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# Cornerstones

Building on the Past, Present and Future of the City of Fairfield and Fairfield Township

Fall/Winter 2019

Fairfield Historical Society

Vol. 6 Issue 3

fhs snapshots >>>



Fairfield Resident Association members clean up the Symmes Cemetery in August 1961. (Photo by Edna Antes)



Fairfield voters enter Riegert Furniture (now Lindenwald Station) to cast ballots in the late 1960's. (Photo by Edna Antes)



The water trough on Tylersville Road in 1970. (Photo by George Crout)

## Spoiler Alert: Christmas Is Right Around the Corner Santa's Helpers Busy Preparing for Dec. 8 Christmas Open House at Elisha Morgan Mansion

We know, we know...Halloween and Thanksgiving come before Christmas. But our partners with the Four Seasons Garden Club have been busy planning for this year's annual Holiday Open House at the Elisha Morgan Mansion and we can't wait to tell you!

This year's Christmas at the Mansion will be held on Sunday, December 8 from 1-4pm. Admission is free and includes complimentary holiday refreshments and snacks. This is an excellent time to bring your family and neighbors to the 200-year old mansion and view a Christmas scene from bygone days. Historic exhibits and tours of the building will be offered too.

This event is sponsored by the Fairfield Historical Society, the Four Seasons Garden Club and the Fairfield Parks & Recreation Department.

*This Issue is Dedicated in the Memory of*



*Ercel Eaton*

Former Journal-News columnist, journalist and contributor to Cornerstones, Ercel Eaton passed away in June. Ercel was very passionate about preserving not only local history but her own family who grew up in the Appalachian Mountains



*James Erwin*

Attorney Jim Erwin is most prominently known as the special prosecutor that convicted James Ruppert of killing 11 members of his family. Jim passed away in September and was a former FHS board member and enjoyed a life-long interest in local history.



## special edition >>> a driving tour of historic fairfield

Since 2018, the FHS has awarded designated plaques to buildings in the city that possess 1) a structure that has a unique design, 2) is older than 50 years old and 3) the structure has a historical value to the City of Fairfield. Below are the 17 buildings named to date. Please feel free to spend an afternoon admiring these properties from a distance and keep in mind that all of the properties are privately owned.

### NORTH OF NILLES ROAD

\* 241 Symmes Road – built in 1898 and known as the A.E. McCormick home.

\* 4643 Pleasant Ave. – built in 1929 and features a unique design constructed with 3 ½ baths and four bedrooms and over 3400 square feet of living space which was very rare very rare for its time.

\* 4761 Pleasant Ave. – built in 1875 and was the home of Hannah F. Magee, one of the original settlers in the area and the namesake for Magie Avenue.

\* 4900 Pleasant Ave – built in 1929 and known as the Zilliox/Patterson home.

\* 4815 Holiday Drive at Magie Ave. – built in 1887 and known as the Patrick Burns home. This home is also known as the "house on the hill."

\* 465 Patterson Blvd. – built in 1962 as Fairfield's first U.S. Post Office until 1990. This building has been the home to the Campbell Guard Post #1060 Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post since that time.

\* 5650 E. River Road – built in 1847 and owned by U.S. Major George Rue, who is credited with capturing Confederate General John Hunt Morgan.

\* 4850 Groh Lane – This special nominee is the home of the Joe Nuxhall Miracle League Fields and sits on land that has been farmed for over 100 years by the Groh family.

\* 4901 Groh Lane – built in 1860 and served as the home of the one of the first pioneer's in the area, the Groh family. The property has been designated by the State of Ohio as a "Century Farm" and one of the few working farms left in the city.

### SOUTH OF NILLES ROAD

\* 6380 E. River Road – built in 1890 as the former Fairfield Independent School #9 and is located in the heart of the Blackbottom historic district adjacent to Thomas O. Marsh Park.

\* 6089 Gray Road – built in 1817 and known as the Haugh-Washington-Cornelius home. This home is also the oldest documented home in the city and was the former home of the largest Cypress tree in the state of Ohio.

\* 1775 Calumet Way – built in 1889 and was the former home to one of the first settlers of Fairfield Township, William M. Hunter and the namesake for Hunter Road.

