

ARCANUM WAYNE TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHARING THE SECRET

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Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc., 123 W. George St., Arcanum, OH 45304
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President's Report

By Richard Troutwine

Continued work on the interior of the Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society building has taken place this winter. The kitchen is nearly completed whereas the stairway and second floor is under massive remodeling.

Lonnie Norris and his team of workers have installed new ceiling board in several of the rooms, stairway and hallway. The ceilings are then plastered by Richard Rinehart. After the wallpaper is striped the cracks and holes in the walls are filled with joint compound and sanded smooth when dry. This is very labor intensive. Help is needed to refinish the woodwork as was done on the first floor. Half or more of the second floor should be completed by this summer.

The front porch ceiling and railing should be finished this spring as well as the second floor window exterior finishing molding installed. Further exterior tuck pointing and brick replacement is still needed before the "soft" bricks can be sealed.

This winter the old inefficient furnace is still functioning; however, the gas bills are rather high relative to the mild temperatures. A contract has been made with Fourman's Heating and Cooling for the new furnace with an efficiency of 92% and a cost of \$3000 should be installed. The furnace will be AC compatible. Please note AWTHS will be \$500 short with the \$2500 grant money received.

If you will notice on the main floor donor's plaques for each of the new windows are being stalled. Twenty-two windows have been paid for. Contact me if you would like to donate \$500 for the last window. Thanks! Now donations are needed to complete the first floor electrical work

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(\$3500) and other items previously mentioned.

Financially, AWTHS is \$13,000.00 in debt with \$4000 in the checking account. This will go down quickly after paying for the new furnace. Some monies will be raised via ways and means projects. Jenny Quigley (692-5994) is the new chairperson of this committee. Any ideas or suggestions please let her know.

Think spring and warmer weather!

Membership Report

As of Feb. 28th, AWTHS has 85 memberships and 2 honorary members. There are 35 single and 50 family memberships. If you are one of the 21 members who have not yet renewed, stop by the historical society to see all the work that has been done this past year and see how beautiful the grand building is becoming. Then please pay your dues to help with the continuing restorations.

Welcome to all new members

Mancel and Margaret Blankenship
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Dohner
Peter and Elaine Fox
Mildred E. Hoover
Marcia Morgan
Beverly Rench
Jane Staley
Rex and Annette Stewart

News from the Past: Arcanum won the Darke County Field and Track Meet held at the Fairgrounds at Greenville Saturday May 19th. Arcanum's points totaled 66 with Gettysburg the nearest rival at 45. (Arcanum Times May 31, 1923)

Design Committee Report

By Carolyn Furlong

When will the kitchen be finished? Stop by for a visit and check it out.

After the walls were repaired, painting was done by Lonnie Norris, Tim Todd, Ralph Holsapple and Keith Fourman. The "high" chair rail was stained by Dave Hill and installed by Dave Flora. Stenciling and floor paint was applied by Joan Rensch, Carolyn Furlong, and Carolyn Troutwine. Curtain valances and area rag rugs were fashioned by Joan Rensch. A "Sellers" kitchen cabinet is on loan to the society from the Rensch family. Gregg Meyer refinished the kitchen sink, and Connie and Lonnie Norris donated a ceiling light and fan.

The large island in the "summer kitchen" was divided into two complete units and painted by Dave Hill. Boards cut from a large beam salvaged by Gene Rensch many years ago from an old Arcanum warehouse and stored for years were used for the countertops. Dennis Benedict assembled and planed both counter tops. The tops were stained by Keith and clear coated by Steve Garber. One unit is placed along the south kitchen wall and the other serves as the island work area.

Some other changes since the last newsletter are the three stained glass transom windows in the community room and back kitchen. They were designed and donated by Bud Cooper and Eldene Lambert.

The second floor is a work in progress. Richard Reinhart has finished plastering the east rooms, hall, closet, bathroom and stairwell. Dick and Fred Troutwine and Dean Pitzer have been busy repairing smaller areas. Donations are needed to purchase blue boards for the ceilings in the west rooms. Richard will then be back to plaster those rooms. The doors are being refinished one by one. Call Dick, Fred or Keith to help refinish doors or woodwork.

The Design Committee is looking for period Victorian furnishings for the first two rooms of the historical building. If you, or someone you know, would like to donate or loan an item to the society, please call Carolyn Troutwine (937) 692-8939. We are also looking for anyone interested in joining the committee to help make decisions on building design.

Spring is only a few weeks away and for those of you who would like to volunteer time in our society garden, there is a signup calendar on the bulletin board in the first room. Just place your name and phone number on the week or weeks you can commit to weeding, deadheading and watering.

We want to thank all professionals and skilled helpers

for donating time, labor and supplies to help restore our historic building.

