

Reflections



Thanks to the effort of Howard Dirksen, Dianne Robinson and others, the old Symmes Tavern building was saved from the wrecking ball 30 years ago after then owner Shell Oil changed their plans to destroy the building and construct a gas station, convenience store and car wash. Today, Chase Bank is located in the facility. Symmes Tavern on the Green continues the eatery's traditions and sports a number of historic photos of Fairfield throughout their location at Village Green.

Future meeting topics >>>

June 7 - Sam Ashworth - the WWI Armco Ambulance Core.

July 5 - Tom Stander - Religious history of Fairfield Township 1798-1898

August 2 - It's "Show 'n Tell" - bring your historic item from home and share it with our members and friends.

Have an idea for a meeting topic? Send your ideas to ffhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



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Cornerstones

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

FHS Snapshots



A rare midnight tornado hits Fairfield June 2, 1990, causing major damage to Today Homes Condominiums on Winton Road. A total of 19 home were destroyed, 13 suffered major damage and 45 received minor damage. No one was injured.



Mayor Clarence Phalen presides over the city's Bicentennial celebration at the municipal building in July 1976. A parade, festival and a 1776 style dinner at Symmes Tavern for city staff and council were part of the activities.

7th Annual Sunbonnet Days Grows In Popularity

Committee Looking for Volunteers

Old fashioned baseball returns to Fairfield on Saturday, August 6 and Sunday, August 7 as the annual Sunbonnet Days invades the city at Gilbert Farm Park, located at 6181 Ross Road in Fairfield. The public is invited to enjoy an afternoon of free entertainment and a little education thrown in too. Activities run from noon to 5:00pm both days.

This year's theme is "Down On the Farm" and activities include:

- The Cincinnati Dulcimer Society
- The Blackbottom 9 take on Rising Sun Belle Rivers at 1:00pm daily in a old fashioned baseball game the way the game was originally intended
- Lots of activities for the kids
- Broom manufacturing demonstrations
- homemade ice cream
- antique farm machinery and equipment display from the Groh family

Sunbonnet Days is sponsored by the Fairfield Historical Society, the Four Seasons Garden Club, Friends of Elisha Morgan and the City of Fairfield Parks and Recreation Department.

Sunbonnet Days

at Gilbert Farms Park

6181 Ross Road • Fairfield, Ohio 45014



PRESENT FAIRFIELD BLDG. OCCUPIED IN OCTOBER 1929

History of Township Educational System Interesting—Activities Now Cover Many Things, Reports Show

Fairfield township, being the first to be laid out in Butler County, had some of the first school buildings to be erected in the county.

There are some residents still living who tell of their parents having attended the old log school at Fairplay, which had a fireplace nearly across one end of the building. Others recall the log structures at Flenner's Corner and Symmes Corner while still others tell of the happy times at the Furmandale school.

The present building located on state route 4, south of Hamilton was first occupied in October 1929, after nine of the one room schools had been abandoned. The nine

buildings abandoned are Fairplay, Symmes Corner, Line, Morris, Slade, Flenner's Corner, Reiser, Bobenmeyer, Urmston.

The present building was designed by George Barkman and erected by the F. K. Vaughn Building Company, general contractors. The members of the board of education at the time the building was completed were: Charles Damm, president; James Line, clerk; Charles Lewis, Charles Schneider and Fred Schmidt.

The building was planned to meet the growing needs of a progressive community and has proved to be a fine expression of the good judgment of those people responsible for its erection.



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Mystery Photo >>>

This mystery photo was taken of a used car lot in 1962 (yes, Fairfield had used car lots back then too). Why, it's Ted's Used Cars, located on Rt. 4 across from the old high school. The building on the right is still standing today and is home to an insurance agency.



That Dog Hates Me!

Time was, many years ago, we had a dog in our house. "Many," here means bout a half a century because around I made the mistake of stirring around in the memory pool in my brain.

The little white poodle, named Mimi, was adorable and became a darling of our two small daughters and their Dad. Me, however, she didn't care a bit about. Oh, she hauled her friendly self to my side of the kitchen sometimes, but she didn't mean it.

I knew this, but couldn't convince the rest of the family. She was out to get me. Under that fluffy poodle-do of her hair, an insidious brain worked constantly conceiving of ways to drive me insane. Of course she learned very soon after we brought her home what my work schedule was – I left the house early five days a week and she certainly took note of that.

My imagination could track her moves afternoons when I came in from work. Somehow, though I strove to clear all loose newspapers, magazines and discarded homework pages away from her reach she was just too tricky. Many evenings I would arrive home, finding 8,324 scraps of paper in all sizes and color figurations, turning my kitchen into a ticker tape parade.

The crazy patterns on the kitchen floor met me minutes after I came in.

Looking back these long years ahead of those Poodle shenanigans, I dug out some of my guesses about why she was doing this to me. She simply wanted to make me lose my cool.

Every day, while I was at work she found something she knew would bother me...backing just into the room next to the kitchen to see how I responded to her handiwork.

She seemed to have ESP to let her know when I got a new pair of shoes.

It wasn't often, but in those days I loved wearing some high heels. She figured that out. Once when our family was planning dinner out at a nice restaurant, the girls and I got "all gussied up," as one of my sisters used call it. Left shoe, on...beautiful. Right shoe... no heel! I found the right heel far back under my bed chewed to pieces!

Mimi hovered near the bedroom door, watching. But I wasn't going to let her think I was losing my cool.

No, indeed. It was back to flats!

Fairfield Trivia>>>

A collection of fun facts and stories about the City of Fairfield and Fairfield Township. If you have a story or factoid that you would like to share, please send your information to ffhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

The oldest standing residence in the city is located at 6089 John Gray Road. The first known sale was recorded in 1817. The residence was originally a one room log home that is still located in the rear of building today. In 1967, the residence sat next to the largest Bald Cypress tree in Ohio. The home has been renovated and added on to during the years but is still used as a private residence.

The oldest building in the city remains to be the Elisha Morgan Mansion at Gilbert Park on Ross Road. Built in 1817, it is owned today by the City of Fairfield. The home was saved from destruction by a group led by former Fairfield Mayor Robert Wessel and his wife Helen. They helped form the "Friends of Elisha Morgan" who worked to preserve the mansion and was able to get the building listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

The residential home at the One Way Farm on River Road was originally built in 1905. The home was one of many used as a meeting place for the village and city council because the original city building on Pleasant Avenue was not large enough. The One Way Farm has been located on the site that actually borders Fairfield Township since 1976. The home was founded by Barbara Condo as a non-profit organization committed to caring for abused, abandoned and neglected children (ages 6 to 18) in Southwestern Ohio.

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Have Opinions?

Please let us know what you would like to see in future issues of Cornerstones.

Check out the back cover for our contact information.

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