

Approximate boundaries:
N-W. Keefe Ave; **S**-W. North Ave;
E-N. Holton St, **W**-Hwy 43

NORTH SIDE *Harambee*

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

Harambee is a moderately dense neighborhood with older houses that are mostly two-story wood frame, and a few small one-story cottages. The major commercial corridors are on West North Avenue, Holton, and Martin Luther King Drive.

There is green space in the neighborhood. Clinton & Bernice Rose Park was named in honor of a former county supervisor (Clinton), who also served as park commissioner, and his wife (Bernice), who too served on the county board. The park is home to a large senior center.

See photos below.



HISTORY

“Harambee” is a Swahili word meaning “pulling together.” The name was adopted by a project of the University of Wisconsin Extension in 1974. Extension staff taught courses on political awareness and developed a pilot ombudsman project that supported block leaders and responded to resident complaints. From this, the Harambee Ombudsman Project was born, which has served today’s primarily African American population since the 1970s.

But the Harambee neighborhood was not always African American.

Early populations

The earliest population in the Harambee area was German. Germans had been settling in large numbers in Milwaukee since the early 1800s. As Milwaukee grew, the boundaries

moved north, reaching Center Street in 1865 and Burleigh Street in 1866. A few years later a German shooting society created a shooting range at 3rd Street and Burleigh. It was called Shooter’s (*Schuetzen*) Park and it also served as a beer garden. In the 1890s Pabst Brewing purchased the park and turned it into an amusement square, keeping the beer garden intact. The shooting range was dropped in favor of carnival-style offerings such as a wooden roller coaster, carousel, and funhouse.

Third Street (today’s Martin Luther King Drive) became the German “downtown,” and 1st, 2nd, and Palmer Streets became the German north side gold coasts. Beautiful Queen Anne and Colonial Revival homes lined the streets with ornate fireplaces, glass-stained windows, and elaborate woodwork. One resident on North 1st Street was Edward Schuster, who founded Milwaukee’s largest department store of that era.

When the Prohibition amendment was ratified in 1920, the Pabst Park, dependent on its beer sales, failed, and the brewery sold the complex to Milwaukee County, which renamed the park Garfield (now Rose). The park had a pavilion that offered outdoor dancing in the summer months.

The Germans dominated the area that is today’s Harambee through the 1920s. But other populations were pushing into the area, mainly from the Lower East Side, which included Poles, Italians, and Puerto Ricans, particularly after World War II. Some Eastern European Jews opened shops along the business corridors in the neighborhood.

Today's neighborhood—Recently rehabbed Inner City Arts Council building

Harambee had some very interesting residents. See a profile family below that lived in the neighborhood during the 1940s.

Spotlight on Harambee family (1930s) (Information found in U.S. Census and other public records)

The Hermans

In the 1930s the Herman family lived in a rented unit on North 3rd Street in the Harambee neighborhood. The father, Otto C. Herman, worked as a foreman for the Weldee Shoe Company, also on North 3rd. Otto was the son of a German immigrant. In 1910 Otto had married Myrtle Bartoszewicz in Milwaukee, a Polish immigrant from the German sector of Poland. By 1930, the couple had a 16-year-old son Woodrow and two apparent wards, Albert and Anthony Carneveli, both sons of Italian immigrants.

Otto Herman had a fascination with the entertainment world. He passed on his interests to son Woody (see photo¹), who began working as a tap dancer and singer in vaudeville as a young child. At the time, Milwaukee had three vaudeville venues—the Majestic Theatre on Wisconsin Avenue near 2nd Street, the Palace just four blocks up the Avenue, and the Riverside at Plankinton and Wisconsin. These venues attracted major vaudeville stars such as Fred and Adele Astair, Mae West, Jack Benny, Harry Houdini, the Marx Brothers, and James Cagney.

However, by the end of the 1930s, movies were beginning to outcompete vaudeville. Perhaps for this reason, Woody Herman focused his attention on the increasingly popular big bands, taking up the clarinet and saxophone. By the late 1930s, Herman had joined several big bands, including those of Tom Gurun, Harry Sosnick, Gus Arnheim, and Isham Jones. Herman got a break when Isham Jones retired from his band to live off of the residuals of the songs he'd written. Seeing the opportunity, Herman took up the remains of the orchestra.

Woody Herman went on to become one of the major big band leaders of his time. The band first recorded for the Decca label where it had its first big hit, "Wood-chopper's Ball" in 1939.

Later, recording with Columbia records, the Woody Herman band won *Down Beat*, *Metronome*, *Billboard*, and *Esquire* polls for best band in the big band business, all peer-nominated contests. The band was best known for its orchestrations of the blues, but sometimes combined this with classical music, such as in Herman's *Ebony Concerto*, which was performed at Carnegie Hall in 1946. Herman disbanded the band the same year, apparently to care for his wife Charlotte who had health problems.



