



Bay Creek Bulletin

Oct-Nov 2011

LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS, OH MY!

By Pam Gates

Residents of Henry Vilas Zoo, which is celebrating its 100th birthday this year, found their way into Bay Creek not so long ago. Back in the 1940s, Bay Creek resident Marge Stoneman and her sister Mary Harrison remember, Mary's children played with tiger and lion cubs and other assorted critters that Marge and Mary's dad, Jess Butler, sometimes brought home for a little extra nurturing.

Mr. Butler began working for the zoo in 1945, the year the family moved to Gilson Street. "We were over at the zoo all the time," Mary remembered. "We used to help feed the animals ... at least we called it 'help'." "We never asked Dad what he thought," Marge added.

"When we were kids, Dad would sometimes bring home a baby mountain goat or young alligators," Marge says. "I remember him bringing home animals that otherwise wouldn't survive because they were born out of season."

The tiger and lion cubs stayed with the family three to four months. "Dad used to walk them on a leash," she said, recalling with amusement the attention he drew from passersby. At night the cubs slept in a wire cage by the oil stove — the house didn't have a furnace — but during the day they had free range of the house. "They were part of the family," Mary said. Sometimes after the cubs were returned to the zoo, they wouldn't eat and "Mom would have to go feed them."

Another Butler household celebrity was a monkey with a leg infection. Mary had to give him shots. "Once he got out of his cage and climbed onto the chandelier," she said. "There I was, shouting 'Get down from there, you dumb monkey!'"

Jess Butler's first responsibilities at the zoo were the bears, coyotes, and wolves. His next job was the cats, and in winter he got the elephant, too, because her winter home was in the lion house. He taught her to do tricks before feeding. He also helped the Zor Shriners, who offered camel rides on Sunday mornings. Once a camel stepped on him and broke some of his toes. He got a cast on his foot, his daughters remembered, and then went home and took it off!

Marge and Mary have an album full of snapshots of their lives with the Henry Vilas Zoo. One shows their dad cutting up horsemeat for the big cats. Once when he was feeding the lions, he told a zoo visitor that they got meat every day but Friday. "Why not Fridays?" the visitor asked. "They're Catholic," Jess explained. (Actually, Marge says, lions in the wild don't eat every day, so it was perfectly reasonable that they not get meat every day, whatever their religious beliefs.)

The sisters' photo album illustrates the spring rituals of bringing certain animals out of their winter lodgings. Crowds would gather to watch as the alligators, for example, were brought out of the basement of the monkey house, several men to an alligator, each holding one or two of the alligator's legs.

Jess Butler retired as head zookeeper in 1968. His rapport with animals was wonderful, as the following incident illustrates: Mary and her mother, Clara, took Jess to see the spring "coming (Continued on next page)

Bay Creek Billboard

Mon Oct 10 6:30 pm Friends of Olin-Turville (FOOT)
Bi-Monthly meeting at Olin Park (Meetings usually take place at Goodman South Madison Branch Library, 2222 S. Park (in Villager Mall).

Sat Oct 8, Nov 12 and Dec 10 10:00 am to noon
Shoreline clean ups with Friends of Monona Bay. Meet at Brittingham Park Beach House (corner of Proudfit & W. Brittingham Place). Garbage bags and tools provided, please bring your own gloves & dress accordingly. Contact Nina for more info. Email: ninaj@wisc.edu Phone: 265-3411 or 258-1788.

Thurs Oct 20th - Dec 8 9:30-11:30 am Stepping On
Quaker Housing 2110 Fisher St. Class to help seniors learn how to minimize risk of falling. More info on page 5.

Sun Oct 23 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Halloween at the Zoo
702 S. Randall Ave. Face painting, entertainment and trick or treating. Call 266-4732 or go to vilaszoo.org for more info.

Mon Nov 14 BCNA Bi-Monthly meeting 6:30 pm
Madison Baha'i Center, 324 W. Lakeside St.

