



by Douglas H. Frazer



A House on N. Bell Road

IMAGINE finding a large manila envelope containing important documents concerning the first several years of your house's existence, including pictures. Courtesy of the children of the first owners of the home at 7617 N. Bell Road, David and Karen Friedlen have such an envelope. Let's peek inside.

In late 1949, what is now 7617 North Bell Rd. was initially designated as 7617 North Regent Road. The Village had changed the street name from North Regent to North Bell Road by 1956. The area was just starting to be developed from farmland to single family homes. James L. Callan, Inc. built the house with the intention of selling it to an owner occupant. On November 30, 1949, the corporation took out a mortgage with Sherman Savings and Loan Association to fund construction.

Callan sold the home to Richard E. and Nell L. Lohr for \$12,500 (about \$121,500 in today's dollars) who were moving north from 5207 North Diversey Boulevard in Whitefish Bay. The sale closed on June 16, 1950. The Lohrs procured a mortgage loan in the amount of \$9,900 with a 5% interest rate per annum from Wauwatosa Savings & Loan Association. They moved in during the summer of 1950.

Interestingly, the Village of Fox Point in its 1950 real estate tax bill

– the first payment of which was due on or before January 31, 1951
– reflects a total assessed value of the property at \$4,750; the total real property tax was \$204.75.

On October 5, 1950, the Village of Fox Point billed the Lohrs \$36 to furnish and install a 12" wide by 18' long culvert at the property.

In 1952, the Lohrs decided to move to California and in February of that year put the property on the market for \$16,900. The buyer, Joseph L. Casper, Jr., purchased the property for \$15,600. The transaction closed on June 25, 1952.

In the intervening years, several other owners have lived in the house. The Friedlens bought the house from Mark Peltin and took possession in 1996. When they eventually sell their home on N. Bell Road, the Friedlens (also featured in the May Fox Point of View) expect to give the envelope to the buyers as the new stewards of the house's special patrimony.

(photos circa 1951)



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