

# ARCANUM WAYNE TRAIL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SHARING THE SECRET

July 2006  
Volume 2, Issue 3



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

By Richard Troutwine

Finally, the window installation has been completed. A big thanks to Bill Oler Services for use of their electric bucket lift that permitted Gene Rench and myself to get up to the second floor windows to install the exterior trim moldings. Jim Hill also used the lift bucket in his task to replace 125 deteriorated bricks on the east wall. He did a great job.

The second floor has been a real challenge. Fred and Carolyn Troutwine have stripped and prepared the woodwork and doors, Keith Furlong is doing the finish work. Gene and Joan Rench, with the help of Dave Hill, put shelving in the large south storage closet. The shelves are full already!

Four rooms, the bathroom and the stairwell are ready for John Hicks to paint. Three rooms need ceilings plastered and walls repaired so they can be painted. The floors will be the last item to be completed.

Items completed - new furnace and electric hot water heater are installed, vents under building refurbished, and a small brick sidewalk laid in front of porch entry. Flowers, plants and grass seed have been planted. Ten sections of wrought iron fence, donated by Michael and Connie Payne, were installed on the north side of the lot by Joan and Gene Rench and Dave Hill. Looks great!

Financially, AWTHS is \$13,000 in debt with \$2,468.66 in the checking account. Money (\$500) for the last window has been donated. A big THANKS to everyone who contributed to the new windows! Profit from Old Fashioned Days was \$1,521.50. We are requesting donations of \$100 for painting each of the 8 rooms upstairs. The cost to complete electrical work on the first floor will be about \$2,500.

Jenny Quigley (692-5994), chairperson for the

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Ways and Means Committee, would like your ideas for fundraisers. Please remember the aluminum can and empty computer inkjet cartridge recycling program. This brings in about \$125 a month.

### Ed Kemper To Speak: "National Road Bicentennial"

On March 29, 1806 President Thomas Jefferson signed legislation for a national road that would travel over 700 miles from Cumberland, Maryland to the Mississippi River. Join us Sept. 14th when Ed Kemper, president of the Ohio National Road Association, tells the story of Ohio's portion of National Road, stretching 227 miles from Bridgeport, Ohio through Preble County. Learn how this road became the nation's first federally funded interstate highway and how it opened the nation to the west, becoming a major route to move both goods and people. Some of Arcanum's early families arrived here from Preble County by way of National Road. Join us Sept. 14th to learn more about our national history which took place here in our back yard.



## New Windows for the Historical Society Building

Thanks to the hard work of Phyllis Troutwine Blackburn, new windows have been installed throughout the building. Phyllis campaigned for donations to cover the cost of 23 windows. Great job Phyllis!

A plaque with a donor's name engraved on a brass plate will be placed beside each window. There will also be one large plaque on display in one of the first floor main rooms listing all the donors. The brass plates and the engraving were donated by Peggy Didier. Dean Pitzer made the plaques.

A sincere thanks to Phyllis and all those who contributed to the new windows. Thanks also to Peggy and Dean for their work.

Glen and Jean Aukerman	In memory of Betty and Dr. Dan Cox
Joe Bailey	
Wm. Ken Blackburn	
Glenn and Cynthia Blackburn	In honor of Wm. Ken Blackburn
Lyle and Marilyn Bixler	
Lyle Bixler Realty	
Permillia S. Brawley	In memory of Olive and Harold K. Smith
Edgar and Lova Brown	
Donald Burns	In memory of Julie Burns
Gene and Pat Cox	
Norman Dohner	In memory of Arland and Anna Dohner
Beverly and Janet Fourman	In memory of Virgil and Delphine Johns, and Otwin and Bessie Fourman
Peter and Elaine Fox	
Martin and Eleanor Freese	
Keith and Carolyn Furlong	
Harry R. and Hana Lou Hanes	
Nolan and Ellen Hangen	
Harold Kreitzer	
Doug Millikin	
Duane and Joan Reynolds	
Second National Bank	
Tom and Elizabeth Stephens	
Jack Stephens Estate	
Lynn and Carolyn Trump	

### NEWS FROM THE PAST

*New Hotel. R.O. Clark has rented the Arcanum House....Mr. Clark will move his laundry business into the building just north of the hotel, formerly occupied as a buggy store room by Spitler and Cloppert, where he will continue to "do up" your linen in first class style. Bob has been a resident of Arcanum for not quite a year*

(The Weekly Times, Arcanum, November 16, 1899)



## Dayton Racquet Company Defense Work

Moving to South Albright St. in Arcanum from Dayton in 1934, the Dayton Racquet Company was the only manufacturer of steel string and steel frame racquets in the world. During the years of operations; tennis, badminton, squash, racquetball, and paddle tennis racquets were manufactured. After World War II, the sales of racquets were mostly to schools and playgrounds with nationwide distribution.

