

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 3

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Pleasant Hill History Center

Pleasant Hill, Ohio

Mission Statement

“To preserve the history of Pleasant Hill and Newton Township through documents, pictures, and artifacts.”

Historic

Pleasant Hill and Newton Township

“Preserving our local history by telling our stories.”

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Spring 2015

A Note from the President

What's in a name? At the Pleasant Hill History Center, it is much more than the name suggests. We have a wide variety of displays depicting and commemorating businesses, events and individuals from both the town and Newton Township. The support of everyone, no matter where they reside, has brought us to the place we are now. So if you live in Timbuktu, down the street, just moved in or have been here 'since dirt', come and see what we have to offer!

We took a little break for winter! We will be back and better than ever on March 2nd

Lesla Delcamp, President

Membership News

We have 104 partners and 7 business friends. New members include: Shirley Cochran, Penny Fisher, and Fay Lindsay.

Questions about your membership, call John Weaver at 937-632-4004. Thank you for your support.

John Weaver, Membership Chairman

Pleasant Hill History Center Museum

We continue to work on displays and organize our artifacts at the museum. Additional artifacts have been donated to our museum. We now have Warren Jackson's research on the WWII veterans of Newton Township. You can access the index to Warren's book on our web site under "Resources."

Mike Major Coming

Artist Mike Major will be coming to our History Center to give a presentation on his artwork. Mike graduated from Newton High School and has his studio in Urbana. Mark your calendar for April 9th at the History Center! Look for more information as we get closer to the date.

Volunteers

We need you! There are many volunteer opportunities available at the History Center. There is always a lot of paper to sort and organize, functions to plan, fundraising to do, and hosts needed when we are open each Monday night. Please let us know if you would be interested in helping in any way. We appreciate all the help we have had and look forward to seeing more of our partners becoming involved.

Kroger Fundraising

The Pleasant Hill History Center is now one of the non-profit organizations you can choose to receive money when you shop at Krogers and use your Plus card. If you do not have an organization to donate to, (It will tell you on the bottom of your receipt) please sign up for us. The chosen organization receives 4% of everything you buy.

Museum hours are every Monday from 3:00 - 7:00. Come visit your museum!

**Be sure to check our web site @ Pleasanthillhistorycenter.com
and visit us on Facebook**

Daniel L. West

Dan West was born December 31, 1893 in Preble County, Ohio to Landon and Barbara (Landis) West. The family moved to Newton Township around 1899. He attended Newton Township schools and graduated from Pleasant Hill High School in 1911. He was a member of the Church of the Brethren and graduated from Manchester University (Indiana) in 1917. He was drafted, June 28, 1918, and served as a conscientious objector during World War I. He was honorably discharged, February 21, 1919. He returned to Pleasant Hill and taught in the Pleasant Hill High School until 1923. In 1926, he helped obtain Camp Sugar Grove for the Brethren Church.



On October 8, 1932, Dan married Lucille Sherck. Together they had five children. After working for the Emergency Peace Campaign in 1936, he traveled to Spain to serve as the director of a relief program in the Spanish Civil War. He grew weary of handing out rationed supplies and thought there had to be a better way of eliminating hunger. He gave the idea to his neighbors and many congregations in northern Indiana of donating young heifers to families in need. The involvement from his community led him to bigger dreams. His idea became an official program of the Church of the Brethren in 1942 and eventually became an independent nonprofit corporation in 1953. His phrase "*not a cup of milk, but a cow*" became the mantra for Heifer International, which continues on today.



First Seagoing Cowboys

In January of 1944, the first heifers were shipped to Puerto Rico. The men who traveled with the heifers were known as Seagoing Cowboys.



Dan was a key person in helping to develop the Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) in 1948. At Manchester University, he spoke to the president of the University and together they launched the nation's first undergraduate program in peace studies at Manchester University.

Dan died January 7, 1971. His memory lives on through Heifer International, which today sends heifers, ducks, chickens, goats, rabbits, pigs llamas, and other animals to many needy countries of the world. They have helped lift over 20 million people out of poverty and hunger.



