

Bainbridge Township Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 4

Bainbridge Township, Ohio, 44023

Winter 2011-2012

2011 Centennial Postponed to 2012



The float above was part of the 1911 Centennial parade.



New S & T Hall Dedicated 1887

Record rainfall for the fall of 2011 delayed the opening of the Heritage Park complex. No date has been set until all dirt work, asphalt, brick and walks are complete. At one point it was impossible to get into the Bissell house. The south driveway had been removed to repair drainage, and continuing rain turned everything into mud with no vehicle access to the building other than by foot across the muddy grounds from the town hall.

The building on the left has an interesting history. According to the History of Geauga County the Sons of Temperance was organized in February, 1875 with 70 Charter members. It later had a membership of over 150 and prompted them to build a larger hall in 1886 and dedicate it in 1887. After 50 years of educational and profitable meetings they gave up their charter in April, 1925. The hall was given to the Board of Education in October, 1925. It was moved from its present location on Chilli-cothe Road, which was in front of where the Heritage Park now stands (note original Bissell house to rear right) and was attached to the back part of the town hall. It is now the meeting room for the trustees. Note the window frames, Don Mitchell

Continued next page

saved two of them and they are mounted on the wall in the meeting room. The frames were removed when the building was re-sided with vinyl siding.

The Sons of Temperance was a brotherhood and mutual group of men who promoted the temperance movement. An organized temperance movement began in Georgia in the late 1820s and, after early difficulties, flourished through the 1930s. The organization had a highly restricted membership. In order to become a member (called a "brother"), a man had to be nominated by an existing brother. Three other brothers would then investigate his life to determine if they thought he was worthy of membership. The Sons of Temperance required a two-dollar initiation fee, an amount equal to a week's wages of an ordinary worker. In addition, the weekly membership was six cents. It had secret rituals, signs, passwords, hand grips and regalia.

The organization also acted as an insurance company and would cover burial cost of members and their wives and a bylaw required fellow

brothers to visit any sick brother at least once a day. Times changed in the early 1900s and membership was dwindling.

The Volstead Act was passed through Congress over President Woodrow Wilson's veto on 28 October 1919 and established the legal definition of intoxicating liquor. Though this act prohibited the sale of alcohol, it did little to enforce the law. The illegal production and distribution of liquor, or bootlegging, became rampant. It is estimated that by 1925 there were between 30,000 and 100,000 'speakeasy' clubs in New York City.



Picture on
Left:

Taken 1911
Bainbridge
Twp.
Centennial
Parade.
Lina Hurd on
white horse,
her son
Howard on the
dark horse and
it is believed to
be the Crago
children on
both horses as
identified by
Dorothy Hurd
Hamilton



The four buses that covered

50s Decade of the Southeast Bus Ride to School by Carol (Taylor) Malz

Virgil Taylor, one of four Bainbridge school bus drivers in the 1950s, started the day taking care of his livestock before hitting the school route. His animals were horses, chickens, ducks, hogs and most urgently, the cows that had to be milked.

When the chores were done, he would get in the yellow bus parked by his horse barn, kick over the engine and let it warm up while he had breakfast. After breakfast when the bus had warmed up a little, dad (Virgil Taylor) would turn south out of the driveway and pick up two of the cafeteria cooks, Belle Benjamin on Haskins Road and Ethel Hoffman on Crackel Road. When the bus came back to the farm, mom (Caroline Taylor) and I boarded the bus. The school lunch program was started in 1939 by my mother and Jewell Follet. They served 100 soup and sandwiches from the basement of the original school house. That school was located where the present fire house now stands.

Virgil then headed north on the gravelly, pot holed Snyder Road. At that time there were few road signs and no house numbers. Number 1 stop was Harlow and Katie Hurd's farm house. The pick-up was Jessie Hurd. In the 50s, this farm still had a nice red barn, a milk house, a windmill and other out buildings including one of the original wooden school houses that is still there today in 2011. The next stop was Mary Morley's. That pick-up was

George and Betty Szoka. The next stop might have been on Charles Road. These kids had to walk to Snyder Road because the bus was too big to turn around at the end of their road. Next was the Caldwell's House. In the early 1900s, this was originally occupied by the Bacon family who were farmers. Don, Roland and Shirley Caldwell joined us on the bus, and then we went on to Raymond and Lucille Seith's house where we picked up Sonia.

