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In This Issue:

**William Cross Hazelton - Forest Glen Pioneer • Olson Waterfall
Hoyne Savings - 73 Years in Jefferson Park**

The Jefferson Park Historical Society is now offering an expanded newsletter, with a new section entitled, "Letters to the Editor." As the JPHS website has become more established, people from all over the country have been contacting us with questions and comments. A large percentage of those contacting us have roots right here in Jefferson Park. While the website has been successful in educating the local community about the area, it has proven to be an invaluable service to those who have close ties to the neighborhood but have moved far away.

This newsletter also contains a bonus gift for members—a removable postcard. The postcard depicts the "Olson Rug" waterfall. Long ago, this 35-foot waterfall was located on the corner of Pulaski and Diversey. The Olson Rug Company generously donated the postcards for the newsletter. In this edition, Dan Pogorzelski elaborates on the waterfall and its place in Chicago history. This article, along with some vintage pictures, is certain to bring back memories to anyone who grew up on the northwest side of Chicago. As one who grew up in the area, I can still remember hearing water rushing over those rocks, crossing the well-planted pathway to the bridge that crosses over the waterfall, and feeding popcorn to the ducks in the pond. I can also remember the Native American chief, the teepee, and the canoe. In December, we would wait in long lines for hours just to speak to a man in a red suit who would give us candy. It was all from a time when families would gather and have fun for very little money. While the site only disappeared less than 50 years ago, it seems like a time and place far, far, away. - *Frank Suerth*

Mission Statement:

As the Jefferson Park Historical Society, our mission is to educate others about the history of Jefferson Park and the surrounding areas of Chicago. We will accomplish this through discussion at meetings, public tours and events, and dissemination of historical documents and photos through publications. Additionally, we desire to collaborate with others in the community to continue to maintain and preserve the history of our neighborhood. By linking the past with the present and the future, we will provide an awareness and create an appreciation for our place in Chicago's and Illinois' history.

The Jefferson Park Historical Society

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Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us, whether visitors, neighbors, long-time residents, or newly arrived in the Neighborhood.

Our parish family extends an invitation to all to join us as we celebrate the Centennial Year of our Serving God's People.

Our Lady of Victory offers a diverse group of ministries and organizations to fill the varied interests of our 4,000 individual members.

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We welcome you to join with us in our celebration of God's Word.

F. Davis

Reverend Christopher Doering, *Pastor*

3.

Letters

Letters have been edited for clarity and space.

I've just read with much interest the January 2005 issue of JPMS newsletter on-line. My mother is Katherine Esdohr who is listed as the granddaughter of Henry & Katherine Esdohr. I showed this to Mom. She sat with me at my computer and we looked at it together. She was absolutely captivated and I think somewhat delighted to see it. She said much of this was new information to her. Tells me she was never certain Hazelle was her mother but had surmised as much. Tells me she was sent to Chicago with an escort at age 7 or 8. She has her adoption papers and that Katherine Esdohr (her grandmother) is her adopted mother.

Anthony Dillon - Greensboro, North Carolina

My family was very glad to read your article on Henry Esdohr and Jefferson Park. You have done the Dillons a real service with your research and writing and we are in your debt. My mother, Katherine Esdohr Dillon, has ten living children and 15 grandchildren. She is 83 years old and in good health and lives in Washington, D.C. I hope the Esdohr house can be preserved, and keep me informed if it is opened to the public. It would be nice if some of my family could be present at such an opening. Thanks very much and if I can be of any service feel free to ask.

Brian Dillon - Arlington, Virginia

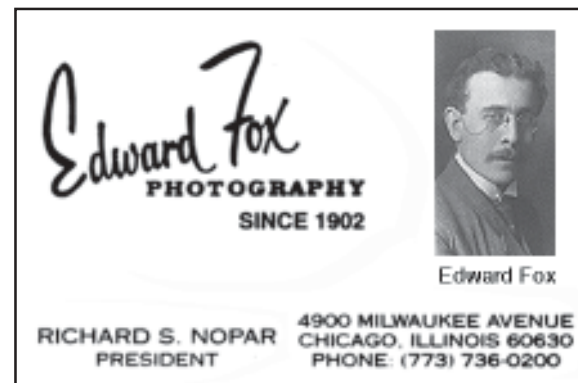
Katherine Esdohr Dillon is the only grandchild of Henry & Katherine Esdohr. - JPMS

Driving down Montrose the other day I noticed under the train viaduct by the highway a lot of bricked up archways. Was that a train station at one time?

