

Historic Broad Ripple

Claffey's Grocers

6055 North College

Southeast corner of 61st & College Avenue

Indianapolis IN

July 8, 2009

Phone conversation with John Hague

JH used to go in Claffey's when he was in grade school. (about 1939 or early 1940s). He remembered that there was a meat counter at the back on the left with a wide selection of high quality meats. The rest of the store contained free-standing pedestal shelves of grocery items. You paid at the front of the store.

The American Legion #312 was located upstairs. They later relocated as post #3 to 64th & College, the site of the former Traction Co. repair terminal. At Christmastime, the Legion had a big-deal party for kids with candy and stuff.

There was a vacant lot to the north.

Per John:

"Rosemary and I were married in 1951 and we moved back into the family home at 6122 Carrollton at that time. Claffey's Grocery was still operating then. Rosemary remembers taking our daughter, Susan, there when she was young. Susan was born in 1952.

I have about convinced myself that I remember a lady who worked at Claffey's whose name was Roma. I don't know whether she was a family member or an employee."

JH suggested that I call Joe Lobraico (approximately 70th Street & Westfield Blvd). Joe lived across the street from John Hague when they were kids.

John also mentioned that he could get cast bronze plaques for us at cost and that he is treasurer of Union Chapel Cemetery and has lots of old records on historic families of Broad Ripple.

He will contact me if other information or details come to mind. I invited John to join the Committee for Historic Broad Ripple. john@johndhague.com

Telephone conversation with Mary Ann Byrne, owner of Der Glass Werks (current occupant of subject building)

They have a photo, ca 1939, of Claffey's given to them by the 5th Church of Christ Scientist now located across the street from Der Glass Werks. MAB said that they

started their church in the upstairs of the subject building. She will make a copy of that photo for the committee.

She said that there was another grocery store in this location...doesn't remember the name.

Suggested we check city records for more info about the building.

Other info

There is an historic 1931 ad of Claffey's in the Broad Ripple Gazette, vol. 3, No. 25, December 15, 2006.

Other Abstracts

Mary Ann Byrne said that she and Kerry have a chest full of old abstracts in the basement of Der Glass Werks. She doesn't think any of them are of Claffey's but she said it would be OK for me to come and look at them sometime soon.

She also said that it is damp and musty in the basement and that the abstracts probably belong in a safe place. I believe that they would be willing to give them to our committee, but I will go there soon and take an inventory of what is in the chest. I should bring a flashlight and old clothes. ☹