

# MUSEUM JOURNAL

VOLUME I, ISSUE 3 FALL 2010

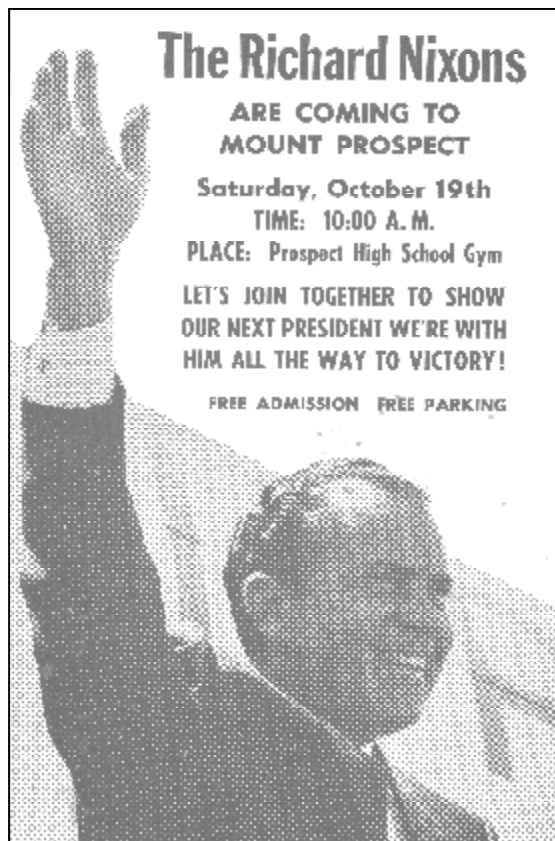
## MOUNT PROSPECT: POLITICAL BATTLEGROUND?

Mount Prospect served as the backdrop for two important and still widely discussed political visits during the 1960s, one of the most tumultuous in the history of American politics.

New York Senator Robert F. Kennedy visited Randhurst in 1966 and Richard and Pat Nixon held a rally at Prospect High School in 1968.

Even today, the legacy of this time period is discussed and many “what-ifs” still nag at the American consciousness. Politically, Illinois was an especially important state early in the 1960s. Remember that the state narrowly, albeit controversially, went to John F. Kennedy in the Presidential election of 1960, sealing his victory. Cook County was ground zero in this election battle and Illinois would remain an important trophy for politics at the national level throughout the 1960s.

That is why, six years later, in 1966, when three -term Democratic Senator



Poster announcing the visit of then-candidate Nixon to Prospect High School, 1968. (Courtesy of the Carl Hansen family.)

Paul Douglas was facing a tight race from rising Republican star Charles H. Percy, the Democrats threw everything they had at him. The Chicago machine, led by Richard J. Daley, put all their resources behind Douglas, even bringing in former Attorney General and current New York Senator

Robert F. Kennedy to speak.

In October, 1966, only a few weeks before the election, Kennedy visited Randhurst to support Douglas at a rally. He had not yet announced his intention to run for the Presidency in 1968, but the enthusiastic crowd at Randhurst displayed signs

(SEE “POLITICS”, PG. 3)

### FROM THE ARCHIVES...

CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
JANUARY 12, 1875

“MOUNT PROSPECT: THIS BEAUTIFUL SUBURB WOULD FOR THE FIRST TIME MAKE ITS BOW TO THE MANY READERS OF THE TRIBUNE. THOUGH THE YOUNGEST SUBDIVISION ON THE ROAD, YET IT IS DESTINED TO RIVAL ANY OF THE NEIGHBORING SUBURBS, AND IS ALREADY ENABLED TO LOOK DOWN UPON THEM FROM ITS HIGH ALTITUDE.”

