VILLAGE OF LOMBARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

APPLICATION FOR LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION ---

X LANDMARK SITE	☐ LANDMARK DISTR	ICT
PROPERTY INFORMATION		
Address of Subject Property: 215 SOUTH	STEWART, LOMBAR	0
P.I.N. No(s).: 06 - 08 - 125 - 66	Area of Property (in acres):	
P.I.N. No(s).: 06 - 08 - 125 - 660 Date of Construction: 1907 Architect: UNKN	OWN Builder: HARRY Le	FFINSWell
	,	0
OWNER INFORMATION	41.0	
Owner(s) of Property: BRIAN & EILEEN I		
Mailing Address: 215 S. STEWART, L		* ***
City: LOMBARD State: 12 Zip Code	: CO148 Email: BANDER 998	9 @ AOL. COM
APPLICANT INFORMATION (IF DIFFERENT FROM		
Applicant Name: SAME	·	
Mailing Address:State:Zip Code		
Relationship of applicant to property:		
I request that the property for which this application is submi upon the following criteria, as set forth in Section 32.079 of t		mark based
The character, interest, or value as part of the development	nt, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the villa	age.
The identification with a person or persons who significate development of the village.	intly contributed to the cultural, economic, social	, or historical
The architectural significance of a building which is at learchitectural style containing distinctive elements of design, of which had an impact on the community. Such a building must	detail, materials, or craftsmanship, or is an exam	ple of a style
The archeological importance of a site which has yielded or history.	, or may be likely to yield, information importan	t in pre-history
ALL INFORMATION ON THIS APPLICATION, TO THE	BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS TRUE AND	CORRECT:
BRIAN ANDERSON		
name of owner (printed)	name of applicant (printed)	
1-5-12		
signature of owner date	signature of applicant	date

VILLAGE OF LOMBARD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

--- APPLICATION FOR LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION ---

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Historical Commission meets on the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October. Applications for local landmarks (including all supporting documentation) must be submitted to the Community Development Department at least three weeks in advance of the meeting date. After receiving an application, the Commission will make a preliminary conclusion if a site meets one or more of the criteria for designation. If one or more criteria are deemed to be met, the Commission will schedule a public hearing. This public hearing will generally be conducted within three to five weeks following the preliminary conclusion. Following the public hearing, the Historical Commission will then have a follow-up meeting and forward its recommendation to the Village Board. The Village Board has the final authority to approve or disapprove local landmark applications. Due to the four necessary public meetings, the entire process can be expected to take approximately three to five months (depending on when the application is submitted).

SAMPLE APPROVAL TIMELINES

Application submitted:	September - December	December - March	March - June	June - September
Historical Commission meeting	3rd Tuesday in January	3rd Tuesday in	3rd Tuesday	3rd Tuesday in
(for preliminary conclusion):	31d Tuesday III Jailuary	April	in July	October
Public hearing:	February	May	August	November
Historical Commission meeting	Echmique	May	August	November
(for recommendation):	February	1VIay	August	November
Village Board consideration:	March	June	September	December

SUBMITTAL REQUREMENTS

three weeks prior to the initial Historical Commission meeting:
Completed Application for Local Landmark Designation, signed and including all requested information.
One copy of a PLAT OF SURVEY and LEGAL DESCRIPTION for the subject property.
Narrative information explaining the property's historical significance and architectural features, as well as specific details on how the property meets one or more of the following criteria:

The following documentation must be completed and submitted to the Community Development Department a minimum of

- The character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the village.
- The identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the cultural, economic, social, or historical development of the village.
- The architectural significance of a building which is at least 50 years of age and is a good example of a specific architectural style containing distinctive elements of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship, or is an example of a style which had an impact on the community. Such a building must retain much of its original architectural integrity.
- The archeological importance of a site which has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

	Additional	documentation,	plans,	or	photo	ograp	hs
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AFTER APPROVAL

The Historical Commission will assist the property owner in scheduling the installation of the bronze "Local Landmark" plaque. Prior to undertaking any alterations to a landmark site (regardless of whether or not the alterations require a building permit), the property owner must receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historical Commission. The Certificate of Appropriateness must be requested in writing at least three weeks in advance of the desired Historical Commission meeting date and must be accompanied by a detailed description and/or building plans for the proposed alterations.

When we first moved to Lombard we wanted to learn as much as we could about the local history. One of the first books we bought was *Footsteps On The Tall Grass Prairie*. One of the homes written about was Harold Gray's house on 215 S. Stewart Ave. Prior to buying the home, my wife and I lived 5 doors away on the 100 block of Stewart Ave. Whenever friends or family would come over we would always point to the little known house and tell them who lived there.

In 2001, we were lucky enough to be able to purchase the home. We bought it the day it was listed one the market. We loved the arts and crafts style and the historic value of the home.

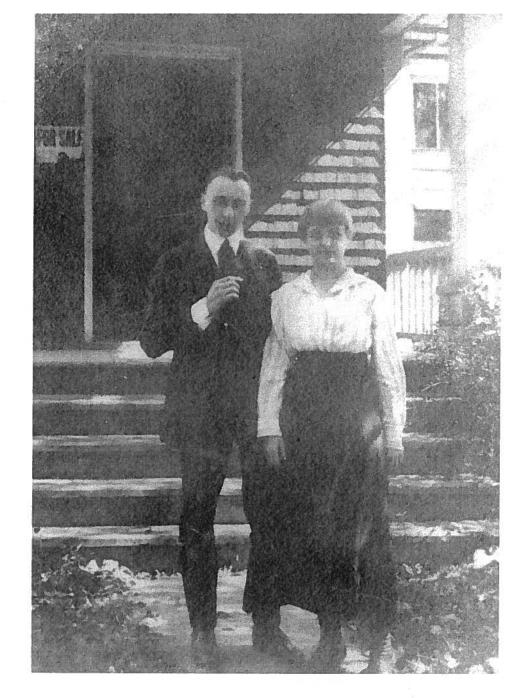
Preserving an older home is not for the faint of heart; it is a labor of love. Our goal upon buying the home was to restore it back to its original glory and create a home for our four daughters, both of which we were able to do.

