



Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum

PUBLISHED BY URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY INC. "IN THE TRADITION OF JANE JACOBS" DECEMBER/JANUARY EDITION

Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum is a bimonthly newsletter that highlights assets, history, events, and resources for and about Milwaukee neighborhoods. Residents and neighborhood organizations are encouraged to submit press releases on their events and successful programs. See back page for details.



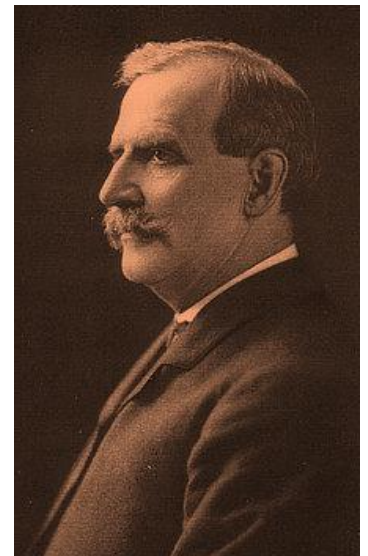
Ten-part series begins on celebrities that lived in Milwaukee neighborhoods

Nationally recognized political/activist leaders in Milwaukee neighborhoods

First of ten-part series on celebrities

U.S. Postmaster General in Yankee Hill

Henry Clay Payne (1843-1904) was the U.S. Postmaster General under President Theodore Roosevelt. Born in Ashfield, Massachusetts, he moved to Milwaukee at age 20 and opened a dry goods store, ultimately settling with his wife in the Yankee Hill neighborhood.



He first became politically active as a member of the Young Men's Republican Club of Milwaukee County and soon worked his way up to become chairman of the Republican National Committee. He served as Postmaster General between 1902 and 1904, when he died in office. He was buried at Forest Home Cemetery.

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Have you ever wondered who might have lived in your Milwaukee neighborhood? For the next ten issues, *Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum* will feature nationally recognized celebrities that once resided on our city's blocks.

Themes of articles

The order follows. (1) Political/Activist leaders (this issue), (2) Military leaders, (3) Writers/Journalists, (4) Religious leaders, (5) Scientists, (6) Artists, (7) Musicians, (8) TV/Film stars, (9) Sports heroes, and (10) Corporate leaders.

MILWAUKEE POLITICAL/ACTIVIST LEADERS (continued)

Continued from Page 1

Activist in the Menomonee River Valley: Ezekiel Gillespie

Born in Greene County, Tennessee, the son of an African American slave and likely her white owner, Ezekiel Gillespie was raised in slavery. As a young man, he purchased his freedom for \$800. Settling briefly in Indiana, he arrived in Milwaukee in 1854. He initially got a job selling groceries on Mason and Broadway (then Main Street).

The Gillespie family lived at various locations in and bordering the Menomonee River Valley, including the Third Ward, Walkers Point, and possibly Merrill Park.

Ezekial Gillespie saw the opportunities in the developing Valley. When employment opened at the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company, he took jobs as a porter and then as a messenger for the railroad. The Railway Company became a major employer of early arriving African Americans to Milwaukee—a trend that continued during the years of the Great Migration.

Early on, Gillespie saw himself as an activist in support of the early arriving blacks in the city. When he tried to vote in 1865, he was denied a ballot. At the insistence of Milwaukee leaders such as Sherman Booth, he sued the Board of Elections. The case of *Gillespie v Palmer* went all the way to the Wisconsin Supreme Court where the justices sided with Gillespie. The case became a watershed moment for African American rights in the state and made Ezekial Gillespie a national hero.

At the end of his life, Gillespie moved to Chicago. He died there in 1892, but his remains were brought back to Milwaukee, where he joined a multitude of other Milwaukee leaders and wife Catharine at the Forest Home Cemetery.

A Socialist mayor and presidential candidate in Harambee



Frank Paul Zeidler (1912-2006) was a Socialist politician and Milwaukee mayor, serving between 1948 and 1960.

Later he served as a consultant for the Ford Foundation, became a member of the cabinet of Wisconsin Governor John W. Reynolds, worked as a labor arbitrator, and taught at local universities and colleges.

He was involved in re-forming the Socialist Party USA in 1973, and served as its National Chair for many years, becoming the party's presidential nominee in 1976. The party had 400-600 members nationwide at the time.

He and his running mate, J. Quinn Brisben, received 6,038 votes, including approximately

2,500 in Milwaukee County. Their ticket appeared on ten state ballots.

Zeidler moved to the Harambee neighborhood in 1946 and lived there to his death in 2006.

An activist who once played football in the Borchert Field neighborhood

Paul Leroy Robeson (1898-1976) was a concert artist, stage and film actor, and football player who became known internationally for his sports and artistic accomplishments but also for his political activism. He was educated at Rutgers and Columbia universities. While taking a break from Columbia, he played for the NFL's Milwaukee Badgers.



The Milwaukee Badgers were founded by Chicago promoters who saw the city as a great prospect for a professional football club. To create a team that could compete in the early National Football League, the men brought in multiple All-Americans in hopes of building a team of all-stars that could rival the Green Bay Packers for state supremacy.

Robeson and the Badgers played their home games at Borchert Field. Ending his football career after 1922, Paul Robeson returned to Columbia where he earned a law degree.

Later Robeson would become involved in political activism including support for the Republican cause in the Spanish Civil War and opposition to fascism. In the U.S. he became an active participant in the Civil Rights Movement and other social justice campaigns. His expressions of sympathy for the Soviet Union and communism caused him to be blacklisted during the McCarthy era.

