



Special Holiday Edition / November – December

ARCHIBALD MCKINLAY TO BE SPEAKER AT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER, 20th MEETING

Archibald McKinlay, a native of Indiana Harbor, is a Chicago based writer/director/producer who works in all media and is perhaps the most broadly-experienced communication specialist in Chicago.

During an eclectic career, he has written national advertising. Managed large communications operations, sired the highest-rated public affairs program in the history of television, written numerous executive speeches, and taught "thinking skills" at a university.

Winner of many awards, he has since 1981, written a Sunday column in The Times (published in Munster, Indiana) in which he takes a bemused look at the Calumet Region's saints and sinners of the past.

His Wry, understated style attempts to inform, entertain, and inspire readers with a sense of pride in their heritage.

Copies of Reejin Archetypes and Calumet Roots (Swamp Baron, Part Three) will be available for purchase.

Before the meeting you might want to arrive a little early so you can check out one or two of the books of Archibald McKinlay that are available for circulation at the library. — Chicago's Neighboring South Shore: Lake County, Indiana, Oil and Water: A pictorial History of Whiting, Indiana, Twin City: A Pictorial History of East Chicago, IN.

This month's meeting is being held in conjunction with the Friends of the Hammond Public Library and will be held as usual **in the Community Room of the Hammond Public Library, 564 State Street at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, November, 20th.** A board meeting for all officers of the society will also be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Suzanne G. Long Local History Room on the second floor.

Part of Hammond's history for 45 years



2006 CALENDARS

Get your very own Hammond Historical Society calendar featuring historic postcard scenes of early Hammond. Convenient wall or magnetic mount. Makes a special gift for your favorite Hammond History lover. Available at the Suzanne G. Long Local History Room or this month's meeting. **ONLY \$4.00** Only while supplies last!

JANUARY 2006 PROGRAM NOTES

Hammond Historical Society President Ken Stromberger will be presenting the January program focusing on the contributions of the German community to the city of Hammond. Richard Lytle and Peg Evans will be assisting him in his research. If you want to help, either researching, or in presenting the material as part of a panel, please contact Ken Stromberger at 844-6796 or Richard Lytle at 931-5100, x 306.

Editor in Chief — William J. Uzdanovich
Co-Editor — Roy J. Speelman
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE VOLUME MMV-11/12

| | |
|---|---------------|
| SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2005 BOARD MEETING MINUTES | PAGE 2 |
| LEVER BROTHERS COMPANY 75 YEARS EARILER | PAGE 3 |
| TRIBUTE TO A HAMMOND SOLDIER | PAGE 4 |
| THIS MONTH IN HISTORY | PAGE 5 |
| GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS | PAGE 6 |

SEPTEMBER 18th, 2005 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of the board of directors of the Hammond Historical Society was held on September 18, 2005 in the Suzanne G. Long Local History Room of the Hammond Public Library. President Ken Stromberger called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.; thirteen members were present. Minutes of the August board meeting were read and approved.

Larry Knoezer gave the treasurer's report. Dues received was \$800.00, one book was sold for \$5.00. We will receive a bill from Beckman Kelly and Smith for \$1800.00 for work done to obtain our 5019(c) 3 status. Report was approved as given.

Membership committee reported that HHS cups have been ordered. It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED** to accept the report. Report of the nominating committee was tabled.

Richard Lytle reported that the script for the cemetery tour is not quite complete. Tickets and programs have been printed, and distributed. Presenters are ready. Brian Poland will start each tour. Will Uzdanovich will make calendars for sale. Set-up will be Saturday, October 1. It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED** that we pay \$93.00 for a new banner advertising the cemetery walk.

Regarding the Hohman Homestead Marker Project, President Ken stated that it would be appropriate to place a marker on the south side of the river, on the river walk. We will have to work with the Housing Authority to complete this project. Shirley Parsons will bring this up to the Housing Authority. It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED** that we approach the Housing Authority board and ask to place a memorial monument along the river walk denoting the Hohman Homestead.

It was reported that confirmation has been received regarding our participation in the LaPorte County Historical/Genealogical Meeting.

Daryl Tunis has suggested that we sell entertainment books as a fund raiser. After explanation and discussion, it was **MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED** to table this suggestion. It was noted that organizations selling these books must be non-profit.

Question was raised about doing something to honor Marge Sohl. This will be considered, and it was agreed that we will do something special.

It was **MOVED, SECONDED, and CARRIED** that we adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m. Program for that day was "Show and Tell". Several people showed pictures and told of events and other stories of early Hammond and its residents.