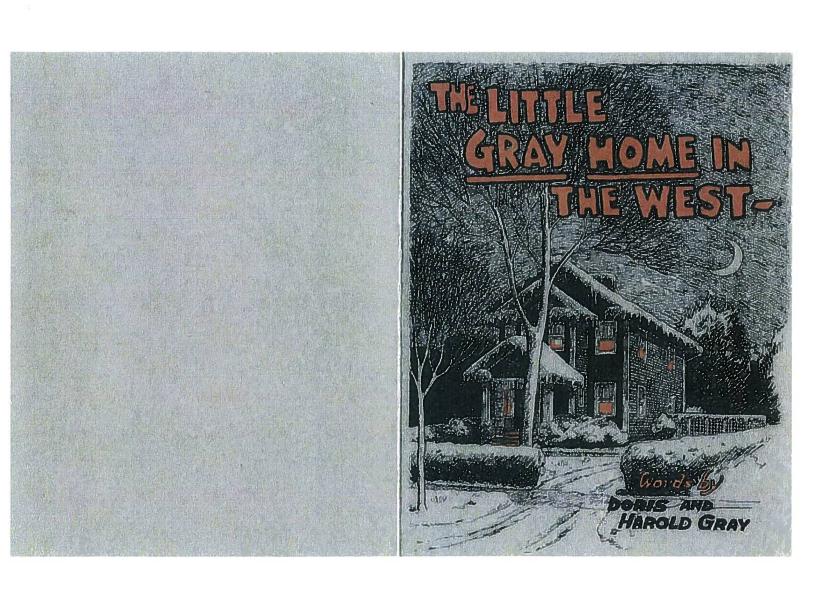
As soon as we bought the house we started researching additional information about the past owners. Harold Gray, being the most famous, lived here between 1922 and 1927. Another interesting find was a Christmas card from Doris and Harold Gray; we believe is from 1922. It was a hand drawn picture of their home at 215 S Stewart title "The Little Gray Home in the West". The inside of the card contained a song written about the house and even mentions our town by name, Lombard.

Our home continues to offer up bit and pieces of history. During an interview for a local home walk in 2009 we discovered another Christmas card drawn and sent by Harold and Doris Gray. It is a copy of their 1924 Christmas card, which is the year that Little Orphan Annie was born. To our surprise it was a drawing of Annie crawling out of our fireplace in the front room of the Stewart Ave. house! She says "I just dropped in to say that Doris and Harold Gray in Lombard hope you have a Merry Christmas". It was a thrilling find and we proudly display a copy right next to Annie's fireplace today.

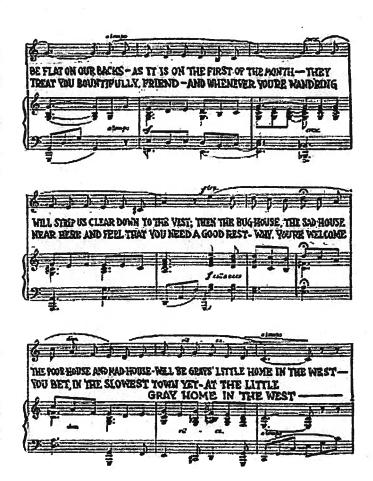
I hope that the additional information contained in this packet is helpful in supporting the details of the history of our home. My family and I have loved the house even before we owned it. Little Orphan Annie is a cultural icon and part our American history. We hope that if the home is designated a local landmark it will add another reason for others to visit Lombard as well.

HAROLD & DORIS GRAY PURCHASING 215 S. STEWART AUR

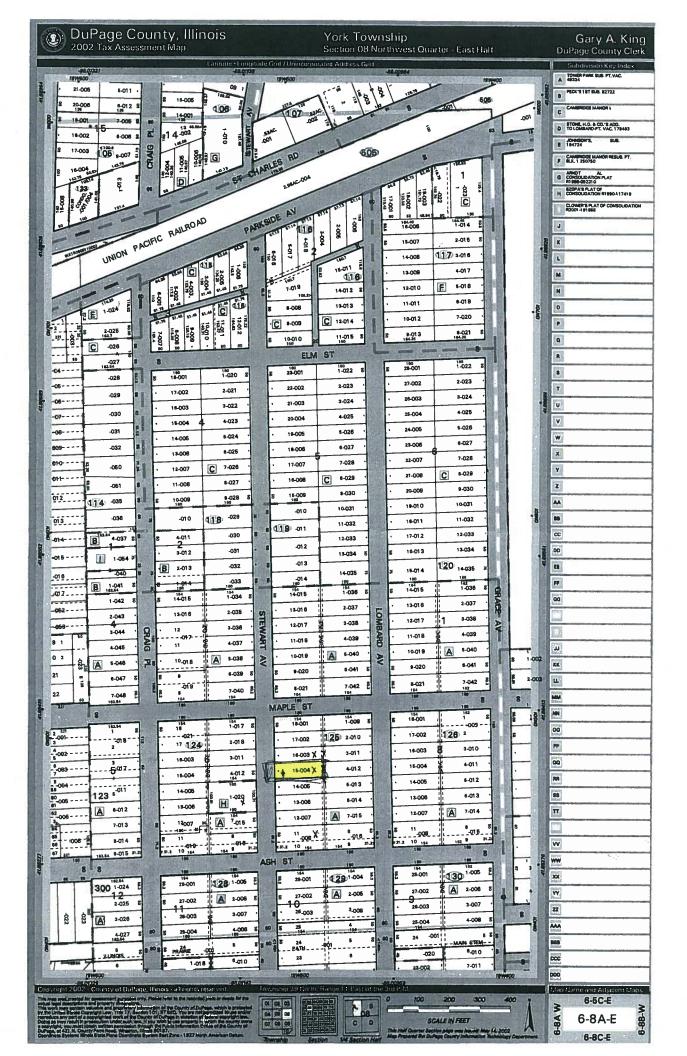












Home & Garden

Houses reveal history

Annie's birthplace on Lombard house walk

BY DEBORAH DONOVAN

rarold Gray and his comic strip creation, Little Orphan Annie, are among Lombard's most famous historic residents.