U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare in Avenues West neighborhood

Wilbur Joseph Cohen was called "the man who built Medicare." He was born in 1913 in Milwaukee. His parents ran a fruit market and later a grocery store. The family had lived on North Hopkins Street, and on North 22nd, and eventually at 751



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MILWAUKEE POLITICAL/ACTIVIST LEADERS (continued)

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North 21st Street at the edge of today's Avenues West neighborhood.

Wilbur may have been influenced by the twin agendas of education and social service in the Avenues West neighborhood. Wilbur went to Lincoln High School, where he won the Harvard book prize in 1929 and became a leader on the student council, school newspaper, and even in athletic management. In 1934, Wilbur graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. From there he took a job in the federal government, working as an economist and a research assistant for the committee which drafted the Social Security Act.

As a staff aid on Franklin Roosevelt's Committee on Economic Security in the 1930s, Wilbur Cohen became one of the pioneers of the Social Security system. He helped design the Social Security Act of 1935. He served as Director of the Bureau of Research and Statistics of the Social Security Board (later the Social Security Administration).

In 1961, Wilbur Cohen was appointed Assistant Secretary for Legislation of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW). His peak of government service came when the Johnson Administration appointed him Secretary of the Department of Health Education, and Welfare. In this capacity he was instrumental in enacting the Medicare program in 1965. He worked with Johnson to expand social welfare programs under the Great Society initiative.

Civil rights activist in the Arlington Heights neighborhood

Dr. James Herbert Cameron, Jr. (1914-2006) founded America's Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee. Earlier he had founded three chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Indiana and served as Indiana's State Director of the Office of Civil Liberties from 1942 to 1950.



Although born in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, James' mother (later divorced) moved her children to the North Central Indiana town of Marion to be near relatives. In 1930, when James was just sixteen years old, he and two other black teenagers were brutally lynched. Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith died, but, with the rope already around his neck, James was saved. He was convicted as an accessory to the murder that led to the lynching.

Despite spending five years in the Indiana State Reformatory among adult criminals, Cameron found uplifting mentors including a white sheriff and several black prisoners. He left prison at age twenty-one determined to turn his life into something "beautiful, worthwhile and God-like." In a book of his memoirs, *A Time of Terror: The true story by the third victim of this lynching in the North who missed his appointment with death*, he described the devotion of his mentors and mother and his ultimate transformation.

Through the book and his other accomplishments, Dr. Cameron became a nationally recognized civil rights activist, giving

many interviews on national television including on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Larry King Live, and the 700 Club.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of War in the Third Ward

Joseph Bodwell Doe, Jr. (1855-1925) was born in Janesville, Wisconsin. A graduate of Racine College, Doe later became Janesville's city attorney. He also served in the Wisconsin National Guard where he rose to the rank of captain. He was appointed the Adjutant General of Wisconsin by Governor George Wilbur Peck in 1891.

In 1893 President Grover Cleveland appointed him to the cabinet position of Assistant Secretary of War, where he served until 1897. Afterwards he returned to Wisconsin and set up a private law practice in Milwaukee's Third Ward.

Two political leaders on city's border

Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in Shorewood

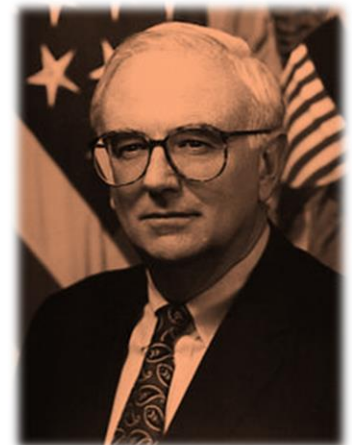
William Hubbs Rehnquist (1924-2005) was a jurist who served on the Supreme Court of the United States for 33 years.

Rehnquist grew up in Shorewood and graduated from Shorewood High School. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force during the final years of World War II.

Going to college on the GI Bill, he attended both Stanford and Harvard universities. After receiving a law degree, he climbed the ladder from private practice to the U.S. Justice Department to the Supreme Court.

U.S. Secretary of Defense in Shorewood

Leslie (Les) Aspin (1938-1995) served in Congress from Wisconsin's 1st district from 1971 to 1993. He was appointed the U.S. Secretary of Defense by William Clinton in 1994.



Although he was born in Milwaukee, Aspin grew up in Shorewood and graduated from Shorewood High School. He later graduated from Yale University and attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.

Milwaukee's Walker's Point neighborhood: Amazingly diverse history



Walker's Point is Milwaukee's last relatively intact neighborhood. It had its beginnings in the 1830s.

Each edition of *Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum* will feature a story on one Milwaukee neighborhood



Walker's Point was named after George Walker, one of three founding land developers in Milwaukee (the other two being Solomon Juneau and Byron Kilbourn). Walker settled on the shores of Lake Michigan in 1834 in the area that would later become Milwaukee's South Side and began developing the land. A care-less businessman, Walker had his claim jumped a year later by speculators from Green Bay. He finally secured a clear title to the land seven years later and began to sell lots.



The first areas to be developed were around today's South 3rd Street (then Hanover) and South 2nd Street (then Reed). South 2nd became an early commercial corridor and South 3rd attracted many wealthy settlers. Some of their mansions still stand today (see photo in left column). The earliest residents were a mix of Yankees, Czechs, Germans, and Irish. They built their own churches on the blocks that today comprise Walker's Point.

Jobs were plentiful as Walker's Point developed. Milwaukee became known as "the machine shop of the world," and many contributing industries were located on Milwaukee's near South Side. These included Chain Belt, Kearney and Trecker, Allis Chalmers, A.O. Smith, and later Allen-Bradley.



The diverse industries of Walker's Point attracted new populations. By the middle of the 1800s Norwegians were arriving and filling maritime jobs on the eastern end of Walker's Point. In 1858 they built Our Savior's Lutheran Church on South 9th Street and Scott and settled around the parish.

