



The New Town Crier

Official Newsletter of the Historical Society of Bloomfield



BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07003

MAY 2021



In Memoriam HSOB Treasurer Cindi Debold

November 9, 1951–April 7, 2021

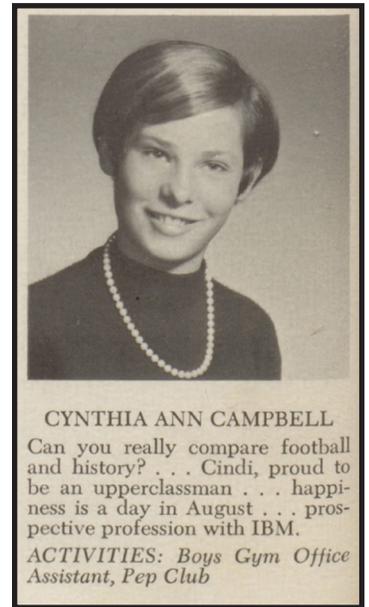
Cynthia Anne (Campbell) Debold—known to all as Cindi—passed away on April 7 at the age of 69. Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Cindi lived in Bloomfield for most of her life—on Montgomery Street, Westcott Street, Maolis Avenue, and ultimately raising her family on Evergreen Avenue. A graduate of Fairview School, South Junior High and Bloomfield High School, Cindi worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Mountainside Hospital before settling in as a partner and continual *Employee of the Month* at BCA Financial Services. Her greatest role, however, was mom and grandmother.

Oct. 27, 2020: Cindi & John's 41st wedding anniversary.

Cindi is survived by her loving husband of 41 years, John (HSOB Membership Chair), and daughters Taryn Lagonigro and Lauren Bretscher and grandchildren Sofia, Layla, Genevieve, Brody, Skyler and Rhea. Cindi's twin brother, Robert, whom she cared for for many years, passed away only 31 days later on May 9.

Praising what is lost makes the remembrance dear...

It was with great sorrow we learned of the passing in April of our good friend and Treasurer of the Historical Society, Cindi Debold. Buoyed by devotion, love and endless support of her family, a splash of humor and her seemingly inextinguishable positivity for the future despite burdens and obstacles, Cindi never said no to all that we asked of her and never shied away from responsibilities. She faced each challenge with grace and dignity. Always with a smile and kind words for everyone, Cindi leaves us with the legacy of spirit, steadfastness and outstanding commitment to the HSOB. We celebrate her life and mourn her loss. —*Jean Kuras, HSOB President*



CYNTHIA ANN CAMPBELL

Can you really compare football and history? . . . Cindi, proud to be an upperclassman . . . happiness is a day in August . . . prospective profession with IBM.

ACTIVITIES: Boys Gym Office Assistant, Pep Club

BHS—Class of 1969



The North End of the Green

The North End of the Green as it appeared in 1840. The buildings shown from left to right are The Old School, The Baldwin Farmhouse, The Old First Church (now known as The Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green), The Parrish House and The Caleb David house.

Image courtesy of Van Tassel Funeral Home. Photo by Richard Rockwell.

Do you remember the Western Union School?

By Gloria Vogt Fulton

October 11, 2020

Dear New Town Crier Editor:

This photograph of the Western Union School (bottom right) was included in the HSOB photo gallery. No one seemed to know anything about it. Some commented it was an elementary school, but their clothing is typical of young office workers in the 1930s. I knew of the school, as my article explains. I did some research and here it is!

—Gloria Vogt Fulton, Bloomfield, NJ



At left, the author's maternal grandmother, Antoinette Carlson Barmore (1883–1939). At right is the author's mother, F. Allene Barmore Vogt (1915–2001).

June 23, 2020

To the Director of Western Union Human Resources (Upper Saddle River, NJ):

My name is Gloria Vogt Fulton. I was born in Bloomfield, New Jersey in 1936 and have lived here all my life. I am a member of the Bloomfield Historical Society.

Recently, a picture was on our website of the Western Union School in Bloomfield. I'm sure I'm the only person that knows about the school!

My grandmother, Antoinette Barmore, became a widow when my grandfather died in 1924. She had four children to raise. The family lived in a large home on Linden Avenue in Bloomfield. In addition to raising chickens (my aunt delivered their eggs in her wagon), she decided to take in boarders (women only) who were enrolled in the Western Union School. Her home was near the school, which was also near the railroad on Lackawanna Plaza in Bloomfield.

The following quote substantiates the existence of the training facility:

“The company maintains a school in Bloomfield, NJ in which new employees are training for positions as clerks, office managers, and automatic printer operators. The courses generally ran five weeks to three months.”

*United States Dept. of Interior
Office of Education Bulletin 1935, No. 8
Trade & Industrial Courses
Western Union Telegraph Company
60 Hudson St., New York, NY*

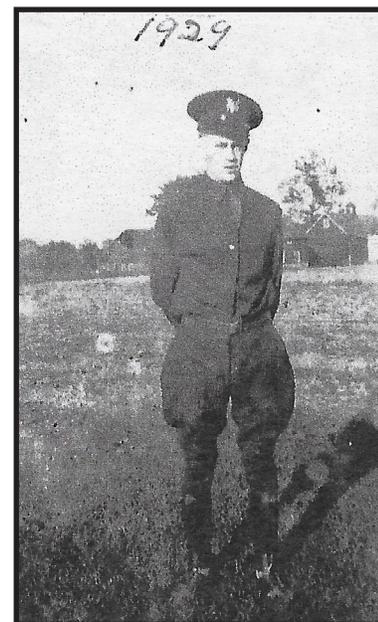
I assume the new employees needed a place to stay, so my grandmother's boarding house was very convenient.