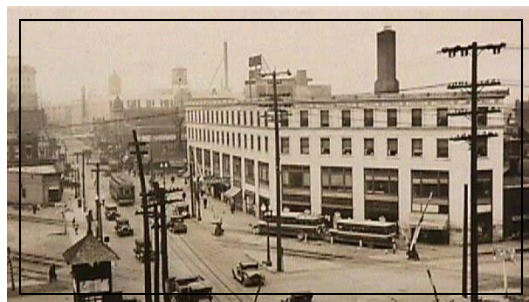
Esther Kristoff, Secretary

Bygone Era Collectable Mugs

Commemorating 45 years since the founding of the Hammond Historical Society. **LIMITED EDITION!** **Now on sale**—available in 2 designs while supplies last! **JUST \$7.50 EACH** At the Suzanne G. Long Local History Room, Hammond Public Library Main Branch or at this month's meeting.

THE HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

— BYGONE ERA



Downtown Hammond

THE HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

— BYGONE ERA



Downtown Hammond

Lever Brothers Company 75 Years Earlier — Hammond Plant Founded in 1930

Lever Brothers Hammond plant became operational on August 8, 1930. The 26 acre tract of land is just 300 yards from the shores of Lake Michigan. The property was once home to the now defunct Boardwalk Amusement Park. In the collection of photographs on this page we can see the initial construction of the original plant complex, which would be around the mid to late 1929 era.

The original facility contained five buildings and was considered one of the largest manufacturing plants in the region. At the time of its opening it was the biggest of Lever Brothers six plants that were located in the United States. It was also considered one of the most streamlined soap making facilities in the world. It produced Rinso Soap, Lux Flakes, Lux and Life-buoy Soaps.

Over time the facilities were constantly being upgraded and expanded. In 1971 there were 17 buildings at the Hammond location. During the Hammond plant's first forty years of operations nearly every product that was marketed by Lever Brother was manufactured there.

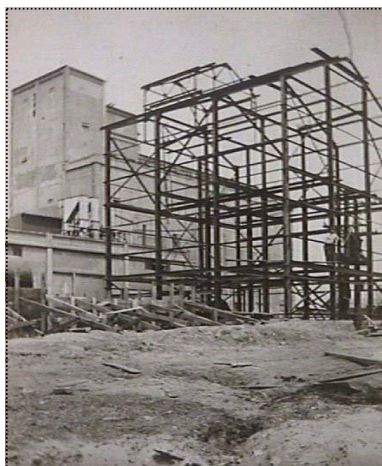
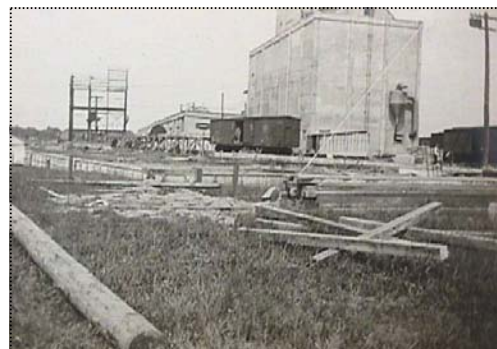
In 1937 an edible products building was added, it produced Imperial and Good Luck Margarines, Mrs. Butterworth's Syrup, Light Spry and Luck Whip Desert Topping in aerosol spray cans.

After WWII synthetic detergents became very popular and were introduced at the Hammond manufacturing facility. The plant began to make Breeze and Surf detergents. Rinso Blue was added to the mix after a few years.

Powdered detergents were also made here at the company as well. The array of products also included, Dove, Phase III detergent bars, Wisk, Dishwasher All, Swan, Lux and Dove soaps and detergents.

Today, the Hammond plant has been streamlined so that it produces only Dove, Lever 2000, Caress and Suave bar soaps. It is the largest soap bar factory in the world with a total production rate of 2.5 million bars of soap daily.

Information source for this story from the microfilms of The Times Jan '71 & online.



A TRIBUTE TO A HAMMOND SOLDIER

I visited the World War II memorial in Washington DC last June 2004 and was touched by a small tribute to a soldier from Hammond Indiana. I went to the memorial at dawn and was alone when I notice a small picture of Wahl leaning up against the outside of the granite walls. The picture had his name and indicated that he died when his plane was hit and exploded. I was wondering if you might know how I could get in touch with the person who left the tribute so that I might pass on my early morning photographs and tell them that I was touched by what they left at the memorial. — *He was a member of the 642nd Bombardment Squadron stationed out of Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 2nd Lt. William Wahl along with six other airmen were reported “missing in action” on February 16, 1945 in the vicinity of Unna, Germany, the result of heavy anti-aircraft artillery fire. Wahl was the recipient of several air medals. Born August 30, 1922, died February 16, 1945. He was finally laid to rest on June 21, 1949 at New Albany National Cemetery, New Albany, IN.*



