

# Culver History Quarterly

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This publication of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver appears quarterly in these pages as part of a partnership between the AHS and the Culver Citizen/Pilot News Group, which also includes the monthly "Culver History Corner," also in the pages of the Culver Citizen.

## The Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver

### Sarge

BY AGNES BRAMFELD

Driving north on Lake Shore Drive, after crossing Indiana 10, you will see a horse pasture on your right with the imposing and handsome sign inscribed as follows: "In Honor of Sarge Hudson and His Love of Culver Academies' Students and Horses through the generosity of the Russell T. Bundy Family."

For those who knew Sarge this will bring a surge of recognition and affection that is deep and lasting. To quote one of his students during the 23 years he was an instructor and inevitably an institution in the Equestrian Department and the Black Horse Troop organization: "I remember what he told me...in an uncharacteristically unguarded moment: 'I get to be around the two things I love the most: kids and horses - and they pay me for it.'"

Before what will be an abbreviated biography, I want to share some of the memories recorded by a group of graduates of the 1970s and other interested persons, who got together in a sort of chat room.

There were many stories about Buffalo Bill, alleged to have been a varsity jumper but at the time an absolutely obese stubborn animal who, when he found himself in water, inevitably would lie down.

"I have a theory that Sarge loved to wade through water when Buffalo Bill was in his group, just to be able to yell, 'Miss Sayrah, Don't you let Bill lay down in that mud!' Then he'd silently watch my losing battle with the unflappable Bill. I'd yell, kick and punch fat old Bill as he dropped into the mud for a lie down and then have to step off in knee deep mud to drag him out. Bill willingly rose to his feet and followed. I think he winked at Sarge, too. Sarge would then spit and declare, 'No bad horses, only bad riders. You'll have to polish up that saddle when we get back.' But he would be chuckling, I'm sure I saw it.

"We used to bet how many seconds it would take for Bill to roll with someone in the lake on a hot day.

"We went cross country riding one day...Sarge at the lead...as I was trying to hold on to him (Bill) because all he wanted was to go back to the riding hall, a branch came out of nowhere and knocked me off him. As I was



ABOVE: Sarge's daughters and grandsons at the memorial sign in the Black Horse Troop pasture dedicated to his honor. From left to right, Max Good, John Good, Cindy Good and Teresa Hudson

recovering, Sarge was right on top of me...I looked up, he spit a load of that tobacco and said 'Well, well, if it isn't Mr. Zuno'...smiled and went on. Oh the memories. "I hope Mr. Zuno won't mind my including his name in this reminiscence."

There were favorite horses, too. Rabbit "would run full tilt at any jump you pointed him at, then pop over from about one foot back, no matter how high. Six feet was no problem for him.

"Rabbit was my all-time favorite horse. I thought he was like the war horses in ancient Greek and Roman paintings. He would CHARGE at those jumps!"

Many recalled: "Did I tell you to dismount young man (little lady)?" after a fall.

"The longer you set...the wider you get."

And then there was the Alibi Book, which contained "some very funny reasons as to why people became separated from their mounts."

Sarge was born John Wilbur Hudson in Florence, South Carolina, in 1921. He was in the United States Army for 29 years, and he became a master farrier in the artillery equitation school at Fort Bragg, was sent to Italy with the

10th Mountain Division during World War II, returned to Fort Bragg and earned certification as a veterinarian technician.

He was a platoon sergeant in Korea with the 1st Cavalry Division and served in Iran as advisor to the shah's cavalry battalion and camel detachment. For the last three years of his service he was command sergeant major to the U. S. Military Academy Preparatory School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. During his service he earned the Legion of Merit, a Silver Star, a Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantry Badge. He reported for duty at Culver on Sept. 1, 1969.

Sarge, with his family, lived at the south end of the East Shore and had the good fortune to have them help him with his responsibilities. Cindy was the model for horsemanship classes. . . . "I loved riding classes with Sarge more than anything I can remember, often with Cindy (Hudson) quietly following Sarge's directions and showing us how it was to be done." And Teresa reports, "When Dad started working... and students were away for Christmas vacation, all six of us kids used to help exercise the horses. We used to hit the polo ball around. There were times when he would give us equitation class, just like in the pictures. He would have us all trot-

BELOW: The number of stripes on Sarge's sleeve turned heads - including the President's - during Culver's participation in the Presidential Inaugural parades.



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## John Nash Chosen as AHS President

New officers elected earlier this year by the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver include John Nash, president; Bob Kreuzberger, vice president; Janet Kline, secretary, and Tom Story, treasurer.

