

Reflections



It's Lindenwald's own Joel Cella from WMOH-AM radio throwing out candy during the 1980 Indian Summer Days parade in front of West Elementary. Joel left WMOH shortly after this parade and he became "Tom Kelly" when he moved to the west coast. (Fairfield Echo archives)



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Cornerstones

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



Spring 2022

Fairfield Historical Society

Vol. 8 Issue 1

fhs snapshots >>>



The new Kentucky Fried Chicken building as it was in March 1974. (Photo by Mitch Rhodus)



Norma Hassler (left) and Edna Antes get ready to drive in the 1975 Memorial Day parade. (Fairfield Echo archives)



It's baseball time at the Groh Lane Little League fields in this undated photo. (Fairfield Echo archives)

Back in the Swing of Things! The FHS presents its Living Legend Series Featuring a Variety of Personalities!

The Fairfield Historical Society launched its Living Legend Series last month with John Kieswetter and Kim Nuxhall with a great crowd to begin the new year! The remainder of 2022 looks to be very promising so mark your calendars and see who is up next through August.

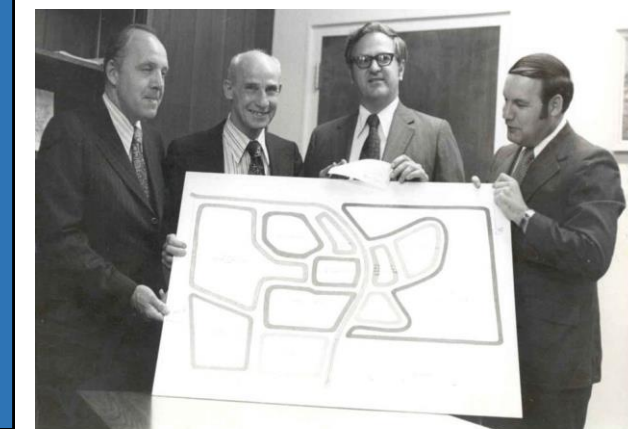
Tonight, we host B.J. Miller who will show just how Henry Ford had a major influence in this area during the beginning of the auto and farming industry.

In May, Cincinnati photographer, radio host and author of "Fading Ads of Cincinnati" Ronny Salerno returns for a second visit to discuss his book.

In June, local author Scott Fowler provides a preview of what has been going on at the former LeSourdsville Lake/Americana and Fantasy Farm property and how the memories of both parks is being preserved.

The July meeting will feature another trip of what life was like in Fairfield Township in the early part of the 20th Century when Pete Groh returns to share his stories.

In August, the favorite of everyone, the "Show 'n Tell" meeting invites you to share interesting, odd and unique memorabilia of all sorts. You just never know what kind of items will be featured.



New City Park Planned

City Solicitor Robert Wessel (left) looks on as Fred Wampler of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, City Council member James Rice, and Safety Services Director Dale Price, presents a grant check to the city to purchase the Hunter Farm. Also pictured are City Council member James Rice and Safety Services Director Dale Price. The park would later be renamed Harbin Park in honor of former mayor William Harbin. (City archives)



Membership/Renewal Form

Your membership begins March 1

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Date _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

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Yes, please use my email to send news and event information.

I prefer to have information sent to me to the above address.

Dues: \$20 Individual \$5 student \$75 Business (includes 4 ads in Cornerstones issues)

1) Send cash or check made payable to the Fairfield Historical Society and send to: Scott Fowler, FHS Treasurer, 3358 Village Drive, Fairfield, OH 45014

2) Bring cash or check to any meeting.

3) Use credit card or PayPal - http://ffhistoricalsociety.com/index_files/Page729.htm

special edition >>> *Fairfield's Bicentennial Celebration Began in 1974*

Fairfield's observance of our nation's Bicentennial was made possible by well over three dozen volunteers representing Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfield Resident's Association, Sacred Heart Church and school among others Fairfield Township, the City of Fairfield, the Fairfield Local School District, numerous civic organizations and clubs, the. "Community assistance was beyond the usual good response, generated by the patriotism and 'once-in-a-lifetime' events," said Edna Antes, editor of the *Fairfield Echo* and committee member. The committee was called the Fairfield American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and was established September 25, 1974, by Mayor William Harbin.

The kick-off of the Bicentennial celebration began January 19, 1975, when Ohio Senator Donald "Buzz" Lukens presented the city with a national bicentennial flag. Fairfield Schools music teacher Bob Glass and William Moore, a member of the Butler County Bicentennial Commission, displayed historical flags and co-hosted the appearance of a bronze replica of the Liberty Bell complete with ladies in period costumes. Souvenirs for sale included miniature Liberty Bells, tie tacs and other jewelry.

Other events during 1975 included a fireworks display presented by the Italian American Society Foundation, an art show hosted at the Fairfield Municipal Building. A painted rendition of the municipal building was presented by a Dayton artist and later hung inside the council chambers.

Ladies of the Hamilton Shrine presented a bicentennial flag that hung inside the council chambers during the celebration. The Rolling Hills Baptist Church presented a Sunday afternoon concert to a small but dedicated crowd. The Fairfield High School Student Council launched the school's first recycling program. Fairfield Junior High students painted fire hydrants on key city streets in patriotic colors and symbols.

