



Cornerstones

Building on the past, present and future of the City of Fairfield and Fairfield Township

FHS Snapshots



Postmaster Charles Ashdown helps out a customer during the 1972 Christmas rush at the Patterson Blvd. location. (Photo by Edna Antes)



It was pony time during the grand opening of Miracle Mart in the Fair Plaza Shopping Center in September 1962. (Photo by Edna Antes)



This home at 4952 Celdon Avenue was ready for the "you know what" time in this undated photo from the *Fairfield Echo*.

VARIETY IS THE FOCUS FOR 2023

The word "variety" takes on a new meaning as the first half of the FHS Living Legend Series Gets Underway tonight with local pilot Tom Hogan, who will share some of his stories about growing up with "The Flying Hogans" at the former Hamilton-Fairfield Airport.

On April 4, the Cincinnati Reds' first batboy designated at Riverfront Stadium, Warren Brown, is featured. Warren has a long connection with the Reds and will share stories about his experience being with hall of famers Johnny Bench, Pete Rose and rest of the Big Red Team of the 1970's.

Former educator and local train enthusiast, Dan Finrock, will discuss the history of trains in the area, including the recent move of the old train station on Martin Luther King Blvd. on May 2.

Finrock taught in Fairfield schools for 34 years, retiring in 1992. He is a leading authority on the area's ground water issues and environmental issues. He also is a former FHS board member.

Former Cincinnati Reds employee Warren Brown with former Reds Hall-of-Famer Pete Rose. Brown will share his experiences starting as the Reds' first batboy at Riverfront Stadium and the notable names that crossed his path during his tenure with the Reds.

(photo courtesy of Warren Brown)



On June 6, Fairfield Fire Chief Thomas Lakamp will make his debut as a "living legend" when he presents the history behind fighting fires. He recently took over as chief from long-time city employee Don Bennett. A 33-year veteran of the Cincinnati Fire Department, Lakamp served as assistant fire chief of the operations division since 2016. He's also been a district fire chief, captain, lieutenant and firefighter paramedic. Lakamp has received several awards including the Cincinnati's Fire Chief's Award in 2016 and the city's Distinguished Service award in 2015.

On July 11, Mike Grollmus, General Manager of Al-Joe's Lawn & Garden Center in Hamilton, will discuss his family involvement in the most well-known family-owned garden centers in the area. His grandfather, Albert Huesman founded Al-Joe's in 1921 with Joseph Huber as a bird seed store. They expanded to sell pets and pet supplies, garden supplies, and power equipment. Paul Grollmus, Mike's father, entered the business in the 1950s and ran it for 40 years before retiring in the 1990's and left the operation to Mike and his brothers, Gary and Tim.

Our second half of the year will feature more variety of the history that can be found in the Fairfield area.

APPRECIATING OUR PAST...

DR. REED PREDICTS 25,000 AUTOS TO USE DIXIE HIGHWAY SATURDAY

"Consideration!"

That is what Dr. W. S. Reed, justice of the peace for Fairfield township, asks of motorists using the Dixie highway from Hamilton to Wyoming Saturday and Sunday when 25,000 motor vehicles are expected to pass over the road at Stockton.

"Consideration of the rights and privileges of others is all that I ask of automobile drivers who will necessarily be confronted with rather difficult traffic conditions this weekend," Dr. Reed said.

Only two speed cops will operate out of the Fairfield township office, Dr. Reed said. One of the patrolmen will work on the Middletown pike while the other will patrol the Dixie highway south of Hamilton.

"State highway department clocks report that 3,000 automobiles each week-day pass over the Dixie highway near Stockton. On Sundays and holidays, the number leaps to 10,000," Dr. Reed said.

"The Fourth of July is always a heavy traffic day. During recent weeks auto drivers have been 'behaving' and continuation of the

policy of regard for others will assist in elimination of accidents as well as traffic jams on the highway Saturday and Sunday."

The slippery treatment of the recently paved highway has been effected by several causes, in Dr. Reed's opinion. Dr. Reed expressed belief in the theory that the treatment applied by the road contractors come in contact with oil carried by auto tires from adjacent country roads. When the roadway is moistened, a "soapy" solution is formed which plays havoc with automobilists, he explained.

Dr. W.S. Reed was a well-known physician in the Stockton area in the late 1800's and early 1900's. In this Hamilton Journal article regarding the number of vehicles expected to pass through the Stockton area on Dixie Highway for the 1925 4th of July celebration. Today, information from the Ohio Department of Transportation for 2022, estimated that 38,510 vehicles pass through the same area in a 24-hour period.

Girl Scout Troop 19 Displays Their Projects



This late 60's/early 70's photo by *Fairfield Echo* editor Edna Antes features Girl Scout Troop 19 finishing their projects. From left to right are Christy Morris, Paula Lynch, Jennifer Johnson and Robin Guinn.



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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.

Anway, 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.

Reflections...



Win **TWO** years of membership with the Fairfield Historical Society by correctly identifying this *Fairfield Echo* archive photo. Just include the name of **BOTH** streets and send your entry to ffhistoricalsociety@gmail.com by March 30, 2023. The winner will be drawn from all correct entries and announced at the April 4 Fairfield Historical Society meeting. Winner does not need to be present to win. Entry limited to one per person and you do not need to be a current member to participate.

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Fairfield Historical Society

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2) Bring cash or check to any meeting.

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