

## “Along the Calumet River” by Cynthia Ogorek—

Once known as the Callimink River by the area's Potawatomi Indians, the Calumet River has been home to swimmers and fishermen, steamboats and canoes, and shipyards and factories for generations. Recreation and industry have coexisted along its banks for decades. Communities along the Calumet River -- from South Chicago to northwest Indiana -- have long derived their life blood from the river. With abundant wilderness, many recreational activities, and a convenient transportation corridor, the Calumet River has long been an important resource for the communities along its banks. Along the Calumet River presents the history, evolution, and development of the river corridor using over 200 vintage images.

—Arcadia Publishing Company  
September 2004

## NEWS FOR ALL

**Nominating Committee—**  
Seeking any society members who would like to serve as an officer or board member, please get in touch with the Nominating Committee. Elections for the 2005-2006 will be taking place at the May Dinner next month. Call Peg at the library — phone 931-5100 ext 305.

**Lifetime Memberships—**  
Are scheduled to increase to \$150 beginning in 2006 now is the time to join at the old rate of \$100 and beat the upcoming price increase.

**Standing Committees—**  
There are a total of eight committees set up under the bylaws of the society, several of them need to be staffed by society member volunteers so we can meet our goals for future plans and projects. The eight committees are as follows: Program Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Membership Committee, Publications and Publicity Committee, Events Committee, Nominating Committee, Collections Committee, Executive Committee.

**Annual May Dinner—**  
Now is the time to make your reservations for our annual May Dinner, get the complete details on page 3.

**Annual Dues Reminder—**  
Don't forget to renew your membership, it's easy just check the address label on your FLASHBACK newsletter, the expiration date is just above your name and address.

**REMINDER—**  
Join us for our monthly meeting

**IMPORTANT VOTE**  
PLEASE ATTEND THIS MONTH  
Sunday 2:30 p.m.  
April 17, 2005

## SPECIAL PROGRAM

“Along the Calumet River”  
Cynthia Ogorek—  
Author—Speaker—  
Hammond Historical Society Member

in the Community Room  
Hammond Public Library  
564 State Street  
Downtown Hammond, IN

*After the program members and guests will have the opportunity to purchase the book and have it signed.*

**OF SPECIAL NOTE:**  
Prior to our General Meeting, a Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. in the Suzanne G. Long Local History Room located on the second floor of the Hammond Public Library Main at 564 State Street Hammond, IN.

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The Hammond Historical Society — President, Ken Stromberger — First Vice President, Margaret Evans — Second Vice President, Richard Lytle — Secretary, Marjorie Sohl — Treasurer, Larry Knoerzer 2004-2005

Editor in Chief — William J. Uzdanovich  
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# Seems Like Old Times – The High School Debate

*Photo at the right shows an early view of the present day Hammond High School at Calumet Avenue.*

It must really be true—history really does repeat itself, at least in the case of building a new Hammond High School. Just shy of a hundred years ago, the city was experiencing some of the same turmoil when a new high school was about to be built.

The present day Hammond High School building located on Calumet Avenue was brought to light on February 11, 1910 when a School Board Member “introduced a **preamble** to a resolution to the effect that the Board unanimously agreed on the creation of a new high school building.”

Mr. A. Murray Turner, who must have had a sixth sense in the matter, was one step ahead. He had a certain portion of Erie Street and several alleys vacated between block one and four in the second section of the Turner subdivision, which constitutes the current site of Hammond High School.

Turner said that the large tract of land would be sufficient to construct a large high school and had offered to sell the entire plot of land for the cost of \$14,200. Then; “Be it resolved that the Board does now accept such proposition and the Treasurer of the Board is authorized to draw warrants for down payment of the property on the northwest corner of Calumet Avenue and Hart Street.” Hart Street is now known as Highland Street.



The School Board entered into contract with architect Joseph T. Hutton on June 10, 1910 “to draw plans and specifications for the new Hammond Manual Training and Industrial High School building without unnecessary delay.” A resolution that was moved, seconded and carried unanimously. Architect Hutton estimated the cost of the new school would be about \$200,000. On June 14, 1910 the School Board officially named the proposed high school the Hammond Manual Training and Industrial High School. This action caused some prominent citizens and merchants to **remonstrate**.

A committee of the remonstrating businessmen met with the School Board on December 27, 1910 which resulted in a Board resolution stating that the cost of a new high school building and equipment would not exceed \$250,000 for the first three years. The school would be added on to later, as needed and when money was available. The committee was not happy with the outcome.

Plaintiffs filed a suit against the School City against continuing to construct the new high school building. The suit was heard by a special judge and ruled in favor of the plaintiffs. “The suit followed a written remonstrance against building the new high school dated December 10, 1910.”—“It was signed by several taxpayers, but at the Board meeting the next day, the Board moved only to file the remonstrance. They also moved to open the bids for the new Industrial High School building.”

