



# A RANSOM NOTE

Clarence Historical Society Newsletter

Summer 2024

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Clarence Town Board Liaison  
Joe McGreevy, 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 Comments

Summer is upon us. We appreciate and thank everyone for your attendance and support for our programs and open hours. We have three more programs scheduled for this year on September 10th, October 8th and November 12th . We look forward to seeing you! We are continuing to clean up, sort and organize the Newspaper collection. We are looking at digitizing the Clarence Press/Bee's. Please enjoy some old articles and ads from the 1950's throughout the Newsletter. We are also working on a sign project with funds that were allocated by County Legislator Chris Greene These include signs identifying both the Museum Building and the Greatbatch Barn, A community Sign Board, and upgrading the signs at the Log Cabin and Watchman's Shanty. The Historical Society will be at the Clarence Framer's Market the first Saturday of each Month, so please stop up and say hi! Lastly, we are working on getting the research materials, ready to put on the Main Floor for public research. From all of us at the Society, please have a safe and enjoyable Summer!

## A RANSOM NOTE

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## 2024 Program Schedule

Free and Open to the Public

All programs are held at the Town Park  
Clubhouse - 10405 Main Street, Clarence  
Doors Open at 6:30pm—Program starts at 7pm

## Tuesday September 10, 2024

“Early 1900's Society & Culture”

Presented by Rick Falkowski

## Simple Ceremony Marks Transfer



Supervisor Paul C. Stillman (left) receives the deed to the new town park from Victor Brunner, president of the Buffalo Automobile Club. Looking on are (L. to R.) Thomas Ganim and Dai Lewis.

The former Automobile Club property in Clarence officially became the town's new park on Thursday morning, August 22 at 9 o'clock when Supervisor Paul C. Stillman accepted the deed to the property and the key to the building from Victor Brunner of Kraus Road, president of the Buffalo Automobile Club. Mr. Brunner in turn received the town's check for \$125,247.12 from Mr. Stillman.

Other town officials at the brief ceremony held on the clubhouse steps were Harold Cory and Lawrence Hartwig, town

councilmen, Edward Van Kuren and Arthur Zimmerman, justices of the peace, Milton Kaeselau, town attorney, Mrs. Oneta M. Baker, town historian and Mrs. Claire Asquith, Civil Defense Clerk.

Dia Lewis and Thomas Ganim, secretary and attorney, respectively of the Buffalo Automobile Club were also on hand for the presentation.

As announced in the Clarence Press last week by Supervisor Stillman, the park will be open to Town of Clarence residents for family picnics etc. over the Labor Day weekend.

## Civil Defense Training Exercise Is Nationwide

Civil Defense AIR RAID SIGNALS throughout Buffalo and Erie County will be sounded sometime between 12 NOON and 2 P.M. EDT, FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1957. Do not be alarmed. It is only part of a Nationwide Civil Defense Training Exercise.

THE TAKE COVER SIGNAL WILL BE: "A THREE MINUTE WAILING TONE"

THE ALERT SIGNAL WILL SOUND THIRTEEN (13) MINUTES LATER AND WILL INTERPRET THE MEANING OF THE "ALL CLEAR" AND WILL CONSIST OF: "A STEADY BLAST OF 3 MINUTES"

Everyone including visitors is required by law to cooperate by taking shelter when the first "TAKE COVER" signal sounds and remaining there for thirteen (13) minutes after which the "ALERT SIGNAL" will be sounded to signify the end of the public

participation phase of the exercise. Then all traffic and business will return to normal. Police will observe the willingness of the public to obey the following rules:

1. If you are on foot in the open, go to the nearest shelter whether it be a building or a store.
2. Those in schools, hospitals, or other institutions will follow instructions of those in charge.
3. If you are driving a car or truck, pull over to the curb, turn off ignition, take your keys with you and go to the nearest shelter, building or store. Do not block street intersections.
4. Public buses will draw up to the curb and passengers will remain inside them.
5. Please remember this is merely a Civil Defense Training Exercise and there is no cause for alarm. We ask for your wholehearted cooperation.

