



Designing A Memorable “Tale of the Tombstones”

Each October since 1992, Historical Society volunteers have brought history to life in Forest Home Cemetery with the annual *Tale of the Tombstones* walking tour. On Sunday, October 16, the tradition continues. This year’s theme is *Designing Community*. We’ll explore some of the myriad ways that people have created a sense of community within Oak Park and River Forest from the first European settlers who purchased land from the federal government here in the 1830s to the volatile years of change in the 1960s and ‘70s.

The *Designing Community* theme might at first suggest a focus on leaders who held elective office or perhaps an architect or city planner. But the people featured in this year’s walk run the gamut from a pioneer settler to a hippie doctor who fought for human rights.

Docents will explain the history of the cemetery and point out interesting monuments and the graves of significant figures in our villages’ history as they lead tour groups through six stops where costumed actors will portray and share stories of the person buried there.

Featured on this year’s walk are: Betty Kettlestrings who, with her husband Joseph, came here from Yorkshire, England, and were the first European settlers in Oak Park; Flora Gill, a business woman who operated a successful millinery business in the 1880s; Architect and village planner William Drummond of River Forest in conversation with River Forest attorney Felix Griffin; Landscape architect Gustaf Lindberg who designed many of our local parks; Architect Charles White who implemented a zoning law that still shapes Oak Park; and Oak Parker Lenin “Doc” Pellegrino, a doctor, a crusader for social justice and civil rights, and a counter-cultural music lover who founded the famous Kingston Mines blues club in Chicago.

Our 31st annual Cemetery Walk starts inside the main gates of Forest Home Cemetery, 836 Des Plaines Avenue in Forest Park. Tours will depart in ten-minute intervals from 12 to 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 for Museum members or \$20 for non-members. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Please visit our website at oprfmuseum.org or call us at (708) 848-6755. Members must call the Museum to get the special members-only ticket price.

The *Tales of the Tombstones* tour will take approximately 90 minutes. Much of the tour will be off paved roads across uneven cemetery ground that may not be suitable for those with significant mobility issues.

Advanced registration is required, and those who have not registered in advance may be turned away. In case of inclement weather, the rain date will be the following Sunday, October 23. A new t-shirt commemorating the walk is being developed and will be available for purchase on the day of the walk.



(Clockwise from top) Lee Conte, a cemetery walk mainstay, will be appearing as Flora Gill this year; Former Historical Society President June Atkinson Silvers portrayed Betty Kettlestrings in 2001, the last time this character appeared; The Cemetery Walk has been entertaining crowds like this for thirty years.

OPRF Museum Bolstered by the Generous Financial Support of Philander Barclay Society Members

Since its earliest days as an organization more than 50 years ago, Philander Barclay has been the “patron saint” of The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest.

That’s a big statement coming from a secular organization, but it resonates because of Barclay’s unique legacy as the “Bicycling Photographer” who created a collection of photographs, hand-written and typed recollections, maps, oral histories, and related material about the people and stories that comprise early history in our sister villages and which were always at the core of our ever-expanding collection.

Barclay was a virtual one-man Historical Society in the first third of the twentieth century after coming to Oak Park as a child in the 1890s, taking and collecting more than 1,000 photos, befriending old-timers, and documenting stories with meticulous notes. In a letter to the future before his death in 1940, the bicycle shop owner gifted these materials to the Historical Society, knowing of their significance, even before our current Historical Society was created in 1968.

And thanks to a group of generous donors, Barclay’s legacy is being extended to another generation in the twenty-first century by many who appreciate that our rich shared history needs to be collectively preserved and made accessible in perpetuity.

In fall 2019, the Historical Society created the Philander Barclay Society to recognize all donors of \$1,000 or more in a single year. That inaugural group recognized many who had made contributions to open the new OPRF Museum in 2017. We are grateful that some of those inaugural donors and many others have continued to step forward to ensure ongoing operating support of our not-for-profit organization, sustained by philanthropy and not funded by local tax dollars.

While the Historical Society’s annual financial needs have been met by donors of all levels—a tradition that will continue—those able to give at a higher level play a unique role in the impact that these larger dollars can make.

