ARCANUM WAYNE TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY SHARING THE SECRET

July 2005 Volume 1, Issue 3

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc., 123 W. George St., Arcanum, OH 45304 www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org AWTHS@woh.rr.com (937) 548-6556

President's Report

By Keith Furlong

Sense of Accomplishment

Often we get caught up in the everyday tasks of getting through the day and not reflecting on what has transpired in the past to get us where we are today.

A year ago the organization was struggling to get established and not knowing what direction to head. Six months ago, we purchased a building that some doubted that would ever be done, yet it was.

During the past six months, or so, renovation and restoration has begun. A new roof has been completed and vents put in place to extend the life of the roof. The soffits and fascia have been painted along with the outside of the storage building, which was once green.

Our name is now on the building. Safety glass has replaced the single strength glass in all of the doors except the east door which will eventually be replaced. The deteriorating front porch is being renovated. Two rooms have been patched, plastered and painted. New replacement windows are being ordered. The outside window frames are now being stripped and painting will begin in the near future.

The State of Ohio has approved our electrical plans. We are now able to move ahead with the installation of new electrical service that will bring the building up to code. The new service to the building will come in underground. Once this is accomplished, we will then be able to have the gutters and downspouts installed.

Thanks to those who have donated so much of your time and talents to get us this far. And many thank to those who have donated memorabilia and financial resources to this project.

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Archaeologist to Speak

By Holly Trigg

Just what was it like to be a full time archaeologist? The speaker at the Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society meeting on September 15th is eminently qualified to answer that question and many more. Tony DeRegnaucourt has been working in the field of archaeology since 1975. His work has taken him from Florida to Kentucky, from New Mexico to Pennsylvania and many places in between. He has served as principal investigator for the Ohio Preservation Office as well as the TVA and Army Corps of Engineers.

As consultant to the Indiana Department of Highways he has conducted in each of Indiana's 92 counties more than 415 archaeological surveys and various assessments. The largest of these projects was the Fort Wayne bypass where over 300 archaeological sites were located and 21 of which were tested.

Mr. DeRegnaucourt has studied both historic and prehistoric cultures and has taught college level courses in anthropology and archaeology and has numerous publications of his research.

Closer to home, he is investigating the blockhouse of Fort Greenville at Shawnee Prairie.

Join us on September 15th as Tony DeRegnaucourt presents a new view of the history of Darke County.

Treasurer's Report

By Lois Eilerman, Treasurer

| Income | The In China Service |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Donations | \$6,613.85 |
| Old Fashion Days | \$2, 085.87 |
| Rental | \$175.00 |
| Aluminum Rebate | \$51.72 |
| Total Income | \$8,926.44 |
| | SALM HERENI |
| Expenditures | |
| Utilities | \$106.63 |
| Printing & Office Supplies | \$91.45 |
| Remodeling | \$291.10 |
| T-Shirts | \$60.00 |
| Money Guess | \$100.00 |
| Anita Short Books | \$44.00 |
| 3 Bldg | \$30.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$723.18 |
| | |
| Loan: \$8,000 | |

The Summer of 1939 By Tom Hanes

Total: \$14,477.39

Arcanum in the late 30's consisted of about 900 people, kids, dogs and cats. We were a small farming community with the best farmland, but not many lakes, ponds or places to swim after they drained the swamp. We wanted to swim.

After the last glacier melted away, the southern portion of Darke County was left with a mixture of gravel, sand and soil, and large creeks. That is what formed the Valley of the Twin Creeks, the largest branch being 4 miles south of Ithaca.

Older boys went to "Peodies", a swimming hole in Twin Creek named for a hermit who had once lived in the area, "Good place, deep hole, trees with ropes, really great".

Six of us rode our bikes down SR 503 to the bridge over the creek. A rather well used trail led off along the creek. We followed the trail and heard voices and laughter. The trail opened into a clearing bordering the creek and a huge swimming hole. We knew some of the boys. The rest came from nearby villages.

They were skinning dipping, but none of us could swim. One of the older boys said get in and he would teach us to dog paddle. "We did, and I learned how to swim, whatever the stroke."

