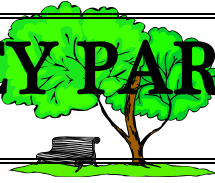

THE CLOKEY PARK NEIGHBOR

Vol. 3 Issue 4

October-November 2012



Carol Barnes Named “Noteworthy Volunteer”

Annual CONO Awards honors outstanding work throughout Decatur

Carol Barnes was selected as Clokey Park Neighborhood Association’s outstanding volunteer for 2012 at the annual CONO Awards on October 23 at St. Thomas Catholic Church.

Our “noteworthy volunteer,” like a gifted musician, knows when to play and when to rest. Working well with neighborhood officers, guest speakers, and within the Clokey Park neighborhood, she does her best to keep harmony when discordant voices or events intervene.

She can be expected to play at almost every event or meeting that Clokey Park Neighborhood Association sponsors: Children’s Easter Egg Hunt, Adopt-A-Street clean-ups, informational meetings, and even formal meetings with other representatives and city staff. Always willing to work, she has been an unofficial secretary, collecting information on neighborhood nuisances, and suggesting guests and programs for upcoming meetings or events.

As a landlord, she lets other know of her involvement within Clokey Park Neighborhood Association and encourages other landlords to be involved in their respective neighborhood organizations. It is not uncommon to have an additional address or e-mail for our monthly newsletter sent in by her. When at rest, she does not neglect her neighborhood. She is always thinking about ways to improve neighborhood participation and attendance at meetings. It is not uncommon to be sent an e-mail about a great idea or project to improve the quality of life within Clokey Park.

Her participation has added to the music and melodies that is part of Clokey Park Neighborhood Association. We look forward to hearing more music from her efforts and dedication to our organization.

Highlights of East William Street Historic Tour

Who is the “William” of William Street? In 1835, William Bandy files a plat for an addition to city of Decatur to the north west of original town, approximately the area south of Eldorado between Church & Union and Prairie. He labels a new street called “William.” A similar plat is filed one year later just north of town by Cowan & Hostetler. While Philip Williams was a county commissioner, it is unlikely that the street was named for Philip Williams, since both plats at court house clearly label the new streets as “William” not “Williams.”

What Is Its Story?

A feature of a property within Clokey Park Neighborhood and its early history

1354 E William

Sylvester Crebbs was born in Carroll County, Maryland on August 28, 1848. He married Mary Crouse in 1870 in Maryland. Mary was born in Maryland on April 22, 1850. They came to Decatur following their marriage in 1871 and bought this property in June 1874.

Sylvester was a contractor, painter, and wallpaper hanger. The house was likely renovated in 1888, 1893, and 1898 to its present state. Mary died on March 23, 1929 at the home she had lived in for 55 years and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Sylvester died March 31, 1932 at the residence.

The Clokey Park Neighbor is the monthly newsletter of the Clokey Park Neighborhood Association.

The Clokey Park Neighborhood Association’s boundaries are Jasper Street on the west, East Eldorado Street on the north, 22nd Street on the east, and East Wood Street on the south. Membership is open to all residents and businesses of the neighborhood, as well as those who support efforts within the neighborhood.

Suggestions, Comments, may be sent to The Clokey Park Neighbor c/o Jason A. Butterick 1953 E Prairie St, Decatur, IL 62521

Crime Statistics

September 17-October 15, 2012

Death:	1
Drugs:	3
Family Offenses/Domestic:	5
Injured Person:	2
Involuntary Admission:	1
Property Crime:	3
Residential Burglary:	3
Vehicle Theft (Attempted)	1
Vehicle Registration/Insurance	6

October 16- November 18, 2012 statistics not available at press time

Jasper Street School Memories

Charles Dressen, baseball manager, attended school.

The first structure dedicated to education in the Clokey Park neighborhood was located at the southeast corner of North Jasper and East North Street, in the area now known as Jasper Park. In 1873, Decatur Public School district purchased lot 3 in block 4 of the 4th Rolling Mill Addition from Ira Harris, Jr. for \$1500. On May 19, 1882, the school board authorized the construction of a four room school house. Melville G. Patterson was chosen as architect and awarded the building contract for \$9,700, with William B. Chambers appointed as Superintendent of the building on July 17, 1882. Furnishings, including single desks were ordered from A.H. Andrews & Company of Chicago on October 17, 1882 at a cost of \$2.32 per desk.

While the school was under construction, it was a victim of vandalism by a party of boys on October 30, 1882. According to the Decatur *Daily Review*¹, the roof was “badly damaged by the boys sliding around on it on boards in which nails had been driven.” Other damage included several holes in the room with a hammer. The school construction was completed by September, 1883 and opened for classes that same month. A report of attendance for the week of October 12, 1883 showed a total enrollment of 241. Teachers listed were C.W. Shleppy, M.A. Bradley, Sarah E. Sanderson and Laura Montgomery².

¹ Decatur Daily Review, Wednesday, November 1, 1882, “Vicious Vandals.”

² Decatur Daily Review, October 13, 1883.

