



A RANSOM NOTE

Clarence Historical Society Newsletter

SUMMER 2020

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- Sandra Larkin, Treasurer
- Elaine Dinola, Advisor
- Daniel Gamin
- Yvonne Buyers Hicks
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- Sara Larkin, Social Media and Membership Coordinator
- Robert A. Geiger,
- Clarence Town Board Liaison
- Mark Woodward, Town Historian

Board Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of each month.

Meetings begin at 6:30 pm at the Clarence History Museum.

President's Message

It's been a challenge and a learning experience with all the events of 2020. The events are creating history as well as bringing up history.

The Board of Trustees are working hard to create a safe environment for our visitors. We are working with Supervisor Patrick Casilio and Jim Burkard and the Parks Department. Once we have all the safety requirements in place, we will begin to open the museum. Please watch our website and Facebook page for updates.

So with this being said – this newsletter is all about interesting news and local advertising from our archives. We focused on 1952 and 1953 Clarence Press articles as well as our archives from 1799 and forward. We hope you all enjoy a break from the today's news and go back in time to yesterday's news!

We thank and appreciate everyone's understanding at this time.

A RANSOM NOTE

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CLARENCE PRESS, Inc.
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Successor to The Clarence Press (Established 1944)
Successor to the Good News Press (Established 1937)


HERMAN C. BEERS President & Treasurer
MARJORIE B. BEERS Vice-President & Secretary

When opinions, articles or advertising are printed in our columns they are not necessarily those of the editor of this paper

Official Newspaper of the Town of Clarence



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ACTIVE MEMBER

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Entered as second-class matter August 10, 1945, at the Post Office at Clarence, N. Y., under the Act of March 3rd, 1879.

Apr. 17, 1953

**Three Years of Steady Business Growth
Forces Clarence Pharmacy To Enlarge
Their Quarters For Better Public Service**



Interior of The Clarence Pharmacy

Two and a half years ago, two men decided Clarence was a very good place in which to open a pharmacy and proceeded to carry out their plan.

Today, George M. Donovan and Melvin W. Ruszaj have found how well-founded was their decision for the store which started with about 900 square feet of floor space has now expanded to over 1500 square feet. Clean, bright and well-arranged, the store impresses one instantly with its up-to-date attractiveness.

Like all drug stores today, the Clarence Pharmacy carries many other items than drugs. One can find there drugs, toys, knick-knacks, stationery, cosmetics, candy, tobacco, smoking supplies, greeting cards, chewing gum, magazines, newspapers, and a complete line of baby supplies as well as many more items too numerous to mention.

The pharmacist, George M. Donovan, is a graduate of the University of Buffalo and served four years in the U. S. Army, two of them on overseas duty in World War II.

Melvin W. Ruszaj is also a veteran of World War II and two years overseas duty with the U. S. Coast Guard.

Discharged with the rank of First Lieutenant, Mr. Donovan joined Mr. Ruszaj whose discharge carries the rank of Ensign, and opened a pharmacy in Salamanca. After three years there, they felt the opportunity for growth was better in Clarence and so opened the small drug store next to the Post Office on Main St. When they felt the time had come to expand, they decided to stay in the same location even though expansion meant simply lengthening the store.

Both Mr. Donovan and Mr. Ruszaj feel that this growth would not have been possible without the good-will and cooperation of the people of Clarence and plan to continue to give the same friendly, efficient service in the future that they have given in the past.

Part of this friendliness is well expressed at their soda fountain where one may enjoy a delicious ice cream concoction and watch a TV program on the well-placed TV set.

The good wishes of the people of Clarence are extended to the Clarence Pharmacy and its owners, George Donovan and Melvin Ruszaj.

May 8, 1953

PRITCHARD
Radio Television
Sales & Service
Call Clarence 5341

CLARENCE DELICATESSEN

31 SCHURR ROAD

CLARENCE, N. Y.

SPECIAL

Home Baked Coffee Cakes
Sweet Rolls and Specialties

EBERSOLE MILLING CO.

- Poultry & Dairy Feed
- Seed Cleaning & Treating
- Grain Buyers
- Blue Coal & Semet
Solvay Coke

CLARENCE CENTER, N. Y.

Phone 6601

SHEPARD BROTHERS

Funeral Home
Clarence, N. Y.

