



Renewed Remembering



The Newsletter of the Conneaut Area Historical Society and the David Cummins Octagon House

July 2024

Volume 2, Issue 19



Let's Put On
Our Holiday
hued,
Community
shoes!

We Remember

“Remembering” was the name of the original Conneaut Area Historical Society newsletter. Joan Barnett was the last editor, and with her death and the Covid pandemic the newsletter has not been published for a time.

It seemed fitting to name this new version of the old newsletter “Renewed Remembering,” in honor of the former editors including Louise Legeza and Joan Barnett who edited and published the newsletter for so many years. We hope you enjoy it!

The President’s Paragraph

The Conneaut Area Historical Society wants to thank you for your continued support. As always, new members are welcome. You can call: 440-599-6011 with further questions or write to Conneaut Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 563, Conneaut Ohio, 44030. Our Historical Museum street address is: 518 Mill Street and our David Cummins Octagon House address is 301 Liberty Street, Conneaut, Ohio 44030. Come and visit us. Jim Jones, President

In This Issue

Civil War Corner...The journalistic world of Bob Ettinger and those before him.

Time Travel Tuesday, July 16, 6 to 7 p.m. at the DAVID CUMMINS OCTAGON HOUSE “Two Righteous Reverends: Reverend Joseph Badger and Reverend Rufus Clark.”

We Are Plotting and Planning!

We are attempting to compile an email mailing list for our newsletter. Notify us if you would like your name added.

We are also having our July Time Travel Tuesday historical program at the Octagon House on the third Tuesday in July, July 16 from six to seven p.m. Come and see the reopened Octagon House and enjoy a historical program called "Two Righteous Reverends, the Stories of Reverend Joseph Badger and Reverend Rufus Clark."

Octagon House Parking is in the Conneaut Savings Bank rear parking lot, directly across the street from the Octagon House, or you can park in the grass at the side of the house as long as you don't block the driveway.

Please pick up a copy of this newsletter and share it with your friends. Or read your copy on our Conneaut Historical Society website:

<https://capturingconneauthistory.com/>

Volunteers Needed!

We need Enthusiastic and Dedicated Volunteers to help us help the Conneaut Area Historical Museum and the David Cummins Octagon House realize their full historical potential.

We could use some help organizing collections and updating the inventory. There are books needing to be listed and catalogued. There are notebooks needing covers and Beth could use some help getting our over 100 scrapbooks in working order.

We also have a music collection across five plus filing cabinets that Diana and friend Georgia could use some help organizing. We want to start a designated genealogy section in our research library to honor Louise Legeza. Come visit us and tell us what you would like to do.

Lend us your willing hands to help our museums grow. Be a Museum Volunteer.

Museum Steering Committee

Jerry Anderson
 Delmas Bennett
 Debbie Herbel
 Jerry Janco
 Jim Jones
 Pat Jones
 Debbie Jones
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CIVIL WAR CORNER #4 JULY 24

(OHIO IN THE CIVIL WAR).

There are countless books and articles about the American Civil War. The war continues to fade into the past of 160 plus years ago, yet it continues to capture our imagination. As with newsprint ... if it bleeds it leads.



The 29th OVI's activity summary for 1861 and 1862 is as follows:

- They had a minor role in Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign participating in the battles of Kernstown (March 1862) Port Republic (June 1862 and Cedar Mountain (August 1862). Jackson's mission is twofold: protect the valley, a Confederate bread basket and threaten Washington thus tying down

Union forces and reduce Union forces available to attack Richmond. In order to accomplish this MG Jackson would continually apply pressure on the Union forces in the valley and attack any time he had the opportunity to destroy Union forces piecemeal. In March 1862 he had approximately 4,200 troops to do this. Banks had 38,000 troops at his disposal. For approximately 6 months he tied up 30,000 to 40,000 Union troops. It is a classic campaign and one of THE examples of an economy of force operation.

- Having been whittled down from a strength of 1,000 men to 83 during the Valley campaign including the nearly 200-mile road march from New Market to Fredericksburg and back. During Second Manassas (or Bull run) (August 1862) the 29th guarded key rail road facilities and licked their wounds after serious losses at Kernstown, Port Republic and Cedar Mountain.
- During the terrible Union losses at Fredericksburg, VA (December 1862) the 29th OVI was leaving Frederick, MD to join the main Army of the Potomac via Leesburg, Fairfax, CT House, Manassas, to Dumfries. Burnside was given command of the Army of the Potomac. After the Fredericksburg debacle command reverted to MG Hooker.
- After a long harsh winter in Dumfries the 29th gained strength from hometown recruiting trips bringing their strength up to 450 officers and men.
- Next month's offering will include the Chancellorsville campaign.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR?

Of all the positive and negative things the Internet has brought to us the opportunity for self-study in an easy to manage mode is possible through YouTube. This FREE window into history is amazing with regards to the number of presentations that are available at your fingertips. Though initially daunting to the novice it can provide **years** of enlightened study and enjoyment.

