

Southwest PIONEER

JUNE 2018

Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

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grovecityohhistory.org

Olympic Torch Event Draws Largest Crowd

It's been 22 years since Olympic torch runners jogged along Broadway into Grove City on June 17, 1996. It was also the largest crowd ever to line SR 62 in the Town Center for any previous event.

Thousands of spectators, in places 12 or more people deep, waited for the torch to pass along a narrow path about the width of a recreational vehicle.

Grove City was also designated as one of the stops along the route that allowed a brief program before continuing to Columbus.

"This was a very special event in Grove City's history," Mayor Cheryl Grossman told council members. She added that the city was honored to have had the Olympic torch go through and stop in Grove City.

Much of the Grove City event was planned by Tina Badurina, of the Grove City Area Visitors and Convention Bureau, Diane Hammerill of the Grove City Town Center Merchants, and Council President Mike Milovich, according to Mayor Cheryl Grossman. Janet Shailer, editor of the Southwest Messenger, was also recognized.

Council members at the time included Milovich, Todd Hurley, Steve Bennett, Jeff Warner and Bruce Farris.

Heritage Day June 2

Heritage Day will be held Saturday, June 2 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Century Village. The event will include numerous special exhibits and demonstrations, skits and music. See page 6 for more information.



Large crowd gathers on Broadway at Park Street for arrival of the 1996 Olympic Torch.

Memories of the Past

Mushrooms Grown On Franklin Street

By Timothy H. Eyerman

I remember the mushroom plant that was located at the southwest end of Franklin Street (later to be 3M glue factory).

It was run by the Donnelly (not sure of the spelling) family.

The mushrooms were grown on elevated tables about three feet high from the floor. The building was made of cement block with a concrete floor and no windows.

It was dark and cool inside the building with a few single light bulbs hanging from the ceiling for light. Horse manure was hauled there from the race track.

I remember the parade of wagon loads of horse manure going down Franklin Street to the mushroom plant during the race meets.

This was being both organic and recyclable before it became popular. I wonder if the FDA would approve of this today.

Continued on Page 2

Mushrooms Grown

From Page 1

I also remember one of the coal yards that was run by the Hoffman brothers, Oscar and Grant Hoffman. It was located on Grove City Road just past the railroad tracks. There were coal bins right next to the tracks. They would deliver coal to the residents. I think they also sold feed.

The shoe cobbler was located on Broadway across from the Norris Funeral Home. He was Italian and quite animated talking while using his hands and very excitable. I think his first name was Bruno. My brother, Jerry, worked for him for a brief time when he was in high school.

The blacksmith shop was still there when I was a child. It was on Grove City Road near Broadway on the North side of the street. I remember the building being covered with soot from the smoke on the inside.

There was a bellows to accentuate the heat from the fire to bring the metal into a semi-molten state so the blacksmith could reshape it by hammering it on an anvil.

He would douse it in water after shaping it to cool it off. He wore a heavy apron and gloves for protection. It was amazing to me how he could remake amorphic pieces of metal into something useful. This was recycling before it was popular but not OSHA approved.

The Year Was 1917

Did you know that just over 100 years ago only 14 percent of homes had a bathtub and only eight percent had a telephone?

The five leading causes of death, in order, were pneumonia, tuberculosis, diarrhea, heart disease and stroke. That's a big switch from today.

Shopping was expensive too. Can you believe coffee at 15 cents a pound and sugar four cents a pound. That occurred at a time when the average wage in the United States was 22 cents an hour.

Most women washed their hair once monthly and when they did they often used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Twenty percent of the population couldn't read or write. Marijuana, heroin and morphine were over the counter medicines available at local stores.



Trego's Ice Cream Bar



Shop Located on Broadway

Ice Cream Bar, Deli Popular Destination

One of the popular downtown destinations in the 1940s was Trego's Ice Cream Bar and Delicatessen.

The shop, that featured Sealtest Ice Cream, was between the post office on the left and the Ben Franklin 5 & 10 Cent Store on the right.



Trego's was known for its fountain service, sodas and lunch menu. The lunch counter would seat about 12 people on bar stools.

The Ben Franklin store opened in 1938 and at the time, it was the largest store in Grove City.

