

The present 8.4 square miles that comprise the *City of Ladue* came together as a result of the consolidation of four villages:

The Village of Ladue (population 780), named for Peter Albert LaDue, was originally incorporated on 3/29/1928

McKnight Village (population 441), named for John K. McKnight, was originally incorporated on 1/9/1929

Deer Creek Village (population 492) was originally incorporated in 4/1929

Dwyer Village "Dwyerville", named for Timothy T. Dwyer, was formed in 1869

The villages of Ladue, McKnight and Deer Creek voted on 10/27/1936 to join together as a 4<sup>th</sup> class city and then their residents voted on 11/17/1936 to consolidate as the new *City of Ladue* that we know today. Dwyer Village became a part of this new city several years later. Below are the approximate village boundaries as they were laid out prior to consolidation:

## APPROXIMATE VILLAGE BOUNDARIES

### McKnight Village

Gay Avenue to the east  
Price Road to the west  
Delmar Blvd. to the north  
Clayton Road to the south

### Village of Deer Creek

Lay Road to the east  
Lindbergh Blvd. to the west  
Clayton Road to the north  
Old Warson Road to the south (to Des Peres Road, then the west side of  
Des Peres from Old Warson Road to the City limits of Warson Woods)

### Village of Ladue

Price Road to the east  
Warson Road to the west (plus Clermont Lane)  
Rear of Ames Place Drive to the rear of Watch Hill Road to the north  
Clayton Road to the south

### Dwyer Village

Intersection of Clayton & Conway Roads to the east  
Lindbergh Blvd. to the west  
Conway Road to the north  
Clayton Road to the south

If you, or any family member, have Ladue items of historical interest that you would like to donate to the City of Ladue archives collection, please contact Charlie Hiemenz either at 314-991-9176 or via Email at [achiemenz@aol.com](mailto:achiemenz@aol.com)



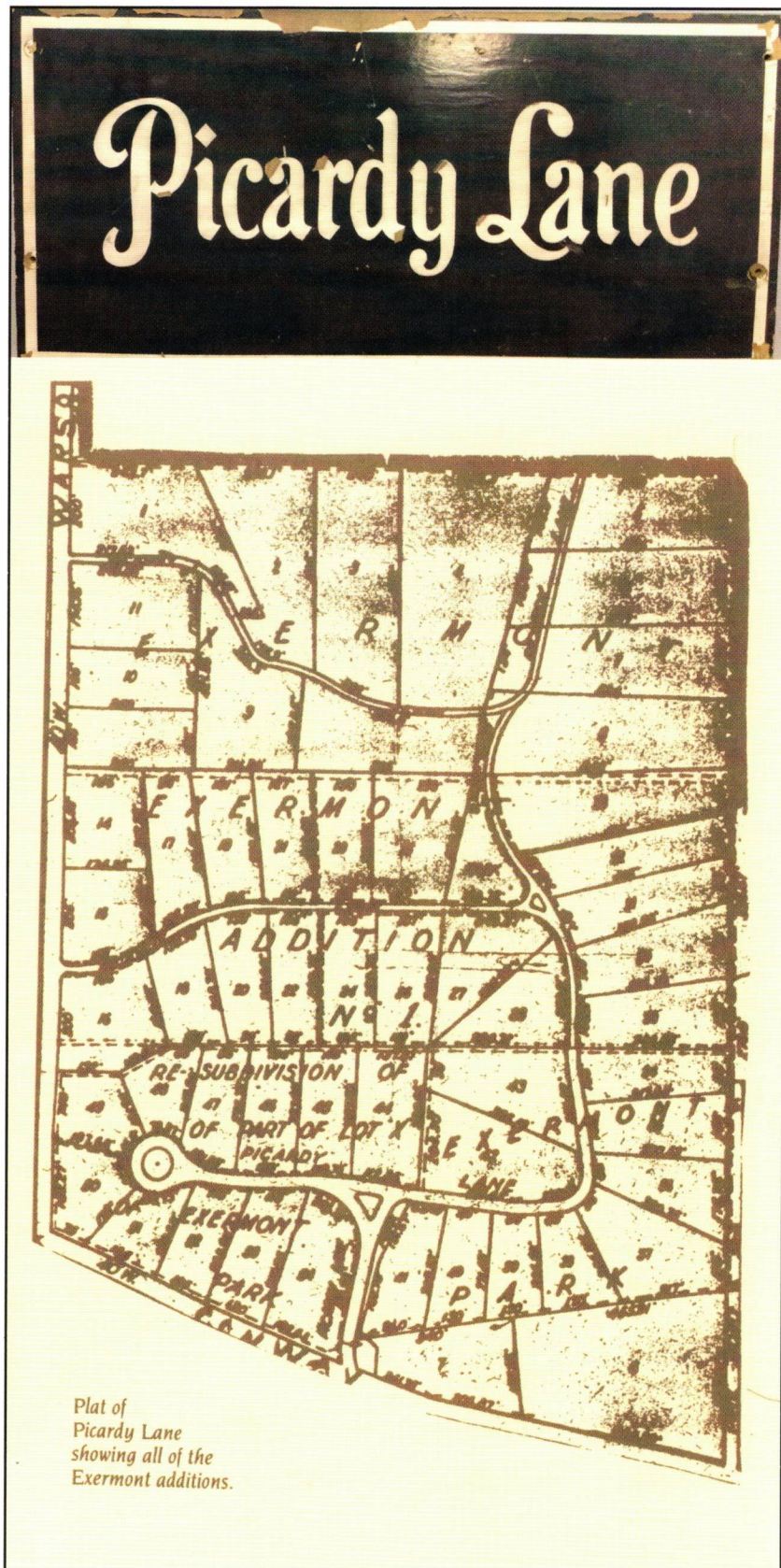
One of several defining characteristics of the City of Ladue are the serene lanes, subdivisions and neighborhoods that comprise our residential community that was incorporated on December 1, 1936. One of the premier Ladue neighborhoods in the City of Ladue is the Picardy Lane neighborhood, located at the intersection of Conway and Warson Roads. Nearly century old stone pylons mark the Picardy Lane entrances from both Conway and Warson Roads.

