

The Huntington County Historical Society NEWS

August ~ October 2025

Huntington County History and Education Center

315 Court Street, Huntington, IN 46750

Phone: 260-356-7264 / <https://huntingtonhistoricalmuseum.com/>

Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hyman “Hy” Goldenberg

By Barbara Rupley, Huntington County Historian

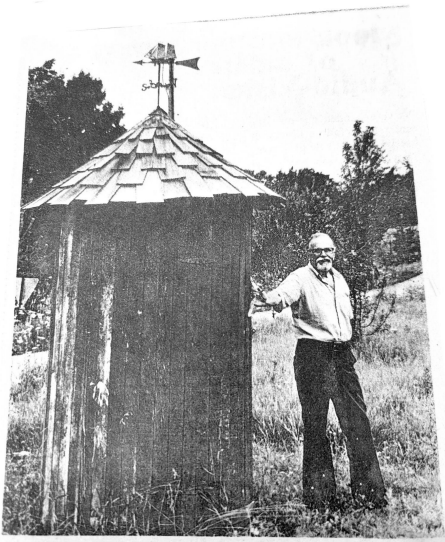
Most people know who Hy Goldenberg is because of his outhouse collection and the Tel-Hy Nature Preserve. But there is much more to Hy Goldenberg than just the outhouses.



We will begin this story with his father-in-law, J.L. Brenn, who, at age 12, immigrated to the U.S. from Poland and landed in Chicago. In 1920, he and his wife moved to Huntington, where they bought a brewery on Tipton Street and started making soap in the old vats. This was the beginning of Huntington Laboratories, which eventually produced other products for schools and hospitals, as well as varnish for gym floors.

Huntington Laboratories, today known as Ecolab, continued to be run by the family after J.L. Brenn's death in 1967. His son, Earl Brenn, as president, and son-in-law, Hy Goldenberg, as vice president, managed the business until 1981.

Hy and his wife, Lorraine “Lorry” Brenn Goldenberg, bought property on CR 300W along the Wabash River in the 1960s. Hy hired a crew to build their home, then recognized the need for restroom facilities for the workers. He found an outhouse in Monument City, when residents there were being relocated during the construction of Salamonie Lake. When the



HY GOLDENBERG outside his round outhouse. (Herald-Press)

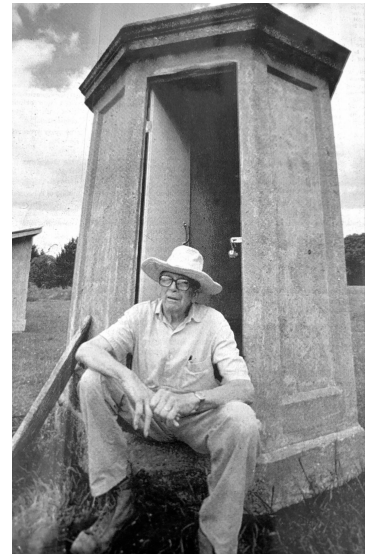
truck driver arrived with the outhouse, he actually had two of them. He thought the one Hy had chosen looked bad, and the other one was better. Hy kept them both and said, "When you have two of anything, you have a collection," thus starting the outhouse collection.

Hy Goldenberg was nationally recognized for his outhouses. Many articles about him and the collection have been written. The Huntington County History and Education Center has a binder containing most of these articles.

After Hy passed away, Lorry donated five of the outhouses to the Huntington County History and Education Center. Hy always called them a piece of Americana that was fading away.

Visit the Huntington County History and Education Center to explore the collection, or walk the trail at Tel-Hy (which, in Hebrew, means "hill" and "life") to see more of the collection.

Hyman "Hy" Goldenberg



A few examples of the Hyman Goldenberg collection located west of the Huntington County History and Education Center.

Become a HCHS supporter - contact the Director.

Director Barb Rupley - 356-7264 or email: huntingtonhistoricalmuseum@gmail.com

Director's Report

Barb Rupley - Director

School is out and summer is upon us. During the month of May we had two school tours, the 4th and 5th grade from Huntington Catholic and the 4th grade from Andrews Elementary totaling around 110 youngsters. In 2026, we hope to see even more students at the History and Education Center, helping us celebrate our nation's 250th birthday.

During Heritage Days we made the 4 x 6 negatives from the Rickert Studio Collection available. For a donation, you could have negatives — maybe from your parents' wedding, your wedding, graduation, or anything else you found interesting. We will probably do this again later this year.

We are always looking for volunteers to help scan and catalog the negatives, assist with school tours, change out displays, and organize our storage area. Stop in so we can determine how you would like to help and what hours might fit into your schedule.