In April 1942 Dayton Racquet Company was awarded a contract to manufacture the bolt for the M1, M1A1, and M2 Carbine rifle as a sub-contractor of the Inland Manufacturing, Division of General Motors in Dayton. Inland Manufacturing was the largest producer of carbine rifles during WW II.

The contract necessitated that R. B. Munday, company president; store the racquet manufacturing equipment to make room for new machinery, leased from the Cincinnati Ordnance Department. After samples of the cartridge bolts were submitted and approved in July, full production began in September with around 65 employees.

Production increased with additional employees being added to operate additional shifts, with a cafeteria opened at the factory to furnish food for the workers.

Arcanum's sole defense plant was awarded the Army-Navy award on July 5, 1944 during an open-air ceremony at the plant. This award was given to plants where the production of war materials was excellent. The award was celebrated with a grand picnic for the plant employees and their families held at Wayne Lakes on Saturday, July 8. Prizes amounting to \$200.00 were awarded for various contests, and a grand lunch was served under the "Big Top".

The war effort at the plant continued with as many as 240 people employed, with work force at times spread to three shifts. In April 1945 production was reduced to 60 percent and by

August the contract was cancelled.

Immediately the plant began to reconvert to the manufacture of the steel racquets. By the end of the war production the factory employees decreased from 240 to 25.

E. Louis Munday became the sole owner after his brother R. B. Munday retired from the business at the end of 1945. Ted Munday, son of Louis, continued operation of the Racquet Company until December 23, 1995 when the last racquet was made.

### On Going Projects

#### **Euchre Party**

There will be no card parties in July and August. They will begin again in September. Euchre Parties are planned the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of each month 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 (548-6556) to reserve the community room for your family events. Rental fee has been increased to \$75.00 due to high utility rates.

#### **Aluminum Can Recycling**

Leave aluminum cans on the back porch. Don't forget aluminum foil and foil pans. This project has been very profitable. Thanks everyone.

#### **Computer Inkjet Print Cartridges**

Donate your used computer inkjet cartridges for recycling. Ask businesses, your friends and family to support AWTHS by donating their used cartridges.



## Arcanum Old Fashioned Days

By Jenny Quigney

The weekend of May 19, 20 and 21 saw Old Fashioned Days here in Arcanum. With that the AWTHS held their first Goat A-Go-Go. A grid was painted on the lawn behind the AWTHS house with each square numbered from 1 to 100. Numbered tickets were sold for \$5.00 each. At 7 p.m. Saturday a goat owned by Brett and Shelley Yingst was brought in and the fun began. When the goat decided to make a "deposit", it landed on the square bought by Lois Eilerman, making Lois the winner of \$100.00. Congratulations Lois! Our profit was \$400.00. Thank you Brett and Shelley for allowing us to use your goat in this manner. This project was a complete success.

However, the corn toss did not fair as well. There were no participants Friday evening. This was not a contest or tournament. Saturday morning the decision was made to move the game to a more visible location, Troutwine's lot in the middle of town. This helped some. Cost to play was \$1.00, the profit was \$18.00. I feel this is a shame because a lot of time and effort went into making the game pieces. Please let us know if you have a better way we can use this game.

A "No Junk" auction was again held on Sunday afternoon, with a profit of \$1016.50. Society member and auctioneer Jeff Puterbaugh called for bids. Thank you Jeff and Susan.

Carolyn Furlong sold raffle tickets for a plant donated by The Rose Post and a basket filled with gardening items. Page Crist won the plant; Susan Puterbaugh was the winner of the basket. In addition to the raffle, Carolyn worked hard to put together a plant sale, she also sold miscellaneous items. Profit from these projects was \$87.00. A huge thanks to Carolyn.