The store was a remodeled storefront that once housed the Rolla White Dry Goods Store.

With the post office and the dime store next door, the ice cream and deli shop enjoyed a brisk business.

Hospitals Served Central Ohio Since 1800

Two new hospitals will be serving patients in the Grove City area within a short period of time. One will be operated by Mount Carmel Health System and the other by Ohio Health.



Mount Carmel Grove City will be a full service hospital with over 200 beds. All patient rooms in the seven story facility will be private. It is slated to open this fall just north of Rt. 665 at I-71. Mount Carmel was first known as Hawkes Hospital of Mount Carmel. It opened its doors to patients in 1886 and in 1903 it opened a school of nursing. Today, Hawkes is known as Mount Carmel West.

Ohio Health Grove City Methodist Hospital will open a 26-bed surgical hospital



and emergency department on Stringtown Road near I-71. The new hospital will also open this fall. The history of Ohio Health begins with what we know today as Riverside Methodist.

It was first known as Protestant Hospital in 1898, then later White Cross Hospital in 1922. The hospital became known as Riverside Methodist Hospital in 1970.

Other Area Hospitals

With two new local hospitals opening, Society members have an opportunity to look back at medical facilities in the years past.

St. Francis Hospital and Starling Medical College were built in 1847 on the present site of Grant Medical Center. That hospital was the first in the United States to become both a teaching facility and one that cared for patients. It was torn down in 1957.



St. Francis Hospital, 1847



St. Anthony Hospital, 1890

St. Anthony Hospital, before building its circular tower on the east side of Columbus, served a variety of patients, including many from Grove City. It's now part of Wexner Medical Center.

The original building, which opened in 1890, had accommodations for 200 patients. Additions were made to the facility that eventually increased capacity to 270.

Grant Hospital opened in 1900 as a private facility to serve the growing middle class. In 1904, Grant, with its 303 beds, was considered the largest private hospital in the world.

Other Early Hospitals

The Starling-Loving University Hospital opened in 1917 and would eventually become known as the Ohio State University Hospital in 1950s.

Children's Hospital opened in 1891 through the organizational efforts of the King's Daughters of St. Paul Episcopal Church. The church recognized a need for a Columbus facility. It moved to new facilities in 1924. Today it is known as Nationwide Children's Hospital.



Did Grove City Have A Second Mail Pouch Sign?

In the June 2017 issue of *The Society Monthly* newsletter, this picture appeared after the discovery of an old negative.

After close examination, it's apparent there was a second Mail Pouch tobacco painting on an early building in Grove City.

The image appears to have been taken at the old gasoline station located at the southwest corner of Grove City Road and Broadway, where the gazebo is located today.

With that in mind and from where the picture was taken, the building visible in the background is to the north.

It would seem to indicate that the old downtown had a second Mail Pouch sign on a building other than Enders, a pub we know today as Plank's.

When the picture was first published, we asked if anyone recognized the two men and there was no response. With that in mind, anyone care to comment on the building in question.

A building not very visible has a sign out front that appears to read "Daily Market".



If you have ideas or though regarding this scene, email grovecityhistory@gmail.com.

Shared Memories

By Barbara (Weygandt) Burkhart

Thanks to you, Jim, and to my good friend and classmate of 1947 (Jackson Township High School) Marian Goldhart Breckenridge for passing along my address to you and the Society.

I lived in Grove City for 60 years, watched it grow from a small village to the city it has now become.

My parents were Elvin and Sidney (Haughn) Weygandt. Our family home was on East Park Street, just a block east of the Park Street Elementary School (now torn down) and a short walk to downtown Grove City. I believe a member of the Widner family lives there now. I am now 88 years old, and widowed, living in Florida.

I remember so well, when I was a young girl, walking downtown to the grocery and asking for 50 cents worth of ground round for our dinner.

We didn't have a refrigerator or freezer in those days and had to buy meat for just a day or two that could be kept cool in our icebox.

The iceman came to our homes once or twice a week and we had a card that we hung in our front window which showed the iceman how much ice we needed, 25, 50 or 75 pounds. We left the back door unlocked and he brought the ice in, carrying it on his shoulder, and put it in the icebox if we weren't home.

