At one time, the RR tracks that crossed Capitol Dr. at the west end of the Village were atop a high rise above not only the river but the road bed to the east. In 1925 the rise at Capitol Dr. was excavated and the RR trestle came into existence. It was the forerunner of the bridge that was replaced a few years ago with the renovation of Capitol Dr. (1925 SHS Archives Photo)

**TRAIN IS A-COMIN’**

History, art and technology will converge in a first-of-its-kind sensory experience: the Ghost Train.

Shorewood’s Public Art Committee is planning the new installation that will enable visitors to travel back in history, imagining the round-trip journey of the Twin Cities 400 which was operated by the Chicago & North Western Railway, 1935-1963, and crossed Capitol Dr. at the current Oak Leaf Trail bridge.

Through innovative lighting and sound technology, lighting designer Marty Peck will create the illusion of a Ghost Train crossing the bridge twice each evening to recall the schedule, speed, and drama of the passing of this historic 400 train, so named because of its 400 minute trip between Chicago and St. Paul. At other times the bridge will have a subtler artistic illumination.

The Shorewood Historical Society Board has approved a donation of $15,000 to the Ghost Train project. We will have signs near the bridge to tell the story of the Twin Cities 400 and the larger story of the relationship of trains to the development of Shorewood.

The first train came through Shorewood in 1873. Originally the track split at Capitol Dr. One track followed the current Oak Leaf Trail north to Fond du Lac. The second track was along current Ardmore Ave. and went north to Sheboygan.

The Ghost Train project is a wonderful opportunity to bring another piece of Shorewood's history to the attention of the public which is a major goal of the Historical Society Board.

The Public Art Committee hopes to have the Ghost Train ready for its first run in October.

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Trains were not a new phenomenon to Shorewood residents in the 1930s, but, nevertheless, the blazing passage of the Chicago & North Western Railway’s 400 across the Capitol Dr. trestle was an exciting spectator event. “Shorewood, just outside Milwaukee’s northern limit, posted a police car at a principal grade crossing every day to control traffic when the 400 passed. Sometimes as many as 50 automobiles were parked at the crossing, their occupants anticipating the Minneapolis-bound streak of black lightning.”

(from “The 400 Story” by Jim Scribbins)
FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are involved in so many exciting projects, it almost takes my breath away. But it is all good because our energy is being used positively to bring Shorewood’s story to the public in a variety of formats that are easily accessible. Be sure to read the related stories in this issue on Digital Pictures, Banners, and the Ghost Train.

April is National Volunteer month and I wish to thank all of our Board members and newsletter editor Margaret Sankovitz for their commitment to our mission and support for our projects. Special thanks to the people who met weekly through the winter months to complete the River banners and our first picture digitizing project: Natalie Carroll, Nancie Baker, Sue Rebholz, Mary Ann Desaulniers, Kathy Kean and Hayley Johnson (Shorewood’s Adult Services Librarian).

We plan to schedule one work day a week (tentatively Tuesday morning) to continue work on our projects through the summer, particularly digitizing pictures. Care to join us? We love HELP! Contact me at 964-5258 or shorewoodhistory@yahoo.com.

Congratulations also to MPTV producer Maryanne Lazarski and her production team. They have received a “Silver Telly” award for their documentary about Dickie Chapelle, “Behind the Pearl Earrings.” The Telly Awards honor the finest film and video productions, groundbreaking web commercials, videos and films, and outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs. “Behind the Pearl Earrings” was aired state-wide on Wisconsin Public Television in March.

Karen de Hartog
414-964-5258 • shorewoodhistory@yahoo.com

SHOREWOOD AND THE MILWAUKEE RIVER: A VITAL RELATIONSHIP

The Milwaukee River is the subject of four recently completed Historical Society story banners.

The banners are entitled:
- The River and Transportation
- The River and Industry
- The River and Entertainment
- Rebirth of the River

The banners will initially be hung in the Village Center but can easily be moved to other appropriate locations over time.

One more banner will be completed this spring that will specifically focus on Estabrook Park. We plan to exhibit that banner at Estabrook’s Centennial celebration this summer. (see Centennial article p. 3) See friendsofestabrook.com for more information.

