

Cleveland Metroparks

Edgewater Park

The Beginning



Stacey Allen
Center Manager
CanalWay Center





LITH. BY SHORER & CARQUEVILLE CHICAGO

CHURCHES

- 1. First M. E. Church, Methodist.
- 2. First M. E. Church, German, Methodist.
- 3. Whittier M. E. Church, Methodist.
- 4. Child M. E. Church, Methodist.
- 5. South Am. Church, Methodist.
- 6. Broadway M. E. Church, Methodist.
- 7. First Methodist Church, Methodist.
- 8. Franklin Street " "
- 9. Central M. E. " "
- 10. Parker Ave. " "
- 11. Bevel Church, United.
- 12. St. John's Catholic, Roman Catholic.
- 13. St. Joseph's Church, German, Roman Catholic.
- 14. St. Michael's Church, German, Roman Catholic.
- 15. St. Mary of the Assumption, St. C., German.
- 16. St. Mary's Church, Polish, Roman Catholic.
- 17. St. Peter's Church, German.
- 18. St. Stephen's Church, Roman Catholic.
- 19. First English Church.
- 20. First Unit. Church.
- 21. Western Ave. Ch. " "
- 22. Waverly Church " "
- 23. First Congregational Church.
- 24. Highgate " "
- 25. All Saints' Church, Protestant Episcopal.
- 26. First Baptist Church.
- 27. St. John's Church, Baptist.
- 28. Dutch Street Presbyterian.
- 29. First Church " "
- 30. Second Church " "
- 31. First Church " "
- 32. North Park Church " "
- 33. First Unit. Church " "
- 34. Waverly Ave. Ch. " "
- 35. Waverly Church " "
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- 37. Highgate " "
- 38. First Congregational Church.
- 39. Highgate " "
- 40. All Saints' Church, Protestant Episcopal.
- 41. First Baptist Church.
- 42. St. John's Church, Baptist.
- 43. Dutch Street Presbyterian.
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- 49. Waverly Ave. Ch. " "
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- 51. Waverly Church " "
- 52. Highgate " "
- 53. First Congregational Church.
- 54. Highgate " "
- 55. All Saints' Church, Protestant Episcopal.
- 56. First Baptist Church.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF

CLEVELAND

OHIO 1877

ENTERED ACCORDING TO ACT OF CONGRESS BY J. J. BYRONEN MADISON WIS.

- 57. Zion's Church, Evangelical United.
- 58. Central Evangelical, No. 1st Church.
- 59. Anker Church, Congregational Church.
- 60. Tabernacle " "
- 61. First V. N. Church.
- 62. First Presbyterian Church.
- 63. Trinity Church.
- 64. French Church.
- 65. French Seminary.
- 66. Central High School.
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Printed at No. 1
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Library of Congress

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Public Square 1888, CPL



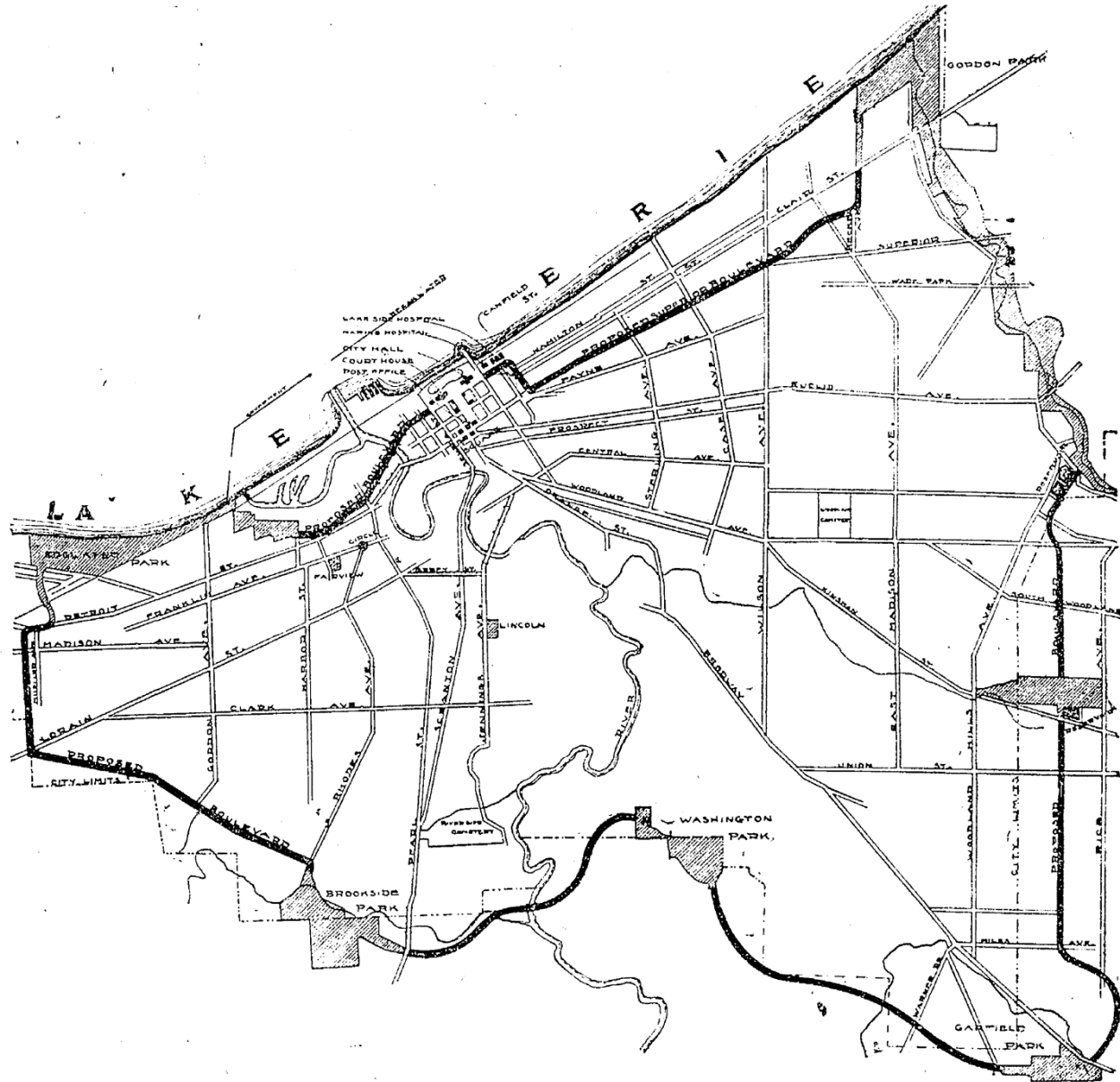
Public Square 1895 ECH



A VIEW IN GORDON PARK.

