



JAMES EARL JONES TELLS THE NATION ABOUT OUR TRAFFIC LIGHT

An American Moment

Once again, the Museum and Teddy Boor's marvelous traffic light received some free national publicity. They were featured in a 60 second television spot called An American Moment which aired nationally in November. The video was narrated by the famous American actor James Earl Jones.

The video shows the corner of Main and Long Streets, but mostly concentrates on the traffic light and Teddy's museum display. Charlie Morrison managed to get a few seconds on the screen as he showed the internal workings of the signal.

If you haven't already seen it, you might want to stop in the Museum for a viewing. The helpful Museum staff would be more than happy to show it to you.

An American Monument

Rear Admiral H.H. Christy and the crew of the U.S.S. San Diego were recently honored by the National Park Service with the selection of the sunken naval warship as a National Underwater Monument. Christy was captain of the ship when it was sunk off the coast of New York by a German submarine or mine. It was the largest American warship sunk during WWI, but was also called one of the finest hours of naval heroism.

While the explosion killed 8 crew members, Christy helped orchestrate the evacuation and rescue. Not a single other crewman was lost to the sea. In less than an hour from the time she was hit, she was turning over. Christy crawled across her arching bow to an awaiting life boat. He was the last to leave her, in the finest traditions of the sea.

An American Author

Gale Warner's memoirs were recently published posthumously by Halcyon Press in a book called Dancing at the Edge of Life. Caroline Knapp of The New York Times had this to say about Gale's book:

"Warner has left behind a record of extraordinary strength and resolve, as well as a powerful document about facing both life and death with courage and grace. Two months before she died, she wrote, 'Oh how worthwhile the battle is--how important to give it our best try. And to find beauty even in today.' In that task, she has surely triumphed."

An Honored American

People remember when young Charlie Fortner used to help behind the counter at his grandfather's auto supply store (Fortner's Auto Supply). Now he is living in Hawaii where he started a pager business. But Charlie isn't like just any small business person. He was named the 1998 Small Business Administration's Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Farewell to the King of the Cowboys--Roy Rogers

Roy Rogers was the King of the Cowboys and his death will not diminish his impact on our culture. We are proud to have played even a minuscule part in his life.



BRANDON HINES AND THE NEW STORAGE AREA

Helping Improve The Museum

Brandon Hines, son of Elmer and Mary Hines, removed the non-functional toilet and sink, plugged the drains and constructed the shelving in the downstairs storage room. This work will go towards his achievement as a Life Scout. Brandon is a Junior at TVHS and a avid soccer player.

Library Fundraising Pledges Needed

The Ashville Area Heritage Society unanimously voted to pledge \$5,000 to the renovation of the library facility on Long Street in Ashville. We stepped forward because we view this as an opportunity that will pay huge dividends to all current and future inhabitants of Northern Pickaway

County. We urge everyone who once called this area home to consider remembering those in your family that were so important to the life of this community with a generous pledge. Please contact: Bob Mabe at (740-983-2501) or Dave Rainey at (740-983-4464).

World's Biggest Scrapbook.

The fund to build displays is nearly depleted, but we were able to develop a large number of displays last year. The Orlan and Iona Hines Foundation underwrote the following topics: (1) George Courtright, (2) Ross Larue, (3) Gale Warner, (4) Dr. Loy Schiff, (5) Guy Leatherwood, (6) Traction Line Station, (7) A.W. Graham, (8) G.H. Kraft Hardware, (9) Charles Fortner, (10) Otterbein and Ashville, (11) Martin Smith and Clinton Shook, (12) Grace Stout, (13) Ashville Community Men's Club, (14) Walter Gregg, (15) Elmer Neff, (16) Rebecca Givler, (17) John Oman, (18) Ashville First English, (19) Ashville Kiwanis, (20) Ashville Savings Bank, (21) The Citizens Bank, (22) Sarah Fisher, (23) An American Moment with James Earl Jones, (25) Hedges Hybrids, (26) Traction Line Electric Station, (27) Film Connections, (28) Picway Power Plant, (29) Beauty Queens, and (30) McGuffey Lane.