“Preserving history is like a relay race,” said Jan Novak Dressel, Chair of the Barclay Society. “Barclay passed on his baton first to the generation of folks who formed the society. Those founders soon dreamed of creating a permanent, fitting home, which we created in OPRF Museum. Now we need to ensure ongoing financial stability so that we can both sustain this great facility at its current level and dream of future growth and innovation.”

Dressel was recruited to get involved in the Historical Society by local legend Elsie Jacobsen, who recounted her excitement when unwrapping the virtual time capsule of Barclay’s glass negatives and then taking matching 1970s photos to create a “Then and Now” slide show.

“With that in mind, I picture Barclay riding his bike around River Forest and Oak Park by himself on those dirt roads of 1903,” said Dressel. “Then in my mind’s eye, I see us riding in tandem with him on our modern streets today. Not just following in his tracks, but being true partners in this good work.”



Philander Barclay

Philander Barclay Society members enjoy several special events each year, including an annual Philander Barclay Birthday Bash each September. If you are interested in learning more or in making a contribution, call us at 708-848-6755. Donations also can be arranged via credit card on a monthly or quarterly basis.



The Philander Barclay Society 2022 Membership



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OPRF Museum Receives \$10,000 General Operating Grant from Oak Park Area Arts Council

This summer the Oak Park Area Arts Council awarded a \$10,000 general operating grant to The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest to help support the day-to-day operations of OPRF Museum.



The annual grant program, supported by the Arts Council for decades, was supplemented this year by federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, developed by Congress as part of the pandemic response.

The Oak Park Area Arts Council is funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Village of Oak Park.

Oak Park Public Library to Host "Unvarnished" Panel Discussion

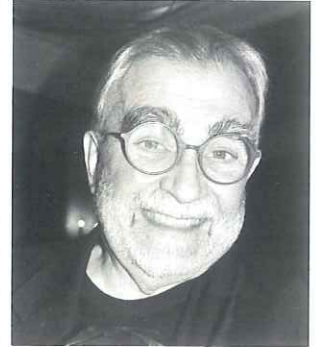
On Wednesday, November 2, at 7:00 pm Oak Park Public Library will host a panel discussion about *Unvarnished: Housing Discrimination in the Northern and Western United States*, the online exhibit and curriculum guide examining exclusionary housing practices that was the front page story in our July newsletter.

The panel will feature OPRF Museum Executive Director Frank Lipo; OPRF Museum Board member and history professor Dr. Sarah Doherty who not only played an integral role in our Museum's contribution, but also served as project content editor and script writer; and staff members of the Naper Settlement in Naperville who invited us to participate in their project, funded by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services.

This free event will be held at Oak Park Public Library, 834 Lake Street. Advanced registration is not necessary. Watch our website and social media for additional information.

New History Book Club Coming to OPRF Museum in Early 2023

Long-time Historical Society member and volunteer Doug Deuchler is spearheading a new History Book Club that will be forming in early 2023. This club, which will meet at OPRF Museum, will be open to members of the Historical Society only and will be free of charge. Membership will be capped at 15 to 20 people.



Doug Deuchler

A longtime Oak Parker, Deuchler was an inaugural recipient of OPRF Museum's *Heart of Our Villages* award in 2018. He is an educator, librarian, journalist, theater and movie reviewer, and tour guide who also has taught film history courses at several Chicago-area colleges. He has written several books including *Oak Park in Vintage Postcards* and books about the history of Maywood, Berwyn, Cicero, and Brookfield Zoo.

If you are interested in participating in the new History Book Club, please call us at 708-848-6755 or email oprfhistormatters@sbcglobal.net.

The details of this program are still being finalized and we would appreciate your thoughts and suggestions. We will share further information as it becomes available.

History Matters

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We welcome your suggestions and comments. Please email us at: oprfhistormatters@sbcglobal.net

Historical Society Honors Three Volunteers for Exceptional Contributions to OPRF Museum



Historical Society President Peggy Tuck Sinko (left) presented the volunteer honorees, (left to right) Fran Knechel, Brian Flora, and Donald Vogel.