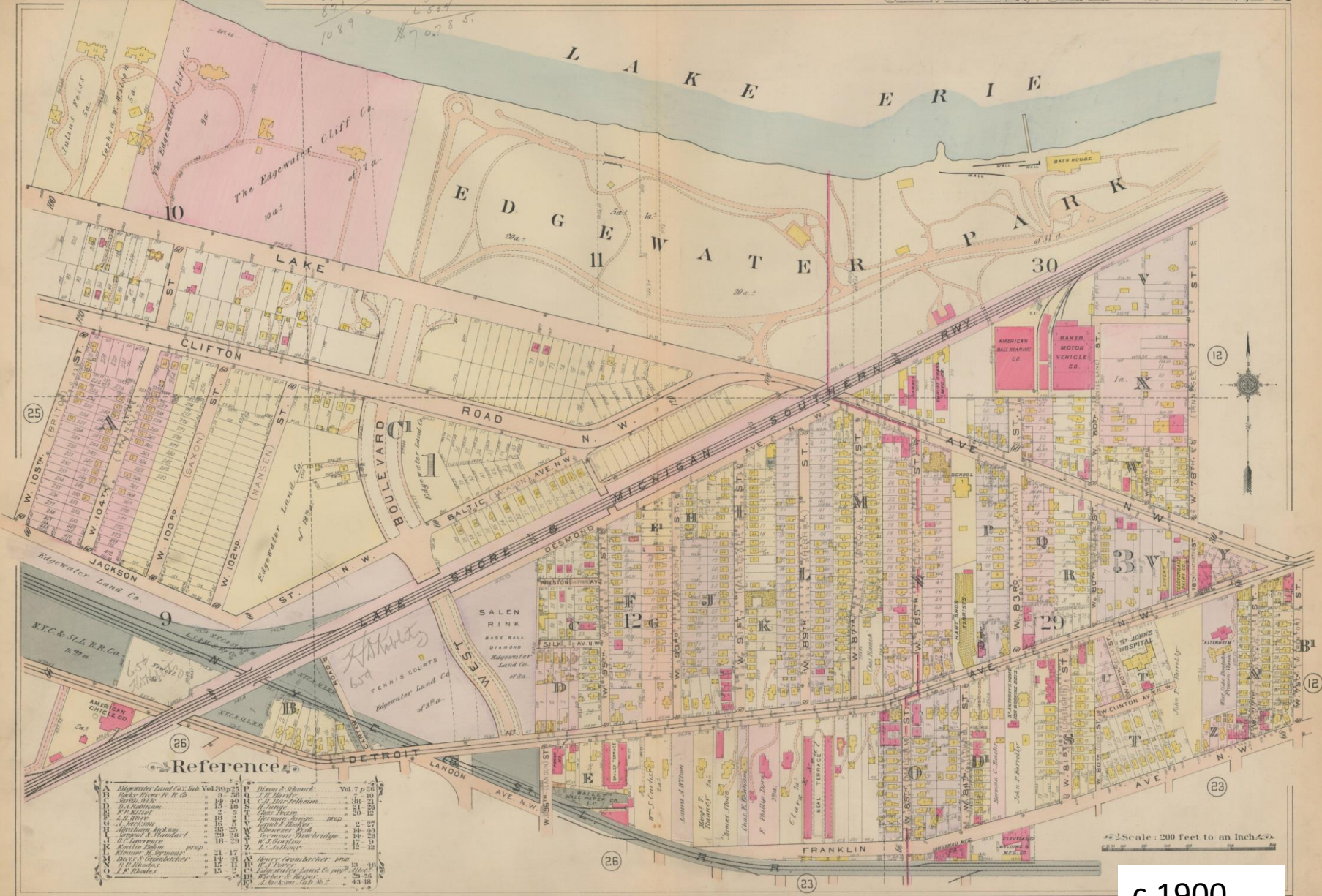
Source: Cleveland Memory

BOULEVARDS CONNECTING ALL THE PARKS.



4354
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84
1089

1089
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545
684
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Reference

A	Edgewater Land Co. Sub	Vol. 10	25	P	Dixon & Schenk	Vol. 7	26
B	Edgewater R. R. Co.		26	Q	J. J. Hart		27
C	Edgewater		27	R	Cliff Hill		28
D	Edgewater		28	S	Edgewater		29
E	Edgewater		29	T	Edgewater		30
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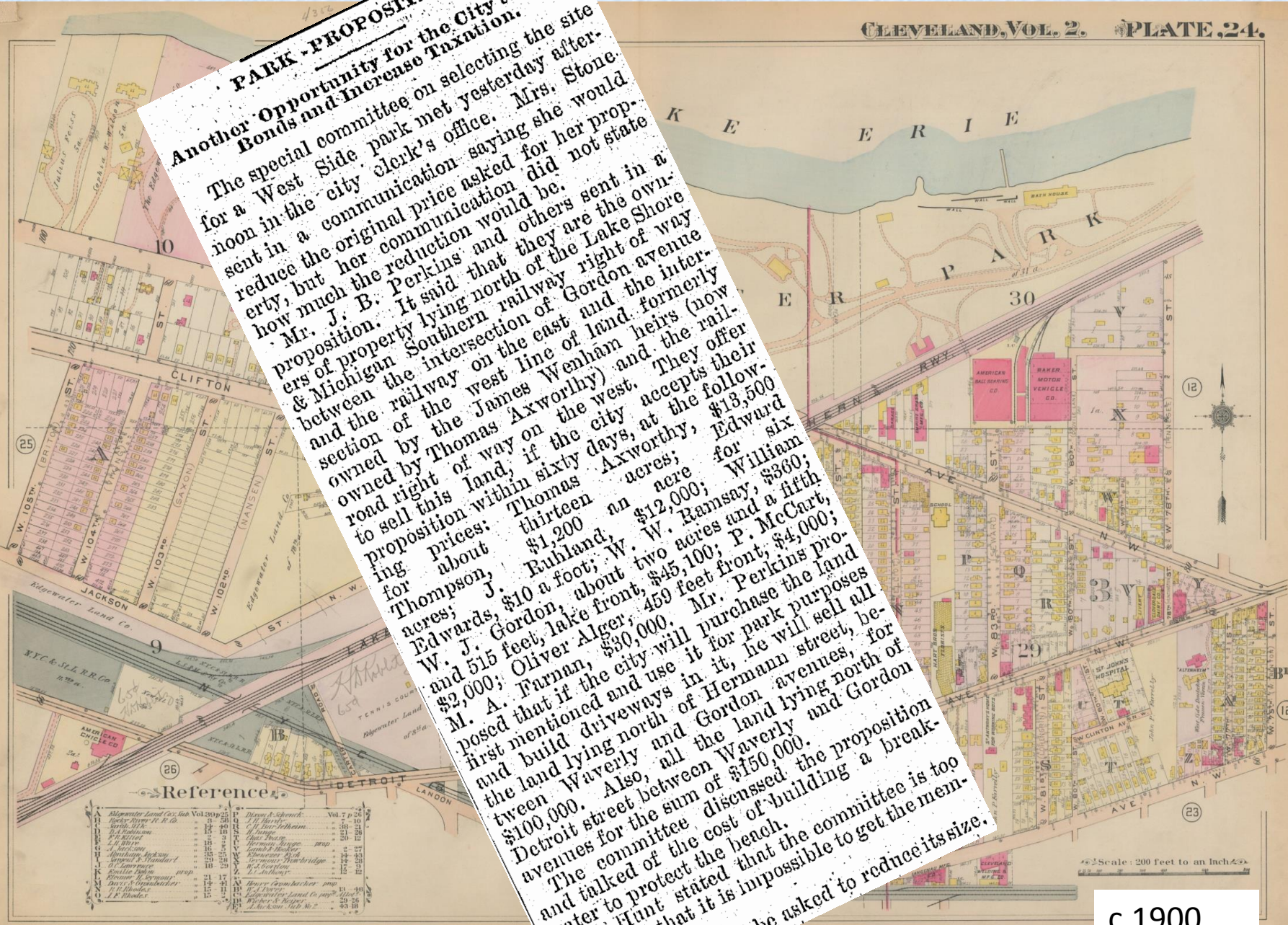
Scale: 200 feet to an inch