Across the road at Mrs. Hagan's, Wilma Hagan got on. The next stop was at Ernie and Stella Chilson's where we picked up Joe, Gerry, Ella and Walter. Then we moved on to the Martin's on the west side of the road where Alberta Martin Taylor joined the bus. Across the road lived Harold and Nelly Sherman where Beverly Sherman boarded the bus. Then at the corner of Taylor-May and Snyder Road was Harlan and Winnie Taylor's where my cousins Barbara, Danny and Tom got on. Continuing down Snyder Road, we'd come to the Feigles farm where we boarded Joe Feigles (In previous years, his older sister rode with us). Moving on to the north was Kluchar's farm house where we picked up Marita, Ralph, Richard and Annetta.

Another version of the South East Bus Trip to School by Roland Caldwell

I rode Virgil Taylor's bus every day with Ditto (Carol Taylor Malz), her mother Carolyn Taylor and Mrs. Hoffman who ran the school kitchen. Seats ran front to back, two sides, each row facing the other. Those who got on first such as Ditto and Ginny Hoffman, always got the front seats nearest the door. This ticked us kids off because we wanted off first when we got to school. Virg was quiet but stern. Me and my brother were almost always still in bed when we heard the bus coming, grabbed some clothes, ran down the steps just before Virg had waited long enough, so we made it on but not without a lecture about getting up earlier. We weren't the only "lateys." The Chilsons were slow and so were the Chirteas on Haskins Road, Mike, George and his little brother because they had to walk all the way up to Taylor-May. Lots of waiting, lots of turning around, then waiting at last on Bainbridge-Auburn, Norman Grover, who we all hated for making us wait every morning. I can't

recall Virg ever putting someone off the bus. We knew better than to act up. He was always watching and told us when he had had enough crap from us. I don't know about the Geauga Lake bus, but it ran down Pettibone. I think down Geauga Lake Drive, then back to school by Cadieux's. His dad was on the school board. I'm not sure we knew what bonding was back then but we sure knew everyone well and all their idiosyncrasies -- who was doing what and who was who. Athletics was everything for me and my closest friends, mainly Ralph and Rich Kluchar; and (Frank) Tucek was like a real father because mine had fled the coop and I didn't have one at home -- tough times those. But I think we are all better today for it. I still keep in touch with those we schooled with, for me 5th through 12th grades, for Annette 1st thru 12th. She was one of the first grads from Kenston. P.S. All the guys in our class that I know about are still married to the same wives.

This is interesting. Here are two versions of the same bus ride to school in the 1950s. I wonder if we had a couple more people telling their stories if we would gain a few more riders? I believe the Gharky boys rode that bus. And how about Barb Taylor, the Crago kids, Grace Skoda, Chuck Collins and the Hurd girls? Also, I thought Carol Hatcher lived on the corner of Snyder and Bainbridge-Auburn Road. This writer did not ride that bus, and there will be more stories coming up from other bus routes. (Bill Takacs)

Northwest Bus Route (Chagrin Bainbridge Rd.)

By Barry Pfouts

On Chagrin Road (then called Bainbridge Rd.) at the Chagrin end there was the Korsokoskys (sp?) Dick is the only one I remember. Boy was he a frightening bully! Then the Remuses, Richard and an older brother Steve and a sister. The whole Klauck family including Nancy, Leo, Maryann, Jessica, Jacky; and I think several younger siblings. Bob Wing and his older sister were next. Then came the Pfouts clan: Dennis, Arden and Barry. Sister Judy didn't start at Bainbridge till much later -- went to St. Joan of Arc until freshman year. On up the road was Paul Seibert. Then for a while until they moved were the Glockenhauers (boy I really don't know how to spell that one) -- Sally and

Sandra -- real nice girls and cute too! Then Ronnie Miner I believe was next. On Catsden Road there were the Chittocks and the Lamberts, and further down and around the corner on Moon Road (yes, now Country Lane) was Carole Cipra and her little sister, Gaye. Further down that road was another big family but the name escapes me now. Meanwhile, back on Chagrin Road, there were the Hunters, Lillian and Sandra (I'm now aware of a sister, but a brother Jim; and I'm sure you know that Lillian is now my sister-in-law) and then there was Linda Hern. The names of the kids who lived diagonally across from the McKibbens were the Rantas (Wayne is the only one I remember). Wayne and Bill Ranta lived on Route 306 across from Lake Lucerne as I recall (maybe they moved?) I believe Jack Harold lived across from the old Hook place where Paul Seibert moved. I'm skipping Country Lane (Moon Road) and Savage Road -- no memory). Down the hill from Savage Road was Frank Novak. Next one I remember is, of course, the beautiful Suzy Hills. I used to clean her outrageously stinky horse barn just so I could hang around! Next was the Cobbledick boy (Dorn) and then Gail Hughes. I thought Gail and her sister Charlotte lived on Taylor-May Road?) Up the hill from her was Jerry Beck and the LaRue family and that's all I remember on Chagrin Rd. As to the Park Allotment, except for Matthew Norman, I'm drawing a complete blank.