Brian and Eileen Anderson started collecting Gray memorabilia only after 2001 when they purchased one of the Lombard homes where the cartoonist lived. But the couple had lived four doors away for years, and as fans of history and antiques, always pointed

out the residence to visitors.

Now the home — a shingled twostory close to downtown, not Gray's
other Lombard house, the famous Queen Anne with a belvedere tower on Main Street — will be open June 20 for the Kiwanis Club of Lombard's housewalk.

"We bought it for its historical value," Brian said.

"And it's bard to find five bedrooms in an old house," added Eileen. The couple has four daughters.

couple has four daughters.
One thing about studying historic figures, there are always surprises.
Brian Anderson proudly showed off a picture of the Grays' 1921 Christmas card with a drawing of their home in wintertime and "The Little Gray Home

wintertine and the latter day rione
in the West' as a headline.
Inside is a song written by newlyweds Harold and Doris Gray, complaining about bills and taxes brought by Christmas and the end of the oy carisanas and the end of the year. On a more cheerful note the song closes, "And whenever you're wand'ring near here and feel that you need a good rest — why you're welcome you bet in the slowest town yet — at the little gray home in the West!"

But then Brian took time to view a Web site Rilleen had found that features Cheltons carris with a Little

ures Christmas cards with a Little Orphan Annie theme sent out over the years by Gray and his wives, Doris, who died in 1925, and Winifred. The one for 1924 — the first year

the cartoon that eventually inspired a radio show, a 1977 Broadway musical and 1981 and 1999 movies appeared in the Chicago Tribune — shows Annie popping out of a red brick



Brian and Elleen Anderson's living room features the red fireplace that Little Orphan Annie pops out of on the Christmas card sent out by Annie creator Harold Gray and his wife Dorts in 1924,

fireplace. Brian was thrilled to realize

it was the fireplace in their living room.
But knowing this duo, it's easy to see another home improvement project brewing as Elleen points out that the trim around the fireplace is no longer these.

The Andersons believe Gray lived in the home at least from 1921 until 1927.

The died in 1968.

The home, built in 1907 by Gray's aunt and uncle; was also at one time the home of Ed Leffringwell, Gray's cousin and a collaborator on comic

The Andersons remodeled the 1975 kitchen and family room addition before moving in.

"Itold Elleen it would take a couple long weekends to get it in shape," said Brian. "Six or eight months later we moved in." moved in."

They also found some original

woodwork in the living room — most had been removed by a previous owner after an attic fire — and had a carpenter copy the trim for the first

The put time up in the list in the list.

"He put trim up in the living room, and when we saw how good it looked we said, 'Just do it all,'" reports Brian,



BEY HORNE/bhorne edailyherald en Brian and Elleen Anderson's home on Stewart Avenue in Lombard will be open Saturday, June 20.

who is director of purchasing for an

area company.

The home's interior still boasts some original touches besides the fireplace.
The oversized oak door from the entry to the living room, French doors to the dining room, a pocket door and maple

flooring stand out.

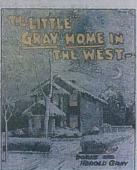
The Little Orphan Annie collection
is in the dining room china cabinet.

Mostly the Andersons own paper

See LOMBARD on PAGE 2



BEV HORNE/bhornewdatlyhern ndersons started collecting the orphan Annie memorabilis after they purchased the home. Below, Annie creator Harold Gray and his wife in 1921 sent this Christmas card depicting the home.





Brian and Eilean Anderson had maple cabinets and dark granite countertops installed before they moved into the home in 2001.



SCOTT SANDERS sanders dailtherald

This foursquare with wraparound porch on Lincoln Avenue will be on Lombard's house walk.

If you go

What: Over the Threshold, a tour of five Lombard homes Who: Kiwanis Club of Lombard When: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 20

Tickets: \$25 in advance at local businesses and on the day of the walk at Mr. Z's Super Market, 401 S. Main St. Call: (630) 656-7172 or visit lombard-

Reception: With homeowners and designers at Lilacia Park, 150 S. Park St., from 5 to 6 p.m.

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE:

January 8, 2003

TO:

Board of Management of the Lombard Historical Society

FROM:

Stephen Flint, Chairman of Historical Sites and Markers Committee

RE:

Historical Marker Request at 215 S. Stewart Avenue

The owners, Brian and Eileen Anderson, are requesting the house located at 215 S. Stewart Avenue be plaqued with a historical marker.

Attached is the research information provided by the owner. The attached information indicates a jump in taxes as well as the assessed value in the year 1908. Therefore, the assumption can be made that a home was built at that time by Harry J. and Eleanore S. R. Leffingwell. The records show two famous cartoonists, Ed Leffingwell and Harold Grey lived in the house at one time.

I personally reviewed the information with the owners on November 15, 2002 and had the pleasure of personally seeing the outside and inside of the house. The original character of the house is still maintained with no major changes.