c.1900

PARK PROPOSITIONS.

Another Opportunity for the City to Issue Bonds and Increase Taxation.

The special committee on selecting the site for a West Side park met yesterday afternoon in the city clerk's office. Mrs. Stone sent in a communication saying she would reduce the original price asked for her property, but her communication did not state how much the reduction would be. Mr. J. B. Perkins and others sent in a proposition. It said that they are the owners of property lying north of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railway right of way and between the intersection of Gordon avenue and the railway on the east and the intersection of the west line of land formerly owned by Thomas Axworthy and the railroad right of way on the west. They offer to sell this land, if the city accepts their proposition within sixty days, at the following prices: Thomas Axworthy, \$13,500 acres; J. Ruhland, an acre for six acres; \$10 a foot; W. W. Ramsay, \$360; and 515 feet, about two acres and a fifth \$2,000; Oliver Alger, \$45,100; P. McCart, M. A. Farnan, \$30,000. Mr. Perkins proposed that if the city will purchase the land and build driveways in it, he will sell all the land lying north of Hermann street, between Waverly and Gordon avenues, for \$100,000. Also, all the land lying north of Detroit street between Waverly and Gordon avenues for the sum of \$150,000. The committee discussed the proposition and talked of the cost of building a break-water to protect the beach. Mr. Hunt stated that the committee is too large and that it is impossible to get the members together. A council will be asked to reduce its size.



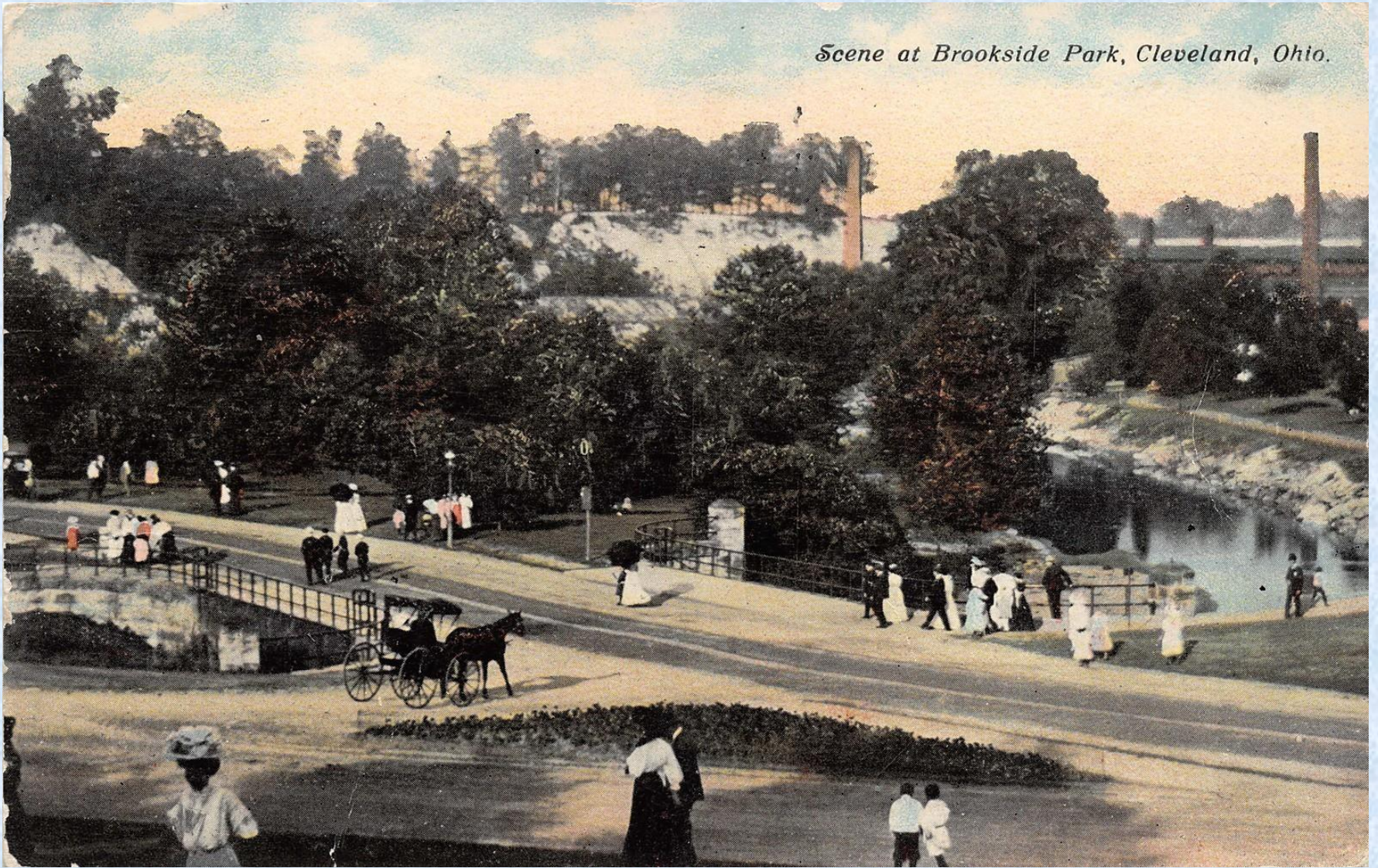
Reference

A	Algewater Land Co. Inc.	Vol. 109	25	P	Devoe & Schenk	Vol. 7	25
B	Baker & Brown W. R. Co.	19	21	R	Edwards	10	21
C	Carroll	18	20	S	Edwards & Johnson	10	21
D	Chapman	15	17	T	Edwards & Johnson	10	21
E	Edwards	15	17	V	Edwards & Johnson	10	21
F	Farnan	16	18	W	Edwards & Johnson	10	21
G	Gordon	16	18	X	Edwards & Johnson	10	21
H	Hermann	16	18	Y	Edwards & Johnson	10	21
I	Hunt	16	18	Z	Edwards & Johnson	10	21
J	J. B. Perkins	16	18				
K	Kennedy	16	18				
L	Landon	16	18				
M	McCarty	16	18				
N	Nansen	16	18				
O	Oliver Alger	16	18				
P	Perkins	16	18				
Q	Quinn	16	18				
R	Ramsay	16	18				
S	Stone	16	18				
T	Thomas Axworthy	16	18				
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W	Waverly	16	18				
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Y	Wentworth	16	18				
Z	Wentworth	16	18				