Picardy Lane was originally laid out when Ladue was still a village. In 1923 Alma Luedloff sold part of the Barber Estate (bought in 1892) to the Interstate Mercantile Corporation, which was headed by Norman B. Comfort. Mr. Comfort decided to call this new subdivision "Picardy", named after the beautiful area in northern France where he had been stationed during World War I.

Picardy Lane was laid out in three sections corresponding to divisions of the old Luedloff property; thus the E-shaped street plan. The first section, on the north end, was platted and recorded on March 22, 1924 and covers lots 1 – 11. The second section, in the middle area, was platted and recorded on October 25, 1925 and covers lots 14 – 33. The third section, on the south end, was platted and recorded on June 3, 1929. Each lot is 30,000 sq. ft. minimum lot size with minimum 75 ft. setbacks from the edge of the street pavement. In contrast to most of the other subdivisions in the Village of Ladue, that sold only land, the developer of Picardy Lane also built several of the houses to be sold along with the land, most of them designed by renowned architect Daniel H. Mullen. Because the Depression occurred soon after the last platting of Picardy Lane, many of the houses were not built until the late 1930's and 1940's. Today Picardy Lane is comprised of 48 homes.

*If you, or someone you know, has an interest in donating old Ladue subdivision/neighborhood photos, articles, plat cards, documents or memorabilia please contact Ladue*

*Archives Committee Chairman  
Charlie Hiemenz at 991-9176 or  
[achiemenz@aol.com](mailto:achiemenz@aol.com).*





## IN THE BEGINNING ...

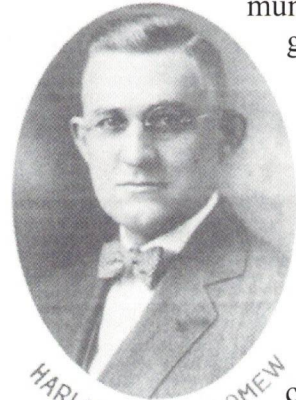
On December 1, 1936 the three villages of McKnight, Deer Creek and Ladue joined together to form the current City of Ladue. Trustees from each of the three villages were elected as the first members of the Ladue City Council. Two of their first priorities were to develop a city wide Zoning Ordinance and to develop a Comprehensive City Plan.

