

# NINE DECADES:

The Village of Lake Villa, Illinois  
1901 – 1991

Compiled and edited by  
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## DEDICATION

To the people of Lake Villa –  
Past, present, and future –  
Who have made, and continue to make  
Lake Villa  
“a good place to live.”

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The editor would like to thank the following persons for making this publication possible:

Joyce F. Frayer, Mayor of Lake Villa;

Village Trustees John Anderson, David Dykstra, Kenneth Lipski, Frank Loffredo, Robert Raukohl, and William Smolarchuk;

Pat Dewar, Village Clerk;

Lori Heitman, Village Treasurer;

Gloria Schneider, of the Village Clerk's Office;

Donna Smith-Rosenberg, Secretary/Matron of the Lake Villa Police Department;

Vincent Giorgi, Project Chairman;

Steering Committee Members Amy Prosis, Lester Hamlin, Joe Nader, Elmer Sheehan, Charlotte Wagner, Delbert Sherwood, Barbara Brown, Sally Leistner, Lynn Johnson, Dorothy Langbein, and Julie Trychta who met bi-weekly since March, 1991 to collect and organize much of the information in the book, and to sort through hundreds of photographs; trying to find those that were representative of various time periods and that would reproduce clearly enough to be printed;

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## VILLAGE

Prior to incorporation in 1901, the area now known as "The Village of Lake Villa" was called "Lake City" from 1883-1884, and then "Stanwood" from 1884 to 1886. Some accounts say that "Stanwood" remained the village name until Lake Villa was incorporated in 1901. However, early historians J.J. Halsey, Adams, and Keller have documented the name change of Stanwood P.O. to Lake Villa P.O. as taking place on August 21, 1886 (Halsey, 1912; Adams & Keller 1968). It seems unlikely that the Post Office name would have changed while the area retained the earlier name. Another indication that "Lake Villa" as a name was in common use before 1901 comes from the records of the United Methodist Church, that state that the First Methodist Church of the Town of Avon was razed and moved by wagon to be rebuilt in Lake Villa, in 1892, and the name was changed to the "Methodist Episcopal Church of Lake Villa" (Smith, 1964).

While there is some question about exactly when Lake Villa was called "Lake Villa" there is no disputing the fact that the "Merchant Prince of State Street," E. J. Lehmann, had a profound influence upon the establishment of the village. The Lehmann family history states that "Ernst (J. Lehmann) ... owned property in Lake City which he renamed Lake Villa" (Lehmann, 1991), and an article in a Chicago newspaper, c. 1887, reads: "The coming city of Lake County, in our opinion, is Lake City, which has been platted and laid out by E. J. Lehmann, a resident of Lake View, and the merchant Prince of Chicago. It is situated between Deep and Cedar Lakes, and about three miles northeast of Fox Lake, and is, without question, one of the most picturesque spots to be found in the Northwest. The city has been laid out into lots, and a fine, large hotel has already been put up by Mr. Lehmann, and we are informed that applications are daily coming in for stores of all kinds, harness shops, etc., and the prospect is

that this season will see Lake City one of the most thriving places in Lake County.”

It is impossible to guess what would have become of Lake Villa had E. J. Lehmann remained a guiding force. As it turned out, after building his 150-room Lake City Hotel (Cedar Village now stands on the site), and bringing the railroad to Lake Villa, he “broke down mentally” (Lehmann, 1991). On April 16, 1890, a court order was issued placing him in the custody of his wife, and he was sent to the Bloomingdale sanitarium in New York City, and later to a sanitarium in White Plains, New York, where he died in 1900. His grand hotel burned to the ground fifteen years later. (Most accounts give 1915 as the year of the fire, however there are also references to 1913 as the year the hotel was destroyed.)

The six Lehmann children, Edward, Ernst, Otto, Augusta, Edith, and Emily, built their summer homes in Lake Villa and the surrounding area, and for many years affected the economy in Lake Villa Township, employing local people as horse trainers, carpenters, plumbers, grounds-keepers, caddies, and in other various capacities. A history of the Lehmann estates in the Lake Villa area appeared in the *News-Sun*, on November 22, 1979. Written by Christine Walsh Angelos, “How a Grand Dream Dissolved into Subdivisions” describes the properties and what has become of them. An excerpt from the article is printed in the Lake Villa District Library’s publication: *Lake Villa, Illinois: A History of Our Town*.  
Robert Frank

One year after the death of E. J. Lehmann, the Village of Lake Villa was incorporated, and the first election of officers held on April 16, 1901. Those elected as Village Trustees were: H. J. Nelson, 31 votes; Wm. Barnstable, 31 votes; Chas. Hamlin, 28 votes; Fred Hamlin, 29 votes; R. H. Sherwood, 38 votes; and M. S. Miller, 27 votes. William Kingsley was elected Village Clerk by 38 votes, and Harry Miller won the position of Police Magistrate with 27 votes. Minutes from the April 26, 1901 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake Villa read as follows:

Lake Villa      April 26, 1901

*(Misspellings that occurred in the 1901 minutes were reproduced in their original form, followed by “(sic)” indicating that the misspellings are recognized as such, but have not been changed in order to preserve the historical accuracy of the document. ed.)*

The board of Trustees of the Village of Lake Villa met at T. J. Webs Hall Friday Evening (sic) Apr 26 at 800 PM

Meeting Was Called to Order by M S Miller Wm D K took the Oath of Office as Clerk Administered by James Kerr Justis (sic) of the Pease (sic)

Lots Was (sic) Cast to See Who Should Serve in office one Year & Who Should Serve two years

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For 1 year    R. Sherwood  
                  H. J. Nelson  
                  Wm Barnstable

For 2 years    M S Miller  
                  C B Hamlin  
                  F T Hamlin

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Aarfter Whitch (sic) the Trustees Was (sic) Sworn into Office by James Kerr Justis (sic) of the Peace.

Ballot was then Spred (sic) to See Who Should Act as Pesident of the Board with the following Results M S Miller Received 5 vots (sic) Wm Barnstable one

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The Village of Lake Villa was on its way. Ninety years later we celebrate the efforts of these pioneering founders and resolve to continue the course of good will they set in motion.

*Julianne Kloc Trychta (ed.)*

Joyce Frayer, mayor of Lake Villa, compiled lists of the mayors of Lake Villa:

MAYORS OF LAKE VILLA

1901 – 1902	M. S. Miller
1902 – 1903	William G. Barnstable
1903 – 1905	William M. Bradley
1905 – 1907	Charles Harbaugh
1907 – 1909	William M. Bradley
1909 – 1911	M. S. Miller
1911 – 1925	F. M. Hamlin
1925 – 1926	William M. Bradley
1926 – 1929	Rush E. Hussey
1929 – 1930	C. B. Dicks
1930 – 1931	F. M. Hamlin
1931 – 1933	C. H. Stratton
1933 – 1937	J.K. Cribb
1937 – 1941	Jack A. VanBuren
1941 – 1949	Earl O. Hucker
1949 – 1951	William R. Kerr
1951 – 1961	Ervin L. Barnstable, Sr.

1961 – 1965	Walter W. Schneider, Sr.
1965 – 1973	Donald F. Cremin
1973 – 1977	Ted L. Nielsen
1977 – 1981	Howard L. Schneider, Jr.
1981 – 1991	Joyce F. Frayer

Village Clerk, Pat Dewar, has done extensive research on the Village government, and provided the following information on Village officials, population statistics, and the Miss Lake Villa and Little Miss Lake Villa Pageant. Alyce Brownlee, who is the Pageant Director, also supplied information on the contest.

### TRUSTEES

The first six trustees in 1901 were H. J. Nelson, R. Sherwood, William Barnstable, C. B. Hamlin, F. T. Hamlin, and James Kerr. The first election, April 15, 1902, resulted in the following board: Frank Hucker, William M. Bradley, Eugene Wilton, M. S. Miller, C. B. Hamlin and F. T. Hamlin. C. B. Hamlin served as a trustee for five years, as a clerk for three years, and as a treasurer for 22 years for a total of 30 years of service.

Although we can not list all of the dedicated individuals that served the Village as trustees, many family names keep appearing throughout the 90 years of Village history and some of these families still have generations living in the Village. Family names include Barnstable, Sherwood, Schneider, Hamlin, Sheehan, Hucker, Manzer, Cribb, Bartlett, Wilton, Slazes and Blumenschein.

The first women trustees were Joyce F. Frayer and Nancy Schoen who were elected in April, 1979. Joyce later became the Village's first woman Mayor. She was appointed acting Mayor on October 28, 1981. Joyce was then elected for a two-year term in April, 1983, and two four-year terms in April 1985 and April 1989. Joyce is the current Mayor of the Village.

Our present board of trustees are John Anderson, David Dykstra, Kenneth Lipski, Frank Loffredo, Robert Raukohl, and William Smolarchuk.

### VILLAGE CLERKS

1901 – 1903	Wm. D. Kingsley
1903 – 1905	H. J. Nelson
1905 – 1907	James Kerr
1907 – 1910	C. B. Hamlin
1910 – 1911	H. J. Nelson
1911 – 1919	Roy L. Murrie
1919 – 1923	C. W. Talbott
1923 – 1932	Carl W. Reinebach
1932 – 1934	A. A. Gullette
1934 – 1939	J. M. Philippi

1939 – 1955	Carl W. Reinebach
1955 – 1962	Neil Reidel
1962 – 1964	Madeline Sciacero
1964 – 1969	Iris Dorner
1969 – 1981	Charlotte Wagner
4/1981 – 10/1981	Enid Bartlett
1981 – Present	Judith “Pat” Dewar

In 90 years there have only been 16 Village Clerks. Carl W. Reinebach served as clerk for 25 of these 90 years. Madeline Sciacero was the first woman clerk and the first woman to win a village election in April 1963.

#### TREASURERS

1901 – 1903	L. W. Rowling
1903 – 1905	C. G. Nelson
1905 – 1907	J. W. Darby
1907 – 1908	R. L. Rowling
1908 – 1909	E. A. Wilton
1909 – 1912	Charles Harbaugh
1912 – 1927	B. J. Hooper
1927 – 1949	C. B. Hamlin
1949 – 1958	E. K. Hart
1958 – 1982	Amy Prosize
2/1982 – 11/1982	Bernice Romines
1983 – Present	Lori (Hucker) Heitman

Over the Village’s 90 years there have only been 12 Treasurers. Two of these treasurers account for 46 years: C. B. Hamlin, 22 years, and Amy Prosize, 24 years. Amy Prosize was appointed Treasurer on August 4, 1958. She remained in this position until July 15, 1979 when she resigned for the first time. On July 15, 1979 Amy was reappointed to continue as Treasurer but asked the Village to hire a bookkeeper to perform bookkeeping duties. On September 19, 1979 Amy resigned for the second time. The Village still was not ready to let her go and hired her as a financial consultant. From September, 1979 to July, 1980 the Village was without a Treasurer but always had Amy overseeing the Village finances. On July 23, 1980, Amy was once again appointed Treasurer. She remained Treasurer until February 24, 1982 when she resigned for the third time. Altogether Amy was Treasurer for 24 years. She still lives in her home across the street from the Village Hall and always makes herself available for various information.

#### HISTORIC ORDINANCES

On February 15, 1923, Ordinance number 123 was passed by the board of trustees. The ordinance approved the construction of Cedar Avenue and Lake Avenue. The roads were to be constructed of concrete eighteen feet in width

and the ordinance also approved the installation of storm sewers. The project was to be financed by issuing bonds and levying special assessments.

On May 25, 1928, it was approved by the voters to issue negotiable bonds for the construction of the Village Water Works system. A cased well, a pumping unit, a pump house, and an elevated storage tank were to be constructed for a cost of \$12,000.00. This water tower is still being used today in 1991, however, a new tower is to be constructed in the fall of 1991 for \$462,000.00.

In May 1933, it was voted on by the board of trustees that "All laborers working for the Village of Lake Villa hereafter will be paid \$.35 per hour."

On December 5, 1955, an ordinance creating the Plan Commission was adopted. The first members were C. E. McCarthy, Chairman; Russ Nickerson; William Gallagher; Joe Nader Jr.; Don Oilschlager; and Henry Jarvis.

On August 1, 1955, the Zoning Ordinance 279 was passed and a commission was formed. Members of the commission were William Gallagher, Chairman; Don Oilschlager; C. E. McCarthy; Joe Nader Jr.; and Russ Nickerson.

A complete list of Village Trustees appears in the back of this book (see Appendix A). Although many of the Trustees served multiple terms, names appear in chronological order with the earliest term served and are not repeated after that.

*Pat Dewar*

## POPULATION

Population for the Bureau of the Census Library shows an interesting growth pattern for the Village. In 1920, the population was 407, which increased to 487 during the next ten years. The Great Depression years saw a dip in the number of people living in Lake Villa, and by 1940, the figure had fallen to 439. A post war jump took place during the 1940s, and by 1950 the population had nearly doubled to 824. The increase continued, and 1960 saw a population of 903.

Certificates in the Village files register growth at smaller intervals than the Census Bureau's regular decade counts. In 1966, the Village had a population of 1,024, which grew to 1,090 in the next five year (1971). Four years later, in 1975, the number was down by nine, with 1,081 residents in the Village, but by 1981 it had increased again, and stood at 1,462. The population has been growing ever since. In 1984 it was 1,911; 1987s count was 2,395; by 1990, the population reached 2,857.

*Pat Dewar, J. K. Trychta*

## MISS LAKE VILLA AND LITTLE MISS LAKE VILLA CONTEST

The first Miss Lake Villa Contest was held in Lehmann Park at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, in 1980. Trustee Bob Johnston was Master of Ceremonies, and the winner of that contest was Lynn Bell. In 1981, Johnston was again

Master of Ceremonies and Susan Lindquist was chosen Miss Lake Villa. Trustee Tony Dempski emceed the 1982 pageant, which was held during the Lake Villa Rescue Squad Street Dance, and Cheryl Held was the winner. Tanya Agonath won the title of Miss Lake Villa in 1983 at the contest emceed by Trustee Steve Coles, who also emceed the 1984 ontest which saw Bonnie Minkler chosen as Miss Lake Villa. Lorin Buchta was selected Miss Lake Villa in 1985 at the first contest held at the Lake Villa Intermediate School. The Master of Ceremonies was Trustee Peter Dubin.

The Lake Villa Chamber of Commerce and businesses of Lake Villa sponsored the 1986 Miss Lake Villa contest, and Alyce Brownlee was pageant Chairperson; Vince Giorgi served as Pageant Decorator; and James Darland was the Master of Ceremonies. Michelle Coskey was the winner. In 1987, the Pageant included a "Little Miss Lake Villa" contest for the first time. The title was won by Rebecca Soffiatti. This year saw another first. Susan Lapera, who was chosen Miss Lake Villa, was the first Miss Lake Villa to win the Lake County Fair Queen title, and to have an opportunity to enter the Illinois Fair Queen pageant. Lake Villa Pageant Director, Alyce Brownlee, guided Sue Lapera through the Lake County Pageant and subsequent appearances, and accompanied her downstate as Sue's official chaperone. The 1987 contest lists Gus Marchetti as Master of Ceremonies, with Pete Levas handling the introduction of the Judges. The contest was sponsored by the Lake Villa Chamber, and Pageant Director was Alyce Brownlee.

Trustee Frank Loffredo acted as Master of Ceremonies and Dick Matsie introduced the Judges at the 1988 Pageant held at the Intermediate School. The winners were Suzanne Heil, as Little Miss Lake Villa, and Lisa Rigenstrup, who was named Miss Lake Villa. Alyce Brownlee directed the 1988 pageant, and has continued to serve in this capacity to the present day. Trustee Frank Loffredo has also continued as Master of Ceremonies through the current contest. Holli Herbert was chosen as Miss Lake Villa in 1989, while Tia Piagentini won the Little Miss Lake Villa title that year. In 1990, Jodi Grote became Miss Lake Villa, and Little Miss Lake Villa was Katie Gofron, who, according to Alyce Brownlee, was the first Little Miss Lake Villa to participate in the First Annual Little Miss Lake County Fair pageant, held at the County Fairgrounds. The 1991 winners are Hope Miller, as Miss Lake Villa, and Little Miss Lake Villa, Jessica Marro.

*Pat Dewar, Alyce Brownlee*

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Donna Smith Rosenberg, who has worked for the Police Department since October 1973, has assembled information about the history of the Police Department, with the help of Gloria Schneider of the Mayor's office:

Henry (Harry) Miller was appointed as the first Police Magistrate on April 16, 1901, and on the first of July the same year John McMahan subleased the Francis building in the rear of the saloon, for \$20.00 a year, to be used as a prison. In 1902, Police Department minutes show that Village President, William

Barnstable, appointed J. R. Kinglsey as Marshall, at a salary of \$50.00 per month, and, on June 16, the back of W. C. Potter's Blacksmith Shop was used as the prison.

Fred Harm was appointed as Marshall on July 13, 1903; W. J. Murphy was appointed on January 7, 1904; and John Curl was appointed on January 25, 1905. On April 18, 1905, P. M. Sund was appointed Magistrate, and Marshalls were Archie Gibson, appointed on May 15, 1905, and William G. Hucker, named to the position on May 5, 1908.

Records are missing from May, 1908 to December, 1954, but it is known that on March 9, 1925, B. C. Hamlin was hired to perform motorcycle duty from April 1, 1925 to March 31, 1926. His contract called for a monthly salary of \$175.00

Fred Popp Sr. was Police Chief from December 6, 1954 to June 1, 1956, and Mayor Barnstable appointed William Gallagher to organize the auxiliary police on April 2, 1956. The following June 14, Ervin Barnstable was appointed as Chief, a position that he held until the early part of 1958. Joe Torri was appointed Chief on June 2, 1958, and resigned on July 11, 1960. Paul Bocox, who still lives in the Village, was a Captain on the force, and when Torri resigned, Bocox was appointed Acting Chief (July 11, 1960), and then served as Chief from 1961 until 1963. Police officers at this time were John Lynn, Kenneth Barnstable, John "Tiny" Awe, and Ken Stender. Don Collins took over the duty of Chief from 1963 to 1965, when Benny Phillips was appointed Chief for a short period of time.

