



Scanning Equipment Sought

The Hammond Public Library would like to thank the Hammond Historical Society for your organization's interest in augmenting the capabilities and technological development of the Suzanne G. Long Local History Room.

The purchase of appropriate scanning equipment for the Local History Room is not an inexpensive or easy undertaking. A special committee of HPL staff and management have studied the goal of adding imaging equipment in the Local History Room to determine what the exact costs will be. As best as can be determined, between actual costs for compatible equipment and hidden support costs, and NOT INCLUDING labor costs, it is believed that the total expense will round out to nearly \$5,500. The work station hardware alone *computer w/monitor, keyboard, scanner, color printer* will incur a cost of slightly more than \$2,500.

The benefits to be realized by this added capability are many and varied. One of the first will be the ability to reproduce images onto either electronic or paper formats upon request. At present, this is done only in paper format and requires the photograph being reproduced by a commercial photography shop at an expense. Having the imaging equipment will allow in-house reproduction in either format or the electronic transmission of the image to any destination around the world. The storage of scanned images also becomes possible, along with the creation of a searchable database which will make locating images much easier and less damaging to the photographs themselves. In addition, the massive Hammond Times News collection of negatives can be screened, scanned and saved into that electronic database thus making those images, which have been unavailable for use, readily accessible.

STORY CONTINUED—See Scanning Equipment on Page Three



"German Influences In Hammond"

By Speaker—
Ken Stromberger
SUNDAY 2:30 pm
January 15th, 2006
Community Room
The Hammond
Public Library
564 State Street

PLEASE NOTE: All board members are encouraged to attend the Board of Directors Meeting at 1:30 pm in the Suzanne G. Long Local History Room 2nd floor prior to today's General Meeting.

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SPECIAL BOARD MEETING HELD OCTOBER 19, 2005

Meeting of the board of directors of the Hammond Historical Society was held on October 19, 2005 in the Suzanne G. Long Local History Room of the Hammond Public Library. President Ken Stromberger called the meeting to order at 7 pm: twelve members were present. Minutes of the September board meeting were read and approved.

Larry Knoezer gave the treasurer's report, stating that bills for printing are still outstanding, as is a bill for legal services. Questions were raised concerning this year's cemetery tour, which was not as well attended as in previous years. The financial report on the tour was explained. It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED** to accept the treasurer's report.

Membership Committee reported one new member. Brochures and calendars have been printed. It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED** to accept the report.

Discussion on the cemetery resumed. It was agreed that we need more and better publicity. The library personnel sends announcements to newspapers. President Ken suggested that we purchase a display ad in The Times next year. It was also suggested that we consider a different cemetery, perhaps Hessville. It was also pointed out that we need to check on liability insurance for future tours.

Nominating Committee presented Becky Sears as the candidate to fill a vacancy on the board of directors. Becky was unanimously **ELECTED**.

There was considerable discussion regarding the Hohman Homestead Monument. We have received approval from the Hammond Housing Authority to place the monument near the river walk. It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED** that the legend should read as follows: 'SITE OF THE FIRST RESIDENCE IN HAMMOND. In June of 1837 David and Dency Pierce erected the first home directly across the river from this point. Purchased by Ernst and Caroline Sibley Hohman in 1851, it became known as Hohman's Inn, serving travelers to and from Chicago. Stephen A. Douglas once was a guest here.'

President Ken stated that we are officially a 501 (c) 3 organization, and that each officer has a copy of the document.

Richard Lytle reported that he had been approached by Clark High School to place an ad in their yearbook. He also presented information on a scanner to augment the capabilities and technological development of the Suzanne G. Long Local History Room. After discussion and explanation of the available funds and policies, it was **MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED** to table both items.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm
– Esther Kristoff, Secretary

NONPROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION STATUS ACHIEVED

We are now proud to report that our 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status is now official. The long and seemingly endless months of obtaining our nonprofit charitable organization tax status has concluded with a positive end result.

What this now means is that we are qualified to receive tax deductible donations, bequests, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Tax Code. Our Tax ID # is 31361.