By the turn of the century the neighborhood was becoming increasingly diverse. Immigrants arrived from Poland, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia and some were still coming in from Germany and Ireland. A Greek community settled around South 6th Street and National, where they met for coffee with compatriots of the same village in Greece to talk, exchange gossip, share religious and political ideologies, and play cards or games.

Throughout its history, Walker's Point became the home base to a variety of immigrating and migrating communities. And many of these groups spawned their own leadership in the neighborhood.

The Slovenian community

By the turn of the 20th century, a Slovenian community had established itself in Walker's

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WALKER'S POINT (continued)

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Point. Most lived near South 6th and National Avenue or near South 9th and Mineral Streets. They opened a number of social clubs near the former location, including South Side Turn Hall, Llidia Hall, and Harmonie Hall. From this environment emerged one very high-profile Slovene. See his profile below.



Louis G. Bashell, "Milwaukee's Polka King"

Louis ("Louie") Bashell was raised in the Walker's Point neighborhood. He was born on July 1, 1914 while his family was living on Bruce Street (then Park Place). His parents, Joe and Antonia (nee Samsa) Bashell, were Slovenian immigrants. Louie took up the accordion at age

seven and began playing it at his parents' tavern in the neighborhood—a practice he continued for 50 years. As a teen, he honed his skills in the music program of Boy's Tech High School (*photo to left is him returning to the school for an event covered in the year-book, from Ancestry.com*). His musical genre was the polka--Slovenian style. The Bashell family later moved to 13th and Walker, again in the neighborhood.

Bashell's acclaimed professional career began in the Walker's Point neighborhood and reached its heights after he and his wife, Stephanie A. Starich, moved to the Jackson Park neighborhood on W. Jackson Park Drive. While living in Walker's Point, he formed a trio with himself, a drummer, and a saxophone player. Later, in the 1940s, Bashell formed a 5-piece band. One of their recordings, the Slovenian folk song, "Zidana Marela," ("Silk Umbrella"), sold out as fast as the band could make the records. This resulted in a contract with RCA Victor.

Bashell remained a Wisconsinite and a family man throughout his career. When RCA wanted Bashell to promote the records on a lengthy national tour, he refused, insisting that he wanted to be close to his wife and children. He continued to focus his career on the local scene, becoming known as "Milwaukee's Polka King."

While living in the Jackson Park neighborhood, and later in Greendale, he received numerous awards. These included six nominations for polka awards by the Wisconsin Area Music Industry, an induction into the Wisconsin Polka Hall of Fame, and a lifetime achievement award from the National Cleveland Style Polka Hall of Fame. His most significant award was when he became Wisconsin's first resident to receive a National Heritage Fellowship grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, becoming a National Heritage Fellow.

The Latino community

If Walker's Point was not diverse enough, it would soon become more so with the arrival of the Latinos. A number of push-pull

factors influenced the population changes. During the early 1900s, Mexican immigration to the United States expanded because of worsening economic conditions in Mexico. A large wave of Mexicans also left the country during the political and economic turmoil created by the Mexican Revolution of 1910.

Although most Mexicans found jobs in local tanneries and foundries, some came to Milwaukee as strikebreakers—often unknowingly. The Walker's Point Latino settlement was due largely to the recruitment of Mexicans by the Pfister & Vogel tannery on 6th Street. The earliest arriving Latinos to the area were known as Los Primeros. See a profile of one below.



Federico Herrera

Federico Herrera arrived in Milwaukee in 1927 as a 22-year-old immigrant from El Oro, Mexico.

Just before he arrived in the Walker's Point neighborhood, he'd played baseball in Texas for the owners of Mexico's Dos Estrella's mines.

Herrera soon established himself with the newly arriving Latinos in Walker's Point and began seeking ways to fill their needs. In just a few years he co-founded Milwaukee's first Spanish-language newspapers, *Sancho Panza* and *Boletín Informativo*, with Miguel Sevilla Chavez and Jesus C. Perez. The trio also founded Circulo Social de Amigos "Emilio Carranza," that commemorated the first Mexican to fly a plane between Mexico City and Washington D.C.

Federico married Sophia and became a naturalized citizen in 1934 (*see his photo on his naturalization papers from Ancestry.com*). He and his family later moved to the Silver City neighborhood on South 32nd Street. He died in 1992 and was buried at St. Adalbert's Cemetery.

With the establishment of their own newspapers, Los Primeros founded the Mission of Our Lady of Guadalupe on South 5th Street. In a few years, other Mexicans began joining them, migrating from the Southwest. A parallel migration occurred in the 1940s when Puerto Ricans began to settle in Walker's Point.

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WALKER'S POINT (continued)

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The long Latino presence in Milwaukee is celebrated at the United Community Center in the neighborhood, with its plethora of social programs, arts, housing units, café, and enrichment classes. A pedestrian can also learn the history of Latinos in Milwaukee by observing photos, artwork, exhibitions inside the center, and murals on the outer walls of the Bruce-Guadalupe Community School. (See example below followed by a Day of the Dead photo at Walker's Square.)



Wisconsin Indian Community

Before there was a Milwaukee, members of the Ojibwa, Oneida, Ho Chunk, Potawatomi, and Stockbridge-Munsee nations (among others) had settled in Southeastern Wisconsin. But several hundred years of European encroachment on the land and treaties broken by the U.S. government resulted in the removal of these nations to reserved parcels of land far away from the Milwaukee area.

