



# NOJOSHING

Indian word for "straight tongue"

land protrudes out into Lake Michigan like a straight tongue

Newsletter published quarterly

Non-Profit Organization 501c3

## September 2022

### Jerry's Pheasant Bar by Julie Myszkowski

When I was growing up, Jerry's Pheasant Bar was located on the northeast corner of Tesch and Packard avenues (4016 S. Packard Ave.), where Polonez currently stands. The parents of my best friend, Sandi, were the owners. That would be Paula and the late Gilbert (Gil) Grosenick. Prior to the Pheasant Bar, the building was used as a grocery store and then an ice cream parlor. That changed in 1965 when the Grosenicks purchased the building and turned it into Jerry's Pheasant Bar.

St. Francis was actually the second location of the Pheasant Bar, the first one located in the vicinity of 17th and Center Street in Milwaukee. The Center Street location was well known for its burgers. Gil initially lived and worked in Milwaukee, but then he relocated his family to St. Francis in order to be close to the new location. In 1965 one had to reside in St. Francis in order to obtain a liquor license, so that was another reason for moving.

Both Gil and his wife, Paula, worked at the Pheasant Bar, with Gil mostly worked behind the bar but also cooking as needed. Paula did the prepping, cooking, hostessing, waitressing...anything but tending bar. She said she was "just too short" for that!

The food... the food. Everything was made in house, from scratch. Fries and potato pancakes made out of honest to goodness potatoes. Coleslaw from cabbage. Hand breaded fish and chicken. The burgers were juicy and delicious. The burgers are actually one of my best memories of Jerry's Pheasant Bar.

Remember when I said Paula and Gil are the parents of my best friend? Well, once in a while, too many staff called in sick and they needed an extra hand. It didn't matter that my hand was only 10 or 11 years old. I washed dishes, peeled mountains of potatoes, and bussed tables. The whole time



Top: An interior photo of Pheasant Bar

Bottom: Customers at the bar at Pheasant Bar

I could giggle in the kitchen with my friend, and make a little cash. But the highlight for me was at the end of the night. Paula would make us a cheeseburger, some French fries, and we could have a SODA (forbidden in my house other than special occasions). This was QUITE the treat!

Jerry's Pheasant Bar was a family affair. I mentioned my friend Sandi. She would help peel that mountain of potatoes or bread the fish or chicken, and many times was the one working the deep fryer. The eldest Grosenick girl was Sheryl. She tended bar or cooked while middle daughter, Laura, waitressed. Please note that everyone in the family peeled potatoes, whether that was part of their job description or not.

There were many families and "regulars" at the Pheasant Bar. Paula told me the story of how one night they were so short staffed and the place was packed. Some of the regulars started helping carry food out to customers, bussing tables, and taking drink orders. They were a great group of people who liked to help!

You know who wasn't helpful? The woman who we can only assume was "too long in her cups." She drove her car right into the front of the building in the middle of the night!

There are tales of some epic New Year's Eve parties at Jerry's Pheasant Bar. They would have a closed party in the banquet room. You bought a ticket and were treated to a band, dancing, drinks, and a buffet. These New Year's Eve parties were a lot of work for the staff, but a lot of fun for the customers. Each year tickets to the party sold out!

Speaking of the banquet room, hundreds of parties and weddings were held there. And when there weren't fancy shindigs afloat, Sandi and I found ourselves with no potatoes to peel. It was our stage (we were rock stars!) and dance floor (Solid Gold Dancers!), and anything else we could make up to have fun!

Our play space was taken away from us somewhere around 1979 when Gil and Paula decided they would focus on the restaurant. Gil's nephew Jerry ran "Jr's" out of the banquet room. There was a jukebox, pool table, and they served pizza. That lasted only a couple of years. (continued next column)



Gil & Paula Grosenick

## What's New?

### Thursday, September 15, 2022

John Gurda will present "Smokestacks On the Lakefront: A History of Milwaukee's South Shore---the Story of the Industrial Corridor From Bay View to Oak Creek." 6:00 refreshments, 6:30 presentation at the St. Francis Civic Center 3400 E. Howard Ave.

### Thursday, October 6, 2022

Jessica Michna, an impressionist of historical notable women, will present Hellen Keller. Time and place: see Gurda presentation above.

### Meet Our Newest Member

Our newest member is Henry O'Halloran. Stephanie Maxwell and husband, Joe O'Halloran, welcomed adorable Henry into the world on June 4. Stephanie is the St. Francis Historical Society treasurer. Congrats Stephanie & Joe!!!!



