class of 1968 stayed focused, graduated, and went on to contribute to making Bay View and America great.

There were 96 graduates from January and 478 from June; they were part of the Baby Boomer generation. BVHS reached a record enrollment of 2700 in 1962, but when Fritsche Junior High School (FJHS) opened in September 1963, BVHS's ninth grade was eliminated. In 1968, even with only three grades, enrollment was 2100. Today's enrollment is about 900.

They were among the 1100 students who entered FJHS, 2937 S. Howell Avenue, named for Gustave Fritsche (BVHS's first principal), when it opened on September 8, 1963. They chose FJHS's school colors, royal blue and white, as well as the name for the school's newspaper, The Parkside. It is interesting that after Fritsche closed in 2010 and reopened as an elementary school in 2011 to house students from the closed Tippecanoe and Dover Street Schools, it was officially named Milwaukee Parkside School for the Arts. The students call it Tipp-Dover, but pronounce it "tipped over".



## Good-Bye St. Mary's Academy...

### And Thanks for the Memories BY KAREN GERSONDE

I had no intention of writing this article until social media changed my mind. A friend of mine on Facebook posted a photo of St. Mary's Academy and stated she had stopped there to see it one last time as it was going to be torn down the next week. I had known this day was coming but I did not know when. So on a cold Sunday, May 7, 2017, I grabbed my trusty camera and went to say good-bye to a familiar school that had been part of the Bay View landscape for as long as I can remember.

It was late in the day when I got there and a few people were still walking around the grounds, some reminiscing, and some taking photos. It was cold for May as a stiff breeze was coming off the lake. I had on only a sweatshirt, but I figured that would be good enough to take a few photos and go home. I was wrong. Somehow the spirit of the buildings and grounds got a hold of me and I was mesmerized. When I started taking photos only then did I realize the true beauty of the buildings that I saw through my lens. And I felt sad that in a few days they would be reduced to rubble, gone forever. More historic building lost to the modern day world. Buildings that will live on only through old photographs, and even though I was taking color photos, they would probably fade to black and white just like all of the other historic photos of the past.

*Continued on page 6*

## Treasurer's Report BY JOHN FISHER

The 2017 BVHS Annual Appeal has received over \$7600.00 in gifts through the end of the year. The generosity of the donors is greatly appreciated and the donations will be allocated to the betterment of Bay View Historical Society and its activities.

Over 90 individual contributions were made by the end of January. There were donations made in the memory of Lois Rehberg and one in memory of Arnold & Florence Bethke plus 13 anonymous donations.

A list of the donors in alphabetical order are: Joanne Adsen, Annemarie Adsen, Sadonna Antonia, Nadine Barthuli, Ted Bazler, Ilona Bauer, Carolyn Blackwood, Anne Brolly & Craig Mrkvicka, Fred & Alice Bethke, Wendy Cooper, Nancy Counter, David Drake & Jennifer Esh, Terry & Janet Falk, Maryann Francis, Claire Gallan, Patricia Garrigan, Kenneth Germanson, Karen Gersonde, Thomas Groppi, John & Sonia Gurda, Maryann Helf, Scot Henry, Susan & James Herzfeld, Ken Huber, Robert & Judith Jasna, Katherine Keller, Denice Laack, Jeannette Larson, Carol Legrand, Daniel Ludwig, Ray & Diane Luedke, Anne Maedke, Pamela Millington, Delia Molden, Helen "Cookie" Mueller & John Archibald, Kathy & Frank Mulvey, Gail & Arthur Naujock, Mark Nitka, Lois & Bill O'Brien, Eric & Jackie Oleson, Candice Owley, Kevin Petajan, Dianne Piedt, Bob & Anita Pietrykowski, Virginia Prince, Laurel Pritzlaff, Tom Radoszewski, Jan & Christine Raz, Paul & Sharon Reinelt, Dave & Bev Reszel, Beverly Rhoe, Craig Risser & Christine Rieck-Risser, Christine Rundblad, John Sargent & Jean Waldo, Jeanette Schmitz, Ruth Simos, Sherry Barr Simpson, William Smith, Barbara Stein, George & Jan Stevenson, Sandra Straehl, Douglas Suhm, Rodney Swain, Nancy Tawney, Ron Thate, Marlene Adams Tomsevics, John Toutenhoofd, Evelyn Trisco, Tom & Carol Trisco, Donald Vance, Joanne Baker Ward, Pat & Judy White, Matthew Williamson, Jim & Kathy Wing, Ron & Alice Winkler, and Jim & Jane Winston.

