

# Ohio's Small Town Museum in Ashville

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## The Scioto Valley Traction Line Station Comes Back to Life

What was once an eyesore is now one of the most attractive buildings in Ashville thanks to Helen, Bill and Chuck Toole. The building is on the Ohio Historic Inventory as one of the remaining interurban (third rail) stations in Central Ohio. It was a center of commerce for the community in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century much as the train station had been in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

There are current and former residents like Dr. Frank Hinkle who can remember riding the line to Columbus. The line carried workers, shoppers and college students. It moved the famous personalities like General John "BlackJack" Pershing--the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in WWI, politicians, entertainers and more up and down the Scioto Valley. The traction line fell on hard times with the advent of the automobile.

Dale Edwards was the architect for the renovation. Chuck Toole credits Dean Davis, Jim Evans and Jerry Swim for their workmanship in restoring the old building. The old station now houses Modern Nail Design, Hair Loom Station, and Top Quality Construction.

<http://www.worldwar1.com/biocbip.htm>

## And Community Pride Will Prosper

By Shannon Bumgamer

There was a bus stop at the coffee shop? Ashville had a hotel? Kids walked from South Bloomfield to Ashville School? We had a canning factory in town? Girls wore skirts as part of their basketball uniform? You rode the traction line from Ashville to Columbus? The museum was once a silent movie theater?

These are just a sample of the many questions that have been asked by my 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. During our discussions they look at me in disbelief and confusion.

When our friends from the museum arrive, their doubts turn into amazement and excitement. All of a sudden remote history facts become reality. There is no possible way I can instill the enthusiasm in my students the way Charlie, Jack, Annabell, Charles and Ada Lou have done over the years.

As a teacher it is wonderful to see these children soak up this type of knowledge. As a junior historian and a member of the community it brings true joy to see our youngest generation be so involved and so interested in our past. What a gift our community has in our "Small Town Museum." But an even greater gift lies in the people who are the heart and soul behind it.



## IRL Driver of the Year

Well, she did it. The fans of open-wheeled racing selected Sarah Fisher as their Indy Racing League "Driver of the Year". It was quite a year. She was the youngest woman ever to qualify for the Indianapolis 500 and the youngest ever to claim a spot on the winner's podium with

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### National Awards for TVHS Sophomore

Teays Valley High School sophomore Bethany Larue recently traveled to California to accept the prestigious Brower Youth Award for environmental protection. She and five other U.S. students received national recognition for their outstanding efforts to preserve the natural environment and promote environmental awareness. The award was inspired by the life of David Brower, a three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

Bethany was recognized for her efforts to preserve the wetland on her family farm. She completed extensive research on plants located in the wetland. Her research led to the identification of Ravensfoot sedge, an endangered and protected plant and caused Marathon-Ashland to reroute its proposed pipeline around the wetland.

Bethany was also cited in the premiere of the movie *Longitude* as a second place winner of another national contest sponsored by the Arts and Entertainment channel. She submitted her entry in A&E's "Plot a Course for Adventure Contest."

The drama told how one man's embattled quest to solve the scientific challenge of his age changed the way mankind views time and travel. It chronicles the struggle to come up with a means of determining one's position at sea by using time, which was something that people had been trying to do for hundreds of years. You can learn more about the contest and the movie by going the following web site:

<http://www.aande.com/tv/shows/longitude/dsobel.html>

Bethany received a Langenscheidt Publishing Group Map/Atlas prize package and A&E provided a videotape library for the school. Teays Valley was the only school in Ohio to be recognized.

[Editors note: This area is fortunate to have produced several articulate and ardent supporters of the environment including: Dr. William Ashbrook Kelleman, the father of American Mycology and subject of the poem, "In A Summer's Bog;" Gail Warner, environmental activist and the guiding spirit behind the Stratford Ecological Center; and Nikki Tinsley, the Inspector General of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Kelleman's Kansas collection was recently donated to the New York Botanical Garden. For more news go to:

[http://www.nybg.org/bsci/hcol/fung/ksc\\_main\\_page.html](http://www.nybg.org/bsci/hcol/fung/ksc_main_page.html)

Kelleman's Guatemalan field notes are now a part of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum. ]

### WWII Japanese Interment

We have long been aware of Rear Admiral H.H.Christy's valor and loyalty to those who served with him, but we had no idea that he risked his reputation for a faithful friend.

Kenji Inomata is writing a book about his grandfather, also named Kenji. The Inomata family was the only family of Japanese descent in California that was not interred during World War II. Kenji writes that his grandfather was a steward to Rear Admiral Christy when Christy commanded the Pensacola Naval Base. Christy helped him become an American citizen.

