

# Billboard protest falls short

By GARY KARAFIAT

A spokesman for the National 3-M Advertising Company, which reportedly has purchased a permit to construct a billboard on the north side of Ogden Avenue in unincorporated Westmont, said Monday that he has no knowledge of the proposed sign.

Sam Fanning, special services and community relations manager of the Bedford Park advertising company, said "This is the first I've heard of this billboard."

Fanning said he also did not know the date the permit was purchased, the location or the size of the billboard.

According to Tom Miller of the DuPage County Department, the permit, which was purchased from the Zoning Department Oct. 15 for just under \$600, is for a lighted sign that will stand 74 feet high. The billboard itself will be 48 feet wide and 14 feet high, according to permit specifications.

Jackie Bartasis, president of the Library Park Homeowners Association, just north of Ogden Avenue, said she sent a letter to 3-M opposing the site and asking the company to reconsider the location of the sign.

Fanning, who said that it is his job to investigate any problems with local residents, said he had not received a copy of the letter, which was mailed Dec. 15, according to Bartasis.

Another billboard with identical dimensions, owned by Royal Outdoor Advertising, was erected in late November between Grant Steet and Cass Avenue, east of 3-M's proposed location between Williams and Park Streets.

Residents and local municipalities opposed to such signs cannot block their construction because of a state law passed in 1983. Under the law, the Illinois Highway Advertising Control Act, billboards 1,200 square feet in size and unlimited in height are permitted every 100 feet in commercial and industrial areas along interstate, federal and primary highways.

Westmont is not the only village experiencing problems with new billboards. Outdoor Advertising Associates has filed suit against Downers Grove's sign ordinance because it allegedly violates the new law.

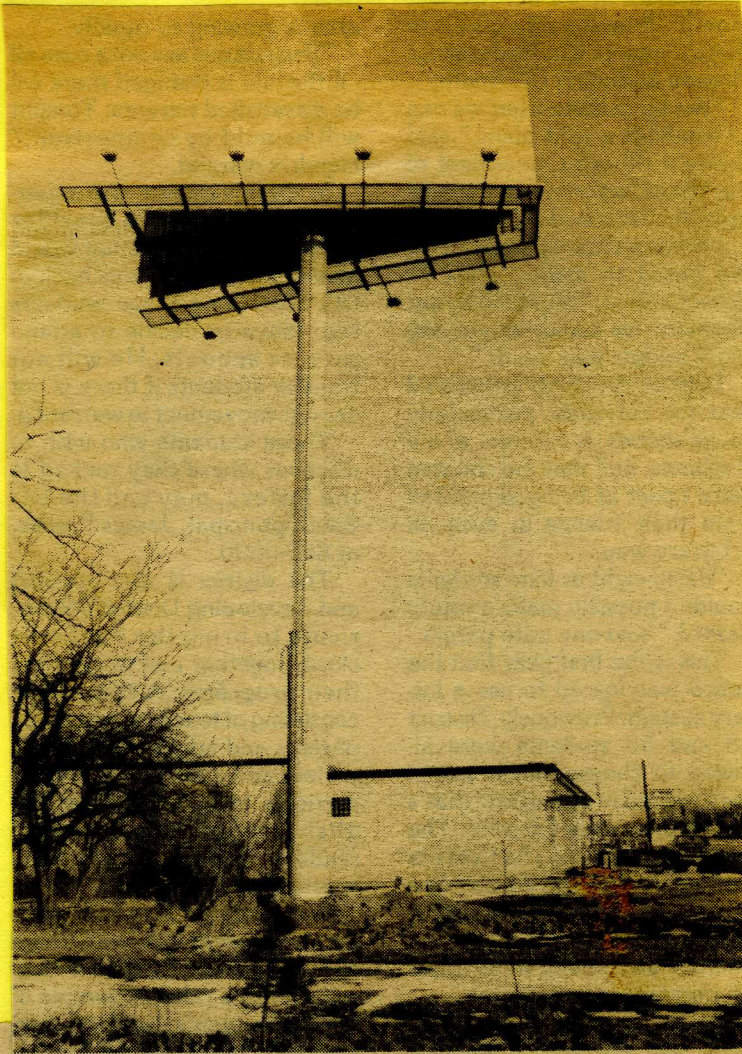


PHOTO BY LYNN HORNE

**UNSIGHTLY SITE** — 74 ft. tall, this new billboard is going up on Ogden ave. just west of Cass ave. The sign is approximately 2,000 ft. east of a site of a 2nd billboard. A new state law allows billboards to be placed every 100 ft. of one another if in a municipality or 300 ft. within unincorporated property.

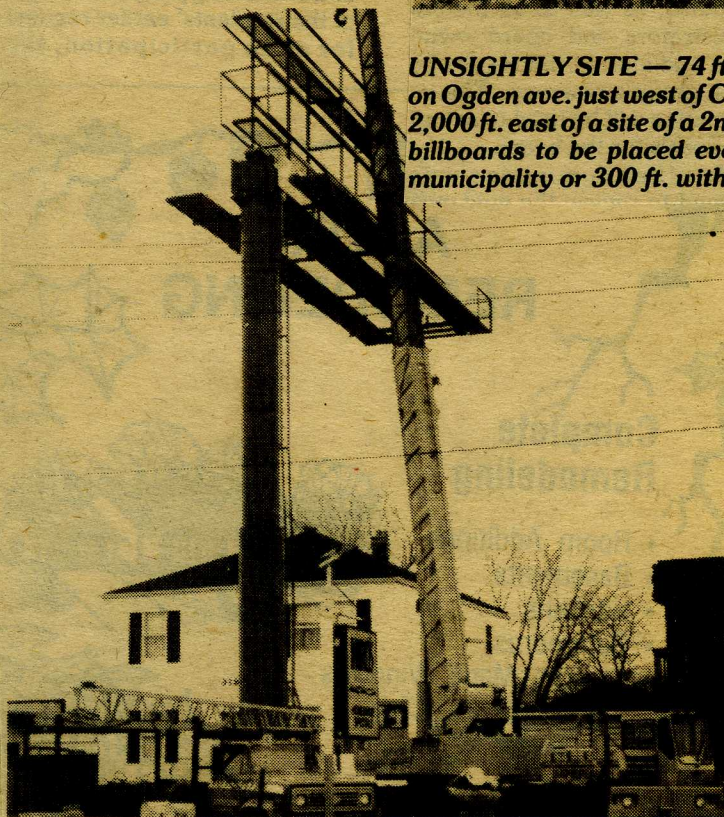


PHOTO BY JIM LEONARDO

**INSPECTOR INTEREST**—An inspector from Commonwealth Edison photographs the work site where 2 Tennessee men were injured last week after a crane cable touched a power line. According to reports, the small work space forced laborers to place the crane in an adjacent parking lot.



February 1989 - DuPage County Health Department satellite office now located at 422 North Cass Avenue.

September 1989 - Measles outbreak continues in Cook and DuPage Counties. As of August 9, there were 1,229 confirmed cases in the metropolitan area.

October 1989 - Phyllis Sherman, Focus on Recycling Manager, has notified LPHOA that the recycling program for Downers Grove Township will begin January 15, 1989. Street side collection of aluminum cans, glass containers and newspapers started on February 5, 1990.

November 1989 - The Illinois State Legislature passed a law requiring all Illinois motorists to have liability insurance on their motor vehicles beginning January 1, 1990.

February 22, 1990 - Downers Grove Tax Assessor, Theresa Cockwell, York Township Deputy Tax Assessor, Sally Marack and Edward Merkel, DuPage County Board Member, will be at the LPHOA Special Meeting on Thursday, February 22nd. The new proposed user fees will be discussed. Your questions regarding the real estate tax burden will be addressed.

March 1990 - The DuPage County Board has outlawed leaf and grass burning.

April 1990 - David Rice was hired as 2nd Assistant LPHOA Water Superintendent.

June 1990 - This is the year that Illinois has mandated assessors to view each home to collect data and update information. This is also the year for Downers Grove Township to begin the new property photographic project. York Township has already changed to the photograph system.

August 18, 1990 - A formal dedication of the flag pole located at the home of Tim Sellers, 3901 N. Grant Street, will be held to honor Harry F. Waller, Pearl Harbor Veteran. A new American flag will be proudly raised followed by the POW/MIA flag accompanied by buglers playing taps. Among the guest speakers will be Pam Petersen, representative from the Last Patrol and Task Force Omega, and Master Chief Petty Officer Robert Bakker. A Color Guard will be present for the dedication.

November 1990 - In a letter to LPHOA from Dorothy Kubinski, 3905 Liberty Blvd: "So many times the good kids are overlooked and the bad ones get all the attention, so I want to say a few words on behalf of the good kids. Every child that came to our door on Halloween was very well behaved. In fact, they were GREAT...polite, smiling and happy. Every one of them, from the smallest tot to the older kids said, "thank you". All their parents should be very proud.











February 1991 - The war is lying heavy on our hearts and minds. The yellow ribbons displayed during the Vietnam War became a symbol of welcome for returning prisoners of war; then a symbol of outrage and purpose during the Iran hostage crisis in the 1970's. Now, the yellow ribbons give mixed messages. Some say it is a universal symbol of caring and others say it is a political symbol and a visual loyalty oath to the war. Whatever position is taken, we pray for the safety of all our troops; in particular all LIBERTY PARK service people - and we wish them to come home soon. Residents who wish to write to U.S. Troops serving in Operation Desert Storm, Saudi Arabia, can do so by sending the letters to "We Care Committee", Dear Soldier, P.O. Box 171, Palos Heights, Illinois, 60463.