However, by the 1930s, there were faint signs of a return, and many of the early-arrivals were moving into the Walker's Point area. Among others, two major families--the Ojibwe Porters and the Oneida Steffes--had settled in the neighborhood prior to 1940. Doris, Shirley, and Delores Steffe grew up to become

members of the Consolidated Tribes of American Indians dance group that performed at hundreds of public and private events throughout its history. The Porters would also go on to leadership positions (see profile of Del Porter on the following page).

But it would be in the 1950s that Walker's Point would see the largest influx of Natives into the area.

Once the Wisconsin Indians were moved onto reservations, the United States government engaged in a number of policies basically to de-Indianize the Native population and assimilate them to European American society. One policy, called the Voluntary Relocation Program, was designed to move Indians off the reservation into cities. When the Native people arrived in Milwaukee from the rural settlements, few had the needed skills or support systems to thrive in an urban environment. And fewer yet received help from the relocation offices. Sometimes the offices were not even staffed.

The result was that local taverns often served as the only community gathering places.

Making a community

Some of these "Indian bars" were located in Walker's Point. One of the taverns, Danford's Bar--informally "Indian John's"--was located at South 5th and Bruce. Operated by John A. and Nancy Danforth (Oneidas), the tavern served as a community gathering place where migrants could locate their relatives, sign up for mail, and find housing.

Another of these Indian bars was the Thunderbird Tap near South 15th and Muskego. Run by non-drinker, Coleman Schwamp, the bar sponsored all-Indian athletic teams. Schwamp's wife, Emily, was a certified Oneida language teacher. The Oneida Schwamps would also refer problem drinkers to places where they could get help.

One of the places where the Schwamps may have referred problem drinkers was the United Indians of Milwaukee center, also in the Walker's Point neighborhood. Located at 1554 W. Bruce Street, the center not only held Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, but offered elderly lunch programs, bingo, pool tables, youth activities, card games, basketball, and Indian dance and craft activities. Over its tenure, the center provided outlets for elderly tribal members to get together to continue and pass on traditions associated with dance, singing, and the protocol of the drum.

See the profile of the Porter family on the following page.

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WALKER'S POINT (continued)

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The Porters

On the year that Del D. Porter was born, his parents had just moved from Bay View to 211 South 3rd Street in the Walker's Point neighborhood. The family was Ojibwe from the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota. Del's father, Delmar Teddy Porter (a.k.a. Cyclone) was a professional boxer, having won state Golden Gloves championships in his younger years. Del's mother, Lena Porter, was a homemaker.

As Del grew up he was tutored by his father. By the time he was out of his teens, Del had won multiple state Golden Gloves championships himself. But Del's biggest contribution to the local area was outside of the ring. In 1960, Del Porter opened the Ace Boxing Club to serve south side youth. The club trained them to box, but also taught them to respect their elders and gave the youth ways to become strong contributing citizens. The club had multiple locations until it found a permanent home in a pavilion in Kosciuszko Park in the Lincoln Village neighborhood (the pavilion is now named after Porter). From 1960 until his death from cancer in 2008, Del Porter worked days as a bus driver and evenings as a boxing trainer and social mentor to hundreds of young people. At no time did Del ever charge a fee for his services. In addition to his work with youth, Del Porter served in multiple leadership positions for Indian Summer.

Del married three times, first to Caroline Mary Barbara Cecot, second to Esther Florence (nee Shopofski) who died in 1988, and third to Diana (nee Burgard). He had 14 children.

Despite Del's death in 2008, Ace Boxing continued. Del's son Frank began to help Del manage the club during his last days. After Del's death, Frank Porter took over as club leader. In the tradition of his father, Frank supported himself with day jobs and never accepted a salary for his work with youth. Under Frank's leadership, community service activities have expanded, including block cleaning, helping the elderly, picnics and celebrations for local residents—and each year, a reverent ceremony that attracts scores of residents to honor his father—Del Porter, charismatic founder of Ace Boxing.



Greek and Gothic Revival homes. From Victorian times there were the elegant storefronts on National, 2nd Street, and 3rd Street. With urban renewal and freeway building razing so many of Milwaukee's historic areas, some area activists wanted to preserve the neighborhoods that remained relatively intact. Much of this began in Walker's Point with the founding of the Historic Walker's Point organization in the early 1970s. Historic Walker's Point later became Historic Milwaukee Inc. In 1978 the area just east of the freeway became the first Milwaukee listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Current populations

Scores of Walker's Point homes have been restored since the preservationist movement began in Milwaukee. New residents, intent on living in an urban setting in a historic neighborhood, have been purchasing the historic homes and starting businesses in the neighborhood. Trendy coffee shops and cafes have cropped up in unexpected places.

Today the populations that dominate Walker's Point include very few members of the early Greek, Slovenian, or Wisconsin Indian communities. But just over half the residents are of Mexican ancestry. In addition, approximately 1 in 10 claim Puerto Rican or German ancestry, and approximately 1 in 20 claim Polish or Irish ancestry. African Americans comprise just over 7 percent of the population.

The largest number of occupations in Walker's Point are in the fields of administration, food service, and facilities (building/maintenance), with management close behind.

Despite its recent rise in status, Walker's Point is still a neighborhood of residents with modest means. Approximately half of the population lives in households that fall into the low-income category (with annual incomes under \$25,000). Most of the rest live in lower middle-income households (with annual incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000). The good news is that mortgages and rents are very affordable. Over half of home-owners spend between \$501 and \$1,000 on selected home-owner costs per month (e.g., mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, taxes, insurance). Most rental units cost between \$501 and \$1,000 a month.

Walker's Point has a very active and effective neighborhood association.