## EAST HILL DINER

11019 MAIN STREET CLARENCE, N. Y.

OPEN DAILY

From 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY

From 7:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

WITH FEDDERS

## Air-Conditioning

FOR YOUR COMFORT

SOLD AND INSTALLED BY

ROBERT L. CHRISTIANSEN

10014 MAIN STREET CLARENCE, N. Y.  
PHONE CLAR. 5321

## FOR RENT

3 ROOM upper apartment. Refrigerator, stove and electric included. \$65 a month. Suitable for couple. 9764 Main St.

3 ROOM cottage, available July first. Ralph Webb, Goodrich Rd., Clarence Center. Phone Clarence Center 6838.

## Historical Society Enjoys Cemetery Tour On Sunday

Pleasant weather and a fair-sized crowd combined on Sunday afternoon to make the first cemetery tour of the Town of Clarence Historical Society quite a successful venture.

Three of the Town's old cemeteries were visited and here were found buried a number of the Town's pioneer families.

Following the tour, some of the crowd departed for home while others continued on to the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Watt, Salt Road, for a picnic supper.

Enjoying the tour were Dr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Fisher, Mrs. Arthur Cashmore, Mrs. John Hunn, Miss Welthea Miller, Mrs. Fred Chaffee, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Zimmerman, Mr. Elton Ransom and Mrs. Fred Ransom, Mrs. David Watt, Mr. William Miller, Mrs. Thelma Hunt, Mr. Henry Schuh, Mrs. Barbara Hunt Burkholder, and the Courier Express Photographer and reporter, Mr. Bob Scott and Mr. Dill Mareus.

## Loiterer At Parker School Arrested

State Police of the Clarence substation last Friday evening arrested a Buffalo man identified as Edward C. Wojcik, 30, of 197 Reed Street, while he was driving along Main Street near police headquarters.

Corp. Ronald G. Dennis and Trooper John Smith had been investigating reports that a man in a car had been loitering in the vicinity of Parker Elementary School on Thursday afternoon after classes were dismissed. They had been provided with the car license.

Wojcik was charged with disorderly conduct and arraigned before Peace Justice Edward Van Kuren who sent him to Meyer Memorial Hospital for observation.

In view of the circumstances surrounding the incident, the parents are to be commended for educating their children to never accept rides from strangers. What might have been a tragic incident in this community was thus averted.

## Hail Storm Damage In Clarence Center

Last Wednesday evening's hail storm did considerable damage in the Clarence Center area. Hail stones, the size of walnuts, stripped foliage from trees, damaged gardens and cracked and broke a number of windows in homes and business places.

Fourteen windows were reported broken at the Adam Harbison home on Clarence Center Road while other home owners reported anywhere from six to eight window panes cracked or broken.

Holes were made in three of the colored glass windows on the south side of the United Brethren Church making it necessary to replace them. Windows were also broken at C. A. Bratt's Store on the four corners.

# Mother's Day Gifts

## Many \$1.00 Items and Less

### "Gibson" Greeting Cards



# CAROL'S GIFT SHOP

OUR PRICES ARE REASONABLE

OPEN EVERY EVENING NEXT WEEK

HARRIS HILL PLAZA

7593 MAIN STREET

## Harris Hill Fire Company Cancels Annual Picnic

The Harris Hill Fire Company, at its July meeting last Monday, cancelled its Annual Picnic and Field Day, scheduled to be held at the Fire Company Grounds on Saturday and Sunday, July 20th and 21st.

After hearing reports from the members of the Picnic Committee, to the effect that certain games concessionaires refused to bring their rides to the picnic because they feared a diminished crowd would result from the company's inability to obtain a temporary beer permit, the motion for cancellation was unanimously passed. The members of the fire company felt that there was not sufficient time remaining to completely re-vamp picnic plans to make it attractive to the general public.

A motion was passed, however, to establish a committee to immediately start an investigation into plans for "a new and different type of fireman's picnic" for next year.

Walter F. Pfeil,  
Publicity Chairman  
Harris Hill Volunteer  
Fire Company, Inc.

### CLARENCE CENTER

MRS. WILFRED BAKER

Press Reporter

Phone Clarence Center 6021

Sgt. Cecil Berry of Fort Benning, Ga. is spending a month's furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Berry of Lapp Rd. Sgt. Berry recently completed training maneuvers, Exercise Flashburn, Operation Skydrop, at Fort Bragg, N. C. before coming home.

Miss Eunice Lapp has returned to her home in Kenmore after spending several days at the home of Mrs. Orrin Krehbiel, while she and her family were vacationing at Point Breeze, Angola. The Krehbiel's are home again and Dan home from Purdue University for the summer, is helping his uncle on the Thruway.

