

Ravenswood Manor Tall Tales and Colorful Characters Tour

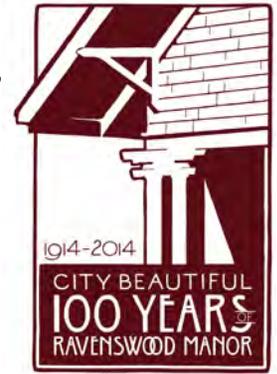
This tour brings our neighborhood's human interest stories to light. The famous people who lived here, the speakeasy past, the vision of the developer, and other tales of the Manor. Enjoy.

Acknowledgments

This tour was researched and assembled by Debra Desmond and Denise Morris, with assistance from Jackie Klein and the Committee in 2014. The RMIA Centennial Research/Tour Committee led by Athene Carras and Jim Peters gathered resident volunteers to share the history and architecture of Ravenswood Manor in our Centennial year.

The committee was formed and supported by the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association, founded in 1914, whose purpose is "to promote the welfare of the community in respect to the maintenance and improvement of the physical appearance of the private and public property; the compliance with the laws as applicable to private and public property; the maintenance of facilities with respect to the safety, health and welfare of its residents."

Find out more about Ravenswood Manor: www.ravenswoodmanor.com or [facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor](https://www.facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor)



1. The Buckingham Ramblers • 4727 N. Sacramento

- Formed in 1966 as the Pulsations; name changed to reflect the "British invasion." Had a #1 hit, "Kind of a Drag," in 1967; four more top 20 songs that same year.
- One of the band members, Carl Giammarese, lived here with parents and attended Lane Tech. Band practiced in the garage
- Appeared on the "Ed Sullivan Show" and "American Bandstand." Performed on stage with the Beach Boys, Sonny and Cher, Neil Diamond, and the Who.
- Dissolved in 1970. Re-formed for first Chicago Fest in 1978.
- House foyer purportedly features a musical note in tile floor.



2. Abe Saperstein • 2958 W. Eastwood

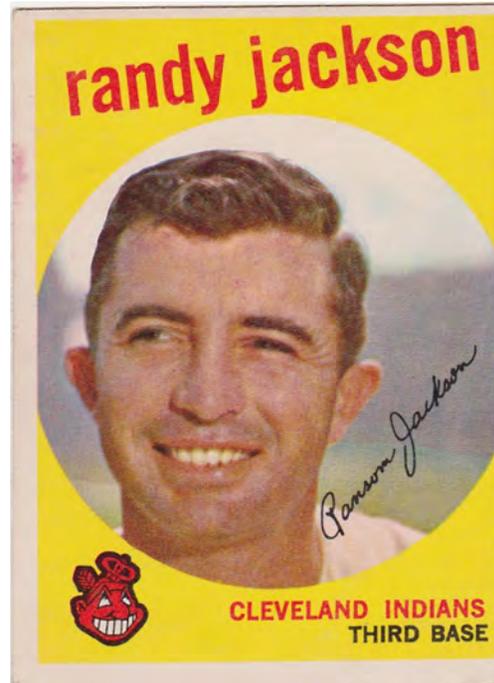
- Lived here until his death in 1966 at age 64.
- A former sports director at Welles Park, he founded the Harlem Globe Trotters in 1926 (originally known as the "Savoy Big Five"). Chose "Harlem" to indicate players were African-American, even though they lived in Chicago. Envisioned that the team would tour internationally.
- Commissioner of the American Basketball League, which he founded in 1961; introduced three-point shot
- At 5'5" height, he is the shortest member of the Basketball Hall of Fame (elected in 1971).
- Abe sewed team's first uniforms (his father was a local tailor).



W. T. PFEFFER, 2d B, Chicago

3. Nathaniel "Fred" • Pfeffer 2928 W. Wilson

- A retired baseball player, Nathaniel "Fred" Pfeffer, resided here until his death, at age 72, on April 10, 1932.
- Pfeffer played 16 seasons of professional baseball, from 1882 to 1897, including 11 years for Chicago's National League team (the current-day Cubs). His lifetime batting average was .255, with 94 home runs, 1,021 runs batted in, and 383 stolen bases.
- He was regarded as one of the top defensive players of his era: "mercury quick and acrobatic." He was one of the last players not to wear a fielder's glove and was named one of the two greatest second basemen of the 1890s (along with Nap Lajoie).
- After his retirement from baseball, he ran a popular Loop tavern, Pfeffer's Bar, until Prohibition in 1920.



4. “Handsome Ransom” Jackson • 2858 W. Wilson

- Major league baseball player Randy “Handsome Ransom” Jackson lived here 1951-55, when he played for the Chicago Cubs. Locals remember him riding the “L” to Wrigley Field on game days.
- Jackson was drafted by the Chicago Cubs on May 2, 1950. His hitting and fielding—he was a third baseman—earned him consecutive trips to the All-Star Game (1954 and 1955).
- He played for Brooklyn Dodgers in 1956-1958, replacing an aging Jackie Robinson. He played for the Cleveland Indians in 1958 and 1959. He now lives in Athens, Ga.