For a couple of weeks, mothers ask about the wet hair dried without combing. All of us claimed that we had been through sprinklers, a prearranged tale.

The boys in town began to have "red eye". An inflammation of the eye that was cured by the use of eye drops of special formulae. The drug store had a run on those drops and then someone talked...all of a sudden we all were confronted with trips to the swimming hole. That ended our swimming.

The horror of what could have been, and thank goodness wasn't, was heard the rest of the summer. The parents saying, "you could have been drowned".

About that time, a local gravel company opened an area called Wayne Lakes Park, a reclamation project of their old gravel pits. There would be fishing and swimming by memberships but they would take daily people also. There would be a lifeguard and it was only seven miles from Arcanum. We swam with the fish in Wayne Lakes. Thanks to a friendly lifeguard I learned the basic strokes in swimming and there after never had "Red Eye".

Later as a Boy Scout, I became an accomplished swimmer and eventually earned the Lifesaving Merit badge and qualified for the Red Cross Senior Lifesaving Certificate.

About the Author

Tom Hanes lived most of his life in Darke Co. where he maintained a legal practice. He is now retired, living in The Cove at the Voyager in Tucson, Arizona. Harry and Marie (Corwin) Hanes were the parents of Tom and his siblings, Marion (Hanes) Cooper and younger brother, Dick Hanes.

Ancestors, Fredrick Shank and Jesse Corwin, fought in the Revolutionary War. Jesse was one of the founders of Lebanon, and one of the early owners of the Golden Lamb.

Tom's grandfather, George Washington Hanes married Amanda Honham whose line goes back to the Mayflower. Her family founded Gordon.

Sharing the Secret

A Trunk Treasure

By Carolyn Troutwine

Crowds lined the streets enjoying the flavor of the "small town" parade, clapping as a beautifully matched team of Belgians pranced down Main Street pulling the old fire steamer. Members of the local VFW marched, carrying their flags, as men of all ages removed their hats out of respect for our great country and those who had sacrificed their lives for the freedom we have today. The high school marching band played, "Hang on Snoopy" to the cheers and applause of the crowd, while businesses and organizations, many from other communities, participated with tractors, equipment, and advertisements of all kinds. Political officials and Queen contestants rode by in the shiny convertibles washed and "spiffed" for the occasion. As the parade passed the judge's stand, a selected number of floats were stopped and awarded trophies.

Our historical society's float, awarded the Festival Award Trophy donated by Staley Antiques, was pulled by Richard Rinehart's 1948 Ford 8N tractor. The float was decorated with patriotic colors of red, white, and blue. Sitting on antique rocking chairs were Bud and Marion Cooper. One of the rockers belonged to Brigadier General Edward Sigerfoos, noted educator and army officer, whose father came from Montgomery County and became a merchant in Arcanum in 1872. Dave and JoAnne Hill have donated this rocker to the historical society where it is now on display. The rocker was purchased by JoAnne's mother at the auction of

NEWS FROM THE PAST

Legion Will Conduct Memorial (Day) Service. While it has been customary in the past for the citizens of the community to have charge of Decoration Day exercises, members of the Legion (Sigerfoos Post of the American Legion) thought it appropriate that they assume the privilege.

(Arcanum Times May 19, 1921)

Criterian Club entertained at a Colonial Tea Friday evening (Feb. 20) at the home of Mrs. W.E. Wilkinson. All wore colonial costumes and the home was completely and beautifully lighted with candles. (Arcanum Times Feb. 26, 1925)



Arabella Sigerfoos in the 1940s.

Marion wore the dress in the photo to the left that was discovered in a trunk after her mother passed away. Relatives believe the dress is from the Civil War era, worn by Jane Shank (1839–1915), an aunt of Marion's Grandmother Corwin. We thank the Cooper family for sharing this wonderful historic "trunk treasure".

NEWS FROM THE PAST

Ar-Quatic Swim Club elects Board of Directors. Three year terms - Robert Davison, Robert Colville and Roger Peters. Two year terms - Kathleen Ritz, Glen Ressler, and Robert Petry. One year term - Marilyn Graeff, Loren Porter and Benny Sutton.