“After the School Board and contractors lost the suit in Superior Court, the School Board passed a resolution on May 23, 1911 refusing to join” in an appeal. “The contractors continued to appeal on their own and eventually the matter reached the Indiana Supreme Court. In 1915 the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the lower courts and reiterated the standard procedures by which the new high school could be constructed.” — “It became apparent that the School Board failed to go through the City Council that appointed them.”

The board followed proper procedures on April 15, 1915. After the auditorium, gym, pools and additional wings were omitted from the plans the new high school price tag totaled \$208,504. They would eventually be added to the school in 1921-1922.

After a lengthy and drawn out process, the class of 1918 was the first to graduate from the new high school building.

**preamble**—a preliminary statement, especially the introduction to a formal document that serves to explain its purpose.

**remonstrate**—To say or plead in protest, objection, or reproof

Definitions from Dictionary.com

*Source information and selected quotes for this article from the book— Commemorative Chronicle Hammond High School Centennial 1884-1984*

*by William F. McNabney Ed. D. School City of Hammond*

# Dinner R. S. V. P. — A. S. A. P.

**2005 Annual Dinner Reservations Form** \_\_\_\_\_  
Hammond Historical Society—Tuesday, May 17th Arrive @ 6:00 pm Dinner @ 6:30 pm

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 10th, 2005

*Please photocopy or clip out this form above, place in an envelope and send in with your payment as soon as possible*

*Join us for* \_\_\_\_\_

## OUR ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Tuesday, May 17, 2005—6:30 p.m.

**Assembly of God Hessville  
7350 Kennedy Avenue  
Hammond, Indiana**

*—Why Not Bring a Guest!*

Time is fast approaching for our annual May Dinner, so be sure and make your reservations as soon as possible. You won't want to miss out on this, since it will be our last meeting until the fall, when we will begin a new calendar year. This is sure to be an important event as we look towards the future of the Historical Society, with many changes and things to take place in the up coming months.



*Fuller Brush Banquet at Phil Smidt Restaurant circa 1941.*

This year our dinner will take place in Hessville at the Assembly of God Church which is located at 7350 Kennedy Avenue. The location is just north of the Borman Expressway or south of 173rd Street on the west side of Kennedy Avenue. Plan to arrive a bit early at 6:00 p.m. for a little social activity with fellow society members. A catered dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. — *See you there!*



**THE HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
564 STATE STREET HAMMOND IN 46320-1532

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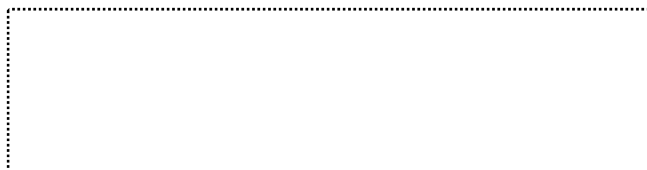
**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:**

*Sunday, April 17th — 2:30 p.m.*

“Along The Calumet River”

With Cynthia Ogorek—Author—Speaker—

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



*DATED MATERIAL*

Postmaster Please Deliver by April 16th, 2005

**THIS MONTH  
IN HISTORY —**



**Invented on APRIL 6, 1930** the Hostess “Twinkie” turns 75 years old this year. Around since the depths of the Great Depression, little has changed in it’s 75 year history as one of America’s most memorable snack foods. Originally it was made with banana crème filling, but during WWII a nationwide shortage of bananas forced the use of vanilla crème filling.

**5 YEARS AGO**

**APRIL 2000**

South Shore Railroad expands commuter parking lot in north Hammond leveling many homes in the 4500 block of Henry Street. The demolition of the houses, some of which were 100 years old, will give parking spaces to 150 to 180 cars. | Landmark Hammond restaurant Phil Smidt & Son has been sold for nearly \$2 million. The new owners have not planned to tinker with tradition and continue to use the same recipes and serve the same dishes. | Stock markets plunge with the Dow and NASDAQ suffering their worst one day point drops in history.

**10 YEARS AGO**

**APRIL 1995**

Senate kills a bill that funded more that 100 federal construction projects across the country including the \$52.6 million ear marked for the new Hammond federal courthouse along Hohman Avenue. Design of the building was scheduled to be unveiled in May, with construction to begin in 1996 and completion in late 1997 or 1998. | The nearly empty National Can Company facility has been sold to an industrial developer. The 700,000 square foot building will be renamed the American Business Center of Northwest Indiana. The new owners plan to subdivide the plant as they look for new tenants to fill the vast complex. | Board of Zoning Appeals granted a conditional use permit to real estate developer John Stamos to convert the former Edward C. Minas Company department store into loft condominiums, retail stores and professional office space. Brian Poland, assistant city planner, said before the meeting “that this project provides an excellent opportunity to bring back one of the best buildings in downtown Hammond for the future.” The project will feature 37 loft condominiums with 12 foot ceilings, hardwood floors, exposed brick walls, columns and ceiling to wall windows.

*Source information from the microfilms of The Times newspapers of April 2000 and April 1995*