

Pleasant Hill History Center Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 2
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Pleasant Hill, Ohio

8 East Monument Avenue
P. O. Box 82

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

Winter 2021

A Note from the President

One of the most exciting activities we do at the History Center is the third grade field trip. The third grade students study local history in their Social Studies class. This year, on October 21, two classes came to the History Center Museum to learn about Pleasant Hill and Newton Township.

The students were divided into groups to learn about: The History of Newton Schools, The Civil War Monument, Military Men and Women, Businesses, and Our three famous men: Jesse Beery, Roy Plunkett, and Dan West. The students are always excited to visit and are well behaved.

This year has had its challenges for us, but we have made it through and look forward to an exciting 2022.

We, at the History Center, would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. We hope to see you in the Spring.

Ruthann Beck, President

Membership News

New members include: Jim Weaver, and Esther Spitler.

Memorial contributions in memory of Connie Perry, Nancy Fessler, Leo and Arlene Razor were received.

We also had donations from Joy Beery, Marcus Miller, Linda Landis, Alisha and Eric Wood.

Questions about your membership, call Dawn Spitler at 937- 417-4985. Thank you for your support.

Dawn Spitler, Membership Chairman

Halloween

The History Center took part in Pleasant Hill's annual Trick-or-treat event. The weather was perfect for this activity. We had over 400 costumed children!

Field Trip at the History Center

This fall, the third grade students from Newton Elementary visited our museum. The students learned about their local history. A big thank you goes to all who had a part in organizing and presenting this learning experience.

Winter Hours

On October 25th we closed for the winter. We will re-open on March 7, 2022.

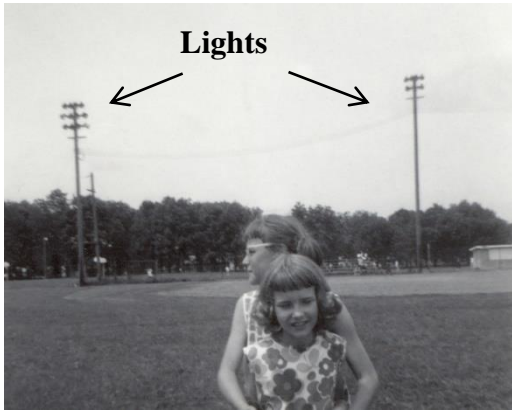
See you next spring!

End of the Year Giving

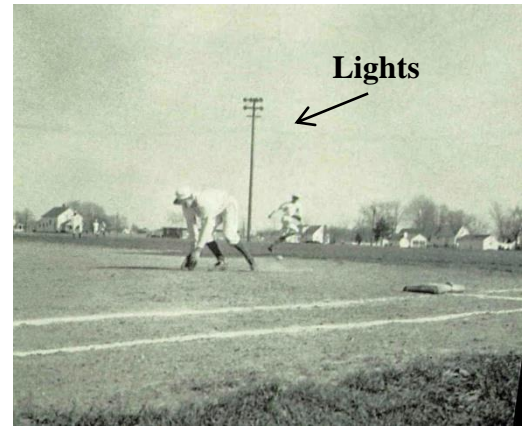
As you consider year-end giving for tax purposes, please consider the Pleasant Hill History Center. We are a non-profit organization so your donations are tax deductible. It is through your generous support that we can exist.

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

Pleasant Hill Civic League



In 1945 a group of concerned Pleasant Hill residents formed a group to help with various projects around town. They named themselves, *The Pleasant Hill Civic League*. The group consisted of: George and Betty Warner, Leo and Treva Sander, Paul and Dorothy Hawn, Noble and Virginia Rankin, John and Dorothy Maier, and Bob and Thelma Schultz.