(Arcanum Times October 3, 1968)

Ar-Quatic Swim Club can obtain federal loan to build pool. Under a new plan it will not continue as a private club, but will be open to the public, but 200 season passs must be sold by Dec. 15, 1968.

(Arcanum Times November 14, 1968)



Quilt Raffle

Made and Donated by: Velda Gray Quilted by: Reland Sutton & Rosie Pierron

Ways and Means Committee Report

By Carolyn Troutwine - Committee Chairperson

Good weather and crowds of people led to a festive mood during the weekend of Old Fashioned Days. A core of workers from the society worked furiously, sometimes manning two activities at a time selling tickets for the Money Guess, registering players for the Corn Toss, and even helping with the Clown Bean Bag Toss. The auction, sponsored by the Arcanum Business Association was a tremendous success. Items if all kinds attracted many buyers. Jeff Puterbaugh did a marvelous job as auctioneer selling the items and attracting a nice crowd of onlookers. A big thanks to all who were able to work.

A meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was held on May 31st to discuss the successes of Old Fashioned Days and plan for the many events to be held in the next few months.

The Money Guess, Corn Bag Tournament, Auction, and Clown Bag Toss brought in profits of approximately \$2,500 (a special thanks to Sally Sharritts for the contribution of \$571.39 in change for the Money Guess). Marilyn Graeff won the Money Guess being only \$.18 cents off the total of \$345.52 in the money jar. There are a few outstanding expenses to be calculated.

A big thank you to the core of workers who made this fundraiser a success, especially Amy Gray Litten who guided us through the organization of the Corn Bag Toss. Robert Colville and Dave Flora were the winners in the Senior and Open Doubles and Robert was the winner in the Open Singles. There are rumors of people around town practicing to challenge these champions. Women, the platforms will be closer next year!

Our committee discussed and set policy for the use of the Corn Toss equipment:

- Members may borrow the equipment for their personal use. A donation is requested.
- Other organizations may use the equipment if a member belongs to that organization. A \$30.00 deposit is required and will be reimbursed with the return of the equipment. A fee will be assessed if there is damage. A donation is requested.

Upcoming Events

Wine Tasting - July 8th

- 7:00-9:00 p.m. Please be at the winery by 6:45.
- Barb Deis is chairperson
- There are a total of 40 tickets @ \$20.00 per ticket with \$10.00 per ticket going to the Historical Society.

Summer Event - July 22nd

- 7:00PM
- The entertainment will be "Steel Expressions".
 The band started six years ago and consists of nine members led by Marta Wetzel. Marta had been teaching steel drums and decided to form a group. They play for community groups and events. The music can be described as relaxing island music.
- Phyllis Blackburn is sponsoring the entertainment.
- Rod Brown is donating the proceeds from ice cream, water, and pop sales to the historical society.
- Members need to encourage family and friends to come with their lawn chairs to enjoy an evening of music and ice cream.
- The Lions Club will be sponsoring three summer events of entertainment. Watch for publicity on their events.

Annie Oakley Days - July 28, 29, 30, 31st

- · Mark Eilerman and Dick Hunt are chairmen.
- We will be selling water and pop and quilt raffle tickets at our booth, Tickets are \$1.00 or 6/\$5.00. The quilt will be given away at the Christmas Bazaar/Flea Market on November 26, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.
- Richard Rinehart has volunteered to pull our decorated float in the parade. We'll be together with Gene and Joan Rench and their two passenger antique car representing the historical society. Dick and Marilyn Graeff will be riding on the float in the parade on July 30th at 10:00 a.m. Thank you all!!
- Please see Mark or Dick and plan to help them during the weekend. The plan is to have our booth in a tent similar to the one used during Old Fashioned Days.

Remembering the Beck Hotel

"My mother, Mrs. Olive Beck purchased this building June 23,1923 from the Shantz Brewery Company of Dayton." Recalled (J. Robert) Beck. Built for a saloon, "when we moved here there was a piano store in the building. Originally a schoolhouse was on the ground. The present two story building was built for a saloon in the late '80 or early 90's. It was followed by a pop factory, implement place and picture show.

