THE HISTORY OF BUFFALO CLUB OF THE DEAF

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January 1965 our buildingwas burned from first floor, we couldn't use it because of no electrics for both floors. Amherst Bowling Center welcomed us for no charge, our regular meetiong in the basement and Board of Directors at Roy Brenner's house till SApril we returned to the club. One night on Saturday we had "Bank Night", top prize was $500.00, the winner must be presented, there're 233 people were on the floor which the fire regulation required to be 122 people limit, the floor squeaked. Thank God to hold us. We stayed for 15 years. We found the old Battery/Cable garage on 1910 Genesee Street for sale and cost $25,000.00. We had big discussed against or accept for two months. Then August 3, 1973, Pressident Richard Misell called member (63 attended) to come special meeting and much discussed and explained that we asked offered $20,000.00 but accepted for the building thru L.A. Grant Reality Inc. for 23,500.00 and given to the members

as site size, lots, taxes, etc and we try to get low bidders for the remodeling job, etc. The vote results were 62 favors and two against so we finally buy a building.

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August 9,1974, Grand Opened with over crowed, Mayor Makowski of Buffalo cut the ribbon. ChairmanRichard Miskell and his committees started to raise more monies to support the new tables, chairs, fxtuures, cooler and more. He ran New York, Central, A.A.A.D. Basketball tournamernts and the BCd lottery weekly for long time, the funds were very sccessfully. We resided for 15 years was successful until after 13 years being starting loose membership, the parking lot was too small, cars stolen, break in and broken glass, in bad neighborhood area. We sold it.

January 1989, We bought the former OTB Building 2275 Clinton Street in West Seneca NY was asked for $159,000 and it is a bigger than old one in 1910 Genesee St. really nice place and plenty parking space so we asked reality an offered $148,000 and accepted our offered.

February 1989, Our strong leader were William Flanders, Craig Carpenter and Thomas Madill and some helper rolled up their sleeves to start to remodeled from changed from the betting parlor to the our new clubhouse. removed all walls and ceiling and replaced new walls and ceilng and new bar area. Craig Carpenter do everything new electric breakers and wiring all rooms. Tom Madill do plumbing installed all new pipes, bathroom vanity, kitchen vanity also bar sink. William Flanders do all wood works. Looks Beautiful again and was grand opened Senator Stachowski cut the ribbon on October 19, 1989 and get more members coming and sucessful so far.

" THE BIRTH OF B.C.D."

by Francis W. Hayes

(Excerpted from B.C.D. Minute Book)

In the winter of 1939, a group of seven boys, who were instrumental in founding a club of the deaf. They were Frederick Lomanto, Thomas Mazzone, Joseph Solazzo, John Gervase, Andrew DiGregorio, Angelo LaGreco, Joseph Goretti. They met to form a club for the deaf. They held their meetings in the rear of Joseph Solazzo barber shop, then at Brayton and West Utica Streets. They named it the Alphabet Club.

In the year of 1943 another club was being organized under the name of MacArthur Club after the famous Douglas MacArthur, commander of the World War II Pacific theater. It wasn't until one year later when both organizations met and decide to consolidate and at that time there were only 28 members but soon they put their heads together and at their second meeting in April 27, 1944 a debate was on to name a club and there was much confusion in which to give a name as a vote was submitted. The new name Buffalo Club of the Deaf was chosen by 25 members out of 36.

With hard work and their co-operative spirit they pushed it to a successful conclusion, crowned their efforts and from then on everything clicked, thus Buffalo Club of the Deaf was born.

A sum of $500.00 was realized when they held their first social and this paved way in establishing a clubroom of their own. In April, 1944, the first clubroom was at 629 Main Street, in downtown Buffalo, was opened and two months later on June 21, 1944, a dream became reality when New York State Charter was granted, then Buffalo Club of the Deaf was incorporated.

Frank Krahling, alumnus of St. Mary's School for the Deaf (1916) being elected the first president with Frederick Lomanto as vice-president; Thomas Mazzone, secretary and John Nash, treasurer.

With the club growing and membership increasing, new and larger quarters was sought and in July 1945, Women's Auxiliary was established with Mary Wrenn, St. Mary's alumnus (1938) being the first president with Dolores Briel as vice-president; Persie Foster, secretary and Helen Klim, treasurer.

The Club has organized and promoted a great many sports . . . . . Softball, Baseball, Basketball, Bowling Teams. Their basketball team is well-known in the nation as the first team having won the trophy, emblematic of the National Basketball Tournament supremacy (A.A.A.D.) in 1945. (first annual A.A.A.D. in Akron, Ohio).

