

Bainbridge Township Historical Society Newsletter

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Bainbridge Township, Ohio, 44023

Winter/Spring 2009

More Historical District Disappearance



Harvery Hollister house before tear down fall of 2008

There is one less house in the Bainbridge Historical district. The Harvey Hollister house that was listed in the last issue of the newsletter is now gone. The wrecking crew did the job a few months ago. The interior of the house was in such poor shape that it was not safe for fire practice. The floors in the house were rotted because of a leaking roof.

The house had an interesting history. Joseph Battell purchased 52 acres in 1814 from the Connecticut Land Company and owned the property until 1847 when he sold 17 acres to William Harpham (Lot 19 Tract II Vol. 38P. 551). William Harpham sold the land to Harvey Hollister in 1848 and he built a house on the property and lived there until 1851 when he sold the property to Mead Holmes. Holmes sold off 12 acres to Leveritt Barney in 1853

and from 1853 to 1906 the land had eleven owners.

Charles and Eliza Sayle became the owners of the property in 1906 and lived there until they sold to Florence Hill in 1945. Cleon & Florence Hill Messenger sold to Pilgrim Land Company in 1961. Florence Hill was the mother of Ruth Hill who married Cliff Rentz. Cliff Rentz was the chief mechanic for Horns Flying School where Donald Hein was a manager/instructor. Cliff and Ruth Rentz ended up living in the house and Cliff used the barn as a workshop for his airplane hobby of collecting World War II trainer planes and selling them. Their airstrip appeared as Bainbridge Airport on the sectional map for pilots. The backyard airport closed when it was declared a hazard after Jim Horn took off against Cliff's rules and buzzed the school while in session. Paul Gardiner, superintendent at the time didn't think that was a healthy environment for his students.

Charles & Eliza Sayle were Eunice Eames Hein's grandparents. She lived in the house with her parents, Edwin and Gladys Eames. She remembers when Chillicothe road was still a dirt road with little traffic and walking to the Bainbridge store for a loaf of bread. Eunice married Donald Hein who was later the manager of Horns Flying School.

The house was sold to Mildred Gunawardena in 1994 and later transferred to her daughter Nelunika Rajapakse who had the house torn down.



Nelunika, also known as NaLoon, is head of the Solon Montessori School that is across the street. NaLoon hopes to use the property in conjunction with her school some day.

The Bainbridge Historical Society would like to thank Nelunika for the donation of the Harvey Hollister Century Home plaque from the house to the society.

Bainbridge Gas Stations

Have you ever thought about the number of gas stations that the township had over the years? I tried to list all the stations we had back in the early 40's and 50's and I believe over the years we lost a few and gained some new ones in different areas. Maybe our readers can help me out if I missed a few?

Geauga Lake area had a Esso station run by Carl Knopf and son. Later Joe Bozik built a new station with Sohio products. Both stations were located across from the Geauga Lake Park.

Center of Bainbridge had two stations. One was a little station that only operated a couple years that used to sat in front of the Commons. Stories place

its operation in the early to mid 30's. It sold sandwiches and tobacco. The other gas pumps were at the Bainbridge store at Chillicothe and Bainbridge Solon Road.

McFarlands Corners had four stations at one time. First station was operated by Wallace Canfield that was next to Seliga's Tavern. He sold Esso products. Next was the Sunoco station across the street on the NW corner. It was operated by Anton Jerkovitz and family. It was in operation from 1937 to 1947. They sold out to Geoge Heath. Wally Canfield sold out to Kenneth & Gene Tylicki and a Shell station was built to replace it. Ken and his brother Gene did mechanical work at that station. Frank and Ray Slavik built a Sohio station on the NE corner of Chillicothe and Washington Street. They took over the Standard oil franchise that Canfield had. On the SE corner when Lowe's Swing Inn sold out and a Phillips 66 station was built. The property later was bought out for a shopping center.

The other stations that operated for a short time were at Sleepy Hollow just east of Chillicothe on Washington Street and was operated by the Bibbo Family. They sold sandwiches and ice cream. There was also Chagrin Oil and Gas Company that had pumps on South Main Street opposite Cedar Street across from the Roller Rink.

Wonder if anyone else remembers any others?



Bill Takacs in street rod with Frank Slavik looking on at Slavik's Sohio Service. Garage in back of Charlie's Bar in background.

Officers 2009

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&
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Editor & Publisher
Bill Takacs

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.



Town Hall—Circa 1914
Now—Burns Lindow Bldg



Gas station just south of Bainbridge Solon Road on Chilli-cothe Road and in front of where the Commons is now. Records show the Drake family owned the property from 1919 to 1943 when it was sold to Joseph Jerkovitz



Picture of Bainbridge store with Sohio sign and gas pumps. Picture from Vern Huff collection circa 1918.

**Please—We are looking for more pictures and articles on Bainbridge Township History.
Bill Takacs— 440-543-4991**

** **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
Marjorie Cook
116 Leaview Lane
Chgrin Falls, Ohio 44022

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

2009 Meeting Schedule

January 14th, 2009: Gilbert Tru, Battle of Lake Erie & War of 1812

February 11th, 2009: Meet Midge, A 7-Pound Police Dog! Sheriff Dan McClelland of Geauga County will speak on Midge and her training as a so-called "single purpose" dog, specializing in sniffing out pot.

March 11th, 2009: Cleveland, One time car capital of USA. Bill Takacs will be Speaker

April 8th, 2009: ?

May 13th, 2009: ?

June 10th, 2009: Our annual picnic. Time and place to be announced.

Check out our web page www.bainbridgemory.org