Businesses on North Avenue (Holton - 9th) in 1930 and 1950

Notes: The addresses in 1930 were not always the same as they were in 1950, hence the earlier address is placed in parentheses. A blank was only occasionally the result of a vacancy; there just was no business at that address (often non-commercial residents lived at the addresses). At times the list suggests that some buildings had been added or razed. Note that the "soft drink" places in 1930 (during Prohibition) usually got listed as taverns by 1940 when Prohibition had been repealed. (Listings are from Milwaukee City Directory.)

| Address on North Ave. | 1930 business name | 1950 business name |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| East North Avenue | | |
| 435 | | Holton Super Market |
| 431 | | Novel Wash Products Chemical Mfrs. |
| 428 | | Ray's Motor Service Repairs |
| 419 | (101) Margolis Auto Wreckers | Donald Margolis Auto Parts |
| 416 | (102) Abraham Sopasnik Shoe Repair | Dixie Super Market |
| 413 | (103-05) Capitol Wet Wash Laundry | Royal Cleaners & Dyers Inc. |
| 408 | (104) A&P Tea | |
| | (108) Alfred H. Blaeske Soft Drinks | |
| 344 | (112) Abraham Blum Tailor | |
| | (114) George R. Carns Barber | |
| 331 | (115) Standard Oil Filling | Arthur F. Kraft Gas Station |
| 325 | (117) Hampar Bogosian Carpet Cleaners | Salentine Equipment Company |
| | | Salentine Customs Brokers |
| | | |
| 248 | (120) Henry G. Giese Malt Products | Clayton Gabriel Real Estate |
| 244 | (135) Plumbers Needs Inc. | William Fiege Florist |
| 236 | (137) Samuel L. Andersen Painter | Isabel V. Scanlan Baker |
| 235 | (140) Richard Elsner Attorney | Uptown Super Market |
| 205 | (141) Morris Williams Tailor | Fred W. Koller Tavern |
| 201 | (147) Joseph Werdertisch Shoe Repair | Harvey L. Krentz Barber |
| | (149) Clarence W. Patek Drugs | |

| Address on North Ave. | 1930 business name | 1950 business name |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| 136 | | Walsh Packing & Storage Company |
| 128-30 | (160) International Statuary & Altar Company | International Statuary & Altar Company |
| 108 | (172) Mrs. Augusta Knopf Curtain Cleaners | Advance Curtain Cleaning Shop |
| 101 | (175) Froemming-Boecher Undertakers | Froemming-Boecher Funeral Directors |
| | | |
| West North Avenue | | |
| 102 | (187) George J. Retmeier Grocer | Thom's Super Service |
| 138 | (200) Philip H. Guzzeta Physician | Guzzetta Clinic |
| " | Marcus Guzzeta Physician | Dennis P. Guzzetta Physician |
| " | Dennis P. Guzzeta Physician | Vincent J. Guzzetta Physician |
| " | Fred Kretlow Physician | Marcus Guzzetta Physician |
| " | | Armand Boehm Dentist |
| " | | Fred A. Kretlow Physician |
| | | |
| 204 | Mrs. Ida Teich Dressmaker | Mrs. Ida Teich Dressmaker |
| 211-15 | Gas Power Engineering Garage | |
| 215 | I & L Auto Paint Shop | |
| 219 | North Western Battery & Tire Shop | |
| | | |
| 301 | | Rosenburg's Advertising Department |
| 303 | Hess & Klessig Real Estate Bonded Adjustments Co. Collections | |
| 304 | Howard E. Heberlein Real Estate | Jerome Reichert, Dentist |
| 305 | Oscar M. Stamp Na. Prath [?] | |
| 306 | Charles L. Christiansen Dentist | |
| 307 | George Weldman, Dentist | |
| 308 | John R. Dippel, Dentist | |
| 309 | James A. Bucholtz Joseph B. Bucholtz, Dentists | |

ADVERTISEMENT

Introducing
The Milwaukee Series

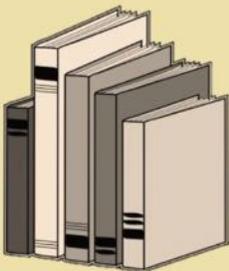
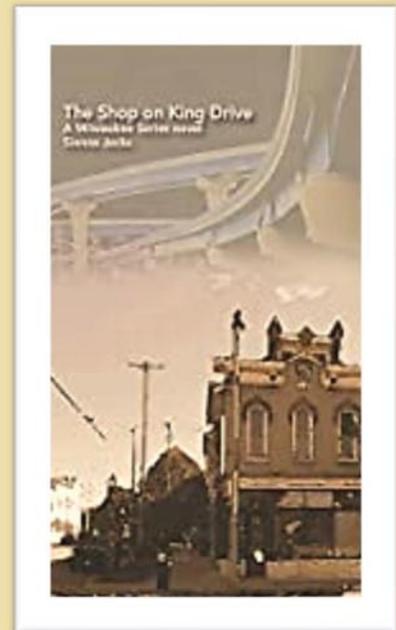
Novels that educate readers on Milwaukee neighborhoods

This series, written by mystery novelist Sienna Jacks takes place in historic neighborhoods in Milwaukee.