On May 10, 2010, a permanent exhibit was dedicated on the campus of Manchester University to honor Dan West and his life.



Dan West exhibit at Manchester University

“With deep-rooted Christian values and a conviction for active peacemaking, he led by example, and motivated others to believe that ordinary people could do extraordinary things.”

Mike Major

Mike Major was born in 1949 and grew up near Pleasant Hill. He graduated from Newton High School in 1967 and received his BS at Ohio University. He has an MFA from Pratt Institute in printing and painting.

Mike owns Mike Major Studio in Urbana, Ohio. Major has published over a dozen books of drawings and is best-known in the art world for his bronze statues and busts, which have depicted such individuals as Woody Hayes, Archie Griffin, Vince Lombardi, Jackie Robinson, Simon Kenton and Tecumseh.



Mike Major has created monumental sculptures in bronze for public and private collections across the country. In his home state, Ohio, he served as the first artist-in-residence for the Ohio Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts. He was honored by the State Legislature and the Ohioana Library for outstanding contributions in the State in the field of Art.



Mike Major in his Urbana Studio

“From early childhood I loved to draw and mold clay. It was the one thing that heightened concentration to the point that time seemed to stand still. No other activity held my attention nearly as much as visual art. Living on a farm several miles from town, artwork became a daily source of entertainment and delight.”

- Michael Major

Other notable works include sculptures of Vince Lombardi and Springfield, Ohio leaders. Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota exhibits an eight foot monument of its founder, Mother Alfred Moes, by Major.



Amick's Pleasant Hill Canning Company

Garnet Amick was born in Indiana in 1908. He married Hazel McConnell and had 3 boys; Robert, Donald, and Laurence. In 1946, he moved the family to Pleasant Hill to run the Pleasant Hill Canning Company.

The Cannery was located on the South side of West Monument Street. It was formerly the Daniel Moul Lumber Company.



Garnet Amick



Lucille Annewalt with other workers

AMICK'S PLEASANT HILL
CANNING CO.
PLEASANT HILL, OHIO

NAME DATE Sept. 3-49
Agnes Schultz
GROSS AMT. \$ 21.45

DEDUCTIONS

S. S. .21
Tax _____

TOTAL21
NET PAY..... 21.24
5M-C9182 P



Darrell Shade with other shippers

Newton Seniors Come To Aid Of Tomato Cannery Rush

By MARION ESTERLINE
Journal Herald Farm Writer

PLEASANT HILL—Newton school seniors—40 strong—of the Pleasant Hill area turned out yesterday to help out in an emergency at Pleasant Hill cannery here. It was an outstanding gesture for a busy harvest day on farms and in towns of the community.

The young women and men helped prevent valuable food from spoiling by peeling tomatoes, helping with the canning, and some of the boys even picked tomatoes in growers' fields.

The boys and girls won two ways. They plan to use the money paid them as wages to help pay for their senior class trip next spring. Garnick Amick, owner-manager, said he would add to the student's earnings in reward for their good will gesture.

Ripening Speeds Up

A shortage of peelers developed when school started about Sept. 1 and many older girls who had been peeling tomatoes at canneries of the Miami Valley returned to classes, Amick explained.

Although he reduced tomato acreage planted in the spring and

quit making puree, warm weather of recent days has ripened tomatoes at a more rapid pace. They began piling up Friday at his cannery, said Amick.

He began offering them to neighboring canneries, but they said they now were getting all the tomatoes their peelers could handle. To salvage the fruit, Amick began shipping some tomatoes to canners in neighboring Indiana.

Then the seniors of the local school did their good turn. More classes of seniors from other schools may do their bit later.

Rush To Last A Week

It all adds up to salvaging the tomato crop and keeping a good quality product in the can. Amick thinks the flood of tomatoes will subside in a week or 10 days, at most.

Many area residents worked at the factory during harvest season. One notable

season in 1952, the tomatoes ripened especially fast. Forty Newton seniors came to the rescue. They helped at the cannery, which helped pay for their class trip.

