



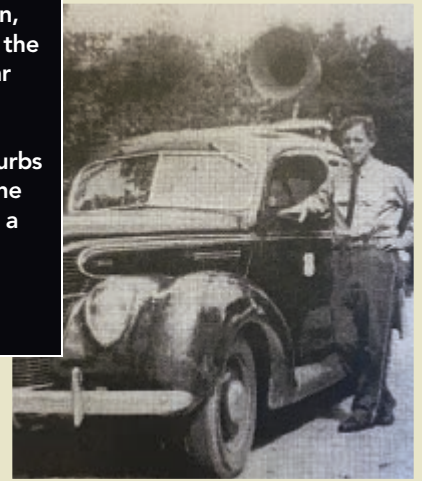
Greendale Police Chief Harold Bruett slices the March of Dimes cake which was auctioned to benefit the drive for a polio vaccine.

Opening of School Postponed Indefinitely

At a meeting of the County School Superintendent's office which Mr. John Ambruster, principal of the Greendale school, attended, it was determined that even though children will not attend school because of the polio quarantine the teachers would be on hand the opening day to help organize activities. Despite the loss of time occasioned by the quarantine, this lost time need not be made up at the end of the term.

"Art Krueger, a Greendale policeman, would come around the streets in a squad car and broadcast little stories for the kids. We'd all sit on the curbs and he'd go down the whole block and tell a story. He did that almost every day."

— Viola Eilers



1940s Quarantine Offers Fascinating Parallels To Today's Fight Against Pandemic

By Ted Mainella and Margaret Fink-Hill, Greendale Historical Society

It was late summer of 1944, and the entire world was struggling with the highly infectious disease commonly known as polio. The Village of Greendale fought back with a quarantine for all children (under the age of 12) and pregnant women. The quarantine lasted from August 30 to September 22, 1944.

How Greendale lived through that quarantine offers fascinating parallels to today's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Read on for excerpts from *The Greendale Review* and first-hand recollections of local residents who lived during that time and recorded in the Greendale Historical Society oral history *Greendale Remembers: The Story of the Village in the Voices of its People*. The book is in its 4th printing and is available on the Greendale Historical Society website (greendalehistoricalsociety.org).

THE MYSTERIOUS VIRUS COULD BE ANYWHERE – EVEN GREENDALE. The Village leaders responded with a quarantine.

James Ircink, the Chairman of Greendale's Board of Health stated "...Quarantine regulations were distributed to every home in the Village. Signs have been posted in each bus on the Greendale route, at every entry into the Village, also in every store, office building and public meeting place. Every precaution is being taken by the Greendale Board of Health to inform its citizens and outsiders of this quarantine."

Ircink continued, "too little is known of this dreaded disease so every precaution should be taken...and only by strict obedience of the regulations...and the complete cooperation by the citizens of the village, can we avoid the presence of polio in this community."

One of the leaders of this fight was a Greendale Police officer who was called the "Polio Romeo" who loved to sing in the church choir and at numerous Village gatherings. His voice would brighten the lives of the quarantined children and lift the spirits of their frightened parents.

PAGE 2 THE GREENDALE REVIEW SEPTEMBER, 13, 1944

QUARANTINES CAN BE ENFORCED

At the September 21st meeting of the Greendale Board of Health, discussion centered on the fact that we know now that quarantines can be enforced. This is one of the good things that has come from the infantile paralysis quarantine.

The people of Greendale know now that they are able to keep their children at home if it is necessary. Most mothers found it much easier than they thought possible.

The pattern is now set for all future quarantines—whether it be the whole village or individual homes. All placards are to be adhered to just as rigidly as an all village proclamation for the protection of the people living here.

The health board has the authority to hire a guard to watch a house for the enforcement of placard regulations, but this is not necessary if the people of the village cooperate to the fullest extent as they have done during the polio quarantine. It has been ably demonstrated that the village manager, the village trustees, the health board, and practically all the parents are thinking in terms of the welfare of the community as a whole.



Much praise goes to Officer Art Krueger for his work throughout the Village. His work is not so much patrolling the streets as it is the keep the Village conscious of the quarantine at all times. The children eagerly await his appearance on their block with his stories, songs and notices of the day. – *The Greendale Review*, Sept. 1944

“We were in quarantine and all the kids had to stay in their own yards. The fences were just long wire – you could get through them real easy. There was a boy and girl on each side and they played “fence.” They would be playing together but it would be right at the fence.”

– Allis Burns

“Our dad, Officer Krueger, had difficulties of his own during the quarantine. When I was six and my sister Carol was four, we both had our tonsils removed on the dining room table in our house on Carnation Court.

This was due to Greendale’s 1944 version of strict ‘stay-at-home’ rules.”

– Sally Krueger Minkley

“I was about 10 when there was a polio scare. It was called infantile paralysis in those days... We were all quarantined. My dad worked for Western Electric and they supplied the equipment to the telephone company. He brought home phones and we strung them down the street to a couple of houses and we talked to the neighbor kids. You could have stood there and yelled, but it gave us something to do and we thought it was pretty nifty.”

– Judy Birch

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES OF COVID-19

How did you and your family deal with the closings and confinement? History is being made now and the Greendale Historical Society wants to record it. Send your stories/photos to info@GreendaleHistoricalSociety.org for possible publication in *Life in the Village* magazine and the Greendale Historical Society newsletter.

THE APPLE COURT HOUSE MASTER PLAN



UPDATES ON THE APPLE COURT HOUSE

Last fall, the restored chimney at the 5597 Apple Court house was completed. All three bedrooms, living room and hallways have been painted and the original windows fully restored. With the arrival of nicer weather, the restoration project is now moving to the outside. This spring, volunteers began preparing the exterior for painting.

It's not too late to make your donation to this exciting project. Whether it is a financial, in-kind or a volunteer donation of time, all donations are welcomed and appreciated. Visit the Greendale Historical Society website for more details and see more photos: greendalehistoricalsociety.org.

