

Bainbridge Township Historical Society Newsletter

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Bainbridge Township, Ohio, 44023

Summer 2012

Bainbridge Historical Society Has New President



Chuck Hesse (left) & Karl Kuckelheim
receiving plaque

At the annual June picnic of the historic society held at the home of Chuck and Barbara Hesse, our newly-elected president presented a plaque to honor outgoing president Karl Kuckelheim who served as president for 4 years and was instrumental in preserving the Bissell-Tucek House and having it moved to the south end of Heritage Park on Rt. 306. **Thank you, Karl!**

History in the Making



Crane hoisting turbine on tower
At Kenston High School

In this Issue

History in the Making—Wind Turbine—	2
School Bus Routes in the 1940s & 50s—	3
Bill Green Death Notice—	4
Welcome New Members—	5
Programs—	Back Cover



History in the Making

By Bill Takacs

Heading home one day in June, 2012, I passed the old Kenston High school and saw an enormous crane in the parking lot. I stopped to check it out and found they were going to install the wind tower. I went home and retrieved my camera, got many of the details on the installation and took many pictures.

I found the tower to be 213 feet high. The workers looked like midgets when they were lowering the turbine on top of the tower. The blades are 85' long with a rotor diameter of 177 feet. Total height of the installation with the rotor installed will

be just over 300 feet. The generation starts when the wind reaches approximately 7 mph and reaches maximum generation (750 kW) at 26 mph. Rotor speed is 25.3 rpm. The blades are made of fiberglass reinforced polyester, and are variable pitch. They will shut down in extreme winds. The turbine is Manufactured by Aeronautica, model 54-750, a USA company.

This Turbine produces approximately 1.3 million Kilowatt Hours per year or approximately 70% of the High School's annual electric consumption. Kenston was one of 3 schools in the state awarded grants of over 1 million dollars for the unit. The location on top of the hill was an ideal spot.

The hill on the north side of Washington Street was known as McConoughy Hill. Elevation there is 1330 feet. A survey tower was installed on the top of that hill in 1953 to do a Geodetic survey of the Western Reserve. There is a house on that site now. There was also a survey tower on Route 43 just south of the Aurora line on the west side of the road. A housing development now occupies that site. I don't know where the other towers were in the area. Data from 1953 Geodetic survey map.



Turbine Blades installed
August 28, 2012



BTHS Open House - A Grand Success

More than 150 residents and friends of our historical society toured the Bissell-Tucek House and our new museum on August 26. Three rooms on the ground floor and two upstairs have been decorated with antique artifacts and memorabilia of "old Bainbridge." Everyone seemed impressed with the care taken to make the house reflect an earlier era. We had docents with appropriate attire in each room to explain the displays. Guests also looked for either their names or those of loved ones in inscribed bricks next to the adjacent sidewalks. About 270 bricks have been bought. They can still be purchased. According to the ladies, they plan an enchanted Victorian Christmas display at the house for December. Stay tuned.

Stay tuned.



School Bus Routes in the 1940s and 50s
Northern part of Bainbridge School district
By Bill Takacs

I guess I am the lucky one to tell the story of the north school bus route. Other than the Pelle boys on Savage road, our bus picked up every one north of Bainbridge and Auburn road. The only roads we traveled on that were not dirt was State route 306 & State route 422 (East Washington street). Cassius Harris was our first bus driver followed by Frank Tucek. Cal Lomner was a substitute when Frank was off.

I was one of the first on and last off the bus depending on the school year. Growing up on the north end of Snyder road and being an only child at the Takacs house for 12 years. I lived on a small farm. My dad worked out and my mother was the farmer. My dad was usually off to work at 6 a.m. and I was usually fending for myself while my mother was doing chores in the morning.

I was a little hesitant getting on the school bus the first time being an only child and having no neighbor kids to play with and relate to about bus riding and being away from home the first time. I was assured by the bus driver that there were people on the bus to look out for me. The went north and picked up Frank and Helen Kocisko before I was picked up. Traveling neighbors and older kids gave me a little more confidence.