Gerald Paschke became Chief in 1967, and sought to improve the department by proposing a pay raise for the officers, and by sending them to Police School, which was held in the Village of Round Lake Park. The proposed raise set the hourly rate at \$1.25 for the first six months on the job; \$1.50 per hour after that up to one year; and \$1.75 per hour after officers served one year.

Gerald Hannum was hired as a part-time patrolman on March 22, 1967, and during that year a referendum for money to hire full-time police officers was passed. After monies were received from the referendum, Gerald Hannum became a full-time patrolman, with the rank of Captain. On June 11, 1968 he was appointed Chief of Police, after Gerald Paschke had resigned on May 6, 1968. He served as Chief until February of 1972. The Police Department was located in the basement of the Village Hall at this time, and daytime calls were answered in the office or at Chief Hannum's home. After the Chief was off duty, until midnight when the Lake County Sheriff received and responded to calls, Roger Smith, who lived above the Fire Department answered police and fire calls.

After being flooded out on numerous occasions, the police office was moved upstairs and shared the Village office. State regulations regarding privacy in police matters necessitated establishing a separate office for the Police Department, and in 1980 the Village Hall offices were remodeled to create an office for the Department and another for Village officials. In 1970, the Village signed a contract with the Village of Antioch and the Antioch Police Department,

which resulted in 24-hour dispatching for Lake Villa Police. This contract is still operational to date.

Mae Biebighauser served as Police Matron from November 1, 1970 to July 15, 1971. Jean M. Gurke then took over as Matron on July 19 and filled the position until September 3 of that year. Donna Smith was hired part time in August of 1971 to do clerical work for her mother, Village Clerk Charlotte Wagner, and in September of 1972, Donna was appointed Deputy Village Clerk. Antioch dispatchers did all the clerical work and state reporting for the Police Department until 1973, when Donna was hired part time by the Police Department to type reports. In October of 1973, Donna (Smith) Rosenberg was appointed Matron. Donna left her duties as Deputy Village Clerk in 1981 in order to work full time as the Secretary/Matron for the Police Department, a position she holds to this day.

Allen Trafford was hired as a part-time officer on March 4, 1972, and in October of 1974 he was promoted to Corporal/Juvenile Officer. Corporal Trafford is still employed as one of the four part-time officers in the Village. William Moore was appointed Chief in March of 1972. He left the position in September of 1974, and was hired as Police Chief in Cary, Illinois. William Moore remained in Cary until his death in 1991. Allan Copenharve was named Chief in September of 1974, and held the position until October, 1975. Lake Villa's present Chief, John Debevic, was appointed on November 3, 1975, coming from the Lake County Sheriff's Department.

On February 1, 1976, the Village began providing 24-hour police protection. In addition to Chief Debevic, the police department roster is as follows:

Lt. Joseph Diaguila (started on 1/12/76)  
Sgt. William Sechovec (started on 2/15/80)  
Sgt. Roger Visconti (started on 5/15/80)  
PtIm. Bradley McClellan (started on 10/27/89)  
PtIm. Roger Schroeder (started part time on 1/15/90, and full time on 1/1/91)

Part-time officers include:

Cpl. Allen Trafford (started on 3/25/72)  
PtIm. William Newby (started on May 28, 1988)  
PtIm. LeRoy Kuffell (started on 1/15/90)  
PtIm. Michael Oganezov (started on 1/15/90)

One full-time Secretary/Matron, Donna Smith-Rosenberg, and part-time clerical worker, Lois Hartman (Donna's sister) complete the list of personnel. Gloria Schneider, who also worked for the Department and helped organize the historical data, now works full time in the Village Clerk's office.

Many police officers have been employed by the Village over the years, and those who were employed for over one year have been listed in the back of the book (see Appendix B). The Department apologizes for officers' names it may have unintentionally omitted. The Police Department serves a Village

consisting of 17.75 miles of roads, encompassing 5.8 square miles, with a population of 2,857 according to the census of August, 1989.

*Donna Smith-Rosenberg, Gloria Schneider*

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Gloria Schneider has also assembled information on the Lake Villa Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

The Lake Villa Chamber of Commerce and Industry began in earnest in 1976, after an earlier attempt in 1974 failed to attract the necessary members. In 1976, new officers and board members were elected, with quarterly meetings held at area restaurants.

In 1986, Mayor Joyce Frayer asked retired advertising executive, Vince Giorgi, for help in organizing the 1986 "Miss Lake Villa" contest. Vince helped organize and promote the contest, volunteering his time and energy to the project, as he had helped the Antioch Chamber of Commerce and Industry with many of its functions. At about the same time, the Antioch Chamber of Commerce offered to help Lake Villa reinstate its Chamber of Commerce, and with Antioch's help Lake Villa was reinstated. Neil Garrett became the president in 1986, followed by A. J. "Gus" Marchetti in 1987.

It was decided that the Chamber needed an office to receive calls from people asking about the Lake Villa area, and an office was found in Cedar Village, with residents taking turns as volunteers to work in the office handling calls. It was under this administration that Vince Giorgi started working on ways to promote Lake Villa. One major project was putting together a paper that described past and present life in Lake Villa. In 1987, 5,000 papers were printed and distributed throughout the community, at tollway oases, and mailed to anyone who requested a paper. With Vince's help, the Chamber sponsored dances, parades, antique auto shows, and the "Miss Lake Villa" contest. In 1988 the "Little Miss Lake Villa Contest" was added to the list of activities along with two arts and crafts fairs. In spite of the success of these ventures, business interest dwindled and the Lake Villa Chamber of Commerce and Industry was dissolved in 1988.

Some Lake Villa businesses have joined the active Lindenhurst Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and it is hoped that Lake Villa will one day have another Chamber of Commerce to work at attracting more business to the area and toward promoting community activities and continued improvement and growth.

*Gloria Schneider*

## SCHOOLS

Steering committee member Lynn Johnson, a member of the Lake Villa Community Consolidated School District #41 Board of Education, has worked diligently to bring the history of the Lake Villa Schools up to date. What follows is

the history of schools that first appeared in 1918, compiled by the seventh and eighth graders and written by Edna Wallace, followed by Lynn Johnson's findings:

## **HISTORY OF LAKE VILLA, ILLINOIS LAKE VILLA – 1918 VII THE SCHOOL**

The first school-house (sic) in our district was built opposite the cemetery (Angola Cemetery on Route 83) in 1845 and was called Angola School. Mr. Morris Lampher was the first teacher. The schools at Monaville and in the Cribb district are older than ours, and so probably is also the Sand Lake school. The first school house at Sand Lake was made of mud.

Our first school-house (sic) was a one-room frame building the material for which came from Chicago.

Some of the early teachers were Miss Elizabeth Farnsworth, now Mrs. Doolittle of Mt. Vernon, Washington; Miss Charlotte Miller, a sister of Mr. Henry Miller, who was later Mrs. Matthew Cribb; the Misses Sarah, Ruth and Sophia Dennick; Miss Ellen Warner who became Mrs. Hiram Wright; Henry Sherwood, Solon Fairman and Ransom Gilbert.

Through all the years that the school was located opposite the cemetery, the pond remained, summer and winter, an unfailing source of pleasure to the pupils.

In the earliest days a rowing (sic) band of Indians would occasionally (sic) pass the school and cause some excitement.

Later the game of "ball," the forerunner of our modern baseball enlivened the recess periods, when the teacher, Mr. Henry Sherwood, and Cicero Allen, who had become one of the big boys, would "stand" the school.

The first school house was struck by lightning and burned during a severe thunder storm one afternoon in August 1898.

The second school building was a frame structure with three school rooms, cloak rooms and basement. It was furnace heated and was quite modern, for its time.

This building burned from some unknown cause in the night April 10, 1909. Mr. Felker was principal at that time with Miss Darby in the Intermediate room and Mrs. Felker in the Primary room.

When the question of rebuilding came up it was decided to build nearer the village, so a lot was secured from the Lehman (sic) estate, the location of the present school.

School was held the remainder of that term and the opening of the next year in vacant rooms above the barbar (sic) shop and the hardware store up town.

The new building is a modern two-story and basement structure built of brick – a building of which the district may well be proud. It has four schools (sic) rooms, two on each floor, and a well lighted, well equipped library. The whole building is a pleasant and attractive with-out and within (sic). And no more

beautiful and convenient location could have been found for it than the one which occupies (northwest corner, Rts. 83 and 132).

The school entered this building after the holiday vacation, January 1910 and here it remains industrious and happy.

May the fire fiend spare this building the third one of our schools!

### *1918 School History*

Three new additions were made to the original brick building at Rts. 83 and 132: a gymnasium, which was completed in 1939; an addition of classrooms in 1951; and a third addition of classrooms completed and occupied in December, 1953. The original building was torn down in 1979, and a fourth and final addition was added on to the first three additions in that same year. Originally called Central School, the school was renamed in 1973 and dedicated to Joseph J. Pleviak, who taught at the school from 1954 to 1970, and who was Principal from 1971-1972.

Joseph Pleviak's brother, who had settled in Lake Villa during the War, told Joe that Lake Villa needed to hire approximately 17 teachers. Joe, who was living in Carbondale, Pennsylvania at the time, applied for a position in Lake Villa, and was hired to teach Math and History. He also coached basketball and baseball for many years. In November of 1970 he served as Assistant Administrator to the Superintendent, and was appointed Principal of Central School from 1971-1972. It is said he preferred the classroom to the office desk of administrator. Joe Pleviak is remembered as caring deeply for the children of the district. He and his wife Victoria had 12 children, and Victoria still resides on Cedar Avenue.

B. J. Hooper School was built in Lindenhurst in 1957-58, and, when completed, was named for prominent Lake Villa businessman and long-time school board member, Bert J. Hooper. His daughter, Dorothy Langbein, who still lives in Lake Villa, relates that her father was born in an area north of Antioch and attended college in Janesville, Wisconsin. In 1911, he moved his family to Lake Villa and built a drugstore on the corner of Cedar Avenue at the railroad tracks, across from Lehmann Park. In addition to his position as treasurer of Lake Villa Trust & Savings Bank, he was the pharmacist in the drugstore until his retirement, and firmly believed in community service, serving on the school board for 34 years, and acting as president many of those years. One of his projects involved trying to attract a hospital facility into the Lake Villa area, but his efforts were unsuccessful. He retired from school board service in 1956, and B. J. Hooper school was named and dedicated to him in 1958.

Lake Villa Intermediate School was built in 1968, and has undergone four renovations: the addition of five classrooms in 1977; two classrooms in 1980; 1981 renovation; and five additional classrooms in 1985. All work has been done to the interior of the building, without the aid of referendums. B. J. Hooper school has had three renovations. The first, in 1961, saw the addition of ten classrooms. The second, in 1977, involved renovation of the kitchen and the

addition of five classrooms. A 1987 building addition added 12 classrooms, again, without the aid of a referendum.

By the 1970s the school district was in trouble both financially and educationally. Test scores dropped to the lower 17 percentile. In order to pay bills, 12 non-tenured teachers were not rehired. A new superintendent, Peter J. Palombi, was hired. He was able to get two referendums passed in one year; one for working cash and the other for the educational fund. With the completion of bond payments, these passed and did not raise taxes. But still, drastic measures had to be taken. Music, art, band, PE, and all auxiliary services such as speech were cut from the school district's curriculum. Administration levels were cut as well; the new superintendent also acted as building principal and transportation manager.

The schools have come a long way in nineteen years. Today they are financially and educationally stable, and test scores are higher. Besides offering classes in Music, Art, Band, Chorus, PE, Speech, and Computers, Counseling, Special Education, a Gifted and Talented Program, and accelerated Math and English classes are also available to students. Many other new programs have been implemented as well. There is a new primary reading program, Reading Recovery, Learning Opportunity, which is a class to help children with minor learning problems. The seventh grade offers four core areas of study: fine arts, pure science, natural science, and the Washington core. Other programs are the invention convention and the science fair, and programs are also offered to help students gain self-confidence and increase self-esteem.

On the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of incorporation, the community of Lake Villa can be proud of its schools.

*Lynn Johnson*

## **SCHOOL BAND**

Hal Trychta, who was Band Director from 1968-1972, recalls how legendary the Lake Villa District #41 grade school band was under the direction of the late Thala Rush:

From 1950 to 1966, Thala Rush developed a school band program in Lake Villa that consistently won awards and impressed all who heard it. Mr. Rush had extensive background in double reeds and maintained an organization which included less common instruments normally associated with professional adult groups. The Lake Villa Band under his tutelage was truly the focal point of the community. The present band director, Betty Garrett, began her musical career as one of Mr. Rush's students, as did one of the former band directors, Charles Langbein. The learning arena in the Intermediate School is dedicated to Thala Rush's memory. He passed away on March 18, 1966 and is buried in the Millburn Cemetery.

*Hal Trychta*

Marilyn Ward, Assistant Director of the Lake Villa District Library, prepared this comprehensive history of the Library:

### **LAKE VILLA DISTRICT LIBRARY, 1949-1991**

The idea to form a Library for Lake Villa originated with the Lake Villa Community Men's Club in 1949. In August of that year the Men's Club offered to equip and maintain a public library for residents of the Village at no expense to the Village. They were granted the use of the eastern room of the first floor of the Lake Villa Village Hall for five years. The Club agreed to provide all books as well as heat and janitorial services. The Village Board approved this, according to a resolution signed by C. W. Reinebach, Village Clerk at that time. Volunteers operated the Library until 1953.

In 1952 a special election was held, and the community voted 99 to 26 to form a Township Library. A free library was established under the direction of Lois Kerr, the first Librarian. The Library boasted a variety of services, such as books and reference materials, and had a Board of Directors.

In 1957 the Lake Villa Township Library moved to 177 Cedar Avenue in Lake Villa. It was at that time that the second Librarian, Virginia Belke Welty, was appointed to her post. The third Librarian, Barbara Konitzer, was appointed in October of 1964 and served until the summer of 1984. In 1965, the Library Building Fund was established.

The Township Library joined the Northern Illinois Library System in March, 1967. By 1970 the Library had outgrown its small facility, and it was necessary to add a portable classroom as a temporary arrangement. The classroom housed the adult fiction collection, AV materials, study tables, and the Librarian's office.

In 1973 the Library became a District Library by a vote of 542 to 210. The Lake Villa District Library joined the North Suburban Library System in 1976. As the Library continued to grow, the Library Board expanded its search for a permanent site. From December of 1968 until July 1976 the Library Board considered nine different sites for the new Library. In September, 1976, a bond referendum and tax levy election was held to determine whether the Lindenhurst site could be used. This was defeated.

After the defeat, an alternative site was considered, which is the two acres offered by John Gridley and Oliver Wilton at Deep Lake Road and Grand Avenue. An active Friends of the Library group was formed to help with the passage of the new bond referendum and tax levy election held in September of 1977. With the passage of this referendum and levy the Lake Villa District Library set its sights on a new location.

Ground breaking at the present site was held in May, 1978, and the actual move into the facility was in January, 1980. Prior to the move into the new building, the Library Board contracted with CLSI for the automation of the Library. In April, 1980, the Library started circulating "online." The dedication of the permanent facility was held on May 4, 1980.

Since that time the population of the area has mushroomed and the items held by the Library has grown to over 60,000. With the retirement of Barbara Konitzer in 1984, the Library Board appointed Mary Jane Kepner, who served as Director until 1987. At that time Barbara Elmore, our present Director, was appointed.

When in 1989, the Library Board found that it was not generating sufficient funds to operate within its budget, voters were asked to approve a referendum to increase the tax rate for the operating fund. The initial request was defeated in April, 1989, after which the Library was forced to reduce its open hours by eight and its book budget by half. Fees were necessary for services such as interlibrary loan and reserves. In November 1989, the referendum to increase the tax rate for operating was approved by the voters of the District, and hours were reinstated, and fees eliminated.

The circulation of library materials skyrockets monthly. The highest circulation in the history of the Library was recorded in March, 1991, when a total of 21,338 items were checked out. Patron registrations number of 16,000. The Library circulates CDs and videos, rather than puppets and puzzles as in the olden days. The staff numbers 20, a sizeable increase over the seven who worked when the Library opened in its current facility. Reference Librarians are on the floor during all open hours, and the Library offers sophisticated information retrieval services, such as Infotrac and online searching. A fax machine is available for public use. Interlibrary loan requests are handled speedily through dialup connections to library data bases all over the State.

The Library continues to expand and to make most efficient use of its space. Faced with overcrowded shelves, additional units are being added. Individual cassette racks and record displays have been replaced by wall-mount units to house the AV collection (which no longer includes outmoded LPs). The children's area no longer has a pit, but cozy reading spots for parents and children to enjoy. Public service librarians have moved to workstations on the Library floor to make room in the technical services area of the Library.

The entry way to the building has been attractively redesigned with new sidewalks and landscaping, and the parking lot is expanded and resurfaced. Additional land to the west of the building is now owned by the Library. When an active Friends of the Library proposed a Greenspace Use Plan for the area south of the Library, volunteers and local school children became involved in restoring a natural Illinois prairie and meadow.

The Lake Villa District Library has come a long way since its modest beginnings in 1949. Though the physical plant has expanded and modernized, the Library is still committed to those traditional values that were evident from its inception—friendly, efficient service to the residents of its District.

*Marilyn Ward*

Steering committee member Paul Yurs, Senior Vice President of the First American Bank in Lake Villa, spent some time reminiscing about Lake Villa in the early days with some of the men whose families have been in Lake Villa since

the turn of the century. The experience moved him to write about the visit, in appreciation for the time spent together and the memories so freely shared.

There is an old saying, the exact working of which I have forgotten, but the gist of which says it is surprising how much more one can learn when his ears are open and his mouth is shut. The point was made to me graphically the other day.

I happened to be visiting with a couple of long-time residents (who by the way, remember more and better than I and are able to bring those memories to colorful existence). One moved here with his family in 1906. The other was born on a farm in Lake Villa Township and moved to the village in 1933. Between them over one hundred and seventy years of local history are stored.