The Shop on King Drive

Illuminating the history of the original Bronzeville

A mystery arises out of the ruins of urban renewal. Two young anthropologists, conducting research to develop a museum that would illuminate one dark period in Milwaukee's central city history, confront painful but sometimes puzzling accounts. During the 1950s and 1960s, over 8,000 homes and an entire business district of the African American Bronzeville community were razed. The research demonstrated the racist assumptions and ill-advised urban planning of city leaders of the times. While interviewing community survivors, the anthropologists note that the name of a particular attorney kept entering the conversation. According to most, the lawyer claimed to be helping the black community fight the removal, but his efforts had the opposite effect. Suspicions remained for over 50 years over who was behind the deception and why. The young anthropologists had to answer these questions before they could open the museum.



MECAH Publishing

Milwaukee Ethnic Collection of Arts and Humanities

<http://mecahmilwaukee.com/Fiction.html>

All of the author's royalties go to supporting neighborhood museums and exhibits in Milwaukee, when book is purchased through the publisher

| Address on North Ave. | 1930 business name | 1950 business name |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 310 | Theodore G. Kuechle, Dentist | |
| 311 | Fichaux & Fellenz Lauch, Lawyers | |
| 315 | James Jensen, Dentist | |
| 317 | Cream City Lamp & Shade Co. Queen Dress & Skirt Co., Manufacturers | |
| 319 | Grigg-Horton Shoe Co. | |
| 321 | Chester A. Morris Restaurant | Emanuel Verona Tavern |
| 323 | Christian Aasterud, Barber | Don's Coffee Shop & Restaurant |
| 324 | Ernest G. Naron, Barber | |
| 325 | Edward J. Fleck Co. Real Estate | <i>Oberndorfer Building</i> Herman L. Wiernick, Lawyer Max Hoffman, Dentist Frank E. Primakow, Dentist Irving Ansfield, Osteopath ABC Business Bookeepers Upper Third Street Shopper Publisher |
| 327 | Barr Fur Co. | Bonnie Mac Beauty Shop |
| 328 | Standard Oil Filling Station | Kramko Food Store |
| 329 | Dryer-Meyer Corset Shop | Borris Fur Co. |
| 330 | | |
| 331 | Porth Building Filbert W. Faust, Dentist Alex J. Rudolph, Physician Joseph G. Edwards, Physician Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co. | Famous Beauty Shoppe |
| 333 | Ed Porth & Sons Real Estate | |
| 338 | | Bischoff Service Gas Station |
| 339 | | Ed Porth & Sons Real Estate & Insurance |
| | | |
| 401 | Wadham's Oil Co. Filling Station | |
| 403 | Viel Dental Laboratory | |
| 405 | | |
| 406 | | |
| 409 | | |
| 411 | Wadham's Filling Station | Hoehn's Service Gas Station |

| Address on North Ave. | 1930 business name | 1950 business name |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 417-21 | Badger Monument Co. | |
| 418 | | Black Eagle Service Gas Station |
| 420 | Herman Witt Pumps | |
| 422 | | A & P Parking Lot |
| 423 | Peter Weber Shoe Repair | |
| 425 | Lurette Beauty Shop | |
| 429 | Buettner Motor Co. | H.A. Morton Wholesaler Liquor |
| 430 | | A & P Food Stores |
| 435 | | Black Eagle Oil Co. |
| 437 | | Warren Manufacturing and Distributing Co. George W. Marnitz Dentist |
| 441 | | Black Eagle Oil Co. Inc. |
| | | |
| 500 | | Mike Mucci Gas Station |
| 501 | Joseph Schoegler Soft Drinks | Joseph Schoegler Tavern |
| 503 | Frank K. Hicks Soft Drinks | |
| 507 | | Frank Metko Tavern |
| 510 | | |
| 510-16 | | Roundy, Peckman & Dexter Co. wholesalers |
| 512-16 | | |
| 516-18 | Charles Luederitz Furrier Amanda Greiner, Nurse | |
| 521 | Ida Koch Confectioners | |
| 522 | | Wil-Kil Exterminators |
| 524 | North Avenue Tire & Radio Supply | |
| 528 | Emil L. Zarlring Meats | Gittiev Motor Sales Used Cars |
| 529 | George R. Frey, Physician | |
| 530 | | North Avenue Radio & Service Co. |
| 533 | | YMCA |
| 540 | | Old Rail Tavern |

