

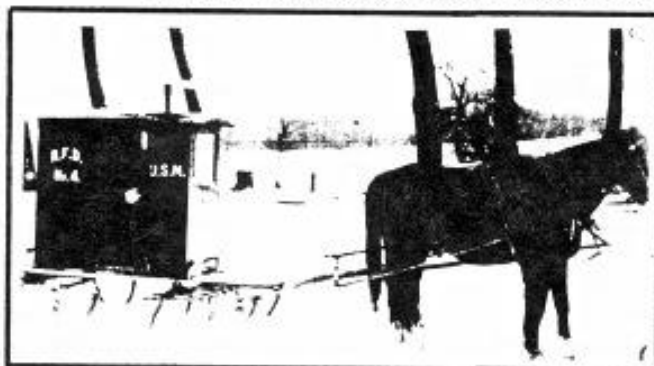
# Bainbridge Township NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2

APRIL 1989

ISSUE 1

## BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP POST OFFICE



In 1818 Justus Bissell, the father of eight, opened a tavern on Chillicothe Road a little south of Bainbridge Solon Road. Bissell was appointed as our first postmaster and the post office formed the nucleus of Bainbridge Center as we know it today.

Some years later Bissell moved his enterprise to the northwest corner of Chillicothe and Bainbridge Solon Roads. The original tavern became a private residence. It is the oldest home in the township and is located directly in front of the Town Hall.

Mail came to Bainbridge once a week from the Chagrin Falls Post Office until three men volunteered to bring it to Bissell's Post Office three times a week. The system was changed when the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad was built through the southwest corner of the township. Mail was sent from Cleveland by rail to the A & GW station at Geauga Lake where it was picked up and brought to Bainbridge. This arrangement ended when rural free delivery was established in 1903. The change must have caused the sale "like hot cakes" of officially approved mailboxes.

After serving the community for eighty-five years the Bainbridge Post Office was discontinued. Six different men had been postmasters during its existence. The mail was delivered for many years to roadside mailboxes by horse and buggy or by horse and cutter in winter. The horses are long gone but the mailboxes remain today.



Top: One of the first Mail Carriers.

Center: Current Photo of the First Post Office, which is presently owned by Mrs. Frank Tucek. The home has changed very little as you can see comparing it to the early photo (left).

## MAINTAINING OUR ROADWAYS



Bainbridge Township, as we have discussed in previous issues, has 66 miles of road. Some of these are original Bainbridge Township roads and have been here from the "beginning". The maintenance of roadways is one of the most costly elements the trustees have to deal with. Several years ago the trustees embarked on an aggressive plan to improve and provide continued maintenance of Bainbridge roads. At that time, some roads had deteriorated and occasionally were nearly impassible since the roads were not made to carry the high volume traffic or the heavy trucks that come with a growing community. The Road Department began by doing patching and the basics to improve these roads enough to be safely passable.

One of the most important aspects of maintaining roads is drainage, it is also one of the most time consuming. Many of the roads in Bainbridge had little or no drainage and the "crown" on the roads had been graded out over the years. Most chuck holes and road deterioration is caused by the lack of drainage. During the winter, if water is not properly drained away from the road, it will freeze and expand then melt during thaws or when road salt is used and cause the roadway to break apart or cave in. Therefore the "crown" is very important. The center of the road should be higher than the edges in order for the water to drain to the ditches. The berms should be graded at an angle and along with the ditches, should be kept free of weeds, soil build up and debris so the water can continue to flow in a natural direction away from the roadway.

