

THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

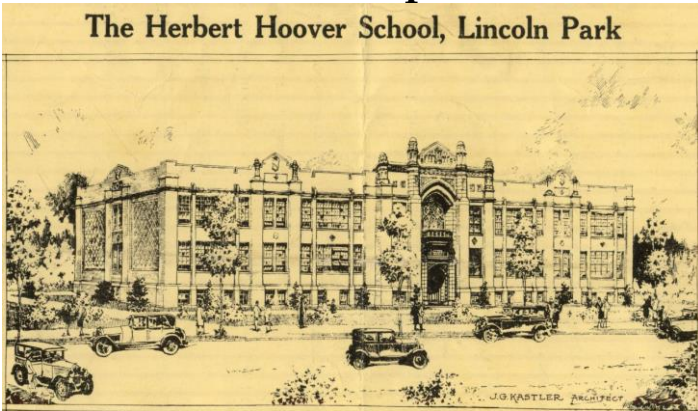
NEWSLETTER

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also visit our Facebook page

Historic Hoover School Enters a New Chapter

The Herbert Hoover School, Lincoln Park

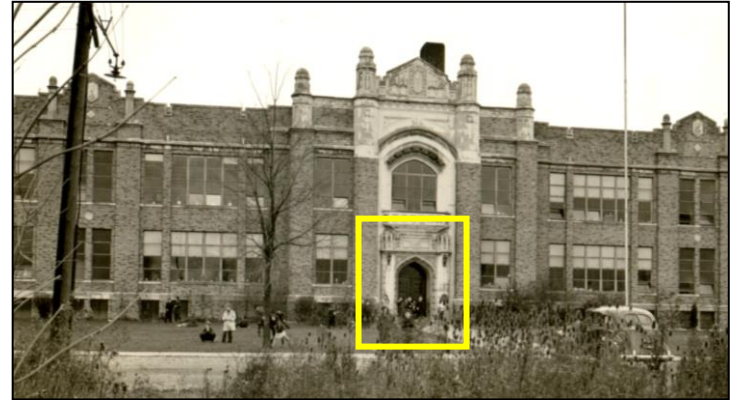


Architect Joseph Kastler's original 1929 sketch of the Herbert Hoover School. This past summer the 90-year-old building was razed to make room for the new Hoover School building; the new school has retained the north wing that was added in the 1950s to accommodate a greatly expanding student population.

Hoover School was built at the onset of the Great Depression. Herbert Hoover was president and the school was named as an honor to him. (Hoover himself had just appeared in Michigan, on October 21, 1929 to attend the 50th anniversary of Thomas Edison's invention of the incandescent lamp; known as "Light's Golden Jubilee", the date also marked the formal opening of Henry Ford's Edison Institute, later known as Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.) Hoover School was in fact in the middle of construction during the last week of October when the stock market crashed, sending the nation's economy into a tailspin, and precipitating the decade-long depression.

Fortunately, construction of the school finished on time and it opened to an enrollment of 235 grade school pupils in early 1930. The school's first principal Howard Derr led from 1930 to his retirement in 1966. The staff grew from eight in 1930 to its current fifty, now led by principal Katherine Stepulla. Among Hoover's first group of teachers was Miss Norma Schauer. Miss Schauer remained with the school for nearly 40 years, later on as the vocal music teacher.

[Article continues on next pages.]



The photo above shows Hoover School about 1940. The original stone archway at the main entrance, outlined, is shown today in the photo below. According to Superintendent Terry Dangerfield, its incorporation into the new school was part of the plan's original scope and design, to preserve as much history as possible from the 1920's wing. The stone-carved school name key stone has also been re-located, and is placed just to the left of the arch in the new entrance hallway.



