

# FROM THE ARCHIVES...

As a part of the 85th Anniversary events related to the founding of the City of Ladue on December 1, 1936, the City held a favorite memories contest. The winner of the contest was long time Ladue resident, Joe Rechter.

Below is his winning submittal:

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My best memories as a kid in the 1950's and 1960's was the RURAL nature of Ladue. We lived on Maryhill, where my father built a house in 1952. People thought we were crazy for moving so far West! What is now Salem Estates was once a farm. I remember the farmer did not have a car or access to a car on a regular basis and my dad would drive him to Clayton so that he could get to the grocery store, post office, etc.

The corner of Warson and the Ladue cut-off was, I believe, the Comfort's home, a Maritz & Young on the top of the hill, but at the corner of their property, they kept horses in a fenced-in area along Warson Road. Ladue was horse country back then with miles of trails (and many people with barns and horses on their property) that probably still exist. Behind our house at Mary Institute, adjacent to the May Field, M.I. had stables and boarded horses at the school. The site of what was to be Country Day was also a farm. We lived adjacent to the property and back then people would burn their trash. Our trash burner was knocked down in a high wind and caused a large brush fire that took out a big piece of the land behind our house which included both our back yard and the hill on CDS property!

The other memories are some of the businesses in Ladue along Clayton Road that are long gone. There was the Hay Shaker, a hamburger place where Baskin Robbins currently is located - across the street where the Janet McAfee Building is located was Sir Johns Den a great restaurant. Ladue Lockers was the butcher shop and Schnarrs was a grocery store, not a hardware store. Not to mention, Busch's Grove - what a loss, such great memories.

JOE RECHTER  
LADUE RESIDENT



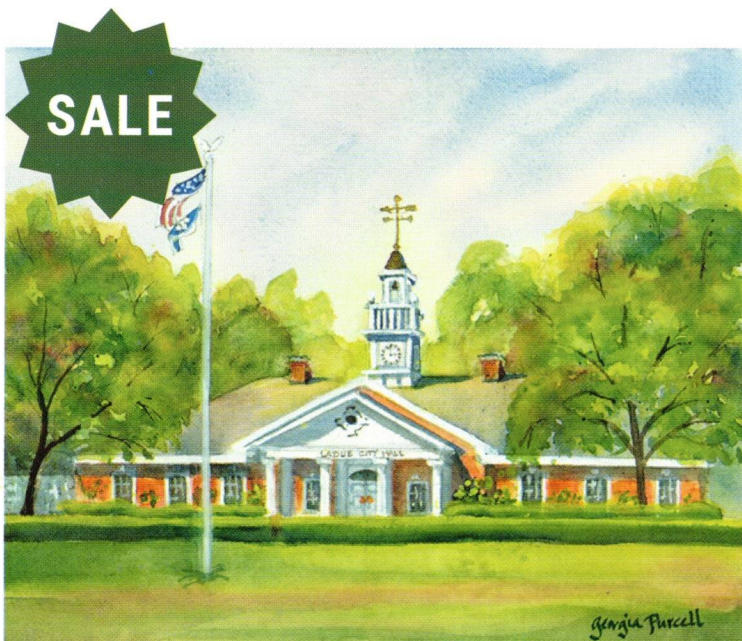
Mayor Spewak and City Archivist Charlie Hiemenz buried a time capsule on December 2nd to commemorate Ladue's 85th Anniversary of incorporation. The time capsule contains many interesting items.....to be revealed by a future generation!!!

## FOR SALE

In conjunction with the 85th anniversary events, the City of Ladue commissioned Ladue resident, Georgia Purcell, a local artist and member of the St. Louis watercolor society, to create 25 limited edition 11x14 watercolor prints of the Ladue city hall, and 25 sets of note cards.

These items may be purchased, while supplies last, at a cost of \$75.00/per print, and \$20.00/ set of 10 note cards.

Please contact Shelly Benson at 314-993-3439 if you would like to purchase one or more of these wonderful pieces of Ladue history...great as gifts or framed for an office or home study.





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On April 19, 2022 long time City of Ladue resident Mrs. Naomi Hoch Runtz donated to the City of Ladue the Hoch family collection of award winning agricultural ribbons from the old Hoch family farm (see photo). These ribbons, dating between 1912 and 1928, were awarded to Mrs. Runtz' grandfather Otto G. Hoch. Otto Hoch lived on 51 acres of farmland on what are now the High Hampton Road and Haverford Road subdivisions off North Woodlawn Avenue. Their farmhouse (see photo) was located on the western edge of the property.



Naomi Hoch Runtz presenting award ribbons to Mayor Nancy Spewak as a donation to the City of Ladue on April 19, 2022

Henry Hoch, Sr., a German immigrant, moved with his wife Eva and family to the Ladue farm, purchasing the property in 1859. There he built a one room 1-1/2 story log cabin house using logs that he cut from trees along the Meramec River, hauling them to his building site (the trees on the property were too skinny for building purposes at that time). Henry's son, Otto, lived on the farm with his wife Amelia, whom he had married on April 21, 1895, where they raised 5 children. Otto planted an extensive orchard of apple trees including Yellow and Red Delicious, Jonathan, and Winesap apples. During the early years of the 20th century Otto was known as "The Apple King of St. Louis County". His sweet apples won many First Prizes and Champion Prizes (the award ribbons are in the collection donated to the City of Ladue by Mrs. Runtz) at the St. Louis County Farm Bureau, the St. Louis County Fair, the St. Louis Agricultural Fair and the St. Louis Fruit Show.

The property remained in the Hoch family until it was sold in 1965 and subdivided as the Fairview Lane subdivision and sold as 23 lots. Ahlemeier Construction Company built display homes on lot 2 (515 High Hampton) and lot 17 (500 High Hampton). The then still standing farmhouse on lot 1 was bought by Joseph and Margaret Cinnater with the intention of keeping the farmhouse; but the developer razed it before the sale was completed. Lot 1 is currently 501 High Hampton.



Hoch Family Farmhouse circa 1885