This June the Historical Society hosted its annual meeting at OPRF Museum which included naming our annual volunteer award honorees.

Fran Knechel received the Faye Devine Award, which is given to an exceptional volunteer in the tradition of the namesake late Historical Society president. Fran's integral role on the Historical Society board has been elevated further this year as she became chair of the program committee and guided the programming at the museum post-COVID restrictions.

Donald Vogel received the Carol Kelm Award, which is given for preserving materials related to the area's rich history. Don's work over more than 30 years to create the archives at OPRF High School and his recent work assisting in the transfer of those materials to OPRF Museum this past year demonstrates his dedication to preserving our community's history.

Brian Flora received the Philander Barclay Award, which is given for exemplifying the love of local history. Brian, having taken the torch from the late community leader Virginia Cassin, has coordinated Oak Park's ceremonies on Memorial and Veterans Days continuing this beloved community tradition. 🍁

A Summer Flurry of Volunteers

Three young community members spent their summer breaks volunteering to help at OPRF Museum. Nate Singer joined us while on break from studying political science at University of Minnesota and made huge strides filing materials in our research center. Parker Griffin, an Oak Park high school sophomore, helped keep some of our research indexes up-to-date. And Liliana Rodriguez, who studies history at Dominican University, curated two new case displays in the museum's first floor gallery. Here you can see her setting up our new exhibit on some local department stores, which is now on display and waiting for you to come see for yourself!



Nate Singer stands in front of historic maps of his Oak Park neighborhood.



Liliana Rodriguez sets up a new display about shopping in Oak Park 🍁

Sharing Your Talents Can Help OPRF Museum— And It's Fun, too!

Volunteers are the cornerstone of OPRF Museum and the Historical Society. Our operation depends on the talents, hard work, and dedication of our wonderful volunteers.

There are countless ways you can help, too! Whether it's volunteering at events, serving as a docent, helping maintain our facility, writing for our newsletter, maintaining our website and social media, or assisting with the multitude of clerical tasks that keep the Museum running from day to day, we need you!

Do you have a talent you can share with OPRF Museum? We would love to talk with you about how you can join our volunteer team. Please email us at oprfhistormatters@sbcglobal.net 🍁