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE ARCHIVES	1
POLITICAL VISITS, 1960S	1
DIRECTOR'S NOTE	2
RANDHURST, CIRCA 1962	2
UPCOMING EVENTS	3
SUMMER HELPERS	4
ORGANIZATION INFO	4



Greg Peerbolte,  
Executive Director

***“CARL WASN’T ONLY AN OLD-SCHOOL POLITICIAN, HE WAS SOMETHING MUCH MORE RARE: AN OLD-SCHOOL GENTLEMAN.”***

## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

As many of you may know, Mount Prospect lost a prominent resident some months ago. Former Cook County Commissioner Carl Hansen passed away on February 3, 2010 after a long and fascinating life. He graduated from Lane Tech High School in the latter years of World War II and shortly after served in Gen. Eisenhower’s Intelligence unit. He served as an administrator of the Nuremberg Trials after the War ended. Upon his return from Germany, Carl and his wife Christl, a gifted artist, moved to Mount Prospect, where he began his long career in public service. He was the second longest

serving member of the Cook County Board from 1974 to 2006 and won the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Though they were political rivals, it was reported that Carl’s eloquent tribute to John Stroger moved many in the gallery to tears.

We recently received from the Hansen family a large donation of materials relating to Carl’s political career and life, some of which are featured in this newsletter.

I was lucky enough to have a chance to sit down with Carl last year. He brought over his boyhood sled. He told me about how this sled

was the “Cadillac” of sleds, and the hours he spent on it as a boy in Humboldt Park, much to the envy of the other children playing there. Living near that park myself, Carl and I shared our (quite different) stories of the neighborhood, and it was a long and pleasant conversation.

From the stories I’d heard about Carl, such as his infamous briefcase, he definitely struck me as an “old school” politician. But after talking with Carl, it also struck me that he wasn’t only an old school politician, he was something much more rare: An old school gentleman.

## FEATURED PHOTO:



### LAST CALL FOR YOUR RANDHURST MEMORIES!!

The Mount Prospect Historical Society, in preparation for the publication of a history of Randhurst, is seeking photos, artifacts, and memories of the shopping center. Please contact Greg Peerbolte at (847) 392-9006 or e-mail to him at: [gtpeerbolte@mtphistory.org](mailto:gtpeerbolte@mtphistory.org)



Shown above is a promotional image of Elmhurst Court at Randhurst Shopping Center around the time of its opening in 1962. At that time, The Fair brand name was owned by Montgomery Ward’s. The Randhurst store would be the last to bear the name of The Fair, and the first Fair store to be converted to a Montgomery Ward’s. This change did not take long. The store was converted in November of 1963, about a year after the center opened. A good way to date early photos, directories or material from Randhurst you may have is to look for any mention of The Fair store. In this photo, a number of other interesting aspects of Randhurst also can be seen. Note the children playing on the sculpture. This piece was titled, appropriately, “Walrus” and was executed by Arthur Kraft. Behind the sculpture is one of several octagonal planters that were designed and meticulously planted by landscape architect Franz Lipp. The two stores other than The Fair are the Singer Sewing Machine store (left), designed by local architect and Frank Lloyd Wright apprentice Don Erikson and the Walton Furniture Co. (right). Also note the smaller triangular planters, the triangular layout of the terrazzo floors and the stone benches seen in the center of the photograph.

**POLITICS, CON'T FROM PAGE ONE**

that read “ ‘72 may be too late, Kennedy in ‘68.”

While his visit enthused his supporters, it was not enough to secure the election for Douglas and Percy took control of the Senate seat, a position he held until 1984.

Incidentally, two unthinkable tragedies were involved in this story: Only a month before Kennedy’s visit, Percy’s daughter, Valerie, was found murdered in the family’s home in Kenilworth, a heinous crime that remains unsolved. Kennedy also would meet an untimely death, as did his brother, President John F. Kennedy. RFK was murdered in June, 1968, minutes after his victory in the California Democratic Primary.

Kennedy had hoped to return to Chicago later that year for the Democratic National Convention where he planned to secure his party’s nomination for president, likely with the backing of Mayor

Daley, seen as a kingmaker within the Democratic Party.

It is considered likely that Kennedy came to Randhurst in 1966 to curry favor from Daley for that presidential run.