HOW TO WATCH YOUTUBE AT HOME

- From a computer or tablet put www.youtube.com in the search window.
- In the YouTube search window type in the subject you would like to learn about.
- **This month's suggestions are :**

- **AWC: Jackson's Valley Campaign (The Ashtabula county Regiment 29th OVI was under BG Banks.)**
- **Second Manassas: Mighty Events Are On the Wing (28 AUG 1862) (29th OVI Guarding Trains after serious losses at Port Republic, Kernstown & Cedar Mountain)**
- **As you view any presentation advertisements will periodically appear. Just hit "skip" and they will go away.**
- If you have a streaming service like Spectrum the YouTube application (AP) is probably on your screen where you select Spectrum. Select YouTube, go to the search window and type in the term of what you want to watch, Once you open one Civil War show the built in algorithm will offer other Civil War selections.
- **If you have any questions, comments or feedback please send them to Bill Kennedy at whk3oh@gmail.com.**

Barn Quilt Square No. 7

In the fall of 2023, Steering Committee Member Debbie Herbel painted our museum Barn Quilt and it is proudly displayed on the front of our museum. We are thrilled to be a square in the Ashtabula County Barn Quilt patchwork and a traveler on the Ashtabula Barn Quilt Trail. The barn quilts celebrate Ashtabula County's agricultural heritage, including the Underground Railroad network, natural areas preservation, and Great Lakes maritime history.

Barn quilts stretch from the Ashtabula Lighthouse to the Pennsylvania borders and into Lake and Trumbull Counties. These trail guides take visitors to the heart and stories of Ashtabula County history. More than 110 barn quilts on both public and private buildings display the tourism and historical attractions of Ashtabula County. For more about the history, purpose, and quilt creators of the Barn Quilt Trail, go to their website at [Ashtabula County Barn Quilt Trail](#)

We plan to expand our Barn Quilt by using our historical collections to create a notebook library of Quilt Squares featuring people, places, and events in Conneaut

and Ashtabula County history. If you would like to contribute material for a quilt square, please contact a member of the Steering Committee.

The Barn Quilt Square for this month leads into the reporting of the June Time Travel Tuesday. Courier



reporter Bob Ettinger presented a program tracking the history of journalism in American History as well as in Conneaut. We know that you will enjoy his excellent as usual journalism of the present and the stories of other journalists of the past.

They Started the Presses and Kept Them Printing

Time Travel, Time Lines, and Journalism...

True to their timely nature, newspapers and timelines belong together. At June's Time Travel Tuesday, Courier reporter Bob Ettinger took a time travel trip through journalism history. His trip included stops at The Salem Advertiser, Conneaut Citizen, Conneaut Journal, Conneaut Evening Post, and The Conneaut News-Herald.

Bob started his newspaper career on the Cincinnati Post reporting sports scores and writing brief stories about the games for the sum of \$25.00 a night. He wrote his way up the journalism ladder of Ashtabula County newspapers including the Ashtabula Star Beacon and the Gazette Newspapers. His newspaper career now totals 21 years and writing strong. He devoted the first part of his presentation to recapping the early history of journalism.

Newspapers in Different Times and Places

The Egyptians wrote their newspapers in hieroglyphics on papyrus and water hyacinth leaves. The Louvre Museum in Paris displays this documented proof that the Egyptians had a press for thousands of years.

Not to be outdone, scribes in ancient Rome and the later Republic created the Acta Diurna which were official announcements of the results of trials, reports of events like marriages and births. The Acta Diurna were inscribed on tablets which were displayed in the forum and later filed in the Tabularium on the Capitoline Hill.

Roman Emperor Augustus developed a system resembling the American Pony Express when they sent important announcements out to the provinces using series of dispatch riders called the Cursus Publicus to distribute official correspondence. I

In Medieval times, the newspaper took the form of a newsheet that official scribes wrote and passed on to town criers to read out loud. Newsbooks or news pamphlets that spread information on various topic flourished in the 16th century.

Printed newspapers first appeared in Germany around 1605 in the form of weekly news sheets containing information about wars and politics in Italy and Europe. These German newspapers established the modern definition of a newspaper by displaying these characteristics: they were printed, dated, published regularly and frequently, and included various news items. The invention of moveable type and the spread of the printing press validated the claim that Johann Carolus in Strasbourg who printed his German language newspaper Relation aller Furnemmen und gedenckwurdigen Historien from 1605 onward had created the first newspaper.

The newspaper custom crossed the Atlantic Ocean to the American Colonies and in 1690, Benjamin Harris published Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick in Boston. Although it was considered to be the first newspaper in the American Colonies colonial officials disbanded it after one printing because they were fearful of what Benjamin Harris might publish in his paper.

At this point in the growth and distribution of newspapers, publishers and editors selected stories that often were more propaganda than news and decidedly sensationalist. Publishers kept an eye out for stories of magic, public execution and disasters which attracted eager readers.

In the eighteenth century, American newspapers evolved from being a sideline for printers and instruments of propaganda and sensationalism to being important political weapons in the campaign for American independence. After America won its independence from Britain, the new nation adopted its Constitution, with the First Amendment guaranteeing freedom of the press. Government postal subsidies, the support of political parties, and technological advances including the telegraphy and fast printing presses helped newspaper keep pace with a growing nation.

Editors, editorials, and newspaper reporters and stories became important parts of daily American life and by 1900, newspapers and newspaper publishers like Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst and their newspaper like Pulitzer's St. Louis Post- Dispatch and New York World and Hearst's San Francisco Examiner and New York Post were influencing American politics and some historians believe ignited the Spanish American War.

By the early 20th century, the ordinary American read several newspapers a day. Then technology again stepped in and radio and television appeared to challenge the grip of newspapers. By the late 20th century, newspapers had become just a segment of American corporate media and by the 21st century digital journalism had relegated newspapers to borderline status instead of their previous central position.

