



FLASHBACK

HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 2003

Suzanne Long Memorial Cemetery Tour

The Hammond Historical Society and the Hammond Public Library would like to continue the cemetery tours originated by Suzanne. This year's tour would be at Oak Hill Cemetery on the first or second Sunday in October.

A planning meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hammond Public Library Main building, Calumet Room, 564 State Street. Please plan on coming and helping to make this year's tour the best ever. If you are interested in helping but cannot attend this meeting please call Peg Evans at the Library call 931-5100 ext 305. We will keep you informed of future meetings. If you are not interested in planning, but would like to be a tour guide, volunteer actor, actress, ticket taker, etc. please let Peg know as well.

Duty Calls — Serve Your Society

Any members who would like to be considered for an officer's or Director's position in the Hammond Historical Society please contact Peg Evans phone 931-5100, ext 305 by Wednesday, April 23rd.

Annual Dues Reminder —————

Our new fiscal year begins on May 1st, 2003 — As our current fiscal year comes to a close, now is the time to make sure your annual dues are up to date.

Please check the date above the name on your address label. If the date does not read **EXP-4/30/2004** your dues need to be renewed for the upcoming year.

The current dues schedule is as follows:

\$10.00 Individual or Couple — \$25.00 Corporate or Business

Those members who's dues are not current risk the chance of having their name removed from our mailing list as we update our files over the summertime.

Make checks payable to the **Hammond Historical Society** and send payment to:
Ruth Swanson — 7234 Alexander Avenue — Hammond, IN 46323-2111

A dues renewal form will appear in the May issue of the FLASHBACK newsletter.



PLEASE NOTE: NO GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH

With Easter Sunday being the third Sunday this month as well there is no scheduled regular meeting this month.

However —

**SPECIAL BOARD
MEETING and
Cemetery Tour
Planning Meeting**
will be held at 6:30 p.m.
on Wednesday,
April 23rd in the
Calumet Room at the
Hammond Public
Library —
564 State Street,
Hammond, Indiana

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CITY HALL WAR MEMORIAL

Dateline — August 15, 1950

A fund raising campaign to raise \$10,000 to provide the money necessary to build a stately and much needed Hammond war monument was set in place by a committee of all veterans organizations in the city. The fund raising drive scheduled to begin on August 15, 1950 would result in the construction of the city hall war memorial. The monument for a war memorial was decided upon after weeks of study by the project committee. Drawings of the new soon to be built war memorial were on display throughout the city.

Funds for the memorial project were obtained from local businesses and the general public. A special souvenir "War Memorial" edition of "The Times" newspaper was published on August 22, 1950 as part of the fund raiser. It sold for \$1 a copy for citizens who wished to take part in the war memorial fund raiser and have a remembrance as well.

This new war memorial is to be located on the south lawn of the city hall grounds in a special landscaped section. The monument is a hand carved 20 ton memorial sculptured from top grade Barre Vermont granite and stands 13 feet four inches high and 18 feet 10 inches wide. Shrubbery and a stone walkway will help to subdue the memorial from the dominance of the nearby city hall building.

Designer of the project was Robert H. Rogan of the Calumet Monument and Stone Company located in Hammond. All of the work on the project will be competed by Mr. Rogan with the exception of the 3 foot eagle which sets on top of the monument. That part of the memorial will be designed and carved by a New York sculptor. Landscaping plans for the memorial were prepared by Carl Geibel of St. Louis, Missouri one of the country's noted landscape architects.

A present day look at the city hall war memorial. It's dedication was scheduled for Veteran's Day 1950. It was built to honor all of the city's soldiers who perished in all wars fought.



