



# Bainbridge Township NEWSLETTER

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## BAINBRIDGE HISTORY . . . THE CLARETON MOTEL



The Hilton, Radisson, Sheraton, Holiday Inn and the Clareton Motel. Of course these are all recognizable names. Or are they? The Clareton Motel will be remembered by many long time residents. It was Bainbridge Township's first and only motel.

In the mid 1940's, Anthony M. Bieger (a carpenter from Moreland Hills) owned what was probably the first drive-in restaurant in the Chagrin Valley. The "Bun and Run" was located at the intersection of Rt. 91 and Rt. 422 in Orange. Around 1946 Mr. Bieger found the area of the restaurant was

becoming more developed and had the desire to invest in property to the east, which was less congested. Mr. Bieger found that property in Bainbridge Township, at the southwest corner of Rt. 422 and Savage Road. The Bieger's (Anthony and his son Clare) decided that a motel would be a good investment. The motel, named the Clareton after Clare, was built facing Rt. 422 and contained five rental units and one resident unit. The manager of the motel lived in the resident area which included a living room, kitchen, two bedrooms and bath.

In 1947, Bainbridge resident Gary Martell, then a teenager living in Orange, was employed by the Biegers doing carpentry and worked on the Clareton from start to finish. The experience must have left a lasting impression, since he made carpentry/contracting his vocation. Gary remembers that large corporations had contracts with the motel. Businessmen traveling from Pennsylvania and New York to Chicago, Cleveland and points west, would stay at the Clareton Motel since it was the halfway point between the major

Clareton Motel (continued)

business areas.

Al Bieger, son and brother of the original owners, resided in the residential unit with his young family for approximately two years, ending in 1950. Mr. Bieger is now semi-retired and has lived in Florida for the past ten years. When contacted he was reminded of a couple who would spend most of the summer at the motel. They were from Canada and came to this area mainly to go to Thistledown Racetrack. They would spend most of the time studying racing forms and then would go to the track. When the season wound down, they would move on to the next race track. It is believed this Canadian couple made their living by following the races. He also remembers businessmen, tradesmen and traveling salesmen staying at the motel.

In 1952, the motel was sold and was renamed the Anchor Motel, and had a large anchor as it's trademark. It was a going concern until the early 1960's when The Illuminating Company purchased the property and removed the building due to the high tension wires being directly above it.

Our thanks to Mr. Al Bieger and Mr. Gary Martell for the historical information. Mr. Bieger and his mother, who also lives in Florida, send along greetings and a friendly hello to all their old friends.

Surely the next motel in Bainbridge Township will have more than five units and will be higher than one story, but it won't have nearly as much history.

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Two kinds of gratitude: The sudden kind we feel for what we take, the larger kind we feel for what we give.

--E.A. Robinson, Captain Craig

BEHIND THE SCENES



Linda Zimmerman provides the smiling face and pleasant phone voice that residents usually encounter when dealing with the township offices. As the township receptionist she handles communications for the trustees and zoning departments. She initiates most applications for zoning certificates and assists residents with problems in locating the proper person to provide assistance.

Linda loves the interesting variety of people she meets. She feels that she has one of the best possible jobs because she can spend so much of her time pleasantly conversing with local residents.

The former Linda Hein graduated from Kenston High School and has lived in Bainbridge all of her life. She and her husband have a 7 year old son. Linda spends her free time with animals. She is especially fond of horses, and has spent considerable time showing them.

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WE WOULD LOVE  
TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

Letters to the editor should be mailed to:

NEWSLETTER STAFF  
c/o Bainbridge Township  
17826 Chillicothe Road  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



Andrew Kelly graduated from Baldwin Wallace College with a degree in Criminal Justice and then joined the Bainbridge Police Department. Now 23 years old, he has been with Bainbridge for over 1 year.

Andy is enthusiastic about his job because Bainbridge provides such a wide diversity of activity. He feels that the large area of the township and the range of economic development and population density provide him with a job that is continually challenging and changing. He feels he will be able to retire from the Bainbridge Police Department without ever becoming bored. Andy currently lives in Bainbridge with his wife of one year, Ann. They are planning to purchase a house in the area soon. They enjoy camping, white water rafting, and outdoor sports.