| Address on North Ave. | 1930 business name | 1950 business name |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 601 | Aloysius Dietz Drugs George Marnitz Dentist | |
| 604 | Sinclair Refg Co. Filling Station | |
| 605 | Greta Schneider Dressmaker | |
| 608 | | Heil Service Station |
| 609 | Max Sattler Groceries | H.A. Morton Wholesaler Liquor |
| 611 | | Max Sattler Delicatessen |
| 612 | Albert Grenier Plumber Werner Co. Artists | |
| 615 | Otto Tank Barber | |
| 617 | Andrus Cleaners & Dyers | |
| 618 | Arthur R. Johnson Soft Drinks | John H. Smith Tavern |
| 619 | | Ajax Window Cleaner |
| 620 | Service Printing Co. | |
| 621 | Mrs. R. Hartley Insurance | |
| 622 | Emkay Engineering Co. General Refrigeration Co. | The Irving Press Printing |
| 623 | | John Moja Barber |
| 626 | | Charles Yep Laundry |
| 628 | Peter Kamenetcky Dry Goods Mrs. Rose Margoles Malt Products | Wisconsin Sound Equipment Co., Inc. |
| 630 | MFD Engine Co. No. 8 | John C. Schmidt Insurance Reynolds & Reynolds Co. Office Supplies |
| 634-36 | | Joseph Heiden Tavern |
| 642 | | |
| 700 | | Nyholm Supply Co. |
| 701-05 | | |
| 702-04 | Mill Cycle & Auto Supply Co. Nathan Reich Barber | |
| 704 | | Fischer-Nelson Corp. |
| 718 | | Comet Cleaners & Dyers |

| Address on North Ave. | 1930 business name | 1950 business name |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| 719 | William Wende Tailor | |
| 730 | John Nevy Soft Drinks Jack Weiss, Dentist Maurice Perlson, Physician | John W. Ernst Used Cars |
| 742 | | |
| 744 | | Irvin H. Rochwerger, Dentist |
| 746 | | |
| 747 | | C & H Tap Tavern |
| | | |
| 800 | | Sangor Drugs |
| 801 | | R & R Food Market |
| 801-05 | Lisberg & Sons Grocery Herman Tolkan Meats | |
| 802 | Walter C. Raasch Drugs | |
| 806 | A & P Tea Co. Groceries | |
| 807 | | Child's Portrait Studio |
| 817 | Sure & Sweet Wholesale Cigars | |
| 818 | Standard Tailoring Co. | Samuel T. Emold Tailor |
| 819 | Louis Yaillen Barber | Gordon's Barber Shop |
| 820 | Morris Tepper Shoe Repair | Herman Katz Shoe Repair |
| 821 | | Paul Bookstaff Meats |
| 822 | Hyman Fleder Delicatessen | Ko-Sure Products Grocery |
| 823 | | Althea's Gift Shop |
| 824 | Joseph Geiger Furniture | |
| 830 | | |
| 833 | | Miller's Bakery |
| | Total number of businesses in 1930: 104 | Total number of businesses in 1950: 88 |

Points in summary (from census and other records):

- The number of businesses in this commercial corridor decreased over the two decades that were sampled.
- The strongest ethnic influence on North Avenue during this time was Jewish. As in most Milwaukee neighborhoods prior to 1970, most shopkeepers did not have high school educations.
- North Avenue, between Holton and 9th, was a virtual international community of immigrants during these three decades, including Latvians, Germans, Greeks, Belgians, Norwegians, Austrians, Lithuanians, Slovaks, Bohemians, French, English, Swedes, Finns, Hungarians, Italians, French Canadians, Poles, and Armenians (based on census records for 1930 and 1940). Hampar Bogosian, the carpet cleaner on E. North Ave., was an Armenian born in Turkey.
- By 1950 there was a small contingency of black-run businesses on North Avenue one and two blocks west of the sampled area, including Alyse Archie and Moses Crumble.

Businesses on 3rd Street (now Dr. Martin Luther King Drive) in 1933 between North Avenue and Wright St.

| <i>Addresses on N. 3rd St.</i> | <i>Businesses and organizations from <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u></i> |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2300 | Charles Hess Sausage & Provision Company |
| 2303-07 | Consolidated Apparel, Women's Furnishings |
| 2308 | J. Komely Hardware Company Milwaukee Wood Preserving Company |
| 2312 | First Wisconsin National Bank |
| 2313 | Joe Lynch Men's Furnishings |
| 2315 | Hartsman Apparel Inc., Women's Furnishings |
| 2316 | Twilight Lunch |
| 2317 | Oren U. Roesler Dentist |
| 2318 | Imperial Shoe Shining Company |
| 2319 | Mitzi Hats |
| 2320 | Arthur C. Reuter Dentist Peter A. Reuter Dentist Mrs. Christine Makoski Dressmaker |
| 2321-23 | Nu-Mode Dress Shops |
| 2322 | Frieda Herrann Restaurant |
| 2337 | Joseph Raskin Fur Co. |
| 2328 | Meuser & Burton Printers |
| 2330 | Frank Booth Furniture Rooms |
| 2333 | William Zingale Fruits |
| 2334 | Milwaukee Electric Appliance Company |
| 2335 | Bern's Smart Wear Inc. |