Phones:

Clarence 3691 — Alden 2591

Ask the Family We Have
Served

W. G. RAPS

25 Ransom Road

Clarence, N. Y.

PHONE 4201

Program

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

"Immigration"

Presented by
Greg Kinal

Town Park Clubhouse
10405 Main Street
Doors Open at 6:30 pm
Free and Open to the Public
Family Friendly

**Due to the current COVID requirements by the Town of Clarence:
No refreshments will be served.
Masks are required in the Clubhouse.
Seating will be on a first come first serve basis.
Please watch social media and our website for any last minute cancellations.**

Program

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

"The Lusitania"

Presented by
Greg Kinal

Town Park Clubhouse
10405 Main Street
Doors Open at 6:30 pm
Free and Open to the Public
Family Friendly

Pat's Files

1881 – October

Daniel Kurtz, principal of the Clarence Center School, has handed in his resignation. If it takes effect, it is undoubtedly the outgrowth of parents upholding the “general cussedness” of their children. Mr. Kurtz is both a first – class teacher and a gentleman

Parker Elementary School

On January 20th a group of surprised and thrilled children at Parker had the opportunity of watching the first televised inauguration of a United States President. This unusual privilege was made possible by the kindness of Mr. Robert L. Christiansen. The pictures were clear and the reception was good. Both teachers and pupils extend their sincere gratitude to Mr. Christiansen.

Miss Larkin's second grade pupils were happy to welcome Ronald Drake recently. He came from Jordan Central School. Laurene Snall has been transferred to a Florida school. She and her parents are spending the winter in that State. We miss her very much.

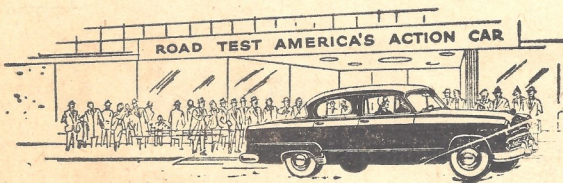


WARREN BUELL, JR., D.D.S.

Office Hours: 9-12, 1-5
No Office Hours Wednesday
Tuesday and Friday, 6 to 8:30

Hours by Appointment
Phone Clarence 2411
Clarence, N.Y.

Specifications and equipment subject to change without notice.



New '53
All New **Dodge**

JOHN L. KRUSE MOTORS, INC.

PHONE 2311

10065 MAIN ST.

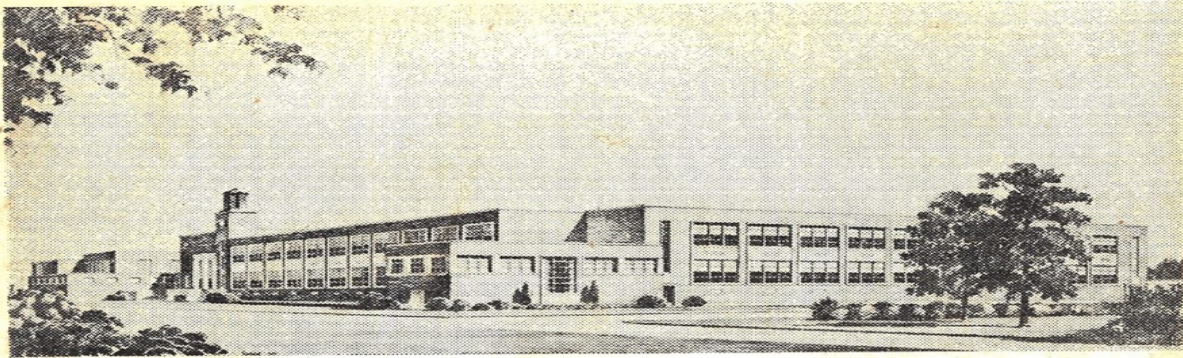
CLARENCE, N. Y.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Clarence Press, Clarence N. Y.

Friday, May 2, 1952

Clarence Central Junior-Senior High School Dedication - Sunday, May 4, 1952



THE NEW CLARENCE CENTRAL JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

The new Clarence Central Junior-Senior High School will be dedicated on Sunday, May 4th at 3 p.m. The public is invited to attend these exercises. The dedication address will be given by Dr. Harvey M. Rice, President of the Buffalo State Teachers College.