The preservationist influence

All the populations migrating in and out of Walker's Point over the generations left their marks on the architectural landscape. From the middle 1800s there were Italianate, Queen Anne, and

How to learn about your neighborhood while the family's shut in

STORIES FOR CHILDREN/YOUTH

The Kids Across Time and Space (KATS) program is a fulfilling way for families to spend a day learning about a number of Milwaukee neighborhoods. The website provides youth-friendly stories about select areas of the city, recipes that are indigenous to the cultural groups of these neighborhoods, and games and art projects to entertain while enhancing learning about the neighborhoods.

Go to http://teacheraidsforkidsmilwaukee.com/KaTS_main.html and click on any of the orange rows for the following stories.

Bronzeville to Sherman Park

RUBY'S LOST CHILDHOOD. A fictionalized account of an African American girl living in Milwaukee, the loss of her Bronzeville community, her migration to and from Milwaukee, her movement into the Civil Rights Movement and local fair housing marches, and her struggles to keep her new home in Sherman Park.



Lincoln Village

STEFAN'S GOOSE. A fictionalized account of a young Polish boy living on Milwaukee's south side in the early 1940s, his daily life in a Polish flat, his faith community at the Basilica of St. Josaphat, and what he learned one month about how his meals were prepared.

Downtown Area

BEVERLY, THE FIRST "MATERIAL GIRL." A story of a girl living in Milwaukee in the prosperous 1950s and how she and her age mates were influenced by the growing material culture of the day. A story about the influences of popular culture on gender roles.

Third Ward

PATRICK'S DREAM. A fictionalized account of a young Irish boy whose family settled in the Third Ward in the late 1800s, his aspirations to become a fireman, the scorn he faced from friends for setting his hopes too low, and his ultimate redemption when a fireman from the Ward saves the city of Milwaukee from burning down.



There are nearly 50 other stories about ethnic groups in historical settings on this site, all complete with recipes, notes, games, and art projects.

191 MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

For shut-ins to simply learn about specific neighborhoods, this is a very comprehensive site. <http://neighborhoodsinmilwaukee.org/>

One-hundred and ninety-one Milwaukee neighborhoods are on this site. The project was created from the oral histories conducted by anthropologists at Urban Anthropology Inc., covering over 100 of these neighborhoods. The following details are provided about each of the 191:

- Brief, population-based history
- Quotes from oral history of this area

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LEARNING ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD _____

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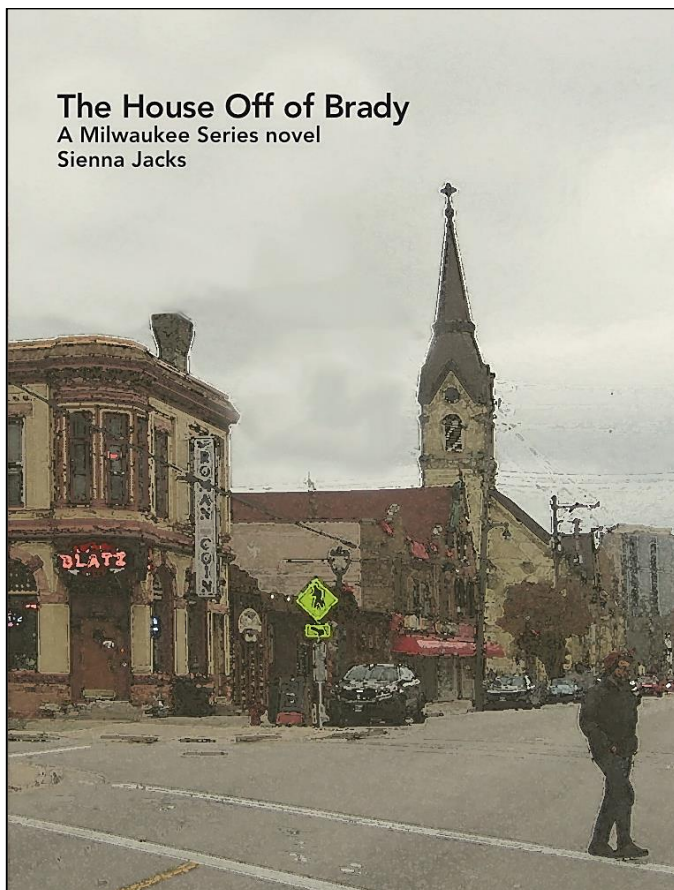
- Description of neighborhood
- Photos of neighborhood (and at times historical photos)
- List of important sites
- Recurring nearby outings
- Businesses in the history of the neighborhood
- Profiles of people who once lived there

MYSTERY NOVELS TAKING PLACE IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS _____

Milwaukee native and cultural anthropologist, Sienna Jacks, has written a series of novels that take place in Milwaukee neighborhoods.

