



VOLUME VII NUMBER II

Published by LYNN KETELHUT

COPYRIGHT 2011

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

The chili, mustard and onions smothering my hotdog are making my stents ache as I enjoy my dinner at the Lafayette Coney Island health food restaurant. I am sitting in my usual chair, looking at the sea foam green tile walls covered with Detroit memorabilia and contemplating the economy. What a way to ruin a great culinary experience. As I take a sip of my Diet Coke, I am pretending to decide if I will have a piece of Baklava and some Cadillac Coffee for dessert...what's the use? I always give in. The honey sweet cake melts in my mouth as the smell of the hot black java sets my mind free for just a few moments and I black out from reality, anchoring my brain in this single Zen moment. I pay my bill with cold hard cash and make my way out the Michigan side door of the famous eatery. It is time to make my way back home.

Outside, I gaze at a new multi-level parking lot that has taken the place of a small string of retail stores that took the place of the old Kinsels Drug store which inhabited the corner many years ago. Kinsels used to be the only 24 hour drugstore back in the day before everything was open all the time. It seems like the same seedy people still lurk in the sunken corners of that area today. Long ago black and white memories of life in the tough urban landscape drift past my mind, mixing with the onion residue. My Ford Fusion knows the way home by heart, but never takes the same path

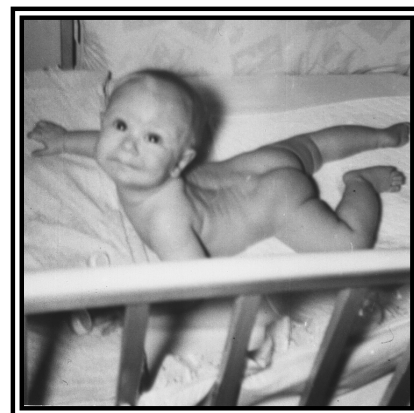
back. We crawl through the desolation of what used be my hometown and my heart aches. Could it be the chili, or the utter devastation that slowly befell these 143 square miles of grit and clay, that plants a subtle pain in my chest? The side streets are like the set of a science fiction movie. House after house is burned out, boarded up or gone. Hand painted, misspelled signs warn outsiders to keep out. I fight the urge to pull over and toss a bucket of paint on the side of something, anything, to cover just a little patch of this lost cause.

Things get a little better as I cross the border of Melvindale and leave the glass and litter filled streets of Detroit in a puff of salty dust. The Little City with a Big Heart welcomes me like a fireman reaching out from a hook and ladder. Turning left at Allen Road, I slide by the main commercial zone of our next door neighbor and slip under the railroad overpass. It reminds me of when Dorothy opened the door of her tornado driven farmhouse and gazed upon the beauty of OZ in full blazing color. I am home now, in the City that I love. It looks like heaven after the bleak terrain that passed by me in the previous nasty miles. Yes, we have our problems, but we have it better than most. I am thankful for the pleasure of living in The Jewel of Downriver. I know that we will make it through these tough times. I have nothing to complain about. I bump my running shoes together and repeat; there's no place like home.

313-382-2300 - Office

313-673-9640 - Cell

website: www.lynnketelhut.com



LYNN KETELHUT
Broker/Owner

ALLEN PARK, MI
PERMIT NO. 31
PAID
US POSTAGE
STANDARD
PRESORT

CHIEFS OF THE



Take a leisurely walk to the corner of Thomas and Allen and stop by **Liberati's Italian Deli and Bakery** for a delicious dessert, freshly made pizza or a host of other delicious delectables. After you finish your shopping, step outside again and stroll four houses down Thomas towards Park. You will now be standing approximately at the location where these two photos were taken back July 27, 1939. Allen Park was still a small village and was largely undeveloped at this time. We had not yet entered World War Two and were still staggering from the worst economic depression of our Country's history. Young Norman



POUTHAWATAMIS

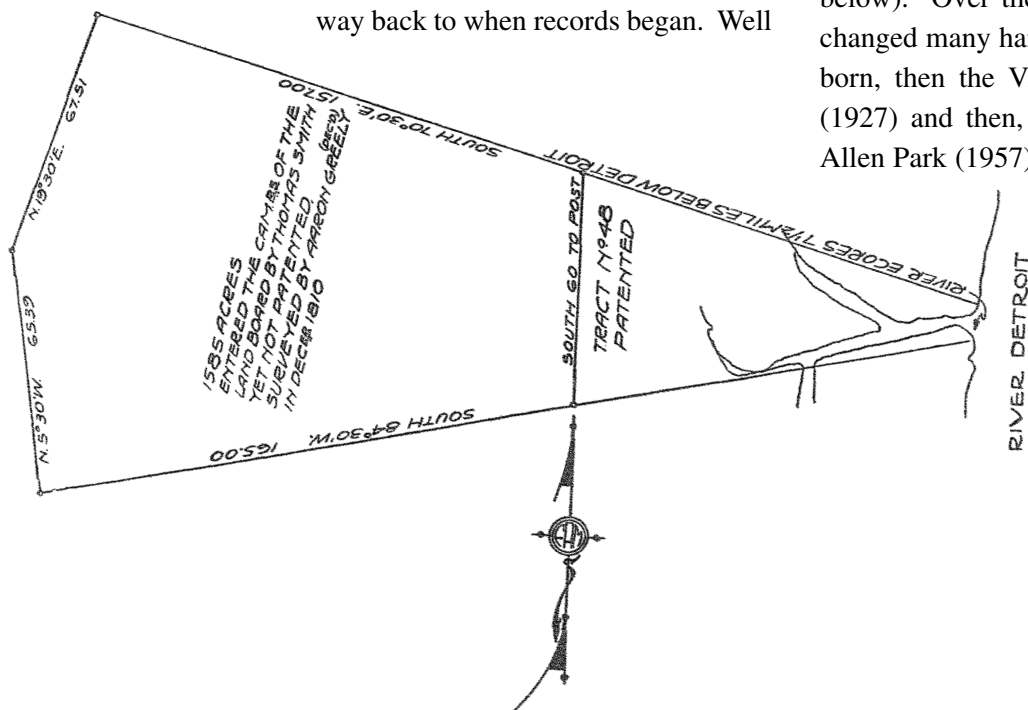
and Helen (Weigt) Lang purchased this property and built their beautiful custom bungalow. They plunked down \$4,600.00 for the lot, house and a simple dream of a secure future. There was no garage at that time, or landscaping, and you can see by the photos, not much else around their cozy little tenth of an acre lot.