AWTHS Benefactors

Phil Garbig is working with AWTHS to inform Darke County lawyers of our newly established historical society so they may guide interested parties who wish to remember worthy causes and organizations when planning their wills and estates.

Arcanum Old Fashioned Days

Sunday May 21 at 3:00 p.m. the historical society is holding a "No Junk" auction on the grounds of our building. As you are doing spring cleaning look for quality items to donate for the auction. Chairmen Jeff Puterbaugh (692-5302) and Tom Staley (692-8634 or 692-8050) will be glad to pick up items and store them until the auction. Jeff will again be the auctioneer. Collectibles, antiques and new items are needed to have a successful auction. If you drop items off at the house, leave a note indicating that the items are for the auction and that they are not acquisitions for the archives.

Corn Toss contest is again being planned. Watch the newspaper for more information.

Wine Tasting

AWTHS will host a wine tasting at the Winery of Versailles Saturday June 17. Tickets are \$20.00 with a profit of \$10.00 for each ticket sold. Forty tickets will be pre-sold. Arrive at 6:45, a presentation by the wine maker begins at 7:00. We will be sampling 5 or 6 wines. Food complementing each of the wines is served. Contact Barb Deis 678-7832 for tickets or for more information.

On Going Projects

Euchre Party

Do you enjoy playing Euchre and visiting with friends? Euchre Parties are planned for the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month (except for May 19) from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. in the community room of the historical society building. Each player is asked to pay \$1.00 to cover the expense of using the room. For more information call Fred Troutwine 692-8939.

Hall Rental

Call Carolyn Furlong to reserve the community room for your special events. Rental fee has been increased to \$75.00 due to high utility rates.

Aluminum Can Recycling

Leave aluminum cans and other clean aluminum on the back porch. This project has been very profitable.

Adopt-A-Highway Program

Contact Jim Deis, 678-7832, if you are able to help pick up litter along St. Rts. 49 and 49 North.

AWTHS New Recycling Project

Donate your used computer ink cartridges to the historical society for recycling. We will receive \$1.00 for each cartridge. Ask businesses, your friends and family to support AWTHS by donating their used cartridges.

Trojan State Class B Champions

By Carolyn & Fred Troutwine

It is no secret Arcanum High School has had many gifted athletes. Guided by outstanding coaches, inspired by teachers, encouraged by loving parents, and supported by faithful fans, the young men of the 1956 basketball team not only won games, but gained the respect of their community as well. Today, many of the players and cheerleaders remain in Arcanum, supporting and mentoring the present group of athletes. Kevin O'Dell, a member of the 1976 team that was defeated in the State semifinals by Pettisville, coaches the boy's reserve team. His brother, Randy, is the girl's varsity basketball coach. His father, Richard, played on the 1956 team. It is not uncommon to see this generational connection in our sports program.

One only has to look at the trophy cases throughout the school to see the accomplishments of our fine athletes. This year is a milestone in men's basketball as the school celebrates the victory and state championship of the 1956 team fifty years ago. This team defeated Willshire 55-54 in the semifinals, and Columbus St. Mary's in the finals by a score of 72-71 in the Cleveland Arena for the state Class B crown. The town has never forgotten that day! (A loss to the New Madison Mohawks that year prevented a perfect season).

The migration of fans headed north to Cleveland on Thursday morning to witness the games and promise of bringing back to Arcanum "the biggest trophy the people had ever seen." Hidden in a secluded motel, the team prepared mentally for the task ahead. Coming in as underdogs and being dubbed by various newspapers as "the little pauper," "Cinderella Club," "farm youngsters from little Arcanum," and "corn fed cagers," these players were well aware of the challenges ahead. "Anybody got a stepladder?" the paper stated in reference to Gary Kessler, the Willshire "giant" whose height was recorded anywhere from 6'9" to 6'11" with weight of 215 lbs. Kessler averaged 34.6 points per game with a "splurge" of 50 points in the finals of the regional game. The Trojans, however, were prepared and confident. "Willshire and Arcanum had the crowd of 8,886 fans on the edges of their seats throughout the final period," the paper said. "Arcanum out rebounded Willshire 40-22 and Gary Kessler ended with just 16 points, thanks to the brilliant defense set up by Coach Harter." Victory!

The second game was equally challenging as Columbus St. Mary's came in the favorite. In the end, "The farm youngsters from little Arcanum High School stamped "mission accomplished" on their basketball season at 3:24 p.m. yesterday by a margin of just one point with a score of 72-71," the reporter wrote. People may

remember that Arcanum didn't even have a gymnasium that year. The Trojans played all of their games on other floors. "We rented different gyms, any available in our area. As a result, we weren't bothered at all by strange floors," Coach Harter stated. He thought that might have been an advantage for his team. However, the headlines in the paper the next day told of the frantic last seconds of the game. "Trojans' Strategy Almost Backfires—Troutwine Bats Ball, but In Wrong Direction; Clock Then Nips Foe's Scoring Bid." After the game, Coach Harter simply said, "It didn't work out quite as we expected, but was good enough to get the job done." Victory!