Without saying so directly, these fellows had pretty much reached the conclusion that all local history evolved from the lakes. Lake Villa's two earliest industries were hotels and ice. I admit it was difficult for me to picture, but Lake Villa in the early 1900s boasted as many as four hotels and numerous smaller rooming houses. The area then was widely used for recreation and relaxation. During the summer, and particularly on weekends, vacationers from the city were thicker than fleas. Word has it that the population around here nearly doubled during the summer.

While that accounts for the hotels, the ice had nothing to do with cooling summer ades. Armour Meat Packing, among others, vigorously harvested ice from the lakes during the winter months. As soon as the ice was a foot thick crews began to appear. Some locals were hired, and many farmers sent their hired men and teams of horses to generate some winter income.

While there were many memories from this era, two particularly endearing stories stand out. One of these was of the hired hand who punched the packing company foreman in the nose and took his horses home. Seems they had been stuck all day "marking," which is the most dangerous task for the horses during the ice harvesting process. That job was usually rotated among many teams during the course of a day so as not to abuse one team. The other interesting story revolved around how, at ice harvesting time, everyone wanted to be the "switcher." Seems he was the guy who decided, while large blocks of ice were coming at him rapidly, which of the various storage bins to direct each succeeding block toward. Everybody wanted his job because he made thirty cents an hour while everyone else made only twenty-five. Everybody had a story about the littlest guy who could throw the biggest block of ice the farthest.

While the word "lakes" explains the founding of the hotel and ice businesses, the word "transportation" explains the downfall. In the middle to late 1920s transportation had improved dramatically from what it had earlier been. Those who would drive to Lake Villa, stay awhile, and drive home were now able, due to improved autos and highways, to make the round trip in a day's time. It was also easier to refrigerate and transport the ice than it had been earlier. Thus it was that our two main industries were phased out by transportation.

Transportation brings up another subject: the Railroad. It's told that when the railroad was negotiating with the Lehmanns to pass through Lake Villa an agreement was struck that at least one passenger train per day would stop in

Lake Villa. We talked of cattle pens where the VFW now stands, and of the depot which was across the street from where Quality Catering is located. The freight trains of the depression era often carried upwards of a half dozen men: out of work, having nothing, needing to keep on the move. We all had fond memories of the steam locomotives which began going the way of the dinosaur in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The story was told about the local lad who thought he had a full load of water to refresh the next locomotive when what he really had was a gauge so cold it had frozen. When the next train showed up the engineer got hopping mad when told there was no water. Seems the fireman put the engineer in his place by telling him to leave the young stationman alone, that he, the fireman, would take responsibility for the train getting to the next available water. Funny, I always thought the engineer ran the train.

I had directed and controlled the conversation as long as I could. The town fathers, warming to the task, were remembering and talking faster than I could write. I did manage to catch the following bits and pieces which might give your memory a friendly nudge. Remember Barnstable Hall? How about Rentner-Haly Chevrolet? Wald & Sheperson barber, or a Hucker who was a well-driller? How about Dalgaard's grocery (that's for you newcomers)? As close as we could remember Joe Pester ran the first and last blacksmith shop in Lake Villa. He occupied the same spot from the early 1890s to the mid 1950s. "Can't remember exactly how that fella spelled his name. Where was that? They moved that house with horses and steel rollers from how far away?"

The memories are many. Too fast to write. Too important to let slip by.

*Paul Yurs*

As a member of the steering committee, Paul Yurs volunteered to write a history of the bank and local businesses. He sent a letter and a response sheet to 93 businesses as detailed on a list obtained from the mayor's office, and what follows is the result of his research.

## **FIRST AMERICAN BANK**

First American Bank traces its roots over eighty years of the ninety-year anniversary being celebrated by our village. In 1911 the Lake Villa Co-operative Association was formed. The purpose of this organization was to apply for regulatory permission to charter a bank in Lake Villa, and to raise the capital necessary to obtain that approval. Capital stock in the Lake Villa Co-operative Association was sold to investors at ten dollars per share and, eventually, twenty-five thousand dollars in capital was raised.

On September 12, 1912, the Lake Villa Trust and Savings Bank was chartered by the State of Illinois. The bank conducted business in what is now an attorney's office located at 146 Cedar Avenue (next to the entrance to Lehmann Park) in Lake Villa.

In mid-1963 the bank began construction of a new building at 500 East Grand. In April of 1964 regulatory approval for the relocation of the bank was

received. A grand opening celebration was held featuring community participation and many give-away items.

The bank was purchased by its current ownership in 1972. In 1977 the then Lake Villa Trust and Savings Bank applied to bank regulators for a name change. First it was the beginning of the era of multi-bank holding companies, and the name change corresponded with and identified the bank as part of its ownership, First American Bank Corporation. Secondly, there had always been confusion created by the "Trust and Savings" portion of the existing name: The bank did not have trust powers, nor was it part of a savings association as the name suggested. Lastly, bank management foresaw a time when the services provided by the bank would be offered to an area much wider than that depicted by the bank name. On October 5, 1977, bank regulators approved the birth and designation of First American Bank of Lake County.

The day after Labor Day in 1978 First American Bank opened a branch facility in Lindenhurst, being among the first Lake County financial institutions to open what were then termed "branch locations." In 1984 First American Bank offered automated teller machines at its locations, again being among the first in Lake County to do so. In November of 1986 and in March of 1988 First American Bank opened branch locations in Buffalo Grove and Vernon Hills, respectively, bringing the number of full service bank locations to four and the number of automated teller machines to eight.

The visions of those who raised \$25,000 in 1911, and of those who in 1977 changed the organization's name to reflect a wider service area, have resulted in a financial community which now serves Lake County from north to south. The officers and staff of First American Bank salute the Village of Lake Villa on her anniversary, and join with her citizens in celebrating eighty-years of combined history.

### **A BETTER WAY BOOKKEEPING SERVICES**

In March of 1987, owner Susan G. Hendrich began the business out of her home in Lake Villa. In May of 1989 the first employee was hired, and in July of 1989 the business moved to its current location at 101 South Milwaukee. The business provides general accounting and bookkeeping services.

### **ALL STAR REAL ESTATE SERVICES, INC.**

Opened in June of 1990 at 101 South Milwaukee, this locally owned company offers complete real estate services. Its owners, Gloria Hopkins and Janet Kosatka, share forty-one years as Lake County realtors between them.

### **AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE Bill D. Stanley Agency**

American Family Insurance, which has been selling insurance in Lake County since May of 1966 has been located at 111 Cedar since George Zanck opened the offices there in 1971. In May of 1983, Bill Stanley joined the office and succeeded Mr. Zanck who retired in October of 1983. The office members, all of whom as licensed agents, offer a full line of insurance services as well as auto license services.

### **BARRY P. DOWE PHOTOGRAPHY**

Owned and operated out of their home from 1982 to 1988 by Barry and Kathy Dowe, this business specializes in portrait and wedding photography. In 1986 complete dark room facilities were added to the operation. The business has been located at 210 Lake (in the Nielsen Plaza) since 1988.

### **LOUIS A. BLACHER, ATTORNEY AT LAW**

Mr. Blacher has been practicing law at 95 W. Grand (in the Cedarview Plaza) since March of 1980.

### **BRICE INDUSTRIES, INC.**

The business, founded by Walter Brysiewicz, Sr., in 1971 operated in Libertyville until relocating in Lake Villa in 1980. Located at 120 Park under the ownership of John and Walter, Jr., who purchased the business from their father in 1988, the business provides contract manufacturing services.

### **COUNTRY COVERINGS**

Located at 210 Lake, this business is owned by Mary and John Cain. The business dates to May of 1988, and specializes in wallpaper and window treatments.

### **DON FECHTNER'S LAKES AREA ALLSTATE INSURANCE**

Started in February of 1989 this full service insurance agency moved to 431 E. Grand in February of 1990.

### **FARRELL PLUMBING**

Charles Farrell founded this business from the basement of his Lindenhurst home in September of 1977. The business relocated to 112 Cedar three years ago where they now have a complete shop and showroom.

### **FASSBINDER CONSTRUCTION**

Located at 9 W. Grand and owned by Tom Fassbinder this business has been a general contractor of custom homes since 1981.

### **G. NEIL GARRETT, D.D.S., P.C.**

Dr. Garrett has operated his family dentistry practice in Lake Villa since September 1, 1977. The office is located at 605 E. Grand.

### **HICKSGAS – LAKE VILLA, INC.**

Established in Lake Villa in 1956 this business, owned by the Hicks and Coady families, provides propane gas and water softener rentals from their location at 200 E. Grand.

### **LAKE VILLA CHRYSLER, PLYMOUTH, JEEP, EAGLE**

Mike Lesser owns this auto dealership which has been located at 130 Cedar since March 28, 1933.

### **LAKELAND AUTO BODY**

Lakeland began in 1971 with two employees. Located at 75 W. Grand, Lakeland currently employs nine people. The business, owned by James and Barb Ratajczyk, specializes in auto collision repair.

### **LAURA'S FLOWER SHOP**

Owned by Lorraine Gopp and Joan Vitello this retail florist, located at 102 S. Milwaukee, has been located in Lake Villa since June of 1989.

### **THE NEWS-SUN**

The News-Sun opened a distribution center for the communities in the northwest area of Lake County October 24, 1989. The office, located at 200 N. Milwaukee, became the headquarters for the Northwest County edition of the News-Sun when this zoned edition made its debut April 23, 1990.

### **NUTTIES**

This tavern and restaurant, owned by Al and Olga Tomany since January of 1971, is located at 65 W. Grand.

### **R-DOGS**

The Rodiek family opened this hot dog/fast food business in a twelve foot trailer in April of 1980. Since that time, they note among their achievements winning the Lakeland Newspaper's Great Hot Dog contest in 1983 and moving to their full-time, year-round current location at 400 E. Grand.

### **RE/MAX HERITAGE**

Owner Debra Christensen established this business in Gurnee in April of 1988. To accommodate expanding business the Lake Villa office was opened in April of 1989. The office, managed by Gloria Kimmel, is located at 101 S. Milwaukee.

### **RINGA FUNERAL HOME**

Located at 122 S. Milwaukee under the ownership of Robert J. Ringa this business has been located in Lake Villa since April of 1959.

### **SELENAK'S CARPET VILLA**

This floor covering business, owned by Denis Selenak, moved to 300 N. Milwaukee (Crossings Plaza) in July of 1990 after twenty-one years in Waukegan.

### **SHELL KWIK PANTRY**

Country Pantry, Inc., under the ownership of John Caviness and Dick Castro, is the owner and operator of the gas station and convenience store

located at 31 S. Milwaukee. A long time area gas station this location was remodeled in 1978 to provide the area with its first mini-mart. In 1983 the building was again remodeled and enlarged into a convenience store. In 1988 the gas station was converted to Shell brand.

### **STORM-PROOF WINDOW CO.**

Bob Becker opened this business in April of 1953 as a partnership with his brother Bill Becker. After five years Bob became sole owner. The firm relocated from Rt. 83 to 113 Cedar in January of 1991. The business handles sales and installation of windows, doors, and awnings.

### **BRUCE TEIPEL, D.D.S.**

Dr. Teipel opened his office in 1980. This general dentistry practice is located in the Cedarview Plaza at 95 W. Grand.

### **THE TRANSMISSION SHIP, INC.**

The owner, Steve Wilk, relocated this business from Lindenhurst to Lake Villa in August of 1986. The shop, located at 400 E. Grand, was remodeled and enlarged to three bays in February of 1991. As the name suggests this business offers transmission and clutch service on both foreign and domestic cars.

### **UPHOLSTERY BY JOHN**

Owners John and Darlene Hall originated this business in Long Lake in March of 1982. In August of 1982 they relocated on Route 83 north of the Village, and in September of 1985 opened at their current location, 49 E. Grand. This business specializes in auto and boat upholstery.

### **THE VILLA CAR WASH**

This self service car wash and detail shop, located at 213 Lake, is owned by Elizabeth and Joseph Falotico. It has been in business since December of 1984.

### **VONCO PRODUCTS**

The owners, Barbara and Larry Laske, trace their business back to September of 1955. This business produces specially shaped plastic bags and

pouches. The varied products find their way to a variety of users: the medical industry; packaging or covering for many retail and industrial users; and as promotional items. The business moved to its present location at 201 Park in December of 1968. Additions to the building completed in 1987 and 1990 respectively, have enlarged the plant to in excess of 38,000 square feet.

## **CEDAR VILLAGE**

Steering Committee member Barbara Brown, who is the Assistant Manager of Cedar Village, supplied information on the senior housing center located at 310 North Milwaukee. With the help of Manager Sally Leistner, Barbara contributed the following, which is taken from a publication of the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and was written by Don Samuelson, former assistant director at IHDA:

Cedar Village is an 80 unit six-story atrium on a wooded site overlooking Cedar Lake in Lake Villa. The site is central to northwest Lake County with its high percentage of elderly dispersed throughout the small lake communities that characterize the area. The site is walking distance from support services in Lake Villa, and less than a block from a lake front park. Cedar Village is two stoplights and one hour from either downtown Chicago or downtown Milwaukee.

The "atrium" concept (Cedar Village is built around an indoor solarium) was an effort to create a living environment which would be pleasant for seniors, given the frequently adverse weather conditions of the Chicago area. It also permitted the development of the substantial common space in the building to serve area elderly, in addition to the building tenants.

An article in the October 22, 1979 edition of *The News-Sun*, written by Christine Walsh Angelos elaborates on the history of the site and the building's structure:

Construction began in July (1979) on what turned out to be the exact location of another hotel, the Lake City Hotel . . . built in the late 1800's by E. J. Lehmann, founder of the Fair department store in Chicago. (The Lake City hotel) burned to the ground in 1915 (and) Cedar Village is the first structure constructed on the site.

Dimensions of the inside of Cedar Village are "the exact duplicate of the Regency Hyatt House" in Chicago, said developer (Don Samuelson). Apartments . . . line the outside walls with the center of the entire building devoted to . . . a 44-by-66 foot atrium (which has) trees and planter boxes to give residents "an outdoor experience inside." A community room and craft room (are) on the first floor.

Plans for a building devoted to seniors, but incorporated into the community not isolated from it, began (in 1975) when Samuelson was a member of a subcommittee on the City of Chicago Committee on Elderly Housing. Along with architect John Cordwell, Brother Don, a religious general manager of a similar project in Oak Brook, and Bob Rohlwing, an assistant director of the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), the group decided the best way

to show a new idea in senior housing was to build it. In 1978, they convinced the Illinois Housing Development Authority to fund the project in the amount of \$3,500,000.

Persons interested in living in one of the 625-square-foot, one-bedroom apartments must meet eligibility requirements, since Cedar Village was conceived as a housing project and was funded by housing agencies.

## VFW

Barbara Brown also volunteered to research the history of Lake Villa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4308. After numerous interviews, Barbara compiled the following history:

There were many people from Lake Villa who supported and were happy in other area VFWs, but they felt that they would like to have a VFW in their own town to support the many service personnel who called Lake Villa "home." Therefore, on September 19, 1984, the veterans of three major military campaigns met at the Lake Villa Village Hall to elect officers to head the formation of a VFW in Lake Villa. The first Commander was Anthony Sciacero.

Lake Villa VFW Post 4308 Charter held its first meeting in the Village Hall in Lake Villa on November 1, 1954. Historically, VFW Post 4308 and the VFW Auxiliary came into existence on November 27, 1954, in the Lake Villa Grade School gymnasium, as they were installed/instituted. There were 100 veterans on the original charter issued by the National Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

December 1, 1956 was an exciting day for the Lake Villa Post 4308 men and women. This was the first day they were presented the keys to their new building (formerly a woodworking shop owned by Mr. Walter Boss). The VFW worked hard to pay off their building in ten years. A 500 Club was formed to help pay off the mortgage, and bingo games were another source of income to pay the mortgage. A bond program was formed to help with purchasing the construction materials. The volunteers were the backbone of the VFW construction. They gave of their time and talents in order to save the organization money while the VFW was being remodeled.

The Post and Auxiliary members are active in the community, serving on the Rescue Squad, Fire Department, Police Department, and governments of Lake Villa, Lindenhurst, and Lake Villa Township. The VFW Post holds a "Poppy Day" in May of each year, the proceeds of which are put into the Relief Fund of the Post and Auxiliary. This fund is used to purchase canteen books to be used as prizes at the bingo parties that the Post and Auxiliary host for the veterans in North Chicago. The fund is also used to help veterans of the community at various times.

The VFW Post sponsors scout groups in the area, helps churches, runs blood drives, Heart Association heart checks, and Lite-a-Bike and safety programs for the children. Americanism programs in the schools are a priority of the VFW, and members travel to the schools to speak to the students.

Presenting flags to schools and the community organizations is one of the things that gives the VFW the most pride.

The Annual Memorial Day Parade is sponsored by the Lake Villa VFW, in which many community organizations march, and which is attended by members of the community. The deceased veterans of all wars are honored at the memorial services held in Lehmann Park after the parade.

In 1967 "The Sons of the VFW" was formed from the families of the Post and Auxiliary members. They helped the Post and Auxiliary with many projects such as "Books for Vietnam" and were active until 1974. During the period of 1967-1970, the Post and Auxiliary collected, wrapped, and mailed 34,000 paperback books to the military in Vietnam. These servicemen wrote letters to the Post and came to the Post to thank the members for the books. During the time the military forces were in the Persian Gulf for the "Desert Shield" and "Desert Storm" campaigns, the Post and Auxiliary forwarded many items that the men and women needed to be more comfortable.

When 15 women decided they wanted to become members of a VFW Auxiliary in Lake Villa, an application along with \$25.00 fee was sent to the National Department of Ladies Auxiliary. The objectives of an auxiliary are fraternal, patriotic, historical, and educational. To become a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, one has to be a wife, mother, daughter, or sister of an overseas veteran with a campaign medal.

The first president was Frances (Barnstable) Sciacero.

Projects undertaken by the Auxiliary include hospital/relief work, child welfare, Americanism work, supporting the VFW Post in their projects, supporting the "National Home" in Michigan (especially the Illinois building), and helping plan social activities for the VFW. The Auxiliary helps those in need in the community as well as those in its own chapter.