Photo by Gordon Gilbert,
Lincoln Park Board of Education



VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER 11th

The Historical Society is planning to hold the annual Lincoln Park Veterans Day commemoration and bell-ringing ceremony outdoors again this year. We gather each year on the museum grounds to honor our community's veterans who have served during times of war and peace. The ceremony will be held on Wednesday the 11th of November at 11:00 a.m. The year 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II, the 70th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War and the 30th Anniversary of Operation Desert Shield. Ceremony attendees will be required to socially distance (family units excepted) and wear face masks under the current public health guidelines. Please note there will be no public access to the museum that day. The ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m. on the east lawn of the museum with Mayor Tom Karnes leading the contingent of local officials. The ceremony will conclude with an opportunity to ring the old Goodell School bell in honor or in memory of family members and friends who have served in the armed forces.

Museum Funding Campaign

Thanks to our generous donors:

Get Well Urgent Care
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Sherry Huntington
Linda Kreuger
John Martin
Jim & Linda Mixer
Carole Shogren
Don Wallace
Paul Zatyko

The Society is still seeking funds to help with the museum operations during this current fiscal year and time of pandemic. If you are a business or resident who can help us with sustaining the heritage of our community, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. You can reach us at 313-386-3137; lpmuseum@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM



Lucille Dokken

June 16

Michael Busen

July 17

Ronald Lobb

August 11

Joseph Clemente, Jr.

August 25

Edith Andrews

October 10

Alvina Jarrell

October 22

We are saddened by the recent losses of these society members and friends and we share our deepest condolences with their families.

JOSEPH CLEMENTE, JR. Memorial Contributions

A grateful thanks to:
Sensors, Inc., Saline MI
Virginia Mondon
Joann Rutkowski
Gale & Mark Shufeldt

A NEW WEBSITE

A new museum and historical society website is under development by web designer **Emily Solomon** of Lincoln Park. It will use the same domain name as the current (but long-out-of-date) site: www.lphistorical.org When the new site goes online, the old one will no longer be accessible. However many of the features, including our past newsletters, historical photo gallery, will be found on the new site along with new features and a totally new look. We are most grateful to Emily for volunteering her time and expertise on this special project.

Another Hoover School tidbit: Though the school's main entrance has moved around the block off of the Abbott Street parking lot the school address remains 3750 Howard Street.

Update on the Sepeshy P.O. Mural

Installation of the full-size reproduction of the Zoltan Sepeshy mural, "Hauling in the Net", which was located here in the post office building from 1940 to 1967, will take place later this month. A public dedication will be scheduled for a later date, sometime in the new year, after we can again accommodate groups of visitors to the building. The photo here shows the original mural, after its completed restoration, in its new permanent location at the Beaver Island Marine Museum.



Photo courtesy of Beaver Island Historical Society

Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2020-2021

President/Treasurer	Jim Nelson
Vice President/Secretary	Dolores Walker
Treasurer	Jim Mixter
Trustee/Membership Chair	Alyce Riggs
Trustee	Bea Partridge

Museum Curator & newsletter editor: Jeff Day

Director Emeritus: Muriel Lobb

Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 P.M. The Society Newsletter is published quarterly. To be added to our email list and help us save on postage costs, send an email to: lpmuseum@gmail.com

Unless otherwise indicated, all images which appear in the newsletter are from the Lincoln Park Historical Museum collections.

Historical Society Memberships & Renewals

Members, you'll find your membership renewal envelope enclosed here with your newsletter. Your 2021 renewal is vital to us in continuing our service to the community. Memberships also help to keep our building maintained, to provide quarterly newsletters, and, when we return to being open and active again, with sponsoring events and programs for our members and the public. The year-long pandemic has created struggles that we are still facing. Please help us by taking a moment to return your renewal form with your payment. Remember that the museum is now open for visits by appointment. Thank you for your continued support!

For any non-members reading this, individuals, couples, students, and businesses alike, we can certainly use your support, too!

A Special "Thank You"

to Chad Johnson and Veterans Glass (664 Southfield Road) for coming to our aid and providing emergency repair to one of the museum's exterior window frames after a recent wind storm. We are very grateful for their quick response!

HOOVER SCHOOL cont. from front page

For this special Hoover School issue, we spoke with a few of our society members who shared memories of their student years.