Members of the board of directors are Joe Baughn, Fred Karst, Alan Loehr, Jim Peterson, Agnes Bramfeld, Dusty Henricks, John Nash, Dianne Osborn, Ginny Gibson, Janet Kline, Bob Kreuzberger, Tom Story and Melva Githens.

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

BY DENISE BURNHAM

I have been the director of the Museum of Culver and Lake Maxinkuckee History for just a few months. Since taking the position, I feel a deep sense of commitment to being one of the repositories of this community's history. I don't think of it as just a Culver history museum, but a museum to hold Culver stories. Our community is lucky to have so many who care about these stories. You can search Judi Burns' website for a wealth of information, go to the Culver Library's pages, visit the Academies' museum, our museum, or the Marshall County Museum in Plymouth. Each can offer a new layer or nuance to the story of Culver, Union-Township, or Lake Maxinkuckee.

With these thoughts in mind, I am dedicating myself to learning about "best practices" in museum work. I hope to have a day or more of training from the Indiana History Museum and I am taking steps to secure our artifacts for the future. For example, we have an 1898 Chautauqua event program that I hope to ensure is preserved in its current condition for many years to come.

Among the things that make my job so interesting are the stories that people share:

- This town had many links to industry. For example, the head of Bell & Howell built a house on the lake and devoted the entire first floor to a movie theater. When the founder of IBM thought his company might go under, he stayed in a cottage on Lake Maxinkuckee and invested in local land to secure some of his assets. It is also rumored that W.O. Osborn originally loaned him the money to start his company.

- W.O. Osborn, in fact, seems like a man of mythic proportions. I have seen a cafeteria in the basement of the bank where his employees were fed, most importantly through the Depression; it even included an ice cream bar complete with toppings. The bank also stored mint oil in its basement vaults before shipping it to Wrigley's. One would never have thought it was so valuable!

- Many Cuban families sent their boys to the Academies for four years of summer camp and winter school to protect them from Fidel Castro's gov-

ernment. People have fond memories of getting to know these boys.

- In 1922, Culver High School had the first integrated basketball team in the state of Indiana. African-American residents worshipped at Rollins Chapel on Coolidge Court, and a neighbor fondly remembers hearing lively gospel music coming through the open windows during the summer.

- The Culver High School basketball team of 1944, captained by Paul Snyder and coached by Paul Underwood, notched 28 consecutive wins before losing the state final by a single point. The Chamber of Commerce hosted a banquet in their honor at the Maxinkuckee Inn, with Indiana University football coach Alvin "Bo" McMillin as the night's speaker.

- There was actually a town called Maxinkuckee on 18B Road that had its own store, church, post office, inn and community. The current road did not go all the way around the lake and in order to get to the other side, one had to go by boat. The lighthouse in the park alerted people that

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### AHS Booth at Fall Fest

The Antiquarian Society, as a member of the Chamber of Commerce, operated a booth downtown during the festivities of Fall Fest. Our booth was on the street directly north of our beautiful Heritage Park, and we served complimentary cookies and apple cider, both hot and cold. All of the children preferred the cold cider, along with lots

of cookies, but everyone appreciated the popular autumn drink.

Members taking turns in the booth answered questions about the society and the park, as well as serving the refreshments.

We thank them all, especially Denise Burnham and Diane Osborn, who organized the event, and Janet Kline, Melva Githens, Ag-

nes Bramfeld and Sophy Burnham, who occupied the booth while Denise kept the museum open during its Saturday hours.

From our point of view the Fall Fest was an enjoyable event, the weather was good and everyone seemed to be having a fine old Culver time.

## Membership Drive Now Under Way

BY DIANNE OSBORN, MELVA GITHENS AND TIFFANY MARCH

November kicked off the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver's annual Membership Drive.

We have a wonderful and generous group of long-time members and are always excited to welcome new members to the organization. Our organization works to sustain the heritage of the unique Culver community for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

The legacy of preserving the documentation of historical events, community growth and progress, social/cultural events, and everyday funny stories helps bind us together. We invite you to plan a visit to the Museum of Culver and Lake Maxinkuckee History, which houses the artifacts, documents and stories of our remarkable past. Whether our roots are farm, town, Academy, or lake, we are all a community that links us as one family here in Northern Indiana.

We hope you will join us in keeping the pride alive through your sharing and

investing in the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver.

**What does the Society do for the community?**

- Operates the Museum of Culver and Lake Maxinkuckee History
- Owns and maintains Heritage Park (at the corner of Jefferson and Main) for public use
- Participates in community events such as Taste of Culver, Gift of Warmth, and Culver Fall Fest
- Hosts historical and cultural events, most of which are open to the public.
- Helps to register historic properties on the National Register of Historic Places.