Bay View Historical Society closed out fiscal year 2017 with a balance of \$192,926.30 of which \$183,282.49 is in the Capital Account and \$9,643.81 is in the Checking Account. Fiscal year saw revenues from all sources at \$29,774.35 with expenses at \$27,103.80 for a net balance for 2017 of \$2,670.55. Bay View Historical Society would not have had such a successful year without the continued support of its members and benefactors.



## Police & Fire Call Boxes

BY GLENN A. GIERZYCKI

There are many items from Milwaukee's past that still linger into the present. One common item that has outlived its usefulness can still be found along the streets of Bay View.

There are a number of Police and Fire Call Boxes that still stand, mostly at intersections, in Bay View and other parts of Milwaukee. Slowly they are being removed from the scene as other means of communication rendered them obsolete.

Research reveals that the first police phone was installed in Albany, NY in 1877. This was one year after Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. In 1880, Chicago installed the first police call boxes. These were kiosks that housed a phone that connected to a police station. These devices were a way for a beat officer to connect with his dispatch station without having to waste time going to and from the station.

The first Milwaukee call boxes, also called sentry boxes, were installed in the late 1880's. The first ones were tall, wooden kiosks that had telegraph machines with a list of crimes on a dial. When the crime was selected and sent to the police station, the appropriate type of help was sent. Telephones later took the place of the telegraph machines. The telegraphs and telephones would ring directly into a police station switch board. In the early 1900's, there were about 900 of these wooden boxes around Milwaukee.



As phones got smaller the boxes got smaller also, and the large wooden boxes were phased out. The first modern call boxes were installed in March

1911 and gradually replaced the wooden kiosks. These boxes had separate compartments for police phones and fire alarms, and a place for storage. Access was by a key in the officer's possession. Some trusted members of the public, such as prominent businessmen, also had keys. The officer on duty had to check in at a set time interval, such as the half hour or every hour, from a different call box each time. That way, the sergeant or other officer in charge knew the beat patrolman was walking

his assigned rounds. This was in the era before patrol cars were common.

The Milwaukee Police Department designed their own boxes in the 1920's, and these are mostly the ones that are seen around town today. The boxes were two feet tall, one and a half feet wide and perched on a pedestal. They were cast iron, could weigh up to 90 pounds and had a blue light on the top. The design was patented and the manufacturer (Fire & Police Alarm Post Company) sold them to other municipalities as well.



A lit light was a signal to the officer that he had a waiting message. A flashing light was a signal to any officers in the area to immediately come to the box to determine the reason for the alert. The Milwaukee Police Call Box system was city owned and separate from the public phone system. If there was an outage in the public phone system, the police system would continue to operate.

An article on the WUWM website dated June 10, 2016 stated that at that time there were around 1200 still standing in the City of Milwaukee. The Department of Public Works has a program of removing the call boxes if they are not needed.

It was very surprising to learn that some of the boxes have a new function and that may be why so many are still around. Some are used as junction boxes for city wiring such as traffic lights.

A recent survey of Bay View found over 35 of the boxes still existing in the area. To me, there seems

to be three styles of boxes. One is the true oldie with raised lettering on the sides of the box. Another is the same style of box but with no lettering. It is likely that these boxes are newer and were a cheaper replacement than the originals. In the accompanying list I call these boxes modified old. A third style has a very plain, smaller aluminum box on the same type of pedestal. To me, these are the least attractive and have to be the newest style.