March 1991 - LPHOA circulated petitions within the subdivision requesting the co-operation of Earl Swanson, York Township Highway Commissioner and Edward Smith, Downers Grove Township Highway Commissioner in posting our subdivision with restrictive and limited on-street parking. A resolution was passed by both Townships in June and signs will be posted. They will read "NO PARKING - 2 AM TO 6 AM.

April 1991 - The Township Highway Commissioners, Ed Smith and Earl Swanson, have announced the brush pick-up program for LIBERTY PARK.

The LPHOA has designated the week of April 13th - April 20th as the Annual LIBERTY PARK Clean-Up Week. Our neighborhood will be party prepared to celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd. LIBERTY PARK arises to the challenge to protect our environment from pollution, wastes and unwise use.

"I am the ill Earth.  
People have cut down the trees,  
which are my lungs.  
They have polluted the air,  
which is my brain.  
They have polluted the streams,  
which are my blood vessels.  
They have polluted the oceans,  
which are the chambers of my heart.  
My wrath is hurricanes and tornadoes.  
I am the ill Earth.  
If people trash me, I will die, and so will they."

July 1991 - In the 1930's, the DuPage Convalescent Center was simple known as the County Farm. The original red brick building housed the patients. A drinking fountain was attached to the rear of the building and the sink portion was stained a dark red color due to the high iron content of the water. Folks were told the water was healthful and would line up to take gallons home.



September 1991 - At the September 5th LPHOA meeting, the membership voted to approve a "Neighborhood Crime Watch - We will call the Sheriff" Program. Ed Smith, Downers Grove Township Highway Commissioner, has ordered signs as we requested and they will be installed within the subdivision. Decals provided by the DuPage County Sheriff are available for individual home posting. By homeowner involvement, not vigilante action, residents hope to discourage and prevent residential crime by reporting immediately any suspicious or malicious activity to the sheriff. Awareness and involvement by all of us is the key to a successful program.

November 1991 - Installation of a new sanitary sewer forced mainline along 41st Street began.

January 1992 - LPHOA collected used eye glasses for the Lions Club International.

July 1992 - On Thursday, June 2, 1992, our area was struck by a violent storm. Trees were cracking and falling on homes, cars, wires and lawns. Most homes were without electricity (some until Sunday), and the 3 phase service to the LPHOA pumphouses was down. On Thursday evening, the water interconnect with Downers Grove was opened. LIBERTY PARK was serviced with Downers Grove water until late Saturday morning even though Downers Grove suffered storm problems too. LPHOA will be billed accordingly. All of us are thankful that there were no serious injuries in our area related to the storm. Small town neighborliness was present everywhere. We thank all who went out of their way to help others; also the Downers Grove Water Department and the Townships Highway Departments for their assistance.

August 1992 - According to the Illinois State Water Survey, after dropping for decades, water levels around the metropolitan area are slowly starting to rebound. This is good news for LPHOA as we rely on ground water for our wells. This level rise was anticipated because surrounding communities converted to Lake Michigan water and abandoned their wells.

Westmont Youth Baseball Association's 11 year old All-Star Team took not one, but two championships in the last month. Managed by LIBERTY PARK resident, Mike Kenig of Park Street, the team went undefeated in the Naperville Invitational. Ricky Struck of Washington Street pitched the title game and Scott Dubick, also of Washington Street, played great.

October 1992 - LPHOA sponsored a Halloween Party on October 23rd for LIBERTY PARK children. There were treats, games, prizes, and a scavenger hunt. Barbara Kossak, Vice-President was in charge.



November 1992 - Residents warned. Is there a monster in your chimney? A monster can lurk in almost every home - in your fireplace, furnace or wood stove chimney. When you heat your home, your chimney does its job. But, without regular care, a dangerous chimney fire or carbon monoxide leak can turn the monster loose.

January 1993 - Downers Grove Township collected undecorated Christmas trees.

Horse drawn sleighs will carry riders between 11 am and 3 pm on January 25, 26 at Danada Forest Preserve.

February 1993 - It was a sad farewell to Ruth Borg, who has been the LPHOA Secretary for over twenty years. We wish her good luck in her out-of-state move and new position.

March 1993 - DIAL-A-RIDE A shared ride transportation service is provided by the Townships for those residents, who are 65 or older or disabled.

LIBERTY PARK has been redistricted. LIBERTY PARK residents now vote in 3 different polling locations.

July 1993 - Because of concerns over destruction of atmospheric ozone, the EPA, as of January 1, 1996, has banned production of coolants such as freon, which contain ozone-destroying chemicals.

Ken Lipe was appointed LPHOA Water Sampler. He replaces Richard Danalewich.

November 1993 - VETERANS REMEMBERED The Postal Service has issued many stamps in honor of servicemen and women. A World War 2 Anniversary Commemorative Coin is now available.

June 1994 - The DuPage County Board has established a curfew for minors to be enforced in the county's unincorporated areas.

July 1994 - Good Samaritan Hospital is DuPage County's first and only Level 1 trauma center.

November 1994 - In memory of JoAnn Domkoski, LPHOA Treasurer in office, who died on November 10, 1994, following complications after surgery. She was 46 years old.

December 1994 - Donna Kardynalski of Park Street was appointed LPHOA Treasurer.



January 1995 - In memory of Jennifer Rachael Kossak, who died on January 14th. Jenny is the daughter of Michael and Barbara Kossak, LPHOA Vice-President in office. Jenny was born on December 5, 1989.

May 1995 - Tricia Jatis was appointed LPHOA Secretary to fill the unexpired term of Donna DeBiase. The DeBiase family moved to Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

Lt. Montesano and Sgt. Starnes from the DuPage County Sheriff's Department answered residents' questions and concerns at the May 4th LPHOA Meeting regarding speeders and illegal parking.

August 1995 - At the August 4th LPHOA Meeting, LPHOA accepted the resignation of Alan Jordan, Trustee and 1st Assistant Water Superintendent. The Jordan family will be moving to Arkansas, where Al has accepted a job promotion. Bob Rossini was appointed Trustee to serve until the November, 1995 Annual Meeting elections. Ken Lipe was hired to fill the 1st Assistant Water Superintendent vacancy.

November 1995 - On November 15, 1995, LPHOA was invited for breakfast at the Westmont High School along with other interested and concerned persons. We toured the building and took part in the discussion regarding District 201's educational facilities, programs and achievements.

December 1995 - In memory of Michael Kossak, husband of Barbara Kossak, LPHOA Vice-President in office, who died suddenly on December 7, 1995. Michael was born on January 16, 1957.

March 1996 - Tricia Jatis, LPHOA Secretary, is moving out of the area. Janice Rogers of Washington Street has been appointed LPHOA Secretary for the remaining term of office.

April 1996 - It's the law. The Residential Real Estate Property Disclosure Report lists 22 statements that cover a wide range of defects and condition of property. Sellers must respond to the best of their knowledge.

President Clinton signed into law a measure that designates the nation's first federally protected tall grass prairie and recreation area. The historic Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie will be managed by the US Forest Service and eventually encompass 19,000 acres of the former Joliet Army Ammunition Plant 10 miles south of Joliet in Will County.

June 1996 - The Village of Westmont has hired Gerald & Associates to collect on past due vehicle stickers from their residents. "IN ERROR", these notices were mailed to LIBERTY PARK residents.



July 1996 - Millions of hibernating wild honeybees have been wiped out across the country this year by a combination of a bitter winter and bloodsucking mites, and the survivors have gone on strike because of the cold, rainy spring. "Home-grown" bees are the only working honeymakers and pollinators in town. Without the wild honeybee, trees may produce fewer fruits and yields from vegetable gardens will be down.

August 1996 - DuPage County has waived building permit fees for those victims of the recent flooding due to the July 17/18 accumulation of 17 inches of rain fall in 24 hours. Because DuPage County was one of the counties declared a disaster area by the Federal Government, low rate interest charges on Federal loans are available. Free dumpsters for flood debris were provided by the Federal Government and coordinated by Downers Grove Township.

September 1996 - Donna Kardynalski, LPHOA Treasurer, has resigned to pursue new endeavors. Rebecca Palmeri of Park Street has been appointed Treasurer for the remaining unexpired term.

January 1997 - The DuPage County Forest Preserve District is comprised of an estimated 23,000 acres of land, 9,000 acres of which are currently undergoing an aggressive restoration plan. Families are invited to enjoy sleigh rides, hay rack rides and tube and toboggan sliding this winter.

March 1997 - GOOD NEIGHBOR OF THE MONTH AWARD was given to Ken Lipe, Scot Rogers and Bob Baltazar, who walked the subdivision clearing leaves and brush that covered storm sewer inlets.

April 1997 - SPRING INTO ACTION! Spring usually means stormy weather and loss of electric power. BE PREPARED.

June 1997 - June 21, 1997 was the date of the 1st LIBERTY PARK SUBDIVISION GARAGE/YARD SALE. Co-Chairmen were Donna Kardynalski and Gail Weglarz. It was a success.

