

Rover finds an answer to a 'KISSStoric' question

Q: WHEN KISS came to town one street was renamed KISS Boulevard for the visit. What happened to the sign?

A: Rover contacted KISS-Storian Jim Neff to see if he knew what happened to this iconic piece of Cadillac's history. For those who don't know, Cadillac and KISS became connected when the group visited the town in 1975 after they formed a friendship with Cadillac High School and its football team.

After a slow start in 1974, the team started to listen to KISS records in the locker room to stay loose. The band heard about what the team was doing and wanted to be kept up to date on its progress. The team proceeded to win its final seven games. In October 1975, Cadillac High School made rock 'n' roll history when KISS played at Cadillac's homecoming.

As for the signs, Neff told Rover they were made by students in Cadillac art classes out of white cardboard or poster board and black markers. He added after the parade, they were taken down and lost to

"KISSStory." Neff also said because they were made with such basic materials and not actual metal sign, it would be nearly impossible to determine if they were made 10 minutes ago or 40 years ago.

"They were only up for a brief period of time and were one of those items that got lost in the shuffle," Neff said.

Q: THERE sure are a lot of tall snowbanks in the Walmart parking lot going west and east. Are there any plans for them to be removed?

A: Rover first called Wexford County Road Commission Manager Alan Cooper to see if he had heard about any issues and if by some chance the county did any of the plowings. Cooper said he had not heard anything and road commission did not do any snow removal at the location. He added the retailer likely hired a local contractor to handle the service but was uncertain of which one.

Rover then reached out to Walmart Corporate Media Relations and talked with Walmart spokesperson

Leslee Wright. She told Rover the snow was intentionally put in places where it would not be obstructions for customers as they entered and left the store. She also said the snow was placed where it would not be a hindrance and will be allowed to melt where it is.

Wright told Rover that if a customer feels something is not safe inside the store or outside the store they can always find store management and they will be happy to help them.

Q: WHILE walking in downtown Cadillac past what I think is the old Odd Fellows lodge, I noticed in the window that there was some writing on one of the walls. It looks like an advertisement for flour and other things. What was in that building a long time ago?

A: Rover contacted Cadillac Community Development Analyst Mike Coy to see if he might know the answer or the person who would know. Coy told Rover the building was purchased in February 2016 by Bigelow Construction and was sold by the

previous owner Dan Minor. Coy added he believed the best contact would be the current owner. Calls were made but an answer was not immediately given.

In a Cadillac News article dated March 27, 2013 it stated after 137 years in existence, the Odd Fellows Viola Lodge No. 259 was disbanded after its membership dwindled to just a handful. The article also said the group occupied the building for almost 100 years. It changed hands for the first time after the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at the state level made the decision to pull the Viola Lodge's charter.

Calls also were made to the Wexford County Historical Society and Rover talked to Richard Kraemer who is the historical society's museum coordinator. He told Rover the thing you are seeing is likely from the building next door and it was there before the Odd Fellows built in 1914. He said he also was going to try and do some searching to see if he could find out what exactly the advertisement was.



NEWS FILE PHOTO

Rover is hunting down information about KISS Boulevard. Seen here is a Cadillac News file photo of Cadillac High School students renaming the road.

IF YOU happen to know the answer feel free to contact Rover via email at news@cadillacnews.com or by calling 775-

6564. The hope is he will be able to get more to the answer in the coming weeks. Stay tuned.