At our May meeting, the SFHS board had a baby shower for Stephanie. Presents opened and sweet treats shared.



(continued from 1st column)

In 1982, Paula and Gil decided to sell the Pheasant Bar to Lena Oleszak. She worked in the kitchen for Paula and Gil, learning the restaurant routine and some of Grosenick's favorite recipes. She and her husband, George, called the restaurant OI Zaks. There were a few more attempts by others to make the bar into something else before Polonez came in.

Thanks for listening as I took a trip down memory lane. I miss those cheeseburgers, but I sure don't miss peeling all of those potatoes!

# An Abstract of Title is a Key to the Past

by Glenn A. Gierzycki

In September 2021, I sold my house at 2936 East Crawford Avenue in St. Francis that had been in my family for 70 years. My parents never lived in another house during their marriage. I received the house as part of the estate settlement after my mother's passing in 2004. I did not live in the house, as I have been a resident of Nevada since 1979, but used it during my frequent visits to the Milwaukee area. Circumstances conspired that made it time to sell. It was one of those deals where the house and everything in it were sold for one price, no real estate agents and no hassles. I did not get everything out of the house that I wanted before it sold. But I made sure to take the abstract of title to the house written in 1951. It is a fascinating document. I'd like to comment about it here.

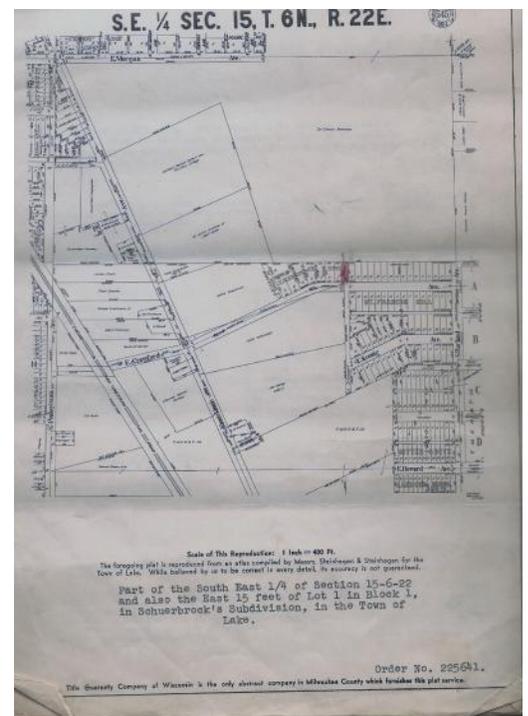
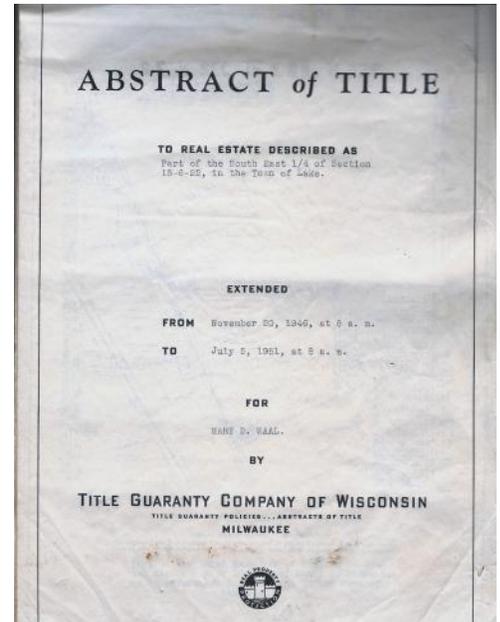
What is an abstract of title? An abstract of title is a brief history of a piece of land, and it is used to determine whether or not there is any kind of claim against a property. The abstract of title includes encumbrances, conveyances, wills, liens, grants, and transfers. It contains information on who owned a particular piece of property in the past. What makes the abstract to the St. Francis house so interesting is that it goes back to the transfer of that land from the United States of America, and it continues to 1951 when my parents acquired the land and house.

The abstract package I retained has abstracts of title from four different abstract and title companies. The abstract includes a legal description of the property. The location of my house is in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 15, Township 6 North, Range 22 East in the Town of Lake. The area (actually called a subdivision) was named St. Francis Hill. Zebedee Packard applied for a patent from the government on the 160-acre parcel of land on March 15, 1839. He was awarded the patent on December 10, 1840. He was the first individual to own the property. (The US government "bought" the land from the Indians.) No price is listed. What is unusual to me is that the patent was recorded on April 14, 1896, which is 56 years later.