July 1997 - Residents were informed of the effects of the anode rod in their hot water tanks. They were advised to buy hot water tanks that were equipped with WELL water designated anode rods.

LIBERTY PARK suffered much property damage, tree and power loss due to the July 18th severe storm. LPHOA's pumphouse auxiliary power was put into action for the first time and worked flawlessly.



August 1997 - Rebecca Palmeri, LPHOA Treasurer, has resigned. The Palmeri family will be moving out of the area to be closer to Steve's promotion and new job. Adele Snyder of Williams Street has been appointed Treasurer.

September 1997 - GOOD NEIGHBOR OF THE MONTH AWARD was given to Rita Maxa, who observed a contractor illegally opening a LPHOA fire hydrant and reported it promptly to LPHOA and to Adam Edmeier, John and Bobbie Pemberton, Tonio Knierim and Waldemar Kwakowiak, who participated in cleaning the empty lot at 4011 Washington Street of brush.

As it did last year, the increased presence of zebra mussels in Lake Michigan is giving their customers' water a foul smell and taste. THIS DOES NOT CONCERN LPHOA WELL WATER USERS.

December 1997 - The Northwest Fire Protection District Trustee, Tim Sellers, has reported that LIBERTY PARK has donated \$20,000. toward the cost of the new Westmont Communication Vehicle.

Soon the year 1997 will be over. Lets hope and pray that 1998 will bring us all closer together and supportive, as family, friends and community.





# NEWS

and

# VIEWS



LIBERTY PARK HOMEOWNERS BULLETIN

VOLUME 31

JANUARY 1998

NO. 3

## President's Message

### 1997 REVIEW

LPHOA COMMUNITY BUILDING: 4100 N WASHINGTON STREET

LPHOA PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM:

EAST PUMPHOUSE - 4101 N WASHINGTON

WEST PUMPHOUSE - 4100 N WASHINGTON

RESIGNATION	Treasurer:	Rebecca Palmeri
APPOINTMENTS	Treasurer:	Adele Snyder
Nominations	Chairman	Barbara Skage
Audit Committee		Nancy Jennison
		Cheryl Frelich
		Judi Hannemann
BULLETIN Committee	Chairman	Janine Clouse
BULLETIN Delivery		Gleason Family

### CIVIC ACTIVITY IN REVIEW

Hardships

Easter Egg Hunt

Earth Day Community Easement Clean-up Walk

Spring Clean-up Week/letters to residents

Anode education

Crime Prevention Program

Flood Assistance/power outages

4011 North Washington Street County project

Encourage Voters registration and voting

Welcome Letters

Sympathy cards and memorials

Christmas donation to DuPage Convalescent Center

Provided emergency rust removal laundry aid

Awards

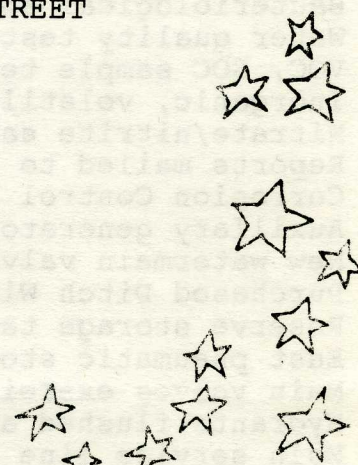
LPHOA history research

Compiled and distributed BULLETIN - LPHOA monthly newsletter

Worked with and made requests from:

IEPA, Downers Grove Sanitary District, Downers Grove and York Townships (hardships, road improvement and new signs on Williams, Adams and Park Streets, road snow removal, mosquito spraying and weed control, brush and Christmas tree pick-up, bus service, senior citizen program), DuPage County Building and Zoning, DuPage Development Department, DuPage County Sheriff and Watch Commander, DuPage County Health Department, DuPage County Election Board.

con't.



*NEW*

*BEGINNINGS*



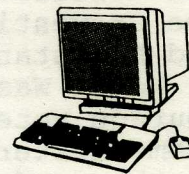
### **EAST AND WEST PUMPHOUSES**

**SEMINARS:** Illinois Rural Water Seminar  
Illinois State Water Survey  
Rural Water Association Survey  
Illinois Rural Water Rep Toured LPHOA Plant  
LPHOA waterline map to Dupage County  
General and Emergency Maintenance  
Ordered supplies, chemical, equipment  
Participated in IEPA Analytical Service Program and  
Sample Supply Lab Testing Program  
Daily, monthly regulatory tests and samples  
Bacteriological and Fluoride sample testing  
Water quality testing  
VOC, SOC sample testing  
Inorganic, volatile organic sample testing  
Nitrate/nitrite sample testing  
Reports mailed to IEPA and DuPage County Health Department  
Corrosion Control Study continues  
Auxillary generator power capability/electricity update  
New watermain valves installed/all blocks complete  
Purchased Ditch Witch pipe locator  
Reserve storage tanks flushed and probes serviced  
East pneumatic storage tank probes serviced  
Main valves exercised  
Hydrants flushed and serviced  
Main service line breaks repaired  
Checked water user problems: low pressure, leaks, etc.  
Serviced and located B Boxes  
Tap-in new homes



### **BILLING**

Computer smart  
Quarterly Assessment billing  
Delinquents: notices, shut-offs, and liens  
IRS Filing  
State Annual Report  
Downers Grove Assessor's records research  
Commercial Accounts: contracts and meter billing  
Downers Grove Sanitary District reciprocal billing program  
Standard, financial, Insurance, State of Illinois audits  
Update reports and forms  
Update Rules and Regulations  
LPHOA By-Laws revised - Special Meeting 5-1-97  
LPHOA Budget review  
Minutes, correspondence, violation notices  
Info Letter to mortgage companies when homes are sold



### **LPHOA COMMUNITY BUILDING**

Painting, maintenance, cleaning and supplies  
Reservation/responsibility contracts  
Parties  
Meetings

con't.



**LIBERTY PARK COMMUNITY BUILDING**

Chairs loaned to members  
Polling location for Downers Grove Township  
Holiday Decorations  
Snowplowing and landscaping

**LPHOA STORAGE BUILDING**

Natural gasline installed  
Furnace installed  
Shelves made and stocked



**LIBERTY PARK**

Clean-up program and maintenance  
Basketball backstop and net repair  
Tree trimming and landscaping  
Snow plowing

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**"LOOKING BACK"**

Now that the holidays are over, I will be calling on you for your memories and pictures for our history book. So start looking and writing now and while you are looking, check to see if you have any old copies of the many LIBERTY PARK newsletters printed called "THE COMMUNITY TATTLER".

THE COMMUNITY TATTLER was edited and printed by Mrs. Hildur Atchley and her committee during the World War 2 era. Carmilla Ensalaco was the Art Editor. Publication began on November 9, 1943 and was suspended on VJ Day. It was sent to more than 164 local servicemen and women. LPHOA's copies were destroyed by a fire that destroyed the original clubhouse on Parkway on May 5, 1976.

When Mrs. Atchley, who is now deceased, retired to Glendale, Arizona, she gave the book of copies to the Westmont Library for safe keeping. This is documented in a letter LPHOA has in our possession. I have gone to the library to view and make copies but to date the library cannot locate them. This is a big disappointment.

Our book is moving right along. All LIBERTY PARK residents are encouraged to participate. We want your family represented. If you need help in writing down your memories, please give me a call at 969-4310.

LIBERTY PARK Home Holiday decorations were outstanding this year. The 3800 Block of Washington had the most homes decorated.

*Jacqueline M. Bartasis*  
Jacqueline M. Bartasis, President



**WITH SINCERE SYMPATHY** to the family of Edmunt Powichrowski, who died from cancer on December 18th. Mr. Powichrowski was a long-time resident of Park Street. He was a veteran and a retired mason. He enjoyed walking. His survivors include a brother in Downers Grove and a nephew in Chicago.

**"I AM A GOOD NEIGHBOR"**  
**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS**

- \*I WILL TEACH MY CHILDREN BY MY EXAMPLE TO RESPECT MY NEIGHBOR AND HIS PROPERTY.
- \*I WILL NOT DISTURB MY NEIGHBOR WITH LOUD MUSIC OR EQUIPMENT.
- \*I WILL KEEP MY YARD NEAT BY NOT ALLOWING GARBAGE AND DEBRIS TO ACCUMULATE.
- \*I WILL NOT ALLOW MY PETS TO ROAM OR DISTURB OTHERS.
- \*I WILL NOT PUT GARBAGE OUT FRONT BEFORE GARBAGE PICK-UP DAY.
- \*I WILL NOT BLOCK THE MAILBOX WITH MY VEHICLE OR GARBAGE.
- \*I WILL MAKE A COMPLETE STOP AT ALL STOP SIGNS.
- \*I WILL NOT SPEED.