In later years the bus picked up the Beyer kids at Beyer Craft Toyland. ***(info) Paul Beyer started the business by building hand crafted rocking horses and other wooden toys. As time went by and business grew he added other name brand toys. It was interesting to see a big tree growing in the center of the toy shop.***

The bus headed east on Route 422 and turned around at Tall Timbers, a restaurant just before the Auburn township line and headed back west toward Snyder Road and picked up Pat Marsey. Next pickup was the Olson boys, Roger and Irving. ***They told us there house was used as a under ground railroad stop with hiding places in the basement.*** Next the bus made a right turn into Snyder Road and picked up Yolanda Papp, Beth and Roselyn Holocker. Next stop was Thelma and Leslie Phillips. (They moved into the Nelson house in the 1940's). Next it was down to the Kocisko house to pick up Helen, Ed and George Kocisko and then down to the Hauser tribe, 15 in number (not all at the same time). The bus turned around at my Grandfather's house at the end of the road at the time and then headed south to pick me (Bill Takacs) and then right turn on Stafford road to Haskins road and another right north to pick up the John and Martha Nadsady and turn around and head south again to the Haskins family south of Route 422.

(info) Haskins and Snyder road's were through roads to Bell street. I had traveled on both roads when younger and they were passable. No one lived on either road on the South Russell end and they quit maintaining the road . Snyder ended up being washed out with five foot ditches down the center of the road. It was not until an airplane from Chagrin Falls airport in the late 60's hit a power line and crashed and burned in the yard on the north side of Bell street and left residents without rescue and emergency equipment that South Russell village decided to reopen Snyder Road.

We picked up Harry, Mildred, Marjorie and Elinor Haskins on that pick up. Now we headed north and a left turn on route 422 and picked up Robert and Ronald McDonald. Later years the Reed family moved into the McDonald House and we picked up the cute little Judy Reed and later her sister. Next west it was to the Bibbo house to pick up Angelo and Clementine. ***(It was also know as Shady Hollow at one time. I remember getting ice cream cones at their store).***

Continuing west we picked up Harry Bolander and then Claude & Leda Minadeo. Continuing on west to

State route 306 and heading north to Lowes greenhouse. At that stop we picked up Ruth and Pat Lowe and Tom Easton. We then headed south on route 306 and picked up Mitzie Oster and then a right turn on State route 422 west to pick up Mary Ann Pasko and Jack Prandi. *(Info) I thought Prandi's family had some connection with Harmony Ranch park that flourished in the mid 50s until the roof collapsed from snow one winter and they did not rebuild and not having a roof was not good on a dance floor and attendance dropped and that was their demise. Paul Seibert and I worked there in our teens. Later a drive in theater was build on the ground and that lasted for many years until the drive in theater craze ended. No more loading up the family in the car to watch a movie.*

After the Pasko – Prandi stop we headed west to pick up Mona Whipple and Garrit Lansing and then we headed back east to pick up Nicolas Robertus and then Danny Reed. Danny was a real bully and picked on me. I don't know what happened to him but he did not ride the bus very long. Perhaps he quit school? The next stop was at the corner of route 306 and heading south. We picked up Joanne and Pat Seliga plus Jim Jakab there. Headed on south we then picked up Marilyn Ridge and Arthur Canfield and off to our next big stop, Lake Lucerne. Our biggest pickup – Barbara Farrow, Debbie and Jean Blumer, Sue Eichleberger, Bill Hamilton, Jean & Barbara Holiday, Beth Adams and Richard Cowdrey. Down the hill a little we picked up Alice Murray and at the bottom of the hill we picked up Sandy Jack, Bill, Wayne and Helen Ranta, Ray and Dave Ferwerda plus a few more I may have missed. Then it was up the hill with a full load and you wondered if the bus would even make it. At the top we stopped in later years for Keith Burns and then off to the school. Wow, what a ride? On the way home we reversed the route and I on Snyder Road was one of the last.

Over the years of riding the bus many things happened along the way to make it interesting. Getting stuck in mud and sliding in ditches, bus not making it because of impassable muddy roads. I remember the nasty snow storm in November 1950 I believe our road was closed for almost a week and the bus could not get down our road and also when the spring thaw came the roads were impassable at times and we were to walk to meet the bus – haw haw. Frank Tucek was a great driver. Sometimes

Sue or David Tucek would ride the bus with us in the mornings.