A total of \$1521.50 will benefit AWTHS. I would personally like to thank everyone who sold

tickets for the Goat-A-Go-Go, especially Dick Troutwine who I discovered could sell snow to an Eskimo, and to all the helpers for their time at the corn toss. I feel that all in all the weekend was a success.



Jeff Puterbaugh calls bids for the "No Junk" auction. Tom Staley helps out.



Auction bidders wait in anticipation of the next item up for auction.

### Welcome to new Historical Society Members

Brenda Arnett  
Gene and Connie Garber  
Marc and Lisa Hughes  
Junior O'Dell  
John Weisenbarger



How much do you know about Arcanum?

Here are answers to the trivia questions that appeared in the April newsletter.

**Name some items invented in Arcanum.**

Automatic Tobacco Cutter

Lester Meyer had patented a tractor attachment, which when following the row of tobacco would automatically cut the tobacco plant, depositing it on a conveyer belt where it made its way to the handler to be speared, ready for hanging in the shed. Another invention of Lester's was a machine that enabled sheets of metal to be bent. Lester's shop was located in the back along the alley beside his home at 118 W. George Street.

Korn Kurls

The process for making the tasty cheese snacks was patented around 1947 for Arthur G. Dearing. The snacks were made at Dearing Products Company, located at 109 North Street. Patent rights and machinery were sold to a Canadian Company around 1951. Other snacks were Corn Crax, Cheezies and Corn Tristers. Charlie Andrews, owner of Bear's Mill, helped Dearing develop the manufacturing process.

G & W Wood Tackle Box

The wood tackle box used for fly fishing was designed by Roger Warner and Roland Gilbert. Patented around 1966, the tackle boxes were made and sold locally for several years by the two men. Their company was called Gil-Warn Enterprises Inc.

Snap-On Fishing Bobber

James L. Huston was granted a patent February 11, 1941 for the small cork ball painted half red and half white, drilled from pole to pole, with a wire that snapped onto the fishing line. He manufactured the bobbers in the building where Huston Restaurant is located. The right to make the bobber was sold to the Dayton Bait Company for a royalty, but he still held the patents. The Dayton Company later made the bobber of plastic.

Reflective Landing System

This system which is activated by the airplane's headlights was developed and manufactured at Janox Corporation on North Street. Neal Nelson, owner of Janox, was issued a patent around 1968. Some systems are still in use at small landing stripes.

Accu-Bend

Frank Barberine and David Flora worked together to design this tool that is used to bend slats of mini blinds. The patent was issued in 1986.

Editor's Note: It has been noted that a noodle cutter was manufactured in Arcanum. But was the small hand-held type, consisting of about seven or eight round nickel size cutters, invented here?

Contact Barb Deis, 678-7832 or JoAnne Hill, 692-8330 if you have information about the noodle cutter or any other items that were invented by Arcanum residents. This is an example of information wanted for the Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society archives to help tell the story of our community and its people.

**When was the original portion of the existing school on North Main St. erected?**

The first day of school was September 8, 1924 with an enrollment of 378.

**Which buildings currently in use had been hotels?**

1. Private residence now located at 207 N. Main Street. Originally located on the northeast corner of Main and George was first the California House, later the International Hotel and lastly the City Hotel. The hotel building was moved from its original site to the 207 N. Main location in 1899.
2. Building now located on the northeast corner of High and South Street was Arcanum House Hotel
3. Building located at 111 West George Street (now known as The Rose Post) was used as the Central Hotel in 1888 and Gavin Saloon and Hotel from 1890-1892.
4. Building located at 114-116 West George Street (in later years known as the Ball or Early Bird building) was



first known as the St. Nicholas Hotel (1860–1862), then Empire Hotel (1882–1883) and later as the Commercial House Hotel (1883–1918).

5. Building located 123 West George (now the Historical Society) was used as the City Hotel (1915–1916) and the Beck Hotel (1919–1963).

**Which company was the only business to convert to defense work during WW II?**

Dayton Racquet Company made carbine rifle parts. Read more about the defense work in this newsletter.

**What year did the boys basketball team win the State Class A Championship?**

1969 was the year. Team players were Frank Cheadle, Steve Christ, Wayne Fisher, Jerry Garrison, Dave Gray, Chris Hanes, Kent McGlinch, Dan Riegle, Gary Riegle, Scott Sutton, Jim Troutwine and Jim Williams.

Head coach was Dick Graeff, assisted by John Henemyre and Everett Gates.