The cannery was sold by the Amicks to John Jones, July 21, 1958. Since that time, the property has been home to a variety of businesses. Most of the buildings were torn down in the 1970's. The site is now the home of the Lock-n-Store.

Ad from 1950 Troy Daily News

HELP
WANTED

**Tomato
Peelers**

—at—

**Pleasant Hill
Cannery**

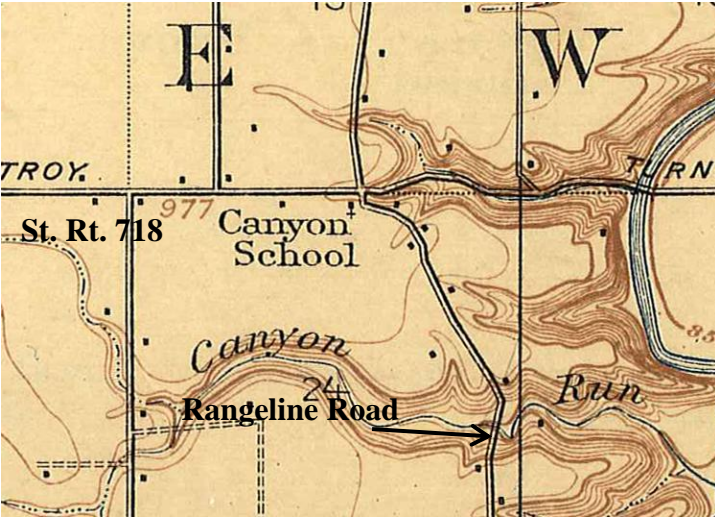
Pleasant Hill

Newton Township One Room Schools

School # 6 - Fall Branch/Canyon School

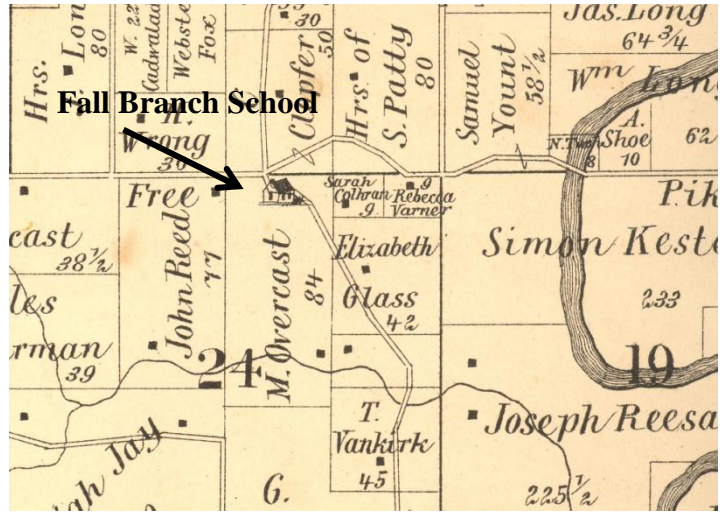
A log structure was originally located on the Reed farm near Canyon Creek. Later, a brick building was built in 1853 at that location. The new brick building was built in 1867 at a more centralized location at the intersection of Rangeline Road and State Route 718.

Location: Commencing seventeen rods East of the North west corner of the North East quarter of Section twenty four, town eight, range four East, Thence South Eight rods, thence east ten rods, thence North Eight rods, thence West ten rods to the place of beginning.



1911 USGS Map of Newton Township

Some of the teachers at Fall Branch School were: S. H. Mengis, Metta Hatfield, Samuel Overcash, Mary Myers, Sarah Dohner, T. D. McBride, Jesse Cassel, Hazel Kibbey, Doris Stout, and Earl Alexander.



1875 Plat Map of Newton Township

The land was leased from John Overcash in 1867.



When the Newton Township Schools consolidated in 1923, Fall Branch School was returned to John Overcash.



Students at Fall Branch School around 1918. Paul and J.C. Klopfer are in the picture. Hazel Kibbey is the teacher



Fall Branch School in 2013