During Fairfield's 20th anniversary as a city, the Fairfield Resident's Association presented a program at Fairfield South Elementary recognizing the city's accomplishments to date. The Fairfield Choraliars sang the city's official song, "Fair Fairfield" written by Edna Antes for the city's 10th anniversary and municipal building dedication.

With the help of volunteers from a wide spectrum of the community, this unique celebration was off to a great start. In the Summer issue, we will look at the activities and events in 1976.



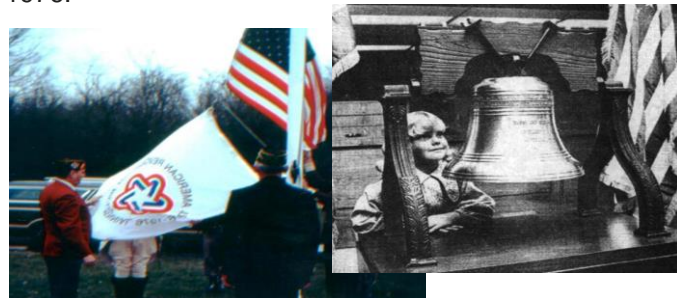
One of the many floats in the 1975 4th of July parade. Participants were dressed in colonel outfits and ready to celebrate Fairfield's Bicentennial celebration. (photo by Edna Antes)



Commission members (left to right): Dan Fineberg, Marcia Burchfield, Mark Scharringhausen, John Stenger, Roy Stafford, Mary Dalrymple, Mike Berry, Norma Hassler, Jack Stewart, Hans Kuehlthau, Eric Campbell, Grace Stroufe, Sherry Spence, Jean MacLean, Sharon Schrudder, Mary Jackson, John Slade, Edna Antes, Joe Weldon. (Fairfield Echo photo)



William Moore, a member of the Butler County Bicentennial Commission, stands next to the replica Liberty Bell inside the Fairfield Municipal Building. (photo by Edna Antes)



Ercel Speaks



with former *Journal-News* Columnist Ercel Eaton

Love of Words

I love words. There's no secret about that. I can't remember far enough in the past to find a time in my life when I wasn't enchanted by what words could do for us.

Anyway, this came to my mind the other day when someone called to ask me how to spell a word. For some reason, maybe because I've been deep into this field of words good part of my life, a lot of family members do that. I went pawing through my book-lined office where I had dedicated one room-sized shelf to books about writing. Reading and learning are close as a door and a hinge. Every time I run across a gap in my knowledge I start reading about that subject.

The first book I pulled off that shelf was a thin paperback called "The Courage to Create," by Rollo May. It was on my shelf, but I didn't buy it. I was eight or nine years old when it was published. However, when I was older and still trying to learn to write, often the books came to me sometimes as gifts. These gifts eventually lead to me hanging out in bookstores.

I was lucky enough to land a job in the newspaper business. Lining up words into sentences and paragraphs for the newspaper readers became my life. Early in my writing life I became a fan of Natalie Goldberg. I had read several of her novels before I found "Writing Down The Bones." This book is not just about words but about her thoughts and advice about writing. I liked her thoughts more than just words and definitions; Do not stir the words up together like cake mix, she exhorts in the book; You must put some heat from your heart and soul. "Care," she insists.

While I was in this mental brain world, I recalled one of the most precious books on my shelves. It was titled "Style Book of the New York Times." Oh, I've looked up apostrophes and brackets and parentheses, which took up a page and an half of the book. But that's not why I treasure that little hard cover style book. A signature inside says Dick Connelly, the chief editor of the Hamilton Journal-News where I had my first crack at looking for the daily news and finding my byline. And a second name under Connelly's was Bill McDulin.

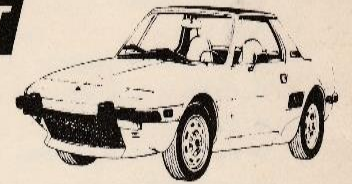
My desk in the newsroom, for a time, was next to Bill's. When you hear people say their workplace where all the workers become like a family, you can count on it. I missed both of those people along with many others in my newspaper family. Although Connelly was in charge, he was gentle: One day early in my stay there he called out across the newsroom: "Ercel, I see you've moved this funeral home across the river." I can still feel my face turning red, even though it's been a half a century ago. A simple street number mistake was an embarrassing lesson.

Some of the staffers are gone but not everyone. One day a few months ago, six or seven of my fellow news writers found ourselves grouped in a circle outside the front door of the former Journal News building. Touring the building brought back many wonderful memories.

I will never forget any person I worked with during the 40-some years while I kept on trying to learn to write. Guess I simply can't stop trying.

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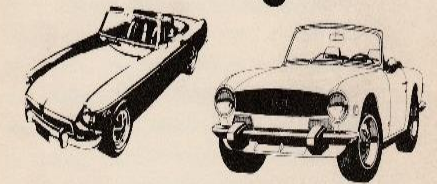
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