Starting, Starting, and Restarting the Presses Timeline-Wise

Ox Cart Brings First Press

Pioneer Community of Salem gets paper

The News-Herald is hardly the first paper to be published in Conneaut. While details are decidedly murky, it appears that the publishing tradition dates to about 1830 when Conneaut then known as Salem was a pioneer community.

It took more than thirty years after the first white settlers in what was then called Salem to get the first newspaper. A hand press was brought from Buffalo overland in an oxcart and the Salem Advertiser began its publication career. It later became the Conneaut Gazette.

1830- Salem Advertiser. Conneaut's first newspaper, the Salem Advertiser, is published. A handpress brought overland from Buffalo in an ox cart printed the Salem Advertiser.

1835- Conneaut Gazette replaces the Salem Advertiser.

Conneaut Gazette. April 1836- J.H. Jacoby becomes proprietor of the Gazette and S.F. Taylor, editor.

Conneaut Gazette. October 1836. Conneaut Gazette. C.A. Randall purchases the Gazette . S.F. Taylor remains editor.

Conneaut Gazette. January 1837. William becomes editor and W.W. Ainger later becomes publication agent.

Ashtabula County Gazette. 1840.

Conneaut Gazette until 1848.

The Conneaut Reporter- February 3, 1848.

The Conneaut Reporter, January 2, 1862. John P. Reig purchase the paper and owns it until 1900. In 1900, the Conneaut Reporter ceased publication.

Conneaut Express. 1878.C.S. Putnam and I.V. Stone begin publishing the Conneaut Express.

Conneaut Reporter and Conneaut Herald. 1890. These two weekly papers merge to become The Conneaut News-Herald.

The Conneaut News-Herald 1891. The Conneaut News-Herald becomes Conneaut's first daily with P.E. Bissell as editor.

The Conneaut Daily Herald. 1895, The News-Herald is renamed the Conneaut Daily Herald with J.F. Reig as editor.

The Conneaut Daily Herald. 1895. Frank Stow purchases The Conneaut Daily Herald and it becomes the Conneaut Post-Herald. The paper was four pages and ran seven columns.

The Conneaut Post-Herald. 1897. P.E. Bissell establishes the Conneaut Evening News in a wooden frame building where the J.C. Penney building later stood. In 1900, the paper was moved to a new brick block building at 182-184 Broad Street where it stood until it ceased publication. P.E. Bissell continued as editor.

The Conneaut Printing Company and The Conneaut Evening News- 1903. Henry Culp becomes business manager of the new Conneaut News-Herald and continues in that position for several years.

Conneaut News-Herald. January 1, 1907. Postmaster C.S. Putnam held a financial interest in the Conneaut Printing Company, which had been formed and purchased with the News in 1903. Postmaster Putnam engineered a merger with the Post-Herald on January 1, 1907, and the paper was officially The Conneaut News-Herald. The News-Herald was a six and eight page six-column paper.

Conneaut News-Herald. November 23, 1911. With the purchase of an eight-page duplex flatbed press, The News-Herald became a standard seven-column newspaper, printing four, six, and eight or more pages daily as required.

Conneaut News-Herald. The Conneaut Printing Company. 1927. Former manager Claude A. Rowley purchases the Conneaut News-Herald and continues to publish it until his death in 1945.

Tri-County Newspapers. 1984. Tri County Newspapers published the Conneaut News-Herald in 1984.

Brown-Thomson. 1988. Brown-Thomson purchased the Conneaut News-Herald in 1988.

Conneaut News-Herald. 1990. Editor of the News-Herald is Neil Frieder. Robert Lebzelter is managing editor and Mark Todd, City Editor. In October 1990, The News-Herald celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

Conneaut News-Herald. 1992. The News-Herald ceases publication.

Hometown News. July 1986-June 1991.

Conneaut Courier. The Courier begins publication in July 1992.

Newspaper People in the News

Phyllis Whipple, The Conneaut Journal



Friday January 17, 1941

10th Year, The Conneaut Journal

By carrier 10 cents a month

Plan Rebuilding of Journal Plant on Main Street

Plans and specifications are being drawn for

rebuilding the Moore Building, Main Street, which housed the Conneaut Journal which was badly gutted by fire on January 5.

The entire front portion of the structure will be rebuilt into a modern two-story building according to tentative plans.

Work is to start on the building just as soon as plans are completed and fire adjustment made.

The Journal and the job printing plant of the Community News Printing Company will be re-established in the structure. Equipment destroyed by fire will be replaced with new printing company equipment. The program calls for completion of part of the building, permitting The Journal to use some of its printing department sometime in February.

Due to inadequate facilities because of the fire, The Journal will be printed in tabloid size pages up until it is re-established in the old locality.

Society Editor Tells of Hardships Caused by Fire

Miss Phyllis Whipple, Journal Society Editor and Office Manager provided a front-page eye witness account of the fire and its aftermath. The day after the fire, while sleeping in a few extra hours, she began to wonder about what had possibility survived in the desk and in her office. She had heard that nothing much was salvageable in the back shop, but items in the front office may have survived. She walked to what was left of the newspaper office to see for herself. Immediately she realized that the newspaper building had been leveled to the ground.

She noted that “the linotypes lying on their sides were shrouded in ice and a mass of abused and useless parts. ...The job presses usually humming with action lay dormant on the few remaining floor beams...The newspaper press was still intact, but severely damaged...”