This new modern building of fireproof steel and brick construction is designed to house all pupils from grades seven through twelve. There are 600 students now and the full capacity of the building is about 850. There is provision for an addition of twelve classrooms, making the total capacity then about 1130. The special facilities, such as the auditorium, gymnasiums, swimming pool, cafeteria and heating plant will accommodate a capacity of 1130.

The building is fully equipped

with modern facilities to offer all courses found in a modern high school program. These include the college entrance, academic, business, homemaking, art, music, industrial arts and agriculture. Special rooms and facilities are provided for audio-visual instruction, health, physical education, dramatics, guidance, library, music and cafeteria.

The audio-visual, room has a seating capacity of fifty. The health suite has office space for dental hygienist, nurse and doctor, and cubicles with cots for students who become ill during the day. The physical education facilities include a double gymnasium 75 feet by 90 feet, a swimming pool 25 feet by 75 feet, and locker and shower rooms for both boys and girls. Two gym classes can meet at the same time. The auditorium with the balcony can

accommodate 988 spectators. The large stage is fully equipped with drapes, curtains and lights for dramatics and musical performances. The guidance suite includes a private office for conferences and a student reading room. The library has a seating capacity of 75 with a conference room and work room.

The cafeteria is equipped with fold-in-wall tables, with a seating capacity of 320. A separate dining room is provided for teachers.

The music department, located at the rear of the stage has two doors leading directly onto the stage. It includes a band room, a choral room, three small practice rooms, instrument storage room and large storage cabinets.

The industrial arts and agriculture shops are located at the rear of the building in a section

set back from the main building by a corridor. These shops are fully equipped for all courses in agriculture, general woodworking, electricity, metal working and general shop activities.

The homemaking department consists of three inter-connecting rooms. There are four unit kitchens for teaching foods preparation. A second room for living center and sewing provides for teaching and practicing good family relationships.

Four inter-connecting rooms are provided for the business department. This department is equipped to prepare students for clerical, stenographic and retail selling positions.

Two inter-connecting science rooms are well equipped for all science courses. There is a special plant room in the science suite.

The art department has a very large room fully equipped with cabinets and work spaces around the room.

A varied adult education program is carried on in the many facilities in this building.

Site and Grounds

The landscaped 40 acre site contains track, football and baseball field, four tennis courts and separate play areas for girls and boys. A bus garage with 14 stalls and maintenance and repair facilities make it possible to keep all school buses at this location.

Planned as a Community Center

This new Junior-Senior High School building was planned as a community center also. This

center is open to use by educational and civic organizations from Clarence, Clarence Center and Harris Hill and any similar organization in the Clarence Central School district. The east wing of the new building contains the community center facilities, including an auditorium with seating capacity of 988, a double gymnasium 75 feet by 90 feet, a swimming pool, 25 feet by 75 feet and a cafeteria with seating capacity of 320.

Elaine's Favorites

American Legion Memorial Day Parade

American Legion Clarence Post No. 538 will hold a Memorial Day parade followed by ceremonies at the Fillmore Cemetery on Ransom Rd.

Starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 30th at Parker Elementary School, the parade will follow Bodine Rd. to Schurr Rd. to Main St., down Main to Ransom Rd. and over Ransom Rd. to the Fillmore Cemetery, where Memorial services will be held. Then the line of march will return via Ransom Rd. to Bodine Rd. to the school. Gold Star Mothers and disabled veterans will be provided with transportation.

Following the parade, Legion members will go to their lot on Main St. for a short service.

The Legion extends a cordial invitation to all those interested to attend this service and to see the Honor Roll Board that is near completion.



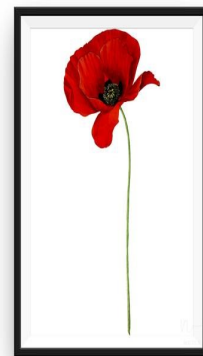
Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Beers:

I am enclosing an article on Poppy Week which I hope you will be able to include in this week's issue of the Clarence Press. The Poppy program is one of the most important phases of the work done by our organization, and the publicity given it is most vital to its success.

We, of the American Legion Auxiliary, are deeply appreciative of the help you have always given us in regard to our past endeavors; and we sincerely hope that you will continue to cooperate with us in the future.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Rita J. Trowbridge
Publicity Chairman,
American Legion Aux.



Another Clarence Boy Leaves to Serve His Country

David J. Riley of Bodine Rd., enlisted in the Army on April 29 for a period of two years.