While the coach was being interviewed and the net cutting ceremony was over, a messenger came from the locker room. "The boys are waiting for you coach," he said. "They want you to say a prayer." The paper goes on to report that he hurried off to share the "biggest athletic moment of all for himself, his boys, and little Arcanum, and to lead their prayer of thanksgiving."

"Arcanum's Champions Are Welcomed Home By 20,000," the headlines of the Greenville paper read. It was "the largest spontaneous gathering in Darke County's history— 15,000-20,000 persons welcoming home the Arcanum Trojans." They traveled on St. Rt. 36 from Bradford through Greenville and into Arcanum. County and city officials congratulated the team on the steps of the county courthouse in Greenville. In their hometown they were greeted by a swarm of family and friends who honored the boys with a parade complete with the explosions of "bombs" behind the school. "Following the police escort was a tractor bearing the slogan, "Corn Fed Cagers." Cars with "Glenn Harter for President", "Terry Norris for Mayor" and "Rex Karns for Sheriff" followed. The homecoming celebration was sponsored by the Lions Club with Harold Kreitzer heading up the committee. It was at this reception that Coach Harter was presented with the keys to a new Chevrolet, a gift of appreciation from the community of Arcanum.

And so... the memories of this glorious moment in Arcanum's history linger for many today. You may have your own stories or old newspaper clippings to share and pass on to the next generation. Everyone remembers Mayor Ernest Fisher's faith in the Trojan team. Owner of the Arcanum Aluminum Foundry, he had cast and polished a huge key days before the finals. This key was presented to Coach Harter at the homecoming reception. You may also remember 83-year-old, Mrs. Bertha Brehm and the string of rabbit's feet she wore, and at times waved during exciting moments. We think she may have been the oldest fan to travel to Cleveland. It was written that LaJeanne Etzler was three years old at the time, (her sister, Sharon Etzler was a cheerleader) and the youngest fan to attend

the tournament. Ironically, she was a cheerleader for the Trojan 1969 Class A State Champion team. Do you remember the black fedora hats the team wore in the parade? They all matched symbolizing a united team effort. Their coach emphasized hard work and personal motivation, hard play to the last moment, (he always said, "games are not won or lost until the final second has ticked away!"), loyalty to team members and coach, cooperation, and sportsmanship.

Coach Harter told his team he was looking for boys who would believe in this maxim: "Fundamentals, plus hustle, plus team play, equal a championship team." His players did not let him down!

Films of the final games exist. Athletes of today would not believe the changes that have occurred over the past 50 years. The first noticeable differences are the uniforms. "Don't tell me you wore those short shorts as uniforms Gramps," Fred Troutwine's granddaughter commented. "Oh yes, and I also shot my foul shots underhanded "Granny" style," he told her as she laughed and rolled her eyes. This is typical of the many discussions they have had as they compare the game of basketball in the "olden days" with the game of today. "The game is faster paced now and maybe more physical. Whereas elbows fly today in attempts to get the ball, it is alleged that the 1956 team had a guard who harassed players by pulling the hair on their legs to get the advantage. (A little more subtle than the shoving we see in the games today)," he tells her as he hands her a copy of the same booklet of expectations Coach Harter gave the 1956 Trojan Team.

Team members:

Marvin Engle, David Fourman, John Hans, Larry Hissong, Rex Karns, Lonnie Norris, Terry Norris, Dick O'Dell, Ron Puterbaugh, Bob Scheiding, Bob Shahan, and Fred Troutwine.

Coaches:

Glenn Harter, Don Bordewisch, Richard Graeff

Cheerleaders:

Jill Brandenburg, Sharon Etzler, Gloria Beth Julien, Mary McKibben and Roberta Warner

:

Jan Garrison- statistician

Wendell Hans- shot chart

Gary Swoveland- equipment manager

Roland "Red" Gilbert- scorekeeper

ARCANUM WAYNE TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS AND CO CHAIRPERSONS