I am enclosing two pictures; the first show students at the school. The year is noted as 1937. I plan to put the pictures as well as a history of the school on the Bloomfield Historical Society website. If you have any history of the school, I would appreciate it, especially during the time the school was in Bloomfield. My research mentions it existing during the 1930s.

The other picture is of my father, Emil Louis Vogt. He began 41 years with Western Union as a telegram messenger. The photograph is dated 1929. He retired as the Assistant to the Vice President of Private Wire Services in 1970.

I would appreciate any information available and thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours, Gloria Vogt Fulton, Bloomfield, NJ



The author's father, Emil Louis Vogt, in 1929—a Western Union telegram messenger.

Western Union, Denver, Colorado, September 14, 2020

Dear Ms. Fulton,

Thank you for sharing your story and pictures, your grandmother and father are a part of Western Union's rich history and we love hearing their stories. It is fun to think back to a time when a telegram messenger was an important role within Western Union and provided vital communication to our country. Your father represents the best of our company and we are grateful for his service and dedication to Western Union!

I wish I could provide more information on the Western Union School in Bloomfield, however, because of COVID-19 we are working from home and do not have access to our archives. I can confirm that Western Union had at least one school where new employees were trained to operate various types of telegraph equipment and learned Western Union's processes and procedures. If more information becomes available I will send it to you.

Thank you for taking the time to document this piece of Western Union's history on the Bloomfield Historical Society website. I can only imagine how proud you must be to share your grandmother's and father's stories. I know we are proud to have them as a part of the Western Union family!

Sincerely, Linda S. Marcinski, Executive Assistant to Hikmet Ersek, Chief Executive Officer, Western Union



Class photo, Western Union School, July 1937. In 1932, 39 Lackawanna Place was listed as "vacant store." By 1935 and 1937, it was the Western Union School. By 1941, it was gone. The "12" seems to be the equivalent of "Suite #12." The location makes sense as it was near the railroad station with access to New York City. The Western Union offices seemed to be always near railroad stations.



General Joseph Bloomfield

THE NEW TOWN CRIER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF BLOOMFIELD

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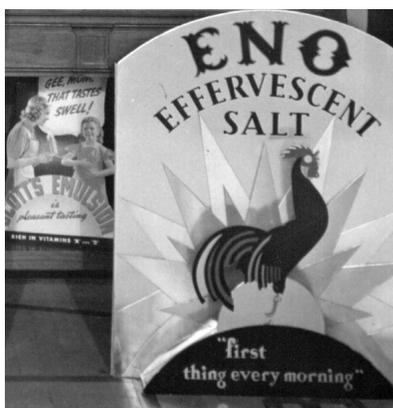
Ina Campbell†

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New Photo Collection

The HSOB has expanded its website to include new photo collections of vintage South Junior High. The 91 photos feature the 68 booths at the school's "Know Your Town" Exhibit from June 1940. Local industries and community groups packed the cafeteria and gym of "the new Junior High School," as South Junior High was known then. Check out local businesses from 81 years ago, including Bakelite; Westinghouse; Edison; GE; RCA; Thomas Oakes uniform cloth mill; NJ Bell; Scientific Glass; Chevrolet & many more.

HSOB Board Trustee & Webmaster Richard Rockwell digitized and enhanced the photos, which are part of the Museum's collection. Visit www.HSOB.org and click on "Photo Galleries" to enjoy these vintage 20th century photographs that commemorate a time when Bloomfield was at the heart of NJ industry.

Welcome Mat

A cordial welcome is extended to the following new members of The Historical Society of Bloomfield. We hope to see you at our next meeting:

Robert Andres
Bloomfield

Jaynellen Behre
Jenkins
Glen Ridge, NJ

Joanna Fribush
Pittsfield, MA

Letter to the President

March 25, 2021

Dear President Kuras & Historical Society Members:

Please except my sincere appreciation for the special honor and recognition that you and the members bestowed upon me at your February 22nd Black History Month celebration. I want to acknowledge and convey my thanks to Mayor Michael Venezia and the Municipal Council Members for supporting this acknowledgment of me.

This recognition from the [Township] of Bloomfield means a great deal and it emphasizes my work on behalf of the constituents in your city and community at large is much appreciated.

Please know that as your State Senator I will continue to advocate and fight on behalf of my residents to bring the necessary funding and policies that will have a positive and long term impact on their lives.

Please don't hesitate to call or reach out to my office for assistance on behalf of the great [Township] of Bloomfield.

Again, my thanks for the honor you presented to me.

Sincerely, Senator Ronald L. Rice, 28th Legislative District

Editor's note: For coverage of this original event, please see the March 2021 issue of The New Town Crier.