Scale: 200 feet to an inch

c.1900

Scene at Brookside Park, Cleveland, Ohio.



Brookside
Park c 1910

Scene at Garfield Park, Cleveland, Ohio.



Garfield Park c 1910



MORE ROOM FOR LAKE BATHERS

**City's Facilities Inadequate—
New Bathhouse to be Built
at Edgewater.**

**Beach May Eventually be Es-
tablished at the Foot
of Erie Street.**

Cleveland's bathing beaches are being patronized to a larger extent this season than ever before, say the officials of the park department, who have supervision over the beaches at Gordon and Edgewater parks. Lake bathing, they assert, is daily becoming more popular and in view of this fact plans for caring for the natural growth of the city with the increased demand for bathing facilities are already being talked of.

The city now has one excellent bathhouse, that at Gordon park. The one at Edgewater is nothing less than a makeshift, while the privately owned house at the same place is little better. Facilities there are very poor.

Recently a demand has been made that a bathing beach and a bathhouse be established at the foot of Erie street.

"A new bathhouse in Edgewater park will be our first consideration," was the reply of Member Leslie of the board of public service. "And we

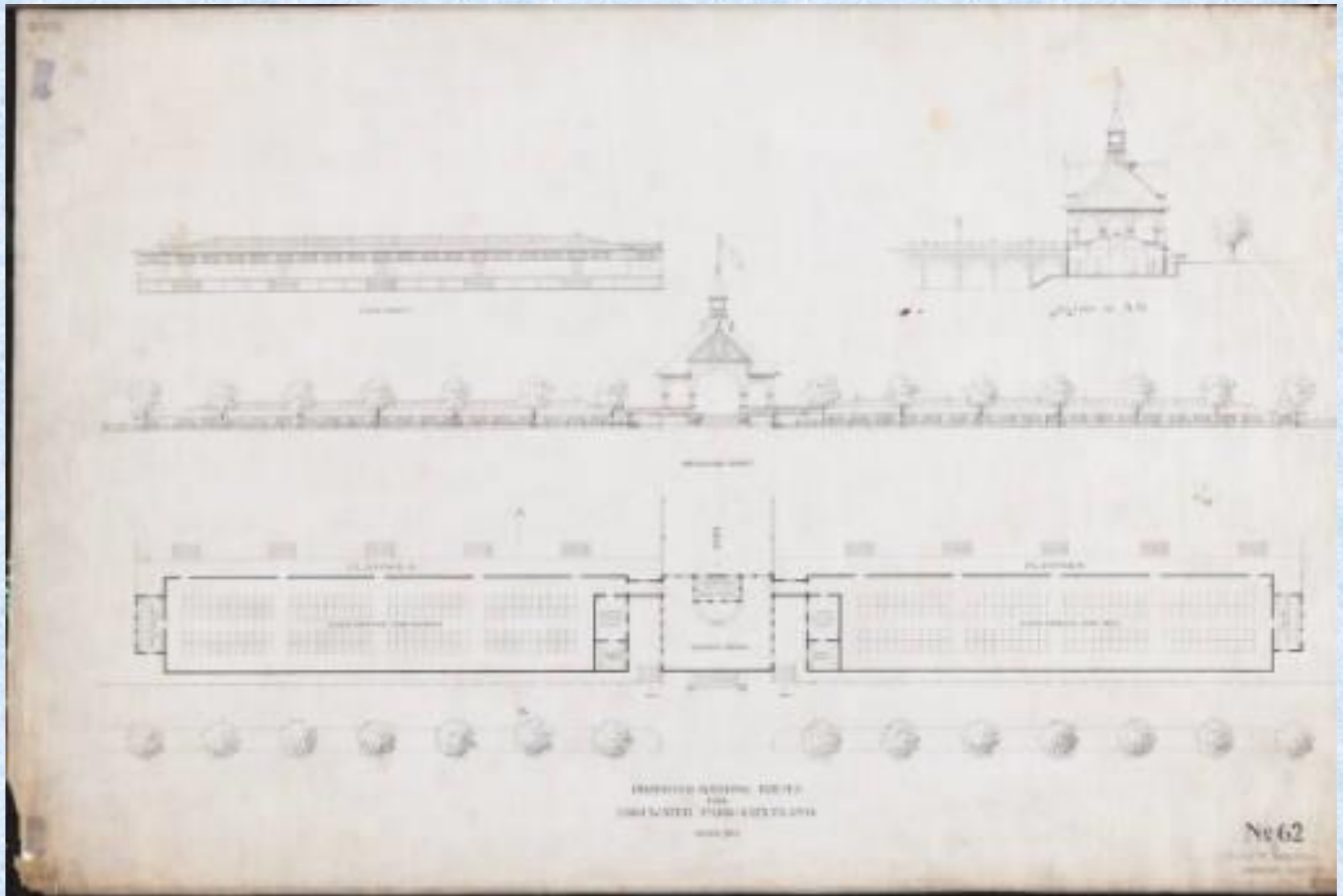
should arrange to have this new house in service next season. Figures that I have just received show in no uncertain manner the popularity of the sport and the need of better facilities at Edgewater.

"At Gordon park for the past few days the average attendance at the bathhouse, which means calls for bathing suits or rooms, has been close to 500. Lacking as it is in proper facilities, the attendance at Edgewater has been half of that, while the private bathhouse people probably did as much business as was done at Gordon park."

Estimates, based on figures already on hand, indicate that fully 35,000 people will take dips in old Lake Erie from beaches under the supervision of the park department this summer. These estimates give to the Gordon park beach an attendance of 24,000, while it is expected that 11,000 will take advantage of the opportunities offered at the municipal bathhouse at Edgewater.

The average daily attendance at Gordon park is estimated at about 325, while that at Edgewater is not far from 150. Of this number there is an average of about 166 bathers at Gordon park, who own their own suits, while the average at Edgewater park is 62. The city charges a rental of 10 cents for suits and rooms, while a charge of only 5 cents is made for a room. The largest number of people visit the bathing beaches in the evenings, although the number of early morning visitors is surprising.