Improvements to schools within the city continued. Fifth Ward became one of the schools authorized to have a telephone installed in 1884. At the Board of Education meeting on August 18, 1885, the ward school names throughout the city were changed. Fifth Ward school became Jasper Street School.

In 1892, Melville Patterson was contracted to prepare plans for a two room addition on the north-east corner of the building. This addition was completed by Krental & Lyon at a cost of \$6,837.09. By 1894, the need for more room was expressed. Patterson again designed an addition of two rooms for the south-east corner of the building, which was erected by Thomas L. Antrim for \$2,364.92. At the time, these were believed to be the cheapest school rooms ever built in Decatur.

According to the *History of Decatur Schools* by Mildred E. Pierce, Jasper Street School rooms were likely “tall spare walls relieved by high narrow windows, and not too many of them. They were quite cheerless and usually smelly. Girls with pigtails and hair ribbons and buttons on their fitted wool dresses, and boys with wide collars and straight pants formed in lines at the doors when the principal rang the large brass bell from one of the windows on the second floor.”

Jasper School closed in 1925, following the construction of Washington Elementary at Johns’ Hill. In 1926, the former grounds were purchased by the Decatur Park district for the development of a neighborhood playground. In 1935, the Jasper Playground became the first lighted playground in Decatur, because it was a fenced area and already had a caretaker and 2 playground leaders on duty each night.

Among students who attended Jasper Street school included Charles Walter Dressen, son of Philip and Katherine (Driscoll) Dressen. His father was a saloonkeeper. “Chuck,” as he liked to be called, did not excel in academics, but athletics. He was born on September 28, 1898. In 1910, he pitched for his 7th grade baseball team, winning the school district pennant for Jasper Street School. By 1912, Chuck was done with school, and was about to begin his career in athletics. His career began in 1919, with Moline Plowboys, Triple I minor league at second base. He briefly returned to Decatur to play football with the Decatur Staleys, but after a little while, felt diamonds were better than gridirons. He played for the Cincinnati Reds in the 1920s, played briefly for the Giants in the 1930s, and returned to Cincinnati as manager in 1934-1937. He was the manager for the boys of summer, Brooklyn Dodgers, in the historic 1951-53 seasons, winning consecutive pennants in 1952-53. Charles died in Detroit, his last managing position, in 1966.

PURPOSE OF CLOKEY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

ASSOCIATION

TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE,
PROACTIVELY ADDRESS JUVENILE
DELINQUENCY, SUPPORT
REVITALIZATION AND
STABILIZATION EFFORTS, AND
EFFECTIVELY NETWORK AS
RESIDENTS AND NEIGHBORS FOR A
BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Meeting

Monday, November 26, 2012

7 pm

Prairie Avenue Christian Church

(2201 E Prairie)

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Monthly Meeting

Monday, January 28, 2013

7 pm

Prairie Avenue Christian Church

(2201 E Prairie)

My House Was Built When?

*Decatur Review Highlights Construction improvements to city
during 1910s*

For many years, the local newspaper covered improvements that occurred each year in Decatur. These lists tended to be published in the last Sunday issue of the year, although how the information is presented varies from year to year. Several years have photographs of the completed structure; some years have only the list by owner last name. Collaborating with land records may be your best resource to finding the first possible photograph of your home. Check to see when the lot was sold cheaply, then find when the property is sold at a higher price. Usually the price increase is reflective of a substantial improvement and can give you a range to seek for the construction of your home.

1908 Structures

From December 31, 1908 Decatur Daily Review

1253 E Eldorado by J. B. Aldridge

1204 E Main by T.G. Hupp

1423 E Main by Julius Burtschi

1608? E Main by Julius Burtschi

1968 E Main by J.R. Smith

2017? E Main by D.C. Overly

2026? E Main by Roy Querrey

2077 E Main by Wilhelm Strocher

134?5 E North by Dr. H.C. Jones

1519 E North by J.A. Albert

1954 E North by Mrs Inez J. Skinner?

1344 E Prairie by Charles Rhodes

1441 E Prairie by Tom Owens

16?04 E Prairie by Daniel Litz

144? E William by Mrs. Quenin

1744 E William by Max Grusek

2055-57 E William by J.H. Smart

1436 E Wood by Joe Siloski

REMINDER

Monthly Meeting
Monday, November 26, 2012
7 pm
Prairie Avenue Christian Church
(2201 E Prairie)



Find us on
Facebook

Connect with Your Neighbors On-Line

Clokey Park Neighborhood Association is on the Internet!

Keep up on your neighborhood with the click of the mouse.

The Clokey Park Neighborhood Association launched its own website through the neighborhoodlink.com website.

You can check housing values, discuss recent events, and find valuable informational links to local companies and government websites. A calendar of events is also posted.

Check out our website at
www.neighborhoodlink.com/Clokey_Park/home

Sign up as a Clokey Park Neighbor today! ❖

Clokey Park Neighborhood Association
c/o Jason A Butterick
1953 E Prairie
Decatur, IL 62521

