

MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KEEPING HOMETOWN MEMORIES ALIVE

MUSEUM



JOURNAL

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THE EDWARD BUSSE BUILDING

BY EMILY DATTILO

The 1920s were a decade of radical transformation for Mount Prospect. The population grew significantly during this period, and many public and private projects aimed to improve the small farming community with modern amenities. Paved roads and sidewalks quickly replaced dirt ones; children attended classes in a new, brick Central School; and families moved into elegant housing developments with indoor plumbing already installed. Every construction project seemed to reaffirm the town's new slogan proclaiming them to be the "City of Progress."

One of the first commercial buildings in this wave of development was rapidly constructed by Edward Busse in 1925. He planned to build on the corner of Northwest Highway and Emerson Street, which was already occupied by a one-story wooden building that housed Ninneman's Ice Cream Parlor and Confectionary. The Ninneman's building was moved so construction could begin on Busse's project. Busse's structure was

ready for tenants later in 1925. According to a September 1927 article in *Real Estate News*, a Chicago real estate journal, Edward Busse's building was

"the first genuinely modern business building" in town. The spacious brick structure offered prospective tenants plenty of room for several businesses on the main level, as well as offices and apartments on the second level. Later downtown developments, like the Tudor-style buildings on Main Street and West Busse Avenue, also adopted this layout.

One of the Edward Busse building's first tenants was his son Edwin Busse, owner of the Mount Prospect Sanitary Meat Market. This butcher shop (pictured left) was located at 104 East Northwest Highway, inside the one-story section of the building. In 1930 Edwin expanded his business to groceries, which included everything from soap to tomatoes to Arlington Club Beverage Company pop. The company name then changed to the Mount Prospect Sanitary Grocery and Market before becoming Busse Foods in later years. Edwin retired in July 1962 and closed the grocery store. Later that summer, another Busse family business

remodeled and moved into the storefront: Annen and Busse Real Estate.

Mount Prospect's first doctor, Dr. Louise Koester, had her office on the second floor of the Edward Busse building from 1926 to 1932. Her office windows were directly above the drug store in this photo from the 1920s or 1930s. Despite many who were skeptical about the abilities of a female doctor, Dr. Koester had a long, successful career caring for Mount Prospect residents. Her practice was so successful that she eventually moved to a larger office in her home on Owen Street. She and Dr. Alfred Wolfarth, Mount Prospect's second doctor, co-founded the Mount Prospect General Hospital to



Hilliard's Drug Store, Mt. Prospect, Ill.

Edward Busse building, c.1920s-1930s



An interior photo of Edwin Busse's meat market and grocery store. Edwin is standing behind the counter and a customer, Loretta Rateike, stands on the right.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR



Sometimes the best ideas come from the most unexpected places. Last June the Historical Society hosted a Ladies' Craft Night in Central School.

Emily Dattilo

Participants made mini felt patchwork

encouragement squares, and some of the ladies in attendance suggested that the Historical Society make craft nights a regular program. Volunteer Nancy Corry and board member Martha Nelson took that idea and ran with it.

This talented duo prepared and launched the Needlecraft Night program last November. On the second Wednesday of every month, Nancy and Martha teach participants a new needlecraft technique. The first program featured Dorset buttons, an English button made with thread, and

following programs have spotlighted plastic canvas ornaments, mending, and needle tatting. Nancy and Martha aim to highlight a variety of different crafts and techniques in future sessions. Those who have their own projects to work on are always welcome to bring them and enjoy the camaraderie instead of tackling the featured craft.

The needlecrafts, however, are only part of the draw for this program. After only a few sessions, there is already an enthusiastic group of regular crafters. They are a creative bunch who are always willing to share their expertise with others and offer ideas for future needlecrafts. Their attitude has made the program more than just a craft lesson. These nights have become an opportunity for crafters to relax and enjoy each other's company. I am so pleased to see this wonderful community forming at the Historical Society under Nancy's and Martha's wonderful leadership.

You can register for this program on the Historical Society website or call the Historical Society at (847) 392-9006. Upcoming dates are listed on page 4 of this newsletter, as well as on our website.

We hope to see you at the next Needlecraft Night!



Two crafters hard at work at the November Needlecraft Night, one on her knitting project and another on a Dorset button

FROM THE COLLECTION

Miniature golf arrived in Mount Prospect in July 1964 with the opening of Charles Bartmann's Skil-Golf Putting Courses on Rand Road, near Randhurst Shopping Center. A few years later the course was renamed Twin Links Miniature Golf to highlight its two courses. Charles originally planned to open a branch of his furniture store on the property, but instead he and his son, Ed, invested in a miniature golf course. At the time, Twin Links was one of few such courses in the area. Charles and Ed took inspiration from other miniature golf courses when they designed their own two 18-hole courses. Mechanical obstacles entertained golfers at each of the 36 holes. The obstacles ranged from the classic windmill to more unexpected creations, like a light-up Statue of Liberty and a guillotine. Charles and Ed added batting cages to the property in 1978. This silver "Twin Links Batting" token was used there.

Charles passed away in 1983, and both of his sons, Ed and Charles Jr., took over daily operations. They ran the course and batting cages together until 2005 when they sold the business and property to Mark Malouf, an area resident who grew up playing at Twin Links. Twin Links closed in 2006 and was replaced by a medical center, but many area residents still have fond memories of playing a round on its courses or stepping up to the plate in its batting cages.