*Continued on page 7*

Location	Site	Model
Superior & Illinois	NW corner	Old
Superior & Estes	SW corner	Old
Superior & Iron	SW corner	Old
Superior & Potter	SE corner	Old
Delaware & Potter	SW corner	Old
Delaware & Pryor	NE corner	Old
Delaware & Nock	NE corner	Old
Delaware & Trowbridge	SW corner	New
Wentworth & Rusk	SW corner	Old
Wentworth & Russell	NW corner	New
South Shore Dr., Russell & Lincoln Memorial	North side	New
Bay & Conway	SW corner	New

Location	Site	Model
Bay & Lenox	NW corner	Old
Bay & Winchester	On Bay	New
Oklahoma & KK	NE corner	Old
Oklahoma & Hanson	NE corner	New
Oklahoma & Logan	NE corner	New
Oklahoma & Clement	NE corner	New
Oklahoma & Howell	NE corner	New
Chase at Target Store	Middle of block	New
Lincoln & Chase	SW corner	New
Lincoln & Burrell	SE corner	Modified/Old
KK, Russell & Logan	East side	New
KK at Zillman Park	East side of KK	Modified/Old
KK, Lincoln & Howell	In triangle	New

Location	Site	Model
KK & Conway	SE corner	New
KK & Potter	SE corner	New
KK & Clement	SE corner	New
KK & Rusk	SE corner	Old
Howell & Manitoba	East side of Howell	Modified/Old
Howell & Dewey	SW corner	Modified/Old
Howell & Fremont	NE corner	Modified/Old
Howell & Dover	SE corner	New
Howell & Clarence	SW corner	New
Clifford & Austin	SW corner	Modified/Old
Logan & Idaho	SE corner	Old
Montana & Lenox	SE corner	Modified/Old



*The Bruno Nordberg home (1910), 2940 South Logan Avenue, on the northwest corner of Logan and Idaho overlooks Humboldt Park, which is on the opposite (southwest) corner.*

## The Way Down South Walk

BY RON WINKLER

Which house with a commanding view of Humboldt Park was built by Finnish immigrant Bruno Nordberg? Which house was saved from the wrecking ball and moved to its current location across from Humboldt Park when Bay View High School was built? Which playground, named for a Vietnam War hero, was formerly the site of a noxious brickyard that fouled the air and trees? Where is the location of the subdivision that was built on a former swampland, whose homes continue to sink into the wet ground?

Find out the answers to these questions and learn other fascinating details of Bay View's history, on this year's August Walk. The Way Down South Walk is one of nine in a series of walking tours designed to help Bay Viewites and visitors gain an appreciation of the area's history, architecture and lifestyle.

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

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



*The Henry Mann Mansion (1895), 2931 South Logan Ave., is across the street from the Bruno Nordberg home.*

## Passing, Seen

BILL O'BRIEN

### *Carrara Glass. Wasn't she a cabaret singer in the 30's?*

No. Carrara Glass was a brand of "pigmented structural glass," produced in gleaming sheets and tiles as a substitute for marble building cladding. A predecessor, Sani-Onyx, was sold as a sanitary interior surface for kitchens and baths. Each was initially produced in black and a white that resembled the Carrara marble from which Michelangelo carved the Pietà.

Libbey-Owens-Ford's Vitrolite, which came to market later, was offered in more than 30 colors in monochrome and marbled finishes, ornamental trim strips, and curved pieces for streamlined corners. The exterior products were attached to masonry with large dots of adhesive. The vogue for such shiny finishes, associated with the Art Deco style, peaked before World War II.

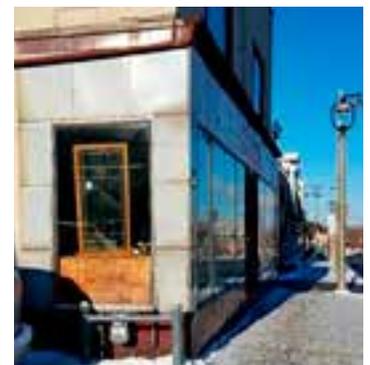
The look still had the favor of the builder of 2349 South Kinnickinnic Avenue, a concrete block storefront put up in 1947. The neighborhood's one example of such cladding is finished in two tones, black and a milky green. A close look at the former barber shop, long awaiting conversion to a sushi restaurant, shows that some of the seeming black panels have paint peeling away from green glass.



A singular Bay View example of a later cladding innovation surrounds the store windows of 2131-2133 South Kinnickinnic Avenue, built in 1920. The gray and maroon covering here is enameled steel, panels made after 1947 as components for prefabricated steel houses. The Lustron Corporation combined "luster" and "iron" in its name and aimed to alleviate the postwar housing shortage, manufacturing more than 2,000 durable, low-maintenance houses before its bankruptcy in 1950. More than a dozen complete Lustron houses survive on the North Side of Milwaukee, on North 27th Street, Sherman Boulevard, and 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 91st, and 93rd streets.

