



FLASHBACK

HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2003

Conspiracy Theories or Bad Luck?

It seems to be in vogue these days to quickly speculate what secret forces are aligned to thwart our attempts to persevere. Be it as a nation or as individuals we often conclude there must be a conspiracy somewhere beneath the surface. Maybe it began with some lights over Roswell, New Mexico, the theories of the Kennedy assassination or the later Elvis Sightings. With duct-tape in hand have we found ourselves looking over our shoulders a bit more often lately?

Recently it has seemed as though the Hammond Historical Society might have good reason to be getting just a little concerned. With a series of events going all the way up the ladder to Arthur Anderson, city budgetary matters caused the Society to relocate its January meeting.

A problem at the Post Office ensured that Society members would learn that there had been a meeting, not that there was going to be a meeting. That the February meeting was not only relocated to the Howard Library but also from the Howard Library should come as no surprise to those of you who didn't join us poolside.

Poolside? Poolside, you ask.

Let's just say it might involve a plot that was all wet! I invite everyone to the March Hammond Historical Society Meeting. Be sure to mark the date and location, bring your survival packs, and be glad the Ides of March are on a Saturday, not a Sunday!

Curt Freeman, President
Hammond Historical Society

**SPECIAL MARCH MEETING LOCATION — TAKE NOTE
FOR DIRECTIONS SEE MAP ON BACK COVER PAGE**

Happy St. Patrick's Day



Meeting Info:

**Guest Speaker
Daryl Tunis**

**Local Historian
And expert on much of
Hessville's Heritage**

Please Join Us!

Time and Place:

**SUNDAY, March 16th
At 2:30 p.m.**

Note the NEW LOCATION!

The New

Jean Shepherd

Community Center

At Dowling Park

3031 Mahoney Drive

Hammond, Indiana

Board Members: A meeting for all members of the board of directors will take place at 1:30 p.m. one hour before our general meeting.

*Editor in Chief — Roy J. Speelman
Layout Editor — William J. Uzdanovich*

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Lost Architecture of Hammond

Original Lake County Superior Court Building 1903

The location for the new Lake Superior Court House building was up in the air for awhile until the decision was finalized to construct the edifice at the southwest corner of Hohman Avenue and Rimbach Street.

Lake County Commissioners had acquired the property in 1899. The site was currently home to the Henry Lund Paint Store and ahead of that, it was known as the Bradford Store before the court house was built.

Before the Hohman and Rimbach location was agreed upon by Lake County officials, a large group Hammond taxpayers had wanted the new courthouse to be built on a tract of land bounded by Hohman and Hamlin Avenues and Michigan and Truman Streets. This area was more commonly referred to as Central Park.

Those residents would however lose their battle in landing the new court house, but a few years later they would in fact lay claim to another large public building, the city's new public library would soon grace that Central Park neighborhood.

Plans for the new court house were drawn up by noted Hammond architect J. T. Hutton and construction would be completed in 1903. Construction costs for the building were originally set at \$52,000 by county commissioners Bradford, Brownell and Hipaley. However architect Hutton had told the Board of Commissioners that it would be impossible to build the type of structure they had wanted for the price that they had set.

Hutton had pegged the cost at around \$80,000 and urged the county officials to invest a little more money into the project and to bear in mind that they were not only building for today but for future generations. The new court house should be built on a level that would make Hammond citizens proud.

Below are Architect Hutton's plans for Hammond's new county court house building, an architectural gem as he saw it.

The new court house was to be made from the finest quality materials both inside and outside. The entire building would be built of Berea Limestone of which the most ornate structures in the county were being built from at the time. All of the stone was to be cut in Hammond. All of the brick and tile was to come from the Kulage Brick Works in Hobart.



Concrete footings were to be poured from the finest Portland cement. The footing stone for the foundation was to be made from Joliet Limestone and set in the best Portland cement as well. No Hammond sand was to be used because of its fineness.

The three main building entryways would have granite door sills. The north entrance steps to the basement were to be constructed of Bedford Limestone. All other stone work would be made from first quality selected Berea Amherst sandstone. Every piece of stone in the building was to be free of any defect.

All stair treads in the building along with all bathroom facilities would be made from Tennessee marble. The roof was made of Ludawice roofing tiles. All finials, gutters and downspouts were to be constructed of 16 ounce copper. All wood work would be made from Southern Pine and Maple only. Wainscoting would be made from paneled quarter sawed red oak. All door and window trimmings would be of a light sand blast copper finish in nature.

The building would be completely fireproof. All fireproof doors were to be made of steel suspension bars and concrete. The clock tower would be built of a steel frame throughout.

Years later in an effort to expand the building, alterations were made to the exterior of the structure greatly reducing its architectural charm and appeal.



