

FOX POINT FILES

By Douglas H. Frazer



Ken Leindecker at Rest

Ken Leindecker died on October 20, 2019, at age 91. The Village of Fox Point put him to rest in the historic Old Dutch Cemetery (on Fox Lane just south of Doctors Park) on June 26, 2020.

I had written about Leindecker's connection to Fox Point and the cemetery in the July 2019 *Fox Point of View*. The village maintains the cemetery. It is a beautiful and peaceful place. In 2002 Leindecker sought permission, which the village board granted, to be buried in the cemetery. The last person buried in the cemetery was Ken's grandmother Jenneken (Jenny) Leindecker in 1958.

Leindecker traced his lineage to the early Dutch settlers in Fox Point. In 1852-53 a hewn-log schoolhouse was erected on the site and designated School District no. 9. School District no. 9's first clerk, A.D. Koeslag, was Leindecker's great-great-uncle. The structure was also used as a public meeting house and for church services by the Reformed Church of Bethlehem, a Dutch reform congregation.

Interestingly, a portion of the cemetery, which includes the Leindecker burial site, is still owned by the successor of School District no. 9: The Fox Point-Bayside School District.

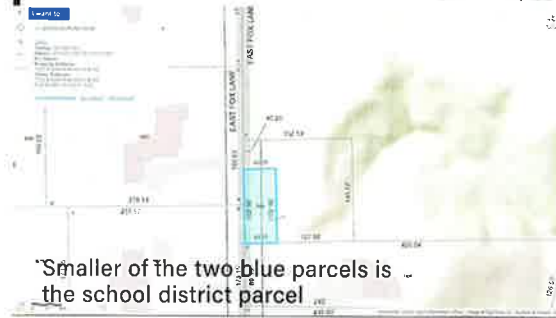
In 1933, Ken's father became the caretaker of the Fred Usinger estate, the entrance to which is marked by the stone lion gates on the north side of Fairy Chasm Road at

Lake Drive (then the Town of Milwaukee, now the Village of Bayside). Ken delivered newspapers in Fox Point and attended the Fox Point (now Stormonth) School. The family left the area in 1943, but Ken held the village close to his heart. He would periodically return in part to help maintain the cemetery.

Shortly before he died, Leindecker arranged to leave his estate to the Village. This included his 30-acre hobby farm east of Park Falls, a pickup truck, and a small bank account.

The June 26 interment was attended by Carla Hanson and Bill Leindecker, two of Ken's children. A third, Kendra Mirasol, participated by Zoom. Other guests included current and former village board members, members of village commissions, committees, and boards, and senior staff. After a few words, we honored Ken's wishes and fulfilled our obligation by returning his remains to the Fox Point soil that he so dearly loved.

Douglas H. Frazer is a Fox Point resident and neighborhood contributor as well as the village president. The views expressed are his own and not necessarily those of the Village, the village board, other village board members, or Best Version Media, LLC.



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