It was always fun walking downtown, passing the school yard which had some swings and other play equipment. Often the neighborhood boys would be having a softball or baseball game. The old Park Street School yard was a popular playground and just about the only one in Grove City at that time.

Do you have a story to share? Send it to grovecityhistory@gmail.com or mail to SWFCHS, 3378-B Park St., Grove City, OH 43123.

Hot Rod Club Organized

Grove City once had a hot rod club in the 1950s. Two of the members were Dick Shover and Larry Finley. Larry's father was a mechanic and helped form the club. At the time, Larry drove a big Lincoln that his friends called a "tank" and Larry was nicknamed "Scareum", according to Shover.

New Features Now On Society Web Site

The Society's website now has several new features that will be of interest to members.

For those who have not read the collection of stories in *Reflections* and *Reflections II*, be aware they are now available on line.

Mark Schmidbauer is in the process of transcribing the two books to a digital format. Marilyn Gibboney, a former president of the Society, was largely responsible for collecting and writing many of the historical accounts.

Videos Easily Viewed

It is now easier to view videos on the site. All have been collected to a new video category under the Media heading.

Videos include the move of the train depot to Century Village, the 2017 Christmas tour, Heritage Day 2017, and the ever popular Beulah Park video.

Plans For Audio Stories

Society members can now hear two audio stories on the web site. One will feature a story on Hugh Grant, Sr., and the other on William F. Breck, founder of Grove City.

The stories are based on both fact and legend. They will be an interesting twist on how things were or might have been.

A professional storyteller reads a script approved by the Website Committee. Three other audio stories are planned this year.

New Web Sponsor

Bill Sempf and his company, POINT, are new web site sponsors. Bill's business is helping people write more secure software.

Tour Requests

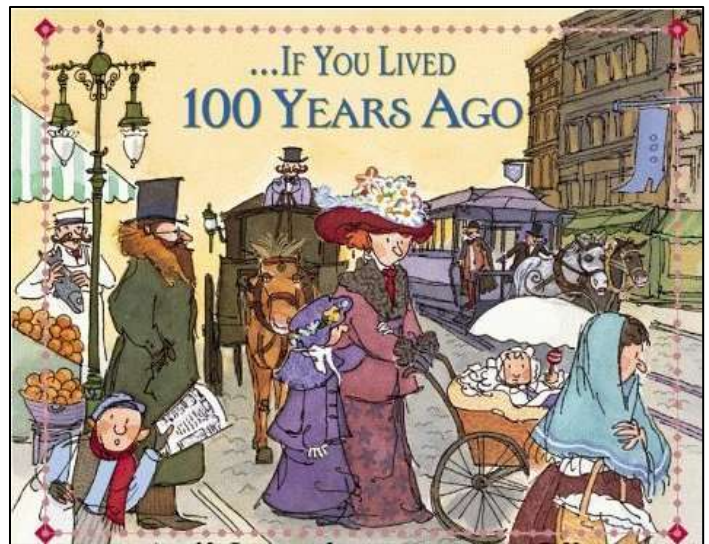
Interested in a historic tour for a church or social group? If interested go to www.grovecityohhistory.org and complete a tour request form. The online forms are available under the category, Contact.

Group tours are available for Century Village, Grove City Museum, Grant Homestead and Town Center Walking Tours.

Back Issues of Newsletters

Back issues of the Pioneer quarterly newsletter are available online.

**HERITAGE DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
CALL JOHN HINES OR BEV BABBERT**



One hundred years ago this month, the United States conducted the first aerial bombing raid over France.

Other events include:

- ❖ First flight between the United States and the Hawaiian Islands.
- ❖ A New Jersey man attempted to avoid the draft claiming he wasn't a human being.
- ❖ Germany's Red Baron was shot down.
- ❖ The mayor of Michigan City, IN., was arrested for being a German.
- ❖ Two men in Frontier, WY, were tarred and feathered for refusing to purchase Liberty Bonds.
- ❖ First U. S. Air Mail route was flown.
- ❖ Charlie Chaplin's film, *A Dog's Life*, was released.
- ❖ First Lady Betty Ford was born.
- ❖ Lenin threatens to declare war on Japan.
- ❖ The first day of daylight savings is claimed a success by U. S. businesses.