One Hundred Years of the Seabury Chime

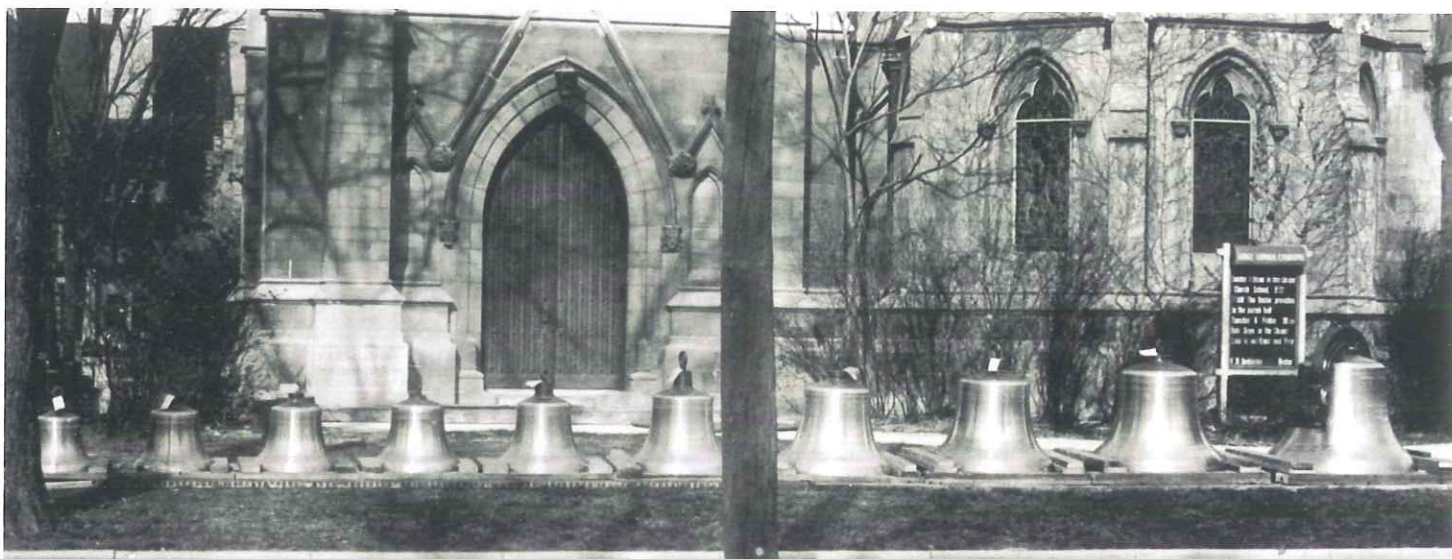
by Marilyn Wardle

Residents of Oak Park who live close enough to hear the sound of church bells ringing at Grace Episcopal Church, near the intersection of Lake Street and Forest Avenue, may not realize that those bells have been delighting (and sometimes annoying) local residents for 100 years. Known as the Seabury Chime (a chime is a musically tuned set of bells, played like a single instrument), the bells were installed soon after the bell tower was completed in 1922 and were first played on the afternoon of Saturday, November 18, in a program of hymns which included *Nearer My God to Thee*, *Abide with Me*, and the *Doxology*. They were dedicated with great ceremony at a service the following day and have been regularly lifting spirits (and heads off of pillows) ever since. The ring of 10 bells (pictured below on the lawn in front of the church prior to installation) was presented to Grace Church by C. Ward Seabury as a memorial to his father, the late Charles Seabury (1839 - 1910), resident of Oak Park.

The elder Seabury was a direct descendant of Bishop Samuel Seabury, who was the first Episcopal bishop consecrated for the American church after the Revolutionary War (1784) and the second Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States. He was an active and much-loved supporter of Grace

Church beginning in 1880, when the church was a mission occupying a much smaller building on Forest Avenue just north of Ontario. During that time, Mr. Seabury organized and sang in the first vested choir, taught Sunday School, ran a Boy's Club, and served almost continuously as Vestryman or Warden of the church. Professionally, he was associated with the department store Carson Pirie Scott in Chicago.

The Seabury Chime consists of 10 bronze bells which were manufactured by the Old Meneely Bell Foundry in West Rye, NY. They range in weight from 375 lb. to 3600 lb. for a total weight of 13,350 lb. The bells are mounted in a wooden frame in the upper story of the bell tower at the southwest corner of the church, above the main entrance. The dedication service bulletin was very careful to say, "This is considered the strongest and most substantial method of chime mounting"! The bells are tuned in the key of D, with two additional bells (C natural and E an octave higher) which allows hundreds of hymn tunes to be played. Our chime, like most American chimes, was designed to play hymn tunes, unlike the bells in most traditional English parish churches, which were intended for "change ringing." Nevertheless, "changes" are also possible on our chimes. If it sounds like a moving, mathematical

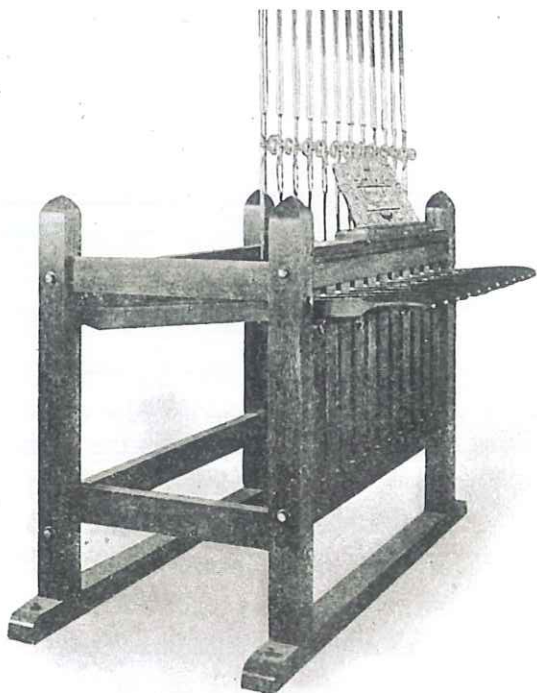


The bells of the Seabury Chime lined up in front of Grace Church before being installed in the bell chamber. (Oak Leaves, November 18, 1922)