To develop a Comprehensive City Plan, the City Council engaged Harland Bartholomew, a city and municipal planner who had gained the reputation of being "The Dean of Comprehensive City Planning in The United States". Bartholomew was the nations first full time city planner, and an expert in both city planning and zoning ordinances. A civil engineer by training (Rutgers University), Bartholomew was credited with creating new city planning methodologies and design

concepts in conjunction with the invention of the automobile. His approach to city planning became known as "Comprehensive Planning".

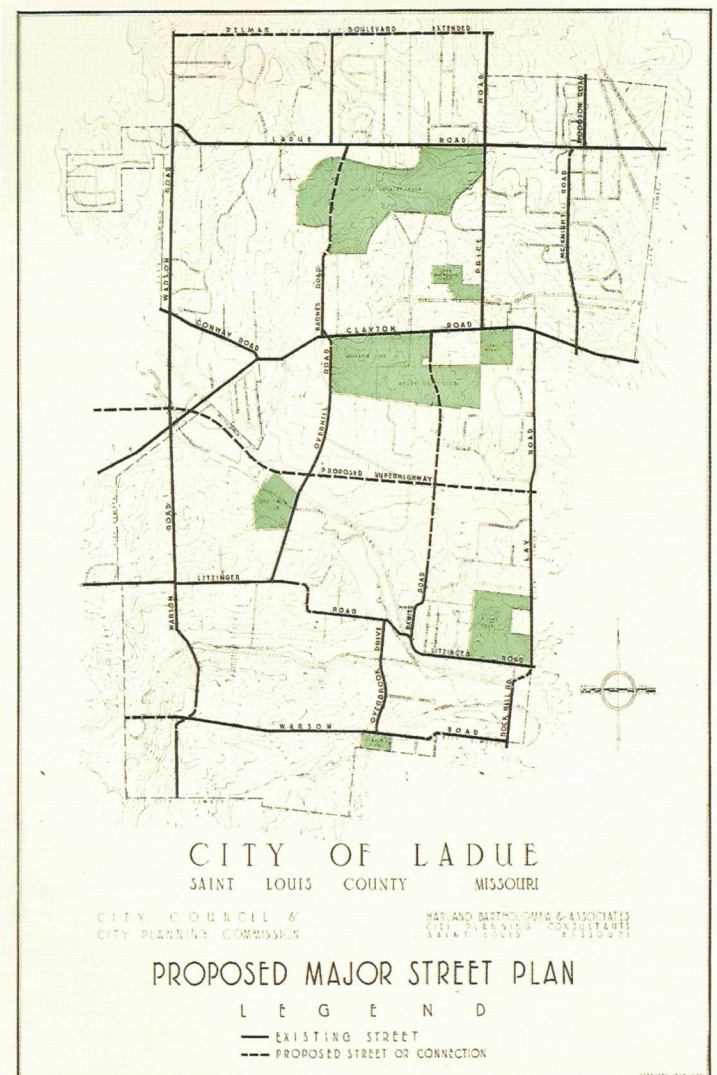
Bartholomew had developed a number of comprehensive plans prior to developing the City of Ladue Comprehensive Plan. Other cities included Newark, New Jersey (1911 – 1915), St. Louis, Missouri (1916-1920), Memphis, Tennessee (1920), Rochester, New York (1929) and San Antonio, Texas (1930).

On June 30, 1937 a formal agreement was signed between the City of Ladue and Harland Bartholomew and Associates to develop a comprehensive plan for the City of Ladue. The comprehensive plan was formally presented to the Ladue City Council in March, 1939 (A zoning ordinance for the City of Ladue had already been developed and then approved by the Ladue City Council in October, 1938). The comprehensive plan developed by Bartholomew for the City of Ladue emphasized preserving the spacious character, rolling topography and wooded country like character of Ladue. Bartholomew noted that the City of Ladue was unique to the St. Louis region in combining country like living with essential urban facilities such as schools, paved roads and public utilities. Bartholomew noted that the greatest single future challenge that would face the City of Ladue was preserving this unique heritage to insure that the City would remain one of the finest suburban residential sections in the St. Louis region.