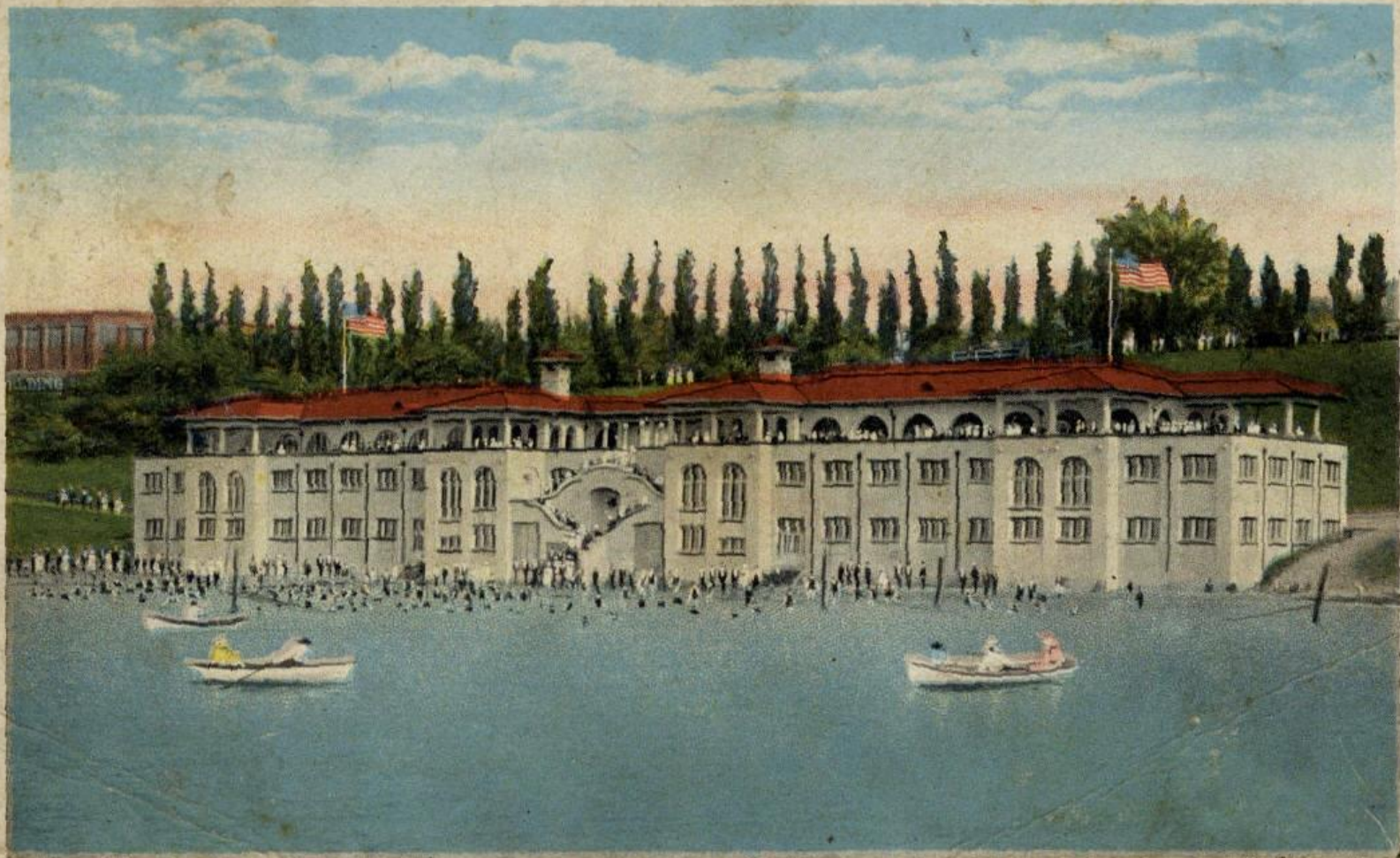
Plans for the new bathhouse



Edgewater Parkway 1909







BATH HOUSE, EDGEWATER PARK, CLEVELAND, OHIO.



Gordon Park 1911 CPL

May Day Celebration



1906 CSU



POST CARD



Miss Deborah W. Steere,
Harrisville,
Rhode Island.

The Rotograph Co., N. Y. City. (Inventor)



This aids for the Address.

Copyright 1906 by the Rotograph Co.

A 1860a. Edgewater Park, Cleveland, O.

June 21, 1906.

Don't think I've forgotten you. Will try to write soon.
What will your address be when school is over?
(3 Crawford Place.)
A. S. M. Adams.

CardCow.com

1906 postcard of c.1860 Edgewater beach



Band Concert at Edgewater Park, Cleveland, O.

Children's Romping Day at Edgewater Park

The Children's romping day next Saturday at Edgewater Park, Conrad Mizer promises, will be the greatest event of the season for the little people of Cleveland. The large open field will accommodate sport of all kinds for everybody, and all are invited to enter into the games that are being provided for by the Public Park Concert Committee.

Cleveland's Juvenile Band, composed of boys ranging from twelve to twenty years in age, will delight the youngsters with music, and the Hruby Bros. will play duets and solos on their cornets.

There will be water sports, such as tub races and swimming contests from 1 till 3 o'clock, when the field contests will begin. A special prize will be given to the lad flying the best kite of his own make.

Conrad Mizer, who will have charge of the day, will be assisted by Mr. Adams, of the Hiram House, who will have charge of the games.

Mr. William Ward, a youth of seventy-six years, will be the judge of the kite contest. He invites every body in the city to show his ingenuity in making a kite. He will bring a kite of his own make, patterned after the style of those he made sixty-five years ago in Newburg. There will be plenty of room to fly hundreds of kites, and the contest will prove very interesting. Foot balls, base balls, and bats, jumping ropes, running hoops, and bathing suits will be the prizes.

One of the most amusing contests for girls will be picking pennies with their teeth from swinging apples. Last year twenty thousand children and grown people attended the romping day, and if the weather is fine next Saturday Edgewater Park will again witness mirth and fun such as is seen on no other day in the year.

POLICE TO STOP BATHING

Sanitary Officers Ordered to Sewer Outlet, Near Old White City.

Sanitary police are to be stationed by the health department along the lake front just west of the intercepting sewer outlet near the old White City grounds to prevent bathing in the lake at this point.

Secretary Ford decided on this step yesterday as it has been found that the lake front is being used by bathers at points where sewage contamination is the most pronounced.

The health board has taken no final action on the question of using Gordon park beach but it is probable Dr. Ford will recommend that bathing be prohibited on days when the wind is from the northeast when sewage is most likely to be borne to the park bathing beach.

