



St. Francis HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOJOSHING

Indian word for "straight tongue"

Land protrudes out into Lake Michigan like a straight tongue

The Newsletter of the St. Francis Historical Society

published quarterly
Non-Profit Organization 501c3

June 2016

Meet Your Board of Directors

by Barbara Janiszewski

Amanda Dahlquist was born and raised in Sterling, Illinois, a small city in northwestern Illinois. She attended the University of Illinois, earning a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in American history. She was inspired to study history from an enthusiastic teacher in high school. Her master's research centered on the beginnings of mother's aid programming, specifically "mother's pensions," during the Progressive era. She is interested most in regional gender and labor histories.

Amanda has a background in non-profit work and academia. In 2012, she moved to the Milwaukee area for employment. She currently works at a large Milwaukee area corporation, on a team focused on communications, learning, and development. She has grown to love learning about the history of Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

Amanda is an avid reader and spends her off time working on web design and playing trivia at local establishments. She became interested in the St. Francis Historical Society because of her friendship with fellow board member Stephanie Maxwell, with whom she went to high school.

Amanda was elected to the historical society board this past January.



Wash Day

by Barbara Janiszewski

I had five kids. When I brought my youngest home from the hospital, I had three kids under the age of three. And they were all in diapers.

At that time Pampers were a luxury item - too expensive to use for all three kids. So I washed and hung the cloth diapers on the line because I didn't have a dryer. Outside in the summer and in the basement in the winter.

There were rules for this:

1. Always wash on Mondays. In my case, it was wash on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Never wash on Sunday, and I took Wednesdays off.
2. Some of the other rules were that you had to wash the clotheslines before hanging any clothes - walk the entire length of each line with a damp cloth around the line.
3. Always gather the clothespins when taking down the dry clothes. Pins left on the line were tacky.
4. If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two clothespins but shared one of the clothespins with the next washed item.
5. You hung pants by the bottom, not by the waistband. You never hung a shirt by the shoulders, always by the tail. And you always hung socks by the toe.

Speaking of socks, fast forward a few years when my three youngest were teenagers. My mother convinced me to hang my laundry outside. I had two lines with nothing but socks. Needless to say I used my dryer after that.

This was before the time of wash and wear so I did a lot of ironing. My rule was that I ironed for an hour first thing every morning...I never caught up but I also never got far behind. When my youngest was born and I was in labor, I did iron that morning but finally had to stop. She was born 20 minutes after I got to the hospital. I'm glad I didn't have any more ironing.

And now a poem: (Author unknown)

*A clothesline was a news forecast
To neighbors passing by.*

*There were no secrets you could keep
When clothes were hung to dry.*

*It also was a friendly link,
For neighbors always knew*

*If company had stopped on by
To spend a night or two.*

*For then you'd see the fancy sheets
And towels upon the line;*

*You'd see the company tablecloths
With intricate designs.*

*The line announced a baby's birth
To folks who lived inside,*

*As brand new infant clothes were hung
So carefully with pride!*

*The ages of the children could
So readily be known,*

*By watching how the sizes changed
You'd know how much they'd grown!*

*It also told when illness struck,
As extra sheets were hung;*

*Then nightclothes and a bathrobe too,
haphazardly were strung.*

*It also said, "On vacation now,"
when lines hung limp and bare.*

*It told "We're back!" when full lines sagged,
With not an inch to spare.*

*New folks in town were scorned upon
If wash was dingy and gray,*

*As neighbors carefully raised their brows
and looked the other way.*

*But clothesline now are of the past,
For dryers make work less.*

*Now what goes on inside a home
Is anybody's guess!*

*I really miss that way of life,
It was a friendly sign,*

*When neighbors knew each other best,
By what hung on the line.*



Save the Date!!!

August 7, 2016

4-9 p.m.

**Join us for a St. Francis Historical
Society fundraiser at Pizzeria Piccola
7606 W. State Street in Wauwatosa, WI**

No need for a coupon!!! Just come and eat!!!