With minor tweaks and amendments, the City of Ladue still today adheres to the original comprehensive plan developed by Harland Bartholomew in 1937. This comprehensive plan, coupled with the City of Ladue zoning code, continues to preserve the rural country like character of Ladue neighborhoods as well as the overall Ladue community. Open rolling topography, single family residential home sites and a respect for nature have made the City of Ladue one of the premier residential communities in the nation. Eighty one years after Harland Bartholomew presented his comprehensive plan to the Ladue City Council, the Ladue community continues to enjoy his vision of a residential community that combines country like living with essential urban amenities.

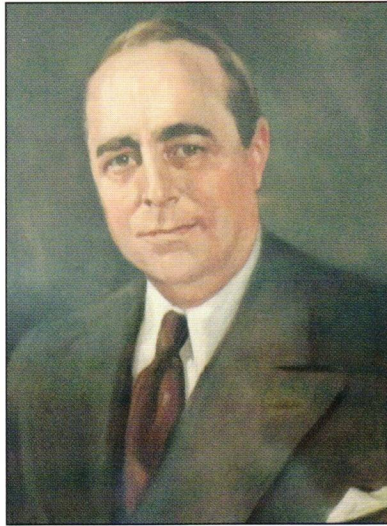
If you have a fun/interesting bit of Ladue history or trivia to share, or any vintage Ladue memorabilia that you would like to donate to the City of Ladue archives collection, please contact Ladue Archives Committee Chairman Charlie Hiemenz at 314-991-9176 or [achiemenz@aol.com](mailto:achiemenz@aol.com)





## Ladue Mayor Boyle O. Rodes – Part I

On December 1, 1936 the residents of the villages of Deer Creek, Ladue and McKnight voted to merge together to become a 4th Class city .... And the City of Ladue was established, becoming the largest municipal area in St. Louis County. In conjunction with the vote to merge together as



a city, was a vote to elect the leaders of the newly created city. A slate of candidates was presented to the residents by the Trustees of the former villages that included a mayor as well as two city council members from each of the three former villages. Without opposition, Boyle O. Rodes was elected on December 1, 1936 to serve as the first mayor of the City of Ladue.

Boyle Owsley Rodes was born in 1882 into a devout Presbyterian family in Danville, (Rodes County) Kentucky. At a young age he moved to St. Louis and entered the insurance business. On January 1, 1927 Rodes married Harriet M. Moore, the daughter of Dr. George T. Moore (Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden 1912 – 1953). For a short period of time they lived in the Central West End in an apartment located at McPherson and Newstead. In late 1927 the Rodes' purchased property on Upper Ladue Road (at a cost of \$500.00/acre) and began construction of a house at 8 Upper Ladue Road. The house, designed in Georgian Revival style, incorporated woodwork, moldings, doors, etc. that were exact replicas of the woodwork, moldings, doors etc. from the old Rodes Homestead in Danville, Kentucky.

Rodes served as a Trustee in the Village of Ladue prior to being elected Mayor of the City of Ladue. By this time he had become a senior partner with the insurance firm W. H. Markham & Co. In November, 1937 Rodes was also elected as an officer and head of the St. Louis County League of Municipalities. In addition, Rodes was an active member of Ladue Chapel and was on the Executive Committee that, in September 1943, petitioned the Presbytery of St. Louis to formally

organize. Rodes served with distinction as Ladue Mayor until, into his fourth two-year term as mayor, he died unexpectedly on February 16, 1945 at 8:45 A.M. in his home at 8 Upper Ladue Road. Following a funeral service, Boyle O. Rodes was buried at Bellefontaine Cemetery.

