



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

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June 2015

Meet Your Board of Directors

by Barbara Janiszewski

Mary Drehfal

Mary Drehfal has lived in St. Francis most of her life. She attended Sacred Heart of Jesus grade school and graduated from St. Mary's Academy. After graduation she worked at various office jobs.

She met her husband, Bill, after a friend's mother encouraged him to call her for a blind date. They married in 1971 and have two children and two grandchildren. Mary stayed home with the



kids until they went to school and then got a job at Stein's Garden Center. She also worked at the St. Francis library for nineteen years.

She and Bill have belonged to the Society since 2009. Mary has

always been interested in local history because her grandparents on both sides of the family had businesses on St. Francis Avenue in the early 20th century.

Her many hobbies include all kinds of needlework and art projects such as sketching, painting, and sculpture. She loves to read, especially historical fiction, fantasy, and mysteries.

She and Bill enjoy traveling and are both taking weaving classes at Wilson Park Senior Center.

Stephanie Maxwell

Stephanie Maxwell was born and raised in Sterling, Illinois, a small farming community of about 15,000 people, located south of Rockford. She attended the University of Illinois where she earned a bachelor's degree in history. Her master's degree in public history with a specialization in archives from UWM. Stephanie said she was always interested in history. When she was a little girl, growing up with two sisters, she always wanted to play *Little House on the Prairie*. While working at Associated Bank in St. Francis, one of her frequent customers was Carol Wojtecki, the treasurer of the St. Francis Historical Society at the time. She asked Carol about the society, and they talked about it each time Carol came into the bank. Then Stephanie got another job in the accounting department at Kohn Law Firm. Finding that Stephanie no longer worked at the bank, Carol contacted her, and because of Carol's interest, Stephanie joined the historical society two years ago. Being from Illinois, she is a Chicago Cubs fan, but she loves baseball and does root for the Brewers when she attends games. Her hobbies include reading mysteries, history, and especially biographies. She also enjoys sewing, quilting, and cross stitching.



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Barbara Janiszewski

I grew up in Greendale and started kindergarten the first year the school opened. I completed K-12 in the same building. I worked in the accounting department of a leasing company which was a part of M&I Corporation until I retired in 1998.

I've lived in St. Francis for 57 years but was never involved with anything in the city until about 2009. At that time, Lois Neubauer asked if I'd like to attend a board meeting of the historical society. Since I had recently stopped driving, I welcomed any opportunity to go somewhere. I liked it and continued attending meetings and was elected to the board in 2014. Along with Anna Passante and Jan Pientok, I work one day a week at our office entering information into our computer system.



My hobbies include reading, mostly mysteries. I read every day, as I frequently tell my grandchildren and great-grandchildren (26 total and another on the way). I also enjoy cross-stitch, knitting, and crocheting. I make afghans - lots of them - and give them away to family and friends. I have donated many of them to various charitable organizations and schools for silent auctions.

CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls

CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls grew up in Cudahy and graduated from Cudahy High School. She received a bachelors degree in communications from UW-Whitewater and a master's degree in management from Cardinal Stritch University.

She lived and worked out of the area before returning six years ago. CoryAnn was Miss St. Francis in 1986 and has been active with the organization ever since. She also volunteers with the Optimist Club and is the 5th grade girls basketball coach at St. Thomas Aquinas Academy. Her hobbies include golf, tennis, photography, and attending sporting events. She, her husband, Tom, and son, Layton, enjoy watching "Shark Tank" together.



She became mayor of the City of St. Francis in 2012. At that time the city was working on plans for a new civic center, which included a facility for the historical society, and subsequently she became interested in the society. She works part-time as a project manager for Legacy Communications in order to accommodate her responsibilities as mayor.

Jan Pientok

Jan Pientok grew up in Iowa. Because of her father's job, she and her family lived in every part of the state. After graduation, she went to school in Minneapolis to become a medical lab tech and ended up working in labs in Cudahy and South Milwaukee until she retired in 2000.

She lived in St. Francis for a short time after her marriage to John then moved to Kansas Avenue ---surrounded by the city of St. Francis but residing in the city of Milwaukee---after her first child was born. In 1970, they bought a home in St. Francis and have lived there ever since.

Jan has always been interested in history, especially the history of St. Francis, Cudahy, and South Milwaukee. She decided that she wanted to become involved in the St. Francis Historical Society and started attending meetings and volunteering at society functions.