A warranty deed transferred 40 acres of land to Giles M. Packard from Zebedee Packard and Nancy Packard (his wife) on March 5, 1844. Giles was Zebedee's son. Financial consideration was \$5.00.

I won't go through all the individual land transfers that occurred over the decades but will mention some interesting points. There were over 50 transactions that included sales, probate, quit claims, warranty deeds, and a sheriff's sale. Most of the transactions covered more ground than just my little property. Members of the Thompson family, the Packard family, and the Wentworth family held the property in the 1850s. All three families have streets named after them in the St. Francis and Bay View area.

The name Schirbruck first shows up in 1865 when Barbara Schirbruck obtained a piece of land from the Babcock family. (Her husband, Victor, was serving in the Civil War at the time.) On March 27, 1888, Barbara quit claimed the property to Victor Schirbruck, her husband. The couple ran a saloon on the property and lived upstairs. Victor died on December 5, 1914. His will (in which the last name is spelled Scherbrock) left 12 acres to his grandchildren, Victor Hansen and Adeline Hansen. The remaining 26.07 acres were to be divided equally among his children, Katie



Scherbrock, Nettie Scherbrock, and Ida Koenig. (Ida and her husband John Koenig had a house at 3814 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., which was recently razed. It was the efforts of two the Scherbrock children (Nettie and Katie) that led to the creation of the subdivision where my house was built.

In March 1938, the 19 lot owners in the subdivision known as St. Francis Hill banded together to consent to restrictive covenants for the subdivision. (I think this was in preparation for building new houses in the area). These included the stipulation that the lots were to be residential with only detached dwellings not to exceed two stories. One or two car garages were permitted. No building was to be erected nearer than 30 feet or farther than 30 feet from the front lot line. No residential lot shall be subdivided into building plots of less than 5,000 square feet or a width of less than 40 feet. (My lot was 40 feet wide). No noxious or offensive trade shall be carried on upon any lot. No lot or building shall be bought, owned, occupied, rented, or leased by any person other than one of the Caucasian race, but this condition shall not apply to domestic servants. No trailer, basement, tent, shack, or other outbuilding shall at any time be used as a residence. No building shall be erected or moved onto any lot until a committee has approved the design and location in writing. If a committee does not exist, then such approval will not be required, provided the design and location on the lot conform to and are in harmony with existing structures in the tract. A perpetual easement is reserved over the rear five feet of each lot for utility installation and maintenance. (The utilities at my house were in the backyard along the common boundary with the St. Francis Seminary). The covenants and restrictions were to terminate on January 1, 1962; however, they could be extended for 10 years by written consent of a majority of landowners in the tract. The existing 19 lot owners gave consent to the covenants in March 1938.

The tract became known as the Schuerbrock subdivision in 1940 after it was surveyed, and the name St. Francis Hill fell into disuse. This iteration of the last name, Schuerbrock, is shown on the map from the Guaranty Company of Wisconsin and is included in documents from 1951.

The house at 2936 East Crawford Avenue was completed in 1942, and I believe was the last one built in the subdivision until after the conclusion of World War II.

My parents bought the house from Arthur R. Wanek and Clara Wanek in the summer of 1951. The Wanek's bought the house in October 1946. One unusual aspect of the sale was that the Wanek's dealt directly with my parents for the payments. My parents never had to get a bank loan, as the Wanek's let them pay as they could. As far as I know there were never any missed payments. Both families remained friends until the passing of the Wanek's. The purchase price was \$12,500.

## Dedication of a Park Bench

On Saturday, June 4, the historical society dedicated a park bench in the memory of the late Barbara Janiszewski. Barbara was a long-time member of the historical society and held the position of treasurer for a number of years. Barbara loved to read and loved attending the Woman's Book Club held at the St. Francis Library. So, it is fitting that we place a bench in the tot lot next to the library, in Barbara's honor, where parents can sit and watch their children play. And avid readers, much like Barbara, will find it a great place to sit and enjoy a good read. Barbara would approve! The bench was paid for through the generosity of friends and family who sent monetary gifts to the historical society in Barbara's memory.