Her own office had fared a little better. She wrote that her desk and several filing cabinets “were a refuge for some of the filing and papers, mostly smoked and fringed in brown, but worth saving. “

The next day she learned that a temporary office had been set up for her in The Cleveland Hotel Annex. Anxious to return to work, she surveyed her new “office,” which consisted of “an improvised table, a typewriter, a phone, two charred files, and the office girl.”

She spent the rest of the day airing out papers, arranging items where she could find them, and getting used to interruptions by numerous salesmen, insurance agents, adjusters, and curious people.

As she attempted to work, she realized she didn’t have a pen or a pencil. She borrowed a pen but had no ink, so she went to the dime store, bought some ink, and returned to her makeshift office. She wrote: “I don’t remember who I borrowed the pen from, but he did not have much taste, because it leaked!”

She automatically reached for a blotter, but none existed in her new office. She tore the paper off and threw it on the floor and started over. She had no waste basket, so as the days passed, she accumulated a mountain sized pile of papers until she found a cardboard box to use for a waste basket. She spent a few quiet days working on tax reports which ironically enough had not burned in the fire, but the information that she needed to finish them had burned to ashes. Finally on Thursday, office activity increased with the Conneaut Journal publication date pending.

Publication day finally arrived, and Miss Whipple received the call to report to work at five to fold papers. An eight-page tabloid had been printed in place of the regular edition which had to be folded and required human hands to insert the inner pages. The Conneaut Journal, although a slimmer version of its pre-fire self, had met its publication deadline.

Miss Whipple experienced busier days in the next few weeks as word of the fire spread around the community and beyond its borders. People funneled in and out with supplies and offers of help. She concluded the story of her fire experiences by saying, "I heard rumors that everything was being taken care of and we would soon be back at the old homestead on Main Street. I have hopes that I have not been forgotten and that the office girl will be replenished with the necessary equipment that will ward off nervous prostration. I have never before realized the blessing of an adding machine, a desk with drawers, filing cabinets, and paper clips until I had to do without them. Undoubtedly things will be better when we are re-established, but until then this period of renaissance is truly the dark ages for me."

Conneaut News-Herald Centennial Edition

Wednesday October 10, 1990

Newspaper Originally Fronted Broad Before :Latest Addition

Robert Lebzelter, Managing Editor

The News-Herald has been serving its news hungry readers from its building at 182-184 Broad Street since 1900.

The newspaper spent its first ten years in a building now occupied by the J.C. Penney Company on Main Street. But the building today looks entirely different than back in the early days or even as recently as 1960. It was in that year that Rowley Publications, owner of the newspaper until late 1984, purchased vacant buildings at 176 Broad Street, an apartment complex at the northeast intersection of Broad and Liberty Streets and another property at 252 Liberty Street. The structures were razed to make way for an expanded News-Herald building and adequate parking for employees.

The former CEI building was razed to become what is now the north parking area for the paper. Previously, the cramped offices were fronted on Broad Street instead of Liberty Street as it now is. The expanded and modernized plant, which took two years to complete and was dedicated on May 18, 1962, contained 7,600 square feet

of working space. A second floor of the building was removed and the roof line of the building was remodeled to conform with the new construction.

The newly renovated structure also resulted in the pressroom being moved from the basement to the front of the building facing liberty street.

At the time of its dedication, then publisher D.C. Rowley said, “It is with deep pride and confidence in the Conneaut community that the new modern News-Herald plant is to be dedicated. ..to News-Herald citizens and personnel past, present, and future.

“This dedication in a small way expresses thanks to the community and The News-Herald family for the privilege of having been a part of their daily lives through the years.”

“The new building is not a monument. Rather, it is a working tool to be employed tirelessly for community-wide betterment, understanding, and development. The News-Herald looks to the future with resolve. It believes in the people it serves, their rights, and future.”

News Herald 1990



100 years after its debut, the present staff of the News-Herald pauses in front of the building. At top from left: Editor Neil Frieder, Manager Herbert Thompson, Publisher Ed Looman, and circulation director Jeff Colucci.

Second row includes
photographer/writer Warren
Dillaway, and sports editor David
Bruce.

Middle row Community Life Editor
Diana Lewis, Managing Editor
Robert Lebzelter, District

Circulation Manager Bonnie Walkup, and City Editor Mark Todd.

Bottom row includes advertising representatives Joan Todaro, Becky Saturday, and Julia Kopf, as well as circulation representative Karen Campbell. Office Manager

Sharon Castrilla and advertising director Larry Latva. Missing is writer Suzanne Bair who was on assignment.

Tom Cooley

Much of Ashtabula, Lake counties almost were part of Pennsylvania

It may come as a surprise to residents of Ashtabula and Lake counties, but much of the two counties were nearly part of Pennsylvania back in the founding days of our nation. It was nearly Conneaut, Pa. and Ashtabula, Pa. Some Conneaut residents to this day feel it might have been a better deal for our community if that were so, but that is neither here nor there.

At any rate, when boundaries were established following the creation of our nation, Ohio and New York had a common border line at what is now North Springfield, Pa.

Pennsylvania was blocked off from Lake Erie and the fast-growing trade on the Great Lakes. This did not set well with Pennsylvania officialdom and they immediately set up a howl. First, they demanded lakefront land running from Silvercreek, New York, to what is now Painesville, Ohio, about 125 miles of valuable lake frontage.

This naturally created a rumble among New York and Ohio officials who were determined, as they still are, not to give an inch for a neighboring state.