Seabury Chime (continued from page 6)

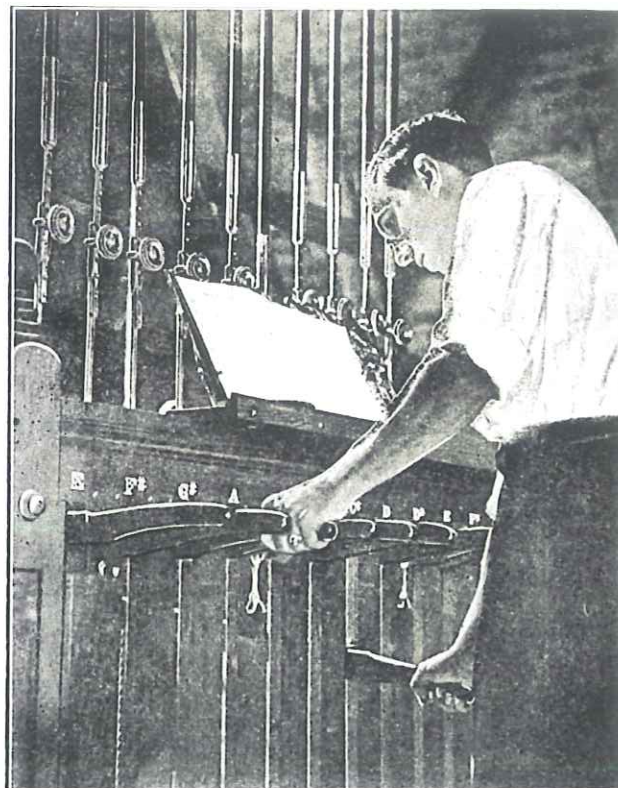
sequence of bell tones instead of a melody, it's probably "change ringing".

The bells are played by a single carillonneur from a console located in the room below the bell chamber. The console has ten wooden levers, each connected to a clapper of a bell by chains, rods, and bars. Volume is controlled by how vigorously the lever is depressed. Initial plans called for the installation of an electrical connection so the bells could be played from the "new" organ console (which was also installed in 1922) but this plan was never executed. This means that today, whenever the bells are rung, a real person is at the console or rope in the (unheated) ringing chamber.



The console from which the bells of the Seabury Chime are played

Community reaction to the sound of the bells over the years has varied from the almost ecstatic ("Moved by the Bells: Apartment House Dweller harassed by Jazz Welcomes Sunday Morning Chime from Grace Church", Oak Leaves, November 25, 1922) to complaints from surprised new tenants of recently constructed residential towers near the church. Under ideal conditions the sound can be heard as far as 3 miles away. Throughout the century, the bells have faithfully rung out every Sunday morning to call worshippers to church. They have also been rung for



The carillonneur plays the chime by depressing the levers. The volume is controlled by how vigorously the levers are pressed.

hundreds of weddings, funerals, special occasions, national holidays, and sometimes just for the fun of it. From November 1979 to January 1981, during the Iran Hostage Crisis, a team of five ringers took turns tolling the largest bell 52 times every day for 444 days in support of the 52 American hostages held in the United States Embassy in Tehran. More recently tolls were rung in recognition of the 1619 Project and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Until recently a dedicated group of volunteers has continued to play seasonal hymns and traditional changes every Saturday at noon (a practice which continued throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic) and every Sunday morning before services. Unfortunately, an inspection in June 2022, revealed that parts of the supporting structure have deteriorated to the point where it is inadvisable to continue playing the bells until repairs are made, so they have fallen silent for the first time in a century. Grace Church is currently evaluating the cost and logistics of the repairs and hopefully soon the Seabury Chime will start its second century of proclaiming our triumphs and our sorrows.



