

May- June
2025

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

Volume 3
Issue 26

Once Upon A Conneaut Bus...

Once Upon a Conneaut Bus the grandfather of the Conneaut bus called the “jitney” lured people from their wagons and carriages for a relaxing ride around town with



Early bus service, provided by independent jitney drivers, began in 1915 with the fare being a jitney (nickel). Jitney drivers followed no particular schedule and would make a U-turn to pick up a passenger headed in the opposite direction. In 1922, the city line trolleys stopped operating, and the Conneaut Bus Company was granted a license to operate buses within the city. City bus fare was 10¢ until they stopped operating in the 1960s.

someone else doing the driving. An earlier version of “leave the driving to us.”

As time and technology marched on, Conneaut citizen D.D.

Anthony decided to build on the jitney idea and create the Conneaut Bus Company.

After more than two decades and at least

one more owner, the Conneaut Bus Company ceased operations. Riding the bus may have taken a back seat in their minds, but the Conneaut Bus Company remained a fond if hazy memory. Riding the bus made enough of an impression on Conneaut Area Historical Society President Jim Jones to motivate him to spearhead an effort to acquire and refurbish one of the buses after it had spent years of hibernation in a local garage.

David Jones, Director of the Conneaut Arts Center, will present the Wednesday May 21, 2025. He will talk about the Arts Center and Conneaut History.

In this issue:

Once Upon A Conneaut Bus

When You and I Were Young Maggie

26 Long Years Ago - - Back In 1922

THE FIRST CITY BUS LINE

WAS STARTED IN CONNEAUT

And through your co-operation and patronage we are proud to announce the celebration
OF OUR 26TH ANNIVERSARY
Wednesday, March 31st 1948





CONNEAUT BUS COMPANY

<p>WE SALUTE The Entire Staff of the Conneaut Bus Co. And Congratulate Them On Their 26TH ANNIVERSARY Continued Success In Our Buscare Work Conneaut Banking & Trust Co.</p>	<p>SUCH SUCCESS MUST BE DESERVED We Take Our Hat Off To The Conneaut Bus Co. And Wish Them Continued Success For Many Years To Come. SANFORD TIRE SERVICE</p>	<p>'Congrats And Best Wishes To The Owners OF The Conneaut Bus Co. We're Behind You On Your 26th Anniversary — Lots of Success CONNEAUT AUTO PARTS AND SUPPLY CO.</p>	<p>Conneaut Is Fortunate For Good City Appreciation The Splendid Service and The Solid Record of the Conneaut Bus Co. And We, As One Organization If Another, Wish Them Continued Luck. Fortune-Byers Company</p>
<p>WE THANK YOU Employees of the Conneaut Bus Co. For your faithful service to the public and congratulations on your</p>	<p>Greetings We Are Happier To Extend The Glad Hand In the Conneaut Bus Co. And Wish Them Many More Anniversaries</p>	<p>GOOD LUCK To The Conneaut Bus Co. To Its Manager and All the Drivers—</p>	<p>WE ARE PROUD To Add Our Congratulations To The Entire Staff OF The Conneaut Bus Co. And Wish Them Many, Many</p>

Newspaper photo courtesy of Beth Anthony and Jack Coville

The best preserved bus of the two pulled from storage in the garage now rests in the front yard of the Conneaut Area Historical Museum awaiting refurbishing and a new life.

In Conneaut, the time line from jitney to city bus service to one of the city buses as a museum display is a short one. Some sources says that widespread use of jitneys began in Los Angeles in 1914, others set the date as 1910. Conneaut history

chooses 1915 as the date. There is a loose consensus about the meaning of the word “jitney. Jitney is slang for a nickel shared taxi in the form of a private automobile, a small bus or other vehicle, often unregulated, and operating along a fixed route during fixed hours.

People of certain ages will remember this bus song:

“The wheels on the bus go round and round,
Round and round, Round and round.
The wheels on the bus go round and round,
All through the town.”

Thanks to D.D. Anthony, Conneaut has its own version of the song.

The Conneaut bus went from the harbor to west end,
Harbor to west end, harbor to west end,
The Conneaut bus went from the harbor to west end,
D.D. Anthony was its patron friend!



When the city trolley lines stopped operating in 1922, D.D. Anthony envisioned a city bus service and applied for a license to operate one. The city granted his request and on March 31, 1922, he began operating the Conneaut Bus Company and he remained in the driver’s seat for the next 39 years, until March 10, 1961.

D.D. Anthony had worked his way up through the ranks of the bus company. His obituary said that as a boy he had worked at the bus company and worked his way up to secretary and then company manager and finally, owner of the company. In his early years with the company he also operated a taxi service.

D.D. Anthony also operated the Park Avenue Fish Market for twenty years and for a time operated a boat and paid a crew to catch his own supply of fish. A few years before he died in April 1961, D.D. Anthony worked in the trucking business leasing tractors to the Erskin Company to haul their trailers. Originally, the Conneaut buses made half hour runs from the Harbor to the west end of Conneaut during shopping hours only. Later, some of the advertisements in the Conneaut

News Herald suggest that as routes and runs accumulated, the bus company adjusted some its original policies.