**HOLIDAY GIG AT WHITE HOUSE**

JESSICA JACOBS, member of the Wausau, WI. Conservatory of Music Choraliers, daughter of Kathy and David Jacobs former Park St. residents, and grand-daughter of Jacqueline and Edward Bartasis, sang Holiday favorites at the White House and on Capitol Hill in December.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES**

CARL SALES, JR.	Jan.	17
KAREN OLSSON		21
GLEN SOLO		23
JANET PATTON		26
STEFAN CLOUSE		28
ED PETIT		30
JEAN PETIT		31
ANDREW MAXA	Feb.	2
DAVID SHAFER		2
JASON CLOTFELTER		3
KAREN ROSS		5
GEORGE MACAITIS, SR.		5
DAN BURNS		6
THERESA DENO		6
LORRAINE LACOUR		10
BEVERLY DOBBS		11
PATRICK BARRETT		12
CHRISTINA BARRETT		12
LEONA WORCH		12
MAGGIE LOPEZ		14

Happy  
birthday

**Dial-A Ride - New Number**

The new number is

(888)405-2063

The fare for each one way trip is \$1.50.  
Rides must be reserved between 1 and 7 days in advance.

Save

**THINK SAFETY: Practice good winter driving techniques!**

- \* KEEP YOUR GAS TANK FULL
- \* TURN ON YOUR LIGHTS  
to see and be seen.



# LIBERTY PARK

ILLINOIS





# **Remembrances of Liberty Park**

**Carmella Ensalaco Hollis**  
**528 Hollis Drive**  
**Blounts Creek, NC 27814-9785**  
**(252) 946-6236**



The year was 1937. Times were hard. Jobs were hard to come by. Dad and Mom piled five children in the old Ford automobile and moved us from Ogden Avenue and Cumner Road to Washington Street in Liberty Park.

Dad had built a small building at the back of the property. We moved in. The loft of the building was laid with sheets of tin. This was our bedroom. Mattresses were laid on the tin and made things quite cozy. Mom and Dad set up their bedroom on the 1st floor which also served as a kitchen and living room. As was common in those days, the toilet was an outhouse, and we took baths in a galvanized wash tub. The water for our bath was heated on the cook stove.

Soon after moving into our little one-room house, Dad started work on the big house. He dug the basement with only a shovel. He made the forms for the walls and mixed the concrete in a wheel barrel which he would pour into the forms;  
for the basement walls.

My brother, Sam, and I would help him by handing him things and whatever little jobs we could do.

At 12 years old I remember thinking how strong my Dad was. I adored him. I remember telling him that when I grow up I was going to marry a man as strong as him.

Mother was the architect for the "big house." She would tell Dad what she wanted and made small sketches and he would figure out how to accomplish the sketch. This was no small feat for two people with little education but plenty of creativity and being used to hard work.

Dad would find odd jobs which were never permanent, but they managed to keep us fed and clothed.

After his workday and on weekends, Dad would tear down old vacant wooden buildings for people who no longer had use for them. He hauled the



lumber to our property in Liberty Park.

It was the job of my brother Sam, my sister Rose, and myself to hammer out the nails from the lumber. Dad then used them to build the house.

In the Spring of 1938, we planted a large garden. It was the job of we children to keep it weeded. This was done by pulling each weed by hand.

The house building went on through the summer.

Mother canned hundreds of jars of tomatoes, green beans, corn, squash, and whatever the garden would yield.

The day arrived when the roof trusses were to go up. I don't remember how the trusses got to the second floor except that my brother, Sam, and I were standing on the second floor and a rope was attached to the trusses. Dad raised the truss, Sam and I held them in place, and Mother was down on the ground holding the rope taut, while Dad nailed the trusses in place.

Summer was drawing to a close. The roof and dormers were in place. Tar paper enveloped the house--even the openings where the windows were to be.

We now had a two-story home with a basement. There were three bedrooms and a bath on the top floor, a bedroom, living room, dining room, kitchen, and a small half bath off the kitchen, on the first floor.

In the fall of 1938 Sam, Rose, Delores and I started our second year at Central Grade School in Westmont, Ill. We walked. There were no school buses.

My baby sister, Marlene was born on October 19, 1938, in our "big house." My youngest brother, Ernie, started 1st Grade.

War clouds were rumbling in Europe, which meant little to us at the time. Dad and Mom were still struggling to keep their family healthy.

Strange as it may seem, we children never felt deprived or threatened by "hard times." We didn't have a lot. It did not occur to us to ask for a lot



of things. We saw how hard our parents worked and we tried to help in our small way. We always felt secure, and that I attribute to our loving parents.

Little by little the house was made more attractive and comfortable.

We had windows put in, siding on the outside, sheet rock on the inside. Mom and Dad did all this work by themselves.

As far as our social life was concerned, we played outdoors a lot, baseball in the summer, and ice skating in the winter.

All the children in the neighborhood would come home from school, grab their ice skates, and walk to the Healy Horse Farm.

There was a large pond on the farm to provide water for the animals; and when it froze in the winter time, was ideal for ice skating. Sometimes we would build a small fire to warm by.

During big snow storms when the snow drifts were deep, we would take long ropes, tie them around our waists, and on the way to school, we would jump in the drifts, and we would be pulled out by a brother or sister using the other end of the rope.

We would make snow shoes of tin cans and sleds out of garbage lids.

In summers we would play baseball or picnic in the park across the street, or bicycle around the neighborhood. Of course summer meant work for us. We had to keep the garden weed-free.

At some time the grown-ups built a club house near the park. This was a gathering place for adult activities as well as for the children of Liberty Park.

Corinne Dahlman's step-mother, decided the girls needed some Girl Scout activities. So, a Scout Troop was formed. Mrs. Dahlman was our leader. She helped us earn merit badges and encouraged us to try different things.

This was at a time when most girls were expected to get married and raise a family. Mrs. Dahlman was the only woman I knew that worked outside the home.



Later I became acquainted with Mrs. Hilda Ashley who also worked outside the home.

One of my best treats was to go and see my friend, Betty Spurney. I was always hoping Betty's mother was making Kolachy's, a delicate cookie with prune or apricot filling. Of course she gave us one or two after they cooled a bit.

Corinne, Betty, and I were together constantly whenever our chores were done. One year under Mrs. Dahlman's guidance, we wrote and put on a play.

I painted the scenery on brown paper with tempera paints. I don't remember much about the story line, but it was a southwestern theme because I painted cactus plants, and we dressed Betty Spurney as a Spanish lady. We were to sing Mexcali Rose. Betty was on the shy side and on opening night when she had to sing, her pretty face turned red. The adults loved it and gave us a lot of praise.

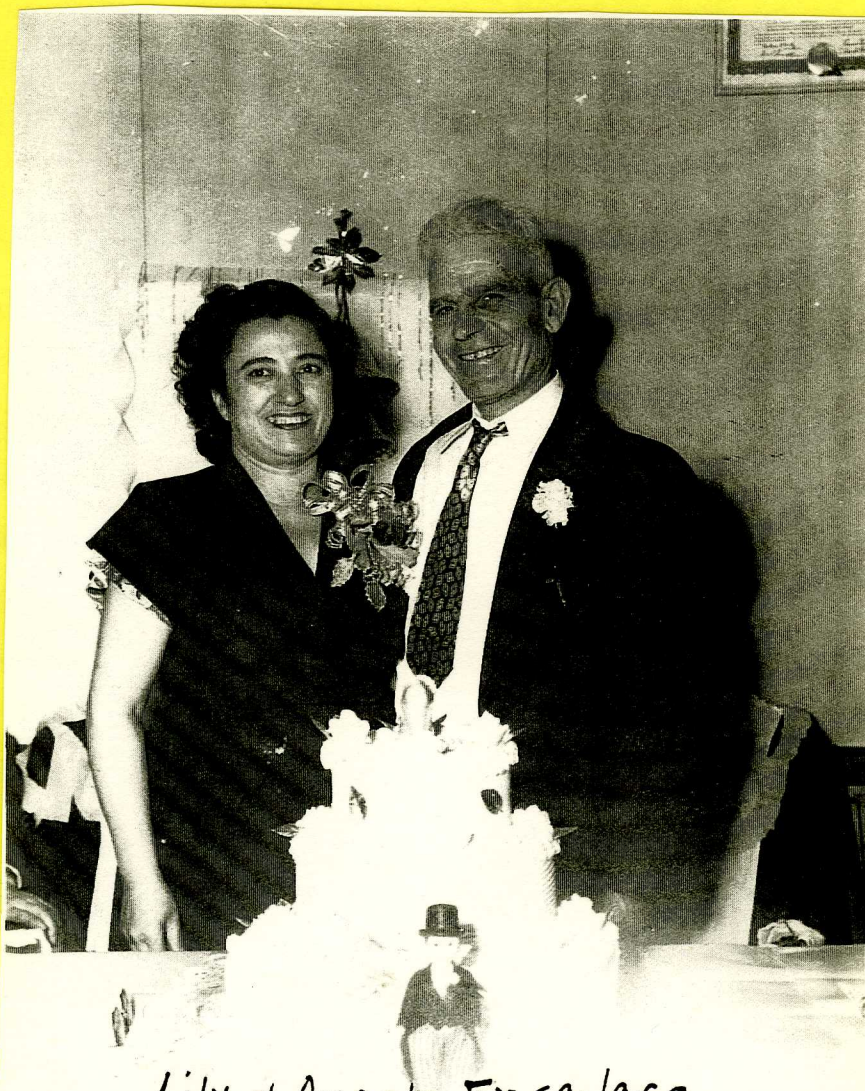
In 1941, Dad and Mom were still working on the house. The closet walls had to be sheet-rocked. Unknown to my Dad, the attic space above the unfinished closet in the large second floor bedroom was a secret hiding place for my baby sister, who was now 3 years old. She would climb up with her dolls and play, leaving her dolls in the attic.

