

# Sherman Garden Cooperative Apartments

*A monthly publication for residents of Sherman Garden Apartments, 1856-66 Sherman Avenue, Evanston, IL*

APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER

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## WHERE IS OLDBERG PARK?

Diane Petersmarck

I've lived here for 16 years now and although I've appreciated the flowers when walking through it and stared at the sculpture now and then, I've never really looked into the history of Oldberg Park. Your reward (or punishment) for reading this newsletter is that I've done the research and can now give you my report.



The park is a small triangle of land on the corner of Elgin, Sherman and Clark. It has some lovely plantings, but no benches, other than outside the park on the sidewalk. Known as Oldberg Park, it was named for Arne Oldberg and his wife Mary Sloan Oldberg and is owned by the City of Evanston.

Arne Oldberg possessed a consuming interest in musical composition and wrote a large number of concertos, symphonies, quartettes and quintets for piano, string, and wind instruments. As early as 1908 his compositions were performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Oldberg attained widespread recognition by many of the great orchestras of the USA. For several summers in the 1930s he was a guest professor of composition at the University of California at Los Angeles.

But, I digress. Oldberg joined the faculty of Northwestern University in 1897, when he accepted an instructorship in the School of Music. Subsequent appointments at Northwestern included Professor of Piano and Composition (1901-1941), Director of the Piano Department (1919-1941), and Director of the Graduate Music Department (1924-1941). The University awarded him an emeritus appointment in 1941.

Oldberg married Mary Sloan on July 2, 1900. Both were honored in 1941 when the City of Evanston named a park near Northwestern's School of Music after them. When this land was used for a University building, the park was relocated to its present site. In 1976 Northwestern University sponsored a recital and reception dedicated to Oldberg's memory. Northwestern and Evanston joined in celebrating Arne and Mary Sloan Oldberg Day on December 10, 1976, a recognition of their many contributions to the community.



OK, so that explains the name of the park. Now for the horse. His name is Duna. According to the plaque, he was created in 1997 by Deborah Butterfield, a sculptor. He is made of bronze coated wood and is 8-feet high, 8-feet long and 5-feet wide. The estate of Catherine R. Stallings made a gift of \$200,000 to the City which was used to commission and install the sculpture. Of Ms. Stallings I have found out little, other than she was born in 1916 and died in 1994. She appears to have lived on South Blvd. from 1935 until 1993.

*Sources: City of Evanston City Council Meeting Minutes, January 26, 1998 and the NU website.*