July 2, 1912 CPD

BEACH WILL OPEN WELL CHLORINATED

**Gordon Park Bathing Stretch,
With Plenty of Disinfectant,
About Ready.**

**Musical Program Will Mark
Opening on Monday
Night.**

Gordon park bathing beach will be reopened to the public Monday, Cleveland day, as the only chlorinated beach known.

While work on the bath house is being rushed chlorine pipes are being laid from the small shed on the embankment near the greenhouse to Doan brook. The chlorine will be let into the pipes at the shed and will mix with the waters of the brook at a point near-by.

In the opinion of City Sanitary Engineer Pratt chlorination of the waters of the brook will make bathing at Gordon park beach perfectly safe.

The reopening will be marked by a musical program Monday evening. Sport Director McGinty has arranged to have Wallace's vocal orchestra at the bath house pavillion from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m. Concerts will be given every evening at the same time throughout the week.

A big crowd is expected at Gordon park Monday afternoon and evening as the municipal basket picnic is

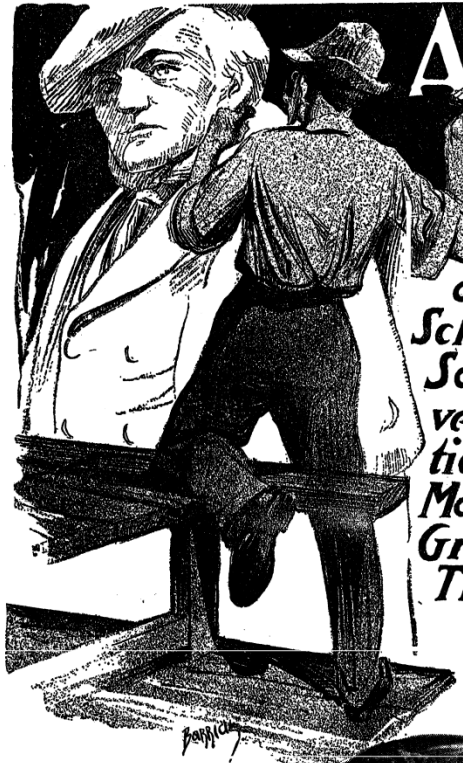
scheduled for this park. In the morning there will be a parade of city departments. Arrangements for the parade were completed yesterday. Every city department will be represented.

There will be regular city police, fireman, sanitary police, white wings, paving gangs and other city employes in the parade. The playgrounds will have a number of big floats.

July 20, 1912
CPL

AMERICA'S FIRST WAGNER STATUE

Cleveland, Through Agency of the Goethe Schiller Verein, is Soon to See the Unveiling and Dedication of the First Monument to the Great Composer in This Country.



DR. MARTIN FRIEDRICH, PRESIDENT OF THE GOETHE SCHILLER SOCIETY.



ADOLPH LEISEGANG, DIRECTOR OF THE CHORUS.

SCULPTOR AT WORK ON THE STATUE.

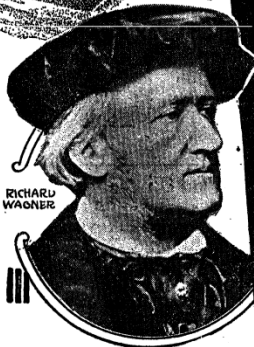
seventy-five pieces has also been arranged for.

The program will consist of the overture from "Rienzi," followed by the unveiling of the statue. Dr. Martin Friedrich, president of the Goethe-Schiller Verein, will formally present the statue to the city of Cleveland. Mayor Herman Baerl will make the speech of acceptance. This will be followed by the chorus from "Tannhauser," sung by the mass chorus, accompanied by the orchestra.

The address in German will be made by Emil Karpowsky, following which will come a selection from the "Meistersinger" by the chorus and orchestra. Judge W. A. Babcock of the common pleas court will make the address in English. The program will close with an ode to Wagner, composed by Carl Lorenz. It will be sung to the tune of "America."

The Goethe-Schiller Verein was organized several years ago and erected the Goethe-Schiller statue in Wade park. With the erection of this statue the original society passed out of existence, but from it was organized a literary and social society, which, two years ago, again organized into the Goethe-Schiller Verein permanently.

THE MODEL OF THE STATUE.



RICHARD WAGNER

CLEVELAND is to have the first monument to Richard Wagner, the composer, in America. It is also to be the second full length statue of the great musician in existence, the other being at Florence.

This monument is being erected by the Goethe-Schiller Verein. It will be unveiled probably Oct. 1, in Edgewater park, or as soon thereafter as the stone cutting can be completed. The cost is to be more than \$5,000, and the subscription was started more than a year ago.

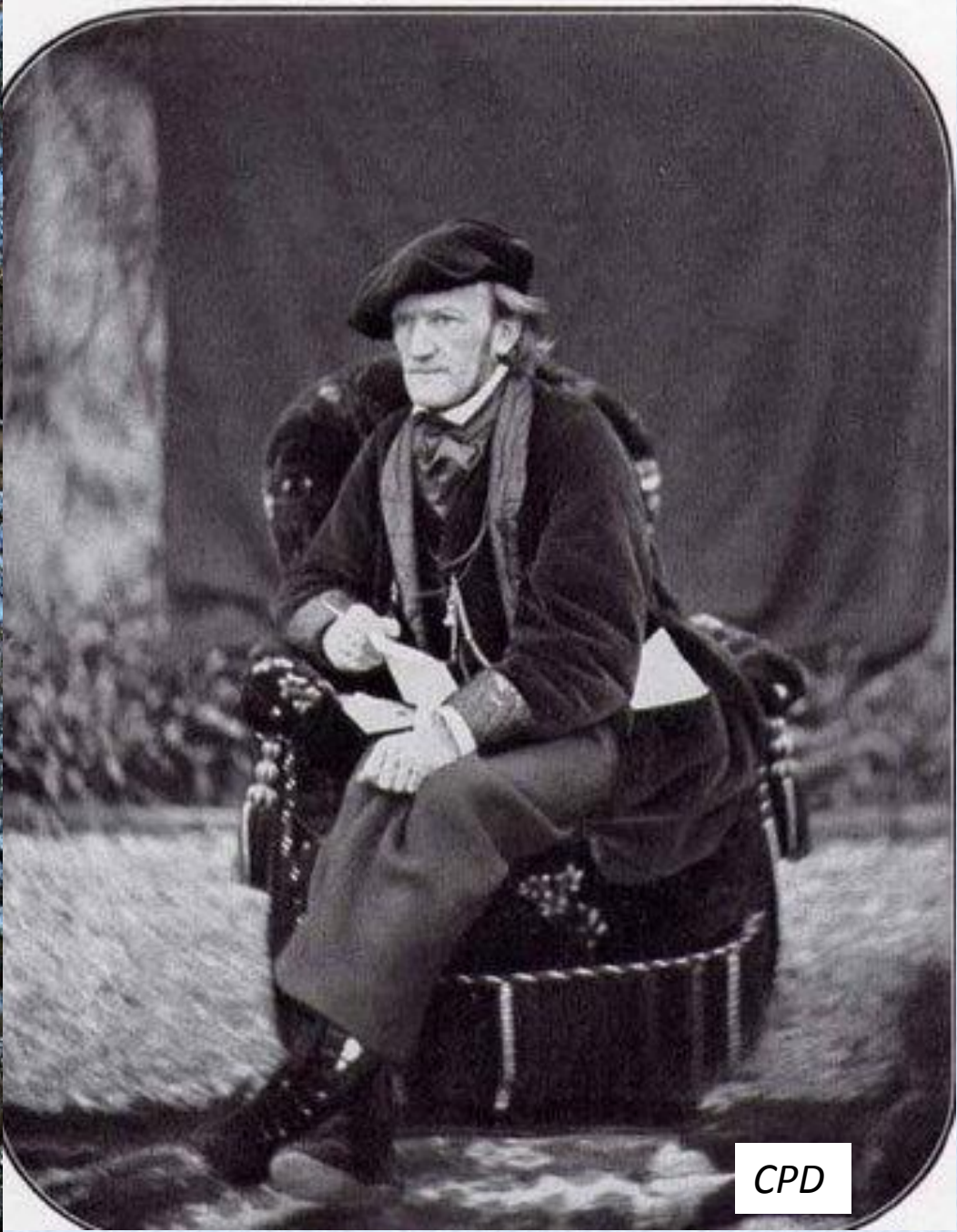
Herman N. Matzen, an instructor at the Cleveland Art school, was engaged to make the model, after several artists on the continent had failed to satisfy the committee. The statue is to be a full length representation of Wagner, clad in the long cloak and cap which he always wore. Owing to his extremely short stature, it is said a statue has never before been attempted in anything but a bust. The Goethe-Schiller