After 35 years in existence, the Club finally purchased an old auto collision building, 1910 Genesee Street, Buffalo, April 1973 and converted into beautiful bona-fide clubroom. The new club building made its debut April 1974.

It is tactfully decorated and roomy, large enough to hold 150 people comfortably. It is a great place to meet a new friends and place where you can dance to the loud-blasting music out of a juke box, play cards, ping-pong, billiards, have a few drinks with old friends and get a bite to eat. Captioned films are also shown every week. The Club open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. There is ample Parking.

F. W. Hayes

SECRETARY

" THE BIRTH OF BUFFALO CLUB OF THE DEAF"

(According to the first BCD Secretary Minutes Book of 1944)

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Elmer Briel Jr

THE BIRTH OF THE B.C.D.

In the early forty's it was at the barbershop of Joe Solazzo that a few deafies began to hang around and accussianally play a game of cards in the back room.

As this bunch grew and grew the idea of a club was needed and strong discussions started .

The strong leaders was Joe himself , Byron Rood, James Pascall, Fred LaMonte, Leroy, Race and Joseph Goretti.

Thomas Mazzone added a lot of ideas and when the fund raising was discussed and suggested by Byron Rood and James Pascall a raffle was the only way, so Thomas Mazzone offered to print the raffle since he was a printer .

This get the ball rolling towards a club in 1941. The prize were to be live turkey donated by two brothers Aloyesus Kasprzak and Leonard Kasprzak whose father had a turkey farm in Lacawanna, N.Y..

The Place of the drawing was at the bowling alley where the deaf had a league in time for thanksgiving. The live turkey were there! ! !

They reopen a good amount of money from this raffle and then a membership drive was started with dues collected to add the funds.

This led on to a search of a hall to start with and election of officers.

This true organizins of the B.C.D were Joseph Sollazzo, Byron Rood, James Pascall, Fred LaMonto, Tony Magone, (perhaps a few others whose namel forgot)

Other strong supporters were:

Elmer Briel
Francis Briel
Eric Molin
Joseph Goreeti
Nathaniel Echols
Walter Grybil

Meg Rood
as best remembered
of the birth of the B.C.D.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF
BUFFALO CLUB OF THE DEAF, INC.
Pursuant to the Membership Organizations Law

We, the undersigned for the purpose of forming a membership corporation; pursuant to the membership Corporation Law of the State of New York, herby certify:

1. The name of the proposed corporation shall be BUFFALO CLUB OF THE DEAF, INC.

2. The purpose for which it is to be formed are:
   (a) To maintain and foster in the City of Buffalo, County of Erie and State of New York, an interest in civic and social affairs among the deaf mutes of the community, and to inclulate in it's member the highest ideals and concepts of Americanism.
   (b) To provide the deaf gentry of the community with civic, cultural and Educational leadership
   (c) To foster, instill and cultivate the duty and sense pf loyalty and responsibility to the nation, state and city. To cultivate a spirit of freindship, friendless and loyalty among the members of the corporation. To imbute the members with fraternal spirit. To advance the welfare of the members along social lines.
   (d) To promote and stimulate the intellectual advancement of it's members and to held meetings and social gathering for the better realzation of the above mentioned purpose.

3. The territory in which it's operations are principally to be conducted in New York State.

4. The City and County in which it's office is to be located, are buffalo, Erie County.

5. That the number of it's directors shall be nine and shall consist of four elective officers of the club, together with members to be vote on at an annual election.

6. This corporation shall have power to purchase, lease or otherwise acquire and sell, mortgage or lease real property, whether improved or unimproved, or any interest therein, and to any amount in the State of New York or in any state or territory of the United States or a foreign country.

7. All the subscribers to this certificate are of full age, at least two-third of hem are citizens of the United States, at least one of them is a resident of the State of New York, and of the persons named directors all are citizens of the United States and residents of the State of New York.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have made, subscribed and acknowledged this certificate this 21st day of June 1944.

Frank H. Kahling (L.S.)
Frederick T. Lamonto (L.S.)
Thomas J. Mazzone (L.S.)
John J. Nash (L.S.)
Angelo LaGreco (L.S.)
Leonard Coughln (L.S.)
Joseph Goretti (L.S.)
William Jodoin (L.S.)