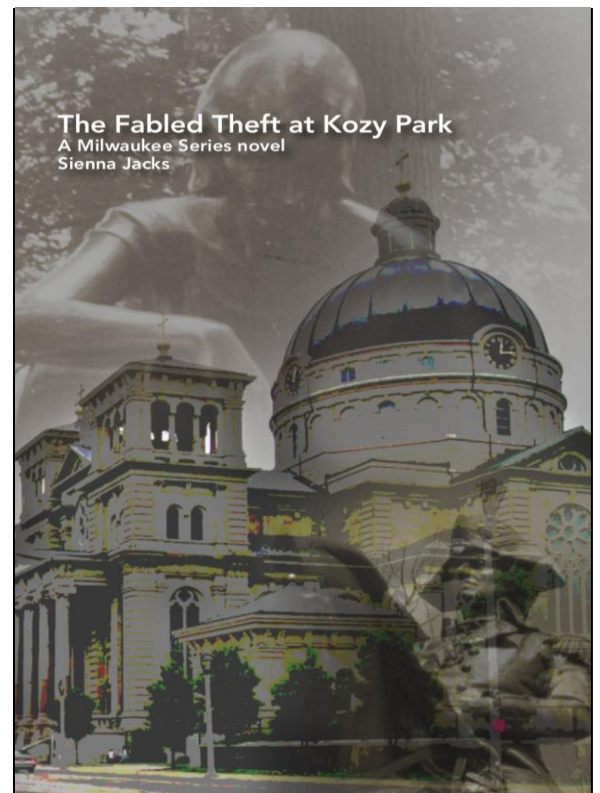
The House Off of Brady

Two young anthropologists, trying to convince a local nonprofit to sponsor a neighborhood house museum, must show that the historical occupants of the house were representative of Milwaukee's Brady Street, and that they project positive images for the neighborhood. Their efforts are boosted by a personal journal left behind by one of the home's occupants--Giuseppe Russo. But as the young anthropologists translate and transcribe the journal, they learn that Giuseppe had been banished from his former community in the Third Ward. Are they about to stumble on information that could kill the project—or something perhaps even worse? Access at <http://mecamilwaukee.com>



The Fabled Theft at Kozy Park

The anthropologists at City Anthropology were asked to use their research skills to look into a man's confession that might crack the longest unsolved mystery on Milwaukee's old South Side—the theft of the squirrel lady statue at Kozy Park. According to reports, the man Raf (now deceased) also implicated members of a local Polish club with an agenda of removing non-Polish influences from the neighborhood. Assigned to the project, Enid and Meyer are baffled by the information they are getting from those who witnessed the confession, little of which supports Raf's story. Further inquiry points to events surrounding Raf's stepson. Who really was he and why did he inexplicably appear on the scene all those years ago? Their quest for answers leads them to the club in question, but with unexpected results. The ultimate mystery they must solve is the true reason why Raf made this confession and steered them to a list of alleged conspirators. Access at <http://mecamilwaukee.com>



The Shop on King Drive

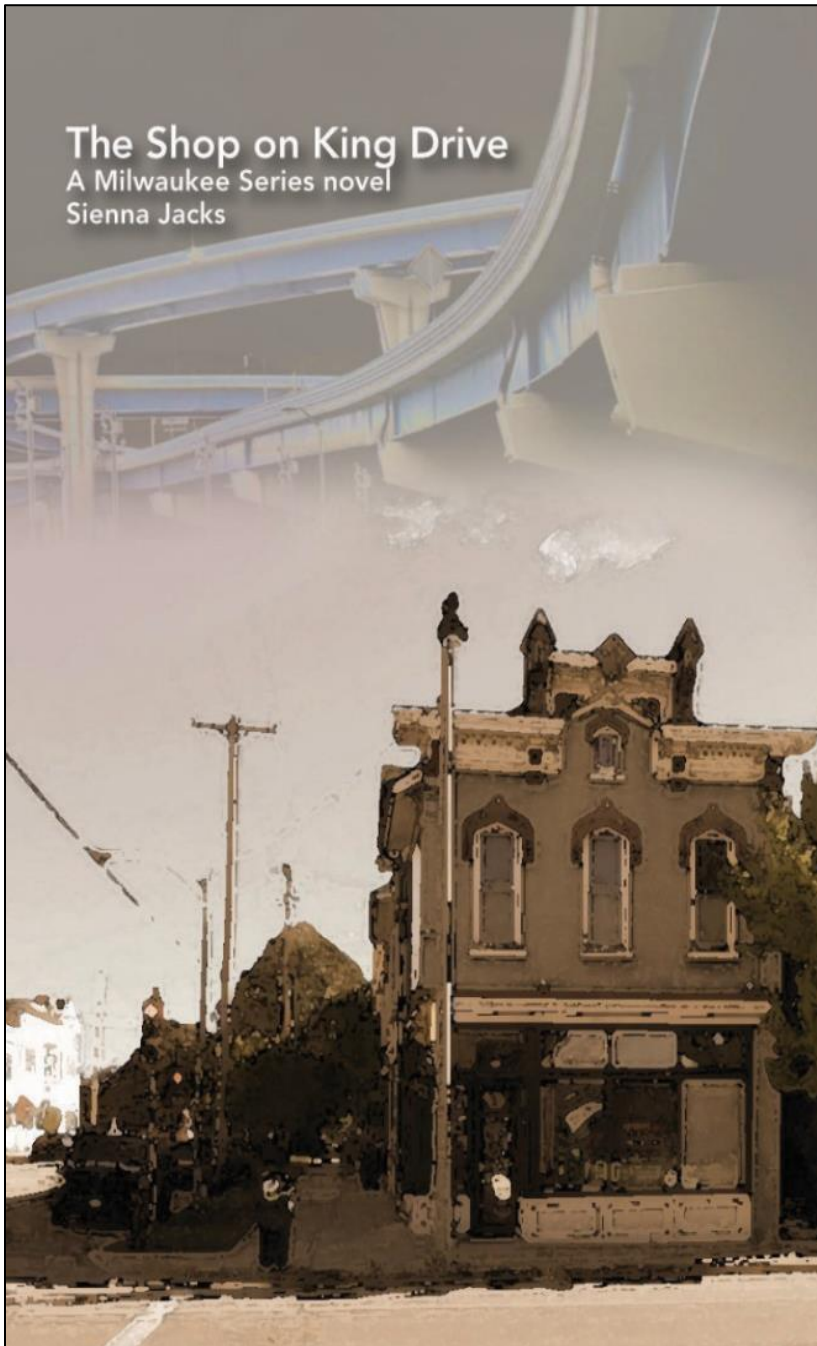
A mystery arises out of the ruins of urban renewal. Two young anthropologists, conducting research that would illuminate one dark period in Milwaukee's central city history,

