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Showing postings 1 - 14 of 14 in the thread: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave.

Posting: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave	Posting 1
Poster: Hank Walker	
Date: 12 December 2006 8:24 AM	
<p>Can anyone give me a description of what Hosmer Mtn looked like at the end of Johnston Ave back in the 40's?</p> <p>Any recollection of Mary Smith, Arthur Sharp, or the Caswell Family?</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Hank</p>	
Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave	Posting 2
Poster: Francis Sellars	
Date: 12 December 2006 2:35 PM	
<p>HANK,</p> <p>My remembrance of Johnston Ave. There were three house on the left side going up and two on the right. I lived at 14 the Murdocks at 16 and Mrs Smith at 40. On the right side was a big house where the Bernsteins lived and the next house Mrs Holmes lived with her two sons. Mrs Smith's garage was across the street from her home. We played baseball on the vacant lot between 16 and 40. Home plate was near 40 and left field was at Murdocks house. Mr. Eisenburg lived at 410 Pleasant St. his backyard was in back of 14 where I lived,Mr Eisenburg complained to my mother that we were stealing his pears. Well the next night my brother and I went over the fence and ate the pears right on the tree and left the cores hanging on the tree. We had some great time on that street, sliding down Hosmer Mt.on card board boxes, in the summer and sleds in the winter. As kids we had the largest swimming pool in the city,Hosmer Mt. Reservoir. The city covered it years later. If the barn or garage on the berstein's property is still standing, he had a butcher shop there. During the war when meat was scarce Berstein did a landside business there. Nate Mandel also lived in Bernstein's house he owned Mandell's bakery on Elm St. He made the best jelly doughnuts around,to this day I can still taste them. To me that was the best little Ave. in the city. I have many fond memories of Johnston Ave when I was growing up. The kids today don't know how to play just sitting at a computer or watching the tube. If you think I missed anything let me know.</p>	
Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave	Posting 3
Poster: r d	
Date: 12 December 2006 2:54 PM	
<p>Whitey--you mentioned the Murdocks--I went to WHS with a Brewster Murdock--is that the same family?</p>	
Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave	Posting 4
Poster: Steve Starger	
Date: 12 December 2006 3:05 PM	
<p>Hank,</p> <p>My parents owned a three-family house at 95 Mansfield Ave., across the street from the hospital in the forties, when I was a little kid. There was a Caswell family living on the second floor. I remember Blanche Caswell but can't remember her husband's name. Their son was Raymond. Does that ring a bell? Ray was a few years old than I and my pals but he sometimes hung out with us. We would have occasional BB gun fights! Real smart stuff. I remember getting hit on the thigh by a BB and it stung worse than a bee sting. I stopped participating about then. Is that house still there??? Had an old barn in the back.</p> <p>Steve Starger</p>	
Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave	Posting 5
Poster: Francis Sellars	
Date: 12 December 2006 8:04 PM	
<p>RD,</p> <p>Yes Brewster Murdock lived next to us on Johnston Ave. He and my half brother Bob Bassett were great friends. He was about 10 years younger than me.</p>	
Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave	Posting 6
Poster: Francis Sellars	
Date: 12 December 2006 9:13 PM	
<p>Hank,</p> <p>I remember Mrs. Smith,she was a small woman she walked to the corner store with he pocket book under her arm. Arthur Sharp was a quite man, he drove a green dodge two door sedan. I can remember that car if it were just yesterday. The caswell's you mentioned I don't recall them at all. Do you know what house they lived in on Johnston Ave.? After I came home from the being in the navy, Alice Casey built a house next to the Murdocks. She sold that house to Armand Faford he owned the package store on the</p>	

corner of Bridge & Pleasant St. This is long ago after all I am 79 and still remember the neighborhood pretty good.

Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave Posting 7
 Poster: r d
 Date: 13 December 2006 9:16 AM

Amen Whitey! I can remember my old neighborhood as if it were yesterday but don't ask me what happened yesterday!

Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave Posting 8
 Poster: Hank Walker
 Date: 13 December 2006 2:17 PM

We've lived in the 40 Johnston St. house since ~1983. My wife was the visiting nurse for Mr. Sharp while he was home bound. He eventually passed away and we looked into buying the house. 'Long story short' we were able to buy the house.

I went to town hall and looked up the property records with some interesting results. The house was originally owned by the Caswell family. They sold it to Alice Smith for 'a dollar and other considerations', whatever that means.

You mentioned Alice Casey, did she have a sister named Rita. I knew her as Rita Kandolin.

What was Hosmer Mountain like back then? I heard it was pretty much open with not many trees. Folks had picnics and rode horses. Today it's more like a forest on our side. I believe a logging company took most of the timber off the top.

Pears trees eh? We had 3 big apple trees in our backyard but then someone damned up the little pond and the trees drowned.

Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave Posting 9
 Poster: Francis Sellars
 Date: 14 December 2006 4:59 PM

Hank,
 Hosmer Mt, at the end of Johnston Ave had a few blueberry bushes and that's about all. We walked up the side to the top nearly every day,you could see the whole city from up there. The whole street I believe was on spring water from Hosmer Mt. A Mr Clark that lived on pleasant St. owned and charged for the water. We didn't have city sewers back then, we had a cesspool on the left side of the house in the lawn. I guess you could it a victory garden in the back yard that was very productive. I am not sure but I think Alice Casey was a sister of Al Noel one of Willimantic's mayors. How many houses are on Johnston Ave. today? If I remember right 5 on the left side and 3 on the right.

Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave Posting 10
 Poster: John Tormey
 Date: 14 December 2006 7:18 PM

Back in '53 - '54 the road up the hill to Hosmer was a popular spot in the evening as a high school lovers' lane. Cheaper than the drive-ins -- and just as popular.
 jt

Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave Posting 11
 Poster: Francis Sellars
 Date: 14 December 2006 8:10 PM

John,
 You are right,it was more than high school students using it as a lovers lane. This all came to a end when the city put a locked cable across the road.

Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave Posting 12
 Poster: John Tormey
 Date: 15 December 2006 6:01 PM

awwww! Bad luck. Then, I guess, it was used car lots, Park Spring off of Jackson or darkened driveways wherever.

Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave Posting 13
 Poster: Francis Sellars
 Date: 15 December 2006 8:40 PM

John,
 Back then the end of Pleasant St. was another great location in the city. There was a dirt road that led to Ayers ice house, that was another place for lovers lane.

Posting: Re: Hosmer Moutain/Johnston Ave Posting 14
 Poster: Hank Walker
 Date: 16 December 2006 10:48 AM

Whitey

On our side of the street, not counting the corner houses, the addresses are 16, 18, 20, 30, and 40 Johnston.

On the other side, not counting the corner house, there are 3 houses. One has been built since we've lived here. The other two are

big and house more than one family. However they are owned by the same 'family'.

At the end of the street, on Pleasant is the Corner Package Store and Pleasant St. Pizza. When we first moved in it was a Mom & Pop market, then a Mexican take-out, and now pizza. Excellent pizza!