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Bloom and son and two daughters whom they have taken into their home, called on their aunt, Mrs. Clarence Reigle on Sunday afternoon, July 4. The Blooms live in West Somerset.

Mrs. D. C. Fisher is a patient at the Buffalo General Hospital, having been taken there on Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Geel and daughter, Beverly, motored to Sackett's Harbor near Watertown, N. Y. over the weekend of Geel's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Arlton R. Bush. On

the return trip, the Geel's enjoyed the ride from Syracuse to Rochester on that section of the Thruway which has recently been opened.

Mrs. Kenneth Aiken was pleasantly surprised on Saturday evening when upon arrival at Akron Park for a previously planned picnic supper with her brother's family, she found a large party of friends and relatives waiting to help her celebrate her birthday.

Mrs. Walter Schoenthaler is home again after being a patient at the Buffalo General Hospital for a few days recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Berry called at the home of Mr. Caleb Burdick and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Burdick of Burdick's Bridge on Sunday. Mrs. Levi Berry accompanied them as far as the home of Mrs. Fredericka Cummings where she spent the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Carpenter and sons Russell and Roger of Collin, Mich. have been visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Frank of Strickler Road. Mrs. Carpenter was the former Vera Frank. On Monday, July 5th, Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter and family were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Roth.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kirchoff and son Morris, called on Mr. and Mrs. John Kleiwan's of Newfane last Sunday evening.

## FIREMEN'S PICNIC

AT

### WOLCOTTVILLE, N. Y.

### AUG. 8th & 9th

★ FIREWORKS Friday Evening

★ RIDES ★ AMUSEMENTS ★ CHOWDER

### BAND CONCERT

FRIDAY EVENING

German American Musicians Association  
of Buffalo, Karl Strauss, Director

### PARADE - SAT. NITE - 6 P.M.

## PERSONAL

YOU are invited to join with others in prayer for revival at the home of Mrs. Herman Beers, 9830 Main St., Clarence, N. Y., every Thursday at 10 a.m. "Prayer Changes Things".

### Arrested For Illegal Possession Of Fireworks

Dennis Earl Westburg, 16, 90 Meadowbrook Rd., Clarence, was given a \$10 fine with sentence suspended when he appeared before Judge Edward VanKuren in Clarence Court Tuesday evening on a charge of illegal possession of fireworks. State Police of the Clarence substation made the arrest.

## If Dad Smokes



Treat him to a real "smoke-fest" . . . an aromatic gift of his favorite tobacco, cigars or maybe a new pipe.

Fine briar pipes from as low as \$2.00

## Clarence Pharmacy

9876 Main Street

Phone 4321

Clarence, N. Y.

## Clarence Center Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. ANNUAL PICNIC

### LABOR DAY - At Fire Co. Grounds

### GRAND PARADE AT 1:00 P.M.

- AMUSEMENTS OF ALL KINDS
- RIDES FOR THE KIDDIES
- DELICIOUS CLARENCE CENTER CLAM CHOWDER
- CAFETERIA DINNER
- HOT ROAST BEEF SANDWICHES
- DANCING FROM 9-12 P.M.

AFTERNOON - - Band Concert by Indian Band - - EVENING

## Clarence Historical Society Oneta M. Baker Memorial Award Winner

This years Oneta M Baker scholarship winner is Sara Ablove! Sara was accepted at the University of Michigan College of Engineering and will be attending in the Fall. After finishing her required work for a Computer Science Major, she will investigate minoring in History. She has a passion for History that she will continue to pursue in the future.

We had the pleasure of having Sara volunteer in the Museum in 2023 as she helped put new exhibits together, specifically placement of the artifacts in the exhibit and labeling.

We wish Sara the absolute best in her future adventures!

## Eagle Scout Project

Last fall, we had the pleasure of helping a young man with his Eagle Scout Project. Sean Rohdes came in looking for information on the Bike Path/Peanut Line. We were able to provide the information we had and reached out to a society friend, Mr. John Dahl who is with the Niagara Frontier Chapter, National Railway Historical Society and John was able to provide much more detailed information. Sean completed his project and you will see 3 new Historical Markers along the Clarence Center Bike Path. Congrats Sean!



# Membership Corner

You can renew your membership on our website  
or in person.