I like how the shiny surrounds set off American Estates' stock of antiques and architectural salvage.

Obscured treasure: The very latest in siding products, vinyl clapboards, cover the north wall of 2131-2133, hiding a painted sign for the original store tenant, auto parts dealer B.S. "Wizzy" Wisniewski. The sign was visible for a while after the dry cleaner's building to the north was demolished.





## Good-Bye St. Mary's *continued*

Many of the people walking the grounds had asked me if I had attended here, and I had to say, "No." I actually attended St. Francis High School down the road but I grew up just on the other side of the Seminary woods, and I knew every building by heart. I had played here often as a child. I knew it was private property but being raised Catholic, it just felt right to me to play here and it felt like home. I could not have felt "holier" than when I was present on these grounds. I went to Sacred Heart of Jesus grade school so I was used to being around nuns and priests.



Anyway, on this cold May day, I slowly made my way around the school. I started in the front and pretty soon a few photos turned into way too many to count. I tried to photograph as many of the details of the buildings as I could get. I was fascinated by the old windows, the old lamps hanging by the doorways, and by the concrete etchings high atop the buildings. I peered into the windows as I went along and wondered what it was like to have attended school here, what it was like back in the early days and pondered what had happened to all of the nuns that had graced these great hallways and classrooms. Through one of the doors, I saw a great stairway that countless students must have used. I pictured in my mind how all of the girls, dressed in uniforms, must have rushed up and down those stairs a million times going to and from classes. And I imagined the Sisters probably telling them to walk, be quiet and get to class. No goofing around! After all, we are proper young ladies!

I then slowly made my way to the back of the school. By now I was alone and the others had left the grounds. Shadows danced on the buildings as the sun was starting to set. Maybe it was the cold but I felt a chill going up my spine. Was this a sign that maybe I shouldn't be here? Maybe it was time to leave. Maybe the spirits were trying to tell me something. But us photographers are a hearty and quirky bunch, so I continued on, determined to capture every aspect of the buildings before they were no more. I was determined to preserve them



in photos for future generations to see, so these buildings would never be forgotten.

When I got to the back, I was happy to see that the stone grotto was still there. At one time it contained many statues but today it just had a sad looking Mother Mary. She was up high overlooking the grounds, keeping watch over it all. It almost seemed that she knew her beloved buildings were going to be razed. Eyes lifted, she was praying to God. I felt sad for her and hoped that they would not tear down her grotto. A grotto that was built long ago and had withstood the weather of time should not be torn down. I said a quick prayer, gave her one last look, and continued on my journey. I photographed as much as I could in the back of the buildings and kind of hurried back to the front. I was a little nervous as I was alone, it was getting dark, and I had a chill I could not shake.

On the front grounds, I had stopped to look at the wild violets that were growing in the grass. Also, many ferns were starting to unfurl, as this was spring after all. But I felt bad for them also, as their life was going to be snuffed out, just like the buildings. Squirrels and birds were still hanging around the grounds, squawking and chattering. I wondered if their homes were going to be displaced by the wrecking ball. Such a sad thing! I actually tried to pull a fern out of the ground, thinking maybe I can salvage one little thing and bring it home with me. The fern would not budge, as if to say, "These are my grounds and I am staying till the end!" Somehow I kind of thought that was fitting. I let them be.

I then walked across the street to get my last photos. I gazed at the lake as the waves lapped the shore. This was an absolutely perfect place to have a school. You could not have a better view, peace and serenity. The lovely trees were all blooming and it seemed so beautiful. What a shame to disturb the school grounds in the spring. Just as there is new life, it was death for the poor old buildings. No wonder Mother Mary looked up to God and was praying, praying for a miracle that was not going to happen.

By now I was freezing and quickly ran across the



street back onto the grounds. I took a few photos of the old iron fence and gates to the grounds. I wondered if they were going to survive or not. So rusted yet so elegant, they were the guardians of the holy grounds. I thought, "I hope you make it."