A large part of the credit goes to Charles Morrison, curator; Charles Cordle, artifacts; Jack Lemon, photographer; Rodger Southward, display frame construction, and the Kiwanis TVHS Builder's Club for sanding the frames. The cost of materials runs about \$100 per display. We thank AEP for sponsoring a display on the Picway Plant. If you are also interested in sponsoring a display topic please contact Charles Morrison.

Community Men's Club To Buy Railroad Station Land

The opportunity to buy the land on which the historic Scioto Valley Train Station recently arose, due to the efforts of Chuck Toole and his partners. The Club will also expand the property.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OHIO'S SMALL TOWN MUSEUM

Another First

Ross Larue became the first TVHS student to receive a U.S. patent. His idea--take advantage of the potential chemical energy that could be released from composting garbage and convert it into electricity. You can read about his patented battery and his other achievements at the museum.

Coloring Book On Sale

If you would like a copy of the coloring book Rebecca (Dum) Givler developed for the Museum, they are just \$2.00 plus shipping. The book is informative and entertaining.

What Happened to John Oman of St. Paul?

All we have for a clue is a 1907 article in the Ashville Home News. We're trying to find a relative to this inventor and contemporary of Orville and Wilbur Wright. Oman was designing his airplane seven years before the Wrights conquered the air. We know that he was an implement dealer and had moved from St. Paul to San Antonio, Texas, prior to 1900. We also know that there were several other John Omans that lived near Ashville that are not this John Oman.

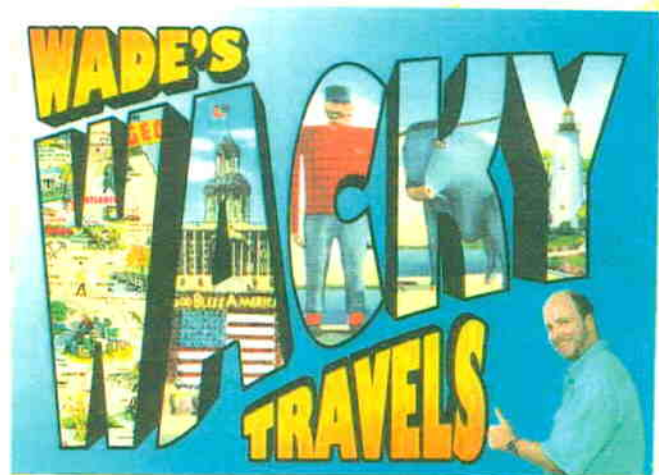
Walnut Township Man's Writings and Art Important to Kit Carson Museum

Dr. George Courtright rode with Kit Carson during the Indian Wars. A color copy of a battlefield drawing which depicted Dr. Courtright dressing the wounds of an Indian scout was hailed as an important addition to their

collection. A display in our museum illustrates this period in the life of Dr. Courtright.

1999 Heritage Society Officers

The slate of 1999 officers include: Jack Lemon - President; Charles Cordle - Vice-president; Rebecca Baum - Secretary; and Andrew Hite - Treasurer. Bob Hines and Charles Morrison have one year left on their terms as Trustees. New Trustees elected for 2 year terms were Fred Kiser, Katie Dum and Annabell Hines.



WADE PETRILAK IS ONE OF THE MANY INTERESTING VISITORS ATTRACTED HERE BY THE NEW ROADSIDE AMERICA BOOK.

An American Traveler

The self-proclaimed #1 fan of the New Roadside America, Wacky Wade Petrilak--from Hatboro, PA--stopped in to see our museum and the traffic light. Of course when he got here he found that our band of regulars were as wacky as he was. Wade liked our museum so much that he leaves our brochures all over the country on his travels. He manages to stay in touch by sending us post cards from the many places he visits, including the JFK urinal where he had a front row seat.

BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP CALL (740) 983-9864 FOR MORE INFORMATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OHIO'S SMALL TOWN MUSEUM

Word From The Editor

We like hearing praise from outsiders. Still, with all the growing notoriety, we never intended to make the museum just for foreign visitors or the press. No, our museum's goal is to teach local children that they have connections to American and World history. To us, a thank-you card from a third grader is worth a million times more than any kudos in a national magazine.

--The Editor

**Ashville Area Heritage Society
Ohio's Small Town Museum
34 Long Street
Ashville, OH 43103**

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