| <i>Addresses on N. 3rd St.</i> | <i>Businesses and organizations from <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u></i> |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2336 | Richard Pazik Delicatessen |
| 2338 | Rosella Beauty Shop |
| 2339-41 | Family Hosery & Luggage |
| 2341 | Ellis Hat Shop |
| 2343-45 | Bitker & Gerner Company Women's Furnishing |
| 2340-51 | Routt's Read-to-Wear |
| 2350 | The Vogue Dress Shop (Louis Cohen) |
| 2352 | Samuel Morris Tailor |
| 2354 | Champion Shoe Repair |
| 2356 | James Porter Cigar Co. |
| 2358 | Michael Hafermann Tavern |
| 2360 | Zimmer-Benning Fur Co. |
| 2362 | Osteo-path-ik Shoe Foot Fitter |
| 2364 | E. Bachmann & Sons Jewelers |
| 2365 | Schefft's Inc. Radio |
| 2366 | Badger Pet Shop |
| 2367 | Lillian Hat Shop |
| 2367a | F. F. Collath Coal Erwin A. Luck Insurance Carpenter Steel Company |
| 2369 | Gelsinger's Shoes |
| 2370 | William C. Guenther Grocery |
| 2372 | Joseph Ultz Shoe Repair |
| 2373 | United Curtain & Drapery Shop |
| 2374 | Eugene Ultz Confectionary |
| 2376 | Norman Koerne Signs |
| 2377 | Coat Mart Women's Wear |
| 2378 | Bungalo Pet Shop |
| | |
| 2400 | Yandre Pharmacy |
| 2403 | Brill's Inc. Men's Furnishing |
| 2404 | Harold Cooley Barber |

| <i>Addresses on N. 3rd St.</i> | <i>Businesses and organizations from <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u></i> |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2405 | Phelan-Faust Paint Inc. |
| 2406 | Wisconsin Music & Sales |
| 2408 | Ida J. Seyferth Draperies |
| 2409 | Meyer's Shoe Store |
| 2410 | Fred Kaeding Jewelers |
| 2414-16 | North Side Café |
| 2418 | Sattell Fish Company |
| 2419 | Irene Love Dressmaker |
| 2421 | Great A&P Tea Company |
| 2422 | Morris Riger Tailor |
| 2423 | Samuel Goldin Shoe Repair |
| 2425 | Frank Lisberg Market |
| 2428 | Standard Furniture Company |
| 2428a | Western Hardware Manufacturing Company Jupiter Knitting Company |
| 2429 | Atlas Household Furniture |
| 2430 | Gem Leather Goods |
| 2434 | Turridi Plastic Production |
| 2435 | Badger Dye Works |
| 2436 | Joseph W. Meyer Tavern |
| 2439 | Stanz Dairy Store |
| 2440 | Heinrich Brunke Masseur |
| 2442 | Gustav A. Siefer Furs |
| 2444 | Mrs. Gertie Kahn Shoes |
| 2447 | Zola's Sweater Shop |
| 2449 | William Gerhard Men's Furnishings Gerhard & Watson Manufacturing Agents |
| 2450 | Henry J. Gattschalk Tailor |
| 2453 | Central Shoe Store |
| 2455 | Progress Furriers & Tailoring Company |
| 2456 | Fred W. Marquardt Confectioner |
| 2457 | Dashy Dress Shop |

| <i>Addresses on N. 3rd St.</i> | <i>Businesses and organizations from <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u></i> |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2460 | Kueker Ornamental Iron Shop |
| 2461 | Frank Rittner Baker |
| 2463 | Florine's Ladies Ready-to-Wear |
| 2464 | Oscar A. Rheingans Musical Instruments |
| 2467 | Milwaukee Public Library |
| 2467b | Herman Weiss Ice |
| 2469-71 | Paley & Friedland Grocery |
| 2470 | Mrs. Florence Winthrop Tavern & Billiards |
| 2472 | Paul E. Steihm Dentist |
| 2474 | Everett S. Halbert Tavern |
| 2475 | Peacock Markets |
| 2478 | International Grocery Store |
| 2479 | Jacob Karp Clothing |

Summary and notes on 3rd St. businesses in 1933 from the census and other sources:

- There were many female-run businesses on the street, including Mitzi Hats, Frieda Herrann Restaurant, Mrs. Christine Makoski Dressmaker, Rosella Beauty Shop, Lillian Hat Shop, Ida J. Seyferth Draperies, Florine's Lady's Ready-to-Wear, Irene Love Dressmaker, Mrs. Florence Winthrop Tavern & Billiards, and probably more.
- The dominant ethnic group on 3rd that operated businesses in 1933 was Jewish. But there was also diversity.
- As in most Milwaukee neighborhoods prior to 1970, most shopkeepers did not have high school educations.
- Florence Winthrop, who operated the tavern and billiard parlor, had a Jewish, Russian-born husband who owned a restaurant (location unknown).
- The dressmaker, Christine Makoski, was a Polish immigrant. She may have been widowed quite young, as she had a dressmaking shop as early as 1915 and lived with a daughter. Her original shop was on the south side, on Lapham.
- William Zingale, the fruit dealer, was an Italian immigrant.
- Richard Pazik, with the deli, was raised by a single mother (Mary) who was a Czech immigrant from Austria. In 1910 Mary's occupation was listed as "sawing" (probably "sewing").
- Harold Cooley, the barber, was born in Surrey, England. He would later serve in WWII.
- U.S. born Irene Love was another widowed dressmaker. She lived with her mother throughout most of her adult life.
- Heinrich Brunke, the masseuse, was a German immigrant. He'd been a masseuse on 3rd St. as early as 1919.
- Gertie Kahn, with the shoe store, was a Jewish immigrant from Romania. She and her husband Harry lived in the Sherman Park neighborhood. Harry was born in Poland and also had a shop, but it is not known where it was.
- The Zola Sweater Shop was run by Minnie Zola and her husband, both Jewish immigrants from Poland.

Businesses on Burleigh Street (Holton - 9th) in 1933

| <i>Addresses on Burleigh</i> | <i>Businesses and organizations from <u>Milwaukee City Directory</u></i> |
|------------------------------|--|
| East Burleigh | |
| 300 | Harry Hellman Dry Goods |
| 248 | John L. Lenken Service Station |
| | |
| West Burleigh | |
| 101 | Armin S. Mast Teas and Coffee |
| 125 | Matthew M. Wiltzius Confectionary |
| 128 | Reverend Roger Gans |
| | |
| 222 | Standard Oil Co. Filling Station |
| 225 | Gerlach Corp. Beverages |
| 231 | Anthony Heintz Tavern |
| | |
| 310 | Standard Tea Company |
| | |
| 539 | Donald C. Pollock Dentist |
| 544 | Frank Kaiser Baker |
| 548 | William Kitzerow Drugs |
| | |
| 600 | Arthur F. Janke Barber |
| | |
| 801 | Louis M. Faber Service Station |
| 802 | Ball Park |
| 809-11 | Frasch & Zinke Furniture |
| 813 | Burleigh Barber Shop |
| 820a | Mrs. Edna B. Hahn Music Teacher |
| 821 | Mrs. Rose Witte Baker |
| 827 | Great A&P Tea Co. |
| 833 | Lippold's Pharmacy |
| | |

Summary notes on above (from census records and other data sources)

- This stretch of Burleigh was mostly residential
- The dominant ethnicity among proprietors on Burleigh was German.
- Harry Hellman, of 300 E. Burleigh, was a Polish-born Jew who immigrated to the US in 1906. He and his large family lived above his dry goods store.
- Armin Mast, of 101 W. Burleigh, was a farmer in Jefferson County before going into the tea business. He also worked for a time as a teamster and a store clerk. He made his home on Burleigh before going into business.
- Matthew M. Wiltzius, of 125 W. Burleigh, was the son of German immigrants. He was 72 when he was running the confectionary.
- William Lippold, the pharmacist, was the grandson of German immigrants. Even though he was already a druggist in 1920, he and his wife remained living with her parents, also of German extraction.
- Frank Kaiser, the baker, was the son of German immigrant, Adolph Kaiser (a rather unfortunate combination of names).
- William Kitzerow, of 548 W. Burleigh, was the son of a German immigrant. His wife Alice was the daughter of a French immigrant.

African American era

It was the African Americans that would become the dominant group in Harambee in the latter half of the twentieth century. Free blacks had lived in Milwaukee since the turn of the nineteenth century. Milwaukee's first mayor, Solomon Juneau, had an African American cook named Joe Oliver. Most of the earliest arriving blacks who settled in Milwaukee were self-employed or semi-skilled workers, and lived in every area of the city. Many owned property.

Much would change during the period called the Great Migration, which began in 1910. Many push-pull factors would contribute to urban migration of blacks all over the United States—factors including worsening racism in the South, higher wages in the North, and the wartime decline in European immigration--which reduced the number of available workers in industrial cities. Milwaukee actually played a central role in this migration. A city industry, Allis Chalmers, produced the cotton-picking machine, which put many blacks in the South out of work. In addition, some local industrialists began recruiting African Americans from the South.

By mid-century, most African Americans in Milwaukee lived within one square mile in the central city—an area just south of today's Harambee neighborhood—that was then known as Bronzeville. The exact boundaries of Bronzeville are disputed, but most locate them somewhere between Juneau and North Avenues and 3rd (as it was known at the time) and 12th Streets. Walnut Street was the community's business and entertainment center.

Migration into Harambee

During the 1950s and 1960s, two government programs displaced most in this community. One program was urban renewal, which had been designed to improve central city housing. Many blocks in Bronzeville were slated for revitalization, and residents on these blocks were forced to sell their homes or were offered alternative housing in other areas of the city. During the same time period, the Milwaukee County Expressway Commission was building two major freeway corridors in the heart of the city. One cut directly across Bronzeville, discarding Walnut Street as the center of the community.