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MYSTERY NOVELS

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confront painful but sometimes puzzling accounts. During the 1950s and 1960s, over 8,000 homes and an entire business district of the African American Bronzeville community were razed. While interviewing survivors, the anthropologists note that the name of a particular attorney kept entering the conversation. The lawyer claimed to be helping the black community fight the removal, but his efforts had the opposite effect. Suspicions remained for over 50 years over who was behind the deception and why. <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>



Happening in the Walker's Point neighborhood

*When the coronavirus pandemic
has ended*

WPCA
WALKERS POINT
CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Since 1987

Walker's Point Center for the Arts

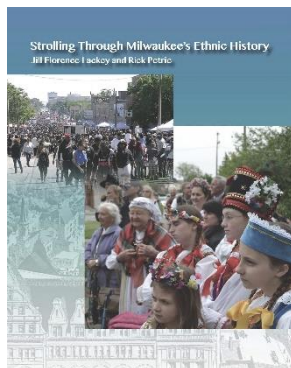
839 South 5th Street

*Ongoing exhibitions and pro-
grams in a neighborhood setting*

**Open Tuesday through Saturday,
noon to 5pm**



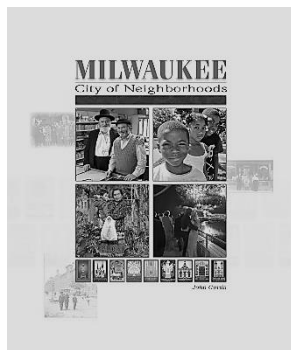
Books on Milwaukee Neighborhoods



Strolling through Milwaukee's Ethnic History

By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

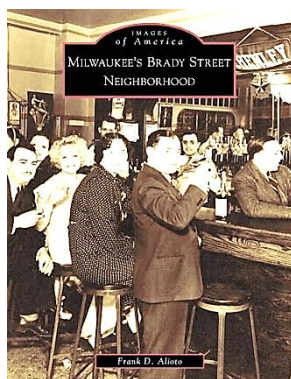
This latest work provides an "up close and personal" look at local ethnic life by directing readers to the neighborhoods and venues where the groups left their marks. It brings readers directly into their experiences, whether it involves strolling through the neighborhoods they built or participating in contemporary ethnic activities. "Strolling . . . is an intriguing guide to the ethnic history in our midst and a colorful reminder that Milwaukee has always been a city of newcomers." - John Gurda. <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>



Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods

By John Gurda

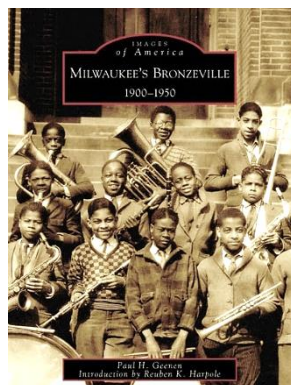
Milwaukee: City of Neighborhoods is the most comprehensive account of grassroots Milwaukee ever published. Richly illustrated, engagingly written, and organized for maximum ease of use, the book is a fine-grained introduction to the Milwaukee community, and its communities, that will endure as a standard work for years to come. <https://historicmilwaukee.org/milwaukee-city-of-neighborhoods/>.



Milwaukee's Brady Street Neighborhood

By Frank D. Alioto

Milwaukee's Brady Street neighborhood began in the mid-19th century as a crossroads between middle-class Yankees from the east and early German settlers. Polish and Italian immigrants soon followed, working the mills, tanneries, and brewers that lined the riverbank. The hippies arrived in the 1960s. By the 1980s the area fell into blight, neglect and decay. Now, a true model for new urbanism, the Brady Street neighborhood is the midst of a renaissance. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738551746>



Milwaukee's Bronzeville: 1900-1950

By Paul H. Geenen, Introduction by Rueben Harpole

With the migration of African American sharecroppers to northern cities in the first half of the 20th century, the African American population of Milwaukee grew from fewer than 1,000 in 1900 to nearly 22,000 by 1950. Most settled along Walnut Street, an area that came to be known as Milwaukee's Bronzeville, a thriving residential, business, and entertainment community. Bronzeville is remembered by African American elders as a good place to grow up. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738540610>

The dramatic gift of one author

Mystery writer and Milwaukee native, Sienna Jacks, is creating a series of novels that take place in Milwaukee neighborhoods called "The Milwaukee Series." She is donating all of her royalties to Urban Anthropology's neighborhood exhibits' program.

The proceeds from *The House Off of Brady* (see previous page) are currently being used to create all new exhibits at the Rozga Family's Old South Side Settlement Museum.

Mystery novels that are currently available or shall eventually be included in this series will take place in these Milwaukee neighborhoods:

- Brady Street
- Bronzeville/Brewer's Hill
- Lincoln Village
- Walker's Point
- Riverwest
- Granville

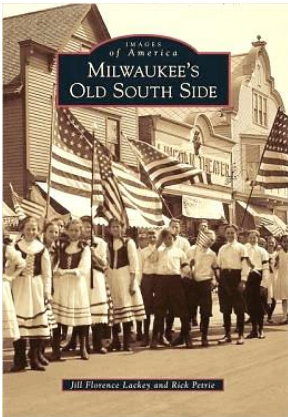
Currently, all of Sienna Jacks' novels have perfect five-star ratings from readers at Amazon.com

To enjoy wonderful reading and to contribute to neighborhood museums and exhibits, purchase the Jacks' books from the publisher at

<http://mecahmilwaukee.com/Fiction.html>



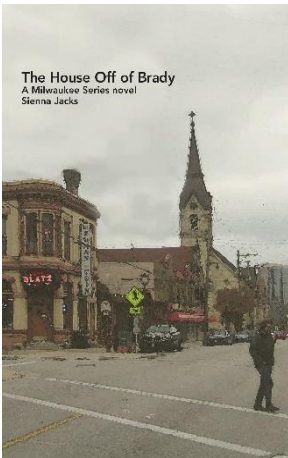
Books on Milwaukee Neighborhoods (Cont.)



