



## *September 2025*

*~Coleen Germond*

Please plan on attending our September GPS meeting at the Galway Town Hall on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Doors open at 6:45. We will have a brief business meeting. The most significant business to consider is approval of our annual budget. Treasurer, Darby Knizek Neahr will present her report on GPS's finances and the proposed budget. After the meeting is completed, we will have our program, Galway Movie Club, Film One.

Over the past year GPS member Dave Waite, who is a talented writer, historian and photographer, has been working to digitalize the films created by a group of Galway teachers starting in 1938. The September meeting will be the first public viewing of these remastered films, narrated by our own Town Historian Darby Knizek Neahr. Dave Waite's article about the Galway Amateur Movie Club follows as well as a copy of a page and photo of the film club's members from the book, *Galway 1900-1949 A Photographic History*. I expect you will see some familiar Galway faces in photos in the film.

The "changing of the guard" for GPS board members and officers happens in June. So, in July our new Vice President Jon Hallgren had the task of getting a group of us together to plan our monthly programs and speakers. We have some interesting programs and speakers planned.

GPS also has members that work year-round in our archives at the Galway Public Library. Pat and Bruce Sanders, Margie Prasek, Bonnie Donnan, Phyllis Sleeper, Arlene Rhodes, and Colleen Germond meet most Wednesdays to keep the files updated and to accession historical documents. There is a treasure of local history in our archives.

With sadness we mark the recent passing of two long-time GPS members, Christine Donnan and Ron Surdyka, Sr. We are thankful for their friendship and contributions to our Society, and we will miss them.

I want to thank Carol Schweizer, our immediate past president, who has passed on her books to me. I will do my best to up her good work.

## Galway Movie Club Films Shown Again

~Dave Waite

On Saturday, October 16, 1937, the Galway Movie Club held its first meeting at the home of Arthur Sism in Hagedorn Mills. The group was created to develop an expensive hobby in an inexpensive way through the cooperative use of filmmaking equipment. Bringing together members of the faculty of Galway High School and other nearby rural schools, the following officers were elected: Alfred Perry, president; Chester Abel, vice president; and A. Hershovitz, secretary-treasurer. At this meeting, committees were formed with Chester Abel and Dorothy McKnight overseeing the Constitution & by-laws; the Scenario Committee was led by Mrs. Arthur Follett & Mrs. Harold A. Lincoln, and Publicity with Gerald Amyot. Others in attendance that night were Mrs. Arthur Sism, Mrs. Arthur Follett, Misses Blowers, Miss McKnight, and Messrs. Perry, Abel, Hershkovitz, and Amyot.

On June 15, 1938, the Galway Amateur Movie Club released the first film, "Salute to Galway," which was produced in connection with the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the village's incorporation. This one-hour, five-reel film offered views of daily life in and around the village as well as scenes done in costume showing historical events from Galway's past. Some of the subjects in this film were "A Day at School," "The U.S. Mail," "Farming," "An Old-Fashioned Quilting Party," "Church in the Old Days," "School in the Old Days," and "Travel in the Old Days." By August of that year, the film was updated, and a sixth reel was added to include new scenes of the village, lake, camps, and local sports activities.

Over the next three years the club produced other films as well: Saratoga County Government; the movies Snowbound and Haunted Hunters, a film about the Boy Scouts titled A Scout is Born and a number of newsreels that highlighted such local activities as the dedication of St. Mary's Church, a July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireman's Field Day, and ice sports on Sacandaga Lake.

Throughout the years, these films have been shown at times by the Galway Preservation Society, with some portions reproduced as a narrated video on VHS tape. Taking advantage of advances in technology, in 2024 the society had all of the 16 mm film reels in its archives digitized.

These digitized films are now available in two videos with a selection of old-style music playing in the background. The first of these movies, narrated by Galway Historian Darby Knizek-Neahr, will be presented at the September meeting of the Galway Preservation Society.

## THE GALWAY MOVIE CLUB



*Meeting of the Galway Movie Club at Schreier's house, June 1943.*

*Front, left to right, Marcia Perry, Fred Perry, Bud Hansen, Margaret Schreier, June Mitchell, and Jane Schreier.*

*Second row, Martha Perry with a child in her lap, and Maryann Bush.*

*Third row, Susan Hansen, Audrey Pines, Mildred Hansen, and Cora Edmund.*

*Back, left to right, Will Schreier, Ruth Schreier, Cliff Hansen, Martin Edmund, Art Follitt, Janet Schreier, Mildred Follitt, and Ed Mitchell.*

During the 1940s as part of the social studies curriculum, classes at the high school viewed films produced by the movie club. For several years the club sponsored a series of current, popular movies for the public at the school, both during the school year and the summer. By 1949 the club had raised enough money to purchase a new sound projector, which they gave to the school.

## GALWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member or  Renewal (choose one only)

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**DUES PAYMENT** (Annual cost per household is \$10, or lifetime membership is \$150)

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Cash       Check (payable to Galway Preservation Society)

Renew in person at any member meeting, or mail to:

Galway Preservation Society, P.O. Box 276, Galway NY, 12074