**Historical Society volunteers will be your waiters and
waitresses.**

**A portion of all proceeds from dine in and take out sales
will be donated to the St. Francis Historical Society for the
restoration of the Lake Protestant Cemetery.**

The greater the sales, the greater the % to the Society

Please come and support your historical society!!!!

What's New?

Membership:

Welcome new members: Joy Chappell, Dave & Nancy Goltz, Paula Grosenick, Judith Kartes, Kari LaRue, Dennis Monahan, David Oden, Tom & Heather Page, Carolyn Ross, Al & Christine Schaubel, Marta Schultz, Virginia Seliger, Joel Sills, Donna Soto, Marsha Wentland, Christine Sloan, George Ramponi, and John Ebersol.

General Meeting: The next general meeting will be July 16 at 9:30 am.

Bake sale:

Our bake sale held at the civic center during the April primary election was very successful. We actually ran out of baked goods before the election was over. Thank you to those who donated baked items. Another bake sale is planned for the November 8th presidential election. We need bakers, so if you would care to donate please call our office at: 414-316-4391.

Cemetery Restoration Update

Very soon Shane Peik, a cemetery restorationist, will be restoring 15 gravestones in the Lake Protestant Cemetery. The cemetery restoration committee eagerly anticipates the results of his labor. Through the efforts of ongoing fundraising more stones will be restored.

The cemetery restoration committee has long term goals, including performing a technique called (GPR) Ground Penetrating Radar. With the use of magnets, (GPR) produces an underground, cross-sectional, two-dimensional image scan of the soils and subsurface features. The scan will actually show the coffin-shaped images.

Since no cemetery records survived, information about interments at Lake Protestant is limited. Results from this technique will give the committee a better count on how many people are actually buried there.

Thank you to those who included a donation to the cemetery fund during membership renewal last year. If you would like to donate to the GPR project call us at 414-316-4391.

Thank you to the two individuals who donated money for the restoration of two of the baby graves. Two more need restoration (\$50 each). Let us know if you want to "adopt a baby grave." You can call us at 414-316-4391 or send a check to St. Francis Historical Society 3400 E. Howard Ave.



Anarchy in Bay View's Little Italy

by Barbara Janiszewski

At our April 28 program, Anna Passante took the role of Edna Dunlop, who in 1910 became the first female assistant city editor of the *Milwaukee Journal*. Edna talked about Anna Passante's book, *Anarchy in Bay View's Little Italy*, which documented the Italian riot in Bay View in 1917, the subsequent bombing of the police station, and the aftermath. The program was very interesting.

For refreshment, Italian cookies, donated by Aggie's bakery, were served and were very delicious.

The book, *Anarchy in Bay View's Little Italy*, is available for purchase through the historical society for \$10 and is also for sale at Jacob's Well Coffee Shop. All sales of the book go to the restoration of the Lake Protestant Cemetery, a pioneer cemetery in St. Francis.