The Hole in the Ground That Became a Landmark

by Robin Wardle

Let's travel back to 1974: Lake St. is closed off from Forest to Harlem and being torn up to accommodate a pedestrian mall. At the southeast corner of Lake and Forest there is a board fence. Now imagine a carnival barker in front of the fence hollering "Come one, come all. See the greatest wonder of the modern world for only a dime, one-tenth of a dollar!" As the villagers gather in front of the fence, the barker opens the gate and here's what they see.

Yes! It's the Stankus Hole.

The Hole was "born" when the elementary school board auctioned off more than three acres of land and Jonas Stankus was the high bidder at \$1.4 million. The site at the time was occupied by the James Russell Lowell School, which had replaced the old

Central School (Oak Ridge School was the original name). The Lowell School had served Oak Park for many years, including as a temporary library while the old Scoville Institute was razed in 1962 to make way for a new library, which was a predecessor of the current Oak Park Public Library.

John G. Hoppe, Jr., a realtor serving as consultant to the school board, said in May 1971 that to fulfill the contract Stankus would need to do the following steps:

He should apply for a special use permit under I-2 zoning, which would allow for buildings of unlimited height in downtown Oak Park; the Village Board of Trustees would submit the request to the Zoning Commission; in turn, the Commission would advertise and hold public hearings on the request; upon reaching a decision, the commission would

make a recommendation to the Village Board, which then would make the final decision.

The I-2 permit required more open space for higher buildings, so at a meeting on July 14 Stankus proposed two 54-story high rises instead of his original plan, which had a 35-story tower in the center of the lot and four 16-story towers on the corners.



The infamous Stankus Hole, an Oak Park landmark for more than a decade.

Next, in September, he proposed twin 39-story towers, fewer offices, and more parking and open space. The Zoning Commission wanted 30-45 days before submitting its feedback to the Village Board. They couldn't exceed that time frame because of a specific deadline in October, which required the school board to confirm or cancel the sale.

October arrived with the Zoning Commission extending the time to submit its recommendation to the village board, allowing Stankus until Dec. 13 to obtain the special use permit for I-2 zoning.

So as 1971 closed, the height of the proposed structure has gone from 54 stories to 39 stories, then to 37 stories. The number of apartments had gone from 1,034 to 896. The number of apartments per acre was important to the zoning commission as a measure of population density.

How did we get here, you ask? The school board needed money for new building projects, and taxpayers rejected two referenda on the topic; they did accept a proposal to raise money from a bond issue and the rest from the sale of the Lowell School property. If the Stankus project did not go through

Stankus Hole (continued from page 8)

the property would revert to the school district and another auction would happen.

But in October of 1972 the school board closed the sale to Stankus in return for the monies owed, and then moved to new quarters on Madison Street.

Finally, at the beginning of 1973, demolition began. The construction workers were allowed to give away some of the furnishings and mementos to charities and public organizations and individuals. OPRF Museum visitors may have noticed the Lowell School bell on the first floor of the museum which found its way to the museum courtesy of the elementary school board. The decision to save the Lowell cornerstone was made once the school board



Demolition begins on Lowell School early in 1973

was alerted to the fact there were class memorabilia inside. What was believed to be the original cornerstone of Oak Ridge School was discovered in the gym at Lowell.

In 1975, Stankus turned to the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) for a mortgage guarantee to secure funding for the project. But the FHA wouldn't do that until the village granted a special use permit which required proof of a financial commitment. The project was now down to one tower. The Zoning Plan Commission had to hold public hearings again. Subsequently, Stankus' financing fell through and the village board revoked his special use permit.

The hole wasn't completely useless, though. Lake Street merchants used it as an employee parking lot!

But then, yet another problem loomed. It seems the elementary school board had not returned the property to the tax rolls when Stankus assumed ownership, so now there were back taxes owed.

To quote the *Oak Leaves* of January 14, 1976:

"Jonas Stankus wants to finish digging the hole and plant a high rise in it; the village government, considering that plan with one hand, is about to sue with another to force him to fill the hole."

It turned out that Stankus had been given thirty days to fill the hole the previous month, and hadn't begun, so the village went to court to force him to do it.

Two weeks later, the Plan Commission approved a 35-story tower plan for the site on the basis that the FHA approval would come soon.