As I was walking back across the front grounds to my car, I almost tripped and fell on some uneven concrete. It brought me back to the realization that these grounds could not be saved. It would cost too much money to restore them and bring them back to all their glory. People had given it their best efforts, but it just wasn't enough. As such, it is a sign of the times. It is sad but that is life. They gave many good memories to many good people that crossed their hallowed halls. I never attended you but I will miss you all the same! Good-bye St. Mary's Academy... Thanks for the Memories! With that, I sadly drove home.

*NOTE: All of the photos I have taken of St. Mary's Academy will be donated to both the Bay View Historical Society and the St. Francis Historical Society, for generations to see.*

*Karen is an amateur photographer and a freelance writer. She has lived in the Milwaukee area her entire life. She is also a member of the Bay View Historical Society and the St. Francis Historical Society.*



## On the Street Where You Live

BY LISA ANN JACOBSEN

### Smith Street

Among the first settlers to the area, Uriel B. Smith and his family came to Milwaukee in 1835. Mrs. Smith gave birth to a daughter later that same year, the first white child born here. It could be presumed that the Smiths were celebrating their new-found home by naming the baby 'Milwaukee Smith.' A son, however, was named Tully Smith, after Tully, NY, where Uriel was born, so that presumption is quickly dashed. Tully later platted the Bay View area in 1871.





## Wisconsin Historian Defines the American Character

BY LISA ANN JACOBSEN

Nineteenth century historian and Wisconsin native Frederick Jackson Turner, in his seminal work entitled, *The Significance of the Frontier in American History*, emphasizes “the importance of the frontier in shaping the American character”<sup>1</sup>. Turner asserts that geography not only determines the character of a people but also, depending on the situation, gives either advantages or disadvantages. Free land drew Europeans west in America. From there the ensuing experiences, which included not only uprooting and moving westward but also learning to utilize the natural resources and confront possible dangers derived from invading native land, resulted in the re-creation of the habits, language, and customs of those who entered the frontier. An unanticipated transformation took place and this, according to Turner, is what changed these pioneers from being displaced Europeans in a new land into a distinct and unique people. This transformation took place through various challenges and the response to those challenges; this is what made Americans American, and thus defines the American character.



Since its inception, Turner’s “frontier thesis” has brought about much debate. Is Turner correct? Did the experience of westward expansion re-create ‘us’ from pilgrims to pioneers and on to a populace that was changed into our unique and distinctive Americanism? These are interesting questions worthy of further consideration. Recommended works by Turner include, *The Character and Influence of the Indian Trade in Wisconsin: A Study of the Trading Post as an Institution*, *The Frontier in American History*, and *The United States 1830-1850*, as well as many works by other historians both supporting and refuting Turner’s assertions.

Pulitzer Prize recipient Frederick Jackson Turner received his doctorate from Johns Hopkins University in 1890 with a dissertation on the Wisconsin fur trade. He returned to Wisconsin and remained on the University of Wisconsin’s faculty until 1910, when he then moved on to Harvard University’s faculty. Turner trained many PhDs who went on to occupy prominent places in the history profession.

*Each age tries to form its own conception of the past. Each age writes the history of the past anew with reference to the conditions uppermost in its own time. – Frederick Jackson Turner*

<sup>1</sup> Frederick Jackson Turner, *The Significance of the Frontier in American History* (Kindle DX Version). Kindle Locations 17-18.

## Call Boxes continued

The list shows the location of all the police boxes I could find in the Bay View area. These were found in what I consider to be the traditional boundaries of Bay View, which are Oklahoma Avenue on the south, the KK River on the north and the CP (formerly Milwaukee Road) railroad tracks on the west. Many of them seem to be placed about 2 blocks apart. It is interesting to note that none were found on Jones Island or in Humboldt Park itself.

Now that we know a number of these silent sentinels still exist in our area, I suggest that the Bay View Historical Society start a discussion about the possibility of trying to acquire one for their collection. Preservation would save a piece of history that was once very common in the neighborhoods of Bay View and, indeed, the entire city. I think a restored police call box would make a fine addition to the BVHS collections.

List of existing police call boxes in Bay View, May, 2017.  
List compiled by Glenn A. Gierzycki.