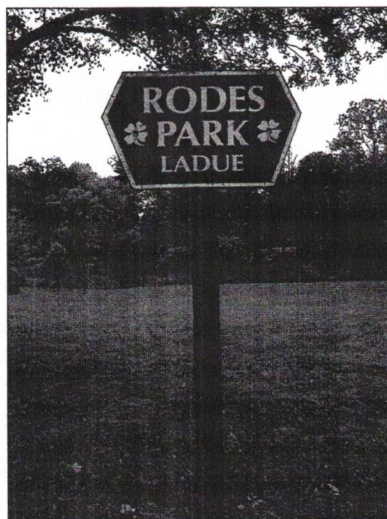
Part II will appear in the next City Newsletter and will focus on the history of Rodes Park, named in honor of Boyle O. Rodes.

If you, a friend, neighbor or relative have any Ladue related memorabilia that you would like to donate to the City of Ladue, please contact Ladue archivist Charlie Hiemenz at 314-991-9176 or [achiemenz@aol.com](mailto:achiemenz@aol.com)



## RODES PARK

Rodes Park became the first and the only\*, City of Ladue owned public park on July 20, 1944. The original Ladue Comprehensive Plan, developed by City Planner Harland Bartholomew and presented to the Ladue City Council in March, 1939, identified the wedge-shaped "low wooded area" at the intersection of Ladue and Warson Roads as an ideal location for a public park. However, it was not until 1944 that his vision for this small slice of land became a reality.



In May, 1944 the City of Ladue began negotiations to purchase this land from Minnie Rubinstein for use as a passive public park. In June, 1944 the City Council approved the purchase of the property for \$2,500. The General Warranty Deed was entered into on July 20, 1944. On February 20, 1945 the City Council formally approved naming the park Rodes Park in memory of Boyle Rodes, the first mayor of the City of Ladue, who had died unexpectedly on February 16, 1945 while serving during his fourth term as the first mayor of the City of Ladue. The park was named Rodes Park by the City Council "as a token, not a measure, of our deep gratitude to the late mayor" (Rodes often referred to the City of Ladue as "The garden spot of the state").

In 1984 several friends of Harriet Rodes Bakewell (9/21/1904 – 12/11/1987), the widow of Boyle Rodes, came together to donate funds for a fountain to be installed in Rodes Park in honor of her 80th birthday (Harriet Rodes Bakewell was a nationally recognized landscape architect who loved gardening and was a member of the Ladue Civic Improvement Committee). While the funds were never applied to the installation of the fountain, in September of 2015 the City Council authorized that these recently identified funds be committed to the installation of stepping stones in Rodes Park made of Missouri Limestone and inscribed "IT'S MY LITTLE PARK – Harriet Rodes Bakewell".

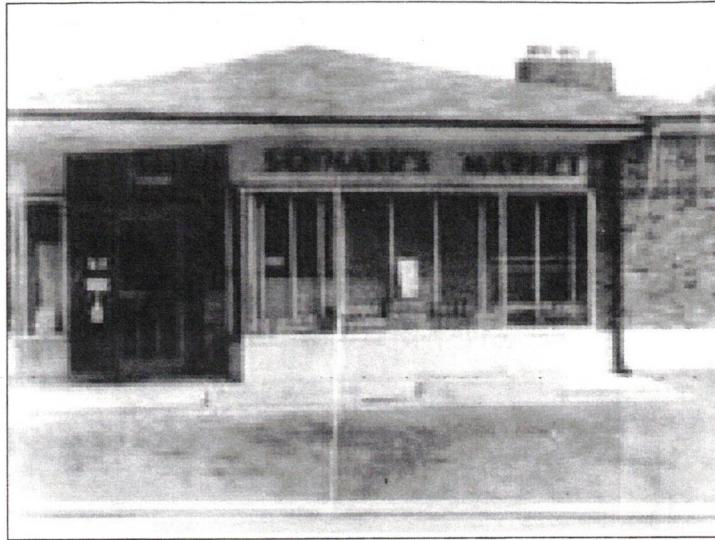
Today Rodes Park is maintained by the City of Ladue, in conjunction with the St. Louis Garden Club. Current Ladue mayor Nancy Spewak said recently "Rodes Park is a throwback to the original intent of the rural character of the City of Ladue. It's a quiet oasis in the heart of our neighborhoods where Ladue residents can find a spot to reflect and enjoy spending some quiet time. The park has also become a City opportunity to educate the community about the importance of respecting and maintaining the environment".