When the Ladies Auxiliary went to the Downey Veterans Hospital, which was located in an old wooden building on Lewis Avenue in North Chicago, they danced and played Bingo and games with the veterans, in addition to bringing them refreshments. One of the projects that helped raise money needed to provide things for the veterans was making quilts to sell. Other money-making projects were card parties, salad bars, dinners, and rummage sales. Money is donated to worthy causes, and Christmas parties are also given for the children in the area.

During the period from 1961-1991, the Auxiliary still visits the Downey VA hospital, which is now located on Route 137. Whereas in earlier times they traveled by bus, members now go by car, and provide the veterans with Bingo and games and refreshments. Dances are no longer held.

The Auxiliary is still very active in money-making activities to fund their projects and to be able to provide help to those in need. They have added a Christmas party at Cedar Village to their list of activities, and continue to provide a holiday party for the children in the community.

The Lake Villa VFW Post 4308 Kadettes was formed in 1958 and was active until 1965. The Kadettes were the younger members of the VFW, and had a drill team that traveled all over the country and won many trophies. Director

Alyce Shea Brownlee adds: "There were approximately 30 young ladies from the Lake Villa area between the ages of 9 and 12 . . . who competed in many competitions and marched in at least a dozen parades a year, and performed for other functions in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan. They also won the VFW State Drill Team Championships during their existence."

Interviewed were Frances (Barnstable) Sciacero, Past Ladies Auxiliary President, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1960, 1961, and 1962; and past Post Commanders Anthony Sciacero, 1954, 1955, 1956, and Charles Reinhart, 1963 and 1964.

*Barbara Brown*

## **ALLENDALE**

Helene Denney, Director of Development and Marketing for Allendale, offers this look at Allendale's past:

Edward Lounsberry Bradley founded Allendale in 1897. It was a pioneering effort to assist children born into families (that) could not sustain them. Bradley began his career as a junior member of the family business, William M. Bradley and Brother, a publisher of maps and atlases in Buffalo, New York.

He loved music more than maps, however, and in 1891 he moved to the Midwest, taking a job as choirmaster of St. Paul's Church in Riverside, Illinois. The position put him into contact with many young people, and he began to spend his summers camping with groups of neglected boys around the lakes near the Wisconsin state line. A serendipitous life's journey led "Cap" Bradley to the shore of Cedar Lake in Lake County where his genius found its full expression.

In the fall of 1895, as cold weather drew on, Bradley found himself with \$25 in his pocket and six boys on his hands who had no homes to go to. He resolved to stand by them, and they all set to work building a shack on the shores of Fox Lake, where they managed to exist until spring. In 1897, Bradley bought 40 acres of farmland and woodland on the western shore of Cedar Lake, and Allendale was born.

For more than three decades, Captain and Mrs. (Maud Menefee) Bradley lived on campus with (their) charges who had lost one or both of their parents, or who had been left to the mercy of the courts. Under Cap and Mrs. Bradley's leadership, Allendale grew steadily in both size and distinction.

By 1901, five cottages had arisen beside the lake; a school gymnasium, library, print shop, and chapel soon followed. The resident youngsters assisted in the construction—an early example of the institution's commitment to promoting the work ethic. Allendale's programs began to earn national recognition. In 1920, for example, Princeton University (Bradley's alma mater) honored Cap Bradley's achievements with an honorary degree. Cap Bradley retired in 1934 and moved to California.

Allendale is named after Mr. Cicero Allen, a friend of Cap Bradley. Allen was the property owner of the original 300 acres. Allendale began serving emotionally disturbed children in 1974, and the Bradley Family Counseling

Center opened in 1982, providing care for more than 200 troubled youngsters and their families. In 1983, the Stepping Stone Day Education program opened, providing an educational program for emotionally disturbed youths referred by school districts from Lake and McHenry counties. Allendale became co-educational in 1985, and in October of 1990 dedicated the brand new Lacy and Laurance Armour Child Adolescent Unit, which is a 20-bed cottage, housing a short term (6 month), highly intensive treatment program.

*Helene Denney*

## **CENTRAL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME**

Fran Hume, Director of Resource Development for the Central Baptist Children's Home, has written a synopsis of the agency's history, including information on the services provided by the Home. Founded in 1895 by the Rev. & Mrs. Scofield, retired Baptist foreign missionaries, the Home has been part of Lake Villa's history since 1948:

Chicago Baptist Orphanage was incorporated as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation in October 1895, in Downers Grove, Illinois. The name was changed to Central Baptist Orphanage in 1899 and then to Central Baptist Children's Home in 1913.

In 1948, Central Baptist Children's Home purchased a 33-acre estate in Lake Villa, Illinois, from Peacock Camp for Crippled Children. The estate had formerly belonged to Augusta Lehmann of the Lehmann family that owned and operated the Fair Department Store in Chicago.

The children were housed on the second floor in the Lehmann Mansion House which was later named "Great House" and is now called the "Grace Hastings Richardson House." In 1951, the elementary school age boys were moved into a former caretaker's house on the campus that was named "Little Boys Cottage." It was later renamed "Hope Cottage" and later housed the central administrative offices for Central Baptist Children's Home. In 1952 a new building, named Ross Stewart Hall, was completed on the campus. The junior high school age boys occupied the south end. In 1953, Friendship House was completed on the campus and occupied by high school age girls. Also in 1958 Memory Hall was completed on the campus and occupied by elementary and junior high school age girls. In 1974, the "Annie Joe Dawson House" was completed on the campus and occupied by children served by the residential treatment service. The Dawson House was later occupied (1987) by the Private Education Resource Center, a day treatment program serving adolescents. Closed in 1984, the building is now used as an on-campus counseling center for groups and individuals.

During the first half century of the Home's history, it was an orphanage program which also arranged for adoptions and a few foster or boarding home placements. During the second quarter of the twentieth century, orphanages became outmoded in the United States. Central Baptist Children's Home, like many other similar child caring agencies, gradually evolved from an orphanage

into a custodial care children's home, then into a residential treatment center, and then into a multi-function child welfare agency offering a broad continuum of alternative community-based services.

This gradual evolution experienced a spurt of growth during the late 1960s and the 1970s in response to a long-range plan developed by the Board of Directors in the late 1960s. During this period of rapid expansion, the Home changed from a two function (residential care and foster family care) facility in one location providing eleven different child welfare services in twenty different geographic locations (Illinois, Wisconsin, and Missouri) to approximately one thousand different children and families each day and as many as three thousand annually. The eleven different services now provided by Central Baptist Children's Home include: foster family care; group foster home care; emergency foster home care; day treatment for adolescents; child abuse services; child and family counseling; after care services; homemaker services; day care; adoption; and crisis intervention services. In 1990 nearly 6,000 different children and families were served by Central Baptist.

Central Baptist Family Services is licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and accredited by the National Council on Accreditation for Families and Children. It is a member of the Child Welfare League of America, the Child Association of Illinois, and is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. The agency is also a member of both the United Way of Lake County and the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago. Program services are offered without regard to religion, race, creed, sex, ethnic, or natural origin. All programs are staffed in accordance with all national and state professional standards.

*Fran Hume*

## **CHURCHES**

Churches in the village include, in order of establishment, the Lake Villa United Methodist Church, Prince of Peach Catholic Church, Calvary Temple Christian Church, and the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints. These organizations have shared the following information about their history:

### **LAKE VILLA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (Formerly Community Methodist Church of Lake Villa)**

The Rock River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church held its first session in Chicago in 1839. The northern half of what is now Lake County was called "Lake Circuit." There were a few church buildings in those days and two or more "Circuit Riders," traveling on horseback, visiting the various communities several times a year, meeting in homes and/or school houses. The headquarters of these first Circuit Riders was probably Little Fort (now Waukegan). Regular weekly meetings were under the care of local "Class Leaders."

On December 16, 1858, the "Parsonage Trustees of Lake Circuit, Rock River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church" bought an acre of land (for \$30.00) on the north shore of Sand Lake. The following year a parsonage was built and housed the Circuit Riders for approximately 25 years, and became a center of religious and social activities for the community. The building is at 20941 Grand Avenue. The first pastor, Rev. John H. Thomas, was appointed in 1864.

On May 15, 1876, at a meeting held in the Angola School house, across the road from Angola Cemetery, a set of trustees was elected and formed "The First Methodist Episcopal Church of the Town of Avon." Mr. L. C. Manzer donated an acre of land on Route 83, about a mile south of Sherwood's Corners (Rts. 83 and 132) and a church building was completed late that Fall. The dedication of "Centennial Church" was held on Thursday, December 14, 1876.

The site proved not to be permanent. The town of Lake Villa came into being, and, in 1892, the building was torn down and rebuilt at the intersection of Cedar Avenue and Route 83. It was many times referred to as the "Church on the Hill."

The two oak chairs in our present church narthex were part of the furniture of the rebuilt building of 1892. A picture of the sanctuary of that building shows the chairs, a gas chandelier, and pews with a divider down the center. The women sat on one side and the men on the other in the early days of the church.

The Ladies Aid Society (name changed to Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) in 1939) was formed on October 5, 1892, and down through the years has been instrumental and responsible for many activities, fund raising and social, that helped to maintain the physical, as well as spiritual needs of the church.

During the area's rapid population growth of the 1950s, two church services each Sunday became necessary to serve the congregation. The Sunday School was meeting in the church and parsonage basements and in classrooms in the grade school. The need for larger facilities became apparent to the congregation and the present site of five acres was purchased in 1956. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held on August 4, 1957, and the new building, erected during the pastorate of Rev. Gerald Robinson, was dedicated on November 23, 1958. The parsonage was built in 1968 on the present church site, during the pastorate of the Rev. Bruce Janes, and the church was remodeled in 1987.

(Celebrating its 125 Anniversary) in 1989, Lake Villa United Methodist Church, pastored by Rev. Richard L. Mayer, is a congregation of a little over 300 members, with a Church School, United Methodist Women's Organization, United Methodist Youth Fellowship, and Adult and Children's Choirs. The church sponsors a Boy Scout Troop and a Cub Pack, with the Girl Scouts and other organizations meeting at the church.

Sunday School for all ages meets at 9:30 a.m. and Worship is at 11:00 a.m., except during the Summer months of June, July, and August, when Sunday School is in recess, and the Worship Services at 9:30 a.m.

*Delbert Sherwood*

## **PRINCE OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Prince of Peace Church, located near the intersection of Rts. 132 and 83 in Lake Villa, Illinois, was organized on June 29, 1955 from territory which had belonged to St. Peter Church in Antioch and St. Gilbert Church in Grayslake. Rev. David J. Lynch, a former assistant at St. John the Baptist Church on W. 50<sup>th</sup> Place in Chicago, was appointed by Samuel Cardinal Stritch to organize the Catholics living in this portion of northwest Lake County. Beginning in July 1955, Father Lynch celebrated Mass in the gymnasium of the Lake Villa public school.

On November 4, 1956, ground was broken for a combination building and Mass was celebrated in the new church quarters for the first time on All Saints Day, November 1, 1957. Prince of Peace school was opened in September 1957 under the direction of the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus. The school consisted of eight classrooms and the initial enrollment numbered 211 children.

On December 29, 1976, Father Lynch was named pastor emeritus and Rev. Richard W. Fassbinder was appointed pastor. Father Fassbinder was familiar with Prince of Peace parish, having served as associate pastor since June 1973.

The membership of Prince of Peace parish has grown steadily, from 620 families in 1971 to 750 families in 1975. By 1978, 925 families belonged to the congregation. Today there are more than 1,500 families belonging to the parish. The new church was completed in 1980.

*Rev. Richard W. Fassbinder*

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Steering committee members Les Hamlin, Joe Nader, and Elmer Sheehan have over one hundred and fifty years of service to the Fire Department among them, and, in addition to sharing the following history of the Fire Department, were invaluable in contributing information about the early days of the Village. Meetings were particularly enjoyable and informative because of their presence.

### **HISTORY OF THE LAKE VILLA FIRE DEPARTMENT**

(Taken from the Fire Department's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book: *Fifty Years: the Lake Villa Fire Department, 1933-1983*, compiled by Helen Stratton Cremin, Janet M. Kapischke, and Larry Klamforth.)

The history of the Lake Villa Fire Department actually began in 1931, when civic minded men, meeting together at the final meeting of the Oscar Sorensen Post No. 703 of the American Legion at Lake Villa discussed the need for a fire department in Lake Villa Township. At this time neighboring fire departments answered calls in the township. It was felt that a department at the

center of the township might be able to save some of the buildings or even put the fires out before they got out of control. It must be noted that this spirit of cooperation between neighboring fire departments for mutual aid is still a very viable part of our present fire protection plan.

These men, then, saw the need and set about to provide for it. They formed the Lake Villa Volunteer Fireman's Association with William Marks as president, Al Kapple as secretary, and D. R. Manzer as treasurer. The charter members of this organization in addition to the above were: John Effinger, Lester Hamlin, Frank Slazes, Barney Barnstable, Herman Wolff, Bill Rhodes, Ben Cribb, H. Peterson, Harry Nickerson, Louis Brickman, Fred Hamlin, John Phillippi, Ed Leonard, William Peterson, Joe Koelstra, Harry Stratton, Carl Miller, Frank Nader, Bill Hook, Bill Weber, Verne Nixon and Charles Bock.

Lake Villa has been served by "generations" of volunteers in the Fire Department. Four generations of the Nader family served: Frank Nader, great-grandfather; Joe, grandfather; Ralph, father; and Mike, son.

Three generations served in each of these families: the Nickersons with Harry Nickerson, grandfather, Russell, father, and Ronald, son; the Effinger family with John, grandfather, Bill, father, and Mike, son; the Barnstables with Irvin, grandfather, Irvin Jr., father, and Kenneth, son; and the Slazes family with Frank, grandfather, Frank Sr., father, and Frank Jr., son. Two generations of the Hamlin family served: Charles and Fred, brothers; and Lester, son of Charles. Other two generation families have also served or are serving the Lake Villa Fire Department: Al Fuller, father, Jim Fuller, son; Fred Teltz, father, Bill Teltz, son; Bernie Schneider, father, Jim Schneider, son; Ralph Mortenson, father, Jim Wetterberg, son; Joe Koelstra, grandfather, Butch Brownlee, grandson; Clifford Bartlett, father, Scott Bartlett, son; Ray McCollum, father, Glenn McCollum, son; and Harold Severson, father, Bill Severson, son.

When Fred Hamlin was elected by his friends as their first fire chief, it seemed only natural that the fire calls be made to his house. For many years Fred and his wife, Mamie would summon the squad by turning on the siren at the Lake Villa Village Hall across the street from their home. After many years of being the only ones to receive and relay fire calls Mamie and Fred and Mary Nickerson, who often assisted them, felt they would like to be relieved of this responsibility. Marie and Lester Bunkelman agreed to accept the position.

The Bunkelmans with the assistance of Rosella and Clifford McCarthy, Enid and Clifford Bartlett, Sue and Roger Smith, and the Robert Kamiens, responded to calls for help at all hours of the day and night. After over twenty years Marie and Lester decided it was time for younger residents to take over the job. The calls were then received by Sue and Roger Smith who were provided with an apartment over the Fire Station. In 1976 the Fire Department became a part of the 911 system.

The first fire truck, a Pirsch, was purchased for \$5300.00 and housed in Morty Cannon's garage (now the Effinger Hardware Building) on Grand Avenue. In 1934 the fire equipment was moved from Cannon's garage to Hucker's old garage on Main Street (Cedar Avenue) in Lake Villa and from there to a section built for it at the newly built village hall in 1934.

In 1940 G. E. Miller obtained a donation of brick to build a new firehouse on Grand Avenue, (and) in October of that year, steel and lumber were purchased and the firemen and other interested members of the community built the fire station at a cost of \$6,000.00. By 1963 the station was no longer adequate, so a new addition was added on the west side of the existing building, and in 1977, and addition was added to the east end of the fire house.

## **RESCUE SQUAD**

Nancy Schoen of the Lake Villa Rescue Squad and member of the steering committee organized the following material in preparation for celebrating the organization's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May, 1991:

In May of 1956 a group of men saw the need for emergency care for their township. The Rescue Squad was organized by the Lake Villa Community Men's Club, and a fund drive was organized under the direction of Winsor Dalgaard. Assisting him were Henry Ploss, Robert Bailey, Martin Lau, Harold Bestrop, Alvin Pegg, Robert McClellan, and Treasurer B. J. Hooper. By May of that year there was enough money to purchase a used panel truck from the Antioch Rescue Squad. This truck was then outfitted to meet the needs of the Lake Villa Rescue Squad, which went to operation on May 30, 1956. The first important piece of equipment received by the volunteer organization was a resuscitator-inhalator donated by the West Miltmore Community Association.

Between March 1, 1956 and May 30, 1956, volunteer members of the Rescue Squad underwent a training program to acquaint them with first aid procedures. An advance first aid course was presented by the Red Cross.

Charter members of the Rescue Squad were Jake Fish, Everett (Tiny) Awe, Gene Barth, Anthony Coia, Ben Cribb, Harold McCord, Donald Oilschlager, Fred Popp Sr., Willard Schneider, and John Schueler.

When the Lake Villa Rescue Squad was founded, it served a township population of 3,048. The population is now more than 20,000. During its first year the Rescue Squad answered 80 calls; in 1990 the Squad answered 906 calls.

Monetary contributions to the Lake Villa Rescue Squad provided the funds for the Squad to buy equipment and replacement equipment through the years, and the Lake Villa Lions Club sponsored the fund raising drives. The Lions Club is an outgrowth of the former Lake Villa Community Men's Club.

In the spring of 1964, the Lake Villa Township Rescue Squad Builders was formed to raise between \$10,000 and \$15,000 for a new Rescue Squad building. At that time the squad's two vehicles were housed in the township garage on Lake Avenue in Lake Villa. Leading the organization was June Eckert as president. She represented the Lake Villa Women's Club which originated the idea of raising money for a new Rescue Squad building. Serving with her were Al Smith, vice president, representing the Prince of Peace Holy Name Society; Eleanor Prather, treasurer, Cedar Lake Park Improvement Association;

Rosemary Holiday, secretary, West Miltmore Women's Club; and Pat Parpan, publicity, Lindenhurst Women's Club.