Kenji says that his family believes that Christy later intervened on his grandfather's behalf when WWII started to exempt his family from the interment camps. Kenji has tried unsuccessfully to reach any living relatives of the Admiral.

There are also several web sites that give more information about Christy and the sinking of the San Diego. Just go to:

<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/pers-us/uspers-c/h-chrsty.htm>

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her third place finish at Kentucky Speedway in August. You can learn more about Sarah's plans for next year by going to the following web site:

<http://www.sarahfisher.com/>

[Editor's note: We predicted several years ago that Sarah would be competing in the Indianapolis 500. It wasn't much of a prediction. We knew with her drive to compete, level of commitment and talent, she would soon be behind the wheel of an Indy Racing car. We know that in the coming years Sarah will continue to be on the winner's podium. That's not much of a prediction either.]



### Tribute to Hal Richard

**H**arold I. (Hal) Richard, former resident of Ashville, died in February 1999. Hal was born in Wooster, Ohio. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, after which he graduated from the Ohio State University. Hal later completed advanced studies at both Ohio State and Harvard University.

Hal married Nancy Hutchinson on October 4, 1959 and together they moved to a farm in Ashville, Ohio. He was known throughout Ohio as a farming innovator. In 1974 Hal began his service as the Western European Director of the American Soybean Association. While overseas Hal, Nancy and their four children lived in Brussels, Belgium and toured much of Europe.

In 1979 Hal was hired to manage Farmers Commodities Corporation in Iowa, which at the time was a subsidiary company owned by AGRI and Farmland. He also served as CEO of AGRI Industries, the position he held when FCC repurchased its stock and was established as an independent company owned by its member-customers. Under Hal's direction, Farmers Commodities Corporation has grown to be the largest volume commercial grain brokerage firm trading at the Chicago Board of Trade.

Farmers Commodities Corporation has set up a scholarship fund at The Ohio State University as a tribute to Hal's contribution to the company and to agriculture. Memorial contributions to that fund may be sent to: The Hal Richard Endowment Fund, c/o Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences College, The Ohio State University, 152 Howlett Hall, Columbus, OH 43210, or to any FCC office.

If you would like to learn more about Hal's impact on the people he touched, go to the following web site:

<http://www.fcstone.com/memorial.htm>

### Vision Plan Started

**T**he Ashville Area Heritage Society decided that a vision was needed to plan for the future of Ohio's Small Town Museum, its newsletter and other activities associated with the Society. The Society decided to adopt the following principles or objectives to guide this planning process:

- To locate, preserve, and display important local artifacts.
- To assist local schoolteachers that want to connect world and national history to local events and personalities.
- To encourage the renovation of locally important buildings and sites.
- To increasingly engage greater support from local business, industry and private individuals.
- To re-establish connections with former residents of the area.
- To promote the museum and its contents.
- To encourage and honor the achievements of local youth.

There is general agreement amongst Society members that we have to address space limitations and many other pressing issues in the near future.

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

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students have qualified to travel to O.U. Athens to participate in the final essay competition. All four Teays Valley seniors finished best in Pickaway County and have qualified Teays Valley High School for the Outstanding Ohio High School Award.

### Local History Links

You have no doubt already noticed that we have identified relevant internet sites with each article. We have adopted this policy as a teaching tool for students that want to know their connections to national and world events. The list of connections is almost limitless, but we think you might find it interesting to also view the following:

Lt. Col. Eugene Lacy Wheeler  
<http://hometown.aol.com/wldflwr730/>

Floyd Younk  
<http://ohiostatebuckeyes.fansonly.com/sports/m-footbl/pur9.html>

Gale Warner  
<http://www.lcadc.com/author3.html>

Champ Henson  
<http://www.lcadc.com/author3.html>

### Treasury of Ben Shahn's Asheville Photos At Harvard

In 1938 a famous artist and photographer, Ben Shahn, came to the Asheville Fourth of July to photograph the event. One of the photographs was printed in a number of books, including one by Sherwood Anderson. No one in the area has been able to see all of the Asheville photographs until now. If you go to the following site, you will see the carnival, fish fry, rides, athletic events and more. One thing Shahn did that no other photographer of his time did—his subjects never knew they were being photographed because he used a hidden lens.

[http://www.websearch.artmuseums.harvard.edu/4DCGI/s\\_hahn/PAGE\\_5/5586.1](http://www.websearch.artmuseums.harvard.edu/4DCGI/s_hahn/PAGE_5/5586.1)



Recognize these people. There just a few of the locals that appeared in Shahn's photo study.