\*: Tilles Park, while within the city limits of the City of Ladue, is owned and maintained by the St. Louis County Parks Department. In 1932 C. Andrew Tilles donated his 68 acre farm to the City of St. Louis for a public park to be named in memory of his mother, Rosalie Peek Tilles. Tilles Park was purchased from the City of St. Louis by St. Louis County in 1957 for \$429,975.



**SCHNARR'S ... LADUE'S OLDEST BUSINESS**

Schnarr's Hardware has been known for decades to many Ladue residents as THE place to go for hardware/household items, repairs, advice and as a welcoming place to bump into friends and neighbors. However, Schnarr's has only been a hardware company since the early 1960's. Its early roots in Ladue go back to the early 1900's when the Schnarr family owned and operated the Clayton Road Garage (located at 9889 Clayton Road where Janet McAfee stands today). The Clayton Road Garage was originally a wagon repair shop that, with the introduction of the automobile, evolved into an automobile gas station and repair garage. The Schnarr family eventually closed the gas station and repair garage and then opened Schnarr's Market (located at 9645



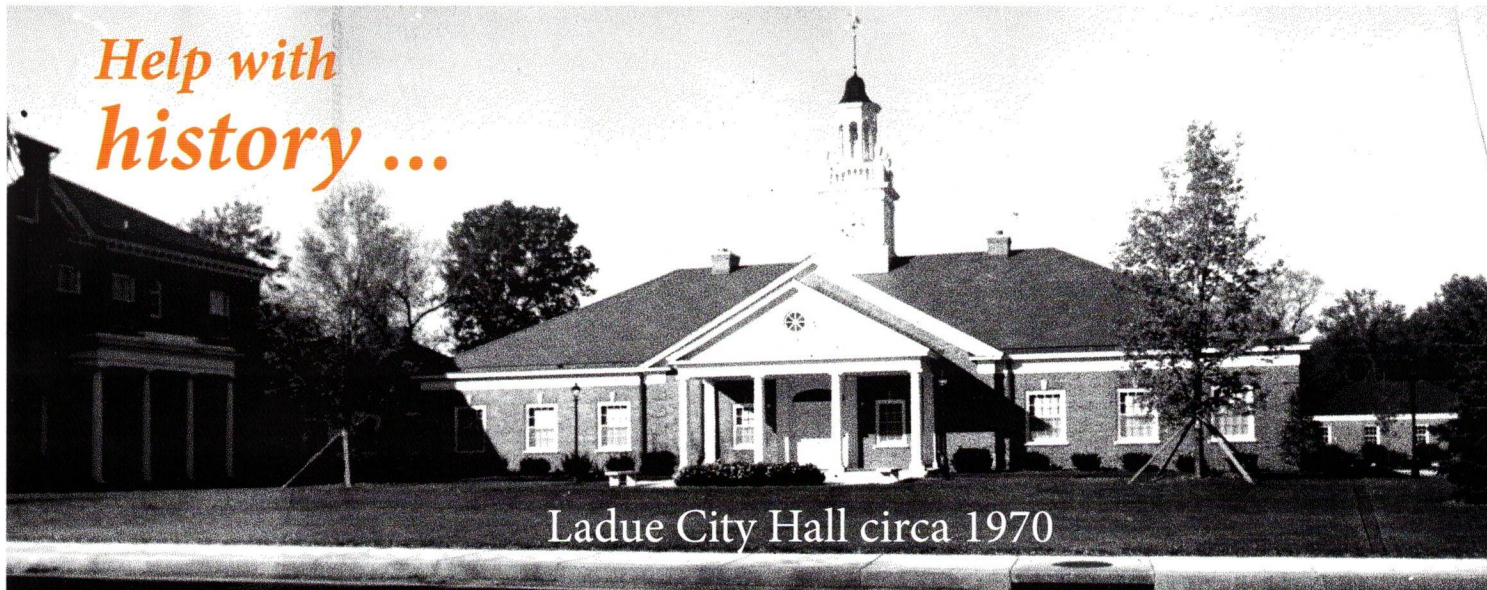
Clayton Road, where Central Bank of St. Louis stands today). The family later relocated the market to 9800 Clayton Road and, in the early 1960's, transitioned into a full-service hardware store. In 1974 current owner, Frank Blair, went to work at Schnarr's, purchasing the business from the Schnarr family in 1995. (LADUE TRIVIA: Frank Blair's father, Floyd Blair, served as a member of the City of Ladue Fire Department from 4/16/1954 to 1/9/1992 and was the Ladue Fire Chief from 5/1/1989 to 1/9/1992).