On May 27, 1966...final papers were signed for (the purchase of) the...lot on Lake Street in Lake Villa, and, with the help of many local businesses and individuals, the new cement block building was constructed. An addition was added to the building in 1975, and by the mid-1980s the Rescue Squad had outgrown its existing station – called “The Barn” by squad members.

At this time the Lake Villa Fire Protection District decided to build a modern facility for the residents of Lake Villa Township, which became the new home for the Lake Villa Rescue Squad on Grand Avenue west of Deep Lake Road.

In the early days, the Rescue Squad used five telephones to summon its members. When a person in need of help phoned the Lake Villa Rescue Squad, the system went instant action. Five phones rang, three in the homes of Squad members, one in the old township hall, which was the Squad's station, and one in the lumber yard about a block away.

If a call came in between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., the secretary at the lumber yard pushed a button that sounded the siren in the water works building (water tower). This alarm could be heard throughout Lake Villa. Squad members dropped their work, reported to the station for their equipment and were at the address within minutes. From 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. calls were received on special phones in the three squad members' homes. At least one of the three were always available to take the calls and push a button that activated the siren.

Today the community accesses the Rescue Squad by calling the emergency 911 phone number. The 911 operator gets pertinent information and “tones” the Rescue Squad. All members carry pagers, and when the pagers go off members report to the station and respond to the call with a crew of Advance Life Support/Paramedics within minutes.

While volunteers still make up the majority of personnel, there are now two full-time paramedics hired to cover 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week, 365 days a year, and another paramedic hired for Monday through Friday who handles the operation of daytime paramedics when a critical call occurs or respond to multiple calls when necessary.

The volunteer members of squad act as back-up for daytime calls, and handle night calls between the hours of 6 p.m. and 5 a.m., and the roster includes 24 Certified Paramedics, 1 Paramedic Student, and three Emergency Medical Technicians. In addition to professional training, the members attend monthly drill meetings, in-service training at hospitals, and take additional advanced courses in areas such as Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Basic Trauma Life Support, and Pediatric Advanced and Trauma Life Support. The members also teach Citizen C.P.R., are on standby at many community events, provide baby sitting classes at local schools, and offer tours of the Public Safety Building and equipment.

The Lake Villa Rescue members give of their time and effort without pay for all of the above, and the squad is always looking for new volunteers. The main goal of the Lake Villa Rescue Squad is to continue to serve the township

with the most professionally trained people with the help of the community, and to continue to uphold its motto which was established years ago: "A Life is Priceless."

*Nancy Schoen*

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

The Sand Lake School Illinois History Class of 1918 consisted on four students: Blanche McCarthy, Hilda Wolff (Pilz), Raymond McCarthy, and Herman Wolff. As part of the centennial celebration of statehood, these students, like those at Angola School, wrote a local history. The following information on stage roads and stages is taken from their book:

### **Stage Roads and Stages**

Two important stage lines crossed the town of Lake Villa in the early days. These both terminated in Waukegan, and one started in Wauconda, running to the county seat, and the other began at Fox Lake and ended in Waukegan. The stage line at that time was the only mode of travel to or from Waukegan in the early days. These stage coaches were drawn by four or six horses and usually started at noon on one day stopping over night at the taverns along the road and arriving at their destination the following day. Mr. Hooper, the father of Mr. Bert Hooper of Lake Villa, was the stage driver on the Fox Lake coach line for a number of years. His coach conveyed passengers, and carried mail. The mail usually arrived in Fox Lake on Saturday afternoon and left on the next Tuesday. A Mr. Allen also drove this stage coach for some time. On the Wauconda to Waukegan line, Mr. Theron Oakes served as driver for a while. In those days, a more welcome sight could not be seen, than the weekly coach arriving. The townfolk crowded around, each one looking for a paper, a letter, or some friend who was to visit them. When the railroads found their way into the county a little later, the stages gave up their business, as mail, freight, and passengers preferred the quiet of a crude train than the excitement of a stage ride. (sic)

### **Railroads**

According to J. J. Halsey in his 1912 *History of Lake County Illinois* (Chicago: Roy S. Bates), the Wisconsin Central Railway Company extended its line from Schlesingerville, Wisconsin through Lake County to Chicago in 1885. The stations north to south included Antioch, Loon Lake, Lake Villa, Cedar Lake, Rollins, Gray's Lake, Rockefeller, Leithton, and Prairie View.

Mayor Joyce Frayer contacted the Wisconsin Central for information on the tracks and depot, and they sent her a copy of the Warranty Deed, dated October 28, 1885, that records the sale of land on either side of the Chicago and Wisconsin Railroad Company for the sum of \$1.00. The company records

indicate that the depot was installed “around February 15, 1990” according to Mark E. Gibson, Assistant Manager of Real Estate for the Wisconsin Central Ltd.

By granting land to the railroad company, E. J. Lehmann ensured that passenger train service to Lake Villa would be one of the line’s high priorities. According to research done by Christine Walsh Angelos, “by the 1920s...as many as 18 passenger trains were arriving \*at Lake Villa) within a 24 hour period.” The depot was closed in 1963, and the building torn down.

## POST OFFICE

It is only too true that beginnings also signify endings. Just as the arrival of the railroad spelled life for Lake Villa and death for the thriving town of Monaville which it bypassed (Fairfield Road between Monaville and Old Monaville Roads) the establishment of a Rural Free Delivery Route in Lake Villa was accomplished at the closing of the Post Office at East Fox Lake (Monaville).

By order of the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General J. L. Bristow, the East-Fox Lake Post Office was discontinued on June 14, 1904, and the Postmaster ordered to turn over all public property belonging to the “Late” Post Office to the new office at Lake Villa. In a letter dated May 13, 1904, J. L. Bristow notified the Postmaster at Lake Villa that the Lake Villa office was authorized to establish Rural Free Delivery beginning on Wednesday, June 15, 1904 – one day after East-Fox Lake was closed. According to the letter, the Postmaster was allowed to hire one carrier for \$600.00 per year, including horse hire. Rural Route No. 1 included 21 stops, and was 24 miles long. It covered 13 square miles, 105 houses, and served 500 people.

Steering committee member Amy Prosis, along with Howard Sherwood, interviewed Lake Villa Postmaster Joe Hucker and former mail carrier, Phil Anderson in January of 1958. With the help of these men, they compiled a list of mail carriers from 1904 to 1956: Ernest T. Shepardson, 1904; Howard Wilton; Willard Best; Phil Anderson, 1921 to 1948; Robert J. McCann, 1922 to 1956; George Sebella, 1948-1951; Henry A. Behrens, 1951-; James L. Armstrong, 1955-; Delbert L. Sherwood, 1956-.

George Grice was the first Postmaster (at Stanwood), succeeded by Henry Thacker who held the position from 1886 to 1891. Lincoln Rowling then occupied the position which he held until 1913, at which time Harriet Miller was appointed. She remained Postmistress until 1922, when Clare D. Sherwood was named to the position. He was Postmaster until February, 1934, and Harriet (Miller) Ballenger took over until September, 1934, when Joseph Hucker was appointed. Joe Hucker served for forty years, except for a brief period during World War II, when his wife, Mildred, filled in for him. When he retired Walter Dickow became Postmaster on February 2, 1974, and has held the position the present day.

*Amy Prosis and Howard Sherwood  
Lake Villa Post Office*

## **TELEPHONE SERVICE**

Illinois Bell Telephone Company supplied the following information on early telephone service in Lake Villa:

The earliest record of telephone service in Lake Villa is found in the General Supervisor's annual report for 1898, which says:

"This popular village is a trading and transportation center having a large territory including many smaller resorts in the lake region west of Waukegan. Upon effecting a satisfactory sale of coupon tickets and contracting with several merchants and hotel keepers for exchange telephones, a new pole line was constructed from Fox Lake eastward to Lake Villa, thence northward to Antioch. The exchange was put in operation in July 13, 1898 in the office of the Hotel Lowry. Three subscribers were transferred from Fox Lake exchange for convenience in construction. An infringing private line between Fox Lake and Lake Villa was purchased for a nominal sum and transferred to our poles. This line is used for intercommunication by subscribers without charge."

By December 31, 1898, there were seven telephones in the exchange, however two years later there were only six. By the end of 1901 there were 24 telephones served by the exchange. The end of 1905 saw a total of 39 telephones served, which included six individual lines, 24 four-party lines, and nine rural lines. During the next ten years, service more than tripled, and by the end of 1915, the total of telephones was 127. Service continued to grow, and 229 telephones were in operation at the end of 1925.

On August 14, 1926, the magneto telephone equipment was moved to new quarters on Cedar Avenue between Los Nocks and Fox Lake Road (Grand Avenue). Although service hit a new high by the end of 1930, with 274 telephones, by the end of 1932 telephones had dropped to 202 as a result of the Depression. On August 12, 1939, Lake Villa was cutover from magneto service to dial, which served 273 telephones. By the end of World War II, there were 438 telephones in service for a population of 478 people.

Early in 1955, Lake Villa telephones received a new exchange name, and after March 2, all telephone numbers started with "Elliot." By the end of that year, there were 1,538 telephones in the exchange, a jump of two and a half times over the figure of ten years previous. By 1958 there were 2,046 telephones served by the Lake Villa exchange, and all rural and four-party service in Lake Villa was converted to one and two-party line service.

*Illinois Bell Telephone Company*

## **MEMORIES**

### **MEMORIES OF LAKE VILLA RESIDENTS**

Amy Prorise, former Village Treasurer and Library Board member, volunteered to assemble family histories and memories of Village residents. She enlisted the help of former Village Clerk Charlotte Wagner, VFW Ladies Auxiliary

member, Dorothy Langbein, and photographer Vince Giorgi, to assist her in conducting interviews of long-time residents. Cedar Village supplied the location for the interviews, and in addition to those held there, Amy interviewed many residents in their homes, over the telephone, and in her home. She composed a three-page family history survey that, with the help of the Mayor's office, was sent to all residents in Lake Villa who had purchased a vehicle sticker. She then compiled the results, in the order in which they were received. What follows is the fruit of Amy's long hours on the telephone, talking to people in person, and spent pouring over history surveys, family genealogies, and newspaper clippings. The families of Lake Villa, and those who come after are forever in her debt.

*Julianne Kloc Trychta, ed.*

*(Note: Any errors that occur, are errors in transcription, and for which the editor apologizes. Any corrections to the data below should be forwarded to the editor, care of the Lake Villa Village Hall. The corrections will be incorporated into the Centennial (2001) edition of the Village history. Ed.)*

**Carl W. Reinbach**, born 8/24/1895, married **Pearl Leonard** 6/15/18 (d. 5/17/74). He was a Lake Villa volunteer fireman. The Reinebachs observed their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in June, 1968. They were married in Lake Villa thirteen days before he entered the U.S. Army in 1918. Upon return to civilian life in 1922, the Reinbachs established a barber shop and a clothing store. Carl served as Village Clerk for 28 years, and the couple had a daughter, **Betty Jane**.

**Mary L. "Mae" Ebeler**, who was born in Lake Villa 3/2/1891, died in Florida in 1974. She married **Joseph A. Eberler** 1/23/15. Her parents were **Kathryn** and **James Leonard**.

**Dorothy Hooper Langbein's** father **B. J. Hooper**, moved his family to Lake Villa in 1911 and built a drugstore on the corner of Cedar Avenue (across from Lehmann Park) in 1912. The park was donated by **Augusta Lehmann**, who had horse shows on the corner of Cedar and Milwaukee (Rt. 83) Avenues. B. J. Hooper and his wife met at the Channel Lake dance, and they were married in Chicago, after which he brought her to Lake Villa, and treated all their friends at the drug store. The family lived above the drugstore (which is now the Lake Villa Restaurant building). Sister **Lorraine Ellis** lives in Belvidere, Illinois. Daughter **Sharon Lienhardt** lives in Antioch, Illinois, with three children: **Chris**, 22; **Jennifer**, 18; and **Jason**, 14. Son **Charles Langbein** (b 1947) lives in Bloomington, Indiana. When B. J. Hooper died, an obituary read: "On May 1, 1971, Bert J. Hooper of 208 Villa Avenue died. He was born June 10, 1886 in Round Lake. He was a 50 year member of the Millburn Masonic Lodge, Treasurer of the proposed Countryside Hospital, Secretary of the Lake Villa Trust & Savings Bank for 37 years, Treasurer and one of the founders of the Lake Villa Rescue Squad, Treasurer of the Village of Lake Villa in early years. He was President of the Lake Villa Grade School Board of Education from 1924 to 1956. The B. J. Hooper Grade School in Lindenhurst was named for him in 1956. He was given a life membership in the Lake Villa P.T.A. Mr. Hooper owned and operated the **Hooper** Drug Store in Lake Villa from 1911 to 1953. He married

**Lillian Tiede** April 12, 1913, who died 10/2/74. Survivors are two daughters, Mrs. **Dorothy (Edward) Langbein** of Lake Villa and Mrs. **Lorriane (Traver) Ellis** of Belvidere. The senior Hoopers celebrated 58 years of marriage at the home of daughter Lorriane in Belvidere.”

**Ervin L. (Barney) Barnstable Sr.**, 78, died May 15, 1982. Born May 2, 1904, Barney was a long-time Fire Chief, and two-term Mayor of Lake Villa. He was born in Lake Villa Township and had been a lifelong resident. He was a charter member of the Lake Villa Fire Department, founded in 1933. He served as Chief from 1936 to 1973. He worked as a general contractor until retirement.

**William Grant Stratton**, born 2/26/14 in Ingleside, Illinois succeeded **Adlai Stevenson** as Governor of Illinois. William Grant was the son of **William J.**, Secretary of State, and was elected Governor 1/12/52 and for a second term in 1956. **John Stratton**, grandfather of William G. and father of William J. operated the horse-drawn bus barn on the east side of Rt. 83 at Cedar Avenue (c.1900). He was the first Supervisor of Lake Villa Township (1913), replaced by his son, **Harry**, who served until his death in 1937.

**Frank W. Cremin** of Rollins Rd. and Rt. 83 was born 2/4/1885 and died 4/3/73. He served on the Lake County Farm Bureau Board for many years, was long-term member of the first Grayslake High School Board, was director of Millburn Insurance Company for 24 years, and was administrator of Avon Centre Cemetery Association for 40 years. He was preceded in death by his wife **Belle** in 1949 and grandson **Dennis Cremin** in 1970. He was survived by **Donald (Dolores)** and **Dorr (Helen)** of Lake Villa, **Ruth (Estie) Varner**, **Cora (Dr. Howard) Fricke**.

**Donald Cremin**, born 8/6/09, married **Dolores Ceasar** (b. 5/20/14) on 5/17/41 in Chicago. She was a registered beautician and Donald was engaged in the plumbing trade. They had two children: **William Michael** (b. 6/20/42) and **Sandra Jean** (b. 4/24/45). On 6/11/66 William married **Claudia Paddon** (b. 4/14/41) at Rockton, Illinois. Their daughter, **Leslie Denis**, was born 9/12/70, and son, **Stephen Marshall Paddon**, was born 10/18/74. William is a Professor at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Claudia is an Administrator in the English Department of the Kalamazoo Public Schools. Sandra married **Ronald Hansen** (b. 6/28/41) at the Lake Villa Methodist Church on 2/1/64. They have three children: **Laura Ann** (b. 4/21/66); **Craig Allen** (b. 6/4/69); and **Dennis William** (b. 7/7/71). Laura was married to **Joseph Jay Moreno** on 11/3/90. Sandra and Ronald live in Florissant where Ron heads his own engineering firm. Sandra provides services to nursing homes. Researchers have found that the family name “Cremin” was first revealed in County Cork in Scotland where they were seated from ancient times. Information comes from genealogical history of the Cremin/Edwards family, 1990, prepared by **Helen Stratton Cremin**.

**William M. Gallagher**, died 5/2/64 at the age of 55. Born 11/22/08, he had worked for the State Police from 1933-42, was first Chief of the Lake Villa Police Department, and first chairman of the Lake Villa Zoning Board. (A variant spelling of Gallagher that exists in the records of the Police Department, is “Galligher.” Ed.)

**James Morgan Curtis**, Antioch High School teacher, **Linda Curtis**, College of Lake County instructor and Botany Consultant, along with their son, **John**, are newcomers to Lake Villa. Linda received information from the Illinois State Museum of Natural History that in 1887 a man named **Gorman** collected a water marigold in Cedar Lake. In 1988, she found this rare plant again after much research, and believes this may be the only population of the water marigold in the state. Along with working on a book about local plants, Linda is active in the Friends of the Library and is Chair of the Greenspace Committee.

The family of **Lester Hamlin** came to Lake Villa about 1890. He remembers, along with many long-time Lake Villa residents, seeing movies upstairs in Barnstable Hall, formerly the Avery Building, now Budget Heating, on Cedar Avenue. The hall had projection booths and seating for many who attended movies and oyster suppers. Lester's father, **Charles H.**, with his uncle **Fred** and **Frank** were in business as Hamlin Sons, General Contractors. Lester remembers the purchase of an Edison phonograph in 1926 and a Locomobile Chain Drive about 1918.

**Rosella and Clifford McCarthy** came to Lake Villa in 1952. Memories are strong of the Fireman's Carnival with fireworks. Clifford worked at Johnson Motors. Their children are **Carol** (b. 1946), **Janet** (b. 1948), **Richard** (b. 1958), and **Diane** (b. 1906). Rosella remembers the purchase of a television set about 1953.

**Edward, Margaret**, and children **Marilyn** and **E. James Gliniecki** came to Lake Villa in 1952. At that time there was no Catholic church in Lake Villa, so they went to St. Peter's in Antioch. Edward was a pharmacist working in Fox Lake for the Cole Pharmacy.