### State FFA Honors For TVHS Team

The FFA won the state championship in the Urban Soil Judging this fall. This is the third time they have won the state in soil judging. In the past they have also won the state in tractor troubleshooting, Ag Mechanics Technology and Cooperative Education. Teays Valley has had 57 teams and 55 individuals place in the top ten of the state. There are 315 chapters and over 20,000 FFA members in Ohio. Members placing this year were Adam Balthaser, Preston Brown, Shawna Branham and Eric Dapra. Teays Valley will represent Ohio at the National Land and Soil Judging Championships in Oklahoma next May.

### Not a Bad Deal

Because Teays Valley residents voted to make major capital improvements to the schools in the district, school administrators were able to take advantage of the new school facilities funding program. The program essentially matched the amount local residents approved at the polls. This meant that all of the elementary schools could be replaced with state-of-the-art facilities at no extra cost. That's a deal no one should turn down.

A tentative timeline has been established for the construction of three new elementary schools, a middle school addition, and a major high school renovation project consisting of 62,000 square feet of new space. As it now stands, much of the site work will begin after the students leave for the summer break in June 2001. Assuming that everything goes as expected and there are no major barriers to the construction process, all of the buildings should be completed in December, 2002.

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### Our Members Pay Dues

Our members pay dues every year. Not because they have to, but because they want to support ongoing efforts to preserve, protect and present local history. We appreciate every family, every individual, every business and every organization that think this is worthwhile enough to make a contribution. Their donations and dues makes it possible for our organization to fund projects like this newsletter and buy materials for displaying important objects.

### Show Choir Wins Ohio Events

The Teays Valley High School Show Choir, "Prominent Rendition," recently competed in two fall competitions, the ETC Show Choir Invitational and the Ada Music Festival. They were named Grand Champions at both events. At ETC they also won awards for best Vocal Sound, Best Musical Production, and Best Stage Crew. At Ada they also won awards for Best Vocal Sound, Best Choreography Class B, Best Instrumental Combo Class B, Best Male Soloist Class B (Joel Reid), and Grand Champion Class B. Congratulations on a great year.

[The founder of the world famous Capital University Choir was Dr. Ellis Snyder of Ashville. Capital University dedicated its choir rehearsal room to him. To see the room just go to:

<http://www.capital.edu/conserv/consnyderchapchoir.htm>

The museum also has a display of Dr. Snyder and the Capital Choir records. It also has a display that honors the Metta Larks, champions of the National Grange Contest]

### Mr. Ashville

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers at Teays Valley Middle School write: "Charles 'Charlie' Morrison has a wonderful way of making our 8<sup>th</sup> graders feel welcome as he plants seeds of pride...the unselfish service that Mr. Morrison renders sets an example for all of us who have the pleasure of hearing him share his love of this area".

Charlie shares an educational slide show that features famous sons and daughters and their accomplishments. He and his compatriots take 200 students on a walking tour of Ashville and a tour of the museum every year.

### Greetings From the North Pole (Actually From Macy's)

Former TVHS student Nolan Hines was selected as the outstanding Santa Claus at Macy's in New York City. Nolan has been doing this gig for several years now as a break from Broadway and off-Broadway auditions.

### Ohio Thunder Head Coach— Steve Cummins

Steve Cummins, head coach of the Ohio Thunder Soccer Team, graduated from TVHS in 1971. His high school did not have a soccer team, but by the time Steve turned twelve, his family was using him as a goalie during their adult team practices. Steve jokes that he learned goalkeeping techniques strictly out of self-defense. Ultimately, Steve left Ashville to become the starting goalkeeper for Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

After his college career, Steve played in professional and semi-professional leagues from 1977 to 1985. While still playing semi-professional soccer, Steve was offered a coaching position in the Arlington, Ohio school system. He accepted the position and quickly acquired a love for coaching youth soccer. Steve's new found coaching abilities led him to Lakota High School in Southwest Ohio. During his tenure as the head coach of Lakota's varsity program, Steve's teams have won fourteen league titles. He has been named Ohio's Southwestern Coach of the Year three times and served 8 years as a State Coach in the Olympic Development Program.