One day Dad finished putting the sheet-rock in the closet sealing the attic space. When told the dolls were up there, he refused to tear up the closet.

Marlene cried and cried but Dad did not budge. Her dolls should still be there. I know she would love to see those dolls today at age 59.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Mom and Dad chased all 6 of us outdoors. Evidently it was a mild day for an Illinois winter, and we were playing baseball. They were going to wallpaper the dining room. I remember the paper to this day. It had large red and pink roses with green leaves and tendrils on a white





Lily & Angelo Ensalaco  
1949 25th Wedding Anniversary  
Builders of the house at  
4111 Washington St.  
Liberty Park - Illinois



background. We thought it was beautiful. A bright spot after so many drab years.

About 4:30 that afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Para, who lived on Ogden Avenue, west of us, came by.

They asked Mom and Dad if they had heard the terrible news. They then told us the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and surely it meant war. Of course none of us had ever heard of Pearl Harbor and certainly had not idea where Pearl Harbor was.

Of course we immediately turned on the radio to listen to the news.

On Monday morning, Dec. 8, 1941, as a Freshman at the Downers Grove High School, I went to my 1st period gym class. Our instructor told us to sit on the benches to listen to a speech from President Roosevelt.

There we sat in our green cotton gymsuits listening to the President and the roll call of the members of Congress voting to declare war against Japan.

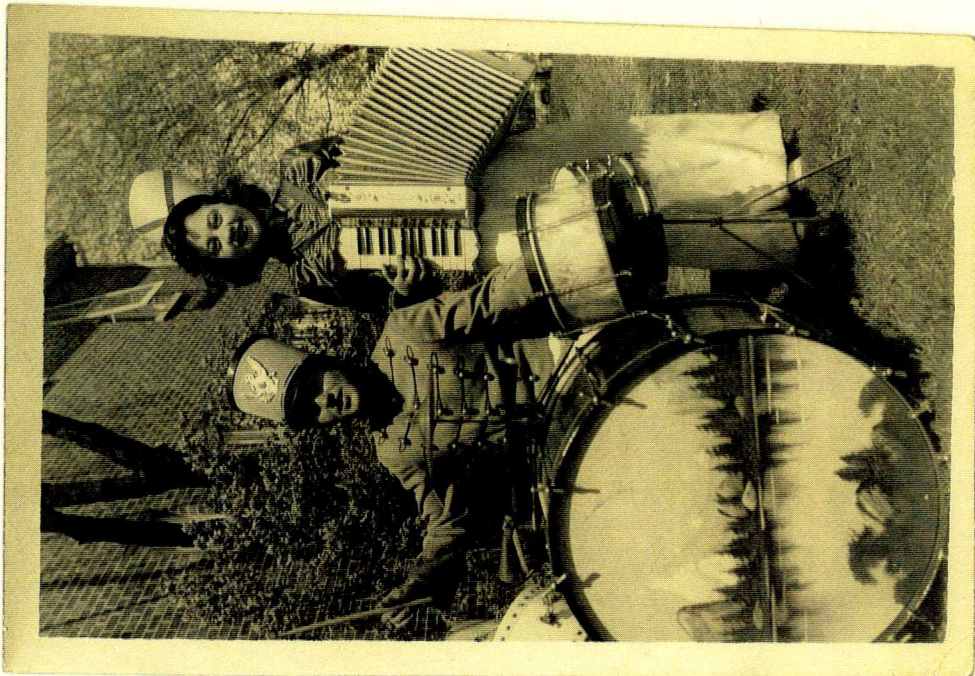
The worries and troubles of "hard times" had to take a back seat. "The War" was on every one's mind. America had to pull together and start gearing up for war. And together they did come. Boys were being drafted or volunteered for military service. Factories that made automobiles, home appliances, etc. were now making war materials.

Suddenly jobs were plentiful. Dad went to work at Reynolds Aluminum Company. At long last there was a steady income. But parents were not happy that prosperity was the benefit of war. After all, their sons would be at risk of losing their lives.

On December 21, 1947, I had my wedding dinner in that dining room with the big roses on the wall.

Until 1948 our family lived on Washington Street in the house that was built with love and hard work through the depths of the depression.





Jim Innes &  
Carmella Ensalaco

We won 1st Place.

# « « AMATEUR SHOW » »

CAROLAN HALL—WESTMONT, ILLINOIS

THURSDAY, FRIDAY — APRIL 23, 24, 1942 — 8 P. M.

BENEFIT OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE, UNINCORPORATED AREA

DISTRICT NO. 36

## PROGRAM

GEORGE DAVIS—MASTER OF CEREMONIES

1. PATRICIA ANN RAJSKY ..... Accordionist
2. KAREN LINDBERG ..... Singer
3. FRANK ZVONAR ..... Harmonica
4. DOROTHY ZVONAR, ALICE THOMPSON ..... Singers
5. ELINOR BARBIER ..... Accordionist
6. MARGE SUEL ..... Singer (Cowboy)
7. MARY RICH ..... Singer
8. GERALDINE COTTINGHAM ..... Tap Dancer
9. MR. FINZEL ..... Guitar
10. MILLIE NELSON ..... Singer
11. JIMMIE FORTIN ..... Accordionist
12. STUART ADMENSEN ..... Basso
13. MARJORY JONES ..... Piano
14. WILBER TWINS ..... Singers and Comedians
15. ANNA MAY POWERS, GEORGE KOUBEK ..... Duet
16. JIM INNES, CARMELLA ENSALACO ..... Drums, Accordion
17. MARIE SAMWALD ..... Singer, Yodeler
- SETH DAVIS, The World's Youngest Drummer—Professional  
    (Not in contest)
18. CAROL E. HANSON ..... Majorette
19. TWO JACKS AND QUEEN ..... Acrobats
20. CHUCK MAVICKA ..... Hawaiian Guitar

VOTE FOR CONTESTANT ON COUPON BELOW





December 21, 1947  
Wedding Day of  
Carmella Ensataco & Fred C. Hollis  
Picture Taken at Carmella's home on Washington St. Liberty Park







Jan 8- 98

Dear Jackie-

Carmella Hallie wrote & told me you were looking for people who lived in Liberty Park in the 30's & 40's.

My parents Mr & Mrs. Joseph Spurney - 4000 Washington St. moved there in 1937. My Grandfather - Great Uncle & Uncle & Dad, built this cement block house. We lived there for 10 years.

Enclosed are some pictures you might or might not want

If you need any more information, don't hesitate to write or call -

1-520-325-2412

P.S. Original pictures are much better - could send if I get them back.

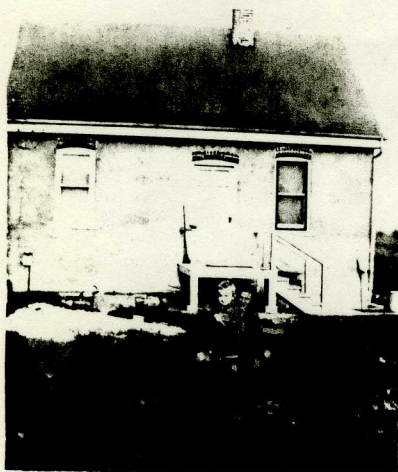
Betty Spurney  
Rogers  
over



**4000 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET**

**1937**

**JOSEPH AND JARMELA SPURNEY**



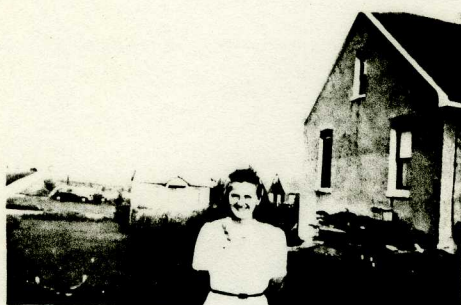
**1939**

**CHILDREN: BETTY AND JIMMY (3 YEARS OLD) AND JARMELA SPURNEY**





**40TH AND WASHINGTON STREET  
1939  
BETTY SPURNEY**



**4003 NORTH LIBERTY BLVD.  
1939  
BETTY SPURNEY  
CARIN DAHLMAN**



**1942 - BETTY SPURNEY**



**1942 - JARMELA SPURNEY  
BROTHERS RUDY AND JIMMY  
JOSEPH SPURNEY**





**40TH AND WASHINGTON STREET  
1944  
BETTY SPURNEY**



**1944-45  
BETTY AND RUDY SPURNEY**





Dear Jackie

Use what you can, if you  
send anything back. I'll repay  
for your mailing. Good luck on  
the book. Its alot of work.

We didn't have alot of early  
pictures. Probably every cent went  
on fixing up the house.

My husband's mother and  
many Malles were the Pivitz  
cousins in Chicago in early part of  
the century. That's how I met Kenneth.  
He was stationed at Great Lakes and  
came to visit the Malles while his  
mother was on a visit too. She had  
lived in Calif. for years. Still does as  
she's still alive. Will be 97 this year.  
But all her Chicago people are gone. She  
still would like to see Chicago again.

I hope there's enough to  
do you some good here.