"Then mother made alterations and converted the building into a hotel. It contained 15 rooms. "I later made one side into an apartment. Even after it ceased to be a hotel, rooms were rented. Some noted persons, he recalled, "when it was a hotel some noted persons stayed here including William Jennings Bryant, "Billy" Sunday and former Ohio Govenor Myers Y. Cooper, U.S. Senator Atlee Pomerene, Al Sweet formerly with John Philip Sousa's Band and a Frenchman who set a high altitude record in an early airplane."

First Brick Paving. He recalled his mother's home cooking served home style on a long table to hotel patrons. "She got a quarter for a breakfast of ham and eggs and a little trimmings. "I remember sitting on those front stone steps as a boy and watching workers laying the first brick paving on the

street."

Beck said his father Edward Beck, a musician from California had a harness shop here for years. He began working for a harness maker and eventually acquired the shop. "Dad met and married my mother, a local farmer's daughter."

All Beck's relatives were in show business. He, himself was on the road with Al Sweet's Chicago Cadets Band. He now is in the advertising business

with mechanical window displays. (Arcanum Times 1-10-1963)

Those are the memories Bob Beck shared when he sold the hotel to Wayne Trail Grange in 1963. Bob died a month later at the age of 56.

Although Bob said the hotel was purchased in 1923, the Darke County, Ohio Deed book shows the purchase was made in 1921. Olive, known as Ollie, opened the hotel in 1919. Her early notices in the local papers indicated she was strictly interested in the tourists business.

A notice in the Arcanum Times, May 1919 read "I will serve meals to all transit, but not to regulars". May 1923, "meals served every day including Sunday. Rest rooms open to the public at all hours. Tourists welcome".

"The Beck Hotel caters to special dinner parties. Meals served at all hours. Special attention to auto parties..." (Arcanum Times April 20, 1928).

"Improvements made in Arcanum in connection with Clean-up and Paint-up Arcanum Campaign. Mrs. Ollie Beck of Beck Hotel with interior painting." (Arcanum Times June 13, 1929)

Rooms rented for \$1.00 and \$1.50 (1924).

"Room and Board \$8.00 a week" (1930)

Olive (Gilbert) Beck died at the age of 73 in

May, 1947.

"The Beck Hotel, open to the public after completion of redecorating and refurnishing. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beck, phone 249W." (Arcanum Times) August 21, 1947.

In the 50's the hotel evolved into a rooming

house, more than a hotel.

Tom Stephens remembers spending time with Mrs. Beck. "The Hotel had 3 rooms on the east, which is now the large meeting room. Mrs. Beck used the last of the three rooms as her living room. It was rather scary to me. I was around 10 years old at the time. The room seemed dark and dismal with only one window"

"Bob was in the advertising business. I remember so vividly the mechanical men he supplied to local businesses. The three men wore top hats, their eyes rolled and the arms would move turning pages of advertisements and tapping on the window with a cane to get your attention as you walked by. They sat in the window of Brandenburg & Cline Rexall Drug Store."

Many people remember Bob as a flashy dresser, a tall thin man at least 6 ft., in a suit and

tie wearing spats and a straw hat.

"When I was a little girl, Mrs. Beck would phone the store to have me come over for strawberry shortcake", recalls JoAnne Hill. "I would go out the back door and down the alley. She made

the best strawberry shortcake".

"The room I remember so well was the lobby of the hotel," continued JoAnne. "The lobby was the first room you entered when coming through the corner doors. Linoleum, with a black and white diamond design, covered the floor. There was a big mahogany library table in the center of the room with movie magazines on the low shelf. I was around 10 years old. I liked to look at the movie magazine, even though my Mother didn't approve. Another thing I remember were the photos of actors and actresses thumb-tacked to the walls."

At that point in time, the hotel was more of a

boarding house.

JoAnne added, before salesmen traveled by car, they would come to town on the train and stay at a hotel for the week. Renting a horse and buggy from the livery stable, they would travel to the surrounding towns selling their merchandise.

When first coming to Arcanum in 1947, Dr. Dan Cox stayed at the Beck Hotel with his family, wife Betty and daughters Susan and Jean. Jean remembers, when around 8 years old, staying in the front bedroom and watching people on the street

pass by.