An Engineering Marvel in St. Francis

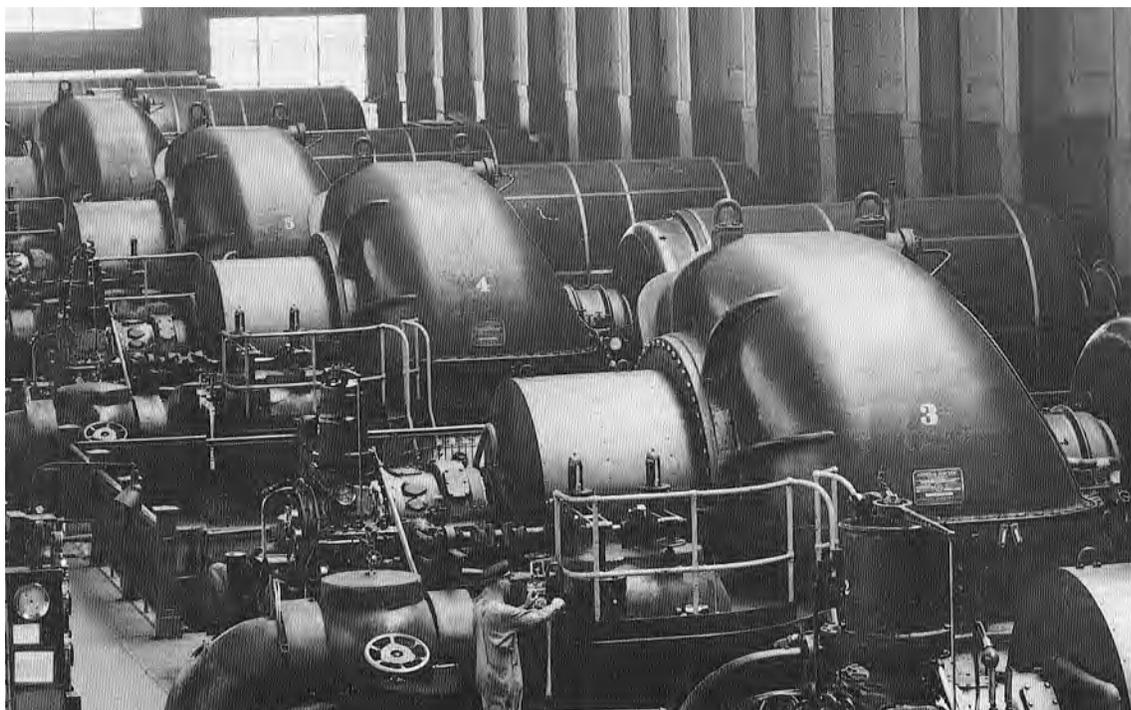
Glenn A. Gierzycki

Most people in the St. Francis area know that the Lakeside Power Plant was a dominant feature of the region for decades. What many people may not know is that when it opened, it was a wonder of the engineering community.

Plans for the plant were announced in April 1917, as the Milwaukee area needed new sources of power. World War I delayed the construction. The plant was to use a revolutionary technology that was still being developed. The idea was to use pulverized, or powdered coal, to generate steam. The theory was that the increased surface area of the powdered coal would provide great efficiencies in production and significant cost benefits. Such a process had never been used on a large scale before. Experimentation to prove the theory began in earnest in 1919 at a power station in downtown Milwaukee. After a lengthy and complicated testing process, the company was convinced the theory could be put into practical application.

Construction of the plant began in February 1920 by The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company. The power plant was completed in a short period of time and was dedicated on April 15, 1921. The radical idea of using pulverized coal exclusively on such a large scale was a success from the start. The plant quickly set world records for efficiency. Over the next ten years, the power company installed additional high-pressure boilers and turbines that continued to decrease coal consumption while providing more power. The plant reached its final capacity in 1930. In 1921, the Wisconsin Electric Power Company was created to take over the Lakeside Power Plant, although TMER&L leased and operated the plant.

The power plant was soon attracting scientists and engineers to see first-hand the power plant that changed the power generating business. The technology was quickly accepted and utilized by engineers throughout the utility business. For a while, the Lakeside Power Plant was the focal point of the electric generation community in the United States. The Lakeside Power Plant shut down in 1983, a victim of rising costs and newer technologies. It's now hard to believe that once St. Francis was the site of a ground breaking technology and a Mecca for utility engineers and the scientific community. In an interesting twist, the old Oneida Street Station in downtown Milwaukee, also known as the East Wells Power Plant, is on the U. S. Register of Historic Places for its testing work on the original technology. The site is also recognized as a National Historic Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The building still exists as a theater complex. Sadly, there isn't even an historical marker to commemorate the historical significance of the Lakeside Power Plant.