A family enjoys an outing at the Milwaukee River. Some of the children appear to be holding river crabs in their hands. Dad is wearing his straw skimmer and the girls have their skirts hiked up to avoid the water!
Shorewood Historical Society
32nd Annual Dinner Meeting
Monday, May 9, 2016 - Hubbard Lodge
Mame McCully, Executive Director of the Milwaukee County Historical Society, will be the speaker at the Annual Dinner Meeting on May 9. McCully will share County Historical Society pictures and stories about the west side of our Village, including the Milwaukee River and Estabrook Park. She will also describe proposed renovations for the Kilbourntown House, renovations that will include space for a display on Shorewood history.

The Dinner Meeting will take place at Hubbard Lodge. Dinner will be followed by the Annual Meeting and election of Board members and officers for the coming year. “Good Steward” awards will honor Luther Memorial Chapel and Estabrook Park, each celebrating its Centennial.

Invitations will be mailed to members shortly. Non-members are welcome. Call 964-5258 or email shorewoodhistory@yahoo.com to request an invitation.

The Trees of Edgewood Place:
The History of a Shorewood Arboretum
Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 7 p.m. - Village Center
Starting in 1930 and spanning several decades, more than 160 trees were planted on the grounds of the Shorewood Hospital to form a small arboretum on the south edge of Shorewood between Maryland and Prospect Aves. Former Marquette University Biology Professor Stephen Munroe will discuss the history of the Shorewood Hospital, which operated from 1905-1977, including a pictorial walk-through the trees that shade the property today.

The Trees of Edgewood program is co-sponsored by the residents of Edgewood condominiums, the Shorewood Library, and the Historical Society.

Day Trip!
The Changing Cityscape of Milwaukee
Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Kathy Kean, Historic Milwaukee, Inc. guide (and Shorewood Historical Society Board member) will lead a tour of Milwaukee downtown and historic neighborhoods from Riverwest to Walker’s Point and Bay View. Emphasis will be placed on observing the 19th century origins of these areas and ongoing renewal and redevelopment. Lunch will be served at Chez Jacques in Walker’s Point and a brief visit is planned to see the progress on the Pabst Brewery development projects. Cost of the tour is $48 for Shorewood residents and members of the Shorewood Historical Society and $53 for nonresidents, which includes transportation, lunch and gratuities. Contact the Shorewood Senior Resource Center to obtain a required registration form: 414-847-2727.

Spaces and Traces in Historical Water Tower Neighborhood
Saturday, May 14, 2016, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
For tickets, visit historicmilwaukee.org
The Water Tower Neighborhood is bounded approximately by East Edgewood Ave., North Downer Ave., East Lafayette Pl., and Lake Michigan and includes the largest group of historic homes in Wisconsin. More than 1,000 of the homes and condos are over 75 years old, including more than 580 that are over 100 years old. Many of homes in the area are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

ESTABROOK PARK CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
Sunday June 12, 2016
The Friends of Estabrook Park will commemorate the 100th birthday of Estabrook Park with games, special guests, a raffle, prizes and more. Time: noon – 3 p.m. at the Estabrook Biergarten. Raffle proceeds will be used to reconstruct a stairway near the children’s play area.
See friendsofestabrook.com for more information.
The members of the Luther Memorial Chapel congregation have been celebrating the Centennial of its establishment in Shorewood beginning with an Epiphany service January 6. Several events are planned for the remainder of 2016 including a May 15 Pentecost service and an old fashioned luncheon, a June 26 service and church picnic, and September and October guest preachers.

Although the congregation elected to establish 1916 as its founding date – April 12, 1916, a group of people gathered to formally organize a Lutheran congregation known as Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of East Milwaukee with 16 charter members - the activities of its first pastor had been in evidence since September of 1914.

At that time, Pastor Theodore Kissling of Merrill, Wisconsin, was called to serve as missionary-at-large in the Milwaukee area. He chose the little community adjoining Milwaukee known, at that time, as East Milwaukee (now Shorewood). Rev. Kissling began a small Sunday School that met at his flat on Newton Ave. until his landlord objected. The school relocated in a store building on Oakland Ave. near Providence Ave. in Milwaukee until the building was sold. Then it moved to a building in the abandoned Ravenna Amusement Park on Oakland Ave.