Over 8,000 homes were lost as were nearly all of the scores of businesses and organizations on or near Walnut Street. Many of the displaced residents of Bronzeville moved north into the Harambee area.

As in the past, the Harambee area would become home to families with members that would go on to achieve greatness. See resident profile below.

Spotlight on Harambee family (1950s/1960s)

(Photos and other information from public records at Ancestry.com)

The Vernita Lee Winfrey family

In the late 1950s, Vernita Lee left her rural home in Attala, Mississippi to seek work in Milwaukee, where she had relatives. Vernita left behind her boyfriend Vernon Winfrey, and young children Jeffrey, Pat, and Oprah to the care of their grandmother, Hattie Mae. Records suggest that Vernita may have originally moved to a flat on Somers Street in the Bronzeville area, which was in the process of being razed. She took up work as a maid. Vernita later moved to a rented house, which she shared with another woman, on West Center Street in the Harambee/North Division area.

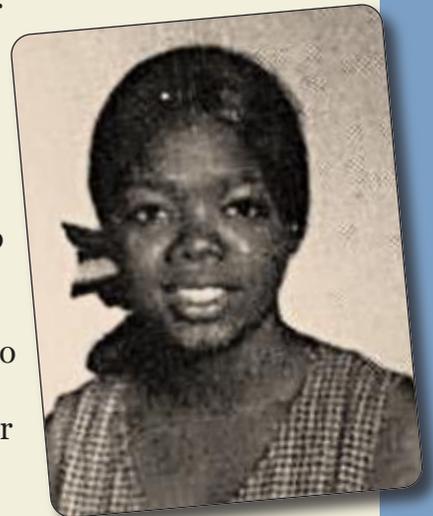
About 1960, Vernita's children joined her. In 1962, Vernita got pregnant, but concealed her condition from her children. The following year she gave birth, but gave the child up for adoption.

One of Vernita's children, Oprah, began to catch the attention of her educators. While a student at Lincoln Middle School, the director of the Upward Bound Program, Eugene H. Abrams, noted that she was reading a book during her free time, and recommended her as one of six black students "to integrate Nicolet High School in the wealthy country club suburb [of Glendale]."

Among many painful experiences Oprah Winfrey later acknowledged in her Milwaukee years, was the time she spent attending Nicolet High School. First, she had to get up at dawn to bus to Glendale and most of her fellow passengers were black women going to work as maids in the North Shore suburbs. Second, she felt extremely out of place with her fellow students who "wore different sweater sets every day of the week and had allowances for pizza, records and milkshakes after school." (See her sophomore school photo in the Nicolet yearbook to the right.)

But Oprah survived. She later joined her father, Vernon Winfrey, in Tennessee while still in high school. There she began co-anchoring the local evening news at the age of 19. Her ad-lib delivery ultimately got her transferred to the daytime talk show circuit, and after boosting a Chicago show to first place, she launched her own production company and became internationally syndicated. The rest of her story is known to all.

Always known for generosity, Oprah gradually lifted her siblings and mother out of poverty. She also learned about the birth of her half-sister back in Milwaukee, and arranged to meet her publicly in 2011. The sister, who had been adopted and given the name of Patricia Lofton, became an instant beneficiary of Oprah's family allegiance, receiving a \$500,000 home and funds for a college education. Oprah's mother and her brother remained in the Milwaukee area.



Current populations (as of 2021)

Today, over 8 in 10 residents in the Harambee neighborhood are African Americans. The next highest population is Latino at about 1 in 10, mostly Puerto Rican. The remaining groups are European American and residents of mixed ancestry. The neighborhood is very proud of its black heritage. The very first Juneteenth Day was celebrated in Harambee in 1972, and the neighborhood has hosted the event ever since.

Harambee is a low-income neighborhood. The median household income is just over \$20,000 a year. The highest occupations of work-age residents are in the fields of administration, education, and sales. Just north of Harambee, in the Williamsburg Heights neighborhood, is the Riverworks center that has brought hundreds of new jobs to the area.

Service agencies in Harambee today include large daycare facilities, the Harambee Ombudsman Project with its scores of block clubs, the family-serving Northcott Neighborhood House, and a Head Start program. Area churches such as St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church and All People's Church also provide services.

But perhaps the most intriguing development today in the Harambee neighborhood is the development of a new Bronzeville. The original boundaries of the new Bronzeville District are Martin Luther King Drive to North Seventh Street and Garfield Avenue to Center Street (with some developments possibly extending as far north as Chambers Street and as far south as Lloyd Street). This effort is designed to bring back both the entertainment districts that were once a strong element in old Bronzeville, as well as family-serving enterprises, social clubs, and artistic ventures. One of the most recent developments has been the rehabbed Inner City Arts Council building (see photo) renovated by the Vanguard Group.

