

# AN OLD LICENSE FINDS ITS WAY HOME

By Michael F. McGraw

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STATE OF NEW YORK—BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
**OPERATOR'S LICENSE**  
 FOR YEAR 1927-28  
 EXPIRES JUNE 30, 1928

1108123 JUN 1927  
 ISSUED BY THE **CY**  
 STATE OF NEW YORK  
 BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

SPACES BELOW TO BE FILLED OUT BY APPLICANT

PRINT NAME **LEO L. KIRSCH**

RESIDENCE Street and No. **BREWERTON ROAD**

POST OFFICE City or Village **SYRACUSE** State **N.Y.**

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT  
 THIS MUST BE EXACTLY AS STATED ON APPLICATION

DATE OF BIRTH	COLOR	SEX	WEIGHT
MO. <b>FEB</b> DAY <b>18</b> YR. <b>1899</b>	<b>WHITE</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>180</b> LBS.
HEIGHT	COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR	
<b>5 FT. 11 IN.</b>	<b>BROWN</b>	<b>BROWN</b>	

*Leo L. Kirsch*  
 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DO NOT DETACH

See Other Side

**NOT VALID UNTIL DATED, NUMBERED AND IMPRESSED WITH SEAL OF ISSUING OFFICE**

STATE OF NEW YORK  
**BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

This is to certify that the person named and described on the reverse side has been licensed to operate a motor vehicle for the year ending June 30, 1928.

Commissioner of Motor Vehicles

Notify this office at once of any change in your address. Any alteration or erasure made on this Card, except a change of address, voids same.

**REPORT ALL ACCIDENTS** Every operator of a motor vehicle involved in an accident resulting in a personal injury or death must report it to the Commissioner. Secure a blank from police, town, city or village clerk or any office of the Motor Vehicle Bureau.

**FAILURE TO REPORT AN ACCIDENT IS A MISDEMEANOR**

The first house on the south side of the Dairy Queen was formerly owned by the Leo Kirsch family. It was being rented by the DeJohn family in the early 1960s. The Leo Kirsch house is the house on the far right in the 1997 picture below. It was demolished sometime in 2005-7.



Source: Picture is from the files of Art and Velma Kirsch. Art was the son of Leo Kirsch.

Around 1962 I met Danny DeJohn, he was our paperboy. As I got to know him he would sometimes ask me to help him deliver his papers. Danny delivered the Herald-Journal that was the evening paper so that was no big deal. The morning paper was the Post Standard and helping on that paper route would have meant getting up very early. This was back in the day when kids delivered the papers instead of adults driving Explorers, tossing the plastic enclosed papers, onto the driveways. The paperboys were more service oriented and every customer had their own special requests for placing the paper. Some wanted the paper inside the front door and others wanted it inside the side door. There were those who wanted it in the milk box (yes, home milk delivery) and others wanted the paper in the mail box, even though the Post Office had their own ideas about sharing that box. There were those who had a metal tube mounted below the mailbox, on the same post, for the paper deliveries. Today that has all changed. While the paperboys tried to please, the adults just try to hit the driveway.

For a few years I thought Danny had a problem with one of his legs because he walked with a limp. One day I noticed he wasn't limping anymore and so I asked him about it. He explained that there never was anything wrong with his leg. Danny only limped when delivering his papers and especially on collection day. As he put it, "The old ladies on my route give me bigger tips if I limp."

While I was at his house one day his mother asked us to clean out the garage and straighten it up. The garage wasn't very cluttered so it was a fairly small job. During the cleanup I found the license belonging to Leo Kirsch and since I have always had an affinity for old things I hung onto the license. And I mean hung on to it. Over the years that license moved with me, back and forth between New York and Texas, three times.

In 2006 I was doing some research on Mattydale and started corresponding with members of the Kirsch family. Velma Kirsch was the wife of Art Kirsch who was the son of Leo Kirsch. I told them the story of the license and they said they would be interested in getting the license back. So I scanned a copy of the old license and sent the original on its way back to New York. In January 2007 Leo Kirsch's old driver's license was back with his family, after traveling around the country with me for over 40 years.