The Sites and Markers Committee met on December 17, 2002 to review the attached information. The Historical Sites and Markers Committee unanimously nominates to the Board of Management the house at 215 S. Stewart Avenue be plaqued with a historical marker based on Historical Significance where a famous person lived in the home. The historical marker shall read "1907, Harry J. Leffingwell. Home of Cartoonists Ed Leffingwell and Harold Grey.

Application Form	Date of Application 10 25 02
Current Resident/Owner Brian & Eileen	Anderson
Permanent Parcel Number 00-08 -125-004	<u>.</u>
Street Address 215 S. Stewart	Ave.
Applicant_Sand	***
Street Address	xx7 in Tower Park.
Subdivision of Lombard	Du Page County,
Illineis.	
First Owner Harry & Eleanore L Builder (optional) Unknown Subsequent Owners and Dates of Ownership See Attachment A (also attached are Copies of all deco	*

~ The Lombard Historical Society ~

	Section E-page 8
Subsequent Owners and Dates of Ownership (Continued)	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
<u>.</u>	
<u> </u>	
<u> </u>	
Basis for establishing the year of construction. Refer to Property Tax Wo	
The year of construction in	1907 based
on the tax jump from \$3.5	7 10 1907
40 \$ 30.54 in 1908. See Attac	chment B.

Information of interest about owners of house:

- Harold Lincoln Gray was born 1/20/1894 to Ira Lincoln and Estella M. (Rosencrans) in Kankakee, IL.
- He joined the Chicago Tribune as an artist in 1917.
- He entered the U.S. Army in May of 1918, was honorably discharged in December of 1918, and then returned to the Chicago Tribune.
- He left the Chicago Tribune in January of 1920 to freelance and start his own studio of commercial art. He signed on as an assistant to Sid Smith, creator of "The Gumps".
- He married Doris C. Platt 10/22/1921. She died of tuberculosis 11/22/1925.
- The comic strip he created, "Little Orphan Annie", first appeared in the Chicago Tribune 8/5/1924.
- He married Winifred Frost 7/17/1929. She died in 1974.
- He died 5/9/1968.
- He was a Freemason member of Lombard Lodge No. 1098.

The original owners of the home were Harry and Eleanore Leffingwell, Harold Gray's aunt and uncle. We were able to make this determination because his assistant and cousin was Ed Leffingwell, who created the "Little Joe" comic strip. Ed was shown to live in the house with his parents in the 1910 Census.

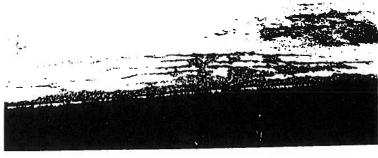
Eda Rosencrans, (Gray's maternal aunt) bought the home in 1922 from the Leffingwells who were, at the time, living in New York. In the attached interview with George Platt (brother of Gray's first wife), he refers to Harold Gray buying the home from Ms. Rosencrans. On Ms. Rosencrans' deeds, both buying and selling, it states that her residence was Niles, Michigan. This coincides with Mr. Platt stating that she did indeed live there. It is believed that Harold Gray lived in the house owned by Ms. Rosencrans (his aunt) from 1922 until 1927, when there are deeds showing that he bought it from Eda Rosencrans and sold it two months later to the Webbs (who he incidentally bought his N. Main St. home from). The Webbs sold the home one month later to the Brophys.

Additions/changes to the property:

- 1926 Harold Gray added a sunroom on the first floor and a bedroom on the second.
- 1975 The Bilbees replaced the former addition with a 1500 sq. ft. addition on the back of the home, doubling the home's size.
- 1975 The garage was replaced.
- 1991 A rear deck was added.

Photographs of house/building (include date of each photo)





4/12/02

~ The Lombard Historical Society ~

This Indenture Witnesselly, That the Grantois arthur & City of Chromes wanty of the nhd State of Illineise coming described Real Estate, to will:

I fifteen (i) Black cerem Coming Section Eight (d. Landing Thinks in new york Level & Section Eight (d. Landing Thinks wine (39) North Range Elleren & of the 341 (7 th) Le little of Sanita a in the County of all rights under and by virtue of the Humentrad & January Juna P. Harrens (State of Illinois, udelman notary putte

THERES, said preguing have not been redeemed from said sale. NOW, FILE EFFIRE in consideration of the premises the s st of said section Eight (8/ There South along quarter than line Sixteen and 3/100 (16 35) chains to a stake see West familled with hoverment line Twenty and 1/100 (20 12 rece mare in g therefrom Lots six 161 Henen 171 Eight Le (9/and Lu (10/of Block Three (31 Lots one 11) Livo (2) there (3) four (4) Fine (5) and Lix in Block Fine 5/ Lats one (11 Two (2) Seventeen (17/ 2/ Eighteen (18/in Block six 61 Lots. Elnie 131 in Block Yen (10) Lats one (1) and Eighton (181 in Block Eight (81 of Lower Park Subdivis at Tombard a subdivision of above described framises TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, with all the appurtenance thereunto belonging, unto the said party of the second WIINESS the hand and wat of the said party of the first part, the day and year first above written Jaseph a Reuse STATE OF ILLINOIS, COUNTY OF OU Page

ARRANTY DEED.

THIS INDENTURE saids this twenty-fifth day of June 1927 between Ella M. Webb and Lewis H. Webb, her husband of the Village of Glen Ellyn, in the County of Dupage and State of Illinois, parties of the first part and William E. Brophy, Minnie C. Brophy, his wife, and Ella M. Brophy, of the City of Chicago, in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, parties of the second part.

withesseth, that the parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Bollars and other good and valuable; considerations in hand paid, convey and warrant to the said parties of the second part, not in tenancy in common, but in joint tenancy, the following described real estate, to wit:

Lot fifteen (15) in block seven (7) in Tower Park Subdivision at Losbard, in the west half of section eight (5) Township thirty-nine (39) North, Range eleven (11) East of the third Principal Meridian; situated in the County of DuPage in the State of Illinois, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of the State of Illinois.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above granted premises unto the said parties of the second part forever, not in tenancy in common, but in joint tenancy.