For a ten cent fare, Conneaut people could board the bus from the comfort of a nearby bus stop and ride to their favorite store, get off the bus, and shop to their heart's content. When they were ready to go home, they would wait at another convenient bus stop and enjoy the short ride home, often surrounded by packages in the next seat.

The two buses carried passengers visiting family, keeping important appointments, and sometimes providing plain fun and adventure to younger riders. One of the more humorous bus stories surfaced during a Hump Day History program at the Octagon House in Conneaut. Beth Anthony presented a program about the bus since her family has close ties to its history. She told one of the stories she heard about the bus. According to Conneaut Bus lore, back in that day some frazzled Conneaut mothers would put

their older more energetic children on the bus and let them ride off some of their energy around town for several bus runs.

The Conneaut Bus Company did its part to help win World War II as illustrated by this advertisement.

The 1940s and 1950s brought radical changes in public transportation with increasing automobile sales and in the 1950s, a system of nationwide connecting highways and freeways. The Conneaut Bus Company continued to ride through the years. By 1959, D.D. Anthony

STARTING SUNDAY, JUNE 22
ALL CITY BUSES
WILL RUN TO
TOWNSHIP
PARK
ON A TWO WEEK'S TRIAL BASIS
FROM THIS SUNDAY ON,
ALL REGULAR SCHEDULES
WILL INCLUDE TOWNSHIP PARK
RIDE THE BUS TO THE LAKE
Conneaut Bus Co.

WE MUST DECLARE
WAR ON WASTE
WE MUST CONSERVE THE VITAL MATERIALS
NEEDED BY OUR ARMED FORCES IN THIS WAR
FOR OUR FREEDOM AND THE AMERICAN
WAY OF LIFE
We Will Stop ONLY at Street
Corners to Pick up and Dis-
charge Passengers
Your Cooperation in not expecting
or asking our Busses to make stops
between blocks will Save countless
miles of tire wear and many
gallons of gasoline
The Conneaut Bus Co.
D. D. ANTHONY, Manager
Ride the Bus -- Save Your Car
JUN 7 1942

CONNEAUT BUS COMPANY
CONNEAUT, OHIO
GOOD FOR ONE FARE
President 023270
CONNEAUT BUS COMPANY
CONNEAUT, OHIO
GOOD FOR ONE FARE
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CONNEAUT BUS COMPANY
CONNEAUT, OHIO
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President 023270
CONNEAUT BUS COMPANY
CONNEAUT, OHIO
GOOD FOR ONE FARE
President 023270

realized that he had to either raise fares substantially or win a city subsidy. He didn't accomplish either goal so on December 31, 1960, D.D. Anthony of Broad Street sold the Conneaut Bus Company to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hale of East Main Road. The Hales operated the bus company with high hopes and optimism, but bus riders continued to find transportation elsewhere.

A Conneaut News Herald story announced the sale of the Conneaut Bus Company until March 10, 1961. "I can't make ends meet," Mr. Hale told a News Herald reporter. He said that only 100 passengers a day had been riding the bus. The Hale's announcement took city officials by surprise, but there were no plans to resume bus company services.

The two buses hibernated in a local garage until April 2025 when the owners decided to take them out of the garage and either sell them or dispose of them in some other way.

The Conneaut Area Historical Society now owns one of the buses.



1Ashtabula Star Beacon photo by Warren Dillaway

Jim Jones, President of the Conneaut Area Historical Society explained how the museum acquired the bus. City Manager Nick Sanford and other officials contacted the owners of the buses and negotiated with them. A gentleman in the community bought one of the buses and donated it to the Conneaut Area

Historical Society.

"I want to personally thank the person who purchased and donated the bus. It's a great asset to the historical society," Jim said.

"When I was a kid I rode that bus," Jim Jones told Bob Ettinger, a reporter from the Courier. He believes the bus is from the 1940s. He is not certain whether it is 1943, 1944, or 1946 but he is certain that the Superior Bus Company.

Jim and his buddy knew Doc Anthony who owned both of the buses and one day when we were talking to him he told us he wanted to restore our bus and we told him it would cost too much,” he said.

Coss in money and time are still a factor in 2025.

Jim explained that he has a friend who is a historian and collects World War II memorabilia. His friend owns a magazine with a picture of a bus just like the one on display in the parking lot of the Conneaut Historical Museum on Mill Street. “He’s going to donate it so we have a little bit of information about it on display,” Jim said.

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

Up to Date and Doing with the Conneaut Area Historical Society and the David Cummins Octagon House

Another Conneaut Area Historical Museum season has whizzed by as fast as the summer. We celebrated our 28th Anniversary Labor Day weekend with free hot

dogs and festivities. It has been an eventful 28th years, full of progress, joys, and sorrows.