HCHS Officers

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Editors: *Charles Chapman & Mike Perkins*

Contributors: *Lyla Spath / Barbara Rupley / Mike Perkins*

Rickert Photo

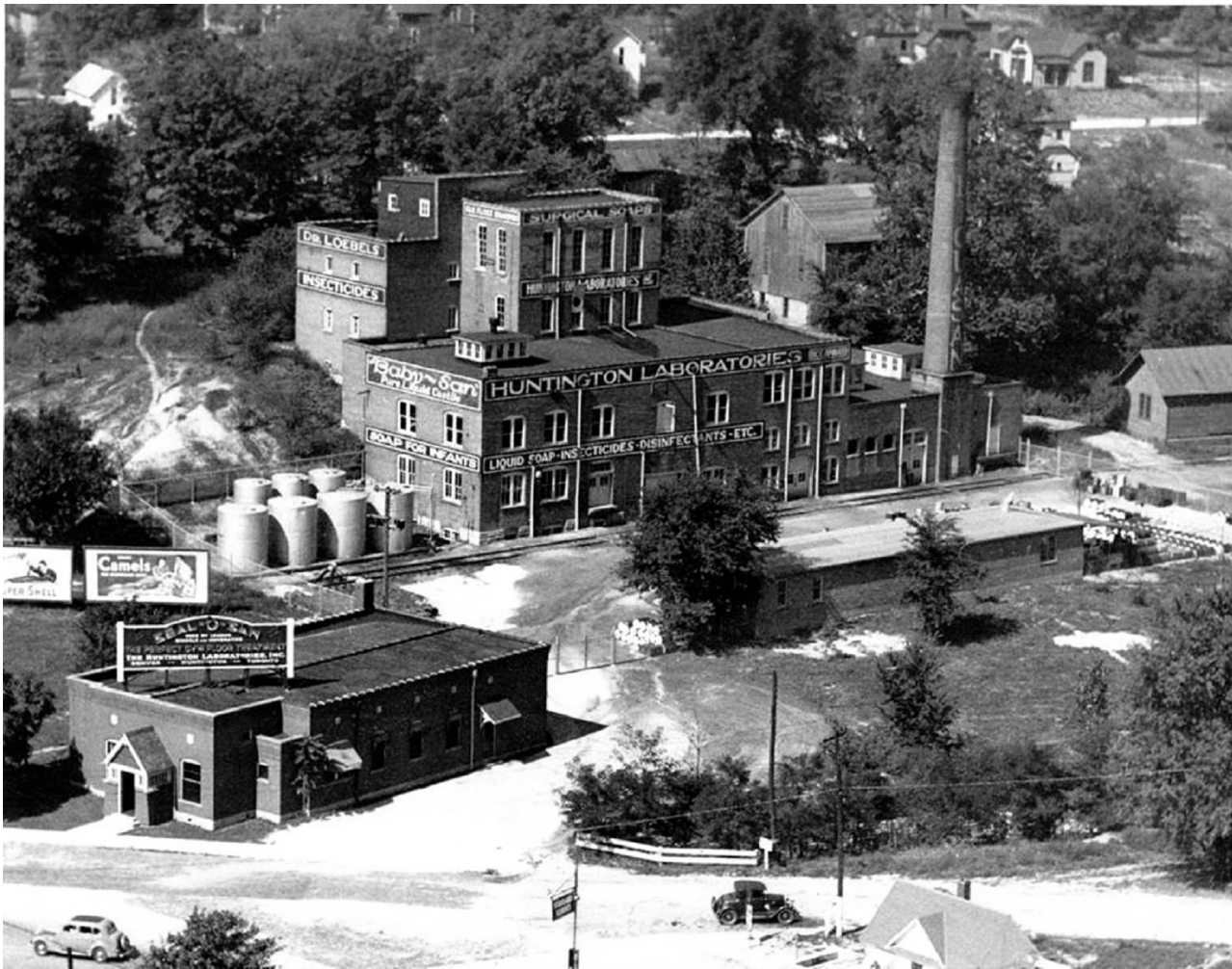


Taste Freez, at South Jefferson and Wright streets, in the 1960s.
The location is now a fireworks store.



Huntington Manufacturing, at Joe and Henry streets. The old building is now part
of General Aluminum, at 1345 Henry St.

The company made ottomans, lawn furniture and the pool shown here.



Huntington Laboratories purchased and moved into the facility owned and operated by Huntington Brewery, and the company's successor, Ecolab, operates from that location today.

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Huntington County Historical Society is to preserve and promote the history of Huntington County.

Follow us online: <https://huntingtonhistoricalmuseum.com/> or on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/huntingtonhistoricalmuseum>

HUNTINGTON COUNTY HISTORY AND EDUCATION CENTER

NOTE! HCHEC Program on July 23, 7 p.m.

Jean Gernand will present the program, "One Last Time for the Ages," a History of Huntington

Think about a Historical Society Contribution

Please consider contributing to the Historical Society using a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). A QCD directly transfers funds from an individual's IRA to a qualified charity, allowing those aged 70½ or older to donate to a charity without increasing their taxable income. This can help satisfy required minimum distributions while potentially lowering tax liabilities. Talk with your accountant or financial planner today!

Huntington County Historical Society Membership Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

☐ GIFT ☐ RENEWAL ☐ NEW

Yearly Membership Dues:

Senior — \$20 Family — \$35 Single — \$25 Life — \$300 Sustaining — \$100

Donation _____ Signature _____

Return this page to the Museum. Make checks payable and mail to:

Huntington County Historical Society, 315 Court St., Huntington, IN 46750.

Membership Benefits include free admission to the Huntington County History and Education Center, a bimonthly newsletter, election of officers, volunteering at the museum, and free attendance at programs on Huntington County's history.

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315 Court Street, Huntington, IN 46750

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HUNTINGTON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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**Huntington County
History and
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July, 23 at 7 p.m.**

"One Last Time for the Ages."
History of Huntington