Mark Sabas - Chicago, IL

Yes it was the Chicago & Northwestern's Mayfair Train Station not to be confused with the Milwaukee Road's Mayfair stop, which is still in existence. If one rides the Metra from Jefferson Park (the old Chicago & Northwestern) to Downtown, they can look down out the window just south of Montrose, and see where the stairways were. The stairways are now covered by steel plates. - JPMS

4.

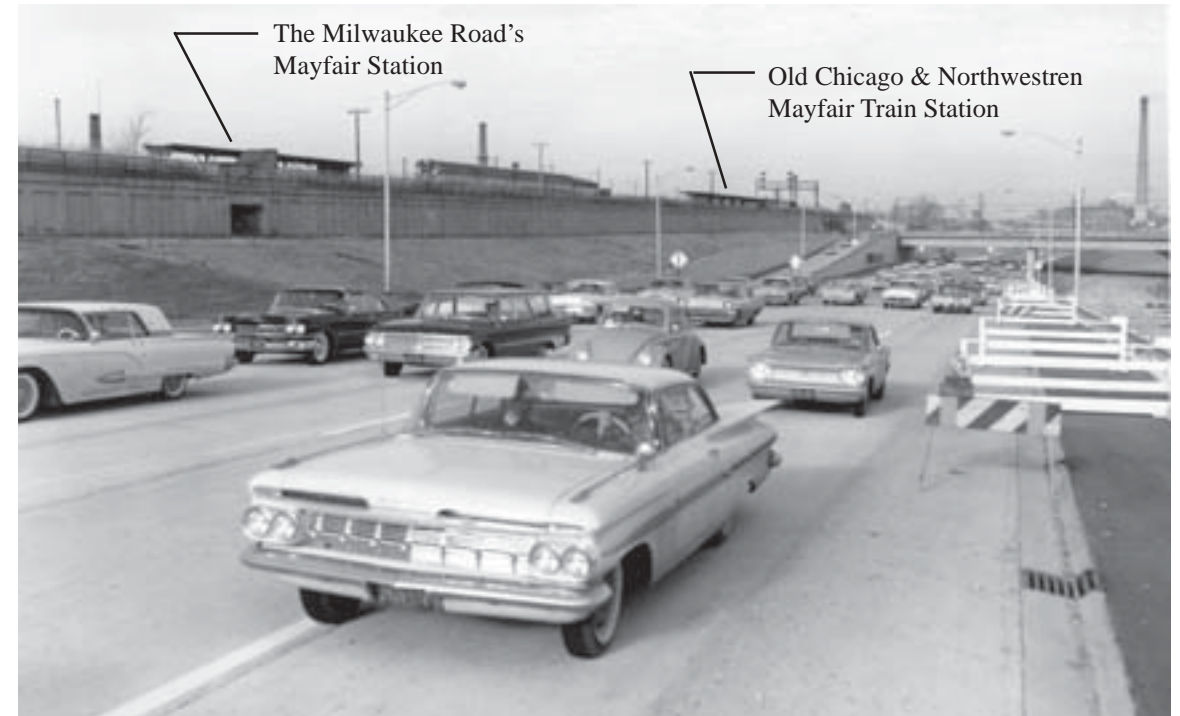


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This photo was taken on November 11, 1960 of the inbound Northwest Express Way (later renamed the Kennedy Express Way) at Montrose Ave. The Chicago & Northwestern Mayfair Station can be seen above the Montrose entrance ramp. Back in 1925, one could purchase a one day round trip Sunday Excursion to the Fox Lake District (Grays Lake, Round Lake and Long Lake) for \$1.50 (75¢ for children) at this station.



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5.

William Cross Hazelton - Forest Glen Pioneer

In January of 2005, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks awarded the Hazelton Mikota House on Forest Glen Avenue Chicago landmark status. The house was built for William Cross Hazelton ca 1880 and moved across the street from its original location. However, most people do not know much about the first owner, Captain William Cross Hazelton.