Best wishes  
Cavin Kahlman Cusledge  
2628, Mt. Diablo  
Stockton, California  
95203

209-4631440



written by Carol Dahlman  
Curlidge  
2 - 1998

We came to Liberty Park in 1936 from Chicago, after reading Rosenthal's ad in the newspaper. I think we stayed for a short time in a little old brown shingled house on Washington St. till my dad built our small house on Liberty. (Later years he added 2 additions. We had a "outhouse" the first year or two. Woodstove for heat & some cooking. We also had a 2 or 3 burner cook stove like a camping stove. Later on we used an electric stove. No one told us we were poor so we didn't mind. It was so much fun to run like wild Indians across the prairie. Someone cut the whole area grass for hay for years till so many houses got in the way. All of the kids would pile up the hay into walls and put boards across the top for roofs, and covered with more hay. We were Indians, cowboys, pirates great imaginations ran wild.

In the fall beautiful "Indian paintbrush" grew everywhere. All colors.

Of course we walked to school in Westmont all the time. When we went to high school we walked to Lawrence Grove. A ride was a rare treat. In a snowstorm or too cold we stayed home.

In the winter we learned to ice



skate on the frozen swamp on Washington St. Later when we got older we skated on Healy's pond on Cass Ave. We'd skate at night in the moonlight and build a big bonfire. The Healy Brothers (twins) also had a huge barn, full of Polo ponies. They always let us play upstairs in a huge game room. Pool tables, everything as long as we behaved, and no fighting. Sometimes we even fed the ponies. We could watch Polo games on week-ends as long as we stayed out of way of the well to do crowd from Chicago. It was a whole different lifestyle from what any of us had. At that time I think the Healy Boys were maybe in their mid 20's.

I see in my mother's papers she fought against a anti-ballistic missile site by the Army to be put on Healy land. The women won.

This was after I left Liberty Park & after the war.

I had left in 1945, married and went to California. So I really only spent 9 years in Liberty Park. It seems like more time then that. Myself, my husband, and 3 kids came "home" every summer for years. Still keep in touch with my two long-time pals Betty Spurney & Carmella Encalaco.



Received of Peter and.

Eva. Dahlman. as Deposit  
on Lot. 3. Blk 31 Liberty Park

The sum of \$100<sup>00</sup>. Total price  
490 Balance of \$50<sup>00</sup> Special  
Discount and Balance of  
\$340<sup>00</sup> payable \$15<sup>00</sup> Monthly  
above price includes 2500-ft Used  
lumber. Water pipe graded and  
crushed stone. street in front of  
lot. Elect. lumber to be delivered  
on lot lot on June. 15 -  
Payment to start. July 15 -  
No Int if payments are prompt.

M. J. Pessenthal.



**Articles of Agreement,** Made this Fourth day of June A. D.  
Nineteen Hundred and Thirty Seven (1937), between

Philip Rosenthal hereinafter called Seller, and

Peter & Eva Dahlman hereinafter called Purchaser:

WITNESSETH, That if the Purchaser shall first make the payments and perform the covenants hereinafter mentioned on Purchaser's part to be made and performed, the Seller hereby covenants and agrees to convey and assure to the said Purchaser, in fee simple clear of all incumbrances whatever, including waiver of dower and homestead, except as hereinafter provided, by a good and sufficient ~~Warranty~~ <sup>Trustee</sup> Deed, accompanied by a Certificate of Title issued by the Registrar of Titles or complete merchantable abstract of title or merchantable copy to the date hereof or merchantable guaranty policy, the lot 3, ~~Blk~~ <sup>Blk</sup> ~~piece 11~~ <sup>piece 31</sup> ~~Block~~ <sup>ground</sup> situated in the County of DuPage and State of Illinois known and described as follows:

Liberty Park Subdivision Downers Grove Illinois

And the Purchaser hereby covenants and agrees to pay to the Seller, at such place as Seller may from time to time designate in writing, and until such designation, at the office of Philip Rosenthal the sum of Four Hundred and Ninety Dollars ~~Dollars~~ in the manner following, to-wit:

One Hundred and Forty Dollars by cash, receipt which is hereby acknowledged  
Fifty dollars by special allowance

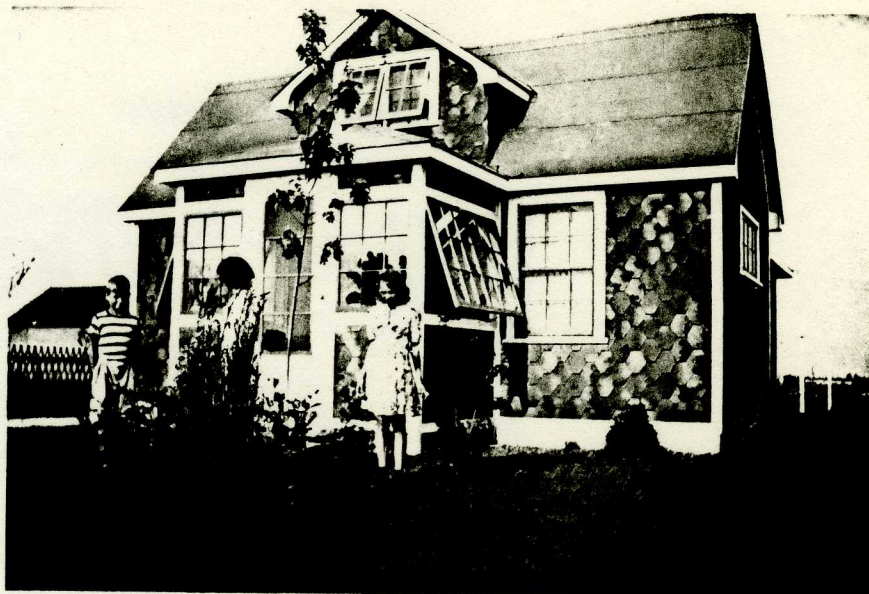
The balance of Three hundred dollars to be paid in monthly installments at the  
rate of Fifteen dollars or more monthly

with interest at the rate of (6 %) per centum per annum payable semi annually on the whole sum remaining from time to time unpaid. It is further expressly understood and agreed between the parties hereto:

1. That the conveyance to be made by the Seller shall be expressly subject to the following:
  - (a) All taxes, special assessments and special taxes levied after the year A. D. 1936
  - (b) All installments of special assessments heretofore levied falling due after the year A. D. 1936
  - (c) The rights of all persons claiming by, through or under the Purchaser;
  - (d) Party-walls and party-wall agreements if any;
  - (e) Building lines and building restrictions;
  - (f) The rights, if any, of the public in any portion of the premises aforesaid, which may fall within any public street, way or alley adjacent or contiguous to said premises;
2. The Purchaser shall not suffer or permit any mechanic's lien or other lien to attach to or be against or upon the property aforesaid, which shall or may be superior to the rights of the Seller.
3. That each and every contract for repairs and improvements on the premises aforesaid, or any part thereof, shall contain an express, full and complete waiver and release of any and all lien or claim or right of lien against the property herein agreed to be conveyed, and no contract or agreement, oral or written, shall be executed by the Purchaser for repairs or improvements upon the property aforesaid, except the same contain such express waiver or release of lien upon the part of the party contracting, and a copy of each and every such contract and of the plans and specifications for such repairs and improvements shall be promptly delivered to and may be retained by Seller.
4. That the Purchaser shall not transfer or assign this agreement or any interest therein, without the previous written consent of the Seller, and that any such assignment or transfer, without such previous written consent, shall not vest in the transferee or assignee any right, title or interest herein or hereunder or in said premises, but shall render this contract null and void, at the election of the Seller; and that the Purchaser will not sub-let or lease said premises, or any part thereof, for any purpose, except upon the previous written consent of the Seller.
5. That no right, title or interest, legal or equitable, in the premises aforesaid, or any part thereof, shall vest in the Purchaser until the delivery of the deed aforesaid by the Seller, or until the full payment of the purchase price at the times and in the manner herein provided.
6. That no extension, change, modification or amendment to or of this instrument of any kind whatsoever shall be made or claimed by Purchaser, and that no notice of any extension, change, modification or amendment, made or claimed by the Purchaser, shall have any force or effect whatsoever except the same shall be endorsed in writing on this agreement and be signed by the parties hereto.
7. That this agreement shall not, nor shall any copy thereof, nor any statement, paper or affidavit, in any way or manner referring hereto, be filed in the office of the Recorder of Deeds of said County, or in any other public office, by the Purchaser, or any one acting for or in behalf of Purchaser, and that if the same be so filed by the Purchaser, or any one acting for or in behalf of Purchaser, this agreement and each and every provision hereof shall, at the option of the Seller, be and become absolutely null and void and of no further force or effect whatsoever, and thereupon all the rights, claims and demands of the Purchaser arising hereunder or because of any act or thing done on account hereof, shall thereupon be cancelled and discharged and, in addition thereto, the Purchaser shall pay to the Seller all expenses, including court costs and solicitors' fees, incurred by Seller in any proceeding to remove such contract, paper, affidavit, instrument or notice from record as a cloud on the title to the property, all without prejudice to any other right of the Seller to declare this agreement ended and thereafter absolutely null and void, which right is hereby expressly given to and reserved by the Seller.
8. That said Purchaser shall keep all buildings at any time on said premises insured at Purchaser's expense against loss by fire, lightning and tornadoes in companies to be approved by the Seller to an amount at least equal to the sum remaining unpaid hereunder, which insurance, together with all additional insurance shall require all payments for loss to be applied on said indebtedness, and deliver the said policies of insurance to Seller.
9. And in case of the failure of the Purchaser to make any of the payments, or any part thereof, or perform any of the covenants hereof on Purchaser's part hereby made and entered into, this contract shall, at the option of the Seller, be forfeited and determined, and the Purchaser shall forfeit all payments made on this contract, and such payments shall be retained by the said Seller in full satisfaction and as liquidated damages by Seller sustained, and in such event the Seller shall have the right to re-enter and take possession of the premises aforesaid.
10. In the event this contract or agreement shall be declared null and void by the Seller on account of any default, breach or violation by the Purchaser in any of the provisions hereof, the same shall become and be null and void and be so conclusively determined by the filing by the Seller, of a written declaration of forfeiture hereof, in the Recorder's Office of said County.
11. That in the event of the termination of this agreement by lapse of time, forfeiture or otherwise, all improvements, whether finished or unfinished, on the premises aforesaid, which may be put upon or on said premises by the Purchaser shall belong to and be the property of the Seller without liability or obligation on Seller's part to account to the Purchaser therefor or for any part thereof.
12. That the Purchaser shall pay to the Seller all costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred by the Seller in any action or proceeding to which Seller may be made a party by reason of being a party to this agreement, and that the Purchaser will pay to the Seller all costs and expenses, including attorney's fees incurred by the Seller in enforcing any of the covenants and provisions of this agreement and incurred in any action brought by Seller against the Purchaser on account of the provisions hereof, and all such costs, expenses and attor-

