



# SOUTHWEST PIONEER

DECEMBER 2022

*Newsletter Only Available Online*

SOUTHWEST FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3378-B PARK ST., GROVE CITY, OHIO 43123

*Please Allow Me to Share a Fond Memory*

## Largest Tree Selected Was 'Big' Problem

Years ago, well I should say many years ago, I'll never forget the year our three girls decided they wanted to go to a tree farm and pick out a Christmas tree. It was a very frigid day, not a day you would want to be outside very long.

After a ride to a neighboring county, we were walking through the live trees and each girl was looking in different directions.

There was no agreement possible so finally we grouped together and selected a tree. Unfortunately, it was so cold I hadn't paid enough attention to the tree. With saw in hand, I began to cut as close to the ground as possible.

Dragging it to the station wagon, I began to notice the size. It was so heavy I couldn't get it on top of the car. A passing motorist stopped and helped.

Now I knew we had a problem. It was so big the branches draped over the side windows blocking the view from inside. I took every back road I could think of to get home to avoid being pulled over by the sheriff or local police.

Once home there was another problem. The tree trunk was so big it wouldn't fit in the tree stand. Another 30 minutes chopping before it would fit. Then we realized it was too tall. Another adjustment.

Inside the house, we discovered it was too big around for the corner in the kitchen. The entire back of the tree had to be cut away but some branches on the side still blocked the back entrance into the kitchen.

Decorating was another ordeal. Not thinking, we had purchased a White Pine and the limbs would not support many of our decorations.

It was a memorable and fun Christmas for our family and it was also our last live tree. I think we purchased our first artificial tree that year at an after Christmas sale.

Jim Hale



The Santa, standing beside granddaughter Sarah, was a most frightful sight for her older sister, Jenny, when she was the same age. Anytime Jenny came over, we had to hide Santa under a black trash bag but she still kept her distance even though Santa was "out of sight." The girls, grown now, are granddaughters of Linda and Jim Hale.

## 2009 Christmas Season at the Museum



This was the first year the museum was decorated for the holiday season. Trees and decorations were provided by Linda Hale

## Mayor Cut Ribbon To Officially Open Museum

Mayor Richard “Ike” Stage cut the ribbon and officially opened the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum on Sept. 19, 2009. The museum has been decorated for the Christmas holiday season with a large display of toys from bygone years. The display was called Memories of Holidays Past.

A few of the items included a large selection of dolls, including Snow White in original condition from 1937. Others were puppets, marionettes, metal and cast-iron toy vehicles, bubble lights, children’s books, turn of the century clothing and hats.

Decorations include holiday trees, large doll house with Christmas lights, holiday dishes, glassware and festive holiday theme music.

*(The following is a poem by Alan N. Bodle, and is reprinted from "Reflections II", a collection of local stories available at the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum.)*

### **The Chimes of St. John's**

I stepped from the car in the old hometown  
O a Christmas eve of the long ago  
Soft through the air the snow came down,  
And the street was bright with the Christmas glow.

The lights burned green and blue and red,  
Like figments of a fairy dream,  
The soft snow yielded to the tread,  
And the Christmas spirit reigned supreme.

Sudden along a tranced air  
Came stealing a wondrous melody;  
Like angel voices calling to prayer  
In softest, sweetest harmony.

The clear notes fell in a golden shower,  
Like falling stars on a snowy sea,  
As the bells of St John's from their belfry tower  
Pealed forth for the nativity.

The lights were flashing all about;  
The tinsel sparked through the snow.  
And the soft, sweet voice of the chimes rang out  
Like the angel chorus of long ago.

Many a grave has been made since then,  
And dampened by showers of bitter tears;  
And an endless procession of things and men  
Have drifted by on the tide of the years.

But still when the Christmas candles glow,  
And the earth her snowy mantle dons;  
My thoughts drift back to the long ago,  
And memory rings with the Chimes of St John's.

## **Wide Selection Of Books**

Looking for a unique holiday gift idea? Consider a historical book purchased from the Southwest Franklin County Historical Society at the museum, 3378 Park St. All books and pamphlets are priced to fit any budget.

## **Society Always Seeks New Members, Support**

Interested in becoming a member of the local historical society. There are numerous ways for people to become involved.

Some members might want to become active in local projects while others, living with time restraints, choose to become a financial supporter.

Some of the areas include volunteer at one or both of the festivals held each year at Century Village. Others might become involved with tours at the Welcome Center and Museum, Century Village or the Grant-Sawyer House.

Society members and volunteers are also involved in the restoration of an old B&O railroad caboose that might one day be relocated beside the railroad depot at Century Village.

If interest, contact Steve Jackson, 614-871- 0081.