Young Historians Meet June 9 At Museum

The Young Historians of Southwest Franklin County, under the leadership of Larry Finley, will meet Saturday, June 9 at 1 p.m.

Society members are encouraged let friends and relatives know about this new organization for young people 10-15 years old.

The May meeting discussed how to best promote the organization, discussed having a float in the Arts in the Alley Parade and involvement in Heritage Day on June 2 at Century Village.

More information is available by sending an email to grovecityhistory@gmail.com.

Heritage Day Is June 2 At Century Village Park

The annual Heritage Day festivities will be held Saturday, June 2 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Century Village, according to John Hines.

This is a completely free event that has something for all ages. Society members are encouraged to invite friends, neighbors and relatives to experience local history that day.

Historical societies from Franklinton, Hilltop, Pickaway and Madison counties will also participate. Other groups include the John Hoover Branch of the DAR, Rose Frazier from the Gardens at Gantz Farm will demonstrate lace bobbing; Tom Wilhelm will exhibit his leatherwork; a military demonstration and an exhibit from the Trapper's Museum.

Children's games will be sponsored by the Boy Scouts and a group of Civil War re-enactors will also attend. Blue Grass music will be performed throughout the day and the Little Theatre Off Broadway will perform various skits.

The herb garden is being transitioned from into a vegetable and herb garden this year and it will be bordered by a fence.

The Jones log barn is expected to be completed and the recently move rail road depot is getting a fresh coat of paint close to the original colors used by the Columbus Cincinnati and Midland Rail Road Company.

China Bell's New Placemat

Gary Shyu, of China Bell, has just printed 10,000 copies of a new historical placemat completed in cooperation with the Historical Society. Stop by and enjoy a meal and take a look at the newest placemat at the local restaurant.

'27 Tornado Causes Damage

A tornado ripped through the Concord Church area Dec. 1, 1927 causing considerable damage to the church. Every window in the home of Sheldon Beatty was blown out and his barn was complete destroyed.

Do You Have Information?

MULE RACES—Does anyone have knowledge or any information about the mule races held at Beulah Park in the 1920s? Please send any information or memories to Jim Hale, grovecityhistory@gmail.com.



Society Life Member Dies At Mt. Carmel

Life member Arthur Webster (Bob) Brofford died April 25 at Mt. Carmel Medical Center. He was best known as a historian for St. John's Lutheran Church.

He was born Oct. 10, 1930 to the late Arthur and Mary B. Brofford. He was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Kiser.

He was a 1949 graduate of West High School and retired from the U.S. Navy.

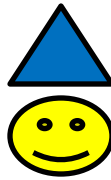
A member of St. John's Lutheran Church, he is survived by his children, Robert, Karl, Eric, Thomas and Elaine, and his sister, Evelyn Zarzano. Also, four step children and numerous grandchildren. Interment was at Sunset Cemetery.

His interest in history and memories have provided much insight into the early days of Southwest Franklin County.

He was also interviewed for the Grove City Oral History Project, a copy of which is available to the public at the Grove City Branch of the Southwest Public Library.



Comments



by Third Graders

Many Society members may recall Art Linkletter and his popular CBS television program and his book, *Kids Say the Darndest Things*.

There are some equally interesting kids' stories from recent museum field trips. The follow are observations by young, but very smart, third graders in our schools.



Seventy-five percent of students in each class had their own cell phone but few could not figure out how an old "black dial" phone worked. Most tried to push on the numbers instead of dialing. After a demonstration, one observed by the time a person dialed twice on the old phone you would already be taking on a new cell.

It never fails, the most questions arise when we talk about school life 100 years ago. No, it not what you might guess. The kids are most interested in bathroom facilities, the old outhouse before toilet paper was commonly used. May students had learned from a teacher that corn cobs were kept in the outhouse. One youngster couldn't avoid asking what happened when a corn cob or the old Sears catalogue wasn't available. The hand has many uses, especially when a creek is nearby.