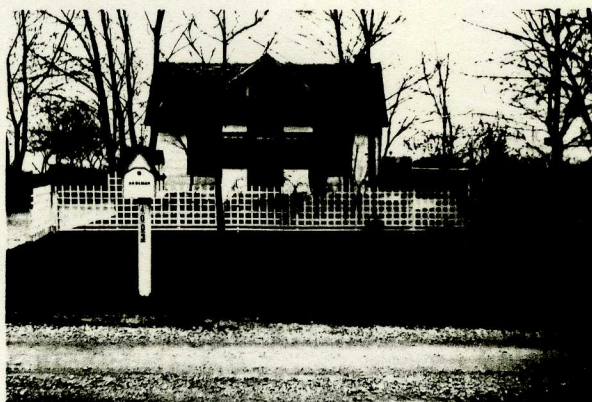


4003 NORTH LIBERTY BLVD.

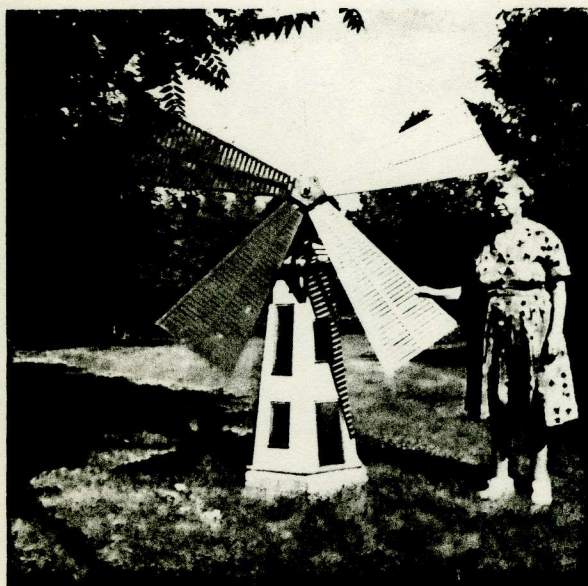


CARL AND CARIN  
DAHLMAN

CHILDREN OF  
EVA AND PETER  
DAHLMAN



EVA DAHLMAN



PETER  
DAHLMAN





**40TH AND LIBERTY  
1958**



**GEORGE AND ADA LEIMBACK**  
**GEORGE LEIMBACK - PAST PRESIDENT**



1932

**THE MALLEKS**  
**5-14-43**  
**PETE**  
**MARY - PAST PRESIDENT**  
**BOB**  
**PETE, JR**  
**LITTLE MARY**  
**TED WAS IN THE SERVICE**



*Pete, Mary, Bob, Pete, Jr.*



*Moods  
and  
Muses*

FOR FRIENDSHIP

May all the years to come  
Be filled with countless joys  
And blessings too;

And may the seeds  
Of kindness that you sew  
Reap a harvest  
Of the best for you.

Believe in yourself — and your  
confidence will be reflected in  
your outward attitude.

What the future holds for us  
depends on what we hold for  
the future.

By—

EDITH BRETZ

*I thought you would like to know  
how I use my "Senior" time  
Love  
Edith Bretz*

DAVID, EDITH, BILL AND BOB BRETZ





## **Medical History: A Chapter from Liberty Park**

**Submitted by Cecilia Strobl Hofmann**

**In the early fifties, polio outbreaks ravaged the US; more than 50,000 cases were reported in 1952 alone. Few adults who lived then will forget the newspaper pictures of hospital wards jammed with children in "iron lung" breathing chambers. Children on Park Street were also well aware of the of the crippling effects of polio – our playmate Riccy Deliberto suffered the effects of polio, and his legs were permanently paralyzed. As a young boy, Riccy learned to walk on his hands. When he got older, he drove a small motorized cart.**

**We LP kids decided we wanted to help other children like our friend Riccy. We laid plans for a neighborhood circus that would raise funds to benefit polio victims. Celia Strobl (4008 Park) remembers serving as Ringmaster. Steve Lukas hoisted barbells as the Strongman, a great feat for a kid about 50 pounds and 50 inches tall. Judy Sirus, always clever with crafts, fashioned a black beard (from her mother's old coat) to be our Bearded Lady. Bob Strobl was covered with tempa paints to be the Tattooed Man. A puppet show by Paulette and Kenny Lukas and a lemonade stand were also part of the extravaganza. Deedee Lupac was in charge of announcing the production to kids throughout the neighborhood. In the end, the show was a great success. We exceeded our one-dollar goal by raising an impressive \$1.04 – all donated to a national polio fund.**

**Fortunately for everyone, polio is a disease that exists only in our distant memories. Due to the remarkable success of protective vaccinations, there has not been a single case of paralytic polio in the Western Hemisphere since 1979.**

### *A note about the author:*

Dr. Hofmann, a Chicago-based science and medicine writer, has been teaching and writing for more than 20 years. She is presently an international consultant and writer of medical materials for the pharmaceutical industry. Cecilia previously taught biochemistry and directed a laboratory research program at Loyola's School of Medicine, and she later served as a communications director for a Chicago area hospital system.

CECILIA IS THE  
DAUGHTER OF  
KARL AND CONSTANCE  
STROBL



AS REMEMBERED BY JACQUELINE AND EDWARD BARTASIS  
3805 NORTH PARK STREET

We were a young married couple full of dreams and hopes moving into our very own home with our infant daughter in the Spring of 1955.

A four room unfinished cape-cod house on a dead-end gravel road with an oil floor furnace, a septic tank, bottled gas, and NO hot water tank or telephone.

We purchased our home from Evelyn Muckey, widow.

We improved and added to our house and family. We would raise three children, Pamela, James, and Kathleen, in this home. Jackie's mother, Cornelia Branson and Ed's mother, Bernice Bartasis would also join our family.

There were wild flowers everywhere the eye could see. Strawberries, raspberries, and nuts for the picking. The Bluebird busline ran down Ogden Avenue. There were no malls. We shopped at Montgomery Wards store in LaGrange for household goods and clothes and at the National Food Store in downtown Westmont.

Milk was delivered to our door by the Gurnsey Dairy milkman. The milk was so rich that the top one-third was heavy cream, which we saved for our coffee. Fresh bakery was delivered twice a week. You could pick and choose or order for later.

Our garden grew the largest vegetables and friends and relatives took home bags of surplus.

Neighbors helped one another, whether it was clearing the snow from the road so all could get out of the subdivision, jump-starting cars or borrowing a cup of sugar.

Above-ground swimming pool parties, homemade kite flying, MS benefit carnivals, bon-fires and pig roasts, sing along Christmas Children's choir, youth club, LPHOA duties and activities, LIBERTY PARK Women's Club duties and affairs, tree houses, busy school days and activities and Holy Trinity Church services, all give great memories of growing up and older in LIBERTY PARK.



AS REMEMBERED BY CHERYL KRZYS - 3910 NORTH PARK STREET

My family came to LIBERTY PARK in 1964, when we moved into the second floor apartment of my Grandma and Grandpa Robertson's house, in the 3900 block of Cass Avenue. My paternal grandparents, Pete and Eva Dahlman lived in the 4000 block of Liberty Blvd. My Grandma Eva was the secretary for the LPHOA for many years.

Moving back to LIBERTY PARK was like coming home. With both of my grandparents being long-time residents, the area was familiar to me. I started fifth grade in Miller School and went on to Westmont Jr. High/Manning School. Westmont High School was not yet built, so it was off to Downers North I went.