All Bay Creek residents are invited to attend. Voluntary annual dues of \$10 per household can be paid at any neighborhood meeting or sent to Dan Kennelly 808 O'Sheridan St. 53715. Please make checks payable to BCNA.

Sat Dec 3 Holiday Vendor Show 9:00 am to-3:00 pm

VFW 133 E Lakeside St 10 home based vendors. Refreshments served. Please see ad on page 2 for more info.

First Wednesday of each month Friends of Monona Bay
124 S. Brooks St., Rm 1, 6:30 pm.

(Lions, continued) out” ritual when Winkie the elephant was moved to her summer quarters. Jess started whispering the way he had when he’d worked with her. She pulled away from her handlers and made straight for him, rubbing against him like a cat! “It’s uncanny, the traits wild animals have and the rapport they develop with their caretakers,” Marge said. “But you have to let them be wild animals. I would never have a wild animal as a pet.”

Marge emphasized that their parents worked as a team, their mom working very closely with their dad (s she cared for the baby animals at home. And what memories this team left their children and grandchildren! Thanks to Marge Stoneman and Mary Harrison for sharing these memories with all of us in Bay Creek!



Jess Butler pictured in 1962 with Mary’s son Steven Harrison and tiger cub Tallulah, born September 1961



Bay Creek congratulates Quality True Value Hardware on 40 years as a successful family owned business.

Islands and Peninsulas on a Huge Glacial Lake By Ron Shutvet

Between about 14,000 and 20,000 years ago during the peak of the last ice age, the Madison area was buried under a vast sheet of ice. It is estimated that this ice was about 1600 feet thick in Madison. To the Southwest, this ice sheet tapered to zero near Verona. To the Northeast from Madison the great glacier gradually got thicker reaching an estimated thickness of over 10,000 feet in the Hudson Bay area of Canada. As this last ice age slowly ended starting about 12,000 years ago, the great glacial lobe that covered the Madison area gradually retreated. The low lying areas of the undulating glacial topography left behind by the retreating glacier filled with melt water until this huge glacial lake found an exit Southeast of Madison and into the Rock River.

This huge lake was called Glacial Lake Yahara and was about 12 feet higher than the present elevation of Lake Monona. All the present lakes in the Madison area were interconnected then forming this one huge lake that was dotted with many islands. With time, the Yahara River at the outlet of this lake cut down through the glacial deposits along its path. In addition, the land slowly rebounded upward after the weight of the great ice sheet was removed. These two actions caused the one great lake to drain until it became the present chain of smaller lakes.

The photo on the next page of the excavation at 634 Lakeside Street shows part of the former beach sand deposit left behind by the receding glacial lake. The higher land on the South side of Lakeside Street was part of a large peninsula that extended out into the former glacial lake from higher land to the west in the Vilas Park area. The Olin Turville Park area was once an island on the larger glacial lake.

St Mark’s Free Community Meal and Food Pantry

St Mark’s Church (605 Spruce St) serves a free community meal every Friday at noon in the church basement. Their food pantry is open on Tuesdays from 10 am to noon and Thursdays from 5:45 pm to 7:40 pm to anyone in need of extra groceries. To donate food or volunteer your time, please call the church at 256-8463.

BCNA Minutes of September 12, 2011 Meeting

By Dan Kennelly

The Treasurer reported that the Bulletin continues to be short on ad revenue. She recently distributed ad information to several neighborhood businesses. The notice in the previous Bulletin resulted in \$120 being donated towards the newsletter and \$90 for general dues.

Developer Chuck Ghidorzi attended the meeting to provide an update on the Wingra Clinic project proposed for the former Bancroft Dairy site. The project would remove the existing blighted structure and build a four-story office and medical building on the south section of the site. The building would include the Clinic and other tenants. The “point” of the Bancroft site at the intersection of Park Street and Fish Hatchery Road would remain available for future development. The project was approved by the City’s Urban Design Commission and is scheduled for consideration by the Plan Commission and Common Council on September 19 and October 4 respectively. The neighbors at the meeting introduced a motion to recommend city approval of the project and the motion passed unanimously (10-0).