Steve holds a National A Level Coaching License and has coached in the Club Ohio, Club Ohio/Dynamo and Ohio FC programs recording 10 State Championships, 2 Regional Championships and 1 National Championship. You can learn more about the Ohio Thunder by visiting the following web site:

<http://www.ohiothunder.com>

### They Know Their History

Congratulations to seniors Clara Reynolds, Josh Cavinee, Katie Geddes, and Stephen Overholser for their outstanding performances on the Ohio University American History Contest. More than 15,200 Ohio High School students took this test, and these four outstanding

## South Bloomfield's John W. Bear—The Buckeye Blacksmith

John Bear was the village blacksmith in South Bloomfield, Ohio during the 1830's before his rise to prominence as a Whig speaker. He wrote of South Bloomfield, "sometimes some hardshell Democrat would come to town and imbibe a little freely in democratic argument (whiskey) when some of the boys would put him on a small hand cart they call a rolling machine and give him a good ride around town—to shake the democratic principles out of him." Bear left no doubt that Bloomfield was strongly in the anti-slavery camp.

The Life and Travels of John W. Bear, "The Buckeye Blacksmith" an autobiography is available through the Making of America Books Program. You can read about the life of this colorful speaker that helped make William Henry Harrison president of the United States by going to the following web site:

<http://www.hti.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?sid=d8feebad8f884111&c=moa&idno=ABT5845.0001.001&view=loc>

You can also learn more about Mr. Bear by viewing his display panel at the museum.

## Year in Review

A lot happened this last year. Stones from the old telephone office were engraved and placed in our centennial park. Jeremy Helsel constructed new benches as a fulfillment of his Eagle Scout project. A new chain fence was put up around the park. We purchased a computer for the museum. Dave Kraft donated four baseballs that will be placed in the tribute to the members of the 1950 Ashville High School Baseball team. Our annual picnic at the Community Park was well attended. We heard from the inventor of the Sonic Sifter—Charles Ward. Our members were guests at the annual PicWay Power Plant Open House.



## Old Business Reborn as Ashville Grain LLC.

The old Ashville Grain Elevator in Ashville has come to life again. Local farmers Jerry and Ron Clifton originally purchased the elevator for the additional storage and to provide their farming operations with direct rail access. As they were making repairs to the equipment and facilities their thoughts turned to re-opening the facility to area farmers.

The Cliftons have received a grain handler's license from the State of Ohio and they will be buying grain from local farms. They have opened a feed store on the premises that carries all livestock, pet and bird feeds. The feed store also handles water softner salt. Lynn Rudino staffs the office and can help anyone with questions relating to feed products.

The Cliftons are looking forward to becoming part of the Ashville business community as the Ashville Grain LLC.

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<http://www.lihistory.com/7/hs710a.htm>

### Known Round the World

Ohio's Small Town Museum has welcomed visitors from every state in the US and every continent on earth (except Antarctica). They've come from Russia, China, Japan, Great Britain, France, Sweden, Germany, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Philippines, India and many other countries.

### Check This Out

There are many sites that pay tribute to our Ohio Small Town Museum. We have compiled a listing of some that you may want to visit. A recent site by David Polux (740-983-6845) or Michael Moore (740-983-6206) at First Byte Computers captures the spirit of the museum and its offerings. Just go to:

<http://www.ashvilleohio.net/>

Another recent site that pays tribute to the museum was created by Roger Petrie Enterprises and hosted by PickawayDailyPost.com and OHCOTrader.com. Just go to:

<http://www.pickawaydailypost.com/smalltownmuseum/>

Some other fun sites that mention the museum include:

[http://www.roadsideamerica.com/roger/QueryTips.php3?tip\\_State=OH](http://www.roadsideamerica.com/roger/QueryTips.php3?tip_State=OH)

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

<http://database.pickaway.com/dbhills-scripts/ohio/pickaway/visitorpages2.asp?zsubid=9>

<http://www.cohc.org/groups/pcattractions.htm>

<http://www.cohc.org/oldisnew.htm>

<http://www.visitdeercreek.com/area/museums/>

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/tour/94day6.html>

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com/map/oh.html>

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



### Younkin Success Center for All OSU Students

The Ohio State University proudly dedicated the Younkin Success Center on June 6, 2000. The center was named in honor of former area resident Floyd E. Younkin. It contains an Academic Learning Lab that is designed to provide a learning connection for any student in need of additional assistance and instruction outside the classroom.

Student Athlete Support Services at the center offer assistance in academic, athletic, and personal development. In addition the building houses career counseling services that are available to all undergraduate, graduate, professional, and continuing education students. The building, designed by architect, Susan Maxman, features a soaring atrium.

For those of you who live out-of-state and have not been able to visit the Younkin Branch of the Pickaway County Library in Ashville, you can go to the following web sites:

<http://www.pickaway.lib.oh.us/Younkin/floyde.html>

and <http://www.pickaway.lib.oh.us/hoursbranch.html>