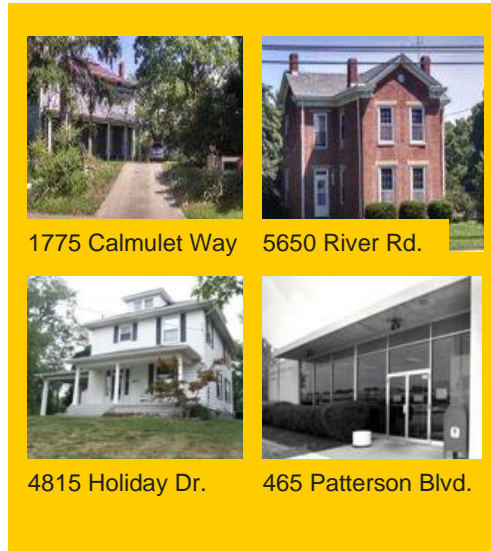
\* 5730 Pleasant Ave. – Built in 1889 and served as the original home of settler William Rieser, the namesake for Resor Road.

\* 1861 Resor Road – built in 1900 and known as the Asa Shuler home.

\* 2395 Resor Road – former home of the Cincinnati beer baron Conrad Windisch built in 1872.

\* 5284 Winton Road – built in 1880 and was the original home site of settler J. L. Dingfelder whose decedents still own the property today.

\* 6369 Dixie Highway – built in 1866 and is the home of the Valley Chapel Church. Also names is the building next door that was built in 1877 and served as the Independent School District #1 building for the Stockton area building until 1949.



1775 Calumet Way 5650 River Rd.

4815 Holiday Dr. 465 Patterson Blvd.

## Ercel Speaks

with former Journal-News Columnist Ercel Eaton



### The Enchanting Pneumatic Tube and The Telephone Operator

"Journalism as we know it is dying," the person conducting the staff meeting said. Of course all the paper's employees present agreed. I didn't want to believe that, I loved my job too much.

Starting out, in that field, I had a lot to learn. So, for a time I wrote wedding stories, some obits, and little odds and ends. Didn't matter to me, I wanted to write. Old-style typewriters served reporters who traveled to news-gathering scenes then back to the sound of the key-click of those typewriters mingled with a background of a different metallic sound from the wires from an Associated Press machine spitting out a continual unrolling news of all kinds for us to chose.

Retired after 43 years of doing my best to learn the rules of the game, I still didn't want to put down my reporter's notebook and give up meeting the variety of human beings who crossed my path every day.

It was a bright day in May when the city editor said to me: "Ercel, could you do a piece on Father's Day for us?" Well, I jumped on that request with, found out the deadline and started thinking about the story. As I remember, that story appeared on page one or the front of a section.

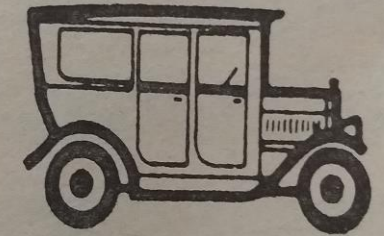
We had two daughters by that time, and they learned about getting the news as soon as they began to grow up. I told the editor who was interviewing me for the job (I first spent some little time in the paper's classified department. I was writing tiny little pieces about selling things—still it was words.) During the interview with the editor I asked him if I could take time off if one of the children became ill. "You got it," he said. Though I no longer see him daily, I still love him.

My telling the girls about the day's work mixed with their report on their school day, sparked their interest in going to work with me. So we did that. I thought they would be thrilled to see the big linotype machines where men fashioned our typed words into shape for the public pages. But I was wrong. Bridget and Bekka were enchanted by the pneumatic that whisked our rolled-up newsprint stories out to the composing room; next, they had never seen wall phone, where an operator chose long cords connecting outside callers with reporters and editors.

The girls began to recognize happenings in our area as news and questioned me like crazy because I would know. Some things I couldn't tell them, but if I could I did,

It was, for me anyway, a dream of a job. Because I was unable to go on to higher education, I had to be content with my wonderful high school typing classes and a mail order course in Newspaper Institute of America .

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