Word Search: SEA WORLD

L S H A M U N A E T  
O Z S L R A E P C C  
F G O T S S L E X A  
I H N Y U U F N A P  
R O J I M R I U B T  
E A U C M L Q G V A  
W H E Q E A Y I T I  
O K S D R W L N B N  
R F Z I M W R F P K  
K W U X L A S E R I  
S M Q N I H P L O D

Flamingo Walrus Pearls Shamu  
Dolphin Fireworks Aquarium Laser  
Penguin Captain Kid Summer

## ROBINSON RETIRES SERVED 31 YEARS

In May of this year, after over 31 years of service, Mr. Ronald Robinson retired from the Bainbridge Township Road Department. There were few paved roads when he was first hired, and there were only three members on the Road Department, Mr. Robinson, Wayne Csisko and Superintendent William Sturgess. In 1958 there was no Pilgrim Village, Stone Ridge, Bainbrook, Rivers Edge, Tanglewood or most of the other subdivisions. Ron remembers that the township road equipment included 2 trucks and a grader. Now the Road Department has 9 full-time employees, a full-time mechanic and has 7 large trucks and 3 smaller trucks as well as several pieces of heavy equipment. Ron has plowed, patched and graded virtually every road in the township, and for three years served as Road Superintendent.

There have been many changes in the past 31 years according to Ron. Most roads are now paved and snow fences are no longer used to prevent snow drifts. The new type of snow plow is much more efficient. It is also no longer necessary to have two man trucks as it was in the past, since all the vehicles are equipped with radios to allow immediate communication with the Township Communication Center in case of Emergency.

Mr. Robinson remembers the 1977-78 blizzard as the worst storm of his career. The Road Department members worked 36 straight hours to attempt to keep the roads clear enough to at least allow emergency vehicle passage. He remembers that the snow on Savage Road was as deep as the large snow plowing truck was tall.

Mr. Robinson will be look-

ing forward to moving to Sanford, Florida with his wife Heather and son Billy, age nine. He also intends to continue road work with the Dade County Highway Department, operating a road grader. **GOOD LUCK RON!** Thank you for your 31 years of service to Bainbridge Township.

(Excerpts from Chagrin Valley Times)



## DRIVE SAFELY DURING ROAD REPAIR SEASON

During the summer months the township will be doing a considerable amount of road repair and maintenance work. This includes patching of roads, paving/sealing and chipping, ditching, roadside mowing, etc. The members of the Road Department ask that residents be alert when road work is being done in the area. Caution and reduced speed should be considered. Remember! Much of the work done by the Road Department employees requires them to walk on or near the road. Please do your part to prevent accidents.

Also, the Township Trustees remind residents that the ditches along the roadways are there to insure proper drainage and are within the township right-of-way. These ditches must remain free of debris and litter to work properly. Piping and filling in of the ditches is strictly prohibited. **Your cooperation is appreciated.**

## EMPLOYEE NEWS

Congratulations to Ptl. James Weber on his promotion to Ptl. Class "A", effective May 19, 1990.

Congratulations to Volunteer Fire Company Members: Brian Phan who was promoted to Lieutenant, William Lovell who was appointed as EMS Coordinator and Tom Spape who graduated from Paramedic School.



## PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

The following employees have attended classes or training in the past few months:

**In March of 1990**, Harold Hissam, Assistant Zoning Inspector attended the 1990 Census Data Users Conference. Highway Superintendent Alan Halko will be attending Lakeland Community College.

**In April of 1990**, Wayne Burge and William Lovell attended Cleveland State University for Hazardous Materials Training. Bill Jakovcic and C.W. Hudson are attending a 36-hour fire-fighting class at Chagrin Falls Fire Department. Fire Department Capt. Gene Martin, Capt. Fred Krueger and Lt. Brian Phan attended a Hazardous Materials Technician Course held at Cleveland State University.

## NEWSLETTER GETS A FACE LIFT

With this issue the NEWSLETTER will have a new look. Since the inception of the NEWSLETTER the staff has had to write, type, retype, cut and paste (sometimes several times) to get to "press". Now we are using the software program Aldus Pagemaker. With this program there is no need to retype, cut or paste, and if there needs to be an editorial adjustment we can do it with the flick of a "mouse"! Hope you all enjoy our new look! **WE DO!!**

## KEEP SEPTEMBER 15TH OPEN ON YOUR CALENDAR!!

This is the date of the all new and long awaited Bainbridge Township VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY'S Clam Bake. New you say? Yes, the Clam Bake replaces the traditional annual Fireman's Ball which has been a long standing tradition in the community. This year we felt it only right to change our approach to this much sought after focal point on the local social calendar, because of the other changes we are making. Changes? Yes, changes! For 48 years the Volunteer Fire Company has provided rescue and fire extinguishment services to the community, we've delivered babies, saved lives, put out fires and rescued a few ducks, but we feel it is equally important to address the needs of those recovering from tragedies, especially the kids. This year all the proceeds from the Clam Bake will go to benefit the Northeast Ohio Aluminum Cans for Burn Children Foundation.

This is the organization you may be familiar with, that collects aluminum cans at many local fire departments and uses the proceeds to provide financial assistance to children who have been victims of burns. Many children recovering from burns must go through a long painful recovery both physically and mentally, sometimes lasting years or in a few cases a life time. The health care and related costs can be staggering and for a family with little or no insurance, disastrous. This organization addresses those needs.