Doris (Bitzer) Blessing attended Hoover from 1938 to 1944; **Janice (Nelligan) McLaughlin** Kindergarten through 7th grade; and **Claudia (Kolton) Solomon** 6th & 7th Grade.

Doris recalls the most significant memory of her Hoover years occurred on D-Day June 6, 1944. That day her teacher Mrs. (Lina) Compton was visibly upset and crying. The class learned that her husband was in the wave of soldiers involved in the invasion of Nazi-occupied France. The D-Day invasion proved to be the turning point in the Second World War, and led to the end of the war less than a year later.

Doris's two younger sisters Eileen and Jean also attended Hoover. Both Doris and Eileen, a year younger, recall the day that two dead bodies were
(continued on next page)

discovered in a marshy field behind the school. The place was “haunted” ever after. [No other details on this mystery have been uncovered; we will see what information we might dig up for a future newsletter.]

Janice attended Hoover from 1961 to 1969 and also her younger brother John attended. They both agree that the coolest part of the old building was the second floor art room with the large window over the main entrance, overlooking the front lawn. Mrs. Gravengood was the art teacher at Hoover in the 1960s.

Claudia, after spending her earlier grades at Hamilton School, went to Hoover for 6th and 7th grade where she played flute in the school band. She remembers that Hoover for 6th and 7th grades was a feeder school that became an opportunity for meeting new students coming from other elementary schools. Janice played the viola which she learned beginning in 4th grade under orchestra instructor Mrs. Traines. Rehearsals were held in the basement’s orchestra and band room, next to the fallout shelter – which no one remembers ever actually being used – and where a hall sign marked the area “condemned”. (We’re not sure if that was meant as a joke or not.)

Janice recalls the kindergarten and younger grades met in the newer 1950s wing, which had a separate door onto the playground; activities there included a merry-go-round, swings, tetter-totters, with a big expanse of open field (still haunted?), and “a small grove of trees which seemed like woods to us when we were little.”

Janice and her fellow 7th graders moved over to the old original building where they had lockers and changed classes for each subject. A small taste no doubt of their next years at Huff Junior High School.

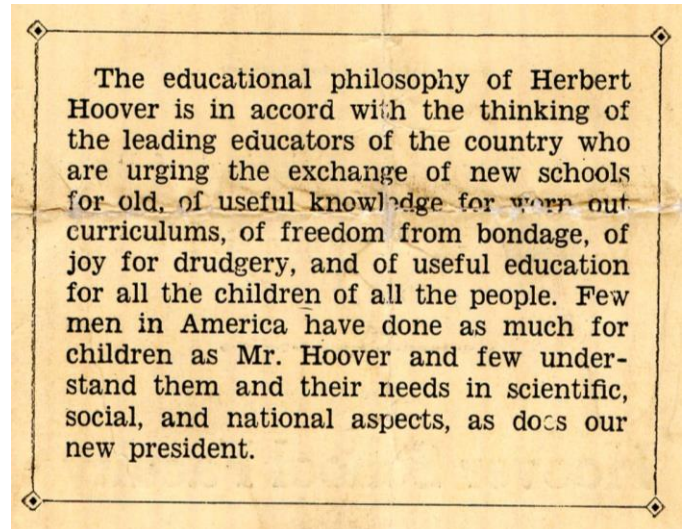
Our thanks to these three ladies, Doris, Janice and Claudia, for sharing their stories – and for reminding us that all kids once actually walked to school every day.

A bit more on the new building: a total of 70,000 square feet includes the 1950s wing. Special features of the new building include a modernized gym and cafeteria, more efficient special education offices and resources, a secure entry vestibule and safer structure, improved parking and playground.

Architect: IDS [Integrated Design Solutions]
Construction Management Co.: McCarthy & Smith, Inc.

click link for photos of Hoover construction process:
<https://4.files.edl.io/2840/07/18/20/122556-69d1d8ea-0ba6-4fb1-98f9-d231003c6973.pdf>

Hoover School was the first school to be built in the south half of the city.



Above is the dedication text printed on the cover of the Herbert Hoover School dedication program, seen below, dated February 13, 1930