Richard Wagner, called the originator of the music-drama, and the greatest of musical composers, was born at Leipzig, May 22, 1813, and died in 1883. He was the ninth child of Carl Friedrich Wagner and Johanna Rosina Bertr Wagner. The father, who was a clerk of the French police court during the French occupation of Leipzig, died five months after Richard's birth. It was from this parent that Wagner inherited his love of music and the drama. The father was devoted to poetry and the drama and fond of amateur acting. Richard Wagner first became a professional musician at the age of twenty when he accepted the position of chorus master at Wurzburg.

He has been the favorite composer of Germans, at home and in this country, for years. His music was first played in America by the traveling Germania orchestra, which came to this country in 1818. Their repertory included the "Rienzi" and "Tannhauser" overtures. The first production of a Wagner opera in America was at the Stadt theater, New York, where, April, 1850, Bergmann conducted with the remains of a defunct opera company as principals and a chorus from the Ariza society.

society first intended to follow this precedent, but was unable to find a model which suited them.

The largest chorus which ever sang in Cleveland will attend the unveiling exercises. It will consist of practically all of the German singing societies in the city many church choirs, and individuals not affiliated with either of these. Adolph Lisegang, the director of the musical program, says that there will be more than 60 voices, male and female. An orchestra of



CPD

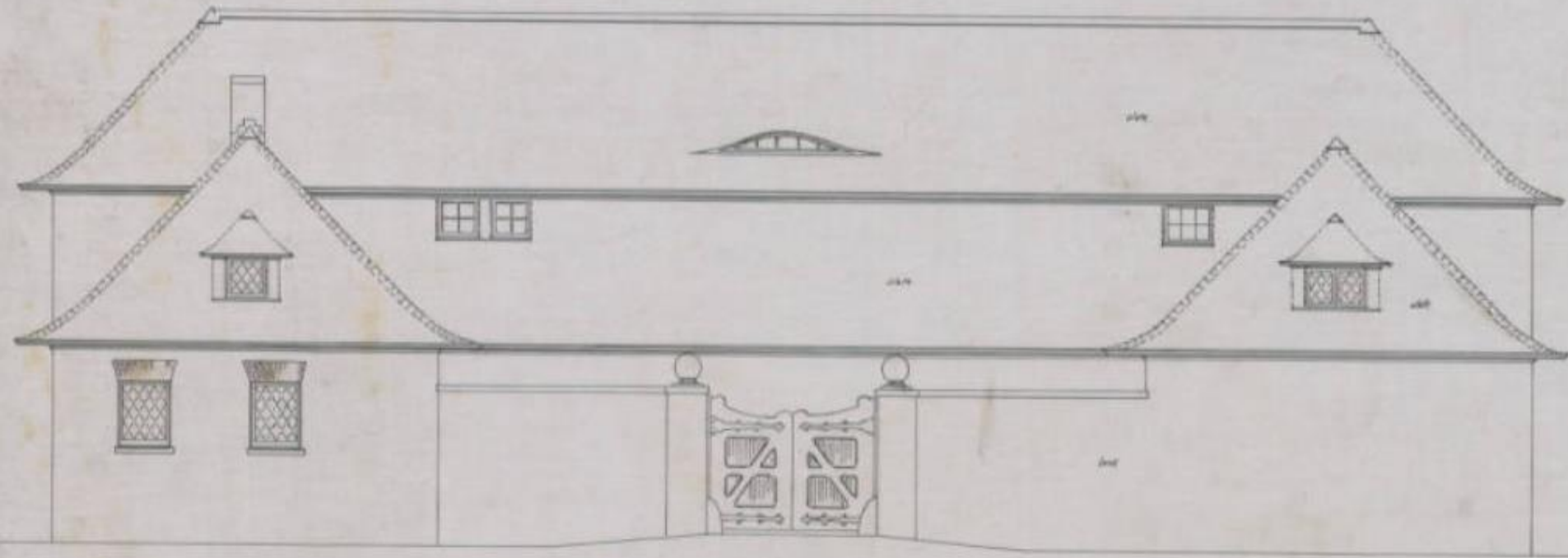


Edgewater Beach
1922 CPL





Wagner Memorial
1927 CPL



FRONT ELEVATION
Scale $\frac{1}{4}$ inch = 1 foot

STABLE FOR THE DARK BOARD
F. S. BARNUM & COMPANY
ARCHITECTS

Edgewater Stables and Tool House Building
Plans, Frank Barnum, 1900. CM



Edgewater Stables Building, 2011



Edgewater Bath house 1936 CPL



Edgewater Bath house 1940 CPL

GEORGE E. CONDON

The West Side Riviera

Some of the daredevil motorists who risk the West Shoreway every day tell me it is really not a bad experience; that there is, fact, a sense of exhilaration and accomplishment that goes with each journey successfully maneuvered.