So in August 1976, the plan was awaiting an environmental study from the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, the result of which would determine its fate. If the plan passed muster, then Stankus would have to get in line for federal money, which was a rather chancy proposition at best, since there were likely be many other projects waiting as well.



The Lowell School cornerstone was saved from the rubble and is on Lake Street in front of 100 Forest Place

This brings us to June 1977 when an *Oak Leaves* editorial said that some other use should be found for the Stankus Hole. At the end of June, HUD refused to approve the Stankus Project for federal funding. In July, a letter to the *OP World* suggested that an indoor skateboard park be built in the hole.

In November 1977, Stankus sold the project to a limited partnership headed by a Cleveland businessman. Stankus became a 25% investor with no management responsibilities.

At that point in time, the project was now six years old and the hole was three. Planning for the project would go on for another ten to twelve years, while Oak Park's most famous hole in the ground just sat there, an unsightly but often referenced landmark.

This is Robin Wardle, reporting from the Stankus Hole (where she lives!). Stay tuned for the final chapter of this story in a coming edition of History Matters.



Coming Events from Oak Park River Forest Museum

Tuesday, October 11, 7 pm

The Professional Musician's Life:

Two Chicago Symphony Orchestra Members from Oak Park Share Their Stories

Have you ever listened to a symphony orchestra and wanted to know more about the musicians? Why did they choose the instruments that they are playing? How did they become members? How many hours a day do they practice? What are their lives like outside of the orchestra?

On Tuesday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m., two members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra will be at the museum to demonstrate their instruments and discuss their experiences as orchestral musicians. This is a rare opportunity to learn about a profession that is foreign to most of us from two men who are our neighbors in Oak Park.

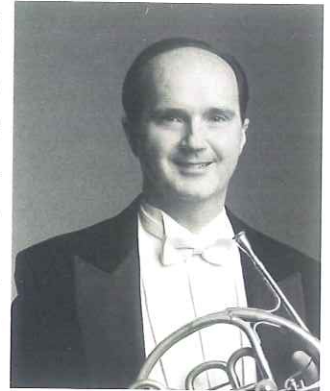
Dennis Michel retired from the Chicago Symphony at the end of its 2021-22 season after serving as second bassoonist for 25 years. He continues as Artist Teacher of Bassoon at Roosevelt University. Prior to his appointment in Chicago, he was principal bassoon for the San Diego Symphony. As a Fulbright scholar, Michel studied in Vienna under Milan Turkovic, a renowned bassoon soloist and conductor. Michel has performed at numerous summer festivals and has served on the faculties of several universities including Northwestern University.




Dennis Michel

David Griffin is the fourth horn of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. He began his career with the Rochester Philharmonic and then played with the orchestras of Montreal and Houston before joining the Chicago Symphony in 1995. Griffin has served as guest principal horn of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Saint Louis Symphony, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Shanghai Radio Orchestra. With the

wind quintet *Prairie Winds*, he has performed in over 25 states and has released two CDs. As a member of the CSO Brass Quintet, Griffin has toured extensively. He is Artist Teacher of French horn at Roosevelt University and previously taught at Northwestern University.




David Griffin

This is a free event open to everyone. Freewill donations to help support OPRF Museum programming will be gratefully accepted. 

Saturday, October 15, 10 am to 5 pm "Open House Chicago" Returns to OPRF Museum

We are pleased to again be part of *Open House Chicago*, a free annual festival hosted by the Chicago Architecture Center that offers behind-the-scenes access to over 150 buildings of architectural, cultural, and historical significance across Chicagoland during one October weekend.

Our Museum will be open with free admission from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, October 15. Docents will be on hand to relate the history of our building, highlight some of our exhibits and programs, and answer questions about OPRF Museum and The Historical Society of Oak Park & River Forest. 

Saturday, October 22, 10 am Final Walking Tour of the Season Recalls the History of Evans Field

Once the home of the Wallace Evans Game Farm, history on this picturesque spot is shared by Native Americans, early European settlers, and generations of hikers, bicyclists and nature fans. We'll walk past a marsh and through woods along the Des Plaines River while learning about the surprisingly complicated history of a natural treasure in the midst of our urban sprawl.