NOVEMBER 20th, 2005 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

An official meeting of the Board of Directors of the Hammond Historical Society could not be held as insufficient attendance precluded the existence of a quorum as required in the by-laws. Therefore, an informal informational meeting was held. Those present included: Ken Stromberger, Lois Sherby Stromberger, Richard Lytle, Will Uzdanovich, Roy Speelman, Daryl Tunis, Thora Berry, Mary Ann Carter and Shirley Parsons.

The first item discussed was the proposed plan of placing a stone marker commemorating the location of the Hohman Homestead. The total cost figure estimates for purchase and placement of the first marker were reported at \$3,000+ and \$5,000+ figures that all agreed were too much for the Society to bear. A second option was reported with a cost figure of approximately \$1,300+ (installed) which those present agreed was the proper choice to make. A motion was made and seconded and all present agreed that, if the President could secure three additional votes from absent members, those present would vote for the purchase of the second marker option and would approve the issuance of a check for \$683 to the Calumet Monument Company for the first half payment of the purchase and installation of the marker.

The next item to be discussed was the proposal to contribute toward the purchase of computer scanning equipment for the Local History Room of the Hammond Public Library. A suggestion was made and agreed upon to have the proposal for the Society's contribution appear in the next issue of the *FLASHBACK* *appears on page one of this month's issue* and to request membership comments regarding such contributions.

The last item brought up for discussion was a report on the status of the Woodmar Country Club and the possibility of donations of items from the club to the society and the Hammond Public Library. As this was an informational report, no action on the part of the board was required. The meeting ended at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Richard M. Lytle, 2nd Vice President Membership, & Secretary in lieu of Secretary Pro Temp.

The General Meeting of the Society was called to order by President Ken Stromberger at 2:40 p.m. after a short delay due to the late arrival of the guest speaker. This was a joint meeting held with the Friends of the Library Association. President Stromberger then introduced Mr. Archibald McKinley who spoke for forty minutes of items of interest occurring in Hammond history during the pre 1920's era. After the program, members of both organizations and guests had the opportunity to purchase books and keepsakes which the Historical Society had for sale.

SCANNING EQUIPMENT

Continued from page one———

The body of this story is a copy of a letter that was received by the President of the Hammond Historical Society. As it was discussed by the board of directors over the last few months, we would like to hear some input from the general membership.

Let us know how you feel about this idea. Do you think that it would be a good idea for us to make a contribution to this project to help defray its cost and speed up its acquisition?

The general consensus by the board is positive, however we would like to hear from some of the general membership about this project.