After much haggling, it was finally agreed to sell Pennsylvania an outlet on Lake Erie from a point just east of what is now Erie, Pa. to a point just east of Conneaut. The price was an unbelievable 50 cents an acre. It was not recorded at this point how the money was paid and to whom it was paid.

In addition, it was required that Pennsylvania pay the Indians for their land included in the purchase. This amounted to \$4,000 and was mostly paid in good old Pennsylvania whiskey. This final deed was signed by President George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State. It was dated March 3, 1792.

A small stone marker, hidden in heavy lakefront brush, now marks the deal in North Springfield, just off Lake Road. It is very difficult to reach. A regular roadside marker also marks the deal on nearby Route 5. It is located near the old Ohio-New York boundary.

Thomas Cooley was one of Conneaut's best known newspaper people.

This column was an example of his interest in history. He also liked to read about the Great Lakes, having a large library of books in his lakefront home devoted to the docks. For years, he entertained readers with his stories of the Great Lakes and its history in the pages of The News-Herald.

He started with Rowley Publications, owners of The News-Herald for much of the century, in 1951. He worked in Jefferson, Ashtabula, and Conneaut, where he became the editor in 1970.

He began as a general assignment reporter at The News-Herald, covering sports, City Hall, school, and the county courthouse. He was also sports editor and city editor at various times.

He suffered from kidney ailments for many years and died as editor emeritus on April 3, 1978. He was only 56.

James R. Mohan



He reminiscences about a forty plus career on the News-Herald.

His first day on the job was January 31, 1938. Two days later he was keeping a freezing watch on the shores of Lake Erie as two car ferries fought Lake Erie ice floes off Conneaut Harbor. The car ferry Maitland sat marooned on the ice. The second Marquette Bessemer No. 2 steamed to the rescue, and quickly both were in the grip of the same ice.

Three Conneaut sailors, Maruice Palo, George Sabo, and John Janda risked their lives and walked across the windrowed ice to the Maitland. They returned with the news that the Maitland was in no danger. He spent the next four decades writing Conneaut stories.

He died September 9, 1950 of cancer.

Mark Todd, City Editor

Long-time employee remembers changes

Newspaper technology has evolved dramatically in recent decades and witnesses to the change have included News Herald employees past and present.

“We were using handset type when I started,” said Eugene Maleckar, former production superintendent at the News Herald. “Now we’re into the electronics completely. There’s no limit to what you can do. Only your imagination can hold you back”

Maleckar joined the company in the late 1940s as a part-time mailroom employee. He began working full time in 1951 and he still helps assemble the News Herald.

Sophisticated computers and state of the art printers have long ago replaced the colossal linotype machines that once were the backbone of the composition room.

With the changes in equipment comes great advantages in the commodity important to the news business: time.

The old linotypes used to produce seven lines of type a minute. Our first computer produced 14 lines in the same time, and we thought that was great," Maleckar said. "Now the new equipment produces hundreds of lines."

Since less time is required in the back shop, news deadlines can be stretched, allowing late breaking stories to make the next day's editions.

Former N.H. staffers Clyde and Sophia Seager, logged careers at the newspaper that spanned five decades before retiring in 1984. They remembered working in a News Herald building before an expansion project in the 60s doubled the available floor space.

"In those days you could see everyone in the whole plant from your seat , except the manger. He had an office," Seager said, laughing. "It was interesting, because when I first started working we were next to the editorial department," he said.

Sophia Seager, who began her career in the circulation department, said the close quarters enabled all employees to learn the latest news. "

The Seagers recalled the big news events that created publishing headaches for the staff. In some cases, they truly had to stop the presses they said.

"The presses had just run and some newspaper carriers had begun their routes when we heard President Kennedy had been shot," Seager said. "We called back all the carriers and put together a new first page with the latest headlines."

A mammoth train crash in March 1953 also mobilized the staff, he said. "A separate line was installed in the newspaper to handle the photo services," Seager said.

Extra editions of the News Herald were printed when Germany and Japan surrendered in 1945, ending World War II he said.

Sophia Seager's initial duties at the News Herald also included dealing with the "paper boys" – news carriers in today's argon. She watched some of her young charges take on more responsibility in their adult years, including former Conneaut Municipal Court Judge Jack Stolson and ex-mayor Edward Griswold.

Her husband worked in the advertising and composition departments and said the advent of computers produced "a more efficient, cleaner operation."

P.E. Bissell

PE. Bissell was a pioneer in newspaper journalism in Conneaut, who served as an early editor of the News Herald.

Born in Dorset in 1864, Bissell attended school in New Lyme. He established Conneaut's first daily newspaper when he was 30, the Conneaut Evening Post. At the same time, two Ashtabulans Perry Remick and William Scott owned Ashtabula's newspaper and sold typographical material to Bissell.

In 1895, the Post was purchased by Frank Stowe who operated it for a year and combined it with the Herald to form The News-Herald. Three years later the paper moved to its present site with Bissell as editor.

In 1911, Bissell and some Ashtabulans bought the Ashtabula Beacon-Record and Daily Indicator. The Beacon-Record and the Daily Indicator were eventually consolidated into today's Star-Beacon.

Bissell became editor of the Star Beacon. He was known according to old newspaper accounts , as a "forceful writer always handling the editorials in a forceful manner."

He died on July 22, 1940, at the T.J.Way home for the Aged in Geneva, stricken with a heart attack in his sleep.