Evans Field Walk (continued from page 10)

Evans Field Forest Preserve is west of Thatcher Ave. at the intersection with Bloomingdale Ave. in Elmwood Park. Meet at the east end of the parking lot at 10 a.m. sharp.



Photo from 1920s Wallace Evans Game Farm catalog

This walk will be led by John Elliott, an OPRF Museum volunteer and retired Forest Preserve District naturalist who will discuss not only the history of Evans Field Forest Preserve, but its flora, fauna, and topography as well.

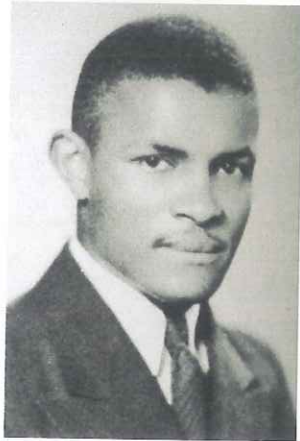
Tickets are \$8 for OPRF Museum members and \$10 for non-members and may be purchased online at oprfmuseum.org or in person at the museum.



Sunday, November 6, 2 pm

"The Ebony Streak" Returns to OPRF High School

Lew Pope was one of the stars who led his OPRF High School football team to an undefeated season in autumn 1937. Now, 85 years later, Lew Pope's story will be told in dramatic fashion at his alma mater, shedding light on the discrimination that kept him off the playing field at what should have been the crowning moment of his high school football experience.



Lew Pope's Senior photo from OPRFHS Tabula yearbook

Join us on Sunday Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. for the premiere of "The Ebony Streak," a reader's theater production of a play written by Oak Parker Kevin Bry, which was previewed at the Historical Society's Annual Meeting in June.

Details are still being finalized. Check out oprfmuseum.org for more information as it becomes available.



Sunday, November 20, 3 pm

Craft a Cross-Stitch Christmas Memory at Museum Workshop

Join OPRF Museum board member and volunteer Jennie Stevens on Sunday, November 20, at 3 p.m. as she leads a workshop where attendees will make an attractive and unusual ornament for their Christmas tree featuring the logo of OPRF Museum.

Tickets for this event are \$10 for OPRF Museum members (\$12 for non-members). All materials needed to create your ornament are included. The workshop will run about 60 to 90 minutes and Space will be limited to 12 people, so please reserve your place now by purchasing your ticket online at OPRFMuseum.org or calling us at (708) 848-6755.



Sunday, December 4, 1 to 4 pm

Celebrate the Season at OPRF Museum Holiday Open House

Oak Park River Forest Museum will be decorated in its holiday finery and its doors will be opened for our annual Holiday Open House on Sunday December 4 from 1 to 4 p.m.

An event designed for the whole family, the Open House will include light refreshments, historical games and toys for the kids, and a display of holiday-themed items from the Museum's collection.

This is also a great opportunity to visit our Museum Shop for unusual gifts and mementos with a special Oak Park-River Forest flavor for giving to family and friends or for yourself.

This event is free to everyone, so bring your family and friends and celebrate the holidays with us!





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MUSEUM

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OPRF Museum Operations Manager Rachel Berlinski after setting up our first window display at Oak Park Bank

A Window to Local History on Lake Street

Oak Park Bank, located in the historic Scoville Square Building on the southwest corner of Oak Park Avenue and Lake Street, has partnered with Oak Park River Forest Museum to put a taste of local history on prominent display. The bank has dedicated a window on its Lake Street side to be used by our Museum as a rotating public exhibit about the history of Oak Park, River Forest, and vicinity. This opportunity to share stories of our villages in a public space outside the Museum is a marvelous way to promote the Museum to people who might not yet be aware of us.

We will change the exhibit three to four times a year, so please stop by and take a look next time you're in the area. And keep an eye on the window in the coming months as we share more photographs, artifacts, and stories from the rich and fascinating history of our villages.

*Thank you to Oak Park Bank
for its continuing support of
OPRF Museum and our mission*

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