An annual membership costs \$50 and includes the following benefits:

- A 2016 subscription to The Culver Citizen
- Discounted tickets to special AHS events
- Membership in Time Travelers, a history organization that gives discounted admission to museums around the country.

Here is a sneak peak at three special events AHS

will be hosting in the summer of 2016.

**Saturday, June 4th:** Vocal concert by Silvia McNair and Kevin Cole with a reception to follow at the Legion Memorial Building.

**Saturday, July 9th:** Documentary about the Wabash River, produced in conjunction with the celebration of Indiana's Bicentennial year of statehood. Presented by Producer/Director Susanne Schwibs of Indiana University.

**Saturday, August 20:** Marmon Car Club Muster celebrating the 100th running of the Indy 500. The Marmon Car Company, whose owners joined the Culver Community in 1882, owned and built the Marmon Wasp, winner of the first Indianapolis 500.

In the event that you have not received a membership invitation for the coming year, you can join by sending a check for \$50.00 to the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver, P.O. Box 125, Culver, IN 46511. Include your name, primary residence, summer residence, phone number and email address.

## Gift of Warmth

Dusty Henricks has again orchestrated the society's participation in the Labor Day Weekend Gift of Warmth celebration in the town park. As usual, with a donation of a wearable warm coat or money to help with electric bills, etc., participants were treated to a hamburger supper. Our Society had a booth adjoining the food line and served cake and root beer floats, compliments of the Antiquarian and Historical Society of Culver.

Dusty wishes to thank all who volunteered their time to work in the booth, serving, greeting people and answering questions about the society.

"We'd like to recognize and thank everyone who helped make this year's Ice Cream Social such a success as part of the Lake Max Film Fest on Labor Day weekend and the Gift of Warmth for Culver Area kids. Following is the list of those who helped set up and serve before the movie, which this year was The Natural."

Bob & Becky Kreutzberger, Jim & Dorothy Peterson, Bill & Krista Furry, Dave Baker, Gary and Katy Lewallen, Melva Githens, Fred & Judy Karst, Lois Curtis, Larry & Joan Bess, Terry Mumford, Jim Hahn, Diane Osborn, Denise Burnham, Anna Campbell, Doris Nehnevay, Allison Henricks, Dusty's Asst.

"Thank you for your contributions!" Mike Overmyer, Use of depot, tables, chairs & food storage; Mike Wilcox - tents Francis Ellert - Root beer and cups; Lee Wilhite & Culver Mess Hall - Ice Cream Tim & Lydia Osborn - cake & ice Gift of Warmth Committee - "Tremendous Weekend"

"Again this year we took all the left over cake and ice cream to the Boys & Girls Club at the Culver Elementary School.

"Thank you all! Hope to see you at next year's Film Fest"

Dusty Henricks.

## Sarge continued

ting around, one behind the other like a row of ducks (his phrase). Then he would walk out of the riding hall” ~ “Stay trotting till I get back!” ~ “Twenty minutes later...he might have come back.”

“My dad used to go swimming with us in Lake Maxinkuckee. All three of us girls would ride on his back as he swam. He would go deep enough that everybody was under water. What a blast!”

There is a story about one of his appearances in the Inaugural Parades. Rev. John Houghton reported, “I just remember the Vice President nudging the President and pointing in amazement at that guy going by with all the stripes on his sleeve.”

Sarge was gruff and often stern, but many of his students experienced his good-



LEFT: A young Sarge jumps over a horse.

ness and his kindness. One young man who was not enrolled in equitation for another year, was told to just wear his jeans and tell anyone who asked that his jodhpurs were at the laundry. Another student recalls, “When I came back from being kicked out, Sarge put his arm around me and said, ‘Which one you want, little lady?’ She was able to choose her favorite horse.

“Yes, I fell off and was dumped in the water at the sand pits and Sarge said all the things you all have talked about. But he read me pretty well, and I could

feel the warmth through the gruffness. One of the things he told me I will never ever forget, out of the blue, just before going home at the end of my first year. I don’t think I ever told him about my home life but he pulled me aside and told me that if I needed a place to stay, come to his house. I never did. I wish I had.”

His daughter Cindy said, “In later years we used to joke about how you never knew what kind of cars you would find in Dad’s driveway, BMW, Rolls, Mercedes, next to a beat-up pick-up held together with hay strings. But everyone would be in the house together, drinkin’ Early Times and swappin’ lies about ‘horses, dawgs, and wimmen,’ in just that order. Everyone was welcome and treated the same.”

That was CSM John W. Hudson, known and loved as “Sarge.”

*Note: Biographical information came from Bob Hartman’s Boots and Saddles, a wonderful history of the Black Horse Troop from 1897 to 1997.*