News Carriers of Old Remember Their First Job



Charles Maxon, West Springfield

I began as a paperboy in 1916. My first paper route was the Cleveland News. I picked up the papers at the City News right where it is today. Charlie Green owned the place. This route didn't have many customers so I didn't make much.

I purchased a News-Herald route from Herald Swamp for \$10. His sister is Alice Hathaway. This route brought me in about \$4 per week. I had the route in 1917 and 1918. Maybe a little longer as I remember it was during World War I.

Charles J. Sayre, Newark

My paper route was "downtown" Conneaut in the very early 1940s.

The song "Pistol Packin Mama" was on all the jukeboxes. The drugstore near the poolroom on Board Street always needed extra copies on Wednesday. They hung their ads on the wall and in their window. This special service received three candy bars each week.

It was a walking route. I do remember the snow being almost waist deep on Main Street between Harbor and Broad Streets one winter. (Of course, I was very tall.)

Some of the apartment dwellers over the theater and A&P had trouble making payments now and then, but we worked it out.

Fortune Buyers, The Creamery, Lyle Gaugh's Barbershop, and the seamstress for Whitney's Clothing Store (she had Wednesday off so I had to deliver to her house on Liberty Street) were all good customers as were many others.

My substitute carrier, who did a great job when called to do so, was Ester Carle's son Harold or Sonny as he was known then.

Being a News-Herald delivery boy was a real education in both salesmanship and public relations,

Good luck on your 100th anniversary.

Donald "Bud" Morton, Conneaut

I was a News-Herald carrier from 1928 to 1933. My route was parts of Monroe Street from Buffalo to Chestnut, Wright's Avenue between Main and State Streets, Orange Street between Monroe and Madison, State from Orange to the Point,

Chestnut from Maine to Madison, and part of Madison from Chestnut to Mill Street. My route was No. 11 and the second largest in the city, with 112 customers. Helge Jussila had Route 12, the largest with 125 customers.

There were four events during that time I remember well. The presidential election of 1928 between Al Smith and Herbert Hoover, in which an extra was printed that night and we were on the streets at 3 a.m., selling extras. Also, the stock market crash of 1929, the Lindberg baby kidnapping and Roosevelt's election.

The weekly cost of The News-Herald during that time was 12 cents. Of that, The News-Herald received eight cents and the carrier four cents. I averaged between \$4.50 and \$5 per week. Bad weather was a problem, trying to keep the papers dry.

The people I remember from my carrier days included Dr. Rodgers, the dentist, my first customer on my route. He lived in the house on Monroe Street where Frew and Jackson are located now. He always paid for four weeks in advance and I would collect at this office. I would have to carry ten extra papers every day for Ralph Crombies Pharmacy. The people from the News-Herald I remember were Mr. Quigley, the manager, Jim Mohan, Bill Herb, Earl Hankins, and Carolyn Merrick.

Ed Shorty Leasperance was in charge of the presses and Robert Sonny White was his assistant. Bill Kelly had charge of the carriers and also handled the mailing of out-of-town papers. His father, Ken Kelly, also worked at The News-Herald.

One more recollection I have of that period is the bulletins that would be posted in the windows facing Broad Street. People would ride by at all hours to see if anything of importance had happened. During World Series time, The News Herald would have a large scoreboard on the building and Ed Betz would put the scores up as they came over the wire.

Carl Luse, Conneaut

I've lived in North Conneaut for about 80 years in the same house where my parents brought me before I was old enough to go to school. The school had four big rooms and eight grades, two to each room. Later, the first and second grades were separated making it all in five rooms.

One teacher for each room. This meant that all teachers had two grades, except the first and second grades.

What is now Conneaut Shores Golf Course was at the time a cow pasture. Anyone wishing to rent it for the summer could do so and my father rented it for his two cows.

At first it was only the east side with a rail fence around it. (Sometimes I wondered what became of those rails. Later they opened the cow pasture all the way to Whitney Road. This enclosed the golf course.)

Another thing of interest to me was the Nickel Plate Depot on the east side of Mill Street, just south and close to the tracks that are now Norfolk Southern.

The passenger trains were late more often than on time. Most of the passengers were on what was known as "the pass." They issued passes for people who worked for them. This included their families. Our waiting time added up to quite a little because my mother liked to go to Erie to see her friends. Believe it or not, often a passenger train was sidetracked to let a freight go by. (The freight made the money and the passengers did not with all the passes). All of the trains stopped in Conneaut for servicing because the shop was there and they could not go through like the diesels of today.

I peddled the News-Herald for the late Carlton Gee. He had nearly 100 customers, mostly in North Conneaut. The size of the paper was bigger than today so we could fold it and throw it from the street.

As for the cost it was just a few cents a week, as it was about 1917 when I was 12.

Herbert Griffey, Conneaut

I delivered the paper to about 20 customers. I received 12 cents a week from my customers and I would have to pay the News-Herald six cents of that money.

I would go down Route 20 to Springfield Township to the Home Tavern, which was then called Pig and Whistles, then back to Jay Griffey's store and then north down Crayton Road to what is now Route 5, east of that road to where Harris Distributor was, then back west on what is now Route 5, to Deadman's Curve (Routes 5 and 20) to Kitchen's Gas Station. Then back on Route 20 to Jay Griffey's Store, again, then up to Five Corners and then back home, which was between five and six miles. I would walk it in bad weather but I had a bike that I rode in good weather.

Barbara Williams Simpson, Conneaut

During the 1940s, I was a paper carrier for the News-Herald. I don't remember the exact years, but it was during the war. At the time I was the only girl paper person and perhaps the first girl carrier.