More than one turned up a nose upon learning what "slopping the hogs" meant. Did the pigs really like the food? Who knows? The picture showed the pigs at the trough and they seemed to be anxious to eat whatever was placed in front of their mouth.

Many in the group had an idea that chickens were very common. Families raised chickens for eggs, meat and feathers for mattresses and pillows. They were surprised to learn that if they went to the store, they didn't pick meat from inside a cooler. Instead shoppers selected a live chicken in a cage and returned later for the meat after it had been butchered in the back of the store.

Observing the workings of an old doorbell on display, one asked if that was an example of technology. Yes, for that day and time.

Reserve Spot Now For Society Trip

If you haven't reserved a spot for the Society's July 11 to the Frankl Lloyd Wright house in Springfield there's still time.

Contact Steve Jackson to reserve a spot on the bus that will depart St. John's Lutheran Church at 9:45 a.m. The first stop will be in West Jefferson for lunch then on to Springfield.

The \$12 admission for seniors includes a docent one-hour tour of the house and a short documentary on the restoration of the house built in 1908.

Camp Chase Memorial Service Is June 10

The Hilltop Historical Society will conduct the 123rd annual memorial service at Camp Chase Sunday, June 10 at 3 p.m.

This is the continuation of a program organized in 1895 by Columbus resident and former Union soldier William H. Knauss.

The service honors 2,260 Confederate prisoners of war who died at the prison camp during the Civil War.

A monument at the cemetery calls attention that all who are buried there are "Americans".

Yard, Bake Sale July 28 At Century Village

The annual Century Village Yard Sale combines with the annual Bake Sale Saturday, July 28 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Century Village.

The Society will rent 10 foot spaces again this year for \$25 for those interested in selling items on their own.

For those who want to get rid of some unwanted yard sale type items, consider making a donation to the Society for its fund raising event. No large items, furniture or clothing will be accepted for sale. Items not sold at the Society sale will be donated to charity.



Find us on
Facebook

facebook.com/SWFCHS/

Plan Summer Visits Now To Village, Grant-Sawyer

Having family or friends visiting this year? Consider taking them on a tour of Century Village or the Grant-Sawyer House.

Century Village will be open from 2-4 p.m. beginning this month on Saturday, July 23. The grounds are open to the public at no cost. Open house Saturday dates include: July 28, Aug. 25 and Sept. 22.

A family group wanting to tour the Century Village can contact Bev Babbert at 614-774-2530 or go www.grovecityohhistory.org and complete the tour request form under the heading CONTACT. There is a fee involved for guided tours at Century Village.

The **Grant-Sawyer House** also schedules docent tours on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays. The maximum size for any group is 10 individuals. The cost is \$5 per person. Call the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum to schedule this event at 6114-277-3061.

Barber Museum Opens In Canal Winchester

A 2014 fire caused extensive smoke damage to the National Barber Museum in Canal Winchester. Most of the time since has been spent cleaning smoke from museum items.

The barber museum is just one museum in the city; the Doll and Toy Museum is just three miles away.

Mike Ippoliti, museum director and curator, said the museum is open at 135 Franklin St., from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Fridays and Saturday. It will also open for group tours with an appointment. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens and \$3 for students. For information, call 614-837-8400.

The museum features over 2,000 shaving mugs often personalized with a customer's name. Other items on display include dozens of bottles of cologne, a large collection of barber tools, and 73 red, white and blue barber poles.

**Watch a Video of Last Year's
Heritage Celebration at
grovecityohhistory.org/videos/**

Help Us Promote the Heritage Day Festival

**Saturday
June 2
10 am-4 pm
at
Century Village**

Southwest Pioneer

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Southwest Franklin County Historical Society

A 501C3 NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

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MONTHLY SOCIETY MEETINGS

Monthly Meetings first Tuesday at 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church, 3220 Columbus St.

MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2 nd Thursday	Commission, City Hall, 8:30 am
1 st -3 rd Mondays	Events Committee, Museum, 7 pm
Last Tuesday	Museum Committee, Museum, 7 pm

Annual -- \$15 Business -- \$50 Life -- \$150

**Quarterly Newsletter Included sent by Email
Quarterly Newsletter Mailed, \$9 extra yearly**