There is something else new this year and it too deals with kids. This year there is no need to hire that babysitter so you can come to the "Bake",

bring the kids along, if they don't like clams, there will be hot dogs and much more! A live band will be playing your favorite tunes from the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's, raffles will be held throughout the night for prizes gathered from area supporters of the Volunteers. (In years past, these have included TV's and other small appliances, tickets to area attractions, free dinners at local restaurants, and other services.) As well as other surprises.

So keep the evening of Saturday, September 15th available. Tickets may be obtained by contacting the Fire Station weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 543-9873 or directly from one of the Volunteers. Ticket prices will be \$17.95 per person. Remember to support your local Volunteer Fire Company -- "WE STILL MAKE HOUSE CALLS!!"

Thank You,  
Fred L. Krueger, Captain

## GEAUGA COUNTY "HELP" LINES

There are several agencies in Geauga County which are there to help you. As a public service the following telephone lines are available to aid in putting you "in touch". The Geauga InfoLine at 834-4165 is available weekdays and can advise the public of the correct Government office or agency needed. The Geauga County COPELINE 564-9555 is a 24 Hour emergency hotline staffed by volunteers. These volunteers will help in any crisis situation such as child abuse, battered women, drug or alcohol abuse, emotional problems etc. Both of these services are there to help.  
INFO LINE 834-4165  
COPELINE 564-9555

## BE SOMEONE SPECIAL! HELP YOUR COMMUNITY

The Bainbridge Township Volunteer Fire Company provides fire and rescue service to all of Bainbridge Township. The Fire Company is looking for men and women, over 16 years of age, who have an interest in the fire and rescue service. The Fire Company is currently recruiting for both regular members who wish to become firefighters and emergency medical technicians, and also for associate members who can provide any type of support service ranging from accounting to photography, vehicle maintenance to food preparation, even to polishing fire trucks. For those who are willing to share their special skills and services, the Fire Company is the place for you!

If you have the desire to do something important for your community, become a volunteer. Your Volunteer Fire Company offers you an opportunity for fellowship, community involvement, and a chance for action and excitement. You will be able to take pride in what you do and receive the satisfaction of helping others in your community.

If you are interested in joining the Fire Company or if you have any questions, please stop by the Fire Station between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. weekdays or call 543-9873.



## POLICE AND FIRE MONTHLY ACTIVITY

The following are excerpts from the Fire Department and Police Department Monthly Reports. Of course we are unable to reproduce the entire reports, therefore, we have chosen statistics which we feel are generally of interest to the majority of residents. The complete reports are available for review at the Town Hall offices.

Police Department Calls/Complaints for March, April and May 1990:

Alarm Drops	168
Assist other Dept.	142
Auto Thefts	2
Burglary/Residence	10
Disturbances/Domestics	59
DWUI	26
Suspicious Persons & Vehicles	64
Thefts	35
Traffic Accidents	101
Traffic Complaints	354
Traffic Citations	460
Trespassing	10
Vandalism	26

Total number of calls/complaints was 1509.

Total Arrests/Charges was 130.

Total number of miles driven through May, 1990 was 119,312.

Fire Department Rescue Report for March, April and May 1990:

Sudden Illness	51
Highway Accidents	14
Accidental Injuries	15
Assaults	3
Mutual Aid	2
No Transportation	11
(squad responded)	

Two rescue squads were used on 4 occasions. Total number of rescue calls was 87.

Fire Department Fire Report for March, April and May 1990:

Structure Fires	7
Rubbish/Brush Fires	5
Hazardous Materials	7
False Fire Alarms	5
Vehicle Fires	1
Mutual Aid	6

Total number of fire calls was 71.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY ESTABLISHED

Bainbridge History . . . Help to Preserve It! This past March, the Bainbridge Township Historical Society was formed. As more and more of Bainbridge is being developed, the importance of preserving it's history is becoming evident. The New Historical Society was formed to do just that. The group will be documenting Township history in many ways. Some members are preparing oral histories, tape recordings of long time residents describing the history they remember. Also, photographs are being taken of homes and barns and genealogies are being developed. Artifacts will also be accepted and displayed for all to see and appreciate.

The members, both young and not so young, are enthusiastically preparing to preserve our history. Resident support and participation is an important part of this preservation process.

Meetings of the Bainbridge Township Historical Society are held the second Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., in the Burns-Lindow Building at the corner of S.R. 306 and Bainbridge-Solon Road. The next scheduled meeting is August 8th.

Membership contributions are: \$10.00 for a Family Membership and \$7.00 for an Individual Membership.

For more information contact Joan Demirjian at 349-0240. The co-chairmen of the Historical Society are Jack and Mildred Haskins MacRitchie.