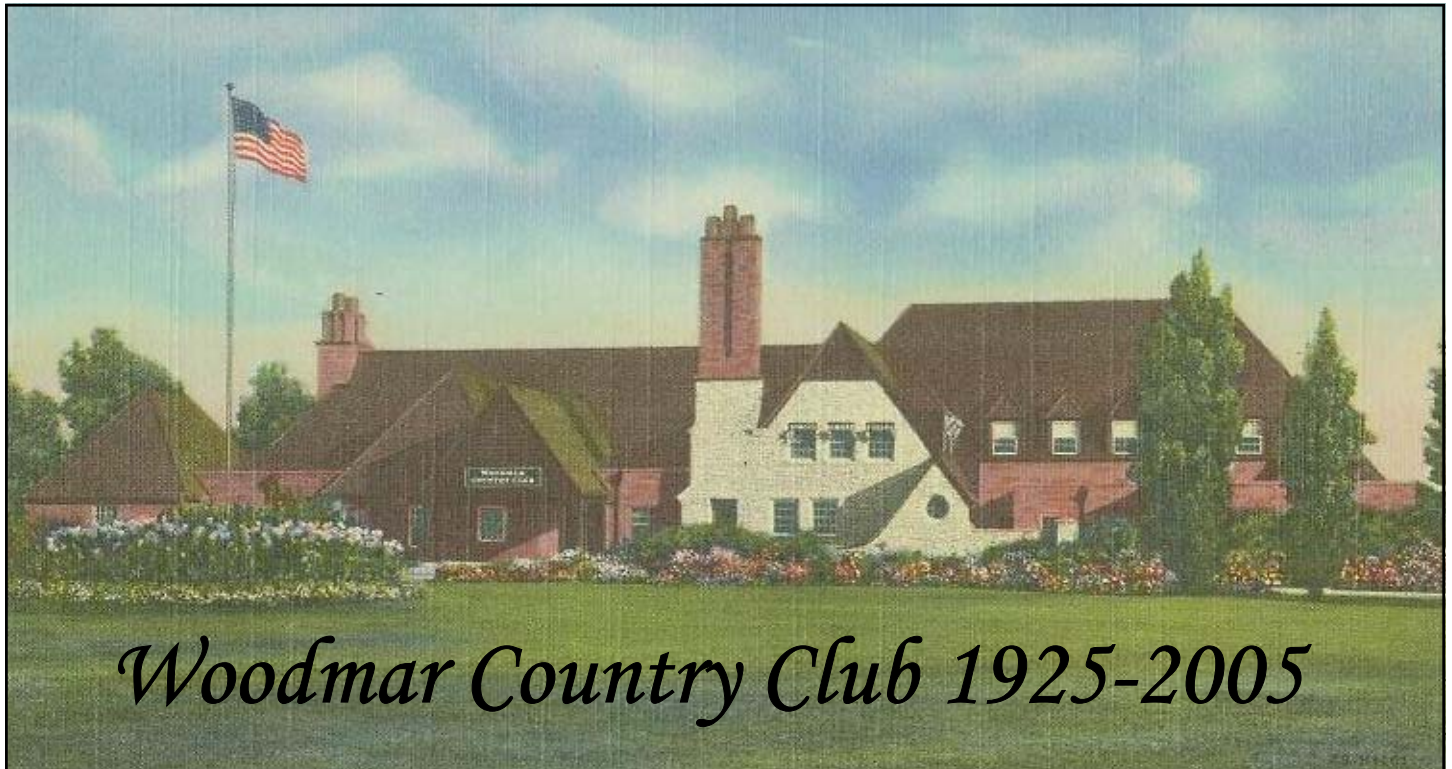
Please drop us a short note or letter, or email your thoughts, feelings or comments on this matter. We would like to hear from you as quickly as possible, so don't delay. Jot down your opinions and get them in the mail to us tomorrow, or better yet, send them to us via email today or tomorrow.

Thanks in advance for your input and interest in this very important matter and decision.

Your letters and emails will be forwarded to the group that is studying this proposal.

MAIL TO:
KEN STROMBERGER, PRESIDENT
HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
564 STATE STREET
HAMMOND IN 46320-1532

EMAIL TO:
flashback@hammondindiana.com



Woodmar Country Club 1925-2005

Founded in 1925 along the banks of the meandering Little Calumet River at the south end of town, with little else nearby, the entire property of the course and grounds covered about 100 acres. The main arterial highway of Indianapolis Boulevard (*McHie Road back then*) wasn't even on the map at the time of Woodmar Country Club's opening.

The golf course was designed by Paul E. Green. Laurie Ayton and Jacob L. Crane, Associated Golf Architects out of Chicago, these men had an established reputation built up. Course architects were asked to leave as many as possible, the large number of old growth willow trees that lined the banks of the river, to help add to the attraction and charm of the course environment.

Originally the club house for Woodmar Country Club was situated along the center of just south of what was then Twenty-Fifth Avenue (*Now the Borman Expressway*) that structure only lasted a short time. It was destroyed by a fire of unknown origin. Built as an old English Manor design by Hess and Greenwood at a total cost of \$100,000, it was constructed in three stages.

Members had full run of the golf course long before the clubhouse was finished. In fact the clubhouse did not open up until over a week after Labor Day, the official opening day of the course, so a large tent was set up on the lawn as a temporary clubhouse.