The owner of the Clark Street Gas station at the intersection of Olin Avenue and Park Street presented preliminary plans to demolish the existing structure and build a new station and canopy. The owner is considering a redesigned station that would help address traffic concerns stemming from the current configuration of the parking and driveways. The new station would also include more trash receptacles, improved lighting, a more attractive building, and a take-out restaurant. Further, the owner hopes to make it a “green” project and is considering incorporating on-site solar panels. Neighbors expressed some concerns related to traffic, lighting, noise, and security and the owner hopes to alleviate these issues with the new design and recently-hired new management. Gas stations are currently given “conditional use” status in the City’s zoning code, which means that the city can place conditions on the approval of new station construction projects. The city has not yet determined what those conditions will be. A motion was introduced to recommend approval of the conceptual plan for the project with the understanding that design is likely to change as the process moves forward.

Sara Richards reported on the progress of the “neighborhood gateway” project and new welcome signs. There are multiple city approvals and additional funding that will be needed to implement the neighborhood’s ideas for a sculpture and new sign on the vacant property along Olin Avenue. However, the group working on the project is making progress and remains hopeful that it will move forward.

A representative from Friends of Olin Turville (FOOT) gave an update on the organization’s recent participation on the Clean Lakes Festival. FOOT has assembled a portfolio of historic photos and documents about the park which were displayed at the event, and many attendees found it very interesting. The next FOOT meeting will be 6:30pm on October 10 at the park. All are encouraged to attend.

The next newsletter is expected to be ready to be on October 8 and the next BCNA meeting will be November 14.



**Beach sand deposit shown during excavation of 634 Lakeside St
(see Glacial Lake article on page 3)**

Our Newsletter (Still) Needs Help

In our last issue we explained that the ad revenue for the Bay Creek Bulletin doesn’t cover all the costs of printing the newsletter and that we have an approximate shortage of \$720 per year (\$120 per issue). Our request generated \$230 in donations, including \$20 in dues paid at the September BCNA meeting. Over half of those funds were designated for the newsletter. Our sincere thanks to everyone who paid their dues and/or made a contribution. We still need 60 households to pay the \$10 voluntary annual dues and designate that they should be used for the newsletter. Checks can be made payable to BCNA and sent to Dan Kennelly, 808 O’Sheridan St, 53715. If your dues should be used for the newsletter, please write “for Bulletin” on the memo line. If you don’t specify how your dues should be used, they will go to the general fund. Thank you!

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

Free Classes for Homeowners

Here is a great opportunity to learn how to maintain and improve your home. There are also first-time homeowner classes. Classes are on the 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays at Project Home's Training Center, 1922 S. Stoughton Road. <http://www.projecthomewi.org/the-housing-center/class-schedule>

Money Available for Landlords for Lead Handling

Common Wealth Development has money available to help landlords wishing to reduce the lead hazards in their rental properties. Tenants need to be low or very low income. The properties also need to be occupied or suitable for occupancy for families with young children to qualify. For three years after the work is completed, you will need to continue to rent to low or very low income tenants and market the apartments to households with children under the age of 6 years old. Interested landlords can contact Diane Eddings at 256-3527 ext. 27.

Neighborhood Gateway Project

The minutes of the latest BCNA meeting (see page 3) provide an update on the Gateway project to be located in the green space between Van Deusen and Olin across from the Goodman pool. Please note that since the last BCNA meeting, the design has been changed to include a solar panel installation. Dan Kennelly and Judy Robinson presented the new design to members of the Madison Arts Commission, all of whom were enthusiastic about the new concept. The next step will be to determine the budget and contact people and organizations who may be interested in collaborating on the project.

Aaron Laux, the local artist who has been active in this project wants to invite other neighborhood artists to participate. He notes "the original intent of the project was to be community-centered". Artists of any type are encouraged to contact Aaron and let him know how they'd like to be involved. This should be done soon as we need to get the project moving quickly. Aaron can be reached at aaron@smartcarpentry.net or 333 6159.