**Nancy and John Allen** remember the carnival and Lake Villa Days along with swimming in Cedar Lake Park. Grandfather, **Royal Stanley**, built a summer cottage on Oakwood Avenue in 1940. He repaired and maintained scales at Lever Brothers in Indiana. Father was a Chicago Policeman, son is a Kinesiotherapist (rehabilitation exercise) at the Veterans' Hospital in North Chicago, and his wife is a cost accountant in Wheeling. The family home was small but they often had eight to ten people there for summer weekends.

**Joe Nader** remembers that he and his wife, **Anna**, came to Lake Villa in March of 1906, dancing, card playing, sledding, and skiing. Joe's father was a carpenter; the rest of the family were scholars. The house that Prince of Peace Church now uses as a Rectory was the Nader home. **Bud** was born 2/11/26, married in 1948 and had three children: **Mike**, **Linda**, and **Debbie**. **Marlene** was born 6/6/31, married **Tony Coia** in 1952, and had five sons: **James**, **John**, **Jerry**, **Joe**, and **Jeffrey**. Joe Nader's family all had household chores to do, and fed chickens, and tended the garden. They purchased a telephone in 1926, a radio and a television in 1954. The family bought an automobile in 1926, a washing machine in 1936, and a microwave oven in 1988. Anna and Joe were married in Lake Villa on 6/30/25, and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at a party hosted by **Joe Nader Jr.** and his wife, and Marlene (Nader) and Tony Coia in Lake Villa. The Coias, who married in 1952, raised five sons in Lake Villa. Entertainments were the Fireman's Carnival, checking the

parade of cars going into Sherwood Park, starting of the VFW and Rescue Squad, fundraising dances, Women's Club fashion shows and luncheons, fishing, swimming, hiking, bike riding, roller skating, ice skating, skiing, snowmobiling, baseball, football, hockey, Monopoly, Checkers, Tripoli, Rummy, Pinochle, Old Main, Hearts, Kings' Corners, track, tennis, and Bingo. The Coia family lived in the same house on Oak Lane for 31 years after adding two bedrooms, bath, family room, and dining room. The Coia children are James A. (b. 7/17/52), a carpenter. His first wife was **Valerie Hansen** (m. 10/27/79), and they had one daughter, **Tiffany** (b. 10/17/80). He and his second wife, **Colleen Grogan**, have two sons: **Bradley James** (b. 5/4/87) and **Brian Anthony** (b. 6/24/90) and live on Deep Lake. John A., a carpenter superintendent, was born 7/13/54, and married **Barbara Sander** on 10/23/77. They have three children: **John Anthony** (b. 6/6/82), **Jospeh Allen** (b. 3/7/84), and **Jonel Ann** (b. 8/30/88), and live in Spring Grove. Jerold Allen, a salesman, married **Becky Von Scalochteran** on 6/20/87. They live in the original family home on Oak Lane, Joseph S., a carpenter, has one daughter, **Brianna** (b. 12/24/79) who lives with her mother in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Joe married his present wife, **Julie**, on 11/26/88. She has one son, **Matthew**, and they have one son, **Mitchell** (b. 6/14/90). Jeffrey Vincent, a telephone installer, married **Donna Skrypnik** on 6/20/89. They have one son, **Jeffrey Gene**, born on 1/12/90. Marlene remembers being raised during the Depression and eating casseroles, wild game, and fish. The two grandmothers were excellent managers, and no one felt hungry, cold or unloved. Besides the grandparents, they were surrounded by aunts and uncles. All Spent holidays together, and now Marlene and Tony have all the relatives for holidays. They believe Lake Villa is a great place to live and raise children.

**Amy S. and E. Roger Prorise** and children **Jim, Rick, Patty**, and **John** moved to Cedar Avenue, Lake Villa, in 1953. **Eleanor Johnson's** Dime Store and Post Office were across Cedar Avenue from the Prorise home, formerly the **Frank Hamlin** home built in 1904. **Hooper's** Drug Store, **Dalgaard's** Grocery Store, and **Effinger's** Hardware Store were down the street, as was **Reinebach's** General Store and Barber Shop, **Reidel's** Feed Store, **Hucker's** Garage, the Lake Villa Bank, and the Old Folk's Home just beyond the Soo Line Railroad tracks. The Methodist Church was at the head of Cedar Avenue on Rt. 21, now Rt. 83. The children worked at Sherwood's parks. Jim (1942-1971) and Rick were lifeguards, Patty did odd jobs, and John was a lifeguard at Sherwood's and taught swimming at Allendale. Rick (b 1945), an attorney, lives in Madison, Wisconsin, with wife **Betty** and six daughters. Patty (b. 1949) is married to **Craig Schumm**, has one daughter, **Casey**, and works in paper products in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Dr John (b. 1952) is a psychologist in Berkeley, California. Roger died 9/29/79. He had retired from Illinois Bell in 1976, and had been on the Antioch High School Board of Education for nine years, and on the Lake Villa Board of Education for three years. Amy served as Village Board Treasurer in the 1960s, and at that time the roster of officers included **Ervin Barnstable** as President, **Neil Reidel** and later **Madeline Sciacero** as Clerk, **Charles Pester**, **Russell Wilson**, **Kaurin Karolius**, **Donald Cremin**, and **Paul Williamson** as

Trustees. She was also a charter member of the Lake Villa Township Women's Club, and member of the Lake Villa Township Library Board. Amy taught English at Grayslake High School until her retirement, and was head of the English Department.

**Eloise and Warren Brown** reside on Wildwood Drive, Lake Villa. Their parents were **Maude and Ora Brown**, railroad man and seamstress, and **Lloyd and Mollie Chorpensing**, attorney and seamstress. Warren O. was Dean of Men, University of Illinois, Chicago, for 27 years. Eloise was a teacher in the Lake Villa school system for 19 years, and at Allendale for six years. Son **Warren H.** (b. 5/28/39), is an engineer at Streeter Amet in Mundelein, and daughter-in-law, **Ruth** is the Secretary at Pleviak School, Lake Villa. Daughter, **Mary Kay** (b. 4/14/43), is an executive secretary at the Harris Bank of Barrington, while son-in-law, **Bud Vandernald**, works at Wicks in Itasca. Warren H.'s sons are **Warren R.** (b. 12/15/63) of Des Moines, Iowa and **Glenn S.** (b. 4/26/66) of Ankeny, Iowa. Mary Kay's son is **Walt** (b. 7/9/71), who is attending the University of Illinois, Urbana. Two greatgrandchildren are **Molly and Emily Brown**, of Des Moines, Iowa. Warren O.'s community activities included: Lake Villa Men's Club; assisted in getting the Library established; served years as President of the Library Board; Post Commander of American Legion Post 1219; member of Building Committee for new United Methodist Church; Secretary-Treasurer of Church Trustees; charter member of Lion's Club of Lake Villa Township; and Chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to determine need for the Intermediate School. The Browns share this memory: "One of the nice things that happened in the early 1950s was the election of **Thala Rush** as band director for School District 41. He added a bit of culture for our school children. He was a tough task master and we had good bands. And the tradition is being carried forward by **Betty Garrett**, a former pupil of Mr. Rush."

**Victoria Pleviak**, of Cedar Avenue, reports that **Joseph Pleviak** came to Lake Villa as a seventh grade teacher in Central School in August of 1954. In 1955 he purchased a home from **Mrs. Dobbie** where his wife and children came to live. **Krater's** had a flourishing drug store; **Dalgaard's** Grocery and **Effinger's** Hardware were on Cedar Avenue at that time. The Pleviak children, all of whom attended grade school in Lake Villa and High School in Antioch, were **Agnes** (b. 1940) who is a nurse in Texas; **Joseph Jr.** (b. 1944), a teacher in Illinois; **Rosa** (b. 1945), a teacher in Wisconsin; **Walter** (b. 1947), a school principal in Illinois; **Marlene** (b/ 1040), a teacher in Wisconsin; **Denis** (b. 1951) is an M.D. in Wisconsin; **Marianne** (b. 1954), a music director in Virginia; **Nora** (b. 1955), who is a nurse in Illinois; **Frank** (b. 1957), a truck driver in Illinois; **Vickie** (b. 1960), a nurse in North Carolina; and **Eileen** (b. 1968), who is a homemaker in Illinois.

**Delbert Sherwood**, son of **Lee and Beatrice Sherwood**, was related to **Catherine** and Raymond (Ramie) Sherwood, Sarah and Henry Dennick (m. 1/1/1857 in Kenosha, Wisconsin), and to **Stephen Sherwood**. His family moved to the Lake Villa area in about 1850. Delbert's father worked as a carpenter and at the railroad station. Delbert was married to **Shirley** who died 10/23/74. She taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Lake Villa for 19 years and taught music in her home for 25 years. Surviving are sons **David** and **Lt. J. G. Roger**. She was preceded in

death by youngest son **Stephen** at age 18 in 1969. Delbert then married **Melba Streib** in 1977. Delbert has pictures of the home of Stephen Sherwood, built in 1850, at what was then called **Sherwood's** Corner (Rts. 83 and 132), and another of **James Kerr's** plumbing shop on Cedar Avenue. (Kerr was father of **Helen Weber Connell** and the grandfather of **Duke Weber**, a former Mayor of Lake Villa.) **Henry Sherwood's** home was built at 31 East Grand Avenue, in 1892, and remodeled by Delbert in 1945. Delbert has a wealth of old photographs and other historical items, including a receipt from Pioneer Carriage Factory dated 1869 showing that Henry Sherwood bought a set of "Bobbs," (bobsleds) for \$40.00. Another receipt from Montgomery Ward in Chicago shows the purchase of a chamber bedroom set in solid oak for \$20.80, two chairs in antique finish at \$3.50 and \$7.30, two rockers in solid oak priced at \$2.10 and \$2.75 plus a few smaller items, all for the remarkable price of \$37.97. Delbert also has papers showing the establishment of the Post Office called Angola at Sand Lake on 2/23/1847. The name was changed to Sand Lake on 5/4/1863.

**Ed Gelden**, who was 89 years old in January, 1991, and whose wife died only a few years ago, lives on North Deep Lake Road. His son, **Richard**, and two grandchildren live in Bristol, Wisconsin. Ed tells of a pipe line by the railroad track which confused some people but really furnished water for the steam engines in the old days. Ed tells of the early years when the northern area of Lake Villa was owned by the **Lehmans**, the eastern area by the **Peacocks**, and the southern portion was owned by the **Sherwoods** and the **Wiltons**. He tells about a resort area run by **Ben Hamlin** which was located near the current homes owned by **Granton, Dickout, French, and Oaks**. Ed remembers the very large ice house operating from Deep Lake to the **Consumers'** Ice Company in Chicago. At the ice house were gigantic steam engines to life ice, which had been cut into 22" squares, out of the lake. The wheel was 14' high and operated by ropes on a pulley with big steam engines. About 50 to 60 workers came from Chicago to operate the ice business. They slept near the lake and worked long hours. The ice was shipped by railroad in box cars to Chicago. The street named "Gelden Road" was named for Ed's father **William**, in 1885. He tells of the **Nielsens**, related to the **Atwells**, who farmed a large farm. All were related to the **Sheehans**. As far as the incorporation of the Village, Ed tells of a meeting in **Frank Hamlin's** home, where several of the area's leaders were voting on the issue, and they came up with a tie vote. Frank Hamlin came to William Gelden's home and asked him to break the tie. The Gelden vote broke the tie and passed the motion to form the Village of Lake Villa.

**Henry and Theresa Ploss** lived in Lindenhurst in 1950 before Henry died in 1958 and Theresa was placed in a nursing home in Florida. **Douglas and Mary-Jeanne Ploss** then moved to West Gratton Avenue in 1967. Henry and Theresa's children are **Douglas** (62) of Deep Lake; **James** (60) of Florida; **Thomas** (58) of Florida; and **Mary** (48) of Florida. Douglas and Mary-Jeanne's children are **Amy James** of Grass Lake; **Jeannette Weise** of Corona, California; **Peter** of Grayslake; and **John** of Antioch.

**Joyce and Alan Frayer**, with son, **Charlie**, moved to Lake Villa in 1969. Joyce Frayer has been an officer and Mayor of the Village for several years.

They fondly remember quiet streets, mature oaks, **Dalgaard's** Foods, **Effinger's** Hardware, The United Methodist Church, Prince of Peace, Firemen's Days, the Memorial Day parade, and fireworks in Lehmann Park. Alan Frayer has been a member of several active committees on the Lake Villa School Board, and works for Commonwealth Edison. Children are **Charlie** (b. 1968); **Margaret** (b. 1970); and **John** (b. 1973). Charlie works for **Bingham**, Margaret is a secretary for **Rosing, Applehans** in Waukegan, and John is still in school.

**Julie (Julianne Kloc) and Hal (Harold A.) Trychta** of Oak Lane moved to Lake Villa in 1968, when Hal was hired as Lake Villa School District 41 Band Director. Their daughters **Margaret** (b. 2/26/66) and **Libby (Elizabeth)** (b. 6/16/68) enjoyed being able to walk to school, the library, **Dalgaard's** Grocery, **Effinger's** Hardware, **Krater's** Pharmacy, the Variety Store (next to the Post Office), **Kim Kalla's** Dance Studio, and **Lehmann** Park. Memorial Day parades were especially memorable, with Hal leading the Band and Margaret marching with Girl Scouts and Libby marching with the Campfire Girls or **Alyce Brownlee's** Baton Twirlers. In 1976 Julie was employed by the Lake Villa District Library where she worked until 1988. It was during that time, at the request of Head Librarian **Barbara Konitzer**, that she edited a book on Lake Villa History, a book that is dedicated to Barbara Konitzer for Barbara's 28 years of service as Librarian to the people of Lake Villa. Memories of the Library include Wednesday night discussion group headed by **Susan Taliafero Wisinski**, and made up of Library Board member **Dennis Wisinski, Rhoda (Millsop) McMurtray, Virginia and Ed Morrisseau, Florence and Bob Martin, Larry Bock, Rick Esser**, and Julie Trychta, during the early 1970s. The group discussed both selected topics and books such as Hermann Hesse's *Steppenwolf*, *Demian*, and *Magister Ludi*; *Them* by Joyce Carol Oates; *Thomas Mann's Dr. Faustus*; and *Kurt Vonnegut's Cat's Cradle*. **Tanya Millsop** also attended the group at this time. In 1972 Lake Villa School eliminated its band program, and Hal went to North Chicago District 64 as an instrumental music instructor, and then to Gavin District 37, Ingleside, in the same capacity. He was Chairman of the Fine Arts Department of the Round Lake Schools until two years ago, and now teaches fourth grade at Beach School. He was an active member of the Lake Villa Rescue Squad for ten years (1969-1979) during which time he was also Secretary of the organization. He has degrees in Music Education (BS DePaul University) and School Administration (MS Northern Illinois University) and in addition to playing in a band on weekends, enjoys fishing. Julie is working on a Doctorate at the Graduate Theological Foundation, is a member of the Prince of Peace parish Choir, and has degrees in Art (BA Carthage College) and Religious Studies (MA Mundelein College). She works part time as a Cataloguer at the Highland Park Public Library, and the rest of the time volunteers as an art teacher in Round Lake and is working on a mystery novel set in Chicago and the Chain of Lakes area. Margaret (BA Marquette University, 1988) who is engaged to **Jeffrey Patronik** and planning a May, 1992 wedding, works as the Marketing Manager for **Meekus-Johnson, Inc.**, Industrial Design & Architecture, in Chicago, and shares an apartment in Evanston with sister Libby (BA Northwestern University, 1990) who works for **Rand McNally**, in Skokie.

**Pam and Harry Pavel** moved to Lake Villa from Evanston in 1945 with their two daughters, **Linda** and **Pat**. They moved into the telephone company house on Cedar Avenue. **Leanne** was born in 1949, and **Barbara** was born in 1954. Harry worked for Commonwealth Edison, and was Treasurer of the Lake Villa Fire Department and on the Lake Villa School Board for many years. Daughter **pat Dewar** is Village Clerk, and granddaughter **Lori Heitman** is Village Treasurer. **Pat and Terry Dewar** now own and live in the family home on Cedar Avenue. Pam speaks of their good fortune in being able to get together each Christmas and Mother's Day for the picnic of the year. There are 35 members of the family. When the family moved here in 1945, neighbors to the north were **Martha and Charles Madsen** and **Gert and Zens Zenor** to the south. Continuing further to the south were **Mamie Hamlin** and **Betty and Neil Reidel** (former Village Clerk) with their two daughters. Dolores and Don Cremin purchased and still live in the white house across the street (next to the Village Hall). The Cremins had rented the house the Pavels bought and were not able to move for three weeks. Therefore, the Pavels parked their furniture in the house until the Cremins could move, and camped out at Cedar Lake until they could move in. Pam belonged to the Halcyon Club, which made money by giving plays, fashion shows, and card parties, and donated to many charities. In 1954 the Pavels opened a riding stable named "Ridgeview" on the **Stratton** property on Rt. 59. They moved to the Stratton homestead across the road from the stable in 1955. Pam says their daughter Linda (b. 4/2/42) married **Charles (Fibber) Hucker** on 9/10/60. They had three children. Their daughter **Lori** married **Glen Heitman** on 5/5/83, and their daughter **Debbie** married **John Andrews** on 9/17/83. **Pat** married **Terry (Midge) Dewar** on 10/14/61. Their son **Terry** married **Janet Bakula** on 6/30/84. Son **Jeff**, who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, married **Karen Farr** on 5/4/91. **Cindy** (b. 6/23/72) teaches dance and attends the College of Lake County. Pam and Harry's daughter **Leanne** married a Chicago man in 1970 and recently married **Robert Setler**. She has two children, and daughter **Barbara** married **Frank Mieszanek** and has three children. After the family moved to the larger Stratton house on Rt. 59, Harry's sister, her husband, and one child, and two cousins lived with them at various times. **Pat** worked at the family riding stable, and also as a checkout girl at **Dalgaard's** Grocery Store, as an H&R Block Accountant, and is now Village Clerk. Husband **Terry** is a sheet metal worker.