According to Blair, Schnarr's differentiates itself in a number of ways from the "Big Box" hardware companies. Schnarr's staff tries to simplify things that our customers find difficult to solve. They are trained to listen to our customers. They are encouraged to have a visible presence on the store floor to greet customers, answer questions and assist in product selection. Schnarr's also offers a number of services beyond their product offerings (which include 30,000 items stocked in the Ladue store and 65,000 items available to customers through the Do it Best website). Finally, Blair emphasized that community service has always been key to the culture at Schnarr's.

Blair believes that Schnarr's mirrors the Ladue community in many ways, saying that "We are a stable business in a stable community. One gets a real sense of that small-town community feel in a small hardware store". And the future for Schnarr's Hardware? Frank's daughters, Melissa and Stephanie, are now involved with the day to day running of Schnarr's and occasionally a grandchild will stop by to check the popcorn for freshness.

Summer 2020 #17

*Help with  
history ...*



## Archives

As the City of Ladue approaches its 85th year as a 4th class city, the City of Ladue Archives Committee is actively seeking donations of items related to the City of Ladue including:

- Newspaper articles and/or periodicals
- Maps
- Building Plans
- Vintage photographs
- Papers of former Ladue public officials and private citizens
- Plat cards
- Historical subdivision files, plans, documents and records
- Old letters
- Old City artifacts
- Works of art related to Ladue

If you, or anyone you know, has City of Ladue related memorabilia that you or they would be willing to donate to the City archives collection please contact:

Charlie Hiemenz – Chairman, Ladue Archives Committee

Phone: 314-991-9176

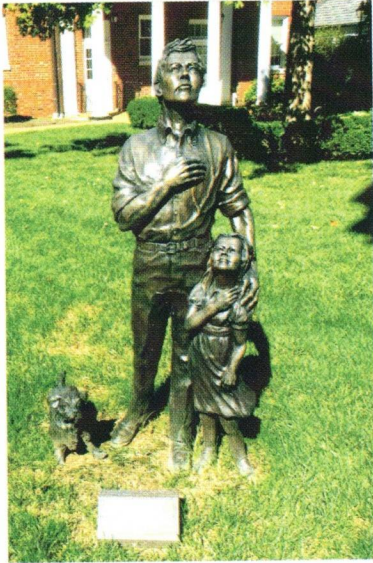
Email: [achiemenz@aol.com](mailto:achiemenz@aol.com)

**LADUE TRIVIA:** On December 1, 1936 the residents of the villages of Deer Creek, Ladue and McKnight voted to merge together to become a 4th class city ... and the City of Ladue was established, becoming the largest municipality in St. Louis County.



## Let Freedom Ring

On September 11, 2007 the bronze sculpture that sits in front of Ladue City Hall, LET FREEDOM RING, was formally dedicated. The sculpture, sculpted by internationally recognized Missouri sculptor, Harry Weber, was donated to the City of Ladue by former Ladue Mayor (1975 – 1995) Edith J. Spink. Dignitaries in attendance included Mayor Spink, Mayor Irene Holmes, Dr. William H. Danforth, Mr. Joseph H. White and Harry Weber.



