

It Takes A Community

Kudos to Bob Mabe and David Rainey and their families for the many years they spent galvanizing opinion and marshaling resources to develop a library here. Praise to the hundreds of people, organizations and businesses that donated time and money to benefit the children of this area. Thanks to the Pickaway County District Library Board for the leap of faith in our community and finally for their support.

We all stand in awe of the incredible gift of love from Irene Younkin and her family given in memory of her husband Floyd. This branch will always stand as a testament to his love for this community.

The library holds 12,000 books and 2,500 audio-visual items (see photos inside). A computer learning resources center is being funded in perpetuity by the Hosler Foundation. The children's area was designed around a country general store theme. It was established in memory of Evonne Studebaker --a middle school teacher.

The community meeting room is appointed with displays featuring the published works of authors from this area and artwork from area artists. Inspirational words that adorn the children's learning resource center were supplied by the late Gale Warner.

The dedication of the facility occurred on December 16--Floyd's birthday. Dignitaries attending included Hope Taft, Ohio's First Lady; Mike Shoemaker, State Senate; Tom Pledger, Chairman of Dycom Industries; Ohio's State Librarian, and many more. Ron Younkin gave a poignant speech about his father's love of this area and his desire to give something back to his hometown.

Approximately 300 people visited the library on dedication day. Thirty-four new patrons were registered and 181 items were checked out of the library on that 1st day of operation.

If you haven't stopped in to take a look, please do. It is open to the public 9:30 AM to 8:30 PM Monday through Thursday; 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturdays and 1-5 PM on Sundays.



Charles Ward, Take A Bow

If you were to ask anyone from this area who was the most prolific patented inventor, they would automatically say Teddy Boor. They would be wrong. That honor goes to Charlie Ward, the inventor of the Allen-Bradley Sonic Sifter and winner of the national 100 top innovations award.

Ward holds six U.S. patents related to particle sifting technology. Charlie is now the R&D director at the Gilson Company of Worthington, Ohio. Nationally recognized as an expert in small particle size analysis, Ward appears on the cover of laboratory equipment catalogs and is the author of guidelines in sieve analysis procedures for the American Society for Testing and Materials.

Ward's invention has a vibrating diaphragm similar to a speaker, operating at 60 cycles frequency. It sets a column of air in up and down "oscillating" motion. The air moves through a sieve, lifting the particles, then dropping them through the sieve.

In 1969, his Sonic Sifter was selected by NASA to examine the lunar particles brought back by Apollo 11. It continues to produce dramatic improvements in small particle powdered metallurgy, ceramics and drug development.

Charlie Ward grew up on a small farm East of Ashville. Today he resides in Ostrander with his wife and helpmate, Hilde. They have two children: Charles and Bonnie.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF OHIO'S SMALL TOWN MUSEUM

It's A Small Town World

"Ohio's Small Town Museum presents little wonders in a big way."

—Southeast Ohio Magazine

"The fascinating fun doesn't just stop at their unique traffic light".

—Over The Back Fence Magazine

"A Gem of A Museum. One stop at the Ashville Museum and you will know this area is unique."

—Central Ohio Heritage Circle



Street Corner in Detroit

Butch Runyon sings 2nd Tenor on the StreetCorner CD. Butch grew up on Jefferson Avenue in Ashville. Butch joins the Metta Larks, McGuffey Lane, and Ellis (Papa) Snyder on the list of recording groups from this area.

The Last First Sergeant--Layton Black.

Layton Black joins the growing ranks of published authors from this region. His book is an important first-hand

account of the Battle of the Bulge. It was published posthumously. You can read it at the Younkin Northern Branch Library.



Harold Peabody Rocketed Over Ashville 25 Years Ago.

It has been 25 years since Harold Peabody and his computer friend ROVAC appeared in "Ashville's 100th Birthday Preparation in Harold Peabody's Basement." Harold suggested that Ashville could develop a museum, library, housing for seniors, save historic structures like the railroad station and get more parking downtown, if it was going to be rejuvenated.

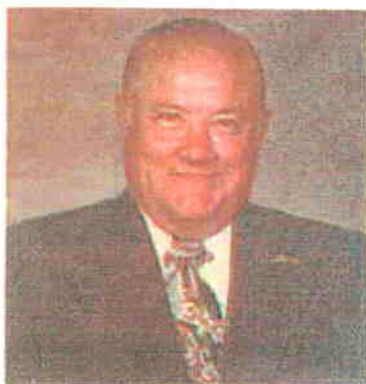
Harold: All I did, was say what other people told me they would like to see happen. ROVAC and I merely suggested ways resources might be found to make it happen. Other people did the hard work of making it happen.

John Cook Family Foundation

Professional golfer John Cook and his family have endowed a program at Cook's Creek in South Bloomfield that will allow disadvantaged children to participate in golfing. The program has been recognized nationally as an important outreach effort.

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Floyd Younkin

Horatio Alger could not have written a more poignant tale to illustrate the fruits of honesty, perseverance and hard work than the life story of Floyd E. Younkin of Pickaway County.