The Chicago Democratic Convention in 1968 was a pivotal moment of the decade and gained the attention of the entire country when anti-Vietnam protestors clashed with Chicago Police in an attempt to disrupt the convention. Daley was catapulted into the national spotlight, for better or worse, for his handling of the situation.

The storied election of 1968 would eventually be won by Richard M. Nixon, who had run unsuccessfully for President in 1960. Nixon was determined not to lose Illinois again so candidate Nixon and his wife, Pat, visited Mount Prospect less than three weeks before the election – on Oct. 19, 1968 – to speak at Prospect High School.



Pictured here in 1966 at Randhurst Shopping Center are Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Paul H. Douglas. Mayor Richard J. Daley, can be seen partially at the far right of the image.

Nixon’s presidency would end in controversy in 1974 when he faced impeachment after the Watergate incident. He is the only American president ever to have resigned from office.

The Mount Prospect Historical Society invites you to share your memories of one or both of these political giants’ visits to Mount Prospect.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**MPHS launches Yankee Candle sale**

In an effort to raise much-needed funds to purchase a generator that will keep sump pumps running in all three basements on the museum campus in the event of a power outage, the Society is launching a month-long sale of Yankee Candle products.

Board members, quilters and other volunteers will solicit their friends and colleagues to purchase from a catalogue featuring a wide variety of Yankee Candle products, as



The next installment of our exhibit series, featuring the Kruse Family, will open on October 15th.

well as some holiday wrapping paper and specialty items like fragrance diffusers. The products are of very high quality and are the same items you could buy in a Yankee Candle store.

“But if you purchase them from the Mount Prospect Historical Society, 40 percent of the profits will come back to Mount Prospect where we can use them to make sure that the Society’s basements don’t flood in a bad rainstorm,” explained Donna Fried, a member of the Sew-Bee-It Quilters

and the MPHS’s Yankee Candle Sale Chairperson.

The official dates of the sale are Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 and checks should be made payable to the MPHS. Items will be available for pick-up at the Society on Saturday, Nov. 20 or by appointment with the office.

If you would like to take a look at the catalogue or sell some of the items at your office or next club meeting, phone Cindy Bork at 847-392-9006.



MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

101 South Maple Street  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056  
WWW.MTPHIST.ORG

Located on the southeast corner of Maple Street and Busse Avenue, across from the Chase Building

Phone: 847-392-9006  
Fax: 847-577-9660  
Email: [info@mtphistory.org](mailto:info@mtphistory.org)

facebook

twitter

**NEWSLETTER**  
**UNDERWRITTEN BY:**



NON-PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 90

MT. PROSPECT, IL

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER HELPERS!**

The MPHS was served by two dedicated collegiate interns in the past year. Stephanie Pezzella, (right) worked with the museum staff for over a year, assisting in museum exhibits, documentation and digitalizing the collection, MPHS fundraisers and activities, and general day-to-day tasks. She currently attends graduate school at the University of Illinois-Springfield. Stephanie Schulze, (left) spent her summer with the MPHS assisting in various activities, including documenting the voluminous collection of newspaper articles held by the MPHS. She currently is in her junior year at Loras College.



Eagle Scout Michael Alexandrou (far right) did his Eagle project for the MPHS. Michael added a brick walk to the garden area behind the Central School and obtained a number of historically accurate plantings. He also placed a sundial at the end of the walk. Additionally, Michael put a fresh coat of paint on the front and rear stairways of the museum. A group of approximately 25 fellow scouts and volunteers assisted Michael in this project. Michael was further assisted by the MPHS' Garden Committee and the Village of Mount Prospect Public Works Department.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**October 16 - MPHS/BORDERS BOOKS  
AUTHOR SESSION FUNDRAISER**

**Month of October - MPHS/INNATE  
CONCEPTS CHIROPRACTIC FUNDRAISER**

**November 18 - MOUNT PROSPECT  
STORIES, VETERAN'S DAY EDITION**

**December 3—HOLIDAY HOUSEWALK**