As time passes so do the stories. Some stories are passed on down through the generations. Many are told then soon forgotten. Far too many are lost because they were never passed on.

Share your story with your family, and with the historical society. Your memories are the history of our community.

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Arcanum Dairies

Members and guests went for a walk down memory lane using milk bottles for guide posts as Dick Hunt told the story of dairies in Arcanum.

At the turn of the century, a farmer would come to town hauling milk on his wagon. When hearing the wagon bell, housewives would come out of their homes with crocks, pans, or whatever to buy milk for their families. Many women and children died from milk handled under unsanitary conditions. Milk was pasteurized from 1933.

The first patent for a milk container, the Lester milk jar, was in 1878. Next was the milk bottle patented in 1880. Around 1900, a bottle with the first cap seat was developed as an economical means for sealing a reusable milk bottle. This is the type of bottle many of us remember, before cardboard and plastic became the safer container.

Dick showed several types of bottles used by local dairies from his huge collection. Two interesting bottles are the A.G. Smalley with a wire clamp dated 1898, and the World War II bottle pyroglazed with the image of 3 serviceman.

Dairies could purchase generic milk bottles from Sears and also Montgomery Wards catalogs.

The time came when they wanted the dairy name on their bottles so they could get their bottle back, and it also give the dairyman more recognition.

Although Dick is sure there were dairies in the Arcanum area earlier then 1919 he has not been able to document them. Early area dairies were the Baker Dairy and the Wogoman Dairy.

Al Gray started the Arcanum Dairy after buying the

Baker Dairy in the early thirties. The dairy was in a cement block building behind the house at 306 W. South St.. Al's son, Arley, soon joined the dairy business, with young Betty and Bud helping with deliveries. Around 1944, Arcanum Dairy was distributing Meadow Gold products. After buying the dairy, Ralph Wright continued to distribute Meadow Gold from that location.

Other bottles Dick showed were from the Kroger Store, which was in Arcanum during the 20's. Dairy Maid, Ullery Dairy Co. and Blocher Dairy, all distributed milk from Greenville

In early 1900 farmers formed a co-operative, working together to get better prices and to provide safer milk. The co-op went through name changes, Greenville Co-Operative Dairy Association, when it became Farmers Co-op and still later what many of us know as Dairy Maid.

Dick talked a little about the pop industry in Arcanum up through 1950, showing bottles from local companies. Coca-Cola came to small companies, like what we had in Arcanum, to have their products bottled.

Dick has many stories to tell. Just ask him, he'll gladly share.

Dick Hunt's Family - Son of Lloyd and Myrna (Clark) Hunt, Dick has a twin brother Rick, a brother Ted, and a sister Sue Besecker.

Lloyd is one of 17 children whose parents, Ott and Viola (Besecker) Hunt, came to Pitsburg from Patty Town (Miami County), then moving west of Arcanum, to a farm that is now Brumbaugh Fruit Farm.

NEWS FROM THE PAST

The Arcanum Chamber of Commerce will hold a Free Watermelon night in Arcanum Saturday evening September 11, starting at 7 p.m. and lasting until everyone gets their fill of watermelon. Tables for serving will be erected in the middle of George Street from Main Street to High Street. This area will be roped off for the "feed". (Arcanum Times, Sept. 2, 1954)

Sunken Garden at Ivester Park Makes Beautiful Showing. The sunken garden, which is located along the southern drive, an extension of Ivester, in Ivester Park, made a very beautiful showing during the celebration held over July Fourth at the park. This sunken garden is another Arcanum Garden Club project. Special praise to Mr. and Mrs. Alpha Guiler and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chancellor for the planting of the beautiful red, white and blue petunias, painting of the stones and other work connected with this addition to the park. (Arcanum times July 8, 1954)

| President | Keith Furlong | 937-548-6556 |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Vice President | Fred Troutwine | 937-692-8939 |
| Treasurer | Lois Eilerman | 937-692-8223 |
| Recording Secretary | Pat Jones | 937-692-5701 |
| Corresponding Secretary | Barb Deis | 937-678-7832 |
| Directors | Rod Brown | 937-692-5225 |
| | Bill Gunder | 937-692-8000 |
| | Wendell Miller | 937-692-8425 |
| | John Trigg | 937-692-8930 |