Floyd was born on December 16, 1916, to Howard and Tessa (Green) Younkin. He lived in Ashville on Long Street and later on East Main Street in a house built by his father.

He had five other brothers and sisters (Gladys, Carl, Marjorie, Lola Faye, and Russell) and attended Ashville-Harrison School until the eighth grade. When the Great Depression hit, there was little carpentry work for his father, so the family moved to Scioto Township where they all worked on a truck farm to make ends meet.

Floyd graduated from Scioto High School in 1934. His favorite courses in school were history, English and math, but his real love was vocal music. In fact, one of the highlights of his high school years was being chosen for the Ohio State Chorus.

He started a structural salvage business in 1938 with his younger brother, Carl. Together, they purchased nine acres on Greenlawn Avenue in Columbus with plans to open a lumber yard and later develop tract housing using lumber and windows they salvaged.

In 1940, Floyd married his high school sweetheart, Irene Pontius. They had their reception in the new home Floyd built with his own hands. The couple had three children: Ron (who now owns Greenlawn Mobile Home Sales), Janice and Scarlett. Floyd and Irene also raised the children of Irene's twin sister, Marvene Dunkle, after the untimely death of the Dunkle children's parents. The

children, who became part of the Younkin family in 1959, included Jerry, Mike and Marlene.

Floyd's plans for a subdivision in the early 1940's had not yet materialized when a Columbus building inspector suggested the brothers should instead build a trailer park. Floyd and Carl jumped on the idea and proceeded to build a temporary community on Greenlawn Avenue for military personnel and their families stationed at Fort Hayes and Lockbourne Air Force Base. Since the early trailers did not have bathrooms, a block building was built with toilet facilities, showers and laundry for residents. The efforts of the Younkin brothers was an overnight success.

As World War II ended, people thought that the demand for house trailers would decline but instead the demand increased. Floyd and his wife realized there was a growing need for low cost housing and became franchise dealers for Liberty Homes. During their first year in business, Greenlawn Mobile Home Sales sold 48 new homes. This success allowed them to also obtain a franchise for the New Moon line of Redman Homes, a housing product Greenlawn still represents today.

As Floyd watched his enterprise grow, he decided Greenlawn needed to provide more service to the customer than their competitors. Greenlawn would not just drop off the trailers it sold, it would also hook up the utilities.

In 1983, Floyd and Irene developed Scarlett Manor at Harmon and Greenlawn in Columbus and named the community after their youngest daughter Scarlett. Scarlett Manor was the first all natural gas mobile home community in the United States and was recognized as one of the top 10 mobile home communities in the country at the time.

In 1970 he formed Mobile Home Dynamics, a public company, to develop and build mobile communities in Florida. The company eventually made an orderly disposition of its properties and Floyd began to explore other investment opportunities which led him to fiber optics. He believed that fiber optics would have an important future and would need specialized companies to install it. So with the assets of Mobile Home Dynamics he formed Dycorn Industries, which is today traded on the New York Stock Exchange and is recognized as one of the leading fiber optics service corporations in the world. It was the spectacular growth of Dycorn made it made it possible for the Younkin family to fulfill one of Floyd's dreams to fill a community need in his hometown.

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(First Row) Gwen Wolford, Hope Taft, Mary Irene Younkin, Scarlett Ebenhack, Janice Benjamin, Ronald P. Younkin, Marjorie Wilson, (Second Row) Russ Younkin, Jane Cline, Ray Pontius, Melissa Mabe, Randy Beach, Marlene Eberhard, Bob Mabe, Gary Dunn, Others.



Mary Irene Younkin and Tom Pledger (Chairman of Dycom Industries) stand by the plaque honoring Floyd E. Younkin.

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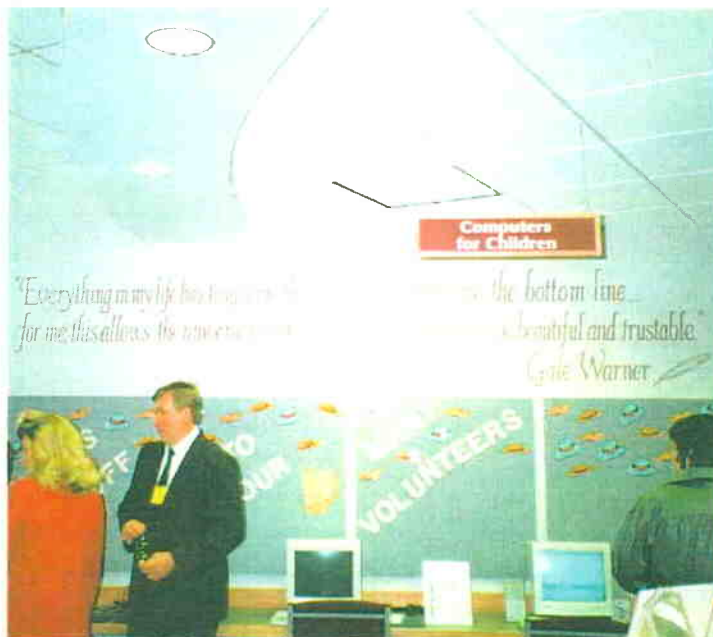


The Floyd E. Younkin Northern Branch Library

Computer Area



Children's Library Space



**Words of inspiration from author Gale Warner,
"Everything in my life has taught me that love and
learning are the bottom line...for me, this allows the
universe to make sense to have meaning to be beautiful
and trustable."**

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Rollie's Gone

We were all saddened at the loss of Rollie Featheringham. Rollie put in many hours at the museum helping out with anything that needed to be done. He left his mark on so many lives in this community through his auctioneering, the Fourth of July, the fire department and many other volunteer activities.