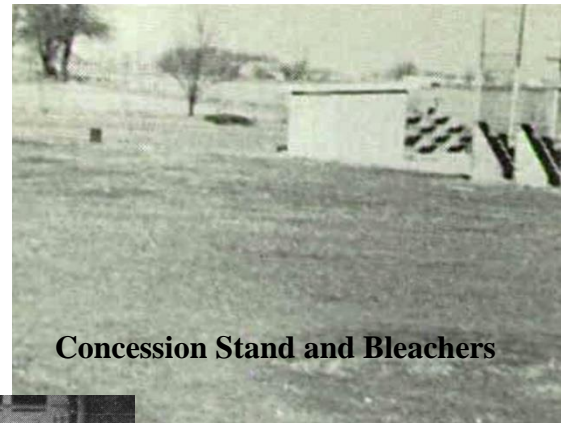
The group held fundraisers during the year to pay for their activities. They held dances, cake walks, etc., in the Township Building. The funds created from these activities helped to pay for the treats at Christmas that were passed out at the Monument by Santa. These candy bags were prepared by the group and their children. They were handed out by Santa portrayed by Paul Hawn, and later, Charlie Edwards.

Another project completed by the group was the installation of lights at the Newton baseball field. These lights allowed teams to continue playing after dark.



Since more fans were attending games, the group saw a need for bleachers. They paid for the materials and laid the cement blocks to build the sturdy seats.

The next major project was the concession stand, located behind home plate, at the baseball diamond. The group built the cement block building and then operated it, along with their children, to increase their funds for other projects.



Concession Stand and Bleachers

Bleachers built by the Civic League



In 1999, when the new high school gymnasium was constructed, the concession stand and bleachers were removed.

Concession Stand



In the above photo, the Pleasant Hill Civic League is donating money to the Sam Schultz Memorial Ambulance Fund in 1972. This money helped to buy an ambulance in Sam's memory.



Concession Stand

1999

Camp Sugar Grove

Camp Sugar Grove was purchased by the Southern Ohio District of the Church of the Brethren in May of 1926 for \$500. Dan West was instrumental in its purchase. The first summer assembly was held in August of that year.

There was no drinking water at the camp, so a pipe was laid from the Senseman Spring to the camp. A large galvanized trough was erected with five or six drinking spigots which continually flowed.



Camp Sugar Grove Postcard

The Senseman Spring also provided for a unique system of toilets. In a frame building, wood troughs were constructed in which the spring water flowed. When the troughs filled to a certain point, the troughs tipped forward dumping the water, flushing the toilets.

All swimming was done in Panther Creek. Attempts were made to deepen the pool by using sand bags for damming the creek. This pool was used for many years.



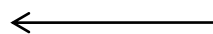
Camp Sugar Grove Swimming Hole

The girls' dormitory was created by raising the roof of the church building to add dormer windows. This was done in the second year the camp was in operation. The boys' dormitory was in the Old Stone Cottage located north of the church on Owens Road.



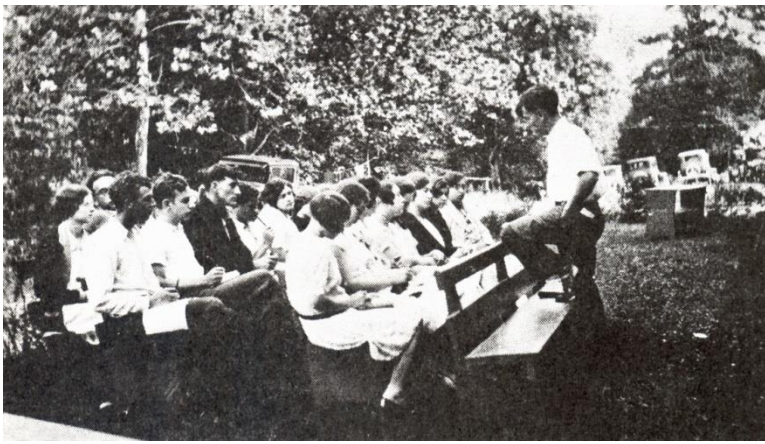
Old Stone Cottage

Due to limited space for recreation and play, the pasture field west of the camp was looked into by the Camp Board. This land had been willed to the Covington and Pleasant Hill Churches by John Miller. Unfortunately, some individuals objected since in the will, it stipulated that "there will be no frolicking" on the premises.



In the picture to the left, notice the bridge over Panther Creek in the background. The church building is to the left in the picture.





Youth camp class being taught by E. Bennett Owen

In the 1930s, Camp Sugar Grove continued to grow. Twenty acres of land lying north of the property were purchased. Cabins were built and a baseball field was planned. Also, boats were purchased, and a boat house and dock were built at the Stillwater River.