INTERESTING FEATURES

- **Northcott Neighborhood House** at 2460 N. 6th St., a community center to support family stability and provide enriching and recreational programming for youth.
- **Clinton & Bernice Rose Senior Center** in the heart of Rose Park, a center that provides services and leisure-time activities to older adults (see photo).
- **"Civil Disturbance" site** at Martin Luther King Dr. and North Ave., the site where the civil rights riots in Milwaukee began in 1967.
- **St. Marcus School Early Childhood Center** at 2215 N. Palmer, once the Center Street Natatorium.

RECURRING NEARBY OUTINGS (Health conditions permitting)

In the following section the website addresses have been eliminated due to technical problems with the various ways different web browsers display PDF files. Website information on these events is available through the book *Milwaukee Area Outings on the Cheap*. See below.

| JUNETEENTH DAY | | | |
|------------------|---|--|-----------|
| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
| June 19, daytime | Along Martin Luther King Dr. between Center and Burleigh Sts. | Celebration of the US holiday that commemorates the day in 1865 when the end of slavery was announced in Texas, with everything African American—the food, families, music, clothes, dance, exhibits, crafts, art, and a parade. | Free |

BRONZEVILLE WEEK

| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
|----------------|---|---|-----------|
| Aug., 2nd week | MLK Dr., between Garfield Ave. and Center St. | Cultural and arts festival, with a run/walk run, health screenings, trolley rides, arts night, poetry readings. | Free |

RIVERWEST ART WALK

| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
|--------------------------|---|--|-----------|
| Early Oct., Sat. all day | Get tickets and maps at Art Bar (722 E. Burleigh St.), Jazz Gallery (926 E. Center St.), and Riverwest Food Co-op (733 E. Clarke St.) | A walk that features artist studios, beautiful gardens, and various sanctuaries. | unk |

HARAMBEE COMMUNITY MARKET

| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Mid Jun.-early Oct., Sat. 12-4pm | Rose Park, 3045 N. MLK Jr. Dr. | Fresh food from Wisconsin farms, baked goods, crafts, art. | Free |

LOCUST STREET FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND ART

| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Mid Jun., Sun. 11am-8pm | Locust St. between Humboldt & Holton | Featuring six live music venues and a variety of food, artists and vendors with up to 30,000 people. | Free |

BRONZEVILLE JAZZ IN THE HOOD

| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Early Jul., Fri. 4-9pm | 4th St. between North and Garfield | Celebration of African-American culture that focuses on local creative entrepreneurial talent with art performances. | Free |

WALK THROUGH OLD BRONZEVILLE

| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
|-------------------------|--|--|-----------|
| Daily, by appt., 1:30-4 | Lapham Park Apartments and Senior Center 1901 N. 6th St. | Visit to replica of the once thriving Walnut Street, the heart of Bronzeville, in lower level of Lapham Center. To reserve time, call (414) 286-8859 | Free |

CENTER STREET DAYS

| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
|--------------------------|---|---|-----------|
| Early Aug., Sat. all day | Center St. between Humboldt Ave. & Holton St. | Music, food, arts, crafts, cart race, car show. | Free |

KWANZAA

| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
|-----------|---|---|-----------|
| Late Dec. | Wisconsin Black Historical Center, 2620 W. Center St. | An African-American cultural festival held from December 26 to January 1. | Free |

FREE FAMILY SWIM

| When? | Where? | Description and contact info | Admission |
|------------------|---|--|----------------|
| Wed. 7:05-8:15pm | North Division H.S., 1011 W. Center St., enter west side of bldg. | Swimming. Children 7 and under must be accompanied by adult. Swim caps can be purchased at site. 267-5077. | Families, free |

Most of these outings are provided courtesy of MECAH Publishing. To access the book that provides nearly 600 outings—all priced under \$10—for the entire Greater Milwaukee area, go to <http://mecahmilwaukee.com/NonFiction.html>

QUOTES FROM RESIDENTS

If you are a resident in the Harambee neighborhood and would like to add an interesting quote about this area, please send an email to JFLanthropologist@currently.com

PHOTOS



Today's neighborhood—Recently rehabbed Inner City Arts Council building



Today's neighborhood-
House 2400 block of Palmer St. (1)

Today's neighborhood-Rose Park



Today's neighborhood-
Houses on 2400 block of Palmer St. (2)

Today's neighborhood-All Peoples Church 2nd & Clarke



Today's neighborhood-Businesses on MLK & Center St.



Today's neighborhood-
Community garden at 2nd & Clarke



Today's neighborhood-Rose Senior Center

For more information on Milwaukee neighborhoods, refer to John Gurda's *Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods* and Jill Florence Lackey's and Rick Petrie's *Germans in Milwaukee: A neighborhood history*.

Do you have great photos of this neighborhood? Are you a resident with an interesting quote about this neighborhood? Do you have recurring outings, additions, corrections, or general comments about this neighborhood? Please email your input to Dr. Jill Florence Lackey at: jflanthropologist@currently.com

¹ Photo attribution: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3e/Woody_Herman_1949.JPG