We have different tiers to choose from:

Student Under 18—\$5

Individual—\$15

Couples—\$25

Family—\$30

Business—\$50

Individual Life Member—\$150

We would like to welcome new Individual Members, Deb Popp and Laura Draves, renewed Couples Members Sue and Bob Altieri, and Student Member, Tessa Metz!

**We  
our  
MEMBERS!**



# Clarence Student's Work Featured in Fashion Show

*We are proud to share a wonderful article from a recent edition of the Clarence Bee about Tessa Metz, a Student Member. Tessa has a passion for fashion and it shows in her work!*

“Clarence’s Tessa Metz will have her work presented during the FUSION ‘24 Fashion Show: Aurora along with fellow student designers’ work. The show will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, at The Show at Shea’s Seneca, 2188 Seneca St., Buffalo.

Metz, a Clarence Central School district student, said her pieces draw inspiration from nature and colors, as well as the bright colors and patterns seen in clothing throughout history. She also takes inspiration from her love of fashion history and in seeing people smile when wearing something they like.

“I love to visually see individuality when many things are gray and beige and feel similar,” she said.

Metz plans to attend Genesee Community College after high school, with hopes of continuing her work in historical interpretation and curating costumes for museums.

This year’s FUSION Fashion Show features work by 18 high school fashion students who attend the Harkness Career & Technical Education Center. The theme, Aurora, was developed by students based on how the colors in the sky reflected the ideas of personal change and the feeling of community.



The FUSION Fashion Show has been running since 2009. It brings together students from multiple Erie 1 BOCES programs, who support each other to ensure the success of the show – barbering and cosmetology students prepare the models, criminal justice students assist with security for the evening and the engineering and robotics program assists student designers in the creation of gears and 3-D printing for their designs.”

# Graduates of Clarence Central School

## CLASS OF 1954

President.....JAMES DAVIS  
 Vice-President.....RICHARD HAGGARD  
 Secretary.....PATRICIA ELBERS  
 Treasurer.....GAIL WILLIAMS

Aulbach, Mathias	Geese, Carol	Prichard, Diane
Baker, Edwina	Hamann, Arlene	Reinert, Richard
Bolt, Dolores	Henshaw, Phyllis	Richey, Thomas
Booker, Donna	Hobart, Barbara	Riegle, Donald
Bowen, Marion	Holland, Howard	Roneker, Jean
Brace, David	Honsberger, Betty	Schomber, Charles
Brandon, Ralph	Jantzi, Peter	Shisler, Albert
Brauen, Mary Lou	Kelkenberg, Eliner	Shupe, Thomas
Brownschidle, Emma	Kellogg, Arlene	Sinon, Geraldine
Burkhardt, Yvonne	Krier, Edward	Smith, Susan
Carver, Myra	Leland, Barbara	Spangenberg, Susan
Christy, Daniel	Lindstedt, Janet	Stanley, George
Confer, Donald	Longmate, Richard	Stanley, Harvey
Cory, Donald	Marchette, Gerard	Stellrecht, Patricia
Danser, Violet	Marle, Doris	Stern, Raya
Dickman, William	Metzger, Roger	Stillman, Jean
Doran, Marilyn	Muggelberg, Gerald	Stocker, Joan
Enslin, Ruth	Munschauer, William	Watt, David Edwin
Faxlanger, Robert	Norris, Earl	Webber, Carole
Feldman, Carol	Owens, Kathryn	Weisser, Patricia
Fisher, Virginia	Parmenter, Laurene	Williams, Cecelia
Fitzner, Violet	Peronne, Donald	Windnagle, George
Fleming, Clara	Poole, Paul	Yockey, Robert
	Pope, David	

### President Extends Best Wishes To Clarence On 150th Anniversary

Greetings from the White House have been extended to the Town of Clarence on the occasion of its Sesquicentennial observance.

The telegram message from President Dwight D. Eisenhower to Supervisor Paul C. Stillman arrived last week Tuesday and reads:

"Through Congressman John P. Pillion, I have learned of the 150th anniversary of the Town of Clarence and it is a pleasure to send greetings to all joining in the observance of this historic event. Favored by a rich land settled by a people of enterprise, this area has prospered over the years. With recent developments of a suburban nature, Clarence township enters a new period of community growth. Congratulations and best wishes."