A number of family members attended the dedication. Left: Barbara's children: Sue Zuehlke, Julie Myszkowski, Jill Botka, and John Janiszewski, Right: Julie and her sons, Joel, Joshua, and James show off the plaque attached to the bench.

# List of St. Francis Businesses from the 1966 St. Francis City Directory

by Jan Pientok

St. Francis Building and Loan 3545 South KK (currently PNC bank)  
 Maytag Sales and Service 1840 E. St. Francis Avenue  
 American Legion Post 3877 S. KK (currently closed St. Francis Brewery)  
 Wm. H. Heinemann Bakery 3501 S. KK (now parking lot for PNC bank)  
 McFaul's Barber Shop 2222 E. St. Francis Ave.  
 Bob Pinter's Barber Shop 4245 S. Packard Ave.  
 Margaret's Beauty Salon 1834 E. St. Francis Ave.  
 Maribeth Beauty Salon 4247 S. Packard Ave.  
 Black Bear Beverages 4264 S. Packard Ave.  
 Bay View Bike Shop 2248 E. St. Francis Ave.  
 Neubauer, Richard, Carpenter/Contractor 4029 S. Lipton  
 Jo-Al's Carpet Cleaning Service 3301 E. Thompson Ave.  
 Dobie's Lounge 4136 S. KK  
 Fischer's Construction Co 3205 E. Waterford Ave  
 Ted Simons and Sons Inc. Contractor 2043 E. St. Francis Ave.  
 Esther's Curtain Cleaners 2301 E. St. Francis Ave.  
 Held's Dairy Store 3501 S. KK  
 Kendoor Co. (Door Units Manufacturers) 2615 E. Norwich  
 St. Francis Dry Wall 4048 S. Hately Ave.

Haissig Inc. (Electrical Contractors) 3110 E. Allerton Ave.  
 Anton Grabske (Excavating) 2131 E. Norwich Ave.  
 Trans America Freight Lines 3775 S. Packard Ave.  
 Rembowski Funeral Home 2408 E. St. Francis Ave.  
 Baewer Greenhouse 3018 E. Norwich Ave.  
 Walter Zmanir Greenhouse 4032 S. Barland Ave.  
 Art's Super Market (currently Supreme Meats) 4074 S. KK  
 Ola's Cardinal Food Store 4009 S. Packard Ave. (currently apartments)  
 Kliebahn Insurance Agency 3561 S. KK  
 Karl's Landscaping Materials 4560 S. Whitnall Ave.  
 St. Francis Landscaping 3703 S. Rutland Ave.  
 St. Francis Laundromat 2520 E. Norwich Ave.  
 Mitch's Liquor Mart 4040 S. Packard Ave. (currently Luna's Mexican restaurant)  
 Do-Rite Manufacturing (machine shop) 3809 S. KK  
 Harwal Machine Shop 3807 S. Packard Ave.  
 The Zierden Company (manufacturer) 3815 S. KK  
 Lazaris Popcorn and Cotton Candy 3941 S. Hately Avenue  
 A & W Root Beer Stand 3701 S. Packard Ave. (currently yoga studio)

Rudy Uttke and Sons (sheet metal work) (currently on Howell Ave.) 2704 E. Norwich Ave.  
 Club Sixty Two (tavern) (no address number Packard Ave.)  
 Windmill Tavern 3852 S. KK  
 South Lake Drive Tavern (currently Bert's) 3907 S. Lake Drive  
 Jerry's Pheasant Bar (originally Ola's grocery store) (currently Polenez Polish restaurant) 4016 S. Packard Ave.  
 Tiny's Lake View Service Station 3901 S. Lake Drive  
 Sal's Tap 3724 S. KK  
 Hewitt's Tavern 2247 E. St. Francis Ave.  
 Surma's Drive-In (currently Associate Bank) 3719 S. KK

# Zebedee Packard, Veteran of the War of 1812

## Lake Protestant Cemetery, St. Francis, Wis.

by George Ramponi

Lake Protestant Cemetery has three known veterans buried in the cemetery. Two Civil War veterans, William Thompson and William Beal, and the third is Zebedee “Zeb” Packard, a veteran of the War of 1812. Packard, one of the first settlers in Town of Lake, arrived with his family from Vermont in 1836, claiming 160 acres. He farmed this land until his death in 1855 at age 66 of typhoid. He rests in Lot 5 of the old cemetery, located at the corner of South Barland and East Norwich avenues in Saint Francis. (Lot 6 was also owned by the Packard family but no burial records exist.)