BUFFALO CLUB OF THE DEAF 50th ANNIVERSARY

Thank you for joining us for our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Buffalo Club of the Deaf.

I will tell you some of the history of the Buffalo Club of the deaf, I was not ware of "deaf Culture'.

During the early 1940's I was a student at St Mary's School for the Deaf. One Sunday a month the deaf adults and their children would come for mass in the chapel. It was a full of house, following mass they would have breakfast and then attended meeting for the men in the assembly hall and the women in the library hall. Most of the people stayed until late in the afternoon.

The sisters of St. Josephs at St. Mary's scool for the Deaf welcomedd all deaf adults to use their premises, They would enjoy themselves and stay for a long time during in the evenings but eventually the sisters told them to finish and not to come anymore and urged them to establis their own club. However they continued to come to the school staying outside instead. The people who resided on Dewey Avenue called the nun and also the policeman called her that there were deaf adults outside in the cold weather. She told him they didn't have their club.

After leaving school I went to work in a factory and became a member of the deaf club and I began bartending at the deaf club at 104 Broadway. I worked there with Carl Menke, old man in his 60"s. I always stared at his facial expression which was smily and joyful. I asked him why he looked happy. "Oh well" he said "we have our deaf club". I said why? He said when he was younger there were many problem. It was hard to see his deaf buddies and girls and there no cars, phone, radio and television. When he and his friends went to different place such as restaurants, coffee shops, bowling alley, etc. They would chatand stay a long time, but some of the manangers didn't like to see them and told them to leaved because the other patrons couldn't sit and eat. Before the deaf club he didn'y know if his nfriend passed away or were in the hospital, got married whatever. I recall at St mary's they wanted to hear any news.

BUFFALO CLUB OF THE DEAF

(How it was organized)

The Buffalo Club of the deaf opened its doors on April 1, 1944 to the deaf people of Buffalo and surrounding areas in towns and the world. Thomas J. Mazzone and James Pascall was the prime movers in the project. Both conceived the idea of a club and worked together for the deaf for more than a year. The deaf have been aware of the need for a club house for years. No one thought Thomas J. Mazzone would go ahead but he did. He wanted it-and he succeeded. He was the spearhead behind raising funds for the club. James Pascall who didn't feel he had the ambition left the entire matter in Mazzone's hands but there is praise for this kindly man, James Pascall who was more of a hustler than an organizer.

Some articles have been written about Thomas J. Mazzone, there is no doubt that he was a great deaf leader who contributed much time and energy to give credibility to the deaf people status in the Buffalo area. He was the first Secretary of the club in 1944; in those days it was kind of organization not very many deaf were excited about giving up time and effort to help it grow; we are sure that the benefits of this organization is appreciated and understood much more today than ever before.

The first clubroom was opened in April1, 1944 at 629 Main Street, Buffalo, New York and in June 21, 1944 the club was granted a New York State Charter.

Note:

The concept of clubs of the Deaf could not be better expressed than in the statement I made here

In any city, the club of the deaf is the heart of the deaf community. It is the principal meeting place and forum of the deaf. It is, in most cases, the only place where they can socialize. It is their ballroom, their bar, their motion picture house, their theatre, their coffeehouse, their community center-all rolled into one. It is a place their own land in exile-an oasis in the world of sound.

Thomas Mazzone

BUFFALO CLUB OF THE DEAF INC.

As far as I can remember how we organized The Buffalo Club of the Deaf, it was started a few years back before 1944, It was named MacArthur Club, there was no place, but we raised the fund through some small parties and 39 members.

Somewhat we didn't act to continue and was stopped when we still had around $62.00 in fund. During the World War II, many deafies worked at Curtis Wright Plant I in Kenmore, New York. We started to talk about reorganize the club for the deaf, and we began to interest on it and we decided to take up parties to get enough funds to start a place.

The first party was ran at Dom Pulaski Hall on Broadway on October 1943 - Chester Fegal and James Pascall were co-chairman and the profit was around $200.00. then in February 1944 - There was a meeting in a small hall in Hotel Statler. We reached a decision that we kept all members from formerly MacArthur Club and it's officers and it's fund of $62.00 and they were to run the club whenever we had one. so in March 1944 - I was a chairman to run a party at the hall, I forget the name of it, it was on E. Utica Street near Michigan Avenue. The party was so succeed and the profit was over $600.00 including raffles and month later we found a place for the club at 629 main street upper and there is a club called Buffalo Club of the Deaf and the following year in October - the club became incorporated and the officers were Frank Krahling, President; Frederick Lomanto, Vice-President; Thomas Mazzone, Secretary and John Nash, Treasurer. The members grew up to about 75. The first election in 1945 under b.c.d. were President Elmer Briel Jr., Vice-President Frank Krahling, Secretary Thomas Mazzone and Treasurer John Nash. After a year and half we moved to 318 Main Street - two floors above Bowes Lunch - for two years there - we moved out because of increase in rent and moved to 103 Broadway for eight years. We didn't improve our fund as many were resigned due to the unsafe place so we moved out to 1664 Main Street, near Michigan Avenue and the club was succeeded.