My father was an avid News-Herald reader. He wanted the paper as soon as he got home from work and he always wanted to be the first to open it. Our carrier had quit and no neighborhood boy was willing to take the job so I took over. I don't recall how many customers I had, but I delivered between the North Kingsville line and Parrish (then Grant Road) and Salisbury Road.

I lived on Salisbury, but I had to pick up the papers at the bus stop at Grant and Route 20. I rode my bike or walked to pick up the papers, but sometimes my father picked them up on his way home from work. My route covered at least six miles round trip.

The memories are pleasant. I do not recall the price of the paper at that time. Most customers were prompt about paying and I frequently was tipped. I do remember that many who could least afford it were more generous. I also recall Saturday morning payments at the old counter with, I believe Mrs. Seager.

My most outstanding memory was a snowstorm that closed almost all our roads. My father couldn't get to work so he walked with me to Grant Road for the papers. The snow was up to our hips as we trudged along Gore Road. He helped me deliver the papers. It was an extremely severe winter, but I only missed two days delivery.

This was my first real job.

James M. Hall, Conneaut

In the early 1930s, I started to deliver The News-Herald. My route was given to me by John Quigley, the son of Walter Quigley, who was head of the paper at that time. In those days they never had to advertise for paper boys. Routes were hard to come by. Many times one route carrier picked his successor. That was the way I got mine.

At that time, the press was in the basement of the building. Shorty Lesperance, Bob White, and Bill Brabender ran the press. We got our papers by route number. My route started at Broad and Jackson Streets. Then it went west on Jackson to Chestnut, west on Chestnut to the CEI substation and then west on Clark to

Whitney. In the summer, my route also took in about 30 more customers in cottages and summer homes on Parrish and Lake Roads as far east as the water works.

The paper cost 12 cents a week. I made six cents a week on each customer. I was the only paper boy to get that much. Most others got only four or five cents. You had to pay for all of the customers regardless of whether your customers paid you or not. It was hard to get 12 cents a week out of some people but you were to deliver papers just the same. You paid your bill every Saturday to Carol Merrick in the front office.

During the time I delivered papers, Kimball's Garage was on Broad Street where the American Legion is now. Spike Naylor's Shoe Shop was next door. Pond Lumber Company was further north on Broad. There was a crossing watchman on duty 24 hours day on the Nickel Plate Railroad crossing. He had a little shanty to stay in. Next to the tracks was the Conneaut Grain and Feed Company. Further down Broad Street to Jackson was the Goldette Factory, a woolen mill, and Max Goldstein's Wholesale Produce.



Conneaut News-Herald, 1992

-30- but reconstituted

Bob Ettinger

After his summary of journalism history, Bob talked about his own newspaper career on newspapers in Cincinnati, Youngstown, and Ashtabula County. He said that is bottom line in writing stories about people was fairness and honesty, "and if you write about them with integrity, you are doing your job."

He's Keeping the Presses Printing, Digitally Speaking Conneaut prepares for 'Red, White and Boom'



by BOB ETTINGER

on 21 Jun 2024

CONNEAUT – The City of Conneaut expects a good Fourth of July party as the community wants to celebrate Independence Day.

The Red, White and Boom over Lake Erie Festival promises to serve as that party it will culminate in thousands clogging the lakeshore for the annual fireworks display.

“I’d guess it’s (so popular) because of the fact that we put on one hell of a show,” Red, White and Boom Committee member Mike Bartone said. “I’d have to say, between Erie and Cleveland, we have, arguably, the best display out there. I think it’s the setting, the surroundings, everything that’s going on.”

The holiday weekend in the city will kick off with beauty pageants and the Fourth of July Parade on Thursday, July 4, and continue with the festival through the Saturday night fireworks. The pageants, which begin at 3 p.m. on July 4, will feature three age divisions – Little Lady Liberty (ages 3-5), Little Miss Firecracker (ages 6-8) and Little Miss Fourth of July (ages 9-11).

“It’s going to be action-packed as far as everything that we have going on,” Bartone said. “Three of those, the Little Lady Liberty, Little Miss Firecracker, a Little Miss Fourth of July, I’m pretty sure there’s eight participants for each one. I believe they’re all full. Everything was done online. A lot of them were full within three or four days.”

At the conclusion of the pageants, the contestants will be rushed up to the staging area for the parade.

“One thing we want to do differently this year is we want all the participants from all the pageants to ride on a float,” Bartone said. “If everything goes according to plan, it should be ending at around five. We’ll have the convertibles right there at the festival, along with the float, and put the kids in the cars and drive them about two-and-a-half or three miles down the road to where the parade lineup is going to

get them situated. Their families don't even have to leave the festival because the parade will leave the staging area over there off of Broad and Depot and come straight down Broad, turn over here on Erie Street by Sparky's. And it would come right by the park."

The parade will proceed down Broad Street from Jackson Street to Lakeview Park and will start at 6 p.m.

"In years past, in a normal year, that first part of July is pretty much always either at one o'clock or two o'clock and it was the hottest part of the day," Bartone said. "We thought it would be nice to have it later in the evening and maybe it wouldn't be so hot and that having it later brings people down to the festival."

As the parade ends in Lakeview Park, the Conneaut High School Marching band will kick off the Red, White and Boom over Lake Erie Festival with a short performance.