Subject to building line of record. Zoning and building ordinances and impaid instalments of special assessments.

IN WITHESS WHEREOF the said porties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Eila M. Webb (Seal)

STATE OF ILLINOIS)

I Arthur G. Stanten, a Notary Public in and for said County, in the State
aforesaid, do hereby certify that Elian. Webb and Lewis H. Webb, her husband, who are
personally known to me to be the same persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing
instrument, appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that they signed, scaled,
and delivered the said instrument as their free and voluntary act, for the uses and proposes

do hereby convey and quit-claim the East one-half (1) of the vecated alley adjoining said Lot fifteen (15) to the East, and it is understood and agreed that the covenants herein do not and shall not apply to the pertion

802K 7(1) PAGE 417

situated in the Chixo: ... Loubard Limity of DuPage, in the State of Illinois, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of the State of Illinois. To have and to hold, the above granted premises unto the said parties of the second part forever, not in tenancy in common, but in joint tenancy, so that upon the death of one, the entire fee simple title shall vest in the survivor .

Subject to governments and restrictions, soming and building ordinances and

general taxes for	or the years 1952 and 1953.		a
•	*	•	· .
In witness whereof, Ti	ne said part188 of the first part hav	n hereunto set\$2	neir
hands and seals the day and 08-2078	year first above written. (SEAL) (SEAL) (SEAL)	yne Coll	(SEAL.)
MAY 18 1953 JF -3	(SEAL) (SEAL) (SEAL) (SEAL)		(SEA1.)
STATE OF ILLINOIS RECORDER	J., the undersigned, a Notary Pub DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that NAVAS.	ite in, and for said Count	ly and State aforesaid
C. Mar	his wife	•	
6771 A P	foreguing instrument, appeared before big signed, sealed and delivered the voluntary act, for the uses and purpose	said instrument as \$1	atr free and
Seconds	of the right of homestead.	seal this 16th day of	. May
g.	A. D. 1953	a Some R. C. Britage T. Sec. Lan.	(SEAL)

DATE	<u>BUYER</u> <u>D</u>	UPAGE CO. RECORD #
12/7/1893	Thomas W. Stewart	62164
8/17/1896	Authur E. & Anna R. Havens	62224
4/25/1907	Harry J. & Eleanore S. R. Leffingwood	ell 90530
2/2/1922	Eda E. Rosencrans	153601
3/14/1927	Harold L. Gray	233557
5/26/1927	Ella M. & Lewis H. Webb	236376
6/25/1927	William E. & Minnie C. Brophy	238515
	County contributes to most likely a will	they don't have record of -
William Brophy die	ed in 1944 and Minnie Brophy in 1948)	The next deed shows:
William Dioping	Wayne Collins & Mary Anderson C	
4/25/1953	Robert E. & Marjorie J. Boddorff	682678
2/20/1961	Harold F. & Edith G. Lake	999010
4/25/1965	Charles A. & Carol S. Rietz, Jr.	R65-19020
6/26/1967	Ronald F. & Barbara C. Bilbee	R67-20902
5/15/2001	Brian L. & Eileen T. Anderson	01-108213

BRITIPEN Howard 16 Howdrich Master in Chancery of the Gerent Court of Du Puga County, in the State of Hundle party of the pirit part, and Arthur La Hairens complainmed and is Thomas W Steward, Charles Lowing Junks enecesion in Fruit and a. R. M. Douald were Front Door of the leaved house in the lety of Wheston. AND, WHEREKAS, at the time and place so us oforesaid appointed for said sale, the said Master in and offered and exposed said primises for sule at public audion, to the highest & best bidder and thereuping arthur & Hereine

WARRANTY DEED ODDORFF and of Lombard . A Sean the County of DuPage
State of Tilinols for and in consideration of the sum of a 10.

Other good and variable considerations
In hand had GONVEY AND WARRANT TO HAROLD F. LAKE and
EDITH G. LAKE, his wife,
of Ogden Dunes in the County of Lake
State of Indiana not as tenants in common but as ferents in common but as ferents in common but as ferents. the following described real estate to wit:

That 15 in Block 7 in Tower Park Subdivision at Lombard,
in the Vest half of Section 8. Township 39 North, Range
11. East of the Third Principal Heridian; in DiPage
County, Illinois. nituated in the County of DuPage in the State of Illinois, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of the State of Illinois.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the above granted premises, unto the said Grantees forever, not in tenancy in common but in joint because. Subject to general real estate taxes for 1960 and subsequent years, conditions and covenants of record. A.D. 19 61 day of February Dated this I, the unitersigned, a Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid, STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF DU PAGE DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that Robert E. Boddorff and Marjorie J. Boddorff, his wife, whose name 9 subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as their free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes herein set furth, including the release and walver of the right of homestead. Given under my hand and Notarial Seal, this 3rd AD 1961 MAIL SUBSEQUENT TAX BILL TO: C. PILGRIM & CO.

FILED FOR RECORD IN RECORDERS

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9 2 1 0 0 £56453644444444

THE APOVE SPACE FOR RECORDER'S USE ONLT

C. . T.CO. IDURAGE 11 F-414 H 7-44 THE GRANTOR HAROLD F. LAKE and EDITH C. LAKE, his wife

in the State of ILLINOIS for and for and in consideration of the sum of \$ TEN DOLLARS and other good and valuable considerations

CONVEY AND WARRANT TO CHARLES A. RIETZ, Jr. and CAROL S. RIETZ, his wife

in the in the County of of OAK PARK not as tenants in common, but as joint tenants ILLINOIS State of the following described real estate to-wit: Lot Fifteen (15) in Block

Seven 47) in Tower Park Subdivision at Lombard in the West half of Section Eight (3), Township Thirty Nine (39) North, Range Eleven (11), East of the Third Principal Meridian, in DuPage County, Illinois

situated in the County of Dul'age, in the State of Illinois, hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of the State of Illinois. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the above granted premises, unto the said Grantees forever, not in tenancy in common, but in joint tenancy.