In 1942 one of the houses upstream had an active case of typhoid fever. The Miami County Health Department closed Panther Creek to all swimming. The Camp Board explored the possibility of building a swimming pool. In the fall of 1944, construction began on the pool. The pool was not completed until 1949. During construction of the pool, campers were transported to Miller's Grove Pool.



The camp continued to be used and improvements were made. In 1959, The Southern Ohio District of the Church of the Brethren purchased another camp and named it Woodland Alters. This camp was much larger than Sugar Grove and served as their main camp. Sugar Grove was used for day camps and was rented to other organizations. Groups such as the Boy Scouts, FFA, and the Children's International Summer Village used the camp.

In 1977, the camp property was purchased by the Carl Via family at auction. In 1979, the Stillwater Community Church purchased the camp and church building from the Vias and refurbished the church. Stillwater Community Church continues to hold services in the building today.

Many of our local residents remember their time enjoying the great outdoors at Camp Sugar Grove.



Campers waiting outside of the stone cabin



Sugar Grove Camp building today

The Peter Mueller Family



Reinhold, Regina, Anna
Regina, Peter, Peter, Jr.

The beginning of a new life for the Peter Mueller family began on July 26, 1952. It was on that day that Peter Mueller, his wife, Regina, and four children came to the United States from Austria.

The Muellers had made several attempts to come to the United States starting in 1945.

Mr. and Mrs. Mueller were both born in Yugoslavia. They moved to Hungary and then Germany. Because of the bombing around Munich, they moved to Poland and then escaped to Austria.



Peter, Reinhold, Regina,
Regina, Anna

The Muellers were sponsored by the Church of the Brethren in Pleasant Hill. The family entered the United States at Ellis Island, New York, on the *General Harry Taylor*. Then they were taken to Maryland, and finally to Pleasant Hill.

The Church of the Brethren found them a home on Stewart Road, west of Pleasant Hill. The house was owned by the Warren Sollenberger family. Church members helped the family make improvements to the home.

The Muellers could not speak or understand English. Within months they learned to communicate very well. Peter, Jr. learned to speak English and four different languages. Anna, Reinhold, and Regina all attended Newton Elementary and enjoyed it.

Both Peter and Peter, Jr. were given jobs at the Hobart Corporation in Troy. Peter had a long career there.

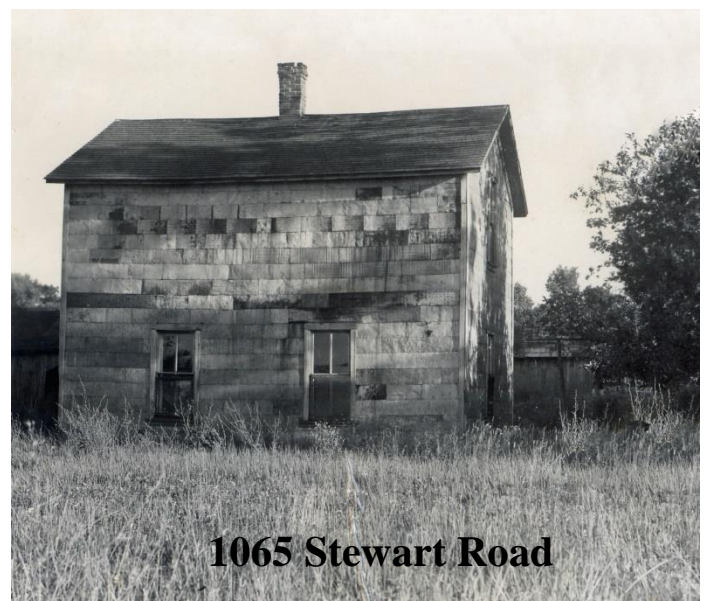
The Muellers moved from Pleasant Hill and lived their lives in and around Troy. Peter died in 1986 and Regina in 2002. They are buried in Riverside Cemetery, Troy. Their descendants live in various places around the U.S.



The Muellers



The Muellers home on Stewart Road



1065 Stewart Road