"At the end of the parade, the Conneaut High School Marching Band usually performs at the festival," Bartone said. "They perform a couple of their favorites that everybody likes to be played. By the time the parade wraps up down at the park, we should be heading right into our main entertainment event."

The festival returned to its traditional three-day format a year ago after it being just a single-day event in its return after the pandemic. The event will be open from 3-11 p.m. July 4-6 at Lakeview Park. Entertainment for the weekend will include Loose Tooth Band from 8-11 p.m. on Thursday, Midnight Bearhug from 4-7 p.m. and Blue Siren from 8-11 p.m. on Friday, Mark Morris Live from 3-5 p.m., Kings of Castles from 6-7 p.m. and Ralph Chamberlin Jr. Band from 8-11 p.m. on Saturday. Food trucks and vendors will offer just about every fair food that can be imagined.

"I can't even name everything, but we'll have elephant ears, funnel cakes, corn dogs and fried Swiss cheese," Bartone said. "We'll have someone doing burgers and chicken and fries and all kinds of things. They call it a grab joint, where you can pretty much get anything you want from it. She's local. Holly Lower, who has the Cooking Cowboy Café. She has her big flashy trailer. Then, we have Anthony Nelson, who's local, who's doing wood-fired pizza. We have Gabe Cellini, who's local, who's doing the tropical snow and we have a fried veggie person coming in. I think we have a total of about 10."

The festival will conclude with the annual fireworks display at 10 p.m. on Saturday.

“By far, that’s the biggest night,” Bartone said. “It brings in thousands of people throughout the lakefront and down here to Township Park and the marina.” The entertainment will pause for the fireworks display, but return to the stage for a short while to keep people in the park a little longer to help alleviate traffic leaving the event.

“The band will take a little bit of a break during the fireworks show and then, as soon as the fireworks are over, they’ll come back on stage and play until 11, maybe even 11:30 just to keep people there because a lot of people know by now that they aren’t going anywhere for at least a half hour,” Bartone said. “Why sit in your car for a half hour?”

Sponsors will include Moose Lodge 472 Conneaut (beer cups), Holhart Residential and Commercial Garbage Service (trash removal) and Conneaut Dairy Queen (patriotic pageants).

“We wouldn’t have been able to do this without our major sponsors,” Bartone said. The Red, White and Boom Over Lake Erie committee has spent the last year planning the event.

“We have a great committee of people,” Bartone said. “It started with the Port Authority, who kind of revived it with the fireworks a couple of years ago. Then, we all formed a committee, the Red, White and Boom Over Lake Erie Committee.”

Bob Ettinger

Although the role and influence of print newspapers have diminished, they are surviving. Bob and his audience discussed the importance of honest reporting, treating people well, and objectivity in reporting whether via newspaper, television, or Internet.

What will be the role of 21st century newspapers? Bob Ettinger is working to answer that question in favor of newspapers.

Patron's Pages

Join Our Patrons Program

The Conneaut Area Historical Museum is excited to announce a new Merchant Patron program which is available to any local business who desires to help our museum to function and improve. For \$50 per year (January to December) we will include your business name and phone number in the publications the museum produces, including a monthly newsletter, any future books the museum produces, and our website. If interested, send your donation of \$50.00 to P.O. Box 563, Conneaut, Ohio 44030. We will include you in our list of great merchants and businesses in this area.

American Legion Post 151
162 Broad Street
Conneaut, Ohio
440-593-2205

Angela's Café
268 Lake Road
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-6060

Biscotti's Restaurant
186 Park Avenue
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-6766

Chris Brecht
State Farm
Insurance Agency
216 Main Street B
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-1191

Conneaut Creek Vet
Clinic
382 West Main Road
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-7387

Conneaut Dairy Queen
1009 Maine Street
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-2765

Crafty Shanty
183 Park Avenue
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
814-480-9532

Gerdes Pharmacy
245 Main Street
Conneaut, Ohio 44030
440-593-2578

Kathi's Golden Retrievers of Albion
11790 Penside Road
Albion, PA 16401
814-756-5432

Leslie & Donald O'Bell
2 Bretenahl Place Suite C
Bretenahl, Ohio 44108

Lynn Armington
 48 Ranch Road
 Willoughby, Ohio 44094
 440-951-3122

Marcy Funeral Home
 208 Liberty Street
 Conneaut, Ohio 44030
 440-593-4253

Maureen Mo Tanner
 930 Main Street
 Conneaut, Ohio 44030

Port Conneaut Federal Credit Union
 1002 Broad Street
 Conneaut, Ohio 44030
 440-593-7350

Rainbow Café
 263 Main Street
 Conneaut, Ohio 44030
 440-593-2504

Susanne Trigg
 Canfield, OH

Normal for Norway is a culture shock humor podcast
 where in each episode two foreigners living in Oslo
 discuss one weird thing about Norway.

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Conneaut Community Connections

Conneaut Area Historical Society Membership Application



The dues period runs from January through December.

Single \$15.00 _____

Couple \$20.00 _____

Family \$25.00 _____

Patron \$50.00 _____

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Would you be willing to volunteer at the Museum or at the Octagon House during the summer months or help us with winter projects?

The Conneaut Area Historical Museum is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon until 5 p.m., starting on Memorial Day and ending on Labor Day.

The David Cummins Octagon House is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day from noon until 5 p.m. We also plan on keeping the Octagon House open during the winter for special programs and tours. What day or time is best for you?

Thank you for your membership.

P.O. Box 563. Conneaut, Ohio 44030