Hammond's Very Own Jean Shepherd

The Hammond Historical Society Pays Tribute To Jean Shepherd



*A Christmas Story • My Summer Story • Jean Shepherd's America
In God We Trust All Others Pay Cash • The Ferrari In The Bedroom
Wanda Hickey's Night of Golden Memories and Other Disasters
A Fistful of Fig Newtons • Ollie Hopnoodle's Haven of Bliss*

Well friends and neighbors it's almost time for the much awaited grand opening of the new multi-million dollar Jean Shepherd Community Center here in Hammond. After several construction delays the "Shep Center" is set to open for a VIP crowd on Friday, March 14, 2003 and a public display the following day on Saturday, March 15, 2003.

Who remembers when in the planning stages and even into the early construction stages the new Jean Shepherd Community Center was referred to as the Intergenerational Community Center? Were pretty sure that "Shep" had his share of "working titles" in the many stories and books that he wrote. It wasn't until just a little over a year ago, that a Commissioner of the Hammond Park Board wrote an editorial commentary to the local newspaper about the naming of the new Dowling Park Community Center.

There was talk at one time of having a contest allowing Hammond School children to come up with a name for the new Community Center, however one park board member who was a avid Jean Shepherd fan was very persistent in having the new Community Center named to honor Jean Shepherd.

Jean Shepherd grew up not to far from where the new Community Center is built. On Cleveland Street for which he made ever so famous in the stories he wrote. It seemed only fitting.

Well sticking to his guns or should we say sticking to his "Red Ryder BB Gun" the park board agreed with him in full to name the new Community Center in honor of Jean Shepherd.

Some residents were believe it or not a little apprehensive about naming the new Community Center after Jean Shepherd. They stated that they didn't think that it was such a good idea. After all he made fun of Hammond. Well if we can't laugh a little at ourselves then what's the sense of being. Maybe if you stop and think about it, there are a lot of funny things here anyway.

Just think we could have gave the naming rights to a corporate sponsor. Just how that would have turned out one can only imagine. Maybe that wouldn't have been so bad if we would have kept to the Jean Shepherd theme. How about the "Ovaltine Community Center" or the "Red Ryder Community Center". "Shep" would have really joked about that.

Even though Jean Shepherd made a living writing his whimsical and unbelievably humorous stories poking fun at Hammond or should we say Hohman as it was in his writings. He was always thrilled when he was invited back to speak or accept an award bestowed upon him. "Shep" had returned for many speaking engagements and award ceremonies not only in Hammond but in Northwest Indiana as well.

We have listed a just a few of "Shep" most famous works at the beginning of this article and couldn't begin to list his complete works.

One of the most notable things that a community can do to preserve and honor the memory of those important and influential citizens is to name a street, park or building after them. Maybe "Shep" is up there thinking —Hammond— that's not such a bad place after all.

We are sure that the new Jean Shepherd Community Center at Dowling Park will serve not just the Hessville Community, but all of Hammond well throughout the many years and years to come.

—————Excelsior

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND:
The Grand Opening of the Jean Shepherd Community Center
When: On Saturday, March 15, 2003 at 7:00 a.m.
Where: 3031 Mahoney Drive Dowling Park — Hammond, Indiana
Phone: 554-0155 For More Information
Numerous Activities and Events are Planned Throughout The Day

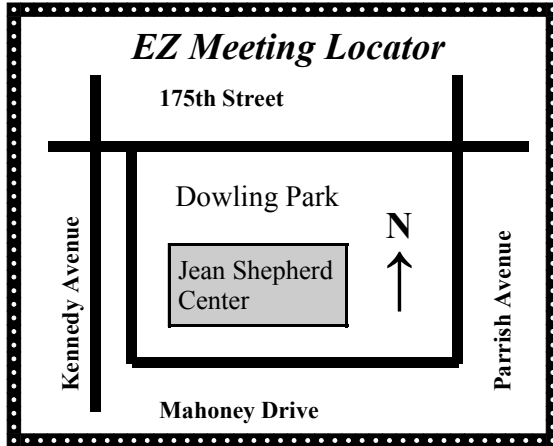




HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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>>> NOTE THE NEW MEETING LOCATION!



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Kaufman & Wolf Lion Store Around 1907

Carl Kaufman and Leo Wolf, two of Hammond's early retail pioneers opened their first shop at the northwest corner of Hohman and State. This site was later home to the Indiana Hotel.

The two partners first started out selling shoes and quickly expanded their wares and shop.

Kaufman & Wolf prospered rapidly with practical and sound business management, which helped them to grow after only a few short years in business.

With the need for more space, the two young entrepreneurs set up shop only a few blocks to the south. This 75 foot frontage along Hohman, between Sibley and Rimbach was owned by Jacob Rimbach. A furniture store division was added later to the north.



Kaufman & Wolf Lion Store at the corner of Hohman and Sibley as seen here in 1907.

An even larger store was built at this site to help contain the ever expanding business. The company prospered even during the tough times brought about by the financial panic of 1907.

In 1929 the store opened in a block long massive four story brick and terra cotta structure. In December of 1931 Kaufman & Wolf sold the store to Goldblatt Brothers upon their retirement.