He was born sixth of eight children in Northfield, Hew Hampshire, on November 14, 1832, to Benjamin C. Hazelton and Elizabeth Folger Hazelton. In 1856, the 6-foot tall, grey-eyed Hazelton left New Hampshire to seek his fortune out west in Illinois. He first settled somewhere near present-day Naperville, Illinois, and his first job was to teach school for \$11 a month.

In the spring of 1857, he decided to homestead some land in Minnesota. Hazelton and another young teacher, Henry Brown, first traveled to Galena with two horses and a wagon. A ferry transported them across the Mississippi, but when attempting



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to forge the Turkey River, their wagon was washed away and badly damaged. After the horses were recovered and the wagon was repaired at a blacksmith shop, they were again on their way.

Both men filed claims on land outside of Minneapolis. Brown soon returned to Illinois but Hazelton stayed with his homestead in Maple Plain, Minnesota, which was about 20 miles west of Minneapolis. He built a log cabin on his quarter section and planted corn. When in need of groceries, he would take wood into Minneapolis and exchange the wood for necessary provisions. Both the Sioux and Winnebago native tribes shared the woods with Hazelton. They were fighting amongst themselves, but they rarely bothered the settlers.

After a long Minnesota winter in his log cabin, Hazelton's money ran out. He was able to retain a job building a bridge on the Mississippi River about 100 miles from Minneapolis, near St. Cloud, Minnesota. After a back-breaking summer,

the bridge contractor went bankrupt and was unable to pay Hazelton or the other workers. He left them stranded in the wilderness. Hazelton and two other men built a raft and floated down to the Twin Cities.



2 nd Lt. William C. Hazelton. Photo taken in 1863

Photo Courtesy of the St. Charles Heritage Center

Early in July of 1858, William Hazelton received a letter informing him of the death of his youngest sister, 18 year-old Hortense, who died from typhoid. Upon hearing the distressful news, Hazelton decided to return to New Hampshire to visit with his family for a while. Although he did not have money available for this long trip, he was able to get a loan of \$10. He purchased a boat ticket aboard the Steamer Northern Belle to Illinois.

Outside of Galena, Illinois, in a town called Guilford, Hazelton was paid \$25 a month for farm work. He stayed in the Rockford area until he eventually went back home to Northfield, New Hampshire, in 1859. It was there, in the early part of 1861, where William Hazelton met his future bride, Fannie Amanda Morrill. Fannie was born on March 3, 1840, in Canterbury, New Hampshire. She met William Hazelton at her uncle's house, where Hazelton was a guest. They saw each other a few times during Hazelton's stay in New Hampshire before his return to Illinois in March of 1861. Hazelton recalls the first few times he saw Fannie in a letter to her dated July 30, 1863, from a Civil War Camp in near Rappahannock Station, Virginia:

I recollect the first time I saw you. I handed you an unwashed shirt. And the first time I went to your house, you were dressing chickens. Two very romantic incidents. I recollect too how charmed I was with your inviting me in and making some laughing remark about your occupation, instead of blushing and running away as some girls would have done. It was this that won my heart. Your most devoted, grateful friend and admirer, William.

Back in Illinois, Hazelton settled in Elk Grove. He purchased a farm of approximately 100 acres and a small two-story white house. The property included several adjacent farm buildings, a barn, and an apple orchard. He had obtained a \$2,900 six-year mortgage. In between farm chores, he continued his correspondence with Fannie Morrill.

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Hazelton's stay in Elk Grove was short. On August 28, 1861, he enlisted in Company D of the 8th Illinois US Cavalry. In a letter dated September 10, 1861, he informed Fannie of his decision to enlist. In September, he signed over the title of his land in Minnesota to satisfy a debt and he mustered in on September 18, as a 1st Sergeant at St. Charles, Illinois, for a period of 3 years.

There are times in the history of nations when the vastness of public interest demands that all private and personal interest be laid aside. Our government must be sustained. If it fails, the oppressed of all nations may well despair. The earnest interests of humanity are at stake and it must not fail. God, truth, and justice are on our side and we must not fail. – William Cross Hazelton in a letter to Fannie Amanda Morrill on September 10, 1861

By October, Hazelton and his regiment were shipped out to Washington, and this is where he stayed until January, 1862, when the regiment moved to Alexandria, Virginia. As 1st Sergeant, William was paid less than \$1 a day for working through the cold muddy winter.