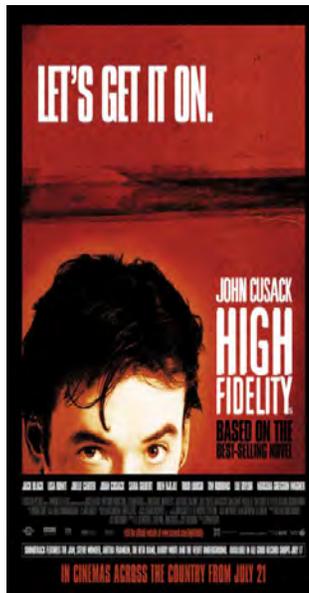
5. Albert Temaner • 2806 W. Eastwood

- Albert Temaner, a well-known record store owner, lived here through the 1970s (he died in 1987). He owned a chain of six record stores—named “Little Al’s”—in the late-1950s through the early-’70s. The closest outlet was at 3210 W. Lawrence Ave.
- Temaner was known for his large collection of pets, including a dozen giant parrots and a Saint Bernard dog named “Bernardo.” Temaner had adopted Bernardo in 1965 after reading a Chicago Tribune article about him.
- Bernardo had gained fame when he was “sentenced” to a life term to the Cook County Jail as a publicity stunt. At 175 pounds, he was very popular with his fellow inmates and served as the jail mascot until being “paroled” into the care of Temaner.



6. Michael J. Ahern • 4536 N. Mozart

- Famed Chicago defense attorney Michael Ahern resided here for more than a decade, until his death in 1943 at age 56.
- He represented the Chicago White Sox baseball team in the infamous 1920 Black Sox Trial for the alleged fixing of the 1919 World Series.
- The players ultimately were found not guilty, but Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis still banned them from ever playing professional baseball again.
- Ahern represented gangster Al Capone in his tax evasion trial of 1931.” Ahern ultimately lost the case and Capone was sentenced to prison, including a stint at Alcatraz.
- Ahern’s widow continued living here until the 1980s.



7. “High Fidelity” • 4532 N. Mozart

- A scene in the comedy-drama movie “High Fidelity” was filmed here. Released in 1999, the film starred John Cusack and Jack Black and was directed by Steve Fears.
- The filming took three days for less than a minute of film time.
- A “make-out party” was shot in the basement, featuring John Cusack and his high school girlfriend, actress Joelle Carter (who appears on the TV show “Justified”).



8. "Tunnel House" • 2814 W. Sunnyside

- This lot was formerly occupied by a residence that featured a tunnel between the house and the garage. Both were built in the early 1920s by Fred W. Popp for his mistress June Bacon.
- Popp was a 53-year-old, married former mail carrier who made a fortune investing in real estate and became president of the Logan Square Trust and Savings Bank. His bank was investigated for "irregularities" in 1923 and Popp's career unraveled before his death.
- After Bacon testified to the authorities, the house became the subject of numerous newspaper articles. Although it was assumed the tunnel had been used to help Popp come and go unnoticed, Bacon told the Chicago Tribune the tunnel was built so her "satin shoes wouldn't get dirty."
- The original house was demolished in 1995—and the tunnel filled in—to make way for the current residence, which is the home of IL Sen. John Cullerton and his family.



SEPT. 1924

9. Diamond Racetrack • Buffalo Park

- Potawatomi Indians had numerous camps along the Chicago River until they were forced out in 1833, following the arrival of white settlers.
- The land west of the Chicago River then was used as pastures and vegetable farms.
- Edwin Dymond (also spelled Diamond) leased some of the property and built a half-mile oval track west of current-day Buffalo Park. A horse pasture was located north of the track. Newspaper ads (1893-1902) suggest the track was used for many types of events, including cycling races, pigeon shooting contests, and private horse races.
- The grandstand burned in 1904 and was not rebuilt.
- Buffalo Park got its name from a decorative concrete fountain (built 1917) that featured carvings of buffalo heads. The fountain was taken down in 1941 due to deterioration.
- The Horner Park Advisory Council spearheaded an effort to refurbish the park in 2008.



10. Sid Luckman • 2749 W. Sunnyside

- This building was originally built as a multi-unit apartment building in 1928. One of the most famous residents of this building was pro football quarterback Sid Luckman, who played 12 seasons for the Chicago Bears (1939 – 1950), leading the team to four NFL championships. Considered the first modern T-formation quarterback and, Sid was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1965
- Luckman and his family moved to Skokie in 1957, shortly after his son, who was a student at Roosevelt High School, was attacked in Horner Park by a group of teenagers. Luckman died in 1998, at age 81, in Aventura, Fla.



11. “Jail Cell House” • 4505 N. Manor

- This house was built in 1922 and early residents included Judge William Morgan and his wife. Morgan presided in the family/child law court of Cook County
- In the basement is a commercially built jail cell with an iron doorway, barred doors, barred window, and a reinforced concrete ceiling. It is unclear whether the jail cell was built before, during, or after Judge Morgan’s tenancy.
- The architect of the house later became an expert in building bomb shelters.

Ravenswood Manor - Tall Tales a... ☆

This tour brings our neighborhood's human interest stories to light. The famous people who lived here, the speakeasy past, the vision of the [more](#)

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Walking Tour Stops

 Sequence of color and letters

-  4727 N Sacramento Ave
-  2958 W Eastwood Ave
-  2928 W Wilson Ave
-  2858 W Wilson Ave
-  2806 W Eastwood Ave
-  4536 N Mozart St
-  4532 N Mozart St
-  2814 W Sunnyside Ave
-  Buffalo Park
-  2749 W Sunnyside Ave
-  4505 N Manor Ave

Base map