Her hobbies include reading, mostly mysteries, and genealogy which she is into "big time," to quote her. She loves horses and used to ride when she was younger but now just watches the races on television. Jan also loves to bake. She and husband John have two children and two grandchildren.

THE LAST 'L' AT LAKESIDE

by Chris Barney

It was a gray, sullen, and overcast day in St. Francis, Wis. - the last day of February 1988 - and the end of the line was nearing for the once-famous "World's Power Plant Laboratory," the now-closed Lakeside Power Plant of Wisconsin Electric Power Company. Opened in 1920, Lakeside increased its electrical output through a succession of building additions in the 1920s and became the largest power plant in Wisconsin by 1931. The coal-fired plant received its coal in hopper rail cars brought to the plant from Powerton Junction, Lakeside's interchange with the Milwaukee Road, by several electric locomotives built especially for that purpose. The last of these locomotives to be built, at TMER&T's Cold Spring Shops in Milwaukee, was numbered L-10 and began operating in 1944. Now, more than four decades later, it sat forlornly on a single piece of track awaiting its fate.

The plant it served was slowly but inexorably coming down just several yards away --- Lakeside's time had come and gone. What was to become of its last electric servant? Something must have told me that time was short to capture L-10's rusting and peeling magic, so I enlisted the help of my friend, Ralph Clark, to record it on film. He reluctantly agreed to document the scene with his professional Minolta 35mm camera, muttering at least once, "You're going to owe me for this one, Barney!" as we tromped through the mud and puddles.

L-10's days of faithful service to Lakeside had ended in 1972 when it was unofficially retired. It was then donated to The Wisconsin Electric Railway Historical Society (TWERHS) who moved it to North Lake, Wisconsin. After only two years, though, L-10 was returned to Lakeside where it would weather another 14 years before my final rendezvous with it. As Ralph's camera shutter clicked, I walked around, climbed up, and went inside the cab of this once-beautiful workhorse. It had, of course, been treated rather shabbily over time by vandals and weather. But as I looked out from the front window of the cab, I could still picture it rumbling over the Lake Drive bridge with its load of empty coal cars headed for Powerton.

Soon, it was over and we slowly trudged back to our cars across the street from the plant. Ralph took one last picture of my dad, Norbert, and me standing together with Lakeside as a backdrop. Then we got into our vehicles and headed our separate ways. Less than a week later, as I drove past Lakeside, I noticed L-10 was gone. The Illinois Railway Museum (IRM) had obtained it and hauled it to their complex in Union, Illinois. The bulk of the power plant and its three tall smokestacks still remained, but I felt a significant part of Lakeside's identity had left the scene, never to return - and that was L-10, the last 'L' at Lakeside Power Plant. The L-10 was restored to its original 1950s appearance by IRM and is available for public viewing during tourist season.



Chris Barney in the L-10



Joseph Aszklar

By Anna Passante

Sculptor Joseph Aszklar was known for his bronze, stone, wood sculptures, and especially for ecclesiastical figures. His art studio was in the city of St. Francis on 3862 South Iowa Avenue, at the present site of the Golden Living Center nursing home. Asklar was born in Austria in 1867 and later moved to Poland. As a small boy he carved biblical figures out of wood and soapstone. Later he studied in Krakow, Poland, carving frames for pictures painted by noted Polish artists for King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany, and Emperor Franz Josef of Austria. Asklar went on to carve under the watchful eyes of Casimer Chodzinski and Casimer Wakulski.

Aszklar immigrated to America from Poland in 1908 and resided in Chicago for two years, practicing woodcarving there. His wife, Wanda, remained in Europe but immigrated in 1910 with the couple's five-year-old daughter, Emily. The couple settled in Milwaukee. From 1910 to 1913, Aszklar carved for the Rauwolf Ecclesiastical Arch Company. By 1918, he had his own art studio in St. Francis. As a child, Tom Mlinar (a historical society member) lived on Howard Avenue just east of Asklar, and he remembers Asklar's studio in a two-car garage. Mlinar, as a child, would often stop and talk to Asklar as he worked.

In 1918, Asklar landed a commission at Holy Hill in Hubertus, Wisconsin. He sculpted fourteen outdoor Stations of the Cross from 1918 to 1928. These life-size statues were carved from five-ton Bedford Stone and set in fieldstone grottos. They remain there today.