In front of his tombstone is a metal marker “1812” identifying him as serving in the War of 1812. So, what did Zeb do in the war? He served with the Vermont volunteers in 1814, under the leadership of Major General Alexander Macomb, who was assigned to the Lake Champlain area.

Major General Alexander Macomb had a problem in 1814. It was August 31 of that year and 11,000 British troops (many were veterans of the Napoleonic Wars) were ascending south along the west bank of the Richelieu River toward Lake Champlain, along with a fleet of 16 warships. Macomb’s problem? Just three days before, his commanding officer and four thousand men had been ordered to Sackett’s Harbor, 170 miles away, to protect the naval base. This left Macomb with only 1,500 men, half of whom had dysentery and typhus.

The sickest were transported across Lake Champlain to Burlington, Vermont. The “healthier” were sent to Crab Island, overlooking Plattsburgh Bay, and were assigned a battery of cannon to man as they were able.

Another sign of desperation was 22 schoolboys from Plattsburgh Academy were allowed to form a rifle company. Everyone else in town had fled. Macomb’s final gambit? Calling up the New York militia and volunteers from Vermont.

This is where Zeb comes in. Macomb might not have been too sure about the Vermont volunteers, because Vermont hadn’t been all that supportive of the war. In fact, some Vermonters had made a bundle of money selling beef and timber to the enemy—the British. Macomb need not have worried. While 700 New Yorkers showed up at Plattsburgh, there were 2,200 Vermonters who responded. Zeb

signed up to fight in his hometown of Jericho on September 3, 1814, and departed four days later, just as the British approached Plattsburgh. The Vermonters, led by Major General Samuel Strong, were put to work immediately upon arrival, strengthening fortifications south of the Saranac River facing the British to the north. There were a few skirmishes at the bridges. An American raid took out a rocket emplacement, but the determining engagement occurred on September 11 in the bay.

The British plan was simple. The naval and ground attacks would occur simultaneously. As the warships hammered each other, the British would stage a few feinting attacks across the river. Once the British fleet won, the feinting attacks would turn real. Game over. There was just one hitch. The American navy fleet won the two hour battle, not the British. By 11:00 a.m. the jig was up. While there was a considerable exchange of fire as the British neared the American fortifications, the British had no choice but to withdraw. Without a navy, there was no means of supply or transport. On September 14, Macomb issued a general order dispensing the volunteers and militia, adding this: (continued p. 7)



**Top:** Zeb’s gravestone with the 1812 marker placed there by the St. Francis Historical Society decades ago.  
**Above:** Drawing of Plattsburgh Bay

“General Macomb cannot however permit the Militia of New York and the Volunteers of Vermont to depart without carrying with them the high sense he entertains for their merits. The zeal with which they came forward in defense of their Country, when the signal was given by the General, reflects the highest luster on their patriotism and spirit.”

Zebedee Packard served a total of 12 days. He returned to his wife Nancy and their two-year-old daughter, Elizabeth.

### *The Lake Protestant Cemetery Has Two New Signs*

Come join us for the dedication of new signage on Saturday, September 10 at 1:00. The two signs were designed by John Toth of MKE-graphics, a local company, and were donated by the historical society.

There will be a tour of the cemetery after the dedication. Come learn about those who are buried there. The book, *Lake Protestant Cemetery, Our Pioneer's Resting Place, St. Francis, Wisconsin* by Anna Passante, will be available for purchase for \$15. All profits go to the restoration of the cemetery.



DPW workers John and Gary installed the new signs.



### **TWO 2022 SUMMER EVENTS DOCUMENTED IN PICTURES**

**Left:** Anna Passante & George Ramponi walked in the 4th of July parade and got a photo with Miss St. Francis, Jasmine Peck, and Miss St. Francis Teen, Carly Doome. **Right:** George gets another photo with the two lovely ladies at the National Night Out on August 3.





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

**2022 Officers**

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Vice-President..... Sister Ceil Struck  
Secretary.....Bill Drehfal  
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Marge Tessmer  
Kathy Matthew  
Terry Duffey  
Carol Wojtecki

**Newsletter**

Anna Passante

**Mark YourCalendar**

**Meetings at the St. Francis Civic Center at 3400 E. Howard Ave.:**

**The monthly board meetings are the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Visitors welcomed.**

September 17, 2022

October 15, 2022

November 12, 2022

**Upcoming events** (see “What’s New” column for details)

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