**Mrs. Leota Johannes** of Oak Lane remembers that early in the 1950s there were two Sherwood Park, run by **Emma Williamson**, and the other run by the **Dalgaards** on Grand Avenue. Food was served at **Dunlap** Tavern on Cedar Avenue. There was also a dime store on Cedar Avenue, a bakery, and a Pizza Parlor. During those days, the **Greyhound** Bus stopped in Lake Villa and there was a train to Chicago.

**Joseph and Jeanne (Cribb) Mack** are longtime Lake Villa residents although Joseph came here from Chicago. Jeanne's father, **John Kerr Cribb Sr.**, was born on the Cribb farm across from Cedar Lake. Her mother, **Mabel Hamlin**, was born in Hainesville but moved to Lake Villa when she was a small child. Grandfather, **Ben Hamlin**, built his home and the Cribb home next door

where Joseph and Jeanne now live, on Rt. 83. John K. Sr. and Mabel were married in Mabel's home. Their attendants were **Frank Hamlin**, brother of the bride, and **Gertrude Miller**. They were married in February of 1904. Father, John K. Cribb Sr., was born on the north side of Cedar Lake, attended Cribb School, Waukegan High school, and Rockford Business College. He operated Cribb farm until moving to the present Cribb home in 1913 where Jeanne has long lived. Her father entered the plumbing business and later served as Mayor of the Village (1933-1937). He was in office when the Village Hall was built. He also served as Township Supervisor, and passed away in 1945 while still serving. John K. Cribb Sr. was the son of **Jay Reynolds** and **Ina Kerr Cribb**. His wife, Mabel, died in 1931. They had four sons and one daughter: **Benjamin Jay**, a carpenter who was born in the Lake Villa area and married **Bea Olson**; **Harold** of Waukegan, who owned Cribb Fine Foods, married **Gretchen Lerche** (both are deceased), and had four children: bachelor son **Frank Hamlin Cribb**, who was an invalid with polio as an infant, died in 1984; **John Kerr Jr.**, a plumber who worked with **Zens Zenor**, and then started his own business (d. 1978); and **Jeanne Cribb** who married **Joseph Mack**, and who has two children, **Ron Mack** and **Gail Banks Maynard**. Ron lives in Grand Junction, Colorado, operates a trophy and T-shirt business, and is married to **Barbara Woods**, a Colorado native. They have two children: **Kristen**, who works in Sports Medicine; and **Darin** who is college age. Gail is an artist with the News Sun, and lives in Lake Villa, and has three children: **Jennifer Banks**, who is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and works in advertising; **Jill Banks**, who is a hairdresser; and **Melissa Banks**, who will attend the University of Illinois. Jeanne Cribb Mack has lived with her father and two brothers for as long as they lived, and with her own family.

**Ben and Beatrice (Olson) Cribb** were married 6/19/37. Ben was born in the Lake Villa area and Bea came from Chicago, spending summers with her mother and grandmother, **Bertha Swanson**, on Deep Lake. **B. Jay** (b. 5/13/39) lives in Waukegan and works for **Kraft**, Inc. His children are **Kevin**, a student at Illinois State University, and **Beth**, who attends the College of Lake County. **Nancy Cribb Tesch** (b. 3/10/43) lives in Houston, Texas. Her children are **Valerie**, a student at the University of Texas, and **Kimberly**, who attends high school. Ben was a carpenter who helped build the Masonic Temple in Millburn in 1955. Ben was a charter member of the Lake Villa Rescue Squad, and a member of the Lake Villa Fire Department. He worked on the new bank on Grand Avenue and has helped with the Big Brothers Men's Club. Ben recalls that just before the cornerstone was placed in position in the Millburn Masonic Temple in 1955, a box containing histories of the 100 year old lodge and the order of the Easter Star together with lists of officials and members was inserted in the cavity in the stone, for keeping as long as the building will last. In charge of the ceremony, and wearing a top hat, was **Milton T. Sonntag** of Plainfield, who became the Most Wonderful Master of the State of Illinois. Many men from the Lake Villa area were involved in the building of the temple, along with Ben. He also lists some of the Men's Club members who were instrumental in forming the Lake Villa Library in the Village Hall: **George Von Osyen**, **Kenneth Hart**,

**Bert Hooper, Jack Perry, Vern Blust, George Nedoli, Edward Langbein, and George Seballos.** Ben and Bea tell of the 1935 snowstorm that buried Lake Villa for three weeks. Bea Cribb worked at the old bank on Cedar Avenue and at the new one on Grand Avenue after 1955.

**Bertha M. Fish** was born in Holland and came to the United States in 1900. She moved to Lake Villa in 1906, and died on 3/14/76, at the age of 91. Her children were **Jake, Howard, and Evelyn (Donald) Coen.** Jake Fish and his wife Helen (d. 10/11/89) were married in 1936 and moved to Lake Villa in the 1940s. Their son **James,** lives with his son and daughter in Colorado Springs. Jake worked for **Augusta Lehmann,** first as a Groundskeeper and then as a Houseman. He was born on a farm two-and-one-half miles south of Lake Villa on Rt. 83, and went to high school in Gurnee. He remembers the **McClure Bakery** in the **Lester Hamlin Building.** Jake worked for 30 years at Fansteel, Inc., in Waukegan.

**William G. Hucker** (b. 1875) came to Lake Villa with his parents from England, in 1883. His parents were **Sara and George Hucker,** and he had five sisters. When they first came to Lake Villa, they stayed with the **Ames** family in the home on the southeast corner of Fairfield Road and Grand Avenue, now owned by **Sharon and Dennis Dewar.** George Hucker farmed on the **Lehmann** property off Rt. 59 where he lived with his family. William G. worked and lived in the original German-American Home which was owned by **Mr. Hess.** William married **Elsie \_\_\_\_\_,** from Chicago, in 1902. Their only child, **Earl O. Hucker,** was born 8/1/03 in a house on Grand Avenue across from the school (Pleviak School). In 1925 William G. and Earl started a well drilling business. On 9/3/27 Earl married **Evelyn Johannes** from Chicago. In 1928, Earl and Evelyn opened Hucker's Garage, which was later named Hucker and Sons when their sons, **William T.** (b. 1932), and **Charles E.** (b. 1939) joined them in the business. William T. and Charles continued the business as Hucker Sales & Service until 1988. William T. married **Ruth,** of Antioch, in 1960 and lives in Lake Villa Township. They have two sons, **William Jr.** and Kevin (**Julie**), and one granddaughter. Charles married **Linda Pavel,** of Lake Villa in 1960, and lives in Lake Villa Township. They have two daughters, **Lori (Glen) Heitman** and **Debra (John) Andrews,** and one son, **Thomas L.,** and four grandchildren, all of Lake Villa. Earl O. served as Mayor of the Village from 1941 – 1949.

**Donald and Rosella Oilschlager** were married on 6/6/36. Rosella's parents were **Henry and Edna Koelstra** who came from Holland in 1909. Rosella's uncle, **Joe Koelstra,** who was born in Holland, came in 1914. Joe's daughters **Tess, Grace, and Alice,** were active in the area settled by Dutch families between Grayslake and Lake Villa. Joe was a fireman and a carpenter. Henry was a cabinet maker at Allendale. Henry and Edna had three children: **Margaret** (b. 1910) who married **Herman Wolff;** **Rosella** (b. 1914) who married **Donald Oilschlager;** and **Louis.** The Oilschlager children are **Shirley,** who married **Russ Christian,** Avon Township Supervisor; **Jim,** married to **Pat,** teaches at Libertyville High School and the College of Lake County; **Bob,** who is married to **Barb;** and **Edward,** who works for Clintec. Don Oilschlager came from Wisconsin where he worked in the papermills. He was a meat cutter at

**Dalgaard's** Grocery Store on Grand Avenue, across from **Effinger's** Hardware, and then worked at Sunset Foods in Highland Park. Rosella taught school in Lake Villa for many years while **Helen Fish** cared for the Oilschlager children.

As reported by and **Mark Kay Giebelhaus** and **Bob Jarvis, Henry (Hank)** Jarvis came to Lake Villa around 1920, boarding first at **Martha Dolby's** on Cedar Avenue. He worked at **Weber** Duck Farm and was single for 12 years before marrying **Rose Bruch**. The couple lived in Hattie **Ballenger's** duplex on Grand Avenue, and while there, **Bill** was a baby, and **Mary Kay** and **John** were born. **Robert** was born in 1953 and **Barbara** in 1956, when the family moved to a house on Grand Avenue. The family attended free movies shown on the wall of the bank, Lake Villa Days, band and solo contests and concerts at the school, and enjoyed fishing, swimming, ice skating, playing baseball, Tag, Hopscotch, Hide-and-peek, Kick the Can, May I, Button Button, and Bunco. All read books at the Library in the Village Hall on Cedar Avenue. When Hank first came to Lake Villa, he worked at the **Weber** Duck Farm for 40 years. He also worked for the Railroad Department, the Post Office, and at Sherwood Park. He played with the Bone Crushers along with **Herman Wolff** and **Falch**. Hank did trapping and was in the Lake Villa Athletic Club. He played baseball, indoor 16" ball, basketball, pool, and cards. Later he became the Captain of the Fire Department. **Bill** (b. 10/16/41) married **Judy Daley**, and, with stepchildren Alan and Patty, is living in South Carolina as a biologist with the Forest Service. **Mary Kay** (b. 1/17/44) married **Ronald Giebelhaus**. They have two sons, **Michael** and **Christopher**, and live in Antioch. Mary Kay is a Registered Nurse, working as an Occupational Health Nurse at Searle. **John** (b. 10/12/48) married **Patti Jo Gould**, has one son, **Garith Charles**, and lives in Grayslake. **John** works for the Illinois Department of Transportation. **Robert** (b. 7/5/53), with **Diana Bird**, lives at 84 East Grand Avenue and works for **Berger** Excavating. **Barbara** (b. 5/10/56) married **James Reasland**, has two children, **Katie Rose** and **Josef Henry**, lives in Round Lake and has her own cleaning business. In 1983, Bob and Diana started a tradition of having the big family and many friends to a backyard picnic the Saturday of Lake Villa days. Many chickens and a few turkeys are cooked on revolving spits and everyone brings a dish and goes back and forth for a fine time at the carnival.

**Fred Teltz** relates that his father, **Fred Teltz**, emigrated from Germany in 1923. His folks lived in Chicago, but he lived with Uncle **Louie Ruchesky**. He also lived with **Chuck Pester** for a time, in a small house on Burnett Avenue. He worked at the **Peacock** Farm, tending the horses, as did Grandpa **Petersen**. Fred's mother and dad met when Grandpa Petersen brought Fred's father home for supper and to drink homemade wine. Fred's mother and father were married in 1928 in the Millburn Church. **Margaret Denman**, the mother of **Margaret Denman DeYoung**, was a witness to their marriage. Fred and **Eleanor** had five children, and Fred was the oldest. In Fred's words: "When I was 16 I moved to Lake Villa and lived first with Uncle Bill and Uncle Hank Petersen in a house next to **John Meyer**, father of **Charlotte Wagner**. I worked for various Lake Villa people until I became the first man in Lake Villa to be drafted for the Korean War. I served From December, 1950, to December, 1952. After I was discharged from

the Army, I lived with **Hank** and **Alma Reidel** at the **Weber** Duck Farm. I met my wife **Elaine Umbdenstock**, through them, as Alma was Elaine's aunt. We were married in September of 1953 at the Diamond Lake Methodist Church. We built our house on McKinley Avenue in 1955. We had three children, a girl and two boys. I worked for the Lake County Highway Department for 35 years, and Elaine worked for the College of Lake County for 20 years. I was on the Lake Villa Township for several years, and a member of the Lake Villa Fire Department for 29 years. (Our) daughter, **Tracy Kiederlen**, lives in Antioch, son, **William**, (a volunteer fireman for 15 years) lives on Burnett Avenue, and son, Fred Jr., is deceased."

**Russell J. Dewar** (b. 9/3/18) married Hazel **A. Lambert** (b. 1/27/16) on 7/25/38. Russell was a school teacher from Westfield, Wisconsin, and Hazel was from Grand Marsh, Wisconsin. They moved to Antioch around 1939 and then to Lake Villa on the corner of Rt. 83 and Grand Avenue, where the Shell Station is now. They built their present house on Villa Avenue in 1953. They owned a lot (now 209 Villa Avenue) and had a huge garden there. Russell worked for the **Weber** Duck Farm from 1940 to 1962. Duck pickers were **Gordon Martin, Norm Durling, Bob Tanner, Leonard Armstrong, Hank Jarvis, Fred Nielsen**, and Russell. They received \$.07 per duck. When the duck farm closed, Russell went to work for Sears, Roebuck, and Co. in Waukegan, and worked for Sears until he retired in 1971. The Dewars had seven children: **Russell Jr.** (b. 1938; d 1945); **Larry** (b 1/30/40); **Dennis** (b 6/7/41); **Terry** (b. 8/15/42); **Roger** (b. 8/9/45); **Gerald** (b. 6/19/47); and **Gloria** (b. 2/28/50). Larry married **Carole Conrad** from Lake Villa on 1/5/63 and resides in Lake Villa. Dennis married **Sharon Wienke** from Ingleside on 3/23/63 and lives in Lake Villa. Terry married **Pat Wood** from Lake Villa and lives in Lake Villa. Roger married **Lucille Lenard** from Round Lake on 12/26/68 and lives in Ingleside. Gerald married **Joan Bunkelman** from Lake Villa and resides in Lake Villa. Gloria married **Gary Schneider** from Lake Villa and resides in Lake Villa. There are 16 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren who reside in several communities including Lake Villa; Round Lake; Antioch; Charleston, North Carolina; Burlington, Wisconsin; Whitewater, Wisconsin; San Ramon, California; Bloomington, Minnesota; and Houston, Texas. Family gatherings included holiday get togethers and many picnics. Croquet and horseshoes were big events, as were movies shown in Lehmann Park, Lake Villa Days, and street dances.

**Betty Reidel** and her husband **Neil M. Reidel** (d. 11/17/66) came to Lake Villa in 1940. They lived at **Cora Hamlin's** home on Cedar Avenue before they moved to Grand Avenue, next door to **Charlotte and Fritz Wagner**. Betty remembers many entertainments such as the Fireman's Carnival, free movies on Saturday nights in summer shown on the side of the bank building in Lehmann Park, and shown in winter at the Lake Villa Grade School. In the yard in the evenings children played Hide and Seek, Kick the Can, Red Rover, and Red Light-Green Light. Family members held jobs at **Petersen's** Grocer, **Dalgaard's** Grocery, **Hooper's** Drug Store, **Bolander** Construction, **Williamson's** Grocery, **Sherwood** Park, **Outboard Marine**, **Nielsen** Enterprises, **Snow White Grill**, and

Reidel Feed Sales and Trucking. Neil hauled ducks to Chicago for the Weber Duck Farm. Neil and Betty's children are: **Donna Reidel Nielsen** (b. 11/26/38) married on 11/29/58 to **Ted Nielsen**; and **Cheryl Reidel Reijonen** (b. 10/23/46) married to **Gary Reijonen**. Donna and Ted's children are **Christie Nielsen Dykstra**, age 28, who is a graduate of Drake University, and works at Nielsen Distributing Inc.; and **Jeff**, age 22, who graduated in May, 1991, from Drake University. Cheryl and Gary's son, **Michael Neil**, is a 23 year old college graduate who lives with his wife in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and owns his own business. Their daughter, **Jill Renee**, age 21, is married, works as a legal secretary, and lives in Lindenhurst. Ted Nielsen managed Hicks Gas for 27 years and has owned Nielsen Enterprises, Inc. for 20 years. Gary Reijonen is owner of Reijonen Truck Repair. Family members have held political offices for three generations: Neil Reidel was the Village Clerk from 12/5/55 to 10/15/62, retiring because of ill health; Ted Nielsen (son-in-law) served as Village Trustee for eight years, and Mayor from 1973-1977; and **David Dykstra** (grandson-in-law) is presently serving a second term as Village Trustee. Neil was also a member of the Lake Villa Fire Department for 23 years. Betty remembers that in the 1950s there were a number of children living on or near Cedar Avenue who gathered in the early evening to play games or roller skate. They were called "The Cedar Avenue Angels." The "Angels" often had parties in the **Prosise** basement.

**Ada and John Effinger** were both born in 1899. John died in 1963. They moved to Lake Villa in 1921 and lived above **Taylor and Guthrie's** Market run by **Charlie Peterson**. John worked at the grocery store until 1927 when he opened a hardware store next door to **Reinebach's** (where the window is now stamped with "American Family Insurance"). Ada and John's sons were **John** (b. 1921) and **William** (b. 1925). They moved to Cedar Avenue in 1925, where Ada, who is now 92 years "young," lives in perfect health. Son William took over the hardware business when his father died, and he moved across the street to where the plumbing company is now located. In 1966 the store moved to its present location at 122 Grand Avenue. William married **Carol Waters**, of Antioch, on 7/13/46, when he was a butcher for Charlie Peterson. They also worked in the hardware store when Bill's parents went on vacation. Bill and Carol started permanent work in the store in 1959 and retired in 1991. Bill and Carol's son **James** was born on 6/13/47, graduated from Cornell College in Iowa, married **Rose Frank**, and teaches in Naperville. Their daughters are **Erin** (b. 8.25.70) and **Kory** (b. 10/17/72). Bill and Carol's second son, **William**, was born on 1/18/50, went to college in Colorado, married **Tina Wells**, and lives in Lake Villa. He is an inspector for Lake County and Lake Villa. Daughters are **Kelli** (b. 8/31/77) and **Bess** (b. 3/12/78). Bill and Carol's third son, **Michael**, was born on 3/10/54, and married **Deb Alexander**, mother of **Sarah** (b. 12/7/82) and **Katie** (b. 5/1/87). Michael and his family live in Lake Villa, and he is now the owner of **Effinger Hardware** and is Captain of the Lake Villa Fire Department. Bill and Carol's first auto was purchased from **Art Haley** in 1946. Their first TV was an eight-inch Motorola, purchased in 1949. Bill joined the Marines on 11/10/43 and

served in Okinawa, Guadalcanal, and Peking, until discharged in 1946. Carol's father, **James Waters**, served in the army overseas.