There with the help of Roy Brenner as Treasurer. He ran as chairman many times on Bowling Tournaments for deaf - as New York State Bowling Tournaments, Great Lakes Bowling Tournaments and others as chairman for Basketball Tournaments as New York State, Eastern Regional Association and later Richard Miskell as President, Mastermind of bidding as host of many events and we stayed there around seven years and we began to consider of buying the club home and for two years we were off and on, on deciding to do so and finally we found a place on 1910 Genesee Street - formerly an auto garage and we have two hundred members and most accepted to contribute $100.00 per husband and wife and asked outsiders to contribute and some did and 1974 came at last that we own the club home and we are still happy and we hope to keep continuously in the future for the sake of the deafs

Elmer Briel Jr

BUYING 1910 GENESSE STREET BUILDING

To inform you that we want to withdraw $5000.00 worth of shares or (Equivalence) in order to pay part for down payment on 1910 Genesee Street building and the other half from our savings, total $10,000.00 which is needed.

At first we contact our agent Bernard Walters whom we thought he should do it but he advised us to write to you about the withdrawn of $5,000.00 worth of shares which we bought in October 24, 1968. The policy number is 142-715 and attached the copy of our reading of minute's statements, stating how we desired to surrender the share and signed by our four top officers of the Buffalo Club for the Deaf, Inc.

First of all, we want to explain how we started toward the purchasing of the building at 1910 Genesee Street.

(May 1st) we found the place at 1910 Genesee Street, the building that was for sale for $25,000.00

(May 2nd) About 24 members were over there to look around and seemed to satisfy with sizable which is suitable for our club. First we wanted more information about the premises such as data, lot size, building size, tax etc., but there was a run around and we were said that the manager who ran the building lives in Rochester, New York and the owner lives in Lyon Station, Pennsylvania and there was a delay for information data for about three months. Finally we got the information but it was through L.A. Grant Realty Inc. The price was upped to $27,000.00.

Then we began to call for the Special Meetings, Board of Directors Meetings and Regular Meeting.

(Regular Meetings comes 3rd Friday of every month continues throughout the year)

(Reading of Minutes statements on other sheet attached).

Special Meeting on Friday, august 3, 1973, 77 Members attended.

All the information was given to the members, size of building, lots, taxes, etc. Price was $27,000.00, $10,000.00 down Payment. The vote results were 42 against and 35 in favor.

President Richard Miskell realized that the vote results were about equal – so he had to call for Special Board of directors' Meeting right away after this Special Meeting. The Board decided to work on it once more, asking for $20,000.00.

(We offered for the building thru L.A. Grant Realty Inc. for $23,500.00).

Special Meeting on Friday, August 31, 1973, 64 Members attended.

The same information on the building was given to the members as site size, lots, taxes, etc. and we try to get low bidders for the remodeling job, etc. The vote results were 62 in favors and two against.

Our attorney Mr. Barone was working on papers for us. The purchasing agreement contract was signed by our president Richard Miskell and other party had signed it already.

Board of Directors Meeting on Friday, September 7, 1973 Board approved to sell the shares of Mutual Fund 1st $5,000.00 worth in order to make down payment.

Regular Meeting on Friday, September 21, 1973, Board of Director's report was reported to the members. Robert Heacock made a motion that we sell the Mutual Fund shares worth $5,000.00 in order to make down payment for 1910 Genesee Street building. James Cunningham seconded his motion. It was carried by majority

The Reading of Minutes statement s above is true and correct to my knowledge.

Wrote by

Elmer Brief Jr

BUYING 2275 CLINTON STREET BUILDING (FORMER OTB)
Special Board of Directors Meeting

President William Flanders report of the Board of Directors meeting July 7, 1987
Meeting was called to order at 6:43 P.M. with John Betcher absent
Present at the Board's invitation were:

Our realtor – Mrs. Mary Fiebelkorn

Our attorney -- Mr. Bruce Goldstien

2275 Clinton Street owner Mr. Breski

Interpreter – Mr. Peter Isquith

Mr. Breski opened with a request that the Board and the club members make up their mind to buy or not the building. He would like to know on Wednesday the 8th. We discussed the financial part of the deal and then let Mr. Breski go, promising him we would let him know right away.