For a year, Rev. Kissling held worship services in the East Milwaukee Village Hall located at Mineral Spring Rd. and Oakland Ave. on the Armory grounds. His congregation was small – for awhile just one woman from Whitefish Bay and her husband. He formed the Choral Club of East Milwaukee that sang at Sunday services. The choir became well known and was presenting cantatas before Milwaukee audiences, the proceeds helping to raise funds for the fledgling church.

Rev. Kissling’s congregation was housed in a prefabricated portable chapel from the Missouri Synod Mission Board, constructed on the north side of Mineral Spring Road (now Capitol Dr.) near Cramer St. The little white chapel was dedicated April 18, 1915.

In 1917 the chapel was moved to the present location of the Luther Memorial Chapel on Maryland Ave. It was placed on a foundation that allowed the building to have central heating. In 1920 the church’s name was changed to Luther Memorial Chapel of Shorewood and in that same year Pastor Kissling accepted a call to Shawano, Wisconsin.

Not long after, in 1924, ground was broken for what would become the present church building. Pastor O. F. Engelbrecht blessed the cornerstone that was laid in August, 1924. Services and Sunday School were held in the basement of the new church for several months in 1925 while the main structure was completed. The finished church was dedicated in May, 1925.

The Luther Memorial Guild, organized in 1915 as the Ladies’ Aid Society, was instrumental in the building of the church and in 1929 the Guild took on the responsibility for the purchase of a lot on the northwest corner of Maryland Ave. and Shorewood Blvd. and for the parsonage that was built on the lot in 1935. The early history of the congregation and the Aid/Guild was recorded faithfully by Renata (Mrs. William A.) Behling. In addition to the purchase of the parsonage land and construction of the parsonage, the Guild also raised money for the cost of the portable chapel; purchase and installation of an Estes organ in 1925 and its refurbishing in 1951; financed the kitchen equipment including dishes, and contributed regularly to other worthy causes such as Voice of America and Red Cross during World War II.

In the early years the Sunday School picnic was held at Stabelfeldt’s Grove (east end of Green Tree Rd., Lindwurm Farm (Estabrook Park) and Lake Park. In later years the congregation would pack into double-decker streetcars and ride out to Washington Park and the Zoo for the picnics.

• Until 1936, services were held in English and German every Sunday.
• In mid-20th century, the Walther League provided social opportunities for young members such as sports, retreats, fund raisers for missions, rallies and drama.
• A Senior Girls Circle was active in the 1940s and 50s, raising funds for world missions, Lutheran Children's Friends Society and other Lutheran mission work.
• Stained glass windows were installed in 1951.
• The Vacation Bible School, held sporadically in earlier years, has been held annually since 1953.
• Good memories of activities throughout the years: bake sales, ice cream socials, Sunday School picnics, congregational dinners, Christmas programs, Easter sunrise breakfasts.
In the 1950s it was necessary to expand because of crowded conditions, especially for the Sunday School classes. In 1951 an education wing with a gymnasium was added to the north of the 1924 structure. In 1967 an educational and administrative addition was constructed immediately to the west of the 1951 addition.

The sanctuary of the Chapel was renovated in 1986 including painting, carpeting, new pew spacing, a new dossal curtain, and wood wainscoting.

In 2002 the campus ministry at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee was transferred to Luther Memorial changing its name to Luther Memorial Chapel and University Student Center. Also, in recent years the congregation has welcomed a growing number of persons who are part of the International Student Ministry.


The banner created for the Centennial expresses the congregation’s sentiments on attaining the eminent age of 100: “With Thanks to God for a Century of His Gifts in Jesus Christ.”

*Information provided by Sue Mollwitz Rebholz, life long member, and “A Brief History” from Centennial Directory*
HELLO CENTRAL – THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE STORY

Last summer (August 20, 2015), The “new” Green Sheet of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel ran an article written by the late Gerald Kloss on October 8, 1964, entitled “An Ode to Telephone Exchanges.”

A paragraph in the forward to the reprinted article, explained about the morphing of the telephone exchanges from letters to numbers. For example, EDgewood 2 became 332.