Suiject to Real Estate taxes for the year 1964 and subsequent years.

Dated this

22nd

day of APRIL

A.D. 1965

(SEAL) (SEAL)

ns signing dead be typed or grinted below or to side of all signatures including Nutary Public NOTE: 58 920 approved 7/23/59 requires that the names of party

STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF DU PAGE I I, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that Harold F. Lake and Edith

G. Lake, his wife

personally known to me to be the same person S authorribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as their free and voluntary act for the uses and free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes

herein set forth, including the release and waiver of the gight of homestead

Given under my hand and Notarial Seal, this

_A.D. 19 __()

MAIL SUBSEQUENT TAX BILLS TO:

JOAK PARK FF... AAL SAVINGS UDD LOAN ASS'N: 1001 LAKE ST., - OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

M

1..

٦.

Approved By | Chicago Title and Trust Co.

١ Ŵ R67-21902

JUN 26 1967 -3 35 PM

(The Above Space For Recorder's Use Sily) & Anther

THE GRANTORS CHARLES A. RIETZ, JR AND CAROL S. RIETZ, his wife

State of Illinois County of DuPage of the Village of Lombard for and in consideration of ten (;10.00)---and other good and valuable consideration and WARRANT to in here will

CONVEY

RONALD F. BILBEE AND BARBARA C. BILBEE, his wife

of the Town of Speedway, IndCounty of Marion State of Indiana not in Tenancy in Common, out in JOINT TENANCY, the following described Real Estate situated in in the State of Illinois, to wit: the County of DuPage

Lot 15 in Block 7 in Tower Park Subdivision at Lombard, in the West Half of Section 8, Township 39 North, Range 11, East of the Third Principal Meridian, in DuPage County, Illinois escaptosheologicactosheological CLR.

hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of the State of Illinois. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said premises not in tenency in common, but in joint tenancy forever. Subject to taxes for 1966 and subsequent years, covenants and restrictions of record.

DATED	this	6th	day of_	June		_1927
£ .			(Seal)_			(Seal)
PRINT OR CHARLES	a. F	LEEZ, JR.	(Seal).	CAROL S		(Seel)
State of Illinois, Count	and for	er said County ELES A. RI Hally known to	erz, JR. me to be th	AND CARO same person	L S. RIETZ,	his wife s are this day in
HENE	4	ment as the	ir free and luding the r	l voluntary ac elease and wal	sealed and deliver, for the uses ver of the right	of homesteed.
Given underlyny hand s	nd offic	al seal, this	<u>,22</u>	day of	- 12/1	1967
Commission expires	4 - n	/3 19	70 -	Vieras 1	J. Bez.	MOTARY PUBLIC
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		- 1900/1911			DRESS OF PROP	ERTY



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1967

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF DU PAGE)

I, GARY A. KING, COUNTY CLERK AND KEEPER OF THE RECORDS PERTAINING TO ASSESSED VALUATIONS AND TAXES, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOLLOWING APPEARS ON THE TAX COLLECTOR'S BOOKS IN MY POSSESSION:

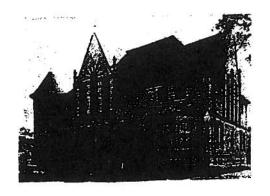
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TAX YEAR	TAX AMOUNT
1901 1907 1908 1909 1910 1911	\$1.17 \$3.57 \$30.54 \$34.62 \$32.78 \$34.39 \$32.10

ALL OF WHICH APPEARS FROM THE RECORDS NOW IN MY OFFICE REMAINING.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL AT WHEATON, ILLINOIS
THIS 8TH DAY OF AUGUST A.D., 2002.

DU PAGE COUNTY CLERK



102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois 60187 October 11, 1980

Mrs. R. Schneider, President Lombard Historical Society 23 West Maple Street Lombard, Illinois 60148

Dear Rita:

Enclosed is a copy of the interview which I had with Mr. George W. Platt, brother-in-law of Mr. Harold Gray, here at the Museum.

Arrangements have been made with Mr. Platt to meet at the Lombard Museum on Monday, October 13, at which time he will present, as a donation, a letter from Harold Gray. I have also arranged for Gerry Watts and Sena Krieg to be on hand for the presentation and am hopeful that you will be able to join them.

Mr. Platt is a delightful gentleman and I know he will enjoy meeting members of the Society.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Wallace Assistant Curator Subject: Mr. George W. Platt

253 E. Delaware, Apt. 6 F

Chicago, Ill. 60611

Phone: 642-1725

, visited the DuPage

October 8, 1980

Mr. Platt, brother-in-law of Harold Gray, visited the DuPage County Historical Museum, Wheaton, and shared his reminiscences relating to Harold Gray. His sister, Doris Platt, was the first wife of Harold Gray, the marriage taking place in the fall of 1923. The Platt family lived in Niles, Michigan, where the young couple also visited during their Michigan wedding trip.

Doris Platt was introduced to Harold Gray through the efforts of his aunt, Miss Edith Rosencranzs, who commuted on the inter-urban line between Niles and South Bend, Indiana, where she became acquainted with Doris, who was also commuting. Miss Rosencranzs was so favorably impressed by Doris that she communicated her enthusiasm to her nephew who, after a period of courtship, asked her to be his bride.