After much discussion with Mrs. Mary Fiebelkorn and Mr. Bruce Goldstein regarding the practicality of purchase this building we also let Mrs. Mary Fiebelkorn go. Mr. Bruce Goldstein remained and we discussed the good and bad of this deal with him. He then decided to have a vote from the Board of Directors with three choices:

(1) Purchase the building now at original contract price, $30,000.00 down and $1,500.00/month for 10 years. We would receive $4,000.00 rent from OTB until at least December and $200.00/month from the small news shop. The cost of utilities and taxes will be covered by the $200.00 and the $4,000.00 would go toward the mortgage to reduce the balance owed. We would be between $8.000.00 and $10,000.00 ahead this way.

(2) Purchase an option to buy with the money we already have invested in this building. This would give us until December to sell our old building (1910 Genesee Street) and close the deal on the new one. If we did not close the deal we would lose the $2,500.00. The actual deal would be the same except that we would lose the income from rentals.

(3) Do not buy.

The Board unanimously vote to purchase the building but was split with seven votes were: Thomas Madill, William Flanders, Joseph Goretti, Paul Morinello, Wesley Parsons, Lawrence Godzik and Margie Lundy for purchasing the building now and four votes were: Craig Carpenter, Frank Spano, Gerald Bernacki and Kevin Milliagn for the option. The first choice in the list had the majority so the second choice was declared dead.

The choice before you today is simple yes or no. Do you want us to buy the Building??? Vote yes.

We were told that we must sell our building quickly so we have accepted the motion of Mrs. Mary Fiebelkorn to offer it at $59,000.00 and hope to settle for $55,000.00.

The decision was to purchase the building and hopefully for a profit

This part of the Board meeting was closed at 9:42 P.M.

Are there any question??? Please ask and we will be glad to answer them for you.

We hope to get many old members and new members by relocating to the new building. We also feel that business will improve and that we should be able to make mortgage payments with the help of the lottery and a fundraiser to help us with remodeling.

Thomas W. Madill

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March 1974, It was the first time in over 30 years history we had owned our club. The building was lot of work the floor were not level, filthy and eyesored. The leaders were Roy Brenner, Tom Madill and Bill Flanders, later on we looked for an electric guy, Marvin Wuest know a guy who know how to work on electric works so He called Craig Carpenter to come and accepted do job and joined our leader and some members stripped off the pipes, wires, walls from the ceiling to floor and rebuilded all new everything. Craig Carpenter do everything new electric breakers and wiring all rooms. Tom Madill do plumbing installed all new pipes, bathroom vanity, kitchen vanity also bar sink. Roy Brenner and William Flanders do all wood works. They were very cooperative. For about six months to get done! This place was very beautiful, the colors were red spanish style.

August 9,1974, Grand Opened with over crowed, Mayor Makowski of Buffalo cut the ribbon. ChairmanRichard Miskell and his committees started to raise more monies to support the new tables, chairs, fxtuures, cooler and more. He ran New York, Central, A.A.A.D. Basketball tournamernts and the BCd lottery weekly for long time, the funds were very sccessfully. We resided for 15 years was successful until after 13 years being starting loose membership, the parking lot was too small, cars stolen, break in and broken glass, in bad neighborhood area. We sold it.

January 1989, We bought the former OTB Building 2275 Clinton Street in West Seneca NY was asked for $159,000 and it is a bigger than old one in 1910 Genesee St. really nice place and plenty parking space so we asked reality an offered $148,000 and accepted our offered.

February 1989, Our strong leader were William Flanders, Craig Carpenter and Thomas Madill and some helper rolled up their sleeves to start to remodeled from changed from the betting parlor to the our new clubhouse. removed all walls and ceiling and replaced new walls and ceilng and new bar area. Craig Carpenter do everything new electric breakers and wiring all rooms. Tom Madill do plumbing installed all new pipes, bathroom vanity, kitchen vanity also bar sink. William Flanders do all wood works. Looks Beautiful again and was grand opened Senator Stachowski cut the ribbon on October 19, 1989 and get more members coming and sucessful so far.

Thomas W. Madill Sr.