OPENING
Saturday, July 18

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HOURS: OPEN DAILY
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Free Gifts
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36 HOLES SKIL GOLF
PUTTING COURSES
ON ROUTE 12 (Next to Shoppers World)

(Continued from page 1)

treat emergencies, especially from accidents occurring along the recently paved Northwest Highway.

Many pharmacies occupied the corner storefront in the Edward Busse building, including Hilliard's Drug Store and Mount Prospect Pharmacy. One of the most memorable of these pharmacies was Van Driel's Drug Store, which opened in 1942 when Herb Van Driel purchased the previous pharmacy. Because local doctors already had pre-existing agreements with another pharmacy, most of Herb's early business came from lunch counter sales rather than filling prescriptions. When Mount Prospect grew in the years following World War II, business grew at Van Driel's too. Herb hired pharmacist Max Ulrich during this time, and Max took over the pharmacy when Herb retired in 1968. Shortly afterwards Max and his wife, Irmi, began to focus their inventory on medical supplies, which they are known for today in their new location. Making this switch allowed Van Driel's to compete with national drug store chains.

The Façade Improvement Project of the mid-1980s changed the face of the Edward Busse building, along with many other buildings in downtown Mount Prospect. The goal of this program was to refresh historic buildings and to create a more cohesive, polished look in the area. Designers added new green awnings over the doors and windows of this building and painted parts of the exterior to highlight the architectural features. The awnings and some of the painted highlights are still part of the structure.



Postcard photo from the 1950s of the Edward Busse building. Van Driel's Drug Store is in the corner storefront, and Busse Foods is to the right.

When Van Driel's moved out of the Edward Busse building in 2006, another long-time Mount Prospect business moved in: Busse's Flowers and Gifts. Louis Busse and his son, Fred, opened this flower shop in 1916. Their greenhouses were originally situated near the water tower on Northwest Highway. This space was their third storefront and offered an ideal downtown location.

Today the Edward Busse building is home to Gold & Oak, a store specializing in home décor, and The Piano Parlor, a music studio. The property was sold to a local developer in late 2022, and the structure is slated for future redevelopment.

KRUSE'S RESTAURANT AND TAVERN



Photo of 100 East Prospect Avenue, c. 1980s

The Kruse family added the iconic Tudor façade in the 1960s.

The Kruse family ran the tavern until 1973 when they sold it to new owners who opened Pier 100, a seafood restaurant. Pier 100 was best known for its golden rainbow trout and catfish dishes. Despite generally good reviews, the restaurant closed in 1977. That same year Dennis and Mary Lynn Miller purchased the business and changed the name to Mrs. P & Me. The "P" refers to Pittsburgh, Dennis' hometown. In 2004 the Millers sold the business to three Mount Prospect residents who continue this local tradition.

William and Sophie Kruse purchased the restaurant at 100 East Prospect Avenue from Henry Behrens, Jr. in 1923. Behrens had formerly operated a tavern at that location, but Prohibition had forced him to replace alcohol with soda and candy a few years earlier. The Kruse family continued to sell non-alcoholic drinks and sandwiches until Prohibition ended in 1933. Shortly afterwards Henry Kruse, William and Sophie's son, remodeled the restaurant and reopened it as Kruse's Restaurant and Tavern.

The Kruse family bar and restaurant was an important community gathering place for decades, and many long-time residents have fond memories of stopping by for a drink or a bite to eat. In fact, charter members of the Mount Prospect Chamber of Commerce met at one of the restaurant's tables when forming the organization in October 1926.



William and Sophie Kruse behind the bar with a daughter and grandson seated on a bar stool, c. 1930s—1940s



MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Second Sundays at the Society

11:30am — 1:30pm

Location: Mount Prospect Historical Society Central School (103 S. Maple St.)
The Dietrich Friedrichs House (101 S. Maple St.) will also be open for tours.

Fee: Free!

March 12: A Peek in Mount Prospect's Attic

April: No program. Happy Easter!

May 14: Paper Flowers

June 11: Old-Fashioned Games

Needlecraft Nights

7pm — 9pm

Location: Mount Prospect Historical Society Central School (103 S. Maple St.)
Fee: \$5 donation



Get out your needles and thread. Bring your own knitting/crocheting/

embroidery project or try our spotlight project each month. All experience levels are welcome. Advance registration is recommended and a \$5 donation is suggested.

March 8: Sashiko, a traditional Japanese embroidery style

April 12: Fascinators

May 10: Crepe Paper Flowers

Afternoon Teas

1pm

Location: Mount Prospect Historical Society Central School (103 S. Maple St.)
Fee: \$15, registration required

March 18: Unsinkable Molly Brown with Lynn Rymarz

June 3: Breakfast at Tiffany's/The Little Black Dress with Leslie Goddard



Five Dollar Fives

10am

Location: Mount Prospect Historical Society Central School (103 S. Maple St.)
Fee: \$5

April 29: Learn how to get started researching your family history during a chat with Anne Shaughnessy, MPPL Genealogy and Local History Librarian.

For more information, visit our website at www.mtphist.org or call us at (847) 392-9006.



Save the dates!

Summer Programs for Young Historians

History Camp Week One: June 12-16

History Camp Week Two: July 10-14

Prairie Kids I & II - July 20

The Science of History - July 27

If You Lived - July 27