Work on the replacement clubhouse, the current one, began in the summer of 1930 and was set to open up by December 1, 1930. It's quite an impressive structure as well, designed by noted Hammond architect L. Crosby Bernard. Its Tudor Revival design was finished a month later than planned. It was dedicated on New Year's Eve 1390.

The Country Club wasn't without its ups and downs over the years. There were fires, floods and downturns. Memberships reached their peak at 550 in 1980 and dropped to their lowest of 320 during the tough economic times the region endured. One the high points for Woodmar Country Club was in the year 2000, when it celebrated in 75th anniversary.

Over the years the country club had several offers from developers to buy their prime real estate, but they had resisted. Back on October 24, 1994, the newspaper headlines blazoned "Country Club Here To Stay", however some eleven years later that wasn't the story. Members narrowly voted to sell their club, and Woodmar Country Club ceased to exist on October 31, 2005. What will become of the property is still not certain, quite possibly it will be developed into some commercial venture. One thing is for sure, Woodmar Country Club is gone for good.

Source info: microfilms of The Times newspapers Aug '24, Jul '30, Jan '31, Oct '94, Oct '00 & files of The Hammond Historical Society.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY -



20 YEARS AGO JANUARY 1986

The Queen Anne Company will move production of its hallmark candy product and all of its distribution activities to Shorewood, IL. A spokesman for the company said the move would have little impact on operations in Hammond, but couldn't promise that Queen Anne would never leave its Hammond facility. The company has been in the city since 1924. The building located at Hoffman and Sohl and covers 160,000 sq. ft. Depending upon the season the plant employs anywhere from 100 to 500 people. || Some 60 members of the Chicagoland Corvair Enthusiasts car club braved the elements to race their vehicles on Hammond's Wolf Lake. The club stages anywhere from five to seven events over the winter-time in the Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin area. Pylons marked the five-eighths of a mile course on the fifteen inch thick ice that covered the lake. Drivers got three chances as they raced one at a time over the course. Those who posted the best times in the seven classes won an engraved pewter mug as a trophy. || A 1981 DeLorean valued at \$50,000 was fished out of Lake Michigan at Calumet Avenue. The car was reported stolen from the 600 block of Hirsch Avenue in Calumet City. The auto was owned by a New York man who returned to the area to visit relatives. The expensive sports car was considered a total loss, about the only thing that was salvageable was the stainless steel engine. || Cataldi's Restaurant at 576 State Street Specials Lake Perch All You Can Eat \$7.95, Deep Fried Frog Legs All You Can Eat \$8.95, Barbequed Ribs \$9.95.

25 YEARS AGO JANUARY 1981

Fines for illegal parking jump from \$2 to \$5. Fines not paid in 30 days will increase to \$10. The 60 percent increase in fines could bring in as much as \$100,000 in additional income to the city. || School board votes to close Hammond Tech as a comprehensive high school and change the school into a career center. A technical-vocational high school for some 60 years will hold its last graduation in June 1982. Many former Tech students were saddened by the decision. || Pullman Standard to permanently close its freight car division at 1745—165th Street. The factory has been virtually empty since early September. || A public hearing was held for a grant to be used to buy the Gibson Woods property from The Nature Conservancy and create the Hammond Dune and Swale County Park.

Source info The Times microfilms Jan. '91 '86 & '81.