The Spring of 1862 found him in Yorktown with orders to advance to Richmond. All Spring and Summer they battled their way south, but they were only able to get 20 miles from Richmond. The losses on both sides were heavy, and by August they found themselves in back in Yorktown again.



Frances (Fannie) Morrill. Photo taken in 1863

Photo Courtesy of the St. Charles Heritage Center

At the end of that summer, Hazelton went to Maryland, where troops were greeted with cheers (unlike their previous reception in Virginia). President Lincoln came down from Washington to visit Hazelton's regiment on October 4, near Knoxville, Maryland. The troops were elated to see the President. Lincoln was dressed in a plain suit of black, and he reminded Hazelton of a Methodist Minister.

William Hazelton spent his Thanksgiving in Belle Plain, Virginia, that year. They did not dine on turkey, but had hard tack, salt pork, and coffee—the typical meal for a Union soldier.

1863 brought constant fighting in Virginia between the Rebel soldiers and Hazelton's regiment, with heavy losses on both sides. In November, William Hazelton was ordered to take charge of the 1st Brigade Ambulance train, with 35 men under his command. In his new position, Hazelton had less exposure to rebel bullets.

In December, a furlough was granted to Hazelton. He went to New Hampshire, where he visited his mother and his sister Josie, as well as Fannie Morrill.

Early in February 1864, the 8th Illinois Cavalry Regiment was sent back to St. Charles, Illinois, for visiting and recruiting. William Hazelton visited some friends in Elk Grove, but he came back in Washington before March. William was eventually sent to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to purchase a house for the Union Cavalry. In was there that William finally proposed marriage to Fannie in a letter.

Over three years after William and Fannie met, they were married. The wedding took place in Canterbury, New Hampshire, on August 2, 1864, at Fannie mother's home. The newlyweds traveled to Pittsburgh where Fannie stayed until October. She then traveled back to Canterbury to wait out the war. William stayed until November, traveling back to join his regiment in Fairfax, Virginia. It was here in Fairfax Virginia in March of 1865 that Hazelton was promoted to 1st Lieutenant.

In April of 1865, Union troops captured Richmond and Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to General Grant. Then, on the night of April 14, President Abraham Lincoln was shot in Ford's Theatre by John Wilkes Booth. He died early the next day. In a letter to his mother from Bryantown, Maryland, dated April 27, 1865, Hazelton details his pursuit of President Lincoln's Assassin:

We were first ordered to Washington to form part of the military escort at President Lincoln's funeral, immediately after which we were sent here into Maryland in pursuit of Booth and some of his accomplices, who were known to have come here. We traced Booth to the house of a Dr. Mudd, where he went to have his leg set, a bone in which had been broken by a fall of his house. At this Doctor's, he arrived on the morning after the murder. He had with him a man by the name of Harrold, one of his accomplices, and desperado well known in these parts. Here he remained until 2:00 in the afternoon of the same day. From here, we were unable to trace him farther for some days. In vain, we scoured the country in all directions; I was out with my Company night and day. With us were dozens of the most expert detectives of the United States, but all our efforts to trace him further failed until at length a free Negro came in and reported that he acted as guide for them to the house of a Captain Cox some fifteen miles from here. At the time, I happened to be the only officer off duty, and at 12:00 at night, started with thirty men, tow detectives, and this same Negro guide for the home of Captain Cox.

We reached there just at daylight, saw Captain Cox, but he denied all knowledge of the parties.

We obtained evidence, however, that Booth and Harrold remained at his house some four hours in private conversation with him. They then mounted their horses, Booth being lifted on the horse by the Negro guide, whom they dismissed, and again we lost all trace of them. Cox was arrested, and he is now in the old Capital prison... I hope, however, we will yet fine him if he is not across the Potomac. Yours truly, William - P.S. I must not forget to tell you that your boy is now Captain. My commission came some days ago.

In June, Hazelton's regiment left their old quarters in Fairfax, Virginia, to go to Washington and then 400 miles by train to Parkersburg, Virginia, where they boarded steamers for Cincinnati, followed by a trip to St. Louis. William mustered out as Captain of Company D at Benton Barracks in Missouri on July 17, 1865. He then moved to Illinois with his wife, his parents, and his sister, Josie, and he purchased 57 acres of land in Jefferson Township (Forest Glen) to farm.