If you can't reach Aaron, feel free to contact Dan Kennelly, Sara Richards or Judy Robinson who have been working with Aaron on this project. Contact info is on the last page of this newsletter.

Samples of Aaron's work can be found on Facebook at Aaron Laux Designs.

Senior Notes South Madison Coalition of the Elderly

Get Your Flu Shot Early! Romnes Apartments, 540 W. Olin Ave., Monday, Oct. 3, 1-3 p.m.

Home Health United will offer vaccinations for seasonal flu and pneumonia. Medicare *Part B* or Medicaid covers the \$30.00 cost. Remember to bring along your Medicare or Medicaid card. For other locations, call 241-7279.

Poetry Workshops with Fabu, Madison's Poet Laureate, Romnes Apartments, 540 W. Olin Ave., Thursday, Oct. 6, 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, Nov. 10, 10:30 a.m.

Join in this open, creative process to weave together your memories and feelings about harvest time and Thanksgiving. Fabu is a gifted poet who graduated from UW-Madison with masters degrees in African Languages and Literature and Afro-American Studies. Her enchanting, original stories are usually from the perspective of African Americans, women and children. Join her for captivating mornings of laughter and creativity!!

"Stepping On" Quaker Housing, 2110 Fisher St., Thursdays Oct. 20–Dec. 8, 9:30– 11:30am (no class Nov. 24.); \$5.00 per person includes instruction, materials, snacks. Call 843-2846 by Oct. 13 to register. Afraid of falling? In a 2004 study, seniors who completed a "Stepping On" workshop had 31% fewer falls. Trained medical professionals examine how medications, the layout of your home, your balance, vision and physical condition play a role in falls. Learn how to minimize problems in each of these risk areas. Practice fun, simple balance and strength training exercises. Attend this program to build your confidence and prevent hospital stays!

South Madison Coalition case management services are free of charge to South Madison residents over age 60.

Our case managers will help you to find, and connect to, resources for living independently in the community; they will be happy to visit your home to talk about your needs and our services.

Our case managers can help you look for housing, become familiar with local transportation options, or understand, apply for, and work with government and specialty programs that you may be eligible for, such as Medical Assistance, Project Home, and Lifeline phones. They can also assess your eligibility for our home chore volunteer services. To make an appointment or find out more, call us at 251-8405, or visit between 8 a.m. and 4 pm, Monday through Thursday; or until 3 p.m. Fridays. Our office is at 128 E. Olin Avenue Suite 110.

Bay Creek Bulletin information The Bay Creek Bulletin is published every other month by the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA) and is a news and information service for the neighborhood. The Bulletin welcomes comments and submission of articles, photographs, drawings, poetry, announcements and other information.

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Web committee Jim Winkle,

813 Emerson St.; 259-1812; jim@EventsGalore.net

BCNA area representatives

Area 1—Wingra Drive west of Park Street
 Area 2—Northwestern railroad tracks east to Olin-Turville Park
 Area 3—Lakeside St to Monona Bay and west to Park Street
 Area 4—Central area between Lakeside St and Olin Ave
 Area 5—Tree streets
 Area 6—Romnes Apartments
 BCNA Rep to South Metropolitan Planning Council

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 Bob Stoffs, 914 Lawrence; 255-1074

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 State senator Fred Risser; 266-1627; sen.risser@legis.state.wi.us
 Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin; 257-9200; tammy.baldwin@mail.house.gov
 U.S. Senators Herb Kohl; 264-5338; senator_kohl@kohl.senate.gov
 Ron Johnson; (414) 276-7282; <http://ronjohnson.senate.gov> (Click on 'Contact')

BCNA police department liaison: Sgt Jim Dexheimer; South Side Station, 825 Hughes Place; Phone: 266-5938; Fax: 266-4452; office hours 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.