Ladue resident and Chief of Protocol Mr. Joseph H. White welcomed everyone to the formal dedication. Former Mayor Edith J. Spink thanked everyone for attending, indicating that it was an honor to underwrite the sculpture. Longtime Ladue resident Dr. William H. Danforth was the keynote speaker at the dedication. He noted that the sculpture was to be dedicated “to the blessings that bind us together as Americans and to celebrate our freedoms and liberties”. Sculptor Harry Weber noted that the sculpture was being dedicated on the 6th anniversary of the 9/11/2001 attack and was being dedicated

both to commemorate 9/11/2001 and to represent the hope for the future. Current Mayor Irene S. Holmes formally accepted the sculpture on behalf of the City of Ladue. At the end of the formal dedication Ladue resident Mr. Richard “Randy” Woods fired a large cannon to mark the conclusion of the dedication.

The sculpture actually consists of two sculptures and a bronze plaque. One sculpture depicts a teenage boy with his left hand on the shoulder of a young girl, both looking up at the American flag with their right hands over their hearts. The boy was Mrs. Spink’s nephew from Grosse Point, Michigan, P.T. Maxwell. The girl was Mrs. Spink’s niece, Nina Swift ... daughter of current Ladue residents Lindsey and Bryan Swift. The second sculpture is of a Scottish Terrier and was modeled after Mrs. Spink’s dog, Gorgeous George. In front of the sculpture is a bronze plaque set on a marble base that reads:

LET FREDOM RING

Given by

Johnson and Edith Spink

Dedicated September 11, 2007

Sculptor: Harry Weber

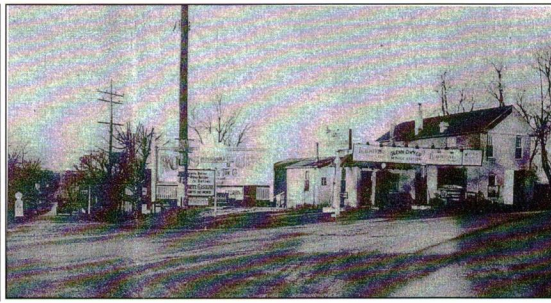
SCULPTURE TRIVIA: The name “JOE WHITE” is engraved onto the backside of the boys belt. Harry Weber included this inscription to recognize Joe White’s efforts to connect Mrs. Spink with Harry Weber, as well as Mr. White’s request that both the boy and the girl be looking upward toward the raised flag with their right hands over their hearts.



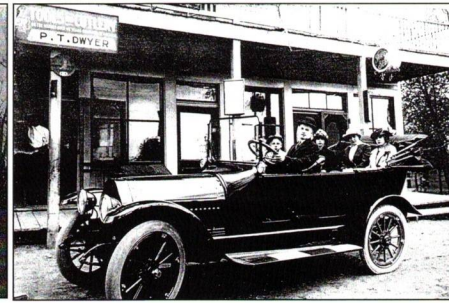
# Happy 85th Anniversary Ladue!



9905 Clayton Road circa 1918,  
current location of Sportsman's Park



10289 Clayton Road circa 1929, current location  
of Schnucks (Clayton and Lindbergh)



Clayton and Conway circa 1912,  
current location of Central Bank

On December 1, 1936 the Villages of McKnight, Deer Creek and Ladue joined together to form the current City of Ladue. Two Trustees from each of the three villages were elected as the first members of the Ladue City Council, as was Ladue's first Mayor, Boyle Owsley Rodes.

On December 1, 2021, the City of Ladue will mark the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation. In 1936:

- The average cost of a new home was \$3,925.00 (2021: \$408,800.00)
- The average annual wage was \$1,713.00 (2021: \$94,700.00)
- A gallon of gas cost \$.10/gallon (2021: \$2.42)
- A loaf of bread cost \$.12/loaf (2021: \$1.51)
- A pound of hamburger meat cost \$.12/pound (2021: \$3.95)

To celebrate the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the City of Ladue, planning is in the works for a number of fall events (more details and information to follow). Events being discussed include:

- Then & Now photo exhibits displayed at Ladue City Hall
- Dedication of an 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary time capsule
- Limited edition 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorabilia available for purchase
- A favorite Ladue memory contest (please submit your favorite Ladue memory to Ladue archivist Charlie Hiemenz at: [achiemenz@aol.com](mailto:achiemenz@aol.com) or mail or drop it off to Charlie's attention at Ladue City Hall
- A dedicated one-day Ladue merchant passport day with 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary special on that day