The newly married couple purchased the Stewart Avenue house in Lombard, where the comic strip "Little Orphan Annie" was born, from his aunt, Miss Rosencranzs. The new Mrs. Gray suffered from tuberculosis and eventually, pneumonia, dying in the fall of 1925. She and Harold Gray, his parents, and Miss Rosencranzs are all buried in a Chicago area mausoleum. Mr. Platt will provide further details when he visits in the area again.

Mr. Platt recalled living with Doris and Harold at the Stewart Avenue house. An addition was added to the house which included a sunroom on the first floor and a bedroom on the second floor. It was Col. McCormick of the TRIBUNE newspaper who urged Harold Gray to create a comic strip which would focus on a young girl. After some resistance on the part of Mr. Gray, he finally came up with a character which he named "Little Orphan Annie", in 1924. The comic strip enjoyed much success over the years and provided a comfortable life-style for the Grays.

Mr. Gray was acquainted with the father of Winifred Frost, as he too was employed by the TRIBUNE. Several years later, he and Winifred Frost were to be married and the Stewart Avenue house sold. He then purchased the North Main Street house, inviting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira L. Gray to move from their Spencer, Indiana, home to Lombard. Mr. Platt recalls visiting with Harold and his parents often at the North Main Street house. Tragedy once again struck when Ira Gray was killed by the Northwestern train in Lombard. Mrs. Gray would often travel to Chicago via the train and her husband, Ira, would meet her at the station upon her return to Lombard. It was late in December when he either stepped or fell into the path of the train, perhaps a little icy patch or hearing

loss being responsible for the accident.

Shortly after the accidental death of his father, Harold Gray sold the North Main Street house and moved to New York, where he purchased Croton-on-Hudson. His mother also moved east. Feeling that the property taxes were exorbitant in the State of New York, Harold and Winifred Frost Gray moved to Greens Farms, Connecticut, where they lived for several years. Later, they moved to LaHoya, California. The second Mrs. Gray is buried in California, along with her mother.

Mr. Platt remembered that Harold Gray was born in Kankakee, Illinois, later moving to Indiana with his family. He was educated at Purdue University.

When asked to describe the character of Harold Gray, Mr. Platt said he was firm, but compassionate. He expected people to perform well. "Daddy Warbucks" was an example of his creator's personal philosophy. Harold inherited his father's fine sense of humor which sometimes ran to the coy side. An extremely generous gentlemen, many individuals were the recipients of his financial kindness, quietly given. A good correspondent, Mr. Platt had saved the many letters received from Harold Gray. His major regret was not saving the well-known Gray Christmas cards, each one with a very distinctive message. When the topic of hobbies came up, travel within the United States and overseas appeared to interest the Grays as they traveled extensively.

Physically, Harold Gray was a tall, about six feet, lean man, wearing glasses. His hair was brown and his complexion was light. He was atheletically inclined and especially enjoyed a little boxing match in the back yard of the Stewart Avenue home with Mr. Platt.

Mr. Gray was an only child and did not have children of his own.

I invited Mr. Platt to visit the Lombard Museum by special appointment, at which time he will very generously donate a letter which he received from Harold Gray. Arrangements have been made for a tour of the Museum and a luncheon meeting with Rita Schneider, Gerri Watts and Sena Krieg. Sena will arrange for publicity with the LOMBARDIAN. Time permitting, I hope to join the group at lunch.

Submitted by:

Patricia A. Wallace Assistant Curator DU PAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM Wheaton, Illinois

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LAWBIEKNEY





Harold Gray

(20/1/1894 - 9/6/1968, USA)





Harold Gray got his first newspaper job in 1913. He served in World War I as a bayonet instructor. After his discharge, he was employed by the Chicago Tribune. Between 1921 and 1924, he did the lettering on Sidney Smiths's 'The Gumps'. In 1924, he came up with a strip of his own: 'Little Orphan Otto' - soon altered to 'Little Orphan Annie', after a poem by James Whitcomb Riley that was being reprinted in the paper at that time. The strip's popularity grew during the 1920s.

Gray experimented with other strips on the Sunday page, such as 'Private Lives', which gave humorous social commentary; and 'Maw Green', a 'Little Orphan Annie' spin-off. Then he was involved for a while with the strip of his only assistant and cousin, Ed Lettingwell's 'Little Joe'. Gray was very devoted to his comics work, working hard and diligently. When he died in 1968, he had worked on 'Little Orphan Annie' for 45 years.

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Artwork © 2001 Harold Gray © 1994-2002 Lambiek Studio Send comments to Lambiek Last updated 31/5/02



LAWBIEXNET





Ed Leffingwell

(USA)





Ed Leffingwell, a cousin of Harold Gray, started his comics career assisting his uncle on 'Little Orphan Annie'. In 1933, with his own newspaper strip, 'Little Joe', about a teenager on a cattle ranch. It was also named 'Little Joe & Ze General'. When Ed Leffingwell died in 1936, the strip was taken over by his brother Robert and continued until 1972.