Turbine room at Lakeside Power Plant (Photo courtesy of We Energies)

Maggie Harrington Visits the Deer Creek 4th Graders

by Barbara Janiszewski

The fourth graders at Deer Creek wrote thank you letters to Maggie Harrington after her appearance at their school. Maggie had attended and later worked as a housekeeper at the St. John's School for the Deaf from 1892 to 1928. Here is some of the advice the students gave Maggie, which she truly appreciated.

All the students warned Maggie about being careful when crossing the street. The cars are really fast (and so are motorcycles).

Adriana wrote: "In 2016 people have phones that are not connected to the wall. Microwaves heat up your food fast, but don't put metal in them!"

Savannah: "You have to work to get money to pay for your bills and taxes."

Alex: "You might enjoy using a computer. Then you can search it for things you need to know in 2016."

Maitlin: "Some tips on surviving in 2016: Take a computer class, watch out for the really fast cars, read a Harry Potter book."

Jurnee: "Back then you probably didn't have a lot of books. But in the future, or 2016, we have buildings called libraries and you get a card called a library card and you keep it if you want to check out any books. There are all kinds of books! For instance, fiction, nonfiction, history, historical fiction, science, even a certain topic of your choice. Get back safely."

Nevaeh: "Here are some tips for 2016: First electronics are much different. Second there are different restaurants and stores like Walmart and Subway and a whole bunch more too. You need to pay taxes. We have concerts where you go see famous people perform. Your rent is a lot more. That is all that I have to tell you."

Andre: "Be careful because there is a thing called a Smartphone and people text on it, and sometimes they text and drive. It's very dangerous, so don't do it and be careful!"

Justin: "I have some tips for outside: Watch where you are going because there's some bad people out there. You should learn about the new world and know about electronics."

Emily: "The best technology for you would be a phone, because you can call on it."

Chloe: "Always look before crossing the street and don't go up to random strangers and get a phone and a computer and a tablet and watch Utube and play video games."

Lauryn: "So now you can wear pants and show your arms. There are microwaves now and a microwave cooks your food quicker. Hope you take this advice."

Nicole: "Here is some advice to survive 2016. In the summer wear shorts and a shirt, and yes, I know what you are thinking: now you can show your arms and legs. Also wear snow pants, a hat, a scarf, a coat and some gloves in the winter."



*I scream, You scream,
We all scream for ice cream!!!!*



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

When: Saturday, June 25 at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Jacob's Well Cafe'
3558 South Sivyer Avenue
Avenue (faces 3700 block of
S. Packard Avenue)

Come join us for ice cream, cake, pie, and other home baked goodies.

Afterward, join us for the dedication of a historical landmark plaque at the John H. Koenig house 3849 S. Packard Ave.

Free to the public. Bring the kids.

**And as an added bonus,
St. Francis residents can
come and sign up for a
free rain barrel!!**

Representatives from MMSD and Bay Ridge Consulting will have a table at the event promoting the use of rain barrels and rain gardens in St. Francis.



St. Francis Historical Society
3400 E. Howard Ave.
St. Francis, WI 53235

Open Immediately

**Invitation to the Landmark Dedication
of the John Koenig house at 3849 South
Packard Avenue.**

2016 Officers

President..... Anna Passante
Vice-President..... Sister Ceil Struck
Secretary.....Stephanie Maxwell
Treasurer.....Barbara Janiszewski

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Bill Drehfal
Maggie Luczywko
Lois Neubauer
Richard Raatz

Newsletter

Anna Passante
Barbara Janiszewski

Mark Your Calendar

General Meetings: July 16th at 9:30 am

Ice Cream Social at Jacob's Well Cafe 3558 South
Sivyer Avenue (cafe faces 3700 block of S. Packard
Avenue) on June 25th at 1:30. Dedication of the
Koenig house at 3849 S. Packard Avenue will
follow.

Pizzeria Piccola Fundraiser

Sunday, August 7, 2016 4:00-9:00
7606 W. State St., Wauwatosa

Facebook: St. Francis Historical Society

Email: st.francishistoricalsociety@gmail.com

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Website: stfranciswihistoricalsociety.org

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