15 YEARS AGO JANUARY 1991

Environmental issues continue to plague the razing of the old Paramount Theater. Demolition workers began removing bricks by hand at the roof of the southeast and southwest corners of the structure, the first stages of demolishing the shuttered building. Over the holidays other workers discovered transformers and oil tanks in the basement of the theater, which were undiscovered earlier because the basement was filled with water. The tanks and transformers were hidden behind a concrete bunker wall. || Three Hammond schools scheduled for demolition will be preserved but only in pieces. The Hammond Historic Preservation Commission had asked the School City of Hammond to reconsider its decision in tearing down Maywood Elementary, Morton Elementary and Edison Elementary schools in December. They responded by saying they couldn't afford to refurbish the schools to bring them up to state codes. Morton and Edison schools may be eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When the price of remodeling exceeds 50 percent, it is more cost effective to build a new building, the School City replied. || The Economic Development Commission approved the plans for the construction of a new Sterk's Super Foods store on Calumet Avenue in north Hammond. The store would nearly double in size from 14,100 sq. ft. to 32,000 sq. ft. The new store will be built while the old store is still in operation. After completion the old store will be demolished to make room for a new parking lot. || Hammond Public Library reported heavy usage during 1990. More than 200,000 patrons used the main branch of the library during that year, with more than 455,000 items being checked out that year. || Traffic on Calumet Avenue at the Borman Expressway will be reduce to one lane in each direction as interchange and bridge work is set to get underway. The \$19.9 million project will replace the bridge over the expressway with one that is longer, wider and higher. Exit ramps will also be replaced to improve traffic flow and safety. Calumet Avenue is the first of five interchanges along the Borman Expressway to be rebuilt and completed by 1994. Others in the upgrade plan are located at Kennedy Avenue, Indianapolis Boulevard, Burr Street and Cline Avenue.

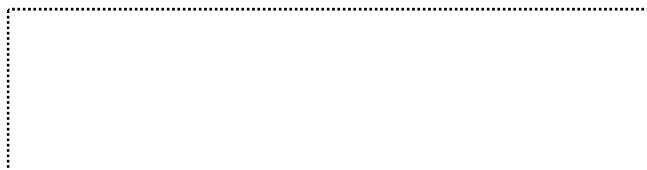


THE HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
564 STATE STREET HAMMOND IN 46320-1532

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:
Sunday, January 15th at 2:30 p.m.
"German Influences in Hammond"
Ken Stromberger — Speaker

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



DATED MATERIAL

Postmaster Please Deliver by January 14th, 2006

HAMMOND'S GASOLINE ALLEY- INDIANAPOLIS BOULEVARD—ROBY

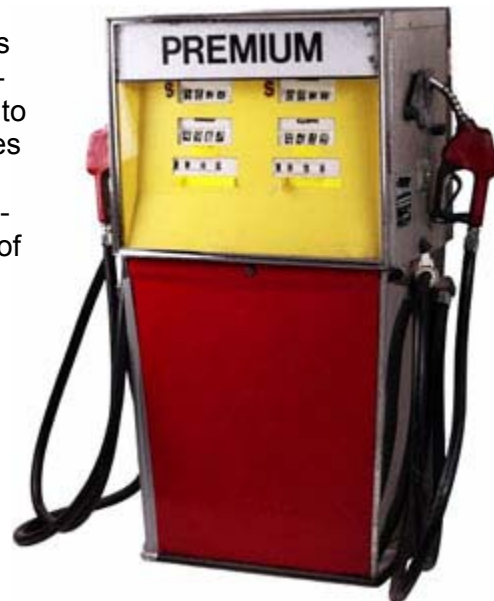
During the late 1990's the number of gas stations along north Indianapolis Boulevard in the Roby district of the city grew at a rapid clip. Several new filling stations were constructed to add to the mix of stations that were already located along the two mile stretch of highway near Lake Michigan.

Since then, complaints from numerous residents have put a moratorium on any more gas stations to be located there.

The number of gas stations is so numerous that many refer to this area as "Gasoline Alley" With the largest concentration of gas pumps in the nation, the volume of fuel pumped here is some of the heaviest in the country.

With its close proximity to Illinois and Chicago, most of those residents flock across the state-line to take advantage to the lower taxes here in Indiana. The high fuel taxes imposed by the state of Illinois, Cook County, and the city of Chicago have all but eliminated many of the gas stations there, leaving most motorists from the south-side of Chicago no other choice but to fill up here in the Hoosier state.

The volume of traffic along this stretch of road is so extremely heavy, it is estimated that some seven million people travel up and down this street on average each month. That's a lot of cars and tucks that need gas!



Source information for this story microfilms of The Times newspapers located in the Hammond Public Library, Jul '97 & Sep '98