Some of the roads (mainly in developments) are paved with asphalt. Others are surfaced with "chip and seal", and yes there still are a few gravel roads in Bainbridge Township! After the base of a road has been somewhat established, the layering of chip and seal continues to build a solid base for eventual paving and keeps water from penetrating it, creating a smooth driving surface. There have been many questions regarding the trustees decision to utilize the chip and seal method of paving. Probably the most important reason the Trustees have chosen this process is economics. The cost to pave with asphalt is approximately \$90,000.00 per mile, while the chip and seal method is approximately \$6,000.00 per mile. Considering the above costs and the number of miles of road in Bainbridge Township, it should be quite obvious why the trustees have chosen this method. Granted, there are some short term drawbacks such as dust and loose stone, but after a few weeks these nuisances disappear and the surface is basically the same as asphalt, and costs the taxpayers considerably less in the long run.

## STILL "FARMING" AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

Bob and Jan Haskins are two of the few remaining full time farmers in Bainbridge Township, and probably the only ones who derive their entire income from their farm. They live on one hundred sixty-three acres located on the street named for their family, Haskins Road.

Their farmhouse has housed their family for over one hundred forty-five years. The farm spreads over two hundred fifty acres, ninety of them rented.

Milk production accounts for most of the work on the farm for Bob, who graduated from Ohio State with a degree in Dairy Science. He has a herd of thirty-five cows and thirty-five calves. He also grows food for all of the cows and his horses, and produces enough hay to be able to sell the excess to other farmers.

The coming of spring begins the maple syrup season. The Haskins family has produced maple syrup every year for one hundred seventy-one years. They are aided in their arduous task by a group of willing volunteers. Bob and Jan also grow crops for resale including sweet corn, apples, pumpkins and hay.

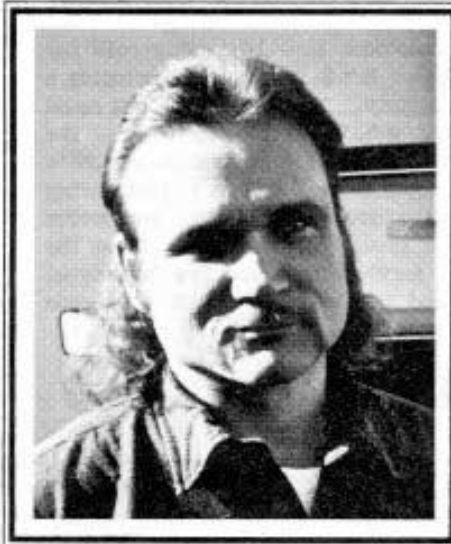
Jan also graduated as a licensed dietician from Ohio State, where she met Bob. She worked at Geauga Hospital, but now works exclusively on the farm. They have three hard-working, academically gifted children. Judy is a college freshman, Paul is a junior at Kenston, and Amy is in the 6th grade at Kenston Middle School.

Bob has volunteered for many community projects. He was a member of the Kenston Citizens Action Committee and was also a supervisor for the Geauga County Soil and Water District. The knowledge and experience he gained there prompted the Bainbridge Trustees to appoint him to the Board of Zoning Appeals. For over six years he has given the citizens of Bainbridge Township and the Board of Zoning Appeals his unique viewpoint and experience.



## BEHIND THE SCENES

Introducing Township Road Superintendent Alan Halko:

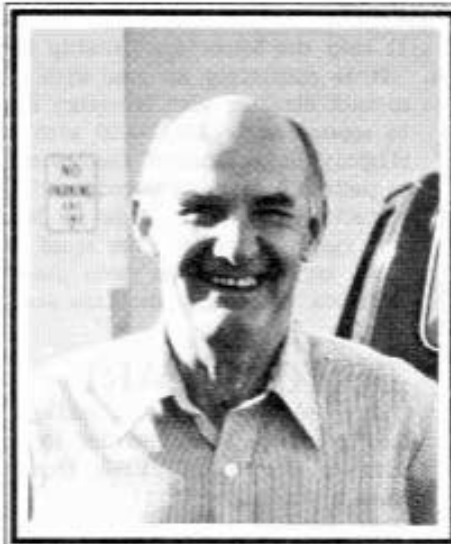


In February of 1979, Alan Halko was hired as a Bainbridge Township Road Department Employee. After serving several years as Acting Highway Superintendent, he was appointed Highway Superintendent by the Township Trustees in 1988. Last fall he moved with his wife Janet and daughters Amy and Molly to the home he built (with a little help from his friends) in Auburn Township. He has been attending classes at Lakeland Community College, working towards an Associate Degree in Engineering Technology. This education has been beneficial to Mr. Halko and the township in the continuing effort to maintain and improve the township roads.