Milwaukee's Old South Side
By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

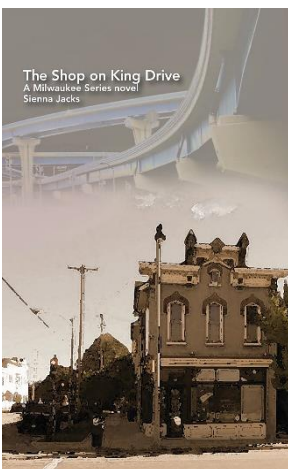
In the late 1800s, the Old South Side was developed by immigrant Poles, who became the dominant population for over 100 years. While other Milwaukee ethnic neighborhoods gradually dissipated in the mid-20th century because of assimilation pressures, freeway building, or urban renewal programs, the Old South Side remained solidly Polish. A survey nearly a half century later revealed that people of 110 national backgrounds now lived in the Old South Side, with the three largest groups being Mexicans, Poles, and American Indians. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738590691>

Fiction



The House Off of Brady A Milwaukee Series novel
By Sienna Jacks

Two young anthropologists, trying to convince a local nonprofit to sponsor a neighborhood house museum, must show that the historical occupants of the house were representative of Milwaukee's Brady Street, and that they project positive images for the neighborhood. Their efforts are boosted by a personal journal left behind by one of the home's occupants--Giuseppe Russo. But as the young anthropologists translate and transcribe the journal, they learn that Giuseppe had been banished from his former community in the Third Ward. Are they about to stumble on information that could kill the project—or something perhaps even worse? <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>



The Shop on King Drive A Milwaukee Series novel
By Sienna Jacks

A mystery arises out of the ruins of urban renewal. Two young anthropologists, conducting research that would illuminate one dark period in Milwaukee's central city history, confront painful but sometimes puzzling accounts. During the 1950s and 1960s, over 8,000 homes and an entire business district of the African American Bronzeville community were razed. While interviewing survivors, the anthropologists note that the name of a particular attorney kept entering the conversation. The lawyer claimed to be helping the black community fight the removal, but his efforts had the opposite effect. Suspicions remained for over 50 years over who was behind the deception and why. <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>

Just released:

A new Sienna Jacks novel in the Milwaukee Series, entitled *The Fabled Theft at Kozy Park*, a mystery that takes place in Milwaukee's Lincoln Village neighborhood.

Currently, all of Sienna Jacks' novels have perfect five-star ratings from readers at Amazon.com

To enjoy wonderful reading and to contribute to neighborhood museums, purchase the Jacks' books from the publisher at:

<http://mecahmilwaukee.com/Fiction.html>

*In memory of George Floyd:
UNDER THE KNEE*

Let us always remember the voice
As we balance what's just with what's gentle
As we elect our makers of policy
As we create and enforce our laws
Let us always remember the voice
As we assess our governing bodies
As we reform the challenging limbs
As we deny the debasing knees of domination
Let us always remember the voice
Whose bearer lay under the lynching knee
As he recalled the love of his mother
And invoked humanity's most universal prayer

That last moment
That last moment
... when he uttered her name.

Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum

Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum is published bimonthly by Urban Anthropology Inc. and is managed by volunteer anthropologists. The purpose of the newsletter is to offer neighborhood groups and individuals opportunities to share news and information about their neighborhoods. The newsletter does not receive funds from any external source. The editor is Dr. Jill Florence Lackey.

Subscriptions

The newsletter is emailed to anyone wishing to receive it. If you wish your email or that of a friend to be added to the subscriber list, send the email addresses to JFLanthropologist@currently.com and indicate the name of this publication (as UrbAn publishes more than one newsletter).

Submitting events

Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum is interested in events from individuals, businesses, and organizations that have a neighborhood appeal. These can include block parties, church picnics, local music festivals, sports on the block, get-moving activities that take place outdoors, and art and theatre events involving neighborhoods. All event submissions should include a one-sentence description, date and time, location, and website or phone number for additional information. Photos may also be submitted.

Submitting stories/press releases on neighborhoods

In the spirit of Jane Jacobs, stories should always focus on assets of neighborhoods. They must be between 100 and 400 words. Some editing will be done to match our style guidelines and spatial constraints. We will write the stories for you if you simply send us a list of the information that you want included. A photo is always required for a story to be published. Please do not refer us to websites to collect information or photos. If we write your story from the general information you send, we do not send proofs for approval.

If you are someone who has created a successful neighborhood project and wish to be featured in the Forum, please also contact Dr. Jill.

Submission deadlines

Submit events or stories by the 25th of the month preceding publication. Publication dates are on the 1st day of June, August, October, December, February, and April. Please send your stories to Dr. Jill at JFLanthropologist@currently.com



www.urban-anthropology.org

Email RickPetrie@gmail.com

Now live . . .

Website on 191 Milwaukee neighborhoods

Links on each neighborhood include:

- *6 to 35 pages of information*
- *Brief neighborhood description*
- *Population-focused history (including ethnic roots)*
- *Snapshots of commercial districts of the past*
- *Quotes from residents*
- *Quotes from oral histories (where available)*
- *Low cost nearby outings for families*
- *Demographics of current neighborhood*
- *Photos of neighborhood*

The website currently includes ALL 191 of the neighborhoods, courtesy of Urban Anthropology Inc.

<http://neighborhoodsinmilwaukee.org/>