In the last few years we have lost some long-time, faithful members, including Jack Mathay, Rosemary Bennett, and Karl Rowbotham in July. They are missed and mourned, both in the Society and in the Conneaut Community.

Our joys include reopening the David Cummins Octagon House. We kept it open all winter as a base of operations for our historical society, since the historical museum doesn't have heat. The Octagon House hours are Friday, 12 to 5, and on Saturdays and Sundays we are open from 12 to 5. Come and visit us. As well as antiques and a unique building, we have Conneaut history displays, scrapbooks, city directories; we have school year books, and military, musical, and other interesting exhibits.

On the third Wednesday of every month we present a historical program that we changed from Time Travel Tuesday to Hump Day History Wednesday. Conneaut native Beth Anthony presented our April Hump Day History Program on April 16 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Octagon House. She will talk about the vintage Conneaut bus that was just donated to the Conneaut 'area Historical Society. David Jones of the Conneaut Art Center is presenting our May 21 from 6 to 7 at the Octagon House. Join us!

We are encouraging public school and home-schooling parents and teachers to bring pupils to the Octagon House for a field trip to glimpse into the past. Come and have fun and win prizes in local history bees.

Our research library is stocked with material waiting for people to come in and use, and we have over 100 scrapbooks crammed full of Conneaut History. Come and explore!

In December we had our first Octagon House Tea. The tea had a World War II Theme, featuring Glenn Miller music and Connie Naylor reading some of her grandmother's letters that she wrote as she came of age during the World War II years. Twelve-year-old Aubrie also modeled some of our vintage clothing to the delight of the tea goers. We sponsored a Jane Austen Tea on April 26 from 12 to 2:00 p.m. at the Octagon House and we had good turnout and a good time.

Our August tea will be a Laura Ingalls Wilder themed tea for adults and children. Children from eight years old upward will be required to bring an adult.

We plan four season teas a year with a ten dollar donation required.

We are working on several new exhibits, including the panoramic photographs of William Haines and a Pittsburgh & Conneaut Dock exhibit.

We are busy and we know you are too, but take some time to drop in and see us at the David Cummins Octagon House, and mark next Memorial Day on your calendar for the next season for the Conneaut Area Historical Museum and the David Cummings Octagon House.

Museum People

Steering Committee

Kathy Warnes
Jerry Anderson
Debbie Jones
Pat Jones
Nancy Lamb
Mo Tanner

Delmas Bennett
Jim Jones
Jim Lyon
Debbie Herbel
Frank Sedmak

Museum Officers

President: Jim Jones
Vice President: Jerry Janco
Secretary: Debbie Jones'
Treasurer: Pat Jones
Historian: Kathy Warnes

A special thanks to Andy Pochatko at the Topky Library in Ashtabula who has faithfully and consistently printed our newsletter for us for the past two plus years. We couldn't have accomplished this without him!

Andy as Reverend Rufus Clark, one of the key figures in his presentations about the Underground Railroad in Ashtabula County.





Barn Quilt Square

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.

Memorial Day Remembering...



Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our king.

Samuel Francis Smith wrote the lyrics to "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," in 1831 when he was a student at Andover Theological Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts. His song became one of the songs serving as the national anthem of the United States before the Star Spangled Banner became the official national anthem in 1931. The melody of his song is adapted from the United Kingdom anthem, "God Save the King."

This is one of the verses from "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

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, renewable every year) 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.

Crafty Shanty 153 Park
Avenue Conneaut,
Ohio 44030

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

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

Biscotti's Restaurant
186 Park Avenue

Conneaut, Ohio
44030

440-593-6766

Rainbow Café

263 Main Street

Conneaut, Ohio
44030

Conneaut Creek
Veterinary Clinic West
Main Street
Conneaut, Ohio
44030 593-7387

Kathi's Golden
Retrievers of Albion

11790 Penside Road
Albion, PA 16401

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.
Listen to Normal for
Norway wherever you get
your podcasts!

Marcy Funeral
Home 208 Liberty
Street Conneaut,
Ohio 44030

Lynn Armington
48 Ranch Road

Willoughby,
Ohio 44094

Lake Erie Auto West
Main Road Conneaut,
Ohio 44030

American Legion
Post 154

162 Broad Street

Conneaut, Ohio

440-593-2205

*Conneaut Dairy
Queen 1009 Main
Street Conneaut,
Ohio 440-593-
2765*

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

Leslie & Donald
O'Bell

2 Bretenahl Place

Bretenahl, Ohio

Maureen Mo Tanner

930 Maine Street

Conneaut, Ohio 44030

Hair Shack

444 State Street

Conneaut, Ohio 44030

440-549-6777

Remember Them



In a pioneer cemetery mossed with the ages
Places filled with ordinary life pages,
Granite gleaming city sophistication,
Let us remember them as a nation.
The lives they gave to us to live,
And to return them with what we have to give!

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