HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

August 2020

www.hydeparkhistory.org, 773-493-1893

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Hyde Park Book Club** – Monday, September 21, 7:30pm via Zoom. Author Mark Larson, *Ensemble: An Oral History of Chicago Theater*. Contact info@hydeparkhistory.org for the Zoom link by 3pm on September 21.

**Hyde Park Book Club** – Monday, October 19, 7:30pm via Zoom. Author Carlo Rotella, *The World is Always Coming to an End: Pulling Together and Apart in a Chicago Neighborhood*. Contact info@hydeparkhistory.org for the Zoom link by 3pm on October 19.

Book Club Contacts: Carol Vieth, ultra5300@earthlink.net; Michal Safar, michal.s.safar@gmail.com

CHICAGO POLICY KING HISTORIC RESIDENCE IN WEST WOODLAWN, AUGUST 15, 2020

On Saturday, August 15, 50 participants journeyed to West Woodlawn via Zoom for an extraordinary tour of a historic house at South Eberhart Avenue and East 65th Street built in 1926 by the legendary Chicago policy king Henry Young. The tour was led by HPHS Board member Clinée Hedspeth, proud owner of the home.

The house, a two-flat building with four unit kitchenettes (garden level), has most of the original interiors intact, including wallpaper and floor coverings. It’s believed that the original occupants of the kitchenettes were either policy runners or family members of Henry Young who were resettling in Chicago from the South.

Henry Young liked to entertain (doing so was part of his business) and so included a bar on the second floor. Behind the current wall covering in the bar area is a themed wallpaper featuring martini glasses and pink elephants. In the living room, Clinée showed off the handsome ceramic tiled fireplace, complete with a Magic Coal fire. Also of interest, were the pink and green themed bathrooms, with the original fixtures.
Being in the money business, Henry Young was careful to have a built-in safe hidden behind a drop-down door. The tour provided a good look at the safe.

Participants learned about the immediate neighborhood of Henry Young’s house. Clinée also included remarks from her interview with author Nathan Thompson as well as anecdotes from conversations with several of King Henry Young’s family members and neighbors that knew him.

To learn more about Chicago’s policy kings, visit:

*Kings: The True Story of Chicago’s Policy Kings and Numbers Racketeers.*

The video of this program is available on the HPHS web site at: [Chicago Policy King House Tour](#)
HYDE PARK BOOK CLUB – CHICAGO ARTIST COLONIES, AUGUST 17, 2020

Author Keith Stolte and Zac Bleicher of the Edgar Miller Legacy led 20 members of the Hyde Park Book Club through a presentation and discussion of the many artists colonies in Chicago from the 1800’s through the 1940’s as featured in Keith’s book Chicago Artist Colonies.

Keith started the research as a result of his efforts to get landmark designation for the Carl Street Studios as the Burton place Historic District. He got so interested in the topic that he continued research until he had enough material for the book.

Artist colonies in Hyde Park included artists of the World’s Columbian Exposition, the 57th Street Art Colony and Lorado Taft’s Midway Studios. Other Chicago artist colonies included the Tree Studios, Fine Arts Building, Carl Street Studios, and Edgar Miller ventures.

One of the book club members raised the question of current artist colonies of which several were mentioned including Ragdale in Lake Forest and the Arts Incubator in Washington Park. Keith made the point that modern artist colonies are run by foundations and organizations like the University of Chicago, whereas earlier colonies were self-organized by the artists themselves.

For additional information see the Edgar Miller Legacy web site at: edgarmiller.org.

The video of this book club meeting and Keith and Zac’s presentation is available on the HPHS web site at: Chicago Artist Colonies
“I REMEMBER WOODLAWN” FACEBOOK GROUP

The HPHS Vice President, Janice A. Knox, has launched a Facebook Group “I Remember Woodlawn” that focuses on the Woodlawn Community. This Group for anyone who is either interested in or has lived, worked, or played in the lovely community of Woodlawn. Woodlawn is located on the South Side of Chicago, 7 miles southeast of the Downtown Loop. Its borders are south – Oak Woods Cemetery (began in 1853) on 67th Street, east - Jackson Park (created in 1881 originally name South Park in 1869), 60th Street- the Midway Plaisance on the north, and Dr. Martin Luther King Drive on the west.

The mission of this group is to provide an open and friendly environment that encourages the sharing of Woodlawn memories, stories, photographs, and resources. Anything specific to Woodlawn.