In the late 1950s, AT&T’s Wisconsin Telephone Co. began shifting to all-digit numbers and by October, 1964, Milwaukee phone customers had undergone the change. A lettered exchange served to describe the neighborhood in which a phone was located. For instance, EDgewood and WOodruff were employed in the Shorewood area. At one time this writer’s home phone number began with CHurch, but that exchange was lost in the shuffle a longtime ago – the number equivalent didn’t even survive!

The exchange names made it easier for the operator to understand the phone number being requested in the days before automatic dial phones were invented. The caller gave the operator a number including the named exchange so that the operator then was able to transfer the phone call to the callee.

For many years these exchanges for calls from the Shorewood area (caller-operator-callee) were made at the Telephone Exchange Building on Capitol Dr., east of Oakland Ave. Switchboard operators worked at manual telephone switchboards, connecting calls by inserting a pair of phone plugs in the appropriate jacks. This set up was in use in some parts of the country until the 1960s. Operators completed long distance calls in this manner before the advent of direct dial calling.

Growing up on Farwell Ave., this writer’s home phone number was WOodruff 4-0804 for years before it became 964-0804.

Not only are the colorful, descriptive exchanges a thing of the past but also the wall telephones on a box and the candlestick phones with the receivers on a hook. Fewer and fewer persons have “land lines” and printed telephone directories are slowly passing into oblivion.

This writer, along with Gerald Kloss, lament the passing of the Good Old Days of operators and party lines and hard wired phones and those wonderful exchanges.

To note the passing of this very human telephone system, Gerald Kloss wrote his “Ode” invoking the styles of some well-known “bards”.

This verse was in the lyrical poetic style of Alfred Lord Tennyson:

Sing this Kloss ode to the tune of George M. Cohan’s “Give my regards to Broadway”:

Give my regards to BRoadway,
Remember me to HOpkins 3,
Say a goodbye to GReenfield 6,
And BLuemound 8, farewell to thee!

Shed a few tears for COncord,
For Flagstone WOodruff, SPring and WEst,
Bawl out your eyes for UPtown 1,
Or the exchange you love the best.

This verse was in the lyrical poetic style of Alfred Lord Tennyson:

SUnset and FRanklin 4
And one clear call for me!
And may there be moaning at the bar
When I dial HUmboldt 3.
EDgewood and LIncoln 5
Will henceforth not be seen,
But in my heart they shall remain alive
A GArdens EVErgreen

Gerald Kloss, who wrote the “Slightly Kloss-Eyed” column in the Milwaukee Journal for 29, died at age 91 on February 4, 2016.

- Margaret Mathews Sankovitz
We depend upon the commitment and support of people like you to preserve and promote Shorewood’s rich history.

Send your application to: Shorewood Historical Society • 3930 N. Murray Avenue • Shorewood, WI 53211

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________

Phone ______________________________________________________________

E-mail ______________________________________________________________

(Your e-mail address will be used only to alert you to upcoming programs and events. It will not be shared with any other individual or organization.)

☐ Individual $15  ☐ Family $20  ☐ Contributing $35  ☐ Sustaining $100  ☐ Associate $250  ☐ Life $500
☐ Additional Donation $__________ Please make check payable to the Shorewood Historical Society.

All memberships are per calendar year except the one-time payment Life membership.

☐ I am interested in becoming more involved in Shorewood Historical Society activities. Please contact me with further information.
Pictures of trains stuck in snow drifts, an old Milwaukee River bridge and National Guard Light Horse Squadron horses on parade are among the 41 Shorewood Historical Society pictures you can now view online. The pictures are part of the society’s Charles Sheldon Collection; more will be added shortly. The pictures can be viewed from the society’s website: shorewoodhistory.org; click on “Shorewood in Pictures.”

Led by SHS board member Natalie Carroll, the society members scanned pictures, added “metadata” (picture description that will allow searching) and uploaded the files to the Milwaukee Public Library server. Assistance was given by Ann Hanlon, Head of Digital Collections and Initiatives at the UWM library and Emily Pfotenhauer, Program Manager at Recollection Wisconsin. Eventually, the picture files will be linked to recollectionwisconsin.org, a website that includes historical pictures from all over the state.

Mr. Sheldon’s daughter, Mary Agnes, poses with Shorewood police officers, Chief Emil Bartels (l.) and Marshal Nick Zehren (r.), at the 1923 Village picnic in what was once Murray Woods, located near Murray Ave. and Kensington Blvd.