(Signed)  
 Dwight D. Eisenhower

## Post Office Announces New Postal Rates

New fees for special services have been announced by the United States Post Office Department, effective starting July 1, 1957.

On registered mail, the minimum fee will be \$.50. Higher fees will be in proportion to value.

On insured mail—not to exceed \$10.00, the fee is 10 cents; \$10.01 to \$50, 20 cents; \$50.01 to \$100, 30 cents; \$100.01 to \$200, 40 cents.

On money orders (domestic)—.01 to \$5.00, 15 cents; \$5.01 to \$10, 20 cents; \$10.01 to \$100, 30 cents.

On special delivery, first class and air mail (including air parcel post)—not more than 2 lbs, 36 cent; 2 to 10 lbs., 45 cents; over 10 lbs., 60 cents.

All other classes—not more than 2 lbs., 45 cents; 2 to 10 lbs, 55 cents; over 10 lbs., 70 cents.

Rates on special handling are as follows—not more than 2 lbs., 25 cents; 2 to 10 lbs., 35 cents; over 10 lbs., 50 cents.

Other rates may be obtained at the post office.

### Civil Defense Needs Licensed Radio Operators

In the present Civil Defense set-up, there are many types of service required. Several activities still need personnel here in Clarence and right now, four licensed radio operators "ham" or professional, are urgently needed. This is the type of work a layman is very unlikely to know much about or who might be interested in it.

Therefore your Civil Defense authorities ask that any licensed operator, willing to take part in Civil Defense, be kind enough to call Mrs. Frank Asquith, Clarence Center 7587 at once. The need for this personnel is urgent.

## CLARENCE CENTRAL SCHOOL

### CLASS OF 1957

PRESIDENT ..... M. Gayle Lewis  
 VICE-PRESIDENT ..... Marilyn Ryan  
 SECRETARY ..... Nancy Maybach  
 TREASURER ..... Judith Wade

Sandra Alderman	Edward Green	Robert Osborn
Judith Andrews	Robert Grytten	Dorothy Post
Diane Baker	Mary Lynne Haberer	Ford Prentiss
Eunice Barnes	Daniel Hamann	Elsa Raupach
William Baxter	Donna Hatling	Charlene Reich
Loa Bergstrom	Priscilla Helms	Robert Rhodes
Marilyn Blake	Jeanette Jacobs	Arlene Richelt
Dale Blakely	Clark Kamper	Joan Richey
Joyce Bonnett	Annette Larkin	Jane Robinson
Ruth Bordonaro	Shirley Larson	John Roneker
Richard Borsink	Robert Lenz	Nancy Schifferle
Sharleen Brushaber	Sarah Lewis	Louise Schomber
Barbara Carmer	Barbara Lex	David Sciandra
Marcia Casey	Martha Luebbert	Dolores Smith
Richard Cherry	Marilyn Maddock	Eugene Smith
Suzanne Christman	Diana Martin	Patricia Snyder
Stephen Cook	Nancy Marzolf	Constance Stark
Dennis Cory	Judy Mattison	Joyce Stevens
Rose Ann Culmo	Donald McClarin	Theresa St. Mary
David Cunningham	Carole McLaughlin	William Sukman
Dorcas DeMunn	Charlotte Mergenhausen	Wesley Taylor
Judith Dugan	Carole Metzger	Elizabeth Torrey
William Farrell	Gary Muchow	Duane Webster
F. Elaine Flesher	Karen Munschauer	Judith Weseman
Marion Frank	Takeshi Negishi	Leila Wilson
Cheryl Geel	Bret Norris	Peter Wolfe
Patricia Goodman	Robert O'Leary	Carole Yockey

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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

Email: [museum@clarencelhistory.org](mailto:museum@clarencelhistory.org)

[www.clarencelhistory.org](http://www.clarencelhistory.org)

Facebook: Historical Society of the Town  
of Clarence

**“To collect, preserve, and share the history and heritage of the Town of Clarence”**

The Historical Society of the Town of Clarence Inc is formed for the following purposes:

- To identify, preserve, and display materials of historical significance of Clarence
- To encourage historical research, analysis, and study for the publication of historical papers, articles
- To educate the community through lectures, tours, online resources, school field trips and research opportunities



The Historical Society of the Town of Clarence deeply appreciates the support of the County of Erie, the Town of Clarence, our members and the community as a whole.