**Marie and Lester Bunkelman** moved to Lake Villa in 1942 from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Marie was born on 8/24/10 and Lester was born on 3/31/08, both in Fond du Lac. They met in their teen years and were married in Waukegan on 1/9/32 by the Justice of the Peace. Lester was a milkman for the **Beatrice** Food Company. After his retirement, he worked for the Lake Villa School District and the Lake Villa Library. He was also a social member of the Lake Villa Fire Department. His hobbies were fishing and going to car races. He was also an avid reader of the "Old Farmer's Almanac." Marie was a homemaker, and for a few years worked in a restaurant and a variety store. She was also a Brownie and Girl Scout leader. Her hobbies were sewing and crafts, and she always remembered family members and friends with handmade gifts at holiday times and throughout the year. For 20 years the Bunkelmans answered fire calls for the Lake Villa Fire Department. They had four children; one son and three daughters: **Robert** (b. 4/9/33) who was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; **Janet** (b. 9/14/34) who was also born in Fond du Lac; **Carol** who was born in Fond du Lac on 3/14/39; and **Joan** who was born in Waukegan on 1/22/44. Robert married **Sharon Gray**, of Antioch, on 6 /22/57. The couple lives in Lindenhurst and has four children and two grandchildren. Janet married **Robert Jansky**, of Venetian Village, on 8/20/60. They live in Lindenhurst and have three children and four grandchildren. Carol married **Nick Miller**, of Chicago, on 8/30/58. They live in Petite Lake and have three children and four grandchildren. Joan married **Gerald Dewar**, of Lake Villa, on 4/16/66. they live in Lake Villa and have two children. The Bunkelmans lived at 120 Cedar Avenue. It was a small apartment with 2 bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, dining room, and bathroom. All the rooms were small, and they lived there for six years. They moved to 103 Cedar Avenue, which was a much bigger apartment across the street. It had three big bedrooms, kitchen, dining room, bathroom, and a huge living room. They lived there until 1978 when they moved to Deep Lake. Lester passed away on 12/24/84 and Marie passed away on 7/1/88. Through the years as the children got married they moved away from home to their own homes or apartments. They attend the Lake Villa Community Methodist Church. All the children and grandchildren went to Lake Villa schools and to Antioch High School. Two of the grandchildren went to college: one to Northern Illinois University, and the other to the College of Lake County in Grayslake. One grandchild now serves in the United States Army.

**Philip "Fritz" Wagner** came to Lake Villa from Ivanhoe in 1932. His future wife, **Charlotte Meyer**, was brought to Lake Villa at the age of five months by her parents **John Jacob Meyer and Ella Alice**. The family moved from Sheldon, Iowa to Lake Villa in 1917. Charlotte and Phillip, who met while ice skating on **Jansen's** pond across from Angola Cemetery, enjoyed Christmas programs at church and school, baseball, Hopscotch, jacks, jump rope, and roller and ice skating. They were married at St. Gilbert's Rectory in Grayslake with an afternoon ceremony by Methodist minister, the **Rev. Mr. DeSelms**, in the home of Charlotte's parents. Phillip was a farmer at first, and then worked at **Johns**

**Manville.** Charlotte was the secretary to Grant Township Supervisor, **Frank Stanton**, and then clerk and Village Clerk. After marriage, they lived above the hardware store on Cedar Avenue, and then eventually moved to Grand Avenue where they still live. Their son is **Phillip** (b. 11/23/37) who lives with his wife **Nancy** and family in Beach Park. Phillip works for Johns Manville, and the couple has three children: **Ty**, age 28, who is a teacher; **Tara**, age 22, who is a homemaker, living in Zion, and **Keri Norton**, age 13, who attends Junior High School. Daughter **Lois Hartman** (b. 2/6/41) lives in Salem, Wisconsin with her husband **Roy**. She works for Antioch Sheet Metal, a business owned by her husband. Their children are **Sandra Mateer**, age 29, who is a shipping clerk at Gander Mountain; **Michael**, age 26, who lives in Silver Lake, Wisconsin, and works in the Purchasing Department at Kemper Insurance in Long Grove; and **Brian**, age 22, who works in Central Coding at Kemper, and lives in South Carolina. Phillip and Charlotte's daughter **Donna Smith-Rosenberg** (b. 7/20/44) is secretary for the Police Department in Lake Villa. Her husband, **LeRoy**, works for the Great Lakes Public Works as the Trouble Desk clerk. Donna's girls are **Dawn Revel**, age 25, of Bristol, Wisconsin, who works in Special Risks at Kemper Insurance in Long Grove, and **Robin**, age 22, who is Business Systems Assistant at Kemper. Son **Robert P.** (9/25/47) lives in Wilmot and works as an installer for Illinois Bell while his son, Jason, age 19, is in the United States Marine Corps, stationed in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Their daughter, **Joy**, age 17, is a student at Wilmot High School, and works at the bank in Twin Lakes. Their sons **Rainey**, age 13, and **Keith**, age 11, attend school in Wilmot. Charlotte and Phillip ("Fritz") have three great-grandchildren: **Kenneth Mateer**, age 5, son of **Sandra**, and Lois' grandchild; **Matthew Revell**, age 2, **Donna's** grandson, and **Dawn Smith Revell's** son; and **Nicholas**, age 2, son of **Tara** and grandson of **Phil**.

**Mary and Peter Zelkovich Sr.** came to Lake Villa in 1961 with their children **Peter Jr.**, **Therese**, **Mary Helen**, and **John**. John and Therese are school teachers; Mary Helen is a homemaker; and Peter Jr. is an investigator. The children also worked in their parent's business: **Pete and Mary's** Liquors, on Grand Avenue west of the railroad tracks. Born in Croatia, Yugoslavia, Mary can speak Polish, Bohemian, and German, as well as Croatian and English. Immigrating to the United States at the age of 18, she met her future husband, and in 1934 they opened their first bar and restaurant on the south side of Chicago. Peter Sr. died in 1978.

**Enid Karolius Bartlett's** grandparents, **Thomas and Katherine Rhoades**, moved to Lake Villa in 1917. Their daughter, **Ruth**, married **Kaurin Karolius** in 1929. The Karolius children were **Dallas and Enid**. Enid's father, Kaurin, was a Trustee of the Village of Lake Villa. Her grandfather, **Tom Rhoades**, started the Ice and Coal Business on Grand Avenue, in 1924 or 1925. He also built what is now the **Jarvis** home on Grand Avenue, in back of **Avery's** garages. Kaurin and Ruth's home was on Rt. 83, two houses south of the intersection. Daughter Dallas married **Otto Beager** on 3/17/50 and lives in Minnesota. They have three children: **Laird**, **Randall**, and **Laurel**. Daughter Enid married **Clifford Barlett** on 7/23/54, who was also a Trustee of the Village

of Lake Villa. Their children are **Suzanne**, who married Rick **Dinardi** on 10/2/75, and **Derek** and **Nathan**; and **Sandra**, who is married to Representative **Robert Churchill**, lives in Lake Villa. Their children are **Abigail**, **Julia**, and **Christine**. Enid's son, **Scott**, is single and lives in Lake Villa. Memories of **Peterson's Grocery**, **Avery Plumbing**, the **Hucker** Garage, **Madsen's** Well-Drilling, **Steve's** Barber Shop, the Beauty Shop, **Rhoades** Ice House, **Oldstone** Tavern, **Dryer** Tavern, Gas Station, **Art Haley's** Garage, **Jacob's** Tavern, **Brickman** and then **Williamson's (Emma and Paul) Grocery across from Sherwood Park**. Across the bridge on Rt. 83 was a Lounge and there was a gas station on the corner of Petite Lake Road and Rt. 83. **Newman's** Grocery and Bar was at 53 South Milwaukee, and there was another small tavern on the first block south of the intersection of Rts. 83 and 132.

**Tom Barnstable** reports that during the late 1800s, the Barnstable family came from the area of Sommersetshire, England. The earliest settlers lived around Fairfield and Monaville Roads. **Ervin Barnstable Sr.** was a founding member and Chief of the Lake Villa Fire Department for 37 years. He was a carpenter, Fire Chief, and the Mayor of Lake Villa from 1953-1961. His son, **Ervin Barnstable Jr.**, served on the Fire Department for 25 years and was an auto mechanic and tollway supervisor. He owned a gas station where the Prime Time is now located. Third generation, **Thomas**, is a current member of the Fire Department. Born on 6/9/51 he is married to **Sharon Siekierski**. Thomas works as Director of the Gateway Foundation Adolescent Program, while Sharon is employed by Kemper Insurance. Their daughter, **Andrea** (b. 2/15/85), attends school at B.J. Hooper School. Stepdaughter, **Theresa Nikol** (b. 10/3/76), attends Antioch High School. **James E. Barnstable (b. 6/12/47) is married to Pat**, and they reside in Ingleside.

The **Van Gemerts, Cornelius, Rose, Neal, Chris, Jude**, and **Robert**, came to the Lake Villa area in October, 1977. Their reason for moving was to find a better area in which to raise a family. One son went to the Lake Villa Intermediate School, and all the children graduated from Antioch High School. Cornelius has been a member of the Choir at Prince of Peace Parish for the past 14 years, and his wife, Rose, has worked for the Lake Villa School District since 1977. Cornelius feels the family has had a wonderful life in Lake Villa and recalls that when they first moved here, Grand Avenue was a two-lane highway, and when Cedar Lake Park closed on Labor Day, the town looked deserted. Cornelius works for the Illinois Bell Telephone Company, and is grateful for the good life Lake Villa and Lindenhurst have afforded him and his family.

**Roberta and Jerome Ouper** moved to Lake Villa in 1978. Raised in the city, they particularly enjoyed the country atmosphere in Lake County, but the crowded conditions near Hawthorne Center made them decide to move to quiet peaceful Lake Villa. They bought the **Bennecke** home on Oak Lane and have been remodeling ever since. Their two sons, Andy and Jeffrey, have been reared in Lake Villa. Everything has grown and improved, according to the Oupers, even their pride in the Lake Villa perennial garden. Roberta says Lake Villa is the kind of place where the Village Clerk (then **Charlotte Wagner**) calls when you move in to tell you where to pay your bills. It's the kind of place where

your neighbor brings you a dish for dinner on the day you come home with a new baby, and where the worst pest in the neighborhood is a marauding raccoon. Leave Lake Villa, no. Her only hope is that the city doesn't expand too close to Lake Villa.

**Catherine and Raymond Sherwood** opened Sherwood Park in 1924. The park started out as a campground, and was later purchased by **Edith and Clare Sherwood**, their son and daughter-in-law, who ran it as a park and began renting boats. It was purchased by **Dorothy and Don Sherwood** from Clare and Edith, and remained open until the 1991 season.

In 1961 **Joe Sulak** wrote a newspaper article describing Lake Villa as the "busiest town for miles around." He interviewed **Clare Sherwood** who remembered that, in the early days, trains on the Soo Line would stop six or seven times a day to discharge and pick up passengers.

Mr. Sherwood remembered that **Ernst Lehmann** began buying land around 1885 (1883 according to Lehmann family accounts). By 1900 there was the **Lehmann** Hotel, a bowling alley, a store on the corner of Cedar Avenue and Rt. 83 (then called Rt. 21) in the Village. Across the street was a horse-drawn bus barn operated by Lehmann and **John Stratton**, grandfather of the ex-governor of Illinois.

Connecting the Lehmann Hotel (Lake City Hotel/Lake Villa Hotel) with a dock that was built onto Cedar Lake was a double tunnel underpass beneath the Soo Line railroad tracks. A paddle-wheel boat would tie up at the dock and load passengers for a trip around Cedar Lake. In the middle of the lake, on an island (tiny, now) was located a circular club house which served as a gambling casino and bar.

Mr. Sherwood mentioned that the busiest place of all was the bus barn where there were at least 40 horse-drawn bus carriages. These buses would pick up passengers at the Soo Line depot in the Village and take them for rides around the Chain-of-Lakes or to Fox Lake which had no train service at the time.

The most popular driver of the era was a woman called **Mazie Debel**. She drove her team of horses very fast.

Also at the turn of the century there was a huge ice house which gave the Village its most prominent industry. Special trains from Chicago would stop in Lake Villa two to four times a day to load up ice for the city. Lake Villa was truly the "busiest town for miles around."

*Amy Prorise*

## **PREDICTIONS**

### **For the Village of Lake Villa's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2001**

I PREDICT...

... that there will be a few more Naders in this town. (My Grandkids.)

*Mike Nader*

...that Lake Villa will grow more than I would like to see, but we will still have a great town.

*Fred Teltz*

...that our "small town" atmosphere will be gone. The Library will grow. Our Fire and Rescue Squads will be busier and probably have few of the volunteers who made them great. Lake Villa will still be one of the best places in Lake County to live in, however.

*Elaine Teltz*

...(Lake Villa will experience) growth and prosperity tempered with forethought.

*Chris Williams*

...that once again we will have Railroad passenger service.

*Elmer Sheehan*

...that Lake Villa will get a Dairy Queen on Rt. 83 and Grand Avenue.

*Terry Stachera*

...that the Village will be antiquated to become similar to Long Grove.

*Enid E. Bartlett*

... that the population will triple and a High School and two Elementary Schools will be built.

*C. Van Gemert*

...that Lake Villa will double. A major amusement park will be built.

*Ray Bittner*

...(Lake Villa will have a) new High School and a Grammar School.

*Alexandra Everist*

...that the stores on Cedar Avenue will be renovated to include clothing stores and Lake Villa's own Drug Store.

*Barb Mitchell and Sharon Barnstable*

...that Lake Villa will have a significant corporation providing income.

*Tom Barnstable*

...that the Village will have increased commercial business to strengthen the tax base to alleviate the burden of the taxpayers.

*Sharon Barnstable*

...that Lake Villa will keep going (and remain) a friendly city.

*Frances A. Sciacero*

...that people of my age will be sitting around discussing the past and anticipating the future, sharing our memories and celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lake Villa.

*Paandrea L. Odle*

...that Cedar Avenue will still be very unique. WE will need a bigger Post Office. We will have a new Village Hall. We will have a new Police Station and Joyce Frayer will still be Mayor and driving a New Yorker.

*Jancy Odle*

...that the population will be 12,000. Grand Avenue will be four lanes, and Rte 83 will be this far north. The Southwest corner of Rte. 83 and Grand will be a strip mall.

*Carol Urubek*

## **APPENDIX A**

Village of Lake Villa Trustees, in chronological order (duplicate names omitted):

H. J. Nelson	George A. Mitchell	Russell Brumfield	Robert L. Schenk
R. Sherwood	E. L. Wald	Paul Williamson	Joyce F. Frayer
Wm. Barnstable	Herman Meyers/Meier	Anthony Sciacero	Nancy L. Schoen
C. B. Hamlin	R. Wendland	Elmer Sheehan	Bob Johnston
F. T. Hamlin	Albert Kapple	Russell Wilson	Jim Smith
James Kerr	Frank Fowler	Charles Pester	Tony Dempski
Frank Hucker	G. P. Manzer	Don Cremin	Peter J. Dubin
Wm. M. Bradley	C. B. Dicks Jr.	Melvin Harms	Jack Rollinger
Eugene Wilton	Charles Madsen	John Stiles	Steve Coles
M. S. Miller	J. K. Cribb	James Fish	John C. Anderson
James Atwel	H. L. Miller	Charles Madsen	Frank Loffredo
L. W. Rowling	B. J. Hooper	Ted L. Nielsen	Rob Jenkins
C. B. Dicks	Gus Swanson	Ken Blumenschein	Kenneth Lipski
F. M. Hamlin	C. H. Stratton	Don Curtis	Holland B. Johnson
H. Potter	L. G. Brickman	John Meyers	William Smolarchuk
Chas. J. Jarvis	Howard Wilton	Ron Schillinger	David Dykstra
F. Nadr	John Walker	Cliff Bartlett	Robert Raukohl
Carl Miller	Zens W. Zenor	Gordon Chase Millsop	
George Walker	Fred Bartlett	Edward B. Norwick	
Wm. Sheehan	Arthur Simpson	John Janosko	
Paul Avery	Frank Slazes	Warren Sheehan	
L. C. Barthel	Lester Hamlin	Howard L. Schneider	
D. R. Manzer	Grant E. Miller	Don Collins	
R. E. Hussey	Kaurin Karolius	Herbert DeRue	
Henry Koelstra	Delbert Sherwood	Gordon Blumenschein Jr.	

*(Compiled by Pat Dewar, Village Clerk)*

## **APPENDIX B**

Police officers employed by the Village of Lake Villa for over one year:

Don Cremin	Honorary Police Officer
John Marshall	Full time: 3/ 1968 to 10/21/71; Part time: 10/21/71 to 12/22/73
Robert Rendo	7/ 1969 to 12/31/70
Terry Donovan	Part time: 9/5/69 to 7/31/71
Jerry Pankauskas	10/1/70 to 1/1/73
Roger Smith	10/1/70 to 12/1/71
Robert Evans	9/20/71 to 6/12/73
Raymond Engel, Sgt.	Full time: 1/6/72 to 12/18/75
Robert Learmont	Part time: 3/ 1973 to April, 1978
William Bachochin	Part time: 7/ 1973 to 2/ 1983
Robert Kohler	Part time: 2/1/76 to 7/15/82
Darwin Airola	Full time: 2/1/76 to 7/15/82
John Kleffner	Part time: 5/1/76 to 4/1/78; Full time: 4/1/78 to 12/5/80
Richard Good	Full time: 5/30/78 to 4/15/80
James Carter	Full time: 9/8/81 to 4/30/91
John Nikopoulos	Part time: 8/15/85 to 9/19/86; Full time: 9/19/86 to 1/1/89

*(Compiled by Donna Smith-Rosenberg, Lake Villa Police Department)*

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## ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Hicksgas  
 Lake-Cook Farm Supply  
 Lake Villa Fire Department  
 Melody TV  
 The New Sun  
 Quality Catering

R-Dogs  
Ringa Funeral Home  
The Transmission Shop  
Trius Inc.  
U.S. Cable of Lake County