He also was commissioned to sculpt a bust of General Casimir Pulaski for Pulaski Park in Cudahy, Wisconsin, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Pulaski's death in 1929. General Casimir Pulaski came to fight on the side of the Americans in the 1776 American War of Independence. The bust, sitting on monument base, wasn't completed in time for the birthday. The bust, cast in bronze, was cast by a Pole in Germany. Polish and American documents of historical interest were placed in metal case inside the bust. The monument was paid for through moneys (\$12,000) raised by the Milwaukee Poles under the direction of Bernard Adamkiewicz and sponsored by the Polish Central Association of Cudahy. A parade preceded the unveiling that took place on June 5, 1932, at which 4,000 attended. Aszklar was present at the dedication.

Ellen Drew, wife of Patrick Drew who died in 1903, commissioned Aszklar to design and execute a bronze-plated steel angel for her husband's grave in Calvary Cemetery. One of the hands originally held a cross. The angel was done in 1933, thirty years after Drew's death.

At age 75, Asklar carved a life-size Christ for the School Sisters of Notre Dame. He worked out of the Benzing & Mingesz monument shop.

Aszklar died September 5, 1942, at age 75. Before his death, he had spent the summers at his St. Francis home tending a vegetable garden and in winter residing with his daughter in Milwaukee.



Joseph Aszklar



Station of the Cross Holy Hill



Pulaski bust



Monument Patrick Drew Calvary Cemetery

What's New?

Welcome new members

Welcome new members: Charles & Elaine Weber, Frank & Sharon Lockwood, Kathy & Herman Hansen, Mary Ann Schroedl, Tom & Donna Mlinar

Two corrections to the March newsletter:

1. Chris Barney is not a new member, but rather is a longtime member.

2. The photo in Carl Kitzinger article was captioned incorrectly. This is a 1939 photo of a wedding party. From left: Carl, Irene Karras, Annie Romano, Harry Kloss. Sorry for the mistake Carl.

Visit us on Facebook!!

We need your stuff!!!!

Please share your Town of Lake and St. Francis photos, objects, and artifacts with the historical society. We can come to your home to scan the photos or you can call us for an appointment at our office. Do you have artifacts you don't want to donate at this time? Let us know and we will photograph them for our photo collection. Any item regarding Town of Lake or St. Francis is of interest to us.

Special thanks to Joseph Moriarty, owner of Jacob's Well Cafe', for selling our new book *From Nojoshing to St. Francis*. He accepts no profit from the book sales. Please support St. Francis businesses that support us.

Cemetery committee

The cemetery committee met at the cemetery on Tuesday, May 28, for their first meeting. The walk through provided ideas about preserving the gravestones. If you are interested in being on this committee, please call us at 414-316-4391 and leave a message.

Board changes

Because of family issues, Dennis Wojtecki has resigned from the board. Jan Pientok has been named to replace him. Sue Bostedt has resigned as treasurer and Barbara Janiszewski has replaced her. Sue will serve as a board member. Thank you Dennis for serving on the board. Your input has been invaluable.

General Meeting

Our next general meeting is on July 18 at 9:30 at the Civic Center. There will be refreshments.



Photos from the March 26 Event Top to bottom

Mayor CoryAnn presents Bill Drehfal with a certificate for Bill Drehfal Day

Carl Baehr talks about his book on the street names of Milwaukee

Terry Duffey presents Bill with an award for his dedication to the Society

Vern Tretow plays the concertinas donated by the family of Charles Weber.

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



2015 Officers

President..... Anna Passante
Vice-President..... Sister Ceil Struck
Secretary.....Randy Borland
Treasurer.....Barbara Janiszewski

Board of Directors

Sue Bostedt
Jan Pientok
CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls
Mary Drehfal
Stephanie Maxwell

Honorary

Jim Goodwin
Ralph Voltner
Bill Drehfal
Maggie Luczywko
Lois Neubauer
Richard Raatz

Newsletter

Anna Passante
Barbara Janiszewski

Up and Coming Events

4th of July--See us in the parade and visit us at our table at the Vretenar Memorial Park.

Also, visit our table at *National Day Out* in August

General Meeting: July 18, 9:30 am

Board Meetings: June 20, 9:30 am
July 18, 9:30 am (following General Mtg)
August 15, 9:30 am

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