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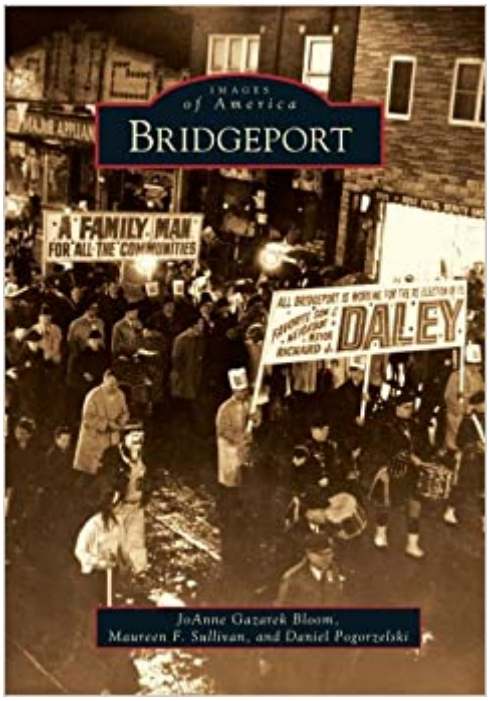

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Synopsis

Explore Bridgeport, the most political neighborhood in the most political of citiesÃ¢â ¬â ¢home to five Chicago mayors and parades of politicians honoring its power at national conventions. Once a Native American village traversed by Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet, as Chicago grew the area was called Hardscrabble, then Cabbage Gardens, and finally Bridgeport. Immigrants built it: the Irish dredged a canal and mined a quarry that led to slaughterhouses, cooperages, rolling mills, and breweries that were worked by Germans, Bohemians, Swedes, and Poles. Held dear as the Ã¢â ¬Å“Heart of Lithuania,Ã¢â ¬Â• muckrakers described parts of it as a heartbreaking jungle. More immigrants came: Italians, Croatians, Mexicans, Chinese. Against the backdrop of prairies, labor strife, gangways, and Joe Podsajdwokiem, this sometimes uneasy mix lived, worked, and voted together. Bridgeport still has streets that defy the cityÃ¢â ¬â„¢s orderly grid, settlement houses, language stews, and, for each nationality, churches and taverns. Today, it may welcome artists and expensive housing, but on summer nights stoop sitting and rooting for the White Sox remain social obligations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

JoAnne Gazarek Bloom and Maureen F. Sullivan are Chicagoans, Bridgeport born. JoAnne teaches at Loyola University Law School, and Maureen develops not-for-profit organizations on ChicagoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s South Side. Daniel Pogorzelski is vice president and chief historian for the Northwest Chicago Historical Society. He also coauthored Images of America: Portage Park.

This photographic collection of images from the historic, old neighborhood of Bridgeport provides a picture of the physical world many city dwellers lived in during the mid-century. There are a few mis-identifications of the photos but it is accurate, overall.Of course, it will be of particular interest to those familiar with Chicago's near south-side, but it does represent what most big cities looked like during that time and can inform anyone interested in this period. A niche work, reasonably well done.

I truly enjoyed looking through and reading this book more than once. I have sent it on to my Mom who was also raised in Bridgeport and she was so thrilled by it all. We talked for over an hour on the phone because she was so excited and all these wonderful memories can flooding back for her. It was wonderful to hear her so excited. I would recommend this book to anyone who lived in the Bridgeport neighborhood in Chicago. I know you will enjoy it!

Anyone raised in Bridgeport will enjoy reading the history of their community. This is an easy read and the pictures are great.

I knew several of the people and places mentioned in the book. The author had to come from the "neighborhood" to posess some of the information that was in the book. I truly enjoyed it, it brought back many childhood memories.

Just the pictures alone are an amazing historical tribute to Bridgeport. I am thrilled to learn the history of Bridgeport and it is just so so interesting to see time and dates and pictures which gives me an understanding of the area. The most amazing fact for me is that Archer Ave was a pathway to run cattle throught to the stockyards. Facinating.

My husband was born and raised here so He will love this as a gift

This is a " must have" for those interested in the history of Bridgeport. I thought I knew Bridgeport but learned even more. I highly recommend .

Great addition to personal library.

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