William Hazelton describes the house that he desired to build in a letter to Fannie dated July 30, 1863 from a Civil War Camp in near Rappahannock Station, Virginia:

... a farm. Not a rocky edge or in New England, but somewhere that land is rich and smooth and fertile. And a house. Not an old brown one but a pretty, tasty cottage. Near a grove, too, where the birds sing with all their little might.

After living in the area for many years, the Captain finally did build his tasty Forest Glen cottage. Hazelton's property abutted on the north branch of the Chicago River. He never developed the land near the river, citing the glen's natural beauty. Before his death, Hazelton persuaded the Cook County Forest Preserve District to purchase his glen and preserve it for future generations. He lived in his home until his death on May 16, 1918.

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**Jefferson Township - Forest Glen, 1881,
Captain William Cross Hazelton and family**



Captain William Hazelton at right, son Hugh at left (age 15), daughter Ellen (age 16) at foot of stairs, Fannie sitting on porch holding daughter Jesse, daughter Josephine (5-6 years old) at post.

William and Fannie's oldest child is Ellen Hazelton and she was in the first graduating class (and the only student) of Jefferson High School in 1885.

William and Fannie's son Hugh Hazelton was born on August 16, 1868. He graduated from Jefferson High School in 1886, one of two boys to graduate that year. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1890. Hugh worked as a draftsman for a few Chicago Companies then worked as an electrical engineer in New York. Married Caroline Sylvia Norton on November 17, 1906 and moved to Englewood, NJ.

Josephine F. Hazelton graduated from Jefferson High School in 1886 and Jessie L. Hazelton graduated in 1900.

Jefferson High School was located on the north side of Wilson Avenue between Kilpatrick & Knox Avenues. It opened in 1883 and closed in 1910 when Schurz High School opened.

*Photo Courtesy of the
St. Charles Heritage Center*



William Cross Hazelton



This photo of unknown origins was taken in Forest Glen in the early 1900's. The names of the young picnickers in the photo are not known but there very well could be a Hazelton or two.

For more information on the Hazelton family and their time in Jefferson see: *The Captain – An Eighth Illinois Trooper* by Winfield Scott Hall, Riverside, Illinois

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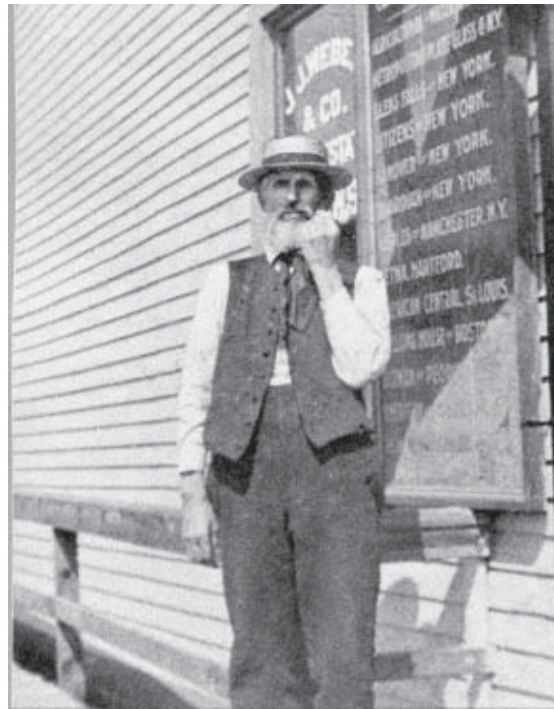
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Hoyne Savings – 73 Years in Jefferson Park

Hoyne Savings has been on Milwaukee Avenue in Jefferson Park for 73 years, a record that no other financial institution in history can claim. Their story actually started in 1887 when the Hoyne Building, Loan, & Homestead Association was first chartered and open for business at 2301 W. Cermak in Chicago.

It's difficult to imagine what Chicago was like in 1887. At that time, the main mode of transportation was the horse and buggy. However, while it was only 16 years after the Chicago Fire, the city was well on the way to becoming a great metropolis. Around this time, Jane Addams and Ellen Starr founded Hull House and Chicago would host the Columbian Exposition, which put the city on the international map.