I may have missed a few names of people on the route and I am sorry for that. Remember not all these people traveled the bus at one time. This is over a time period of 12 years. In my senior year I did not ride the bus that much and there were many more people moved into the area in the early 50s. When I was in first grade, Ruth Lowe was a senior so I only had her on the bus that year. The only developments Bainbridge had in the 40s – 50s were Lake Lucerne and the Park Allotment.

Bill Green, Bainbridge Historical Society member, dies at 95.



Bill died June 14, 2012 at Burton Health Care in Burton, Ohio. Bill was born in Chagrin Falls but spent most of his life in Bainbridge. He lived in the house that Jonathan Ely built in 1854 on Bainbridge/Auburn Road with his wife Norma who preceded him in death.

ceded him in death.

Bill was a great help when I did the story of U.S. Mail and our local postal service a couple years ago. Bill's sister, Jessie (Green) Davidson, was married to Joe Davidson, postmaster at the Chagrin Falls post office. Their father Bill Green delivered mail in the Chagrin/Bainbridge area. Young Bill, often rode with his dad on the mail route. He said his dad use sled runners on his mail coach in the winter and put wheels on for summer use or light snow.

Bill Green was a fuel driver for the Sohio bulk station in the mid fifties. The bulk station was where the present post office in Chagrin Falls is located. Bill would deliver home heating oil or gasoline to the farms in the area. Bill had a great personality and got along well with his fellow workers. At his funeral, one of his Sohio buddies, Bill Sedivy, came to pay his respects.

Officers 2012

President

Charles Hesse

**Vice President
&**

Program Chairman

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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
17870 Chillcothe Road
Bainbridge Township
OH 44023-0363
Or PO box 23363**



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.

March—Harriet Novy and Gerry Chittock

April—Elaine Witmer and Barbara Hess

May—Marilyn Vance and Gloria Triplett

June—Barb & Chuck Hesse for Hosting the June Picnic at their home

Welcome New Members

Kevin & Laurie Burns	George Ihnatko
Wilma Clifford	Benjamin King
Gail & Olney Dekker	Judith Koltas
Laura Domiano	Pete & Beth Krause
Richard & Susan Doughman	Jerry & Mary Moreno
Ted & Catherine Fabyan	Anne Randall
Mitsy Furlong	Mary Jane Shaffer
Dan & Nancy Gallik	Carl Spitznagel
Eugene Griewisch	Jeff & Susan Wright
Nancy Grossman	Caroline Young
Robert Hodder	Stanley Jaros

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 440-384-7437 Your contribution will be appreciated.

We're always looking for ideas for this newsletter. If you have a story to share, please let me know. If you don't want to write it, call me @ 543-4991 and we'll try to get it on tape or take notes. We really need to hear from you. *Bill Takacs*

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

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DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

2012 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 12th, 2012– David Zeih -**The British Are Here!**

David Zeih, a retired history teacher with 28 years teaching experience, is private his Majesty's 64th Regiment of Foot as he appears in costume and recreates the days of the Revolutionary War as a private in King George's regiment. He recreates the life and times of a British soldier who served in the 1770s. Outfitted with exact reproductions of the clothing, arms, and equipment of an original Redcoat, he presents a close-up view of the struggle for independence.

As Mr. Zeih describes it: "Today's 64th Foot is a living copy of a British regiment that actually fought throughout the entire Revolutionary War. Sent to Boston in 1768 to help keep the peace, the original 64th was engaged in almost every major battle on the East Coast without ever tasting defeat or losing its battleflags. The recreated 64th Regiment was formed in 1974 and Private Zeih joined the following year. He participated in the Bicentennial re-enactment battles at Princeton and Camden and the surrender at Yorktown. He and his regiment have appeared in magazines, newspapers, on TV, and in 1977, were part of the honor guard for Britain's Prince Charles during his state visit to Cleveland.

The hour-long program will include an explanation of the uniform worn, life in the British army, a musket demonstration, and the origins of some modern day phrases. Please join us for the exciting and informative presentation.



Check out our web page www.bainbridgemory.org