"The only thing," confided one veteran driver, "is the after-effect. When you arrive home, or the office, you feel hot, flushed in the face, all let-down but that sensation is a natural consequence. It's the same effect you would feel if you ran the rapids of the Colorado River let's say."



GEORGE E.
CONDON

THE TRIP OVER the Shoreway has its highlights, of course, and he singled out the stretch of road which passes near Edgewater Beach as the most suspenseful. This is due to the fact that so many young girls, easily visible from the Shoreway, have taken to the Bikini-style bathing costume.

"My, my," he chuckled, "you should see some of those cars suddenly veer out of line and begin a wild zig-zag course as they pass the beach area. It is really funny."

This particular driver is to be commended for his sense of humor, obviously. But when I tried to describe the bathhouse that used to snuggle against the Edgewater Beach hillside, he howled and accused me of putting him on with a fanciful story. As if anything could be more fanciful than the building that was torn down by an unsentimental city administration in the immediate postwar years?

The bathhouse at Edgewater was the end of an era, and some people think it did more than its share to kill the period in which it flourished. It was a hulking building executed in a kind of early Halloween

motiff which featured a kind of combined Moroccan and Mexican architecture. The top deck, while roofed in red tile, was open on the sides and very popular among picnic lunchers and girl watchers.

Below decks, the city in socialistic innocence operated a bathing suit concession and provided communal dressing rooms which were dank, fetid areas calculated to discourage slow dressers. The kids who rented suits at Edgewater bathhouse developed into quick-change artists, almost every one of them. Those who didn't make it in this field went into vaudeville as baggy pants comedians, thanks to the big push in this direction they got wearing their rented bathing suits.

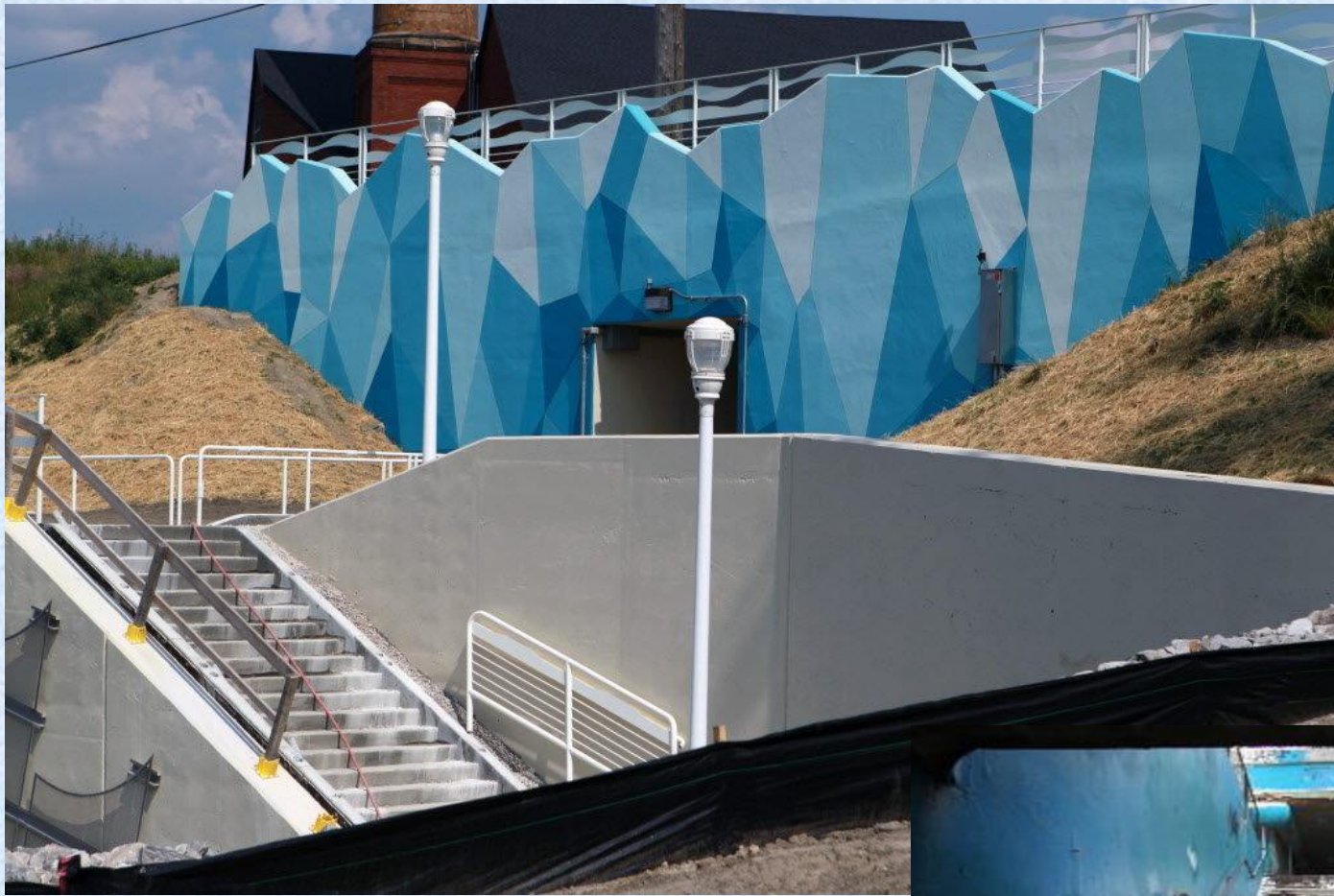
THE STORY BEHIND the story is not completely clear yet, but back around the early 1920s, somebody in the administration of Mayor Fred Kohler apparently got a terrific bargain in bathing suits from a manufacturer who wanted to clear his stock and get out of the business. The suits were one-piece jobs and made out of a mystery fabric, half sandpaper and half sheet metal, and they were real front pacers in the style field. Words can't really describe them adequately, but they, by contrast, covered their subjects so completely as to blot them out of sight. These were bathing suits with a top and a bottom, daringly designed with a miniskirt that flared out at the hips and fell down about mid-thigh length, partly covering the pants that dropped on to the knees. As if this were not distraction enough, the city had printed across the chest, in white block letters, "C of C." Nobody was going to steal a municipal suit and get away with it easily!

The only trouble with the city-owned bathing drawers was that once they got soaked with water, they got so heavy they pulled the swimmer under. We lost an awful lot of swimmers with rented bathing suits at Edgewater in those days.

Plain Dealer
July 12, 1967



Dansa
by artist Charles Ginnever



West 76th St Tunnel CPD



1929 CP





Gordon Park 1938 CSU

Thank You!



CSU

Sources:

Encyclopedia of Cleveland History

Cleveland Metroparks

Cleveland Public Library

Cleveland State University Library

Port Authority

Friends of Edgewater

Cleveland Plain Dealer

Genealogybank.com

Cleveland Memory

History of Cleveland

Library of Congress

Western Reserve Historical Society