John Jacob Weber outside Hoyne's original location at 2301 W. Cermak. John Weber was an attorney and the sign above his head reads "J. J. Weber & Co."

Photo Courtesy of Hoyne Bank



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This photo was taken in 1935 when Hoyne was located at 4842 N. Milwaukee next to the Leonard Seed Co.



Armed guards watch over the moving of safety deposit boxes for the Hoyne Savings & Loan in 1954. Part of the Times Theater marquee can be seen at the upper right.

Photos Courtesy of Hoyne Bank



The sign proclaims “New Home of Hoyne Savings & Loan Association”. The photo was taken in 1954 and shows the Walgreen’s Drug Store that once occupied the southwest corner of Milwaukee & Lawrence.

In 1929, the stock market collapsed and plunged America into the great Depression. Thousands of banks across the country (as well as those in Jefferson Park) closed their doors. Hoyne was one of the few banking establishments that remained stable and open for business, surviving during the depression years.

By 1935, Hoyne had assets in excess of \$250,000 and moved to 4841 Milwaukee Avenue in Jefferson Park. Throughout the years, Hoyne continued to grow. In 1954, the Association purchased the old Jefferson Park National Bank building, remodeled it, and moved in.

Since 1961, Hoyne has been known as Hoyne Savings and has acquired other Savings and Loans to build a presence in other communities. Hoyne Savings Bank, “Safe Since 1887,” will undoubtedly remain a fixture in our community for many years to come.

18.



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Olson Waterfall

By Dan Pogorzelski

Those growing up in the Jefferson Park area, like so many Chicagoans who grew up on the Northwest Side, have fond memories of the Olson Rug Park and Waterfall. Just a stone’s throw from Kosciuszko Park and St. Hyacinth Basilica in Avondale, Mr. Walter E. Olson built a 22-acre park full of greenery right next to his manufacturing mill at



Welcome sign in 1942.

Photos Courtesy of Frank Suerth



The Indian Chief standing next to the main waterfall. The footbridges can be seen in the background where visitors could stroll the pathways and cross over the falls.

Diversey and Pulaski (then named Crawford). Approximately 3,500 perennials, along with numerous species of junipers, spruces, pines, arbor-vitae and annuals served as a stark contrast to the area’s industrial surroundings. Olson Park’s stunning rock garden, duck pond, and 35-foot waterfall made it a Chicago haven for weekend family outings for decades.

19.

The scope of the project was truly ambitious, taking 200 workers more than six months to fashion it out of 800 tons of stone and 800 yards of soil, leaving it no surprise that the Chicago Tribune has called it one of “Chicago’s Seven Lost Wonders.” Built against the background of the Great Depression, a contemporary newspaper account referred to it as “the most pretentious undertaking of its kind in the country,” a point that ‘s hard to argue given that it was a replica of a waterfall at the Wisconsin vacation home of Mr. Olson.

The opening of the park took place on the 100th anniversary of the expulsion of Native American tribes from Illinois across the Mississippi, and included a symbolic gesture deeding back the area of the park to the Indians. This motif was kept up with visiting Native American chiefs performing war dances in full MGM regalia at the park from time to time.

Although the building still stands there to this day, it’s been over a quarter century since this blue-collar landmark passed into history. After the mill and premises were sold in 1965 to Marshall Field’s, the park closed a few short years later in 1971. The legendary waterfall was turned off, and the park was dismantled to make room for a parking lot at the site.



The sign reads, “INDIAN TEPEE MADE AND USED ON WESTERN PLAINS by CHIEF WHITE CLOUD SIOUX INDIAN”. Photo taken in May of 1942.

Photo Courtesy of Frank Suerth

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The sign reads, “ALL ISA REPLICA ON THE ONTONAGON UPPER MICHIGAN – 1500 GALLONS TUMBLE OVER THIS EVERY MINUTE”. Photo taken in May of 1942.

Photo Courtesy of Frank Suerth



India birch bark canoe at the bottom of the falls.

Photo Courtesy of Frank Suerth



Picture of the original Olson Rug Waterfall Postcard.

Photo Courtesy of Frank Suerth

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* Hear more about St John's; see the July 2006 issue of the JPHS Newsletter at http://www.jeffersonparkhistory.org/july_2006.pdf