Photo courtesy of Mr. Larry Love

5 YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 2000

Spiccia's Restaurant at 2143 Calumet Avenue invites your entire family to their All-You-Can-Eat Traditional Thanksgiving Buffet only \$11.95 per person. Buffet includes: Turkey & Dressing with all of the trimmings and pumpkin pie. Serve yourself from their extraordinary table of traditional holiday selections: Ham, Pierogi, Fish, Sausage, Dessert Table and much more. Serving you since 1941, reservations recommended. || Bids were awarded for an 18 hole adult golf course to complement the 9 hole youth course at Lost Marsh. Site preparation work on the 77 acres is expected to begin on November 21, and could prove to be costly once the environmental remediation work gets underway. Some 137 drums filled with oil contaminants were uncovered when the youth course was being developed.

10 YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 1995

The Indiana Gaming Commission approved Lake Michigan Charters bid for the Empress River Casino at the Hammond Marina. Gaming operations are expected to get underway by July 4th, 1996. Steel beams for the development's marina bridge, parking deck and pavilion have been ordered at a cost of \$1.2 million. The Milwaukee Clipper docked at the Hammond Marina may be moved out to make the marina "more attractive" as described by the Indiana Gaming Commission. Recently it was discovered that the Clipper is moored illegally at the marina because it lacks a required permanent docking permit from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

15 YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 1990

Removal for the reconstruction of the Columbia Avenue Bridge over the Borman Expressway will force temporary closure of the state's busiest highway. All six lanes of the roadway will need to be closed for up to 20 minutes at a time so workers can remove girders to make way for the new replacement span. || Several Hammond schools will be demolished as part of an ambitious school rebuilding and renovation program. The total cost of the three buildings is estimated at \$23.6 million. The three schools are Maywood, Edison and Morton elementary. All three projects will be financed through general obligation bonds, which will result in an increase of property taxes for Hammond residents and businesses. This is the first phase of a \$75 million project to rebuild or remodel all of the city's schools over the next 10 years.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY -



20 YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 1985

An apparent arson fire destroys the former St. Ann's Home / Lyndora Hotel located at 5927 Columbia Avenue. At least two separate fires, in the roof above the main entrance were found inside the building shortly after 4 a.m. when firemen arrived at the scene. The gutted structure now awaits demolition. || An exceptionally rainy November flooded many streets and basements throughout the region. City officials kept a watchful eye on the Little Calumet River at Hohman Avenue and Indianapolis Boulevard. Hammond Police reported numerous streets were flooded with the most serious flooding at Indianapolis Boulevard and Summer Street. || The Harrison Park neighborhood may become the city's second historic district. The Harrison Park area was built up as the city quickly grew during the 1890's to the 1920's. Many of the homes were once owned by some of the city's prominent early citizens and business owners including Marcus M. Towle, W. B. Conkey, Lewis Hess and Maurice Rothschild. The historic district was proposed several years ago because of the neighborhood's architectural and historical significance. || An official grand opening was held at the new Fitness Center inside the Hammond Civic Center, the remodeled facility was completed six months ago. Finished touches were just recently completed. || Ground was broken on Wednesday, November 20th for the 250,000 square foot Interstate Plaza. Builder's Square and Warehouse Club will occupy 180,000 square feet of the development. Negotiations are underway to include an eight screen indoor movie theater at the site. Initial construction will begin on November 26th. It will reportedly be the second largest mall in Lake County. || Rand McNally will shutter its 85 year old Hammond Plant affecting all 555 employees. Work will be shifted to its three other book making facilities located in Indianapolis, Kentucky and Massachusetts. The company had stated that it had been losing money at that location since the early 1970's due to high overhead associated with the aging building.

Source information the microfilms of The Times newspapers of November 2000, 1995, 1990 and 1985 at the Hammond Public Library.



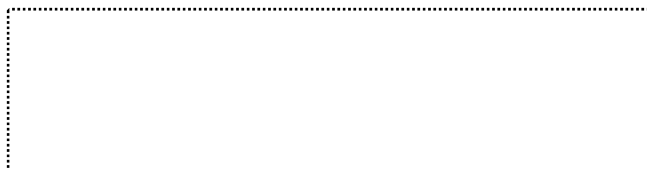
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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, November 20th at 2:30 p.m.
Local Historian & Author Archibald McKinlay — will be the guest speaker — Program in partnership with the Friends of the Hammond Public Library

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