Since its inception 3 weeks ago, the group has already attracted over 200 members. If interested, feel free to join this group to share Woodlawn memories, questions, photographs, etc.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/Irememberwoodlawn/?ref=bookmarks
Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House, 6427 S. St. Lawrence – Update 9/3/20

On Thursday, September 3, 2020 the Chicago Commission on Landmarks approved the Preliminary Landmark Designation of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House.

Since 2017 Preservation Chicago has been proposing to have the City of Chicago’s Commission on Chicago Landmarks honor the memory of Emmett Till by landmarking the house where Emmett Till and his family were living when he was murdered on August 28th, 1955. The HPHS Preservation Committee worked with Preservation Chicago, which took the lead in the nomination process.

This nomination was enthusiastically supported by:
Alderwoman Jeanette Taylor, 20th
Blacks in Green, Naomi Davis, President
The Emmett Till family, Ollie Gordon & Mr. & Mrs. Wheeler Parker, Jr.
The Society of Architectural Historians, Pauline Saliga & Bryan Green
Preservation of Affordable Housing-Chicago, William Eager, Senior Vice-President
Blake McCreight, owner of the property
Preservation Chicago, Ward Miller, Executive Director
The Hyde Park Historical Society, Michal Safar & Jack Spicer

The next steps now that the preliminary designation has been approved will be a neighborhood impact study, a public hearing and, after a review of all the information collected, a recommendation from the Chicago Commission on Landmarks for approval by the City Council. Prior to a vote in the City Council, the City Council on Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards will review the recommendation and vote whether or not to recommend the designation to the City Council. The landmark designation process is not complete until the City Council votes on the recommendation.

Additional Information:
https://chicagocrusader.com/push-to-make-emmett-tills-house-a-landmark/
https://www.wbez.org/stories/_/f8abe096-9cbc-4eed-9deb-81aed022954b

Tight Little Island: Chicago’s West Woodlawn Neighborhood, 1900-1950 in the Words of its Inhabitants

Muddy Waters’ Home, 4339 S. Lake Park Avenue
The Muddy Waters Mojo Museum has received a $50,000 grant from the National Trust for
Historic Preservation’s African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund towards renovation of the Muddy Waters home.

**Roseland’s South Michigan Avenue Historic Commercial District, S. Michigan Avenue, 100th to 115th Streets**
https://preservationchicago.org/chicago07/chicago-7-most-endangered-2020-roseland-michigan-avenue-commercial-district/

**United Church of Hyde Park, Blackstone Avenue at 53rd Street, 1889**

**Jeffery Theater Building, Jeffery Boulevard and 71st Street, 1923**

**Washington National Bank Building, Cottage Grove Avenue & 63rd Street, 1924**
https://preservationchicago.org/chicago07/washington-park-bank/

**The Forum Building, 318 East 43rd street, 1897**
https://secure.givelively.org/donate/urban-juncture-foundation/raise-the-roof-fund-the-forum

**Promontory Point, 55th Street and Lake Michigan**
https://www.promontorypoint.org/about
https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/Burnham-Park/

**Jackson Park, The Obama Presidential Center**

For more information on any of the above Hyde Park Historical Society preservation efforts, contact Jack Spicer, jackspicer@earthlink.net

**HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY INITIATIVE – COVID-19 AND THE HYDE PARK COMMUNITY**

**PLEASE SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES!**

Photo of masked sanitation workers in Chicago during the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic from the Chicago Sun Times
COVID-19, also known as coronavirus, is a worldwide pandemic that has had wide reaching impacts on every member of our community.

The Hyde Park Historical Society wants to hear from you about how you, your family, and our community are being affected. Please tell us your story so we can add your voice to the history of our community. While the Historical Society is focused on the Hyde Park Township area, we value responses from anyone who would like to participate.

Please fill out the form at COVID-19 Hyde Park Archive to share your story with us.

If you would like to share photographs or a video, or both, please email them to hphscovid@gmail.com.

If you would like to submit a diary or journal of your experience, please email it to hphscovid@gmail.com or mail it to the HPHS Headquarters.

Any physical ephemera can be mailed to the Hyde Park Historical Society's Headquarters at 5529 S Lake Park Ave, Chicago, IL 60637. Anything received will not returned to the sender and will become property of the Historical Society.

We at the Hyde Park Historical Society hope to be able to share selected stories with the community on an ongoing basis.