New artists in the neighborhood

Rick and Angel

Richard Lee Bangle II (Rick) and Angelique Maria Maida (Angel) have day jobs, but art is their passion. The couple recently moved to the Park Neighborhoods at 7th and Hayes. Angel makes decorative wreaths for the holidays, while working as an emission tester. Rick designs carpentry and yard sculpture while working as a welder. Their hobbies are horseback riding, fishing, cooking, and gardening.

“I have to say I love it here,” Rick said. “The house is great and the neighborhood is great.” The couple enjoys all the corner stores and fishing on the pond at Kosciuszko Park. They recently spent hours following in the path of the Ace Boxing Club, by picking up debris in the Park to keep the area beautiful.

New feature: The Park Neighborhoods of Yesteryear

Saturday shopping on Lincoln Avenue in the early 1940s

For years to come, the picnickers at Kosciuszko Park were going to remember the blood curdling screams of little Stefan that sunny spring morning.

The day started out with Mrs. Sawicki’s youngest son on top of the world. Stefan was going shopping for food for Sunday dinner at babcia’s house. He was grateful that he was only five and didn’t have to stay home with the men while the women shopped. Stefan loved the sound of the tinkling bells when the doors of Druminski’s or Kaniewski’s bakery opened, and he could smell freshly baked kuchen or paczki. The bakers would give him samples.

Today Stefan was also going to get his first haircut at a real barber shop. If he didn’t fuss during the haircut, his mother had promised that he and his sister Anna could get ice cream on the way home. As Anna and Mrs. Sawicki pulled their red wagons, the trio made their first stop at Wientkowski’s on 16th to drop off one of his brother’s shoes for repair. Mrs. Sawicki told Mr. Wientkowski that Roman really needed new shoes, but the Depression was taking its toll on the family and they had to settle for repairs.

The next stop was Joe Lemiesz’ Barber Shop on 13th (see photo). “If I’m good, will we get ice cream at Tompkin’s?” Stefan asked.

“No, we have too much to do first,” his mother replied. “We’ll get cones at Picadilly on the way home.” Anna was sent over to Wiemann’s Dime Store to purchase thread.

As soon as Stefan’s hair was cut, the three headed east on Lincoln. But they were held up by a crowd gathering on 12th Street. The crowd was listening to a man preaching from a soapbox.

“Oh, it’s just the Socialists,” Mrs. Sawicki said. “I’ll run over and get a bird at Frank Bzdawka’s. You and Anna stay here and hold onto the wagons.”

Stefan watched the speaker with great interest. The man was urging all young people to join the Young People’s Socialist League to help the adults fight for jobs. “I think I would like to join this,” Stefan said. “They don’t seem to be against our church, Anna.”

Anna frowned. “There’s mom, with the bird.”

(Continued on back page)
Free genealogy services

Beginning May 1, all residents of Milwaukee can come to the Old South Side Settlement Museum (or look on our website at www.urban-anthropology.org) to access forms for free genealogy services. The service is for beginners only and will include up to 10 hours a week of genealogy services. Only U.S. connections will be investigated.

Book on greater Milwaukee cultures

For 12 years, anthropologists at UrbAn have been interviewing members of over 30 cultural groups in our area, resulting in over 6,000 pages of transcripts. Beginning in April, Dr. Jill Florence Lackey will begin compiling these findings into a book on the state of ethnicity in greater Milwaukee in the 21st century. Look for lectures on the results of these studies in UrbAn’s summer lecture series.

Park beautification efforts by UrbAn and allies were unveiled on June 5th

On June 5th neighborhood residents joined us for the unveiling of a series of public art/neighborhood beautification projects that we call “Beautiful Blocks IV”. The components of this project are: The second Youth Art Pillar, a “Native Couple” decorative bench, 13 new trees and the Victorian Gardens on either side of the monument to General Kosciuszko.

Saturday shopping (Continued from front page)

Stefan shrieked with joy as he saw his mother come out of Bzdawka’s walking a goose on a string. He ran up to her and began fondling the head of the goose. “Oh mom, thank you! Can I keep the little goosey in my room? Does he have a cage?”

Mrs. Stawicki just told Stefan to pull the wagon while she walked the goose. In a few minutes they were passing the Kosciuszko Monument on 9th Street. Mrs. Stawicki stopped. “I heard from Mr. Kapinski that if we go to war, they might have to melt down those canons for the metal.”

“If we go to war,” Stefan asked, “will Roman and dad have to be soldiers?”

Mrs. Stawicki shook her head. “Let’s get our ice cream at Picadilly. We’re almost there.”

Anna and Stefan stayed outside with the goose and the wagons while their mother went inside for the cones. “I love goosey, Anna,” Stefan said, petting the bird’s head. “I hope I can keep him in my room.”

When Mrs. Stawicki returned with the cones, she took the string and the goose back. “Anna, why don’t you take Stefan over for a boat ride on the pond?”

“Can goosey come along?” pleaded Stefan. “I think he can swim.”

“I’ll take goosey,” Mrs. Stawicki said. “He’s not our pet, Stefan. Anna, when you get to the Park, tell Stefan what the goose is for. Please.”

And one minute later was heard the shriek that all picnickers at Kosciuszko Park will never forget.