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society Members

Jean Aukerman Joe & Wanda Bailey Ken and Phyllis Blackburn Lawrence Boyd * Ellen Breece Ivan & Jerri Brown Merrie Ann Brown Rod and Phyllis Brown Jerry W. & Patricia Burns Joan Chapman Miriam Clark Robert and Joyce Colville Ernest and Marion Cooper David M. Cox * Jack and Marlene Creech Carolyn Davison Robert & Marian Davison Jim and Barbara Deis Peggy Didier * Jo Dunlap Barbara Eberwein Mark and Lois Eilerman Dave and Beth Flora Larry and Judith Foureman Alan and Judy Fourman Mike and Kathy Fout Keith and Carolyn Furlong Phil Garbig (H) Dick and Marilyn Graeff Cheryl Gray

Velda Gray * Bill Gunder Phyllis Hahn ' Tom and Jean Hanes Glenna Hayes Dave and JoAnne Hill Jean Munn-Hillis Dick and Cheryl Hunt Lloyd & Myrna Hunt Christina Jones Pat Jones Sharon Karns * Mae Kincaid * Jerry Kramer (H) Rose Lambert **Imy Livingston** Doug and Nora Mahoney Dick and Dee Mathias Darryl and Mary Anne Mehaffie Gavla Mitchell Metzcar * Wendell and Jean Miller **Betty Murphy** Ted and Mary Murphy * Mike & Linda Newbauer **Leonard Norris** Helen North Roger and Virginia Peters * Dean and Marcia Pitzer Jewell Puterbaugh Jeff and Susan Puterbaugh Jenny Quigney

Gene & Joan Rench Terry & Darla Rench Duane and Joan Reynolds Linda Riley Dick Rooser * **Peggy Sanders** Dale & Betty Sease Sally Sherritts **Anita Short** Marilyn Skillern Tom Staley Allen Stastny Tom & Elizabeth Stephens John and Ella Stevenson Marilyn Strickler Gary and Denise Swabb * Ed Trick John and Holly Trigg Dick & Sharon Troutwine Fred and Carolyn Troutwine John and Angie Troutwine Lynn & Carolyn Trump * Ben and Deb Williams Lew Williams (H) Wayne and Claire Wilt * Cary and Theresa Wogoman Bill and Mary Wolke *

Memorial

In Memory of Mary Paff Miltenberger-long time member of Wayne Trail Grange.

In Memory of Mernia Henninger by Phil and Miriam Lockman

Welcome to All New Members!

(H) = Honorary Members * = New Members

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society Calendar of Events

| July 6, 2005 | Board Meeting – 7:00PM |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 8, 2005 | Wine Tasting at Winery at Versailles - 6:45PM |
| July 14, 2005 | Historical Society Meeting – 7:00PM |
| July 16, 2005 | 7:30PM Music by "The Promised Heirs", Gospel Singers – Sponsored by Arcanum Lions Clubs |
| July 22, 2005 | Summer Event - 7:00PM Veteran's Memorial Park Music by "Steel Expression" and Farmer Brown's Ice Cream |
| July 28-31, 2005 | Booth at Annie Oakley Days |
| August 3, 2005 | Board Meeting - 7:00PM |
| August 11, 2005 | Historical Society Meeting - 7:00PM Canceled |
| September 7, 2005 | Board Meeting - 7:00PM |
| September 15, 2005 | Historical Society Meeting - 7:00PM Program: Darke County Archaeology - Tony DeRegnaucourt, Presenter |

Adopt-A-Highway

The Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society is taking part in the Roadside Litter Pick Up Program. Watch for signs showing the society's participation on routes 49 and Alt. 49N. Historical society members will maintain areas from the intersection, ½ mile north and ½ mile south, and one mile on Alt. 49N. Contact Jim Deis, 678-7832, for more information.

WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES OF OUR COMMUNITY!

Visit us on the Web at www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc. P.O. Box 4 123 West George St. Arcanum, Ohio 45304