**What were the names of the four streets first platted in Arcanum?**

Main, High, George and South were the only streets on the 1849 plat map.

**In the late 1930 there were strict laws forbidding any competition among girls in high school sports, what year did the state change that ruling?**

In the early 1950's Operation Fitness USA and the Council on Youth Fitness encouraged competition for girls. Eager for competitive sports, Arcanum Girls Athletic Association was organized giving girls a chance to compete in a variety of sports. County leagues were formed in 1971. Interscholastic girls' sports began during the 1975–1976 school year.

**In what year did the library move to the Ivester House?**

The Arcanum Public Library moved to the Ivester House at 101 North St. in 1964.

**Which Arcanum residents signed to play professional sports?**

Glenn Harshbarger signed in 1948 with the Cleveland Indians and pitched for their minor league teams including, AAA Indianapolis Indians.

Duane Reynolds signed with Philadelphia Phillies as a pitcher in 1949

Bud Gray signed with the Oakland Athletics (now the Los Angeles Angels) as a catcher in 1949.

Burly Grimms did not grow up in Arcanum, but after playing for the White Sox, he settled here.

**Where was M.L. Wiesenberger Company located?**

M. L. Wiesenbarger and his three sons, Cletus A., Holly G. and Earl O. came to Arcanum from West Sonora. They first opened a store in the IOOF Building on the northeast corner of George and Main Street (1901–1905), they then moved to 12–16 West George (1905–1928), with an expansion to 18 West George and a complete renovation of the building in 1915. Known as the "The Busy Store", after its demise in 1928 the building was used by other businesses and the Public Library until Oct., 1959 when the structure was destroyed by fire. The lot is now used for parking.

**What was the name of the Arcanum gas company that sold out to DP&L?**

Arcanum Gas Company aka. Ira Dull Gas Company. Started by Ira's grandfather Welcome J. Dull, it later became the Arcanum Gas Company aka. Amzi Dull & Son Gas Company, Amzi being the father and Ira the Son. Ira became the sole owner in 1951. In 1957 the company was sold to DP&L.

Information for this article was taken from the following books; "Arcanum, Ohio – Business History" by Anita Short, "The Secret Town" by William Gunder and "Arcanum...a secret place" (Sesquicentennial book), and also from conversations with local residents.



# 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

## AWTHS Will Accept Donation Of Appreciated Stock(S)

The donation of your appreciated "long term" stocks (shares of stock held more than one year) to AWTHS is a means to save you and/or your spouse from paying taxes on monetary gains on the sale of such stock. Plus you can take the total amount of the sale off your taxable income as a gift to a non profit organization. This is a win win situation for the donor of the stock and the Historical Society. Anyone who would like to do this please contact Richard Troutwine at 692-5128. Todd Durham, at Second National Bank, will handle the transaction. You may reach Todd at 548-2206, the address is 499 S. Broadway, Greenville, Oh 45331. Please give this consideration the next time you would like to give to AWTHS.

## 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

## NEWS FROM THE PAST

*Taylor and Minnich Livery Stable was partially wrecked by a storm of lightning, wind, and hail. During the storm Friday afternoon (June 29), the north gable of Taylor and Minnich's big brick livery stable was blown in and crashed through the floor of the second story wrecking the front end of the building. It fell on several new buggies on the second floor. Loss to the rigs was \$500. The loss on the building will fall on Mr. Taylor as no cyclone insurance was carried. Mr. Taylor will tear away most of the front and put on iron braces, reconstructing the front.*

(The Weekly Times, Arcanum, Thursday, July 5, 1990)



## Arcanum Wayne Trail Historical Society Calendar of Events

July 11, 2006	Board Meeting – 8:15PM
August 1, 2006	Board Meeting – 8:00PM
September 1 & 15, 2006	Euchre Party – 1:00–3:30PM
September 5, 2006	Board Meeting – 8:00PM
September 14, 2006	Historical Society Meeting – 7:00PM Program: National Road Bicentennial Presenter: Ed Kemper, Englewood, Ohio President, Ohio National Road Association

*Watch for announcements of summer music programs to be held at the Veteran's Memorial Park.*

WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES OF OUR COMMUNITY!

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*Visit us on the Web at [www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.arcanumhistoricalsociety.org)*

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Arcanum, Ohio 45304