Norman was a Dock manager at the Nicholson Terminal in River Rouge and Helen was a housewife. Their two children attended Lapham School, which still stands on Allen Road between Thomas and Regina. Daughter Joan, who graduated in 1952, told me she loved going to Westwood Dairy (corner of Ecorse and

Allen) for the fantastic banana splits that went for twenty-five cents back then. She remembered the dairy was a one-room schoolhouse and a police station before it was a dairy. Thomas was paved when the house was built, but you can see from the photo, there was nothing behind them all the way to back to Englewood. Inevitably, the first tax bills came and in 1940, the Ecorse Twp Taxes were \$47.69 and the Village of Allen Park tax was \$28.60.

Ever imagine who were the original owners of the land that this area encompassed? I got my curious hands on the Abstract of Title for this parcel from Joan. An Abstract is a written record of the chain of ownership all the way back to when records began. Well

kids, put on your coonskin caps and let's take a trip 223 years back in time to March 15th, 1788. It was on that date that a group of Pouthawatami (one of several different spellings) Indian Chiefs signed over the Title for this land to a gentleman named Thomas Smith. The consideration (price paid) was Good Friendship. The 1,585 acre parcel contained hardy timber woods, good hunting grounds and future farmland. Our area was called Wayne County at that time. The overall site, from the mouth of the Ecorse River, to this parcel, was surveyed by famous Surveyor Aaron Greeley in 1810 by request of the Federal government (see diagram below). Over the years, the property changed many hands, Ecorse Twp was born, then the Village of Allen Park (1927) and then, finally, The City of Allen Park (1957).



ALLEN PARK SALES INFORMATION-AS OF 9/12/2011

130 Houses on the market for sale

250 Houses sold so far in 2011

Average Sales Price is \$65,335.00

72 Houses are Pending Sale

Go to my website: www.lynnketelhut.com for more interesting information and past issues of the ALLEN PARK INSIDER

Lynn Ketelhut has Successfully closed over 1,000 Real Estate Sales...proving himself to be an Unstoppable Force in our Real Estate market!

Lynn Publishes the Famous **ALLEN PARK INSIDER** newsletter...Pledging to keep Allen Parkers informed about the Real Estate Market, History and Current Events since 1988!

Lynn has an **Unbelievable 25 years experience selling Real Estate**, solving problems and giving expert advice to both **Buyers and Sellers**. If he can't do it, no one can!

He is always **Constantly Focused on Allen Park and Downriver Markets** while fighting for our property values.

His **Kind and Empathetic style** makes him a **Trustworthy Estate Sale Specialist**.

100% Guaranteed Satisfaction. If you are not happy, you can tear up your contract anytime. No kidding, tear it up...Lawyers love this.

Lynn is a Member of the **Largest Multi-list organization in the entire State of Michigan**. You are guaranteed unlimited exposure on hundreds of websites, making sure your listing is the worst kept secret on earth.

He has earned his **Brokers License** (The highest form of licensing in the State), **The Prestigious Graduate Realtors Institute Designation**, and taken countless hours of classes to continually update his Education.

Lynn believes in giving back to the Community that supports him. He has served on many Committees and Commissions, donating his time and expertise to the betterment of the Community. He has never turned down any kid asking for a donation or ad for their school.

Lynn has been **Trusted** over the years to represent both the **City of Allen Park** and the **Allen Park Board of Education** in their Real Estate Transactions.

He is currently **Serving as Beloved Allen Park High School Lady Jags Cross-Country Coach**, helping build young women into the leaders of tomorrow.

Respected State Championship Level Track Official for the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

You couldn't do any better if you tried...Give Lynn a call and watch him go to work.



**Lynn Ketelhut,
Broker/Owner Park Avenue Realty**

**6838 Park Avenue,
Allen Park, MI 48101**

**313-382-2300 - Office
313-673-9640 - Cell**

**Website: www.lynnketelhut.com
E-Mail: LynnKetelhut@hotmail.com**