Acquisitions	JoAnne & Dave Hill
Publications	<u>Newsletter</u> - Barbara Deis, Jean Miller & Deb Williams <u>Publicity</u> - Jean Miller <u>Website</u> - Deb Williams
Membership	Carolyn & Keith Furlong
Programs	Holly Trigg & JoAnne Hill
Ways & Means	Jenny Quigney
Historic Sites	Fred Troutwine & Bill Gunder
Education	Cheryl Gray & Ellen Breece
Design	Carolyn Furlong & Carolyn Troutwine
Genealogical Librarian	Ellen Breece
Historians	Bill Gunder & Anita Short
Landscaping	John Trigg
Events Set-up	Fred Troutwine
Property & Building Site, Renovations, Maintenance	Board of Directors

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society, Inc. Board - elected at the annual meeting on 1/12/2006

President	Richard Troutwine	937-692-5128
Vice President	Fred Troutwine	937-692-8939
Treasurer	Jerry Kramer	937-692-5764
Recording Secretary	Pat Jones	937-692-5701
Corresponding Secretary	Barb Deis	937-678-7832
Directors	Rod Brown	937-692-5225
	Dave Flora	937-692-8413
	Jeff Puterbaugh	937-692-5302
	John Trigg	937-692-8930

Only A Shell Remains

By Abraham Lincoln

This barn housed race horses. I never saw them race but when I was small John still had a horse or two in this barn.

Gordon, Ohio, where this barn is still located, and where I was born, was a bustling village of a hundred or two families between 1848, when the village was platted, and 1860. There was a man, south of town, who did have a race track built for horse races and no doubt John Hanes raced his horses there.

And people came from cities as far away as Dayton, Ohio, on the Dayton and Union (D&U) railroad, when it began running passenger trains, just to see the races. They would get off and visit the tavern run by Bryan Kitt, (where the Women's Christian Temperance Union would later set off two sticks of dynamite and blow the doors down) for a drink or cross the street and visit Sam Jones' butcher shop and set down to coffee, or tea and a sandwich.

Ladies in big flowing dresses and sprouting umbrellas walked beside men in dark suits and shined shoes with spats. Imagine that. At the same time, the streets were dirt or mud (depending on the weather) and little Ruth Rice, the blacksmith's

daughter, was out on the street hulling corn and feeding piglets on Perry Street, opposite the train station.

When I took this photograph, the other day, I remembered that John had a large woods as clean as a park on the right side of this barn, and that it was home to the annual "Virginia Reunions", and then the croquet court was full of ladies and gentlemen laughing and smoking and knocking balls through wickets. I was not a relative of anybody at any reunion held there but as a kid I could go anywhere. And the sound of an airplane was more than enough to attract my attention. So I was there the day a bi-plane landed and took people at the reunion rides for the ungodly sum of \$5.00. I never got to fly. I didn't have money. Five dollars came after mother spent a month washing and ironing Herb Hamel's clothes. But some people always had money and flew off into the blue. I was just fortunate to have lived then and can remember how life was when I was a little boy.

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Abraham Lincoln lived in Gordon as a child, he now resides in Brookville where he writes a weekly newspaper column. Abe can be reached at awlincoln1@verizon.net or visit his website www.oldmanlincoln.com for more interesting stories.



News from the Past: *The ban has been lifted* on boxing exhibitions and public dancing. These events were banned by former Mayor George Albright but are now allowed by Mayor A. E. Cline. (Arcanum times Jan 2, 1930)

Arcanum Trivia

Look for the answers in the July newsletter.

- *Name some items invented in Arcanum.
- *When was the original portion of the existing school on North Main St. erected?
- *Which buildings currently in use had been hotels?
- *Which company was the only business to convert to defense work during WW II?
- *What year did the boys basketball team win the State Class A Championship?
- *What were the names of the four streets first platted in Arcanum?
- *In the late 1930's there were strict laws forbidding any competition among girls in high school sports, what year did the state change that ruling?
- *In what year did the library move to the Ivester House?
- *Which Arcanum residents signed to play professional sports?
- *Where was the M.L. Weisenbarger store located?
- *What was the name of the Arcanum gas company that sold out to DP&L?

Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society Calendar of Events

April 5, 2006	Board Meeting – 7:00PM
April 7 & 21, 2006	Euchre Party – 1:00–3:30PM
May 3, 2006	Board Meeting – 7:00PM
May 5, 2006	Euchre Party – 1:00–3:30PM
May 11, 2006	Historical Society Meeting – 7:00PM Program: Volunteering in New Orleans, presented by Carolyn Furlong
May 19, 20 & 21, 2006	Arcanum Old Fashioned Days
May 21, 2006	AWTHS Auction – 3:00PM
June 2 & 16, 2006	Euchre Party – 1:00–3:30PM
June 7, 2006	Board Meeting – 7:00PM
June 17, 2006	Wine Tasting Party – 6:45PM Winery of Versailles
<i>Watch the newspaper for information about summer entertainment at Veteran's Memorial Park</i>	

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

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Arcanum, Ohio 45304