Fast As Lightning

We told you that someday Sarah Fisher would be running the oval at Indianapolis with the best of them. Well, we did not imagine that it would be so soon. Sarah tore them up on the midget car circuit last summer and was given the opportunity to race in the Indy Racing League. We know that she will be competitive at every turn and look for her to do well in the coming years.

Good Luck!!!!

Talking Baseball

Dave Kraft has been pulling together some of the baseball history of this area which we hope to see in a display. Ashville, Walnut and Scioto all had top notch players that made a mark at all levels of competition. G.B. Stoker played for Ohio University; Jay Gregg, Russ Gregg, Dick Pettibone and Don Thomas played for the Brooklyn Dodgers organization. Carl and Harold Gulick of Scioto played for the Ashville Reds and were both selected to the Softball National Hall of Fame in Texas. Lefty Pinto was a pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies organization. There were also some extraordinary teams

from high school state championship tournament teams to the semi-pro teams that dominated their division.



Web World

We have been asked from time to time whether there were any web sites that mention our museum. Here are just a few:

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/feed/ohf.html>

<http://www.geocities.com/Hearland/Valley/2491>

<http://pickaway.com/ostmuseum.htm>

<http://www.southeast-ohio.com/archives.htm>



Mindy Fusetti

Congratulations to Mindy for completing a successful collegiant basketball career at Ohio State University. Mindy played center for the Buckeyes.

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Ashville, Ohio on the name plate. The parts are currently on display at the museum.

What A Year!!!

Magazine articles about your museum appeared in Over the Back Fence, Southeastern Ohio, and the Country Register during 1999. It continues to be heralded as one of the best small town museums in existence. This year, we added displays that feature the buoy from the Battleship Maine, an original Fourth of July fish fry stirrer designed by the Hoover Tinsmith Shop, and Addie Squire's celebrated suitcase.

American Electric Power held a special open house at the Picway Power Plant that featured our display collection of electricity in our community. We have Warren Jeffers and Randy Smith to thank for the continued support of AEP for this museum.

Charlie Dean Morrison installed the new track lighting for the displays. Annabell Hines provided a water heater for the museum. Charles Cordle placed the Peace Pole into a permanent concrete footing. Charles Neal fixed the museum roof where some plywood had deteriorated. Jack Lemon organized a great picnic.

We would like to heartily thank Outsource Graphics for the bold new brochure for Ohio's Small Town Museum. It is all we can do to keep them in stock at Wendy's.

2000 Heritage Society Officers

The slate of 2000 officers include: Charlie Dean Morrison - President; Annabelle Hines - Vice-president; Mona Lee Morrison - Secretary; and Andrew Hite - Treasurer. Trustees for 2000 are Herb Seymour, Don Collins, Charles Cordle, Jack Lemon and Katie Dum.

Real Finds!!!

Just when you think there is nothing else out there, something truly extraordinary is found. Dave Rainey followed up on information supplied by OSTM and purchased a number of cast aluminum parts that were intended by Teddy Boor to be a mass produced traffic light. They give the patent number and proudly proclaim



Dave Rainey (right) shows the parts to Bob Hines (left) and Bill Hines (center)

Charlie Morrison recently found a male marionette that was part of the Vivian Michael Troupe. It was part of the Ruth Roof estate. Ruth lived and worked with the Michael's. Charlie found the prize in an old shoe box at the estate sale and purchased it for our museum. This is only one of hundreds of items that Charlie has found for the museum over the years. You can also see this important piece of our local history on display at the museum this year.



Vivian Michael's Marionette

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Touched By An Angel

Twenty years ago, it looked like everything the Heritage Society had worked for was over. The roof to the museum had fallen in, literally, and there was no money to fix it. But an angel saved us. Ethel Valentine Slegle offered to pay half the costs of fixing it, if the town would raise the other half. The town leaders agreed and Ethel, true to her word, saved the building from destruction.

We have seen what love of community can do. It is perhaps the most powerful weapon we have. When it is combined with vision and commitment, the seemingly impossible can be made to happen.

There are other angels in the wings. They only need the spark of an idea to encourage them. So, who will take up the challenge to bring a branch of the YMCA to the region? Who will find a way to bring splendor to the old traction line station and power house? Who will come up with a plan that allows the museum to expand? Who will help the churches remain committed to downtown locations? Who will touch the angels? Maybe it is you. Maybe it is all of us together.

--The Editor

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