Little Joe page

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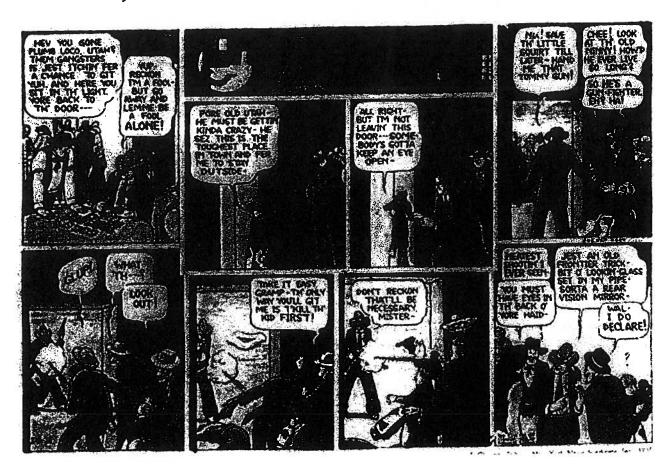
Artwork © 2001 Robert Leffingwell © 1994-2002 Lambiek Studio Send comments to Lambiek Last updated 16/03/02



Little Joe

from The Smithsonian Collection of Newspaper Comics Edited by Bill Blackbeard and Martin Williams (The Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC, 1977)

Little Joe was a Sunday feature by Ed Leffingwell, Harold Gray's cousin, assistant, and letterer on Little Orphan Annie. The story concerned a thirteen-year old on a modern cattle ranch owned by his widowed mother and managed by Utah, a cowhand with a shady past. Gray himself wrote and drew much of the strip. When Ed Leffingwell died, his brother, Robert, who also assisted Gray, took over as Joe's nominal author. The strip continued into the late 1950's in both the Chicago Tribune and New York Sunday News comic sections.



THE ORANTOR, Eda E. Rosenorans, single and of adult age, of the township of Niles, in the County of Berrien, and State of Michigan for and in consideration of the sum of ten dollars and other good and valuable considerations, in hand oaid, conveys and warrants to Harold L. Gray; of the city of Lombard, County of DuPage and State of Illinois, the following described real estate to-wit: Lot 15 (fifteen) in block 7 (seven) in lower Park Subdivision at Lombard in NWA and SWA of section 8, township 39 North Range eleven (11) East of the Third Principal Meridian, being in the County of DuPage, State of Illinois; with all rights and appurtenances thereunto pertaining or belonging; and subject only to building line restrictions as imposed on this grantor and her grantors, situated in the city of Lombard, in the County of DuPage in the State of Illinois; hereby releasing and waiving all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemption Laws of the State of Illinois.

Dated this fourteenth day of Yarch, A. D.1927.

Witnesses: Herman Ackerman (SEAL) Bestrice Ackerman (SEAL) Eda E. Rosencrans (SEAL)

3 C

STATE OF INDIANA)
COUNTY OF ST. JOSEPH)

I Norman Blenler, a Notary Public, in and for said County, in the State aforesaid do hereby dertify that Eda E. Rosendrans, a single woman, personally known to me to be the same person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person and acknowledged that she signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument as her free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of homestead.

Given under my hand and notarial seal this fourteenth day of March, A. D. 1927.

ST. JOSEPH COURTY

NOTARY PUBLIC

INDIANA

Norman Blenler

Oct. 7, A. D. 1928

Notary Public

NO. 233557. Filed for Record April 14th A.D.1927 at S o'clock A.M. Lewis Ellsworth, Recorder.

ARRANTY DEED

THIS INDESTURE, made this 23d day of May, 1927, between Harold L. Gray, widower, of village of Lombard in the County of DuPage and State of Illinois, party of the first part and Ellar E. John and Lewis H. Webb, her husband, of the village of Lombard, in the County of Durage and State of Illinois, parties of the second part: ITHESETH, that the party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten (\$16) Dollars and diver valuable considerations, in hand paid, conveys and warrants to of the second party not in temancy in common, but in joint tenancy, the fol-

Towing described Soul Retain to sit: Lot Fifteen (13), Block Seven (7), in Tower Park Subalthough in the village of Lomeard County of DuPage, in the State of and walking all rights under and by virtue of the Homestead Exemp

a Notary Public in and for lter fron afdresaid /dd hereby joertiff that Harold L. Aray, widower, personally known bearined to the foregoing instrument, appeared son, and soknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered the

BOOK 138 OF DEEDS

Subject to all State and municipal taxes or assessments against said real estate, which the Grantes assumes and agrees to pay.

Subject also to a mortgage for \$2250. given by these grantors to the above-named grantee, recorded in Book 54 at page 146, of the Records of Mortgages for said County and State.

Dated, this 5th day of February, A.D. 1921.

\$2.00 Rev. Stamps Attached.

Harry J. Leffingwell, (Seal) Eleanore S. R. Leffingwell, (Seal)

STATE OF NEW YORK, SS.

I, Lewis S. Rough, in and for said County, in the State aforesaid, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that Harry J. Leffingwell, and Eleanore S. R. Leffingwell, husband and wife; personally known to me to be the same persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, appeared before me this day in person, and solmowledged that they signed, sealed and delivered the said Instrument as their free and voluntary sot, for the uses and purposes therein set forth, including the release and waiver of the right of homestead.

Given under my hand and official seal, this fifth day of February, A.D. 1921.

LEWIS S. ROUGH,

Lewis S. Rough,
Notary Public, New York
to. 166, Reg. No., 2031.

Co., No. 166, Reg. No., 2031. Certificate filed in Kings Co., No. 169,

Reg. No. 2052. Certificate filed in Bronx Co. No. 8,

My Commission Expires Reg. No. 2222.

Certificate filed in Westchester Co.

No. 153601. Filed for Record February 2nd, A.D. 1922. So clook A.H. - Lewis Ellsworth,
Recorder.

WARRANTY DEED

THE GRANTORS, Harry J. Leffingwell and Eleanore S. R. Leffingwell, husband and wife, of the City of New York, in the County of and State of New York, for and in consideration of the sum of Four thousand Dollars, in hand paid, Convey and Warrant to Eda E. Rosencrans, and State of Michigan, the following described.

Light (15) in Block Seven (7) in Tower Park Subdivision of Lombard, situated the tempor Lombard in the County of DuPage, is the State of Illinois, hereby releasing the Edward under and by virtue of the Edwards Exemption Laws of the State

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