

The Broad Ripple Gazette

Editor
Alan Hague

Regular Contributors:

C.W. Pruitt II, Paul Walker, Tim Rasmussen, Nora Spitznogle, Brandt Carter, Candance Lasco, Douglas Carpenter, Jill A. Ditmire, Rick Ziegler, Rebecca Davidson, Tammy Lieber, Susan Smith, Bob Kawaguchi, Theresa Kolbus, Heidi Huff, Mario Morone, Reesa Kossoff, Ashley Plummer, Vivien Bray, Ashlee McCann, Sean Kaellner, Larry Warner, Laura Minor, Mark Cline, Casey Jo Ailes, Norm Tucker.

Ad Rates and Deadlines

Complete instructions for
advertising at
www.BroadRippleGazette.com

Email
ads@broadripplegazette.com

Phone
(317) 508-6634

Fax
(317) 536-3625

Mail
P.O. Box 55973
Indianapolis, IN 46205-5973

**The Broad Ripple Gazette is an independent paper published bi-weekly by Broad Ripple Publishing, LLC and is not affiliated with any other businesses or entities.*

**Have an issue? Have a photo? Email alan@broadripplegazette.com.*

**We would love to hear from you. No anonymous letters to the editor will be considered for publication.*

45% recovered postconsumer fiber
©2009 Broad Ripple Publishing, LLC



**Submit calendar
items and
press releases to:**

info@broadripplegazette.com



HOWLING AT THE MOON

by Susan Smith



I wonder how many of you realize that the red brick building on the southeast corner of 64th and College is an American Legion Post. It is not flashy and I don't know if it has signs that tell you it is Post #3. It is old and at one time was a very active Post, perhaps one of the most active in the city. It does not have a bar and restaurant and as such is not a gathering place of veterans as is the Kennington Post #34 on Westfield Boulevard. It is a meeting place. As a kid I spent a lot of time attending Post #3's activities because my Dad (a veteran of World War II) was a member. It is the place where I acquired my very own first pet – a goldfish I named Goldie. Not very original, I know. Post # 3 used to have wonderful full-blown fish fries for their big fund raiser. No, they didn't fry goldfish, but I remember them to have delicious fried cod sandwiches. They had all the land on that side of College, where Johnny's Market now stands. They brought in Ferris wheels and other rides. There were games in tents where you could win prizes, such as plush animals or, in my case, live goldfish. It was the game where all the small fish bowls were lined up and you threw a ping pong ball. If it landed in the bowl you got the fish. Goldie was my first and I was thrilled. I took her home and cared for her lovingly for the whole two days or so that she lived. I was heartbroken when she died. My older brother crafted a wooden crucifix for her grave and she was buried at the front door step of our home on Winthrop Avenue with much ceremony. Let me tell you that those that followed got a burial at sea, if you know what I mean.

I have a lot of good memories of old Post #3. All the members had kids or grandkids and we were the Junior Auxiliary. I know we had meetings and did things, but I can't remember what. I remember hiding in the coat room and learning to play pool in the upstairs billiards room. I remember the holiday parties and the pitch-in dinners and the boring speeches given by adults after the dinners. I remember the kids getting Christmas gifts. But lately what I remember most was the boys who came to the Christmas party from the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's' Home in Knightstown, Indiana. This is a 143 year old institution that was originally founded to provide for the care and education of the orphaned children of the veterans of the Civil War. Since then, all children from veterans of all wars are eligible as they are "at risk" kids. This is the very home that has been written of so much lately in the news and is facing closure in May due to state budget cuts. The American Legion has been protesting its closure and that too has made recent news. Post #3 did a lot with those boys. They were the recipients of all that fish fry revenue. As I remember it was all orphaned boys. I was fascinated by them. Being an orphan was different, so these boys intrigued my childish curiosity. My own grandfather was an orphan raised in an orphanage in England. These boys gave me a chance to learn a little about what it must have been like for him. The Legionnaires put on a wonderful Christmas party for them. They gave them new clothes and money. They honored their scholastic achievements. They made them special guests and sent them home with promises of more good times to come in the summer. That was when the Legionnaires went to Knightstown and took the party to them in the form of the summer picnic. I am sure many different posts participated in the event. There were bands playing and wonderful food. Again, the boys were recognized and honored. It was girls as well but I recall only boys. There have been some of these grownup children that today have been fighting the closure of the home saying that they would not be where they are today had it not been for the help they were given then. Past teachers have weighed in with their editorials on their experiences at the school. I last read in the paper that they might get a closing reprieve if they get the school's attendance up to 500 to make the cost of running the 419 acre campus effective. There is an online petition circulating.

I wonder what memories my brother has of those Legion activities and I wonder if he remembers a fish named Goldie with a hand made wooden crucifix. Pets make you smile. (Please send me your pet stories. I'm running out.)

Susan Smith is a life-long area resident and is the owner of City Dogs Grocery located at 49th and College. Send your pet related questions/comments to susan@broadripplegazette.com

The background of The Gazette:

I am a life-long resident of Broad Ripple. My family has been in Broad Ripple for many generations. Jacob Coil platted and named Broad Ripple in 1837. Two of his daughters married into my family in the 1870s.

My grandfather was a mail carrier at the BR post office and a charter member of the American Legion Post. My grandmother worked at the Broad Ripple National Bank in Mustard Hall that became Fletcher Trust, then AFNB, then Bank One, and now Chase. My uncle worked at TV News and at Hoster-Roberts Ford, which is now Passwater's and the Old Pros Table. My great-grandfather, grandmother, uncle, father, sister and son all graduated from BRHS; I am class of 1978. My son is BRHS class of 2006 and now plays bass trombone in several Ball State ensembles (He also writes the crossword puzzle clues). I am currently the organizer of the BRHS reunions for the classes of the 1930's and early 1940's.

For many years, I have wanted a newspaper that answered my questions. Where did that store go? Why were those people digging on the corner? When is the BRHS Homecoming Parade? What happens at that business?

The Gazette is that paper. You will get an unbiased look into what is happening in Broad Ripple because I have no financial interests in Broad Ripple, nor am I affiliated with any of its organizations. I am simply a resident who is passionate about the area. You will also read about the history of Broad Ripple. This history continues to expand as I uncover new sources of stories and photos.

The Gazette's area of coverage has no real boundaries. Historically, the town of Broad Ripple extended down to 54th Street. The goal of the Gazette is to share with readers stories that are within 10 minutes or so from the heart of Broad Ripple - covering events in the Midtown region. Also, Broad Ripple is one of the six Cultural Districts recognized by the City of Indianapolis. We try to let you know what is going on in the other five districts as we can.

Since this is a bi-weekly paper, we will not be able to cover news as it happens. Rather, our focus is on issues that are not time sensitive. You will probably never see these stories anywhere else, so getting them a week or so later will be much better than not at all. I have hundreds of stories planned, but if there is something you want to read about, please let us know.

I think you will enjoy the Gazette. I know I enjoy bringing it to you.

-Alan Hague



Photos from each issue are available to view and purchase at www.broadripplegazette.com