If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.  
- Anne Broadstreet

Introducing Assistant Zoning Inspector Harold "Hodge" Hissam:



In August of 1986, Mr. Hissam was appointed to the position of Bainbridge Township Assistant Zoning Inspector. He and his wife Maggie have lived in Bainbridge Township for 32 years. He was a public school teacher from 1954 until his retirement from Solon City Schools in 1986. He taught in the Kenston School District from 1957 to 1963. Although retired from teaching, he is anything but retired! Along with being Assistant Zoning Inspector with the Township, Hodge keeps very active refereeing local basketball games, is a member of several teaching associations, and was recently presented an honorary-life membership award in the Ohio Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. He also enjoys square dancing and many different sports.

Some articles in this issue contain information from "Bicentennial-Year History of Bainbridge Township in Geauga County, Ohio".

## HISTORY QUIZ



Pictured above is an early church in Bainbridge Township. The church remains today, however, it has been remodeled and added onto many times. Can you find it?

Answer: Bainbridge Community Church, located on Chillicothe Road across from Bainbridge Solon Road.

Answer to last issue's History Quiz:

Photo shown was near the intersection of U.S. 422 and S.R. 306.

## EMPLOYEE NEWS

The following employees were recognized for continued service to Bainbridge Township:

Ronald Robinson for 30 years service with the Road Department and Alan Halko for 10 years service, also with the Road Department.

We welcome to Bainbridge Township the following new employees:

- 2/11 - Matthew Miller hired as part time Town Hall Attendant.
- 2/18 - John Clark hired as part time firefighter/EMI-P.
- 2/18 - Tom Spape hired as part time firefighter/EMI-A.



## COMING ATTRACTION: NEW RESCUE SQUAD

The Bainbridge Township Fire Department had one of the first paramedic equipped squads in Geauga County and in its continuing effort to insure the best possible medical assistance to residents of the township, the Fire Department and the trustees recently purchased a new rescue squad. The new squad will be the first of its kind in the area using a medium duty truck chassis instead of the previously used van type prevalent today. The new squad is expected to be in service longer, as it is powered by a diesel engine instead of a gasoline engine which is more fuel efficient and requires less maintenance.

Arriving late in April, the squad will keep the Bainbridge Township Fire Department in a leadership role for Emergency Medical Service in the area. It is completely equipped with the latest E.M.S. technology including a cellular phone which enables paramedics to talk directly with Emergency Room doctors. The cost of the new squad is approximately \$92,000.00 with another \$15,000.00 for equipment. The slightly larger size of the new squad will enable the paramedics and EMT's to perform lifesaving techniques in the squad as well as carry firefighting protective clothing. This is important since many times the paramedics must respond directly from squad runs to fires, or vice versa. After the squad arrives and has been placed in service, we encourage interested residents to stop by the fire station and take a look at YOUR new rescue squad.



### From the Clerk's Desk

The Township Clerk has asked that all Homeowner's Associations contact her office with updated information concerning current Association officers and their phone numbers. This information is needed in order for the Township to properly notify Homeowner's Associations regarding pertinent information and also to insure the proper response to resident inquiries. In addition, please forward a current copy of your Homeowner's Association Directory to the Clerk's Office.



### Notice



The Fire Department asks that we remind residents of the EPA requirement to get burning permits from the Lake County General Health District. The telephone number to call is 357-2543. Our Fire Department will NOT issue a burning permit without the Lake County Open Burning Permit. For additional information, call the Fire Station at 543-9873.