All men who have had their Pre-induction Physical are eligible to enlist in the army for a period of 2 years. S-Sgt. Grommon has set up an office in the Town Hall in Akron, which is open every morning from 9-12.

Any young men between the ages of 17 to 35 who are interested may call at the Town Hall for information on enlisting in the Army or Air Force.



Clarence Young Man Awarded Purple Heart

WITH THE 1ST CAVALRY DIV. IN JAPAN—Pfc. Norman H. Lindner, 10026 Main St., Clarence, N. Y., was recently awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received while fighting in Korea with the 1st Cavalry Division.

The decoration was conferred on Private First Class Lindner in Japan where the division is now stationed.

He was wounded on Oct. 4, 1951 near Yonchon, Korea, while a member of the 5th Cavalry Regiment.

Around The Town

New Fire Truck for Harris Hill Firemen

A new \$15,000 fire truck has been delivered to the Harris Hill Fire Company from the Young Fire Equipment Co., Buffalo. It will carry 500 gals. of water, 750 ft. of 2¼ in. hose, 400 ft. high pressure hose on two reels for fog and has a three stage Hale pump of 500 gals. minimum capacity. Also included is a separate auxiliary generator for flood lights and carries foamite equipment for oil and gasoline fires, plus other equipment.

These are some of the benefits returned to the fire district in increased protection for the money the firemen get from picnics, donations, drives and the Ladies Auxiliary.

We are very proud of our new truck and any member of the fire company will be very happy to show it to those interested.



Notice

There has been willful destruction of Town Highway signs in Harris Hill section of the Township recently. The replacement of these signs costs the taxpayers unnecessary expense of man hours and material. Sincere cooperation of the parents in this area can eliminate this expense and save the possibility of more drastic action. The destruction of Town Highway property is punishable by a fine of \$10 to \$50.

Benjamin Fogelsonger,
..Superintendent of Highways.



Friday, February 13, 1953

It Was News In Clarence Press

ONE YEAR AGO

The Town Board of Clarence announces the appointment of Mrs. Wilfred D. Baker of Clarence Center as historian for the Town of Clarence.

February 1941

A new \$3,000 fire pumper has been delivered to the Clarence Volunteer Fire Company.

Clarence Firemen Hold Fish Supper

Clarence Fire Company has made arrangements for a fish supper to be held at Parker Elementary School on March 28th from 5 to 7 P.M. This affair will take the place of the card party and dance usually held each year by the firemen.

The Committee in charge consists of Everett Larkin, Chairman, Herman Monkelbaan and Carlton Daigler.

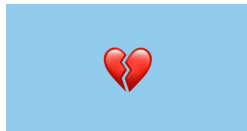
A good meal is promised to all who come, and it is hoped that the affair will be well patronized by the members of the Community which the Fire Company serves.

All funds raised by the Firemen are used for the betterment of community service.

Tickets can be purchased from any fireman.

1813

Elopement – Whereas my wife, Betsy refuses to live with me, I therefore forbid all persons harboring or trusting her on my account as I will pay no debt of her contracting after this date – Nathaniel Baley, Clarence, Oct. 9, 1813





HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF THE TOWN OF CLARENCE
Founded in 1954

10465 Main Street
P.O. Box 86
Clarence, New York 14031-0086

Phone: (716) 759-8575

www.clarencehistory.org

Facebook Page: Historical Society of the
Town of Clarence

Email: museum@clarencehistory.org

“To Preserve and share the History and Heritage of the Town of Clarence, respecting our past and striving into the future.”

May 25, 1904 - No clue has yet been found to identify the burglars that broke into A.G. Eshelman's store and post office last week Wednesday morning about 2:30 o'clock. The burglars, supposed to be three in number, entered the store by breaking out a window light at the rear end of the building. The explosion awakened Clarence Bratt who with his family, occupies the second story of the building. He immediately realized the condition of things and arming himself with his revolver and by discharging it frequently, scared the burglars off. In the meantime, the fleeing men broke into Dr. R.S. Myers barn and stole one of the doctor's best horses, phaeton buggy and harness with which they made their escape. They drove the doctor's rig to the vicinity of Bowmansville where they left it on the township line road where it was found in good condition. This is the second or third attack on Mr. Eshelman's safe – always unsuccessful. Mr. Eshelman keeps very little or no money in his safe.