A proclamation was issued by then Mayor Anderson, expressing the plans and goals of the war memorial drive, they are quoted below:

"Whereas, Hammond has no appropriate war memorial in remembrance of Hammond boys who have made the supreme sacrifice in all wars in which America has been involved." and

"Whereas, since the close of World War II various types of living war memorials have been discussed to no avail, due primarily to the inability of the community to raise the large sums of money involved by public subscription." and

"Whereas, shortly after Memorial Day 1950, representatives of every veteran's organization and their auxiliaries were called together to discuss an appropriate war memorial more in line with the city's ability to raise the necessary funds to finance the project." and

"Whereas, after lengthy discussion and due consideration it was the unanimous decision of the veteran's organizations that we build a gray Barre Vermont granite monument on the south lawn in front of the city hall, at a total cost of approximately \$10,000." and

"Whereas, pictures of the beautiful proposed memorial are now available for public view in various business houses throughout the city and will soon appear in the Hammond Times." and

"Whereas, The Hammond Times, through Publisher James S. DeLaurier, has agreed to publish a special War Memorial Edition to be sold for \$1 per copy, all proceeds to go to the War Memorial fund."

"Now, therefore, I, Vernon C. Anderson, mayor of the city of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana, do set apart the dates of August 15 to 31, 1950 as the finance period, during which time every civic, labor, veteran's, fraternal and business organization is urged to contribute toward this great cause, and I do hereby set apart the day of Thursday, August 22, 1950, at which time individual citizens will be given opportunity to make their contributions through purchase of The Hammond Times War Memorial Edition at \$1 per copy. Every citizen is urged to have a part in memorializing for all posterity the sacrifice of our war heroes who died that we might live."

Source information "The Times" microfilms



Join us for _____
**OUR ANNUAL
 DINNER MEETING**

Tuesday, May 13, 2003—6:30 p.m.

**The First United
 Methodist Church**

**6635 Hohman Avenue
 Hammond, Indiana**

Just who are these people pictured here you might be asking? Well we're not quite sure, but if we took photos at our next upcoming annual Hammond Historical Dinner it might just be you. Actually these are historical Hammond photographs doing something that everyone loves to do eat.

Time is fast approaching so hurry and make your dinner reservations today or as soon as possible. Don't be late for dinner because your mother will be very upset and so will we. Remember—this is a very important fund raising event for the Society.

Plan to arrive a little early to socialize at 6 p.m. — Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. — all are invited to stay afterwards for a brief tour of the church architecture and history.



Please photocopy or clip out this form below and send in with your payment today

2003 Annual Dinner Reservations Form _____
 Hammond Historical Society Tuesday, May 13th Arrive @ 6 p.m. Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ ZIP+4 _____
 Phone _____ Email _____
 # Attending Dinner _____ @ \$10.00 donation per person
 Total amount I have enclosed is: _____

Please enclose check or money order **DO NOT SEND CASH**
 Make your check or money order payable to the: **Hammond Historical Society** Mail payment to _____
Lois Sherby Stromberger — 6919 Ridgeland Avenue — Hammond, IN 46324-2234
 ▶▶▶ PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for receiving reservations by mail is Tuesday, May 6th, 2003



HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
564 STATE STREET HAMMOND, IN 46320-1532

Nonprofit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Hammond, Indiana
Permit No. 1843

>>> NOTE NO REGULAR MEETING
TO BE HELD THIS MONTH <<<

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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SPECIAL BOARD MEETING &
Cemetery Tour Planning Meeting to
be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday,
April 23rd in the Calumet Room at
the Hammond Public Library —
564 State Street, Hammond, IN

DATED MATERIAL

Postmaster Please Deliver by April 19, 2003

Vintage View Central Park

One of the very first park properties of the Hammond Park system as seen here in this early postcard view.

Central Park was built to serve the rapidly growing residential and commercial district north of the original town of Hammond which was north of the Michigan Central Railroad tracks.

It was located in the area bounded by Michigan and Truman Streets and Hohman and Hamlin Avenues.



The city's very first public library building was located in Central Park as well. The library was built with the help of a grant from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation and served the public for many years.

During the middle to late 1960's the park, library and the entire surrounding neighborhood vanished during a wave of urban renewal. Leaving only photographs and memories of its actual existence.