*The winter months can be an interesting time to drive around and enjoy our historical sites.*

## **Wagon Provided Rides To Outdoor Markets**

*Marilyn Gibboney, former Society president, recalls trips to Columbus outdoor markets riding a horse drawn wagon.*

My grandmother Louisa Schlosser and grandfather used a wagon for many years to transport their produce and products to Columbus.

Cold, hard cash was a rare commodity in the 1890s and early 1900s. The outdoor market located in Columbus gave the farmers of the surrounding area a chance to sell their vegetables, poultry, cheese, berries, fruit, flowers and any other articles they could get together. The harvest time and the times when livestock was sold provided the major source of income but that was only certain times of the year.

My grandparents called their wagon the "Top Wagon" as it had once been just a wagon. Grandfather took this wagon over to Georgesville and Joe Emmelhainz, who was the blacksmith, made the black canvas cover. The front was glassed-in. Two people could ride in the seat and numerous children could ride in the back. During the early years of their marriage, grandfather was the one who went to market and sold the produce. Grandmother was the one who gathered and got the produce ready. She was home with all the little ones.

*See next page*

# Wagon Provided Rides

*From previous page*

Tuesday was their market day, so Monday was very busy and very long. Every Monday night, grandfather would grease all the wagon wheels after the other chores were done.

One of the girls would hold a lantern while he did this chore. The two parents would get very soon after midnight and start to ready to produce and get ready to go. Of course, there were the other chores to take care of also.

The driving horse had to be curried and fed. They also put in a feed bag for the horse. The time of the year dictated what was taken to market.

In the winter it was extremely cold in the side doors were closed and blankets were wrapped around their legs and bodies. Once on the road, the horse knew the way and the driver had a chance to catch a few winks.

The distance they drove was about 15 miles and it took more than 3 hours to make the trip. The roads were often muddy and rutted and it was not unusual to drive even further because they could not get through the mud, particularly in the spring.

The stand, which they rented for years, was located on S. Fourth Street south of Main Street. They would drive down to the stall, unload the produce and then take the horse and wagon to the livery stable on Cherry Alley.

In later years after the children were older, grandmother had her turn to go to market. This gave her an opportunity to see many friends. Her customers were people who worked in the area, some were business people and others were Columbus residents who wanted fresh country eggs, butter, cheese or whatever was in season.

This day also gave grandmother a chance to visit with other Grove City area friends, go to the dentist, shop, go to the dry goods store and take care of any other business.

The Main Street business district was where she did her shopping. Souder's restaurant was where everyone ate lunch.

Soon after lunch the regular customers had picked up their goods and it was time to pack up to go home again. When grandmother went to market, she would take one of her daughters with her to help her.

The trip home was repeated and they would talk about who they had seen, what was new and share what they had purchased.

In 1952 when plans were made for the Grove City Centennial, William Albright asked grandmother if she still had her Market Wagon.

He wanted to drive it in the Centennial parade. She gave her permission and my father made a sign that said "Joe Schlosser's Market Wagon".

The top wagon was more than 60 years old at the time and made the trip without any problems.

# Local History Books

## Make Great Gifts

Looking for a holiday gift for someone that seems to have everything? Why not consider a book about local history available at the Grove City Welcome Center and Museum and at the Grove City Visitors Center.

The books are reasonably priced but some are in limited supply. In order to have the book you want in time for Christmas, please purchase or make order not later than Dec. 9. All books are locally produced.

Titles include: Reflections and Reflections II; History of Jackson Township, Grove City and Early Pioneers; William Foster Breck, Grove City's founding father; Epoch of the Park Street School (Expanded edition); Greyhound Racing; Mastodon Bones; Old Laws and the Village Marshal; The Old Grain Mills and Mill Street; The One Room Schools; Student Life During Covid 19; Gantz Farm with Earl Nicholson Art.

## Holiday Events, Activities

Society members will be involved in several holiday events and activities. Some of those include:

**Friday, Dec. 2, 7-8 p.m.**

*Grove City Christmas Parade, Tree Lighting*

**Saturday, Dec. 3, 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.**

*Christmas in Town Center and Museum*

**Heart of Grove City Mistletoe Market**

*Saturday, Dec. 3, Noon until 4 p.m.*

**Christmas Open House, Century Village**

*Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6 p.m.*

**Society Christmas Pot Luck Dinner**

*St. John's Lutheran Church*

---

## **SOUTHWEST PIONEER**

**PUBLISHED MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER**

**THIS NEWSLETTER ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE**

**Monthly Newsletter for Members**

**Southwest Franklin County**

**Historical Society**

A 501C3 NON-PROFIT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

**SOCIETY OFFICERS**

**Steve Jackson, President 614-871-0081**

**John Hines, Vice President 614-364-6692**

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**Annual Member \$15 Annual Student \$1**

**Annual Business \$50 Life Member \$150**

**Monthly Newsletter by Mail \$10**