## DO YOUR PART

This year's Annual Spring Clean-Up Day has been scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 1989 from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

This annual event is held to allow Bainbridge Township residents to dispose of large unwanted items free of charge. Dumpsters are set up at the Township Road Department, 17800 Haskins Road and in two locations in Chagrin Falls Park.

Due to the popularity of this event, there is sometimes a waiting line of 30 minutes or so - please be patient - your turn will come!!

Please make arrangements to bring your unwanted items during the scheduled hours. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING will be accepted before 9:00am or after 4:00pm.

For further information, call the town hall.



## Congratulations!

In January, Patty Bryan was unanimously elected the first woman president in the Bainbridge Volunteer Fire Company's forty five year history. Patty has been a resident of Bainbridge Township all of her life and a member of the Volunteer Fire Company since the age of sixteen. She met her husband Bob through the Fire Company, where he has also been a member for 20 years! They have two active boys, Chris age six and Jeffrey age three. Patty is a trained medical technician and works at the Meridia Suburban Hospital, fittingly in the emergency room.

## COMMODITIES

Statistics for 1878, Bainbridge Township:

Wheat, 217 acres, 3,844 bushels;  
oats, 475 acres, 16,861 bushels;  
corn, 332 acres, 11,530 bushels;  
meadow, 2,338 acres, 2,227 tons;  
potatoes, 67½ acres, 5,791 bushels;  
orchards, 283 acres, 1,249 bushels;  
butter, 96,205 pounds; cheese,  
320,200 pounds; maple sugar, 46,255  
pounds; gallons of syrup, 1,368.

## OUR FACES ARE RED!!

As you are all aware of by now, there was no January Newsletter. WE APOLOGIZE!! We realized during the holiday season that time went by very quickly and we simply procrastinated and enjoyed the holidays instead of doing our job!! We will try harder next year.

**46th Annual  
Bainbridge  
Firefighter's  
Dinner/Dance  
to be held at  
Sea World  
on Saturday  
Nov. 12, 1988**

**Dance to 50's & 60's Music**

**Raffles and Door Prizes!**

Hors d'oeuvres at 6PM

Dinner at 7PM

Dance at 8PM

**For Ticket Information**

**Call 543-9873**

If you are unable to attend  
but would like to make a  
donation to the Bainbridge  
Volunteer Fire Company  
Send it to: P.O. Box 243,  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

## THE FIRE COMPANY NEEDS YOU!

The Bainbridge Township Volunteer Fire Company was created and chartered in 1942 when Bainbridge was a small farming community. In 1950, Bainbridge was the first township in Geauga county to provide rescue service for its residents. The funding for the fire department operation was provided by donations from a door to door campaign and an annual "Fireman's Ball". All of the manpower was volunteer and the equipment was purchased with the donated monies. The firemen were notified of an emergency through a special telephone tie to each of their homes and a siren located at the fire station.

As the community changed into a suburban residential area, the need

for extended service and equipment necessitated the placement of a tax issue on the ballot in 1973 for additional and continuous funding. At that time all of the fire equipment ownership was placed in the hands of the township trustees. The manpower has continued to be provided by the Bainbridge Township Volunteer Fire Company through a contract with the Bainbridge Township Trustees.

In 1987 there were 34 active members of the fire company. These men and women responded to a total of 772 calls of which 220 were fire and 552 were rescue. To provide continuous prompt service from 6:00AM to 6:00PM, two paid personnel are on duty Monday through Friday as the majority of the members are employed outside of the community.

**THE FIRE COMPANY NEEDS  
VOLUNTEERS.** Men and women, sixteen

years of age or older, are encouraged to join and experience the rewards and self satisfaction of serving your community. All training and equipment will be provided by the Fire Company.

For more information please stop at the Bainbridge Fire Station, Monday through Friday between 6AM and 6PM or call 543-9873.

Thank you for your support - we would like you to be a part of our organization!!

## GET PHYSICAL



**Exercise Your Right  
AND VOTE!!!**