## I Saw Myself

BY KAREN GERSONDE

I saw myself on the beach of Lake Michigan,  
Maybe I was eight, maybe I was ten.  
I really don’t remember, this is now  
And that was then.

I played in the water and skipped some stones,  
The water was cold; I was with my father,  
I retained this memory even though I am old.

We watched the mighty ships maneuver  
in the harbor...  
So big and so real.  
They were very long, very massive,  
all made of steel.

I remember Jones Island  
And the smelters and the nets,  
The smell of fish, the old fishermen,  
The campfires...nets filled were a bet.

I saw myself watching  
The Badger car ferry pulling into dock,  
People and cars coming and going,  
The mighty engines kept the water flowing.

Yes I saw myself the other day,  
On the shores of Lake Michigan,  
Maybe I was eight, maybe I was ten,  
These were great memories from  
way back when.

*Karen Gersonde wrote this poem about Lake Michigan and it will also be appearing in the new DNR Great Lakes Calendar.*

## You Can Make a Significant Difference

Have you ever wondered how you could make a significant difference in the future of the Bay View Historical Society?

One way is to make a bequest in your will. Bay View Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the history and stories of Bay View for future generations. Remembering the Society in your will can help assure that this happens and that the Society has a strong future. Any amount is important and will be greatly appreciated.

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

Return Service Requested



## Where in (Historical) Bay View?

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

**Answer to last issue:** Looking north on Kinnickinnic Avenue toward the triangle defined by Kinnickinnic, Russell and Logan. The Standard Oil Service Station (site of today's Sven's Café) is just behind the triangle. The sign above the gas station which reads, "Paul J. Grunau," is on the building at 2697 S. KK. It was the home of Grunau Plumbing and is today's Shape Up Shoppe.

## Programs & Events

### Saturday March 24

3-4:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

**Workshop: "Irish Singing Without the Accent"**

The \$35 cost includes both workshop & concert.

Reservations & Information: 414.220.0311 or  
info@moomusic.org, www.MooMusic.org

5:00pm • Beulah Brinton House

**Shannon Heaton: Boston-based  
flute player/singer/composer**

Suggested donation \$20.

7:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

**Robin Pluer and Special Guests (TBA)**

\$30.00 per person. Reservations & Information:  
at <http://houseconcertsmke.com>,  
HealingQueen19@gmail.com, or 262.951.1915

### Monday April 2

6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

**Ron Winkler will present a slide show  
about the Tippecanoe neighborhood**

### Sunday April 22

4pm • Beulah Brinton House

**Skip Jones and Frank Montano Earth Day concert**

**Two Friends - Two Grandfathers - Two  
Cultures - One Dream**

**"A Sustainable World for Our Seventh Generation"**

Reservations: 414.702.6053 or  
beulahbrintonhouseconcerts@gmail.com

### Saturday April 28

5:30pm • South Shore Yacht Club

**Bay View Historical Society Annual Dinner**

Reservations & Information: Sonja Nelson-Gurda:  
414.482.2522

### Saturday May 5

7:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

**Lil' Rev, James Eannelli, and Jim Liban**

**Guitars, Ukulele, Mandolin, Mountain Dulcimer,  
Banjo + Harmonicas - "Da Blues ... and more"**

\$30.00 per person. Reservations & Information:  
HealingQueen19@gmail.com or 262.951.1915

### Saturday, June 2

1:00pm • Three Brothers Restaurant/Globe Tavern,  
2414 South St. Clair Street

**BVHS Historic Landmark Dedication:  
Three Brothers Restaurant**

Refreshments will be served following the ceremony,  
which is free and open to the public

### Monday, June 4

6:30pm • Avalon Theater

Stories of Immigration with ExFabula

### Thursday June 21

4-8pm • Beulah Brinton House Gazebo

**Summer Solstice Potluck Picnic &  
Make Music Day lawn concerts**

*In the works - more information to come!*

## Open House Dates for Beulah Brinton House

### Saturday, March 17

1-4pm

Open house and tours  
of house

### Saturday, April 21

1-4pm

Open house and tours  
of house

### Saturday, May 26

1-4pm

Open house and tours  
of house

### Saturday, June 23

1-4pm

Open house and tours  
of house