THANK YOU TOM EAKIN

It was a pleasure once again to see out old friend, Tom Eakin, a life member who has generously supported our endeavors for many years. Members were very pleased to receive his check for \$200.00 to help with the new museum. This is one of many checks Tom has donated year after year, and we are most grateful. As you know, Tom Eakin prints the Kenston Sports Calendar and always includes space to mention our society.





Construction around Bainbridge Town hall November 4th, 2011



Above—Bissell house looking north at town hall.



Left—Baseball field behind Bissell house under construction fall of 2011 with snow on the ground.

Picture taken November 4th 2011



Construction on driveway and parking area to Bissell House November 2011



Veteran's Memorial at Heritage Park November 2011

Officers 2012

President

Karl Kuckelheim

Vice President

&

Program Chairman

Donna Yuse
543-3199

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Harriet Novy

Treasurer

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Harriet Novy

Meetings of the Bainbridge Township Historical Society are held the second Wednesday of the month (September through June) at 7:30 p.m. in the Burns-Lindow Building at the corner of Route 306 and Bainbridge-Solon Road.

**Bainbridge Township
Historical Society
P.O.Box 23363
Bainbridge Township**



Town Hall—Circa 1914
Now—Burns Lindow Bldg

Everyone enjoys the refreshments at our meetings so remember when the refreshment sheet gets passed around to be sure to pick a convenient date and add your name to the list. It will make the job of our Refreshment Committee much easier. Barb Phan and Lois Little are our chairmen and will save them time calling around to find volunteers. Please call **Barb Phan, 543-7972**, if you can help.

Thank you to the following for hosting the refreshments at meetings.

January—Marge Cook and Elinor Harris

February—Lois Little and Janet Novak

March—Gerry Chittock and Harriet Novy and Barb Phan



Christopher Horn

Lowe's Greenhouse

Hamlet Community

Dale Reed

Notice

Those who have not paid since 2009 will not receive a newsletter. New members who joined after May 2011 will be carried to September 2012.

The Historical Society is now in a position to accept your donated artifacts, both large and small and we'd certainly appreciate any time you can give to work towards this dedication, even an hour or two. If you do not wish to donate an item, please share it with the community by lending it to the museum. Photos can be scanned into the computer and returned.



Please contact our curator
David Edmondson at david.edmondson204@gmail.com
or 440-544-5002 Your contribution will be appreciated.

Just a Reminder—Annual dues are payable in September but no later than December—\$10.00 for singles, \$20.00 for family. Life Membership—\$100.00. Make checks payable to *Bainbridge Township Historical Society*. Pay Marge Cook at the meeting or mail to her at 116 Leaview Ln., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022.

Bainbridge Township Historical Society Newsletter
P.O.Box 23363
Bainbridge Twp.OH 44023-0363

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

2011—2012 Meeting Schedule

March 14th, 2012— Don Mills— Historical portrayal of Ulysses Grant during the civil War.

April 11th, 2012— Carol Grubb— Quilts used as a secret code of the underground railroad.

May 9th, 2012— Shirley Weinrick describes re-enactment of wagon trains across the U.S.A. during the Centennial of the Oregon Trail in 1993.

Tuesday—June 12th, 2012— June picnic to be held at old historic English/Hesse home

The historic society is invited to the home of Chuck and Barbara Hesse for its June picnic, now scheduled for Tuesday, June 12 at 6:30 p.m. The change from Wednesday to Tuesday was made to accommodate the Hesse's schedule. Members are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert to share.

Because their home at 7777 Bainbridge Road has limited parking, Chuck is suggesting that drivers, other than those who truly need to park close to the house in the driveway, park on Northwood Lakes Drive, the street located just west of their home. Parking instructions will be provided at the site.

Some members may recall that area property had once been owned by Justus Bissell and a barn had been built around 1870. After World II, Charles and Shirley English purchased the barn and began converting it to a home. The house remained the English family home until 1988. Chuck and Barbara took ownership in 1997.

Plan to attend our picnic and gather more history about one of Bainbridge's unique structures.

Check out our web page www.bainbridgemory.org