When I think back to the lazy summers that I enjoyed in our backyard, complete with swimming pool and garden, I really feel as if they were idyllic days, never-ending summers sipping iced tea and making hammocks out of old blankets in the trees in the backyard. Quite often my brothers and I would go across Cass Avenue to the empty fields that stretched all the way to Route 83, empty fields that held a world of wonders for young kids - old, abandoned cars and houses were typically the choice of the day or we might wander up to Old Man Reidy's horse farm and watch them exercise the horses. No matter what, we always found something to do that kept us occupied and out of trouble.

As I grew into a teenager and attended high-school, the world began to change. It was, after all, the early seventies and the era of the flower child, sit-ins and hippies. Luckily for me, my best friend in high school lived right here in LIBERTY PARK, Pam Bartasis! During those years, Pam and I would walk many times back and forth to each others house. I spent so much time at the Bartasis homestead that I was like part of the family. I always have fond memories of what a safe haven their home was for me. Many summer days, Pam and I and sometimes her sister and brother, would lay around their pool for hours on end enjoying the great weather and each other's company. Soon enough, though, we graduated high school and went our separate ways.

I married and moved to Hillside for about ten years. Eventually, when I wanted to lay down roots, I started looking in LIBERTY PARK. And, why not ... after so many fond memories of this area, I wanted my own children to enjoy the atmosphere of LIBERTY PARK. Each and every day that I drive down the streets of LIBERTY PARK, I look at someone's house and it sparks a memory from my childhood. I see my Grandma and Grandpa Dahlman's house every day which allows me to keep them constantly in my thoughts. My uncle's family reside in my Grandpa Robertson's house. Well, it's no wonder that it feels like old home week, every week!



## Staff Profiles



*Gary Ostrowski, Township Director of General Assistance  
Phone: 968-0451*

**G**ary Ostrowski has been the Township Director of General Assistance for the last 9 years. He takes applications for those living within the township who qualify for financial assistance. Many of his clients are disabled and waiting for state aid. Some only need emergency funds on a one time basis.

This year Gary has been working with churches and organizations, again, to make Thanksgiving and Christmas a pleasant holiday for less fortunate families. If anyone is interested, there is still time to contact him for a name to help this Christmas.

Gary is now busy taking applications for LHEAP. This is a service for low income residents who need help paying for heat in the winter. Last year, 209 applied from our township.

The Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferrals applications are handled by Gary, too. To qualify, you must be 65 or over, have a total household income of \$25,000 or less and have resided at the residence for at least 3 years. So far, in 1998, he has taken 15 applications.

Gary is also in charge of the 2 township cemeteries. He makes arrangements for burials and works with the Township Highway Department to keep up the maintenance of the grounds. From past articles in our newsletters, he has sold many plots. In fact, for anyone interested, there are still some available. Call Gary for more information, 968-0451. As you can see, Gary has many responsibilities and handles them all very well.



*Kyle Gilgis, Township Clerk*

## Landscaping and Elections-All in a Days Work for the Clerk

*By Kyle Gilgis  
Phone: 968-0451*

**T**he duties of township clerk go beyond taking the minutes at meetings and maintaining all records.

The diversity of the position is something I greatly enjoy. As Town Clerk, I am responsible for the physical condition of the Township offices. As you can imagine, I deal with everyone from cleaning people to seal-coating companies to make sure the offices are properly maintained, safe and functional. During the spring and summer months, I am also the acting Weed Authority. Complaints come in to my office about uncut grass and weeds on private property. I travel around the township inspecting these properties, and do my best to resolve any problems.

Last summer we were able to do some much-needed landscaping around our building. Thanks to the generosity of Pat Nelson and Doris Blackman of Claymore Estates in Hinsdale, we were able to plant 47 donated hostas around the building. In addition to

looking beautiful, they help prevent soil erosion. I have to thank my husband, Rick, for taking his Sunday afternoon to dig up, transport and replant the hostas. Next time you're in the neighborhood, stop by and see how nice the building looks!

This fall, for the first time, we offered in-house absentee voting for residents of Downers Grove Township. We had 327 people from 97 precincts come in and vote between October 13 and November 2. Many of them said they would not have voted if they'd had to go out to Wheaton to cast their ballots. Our Saturday hours were very popular with both business travelers and college students home for the weekend. Because this was such a tremendous success, we will offer this service again in April, 1999, for the non-partisan village races within the Township.





## ASSESSOR TALK

THERESA A. COCKRELL, ASSESSOR



improvement of your property for a period of four years. "Improvement" means building a room addition on to your home, or a new garage, fireplace, bathroom, deck or shed...to name a few. After the structure is completed, the assessment attributable to the new improvement is assessed but does not get taxed for four years. The maximum amount of the exemption, however, is 15,000 in assessed value. If the assessment to a new improvement exceeded the maximum limit, the 15,000 is deducted and the balance is taxed.

Those property owners who already have a Home Improvement Exemption in effect will also benefit from the new maximum limit. Those improvements that were at the previous 10,000

maximum were reviewed and the exemption increased to the new maximum of 15,000, where eligible.

Further, those eligible for the exemption no longer have to come into the office and fill out an application for this exemption. Beginning in 1997 this became an automatic process of applying the Home Improvement Exemption where eligible, to save the property owner time and one less thing to put on the "to do" list.

If you have questions regarding these new changes please feel free to call our office at 630-968-2100 or stop by our facility.

### Attention Buyers !!

If you have recently purchased a new property be sure to contact the Assessor's Office to make sure the assessed value on your new property reflects the purchase price. In Illinois, the assessment of your property should be one third of market value. If your property is over or under assessed the Assessor will review your file and make any necessary adjustments.

### HIE

For years now, eligible property owners have benefited from the Home Improvement Exemption. The legislature increased the maximum exemption from 10,000 to 15,000 in assessed value, effective with the 1999 assessment year, tax payable in 1999.

What is the Home Improvement Exemption? The H.I.E. exempts the assessment attributable to an





Gary W. Ostrowski  
850 Wellington Ave # 311  
Elk Grove, IL 60007

February 19, 1998

Jackie Bartasis  
President  
Liberty Park

Dear Jackie:

For over fifty years my family has had a tie's to Liberty Park. My great Uncle Andrew and his wife Lillian and daughter Carol Skoven lived at 4108 Adams st. in the late forties until the mid 80's. I remember coming to see them as a child with my grandfather.

We used to take the train or the Blue Bird Bus from the Chicago and walk to a restaurant that was on Ogden two bldgs west of Cass. Sometimes on Sundays we would also drive out to see the family it seemed so far out. In 1960 Joseph Skoven the brother of Andrew purchased the lot across the street from them. Andrew would tell my parents to buy a few lots in Liberty Park, but my mother would tell him she was not going to live in the swamp lands.

In 1963 my fathers sister and her husband John & Marie Noha and their children John & Arlene bought a lot at 4035 Grant and built a house there. My grandmother Anna Mushow lived with the Noha's for many year. She was the sister of the Skovens. At one point they convinced my parents Walter & Wanda and their children Gary & Donna Ostrowski to buy the lot at 4034 Lincoln that was in 1965.

In 1969 my family had a Park Lane home built and we moved from Chicago. In May of 1970 my father passed away. In 1978 my mothers sister and her husband Burno and Anna Laz had a home built at 4014 Adams st., and remained there until 1985. After 27 years my mother sold her home and moved to Schaumburg, I still have some ties to the area. I am employed by the Downers Grove Townships General Assistance office and still see a few friends and neighbors.

Best of luck in the future to the people of Liberty Park.



Gary W. Ostrowski



## OUR TIME IN LIBERTY PARK REMEMBERED

**M**y family and I made Liberty Park our home in May of 1972. The very first thing my wife and I got involved in was the Homeowners Association. In the beginning, I was the Vice President and in those early years we had our meetings in an extremely small building which at the time was located next to where the basketball ball courts are today, on Parkway. It burned down one night, so now the meetings are held in the maintenance garage. After two years, I then became the President of the homeowners association. Take not for granted the task of being involved with your community is not easy work by a long shot.

Many improvements have taken place in Liberty Park over the past 26 years that my family and I have been here and we should all be proud of this area and of the people who have helped make this area what it is today.

Looking over the past years, I see within our community, the things that make us as one. I see a helping hand for a neighbor, watchful eyes wary of strangers, safeguarding the children from speeding cars. These are just a few of the things that make up our community in Liberty Park.

My wife and I had the pleasure of being part of the first Corn Festival, which we had here in Liberty Park back in 1974. All the corn you could eat for \$ 1.00 and children \$ .50, we had tents set up that the Army donated along with the heaters to cook the corn. Buttrey Rental donated the use of some equipment and in addition, we had Hot Dogs and Beer. The Ladies Auxiliary had solicited the surrounding businesses to donate gifts which we gave away as Prizes at the festival. We had Bingo, Music, games for the children and our very own LuLu the Clown. The night before the festival was a site to behold, a small room with new garbage cans filled with water and a group of women shucking corn one ear after another, why the corn silk was flying everywhere !!! Of course, the week following the Festival, I do believe that the Sanitary District complained because of all the toilet flushing going on..... We had two other Corn Festivals after that and much fun was always had by all.

In summary, any community is what the people of that community want it to be.

**BE AS ONE !!!!**

Mr. & Mrs. David Dining

3820 NORTH LIBERTY