

# Snow Library Photo Exhibit Offers Glimpse Of Paris In 1900

by Debra Lawless

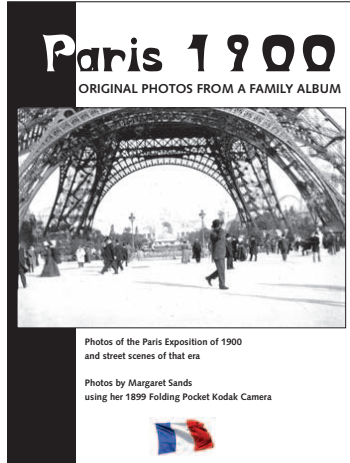
When Harwich resident Carleton Rehr’s mother-in-law Margaret Sands was just 15, she traveled to Paris, sailing on a German liner.

It was 1900, and a world’s fair called the Exposition Universelle was running from April to November. Margaret’s father Louis Sands was overseeing a demonstration of equipment for the Oil Well Supply Company of Pittsburgh, and the family lived in Paris for a few months.

Margaret had acquired Kodak’s first pocket camera, made in 1899, and she went out into the streets with it in a camera case with her initials, MS, that hung around her waist. Twenty-six of Margaret’s black and white photographs and three photographs of Margaret are in a new show at Snow Library’s Marion Craine Gallery through February. The show will be sure to delight Francophiles.

“She just had an amazing eye for street scenes and people and the exposition itself,” says Rehr, who put together the show. Rehr and her husband Louis are the authors of the 2004 book “Marauder: Memoir of a B-26 Pilot in Europe in World War II.”

Seventeen years after the exhibition, in 1917 during WWI, Margaret went on to marry Paul Rehr. Their only child Louis



Sands’ photo of the Eiffel Tower was used for the exhibit poster.

was born in March 1919. Margaret died in 1923 of leukemia when Louis was only four. While Rehr never met her mother-in-law, she says she wishes she had been able to.

Fast forward nearly a century. Louis, who died in 2011, kept his mother’s album which contains the original two-and-a-half-by-three-and-a-quarter-inch photographs. Rehr had Orleans Camera sharpen and enlarge the photographs; Harwich Frame Shop framed them for display.

“In many cases it surprised me how good they are,” Rehr says of the enlargements. “She must have charmed these people.”

Rehr has researched her late husband’s family and learned things that even her husband did not know. The Sands were what Rehr calls “a prominent Pittsburgh family.” Margaret graduated from the Pennsylvania College for Women and studied in Paris and Germany. A singer, she participated in benefit concerts.

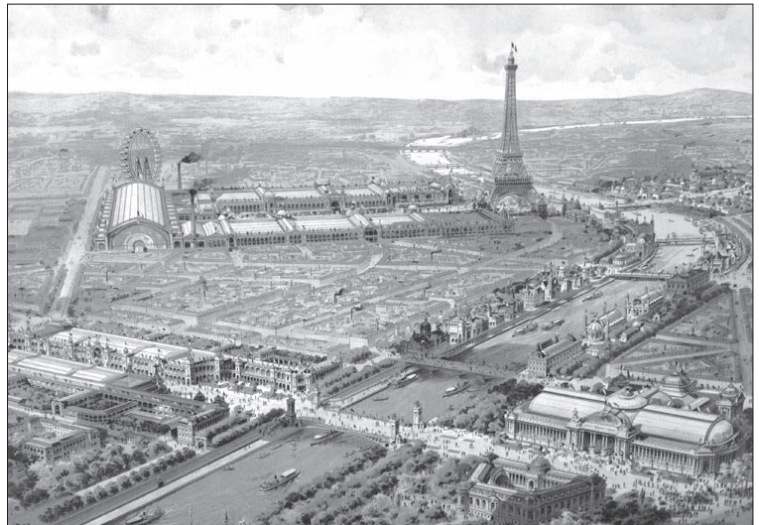
In 1900, the Exposition Universelle covered a large area. Grand halls exhibiting the latest engineering, manufacturing, agricultural and artistic achievements filled the open spaces on both the Left and Right Banks of the Seine. Newly-built pavilions from dozens of nations transformed the landscape into a multi-cultural theme park.



One of Sands’ photos showing a Parisian baker.



Carleton Rehr at the Snow Library exhibit of her mother-in-law Margaret Sands’ photos from Paris in 1900. DEBRA LAWLESS PHOTO



The 1900 Exposition Universelle covered a large area of Paris.

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