

Affiliated with the City of Beavercreek

THE BEAVERCREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Log by Log

Our objectives as an organization are to preserve structures of historical significance, develop and present community educational programs, and to create a learning center for historic education.

A Quarterly
Newsletter from



Spring 2019
Volume 28, Issue 2

BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

The Traffic Safety Committee & The Origin of the Beavercreek Women's League: Part One

Submitted by Bob Bader

The Beavercreek Women's League (BWL) website provides an extensive summary of the League and its activities. In addition, the League's 30 year history published in 1999 provides additional information about early BWL activities. The BWL traces its organizational lineage to a Citizens Committee for Speed Control which started its activities in the summer of 1969. Shortly thereafter the name of this group became The Citizens for Traffic Safety Committee. But wait, we are getting ahead of ourselves...

Speeding traffic on Fudge Drive and neighboring streets—primarily in the plat then known as Audubon Park—was a great concern to parents and mothers, in particular, of small children. There were no sidewalks or playgrounds close by for the children and thus the streets became the place to ride bikes and trikes. Pat Johnson and Laura Bader were across-the-street neighbors on Penny Drive. Penny Drive connects Fudge Drive and Howell Road north of what is now Ferguson Hall Freshman School and Beavercreek High School. Their daughters Patti Sue and Anne were neighborhood playmates.

Who would have thought that someone could speed on a street one block long, but it happened and Patti Sue and her bike ended up in the ditch through evasion, fright or whatever ... Time has dimmed the specific details but one can easily imagine the conversation that ensued between Pat and Laura which included Pat's rallying cry of "That's it!" While not being a new problem, the incident provided the spark for these mothers to band together and collectively focus on their activities.

During mid-August of 1969, Pat and Laura were joined by Betty Jenkins and many more women as they attended a Township Trustees meeting to voice their concerns about traffic problems in the residential plats; Col. John Bennett was their spokesman. Out of this meeting a small group was formed consisting of Laura, Betty, Mary Brown, Joyce Romano and Pat Plum. Laura was selected as the chairperson. This group called themselves The Citizens Committee for Speed Control but after a short while changed the name to the Citizens for Traffic Safety Committee and eventually just used the title Traffic Safety Committee (TSC).

Continues on page 2.

Spring Living History

Living History is right around the corner.
I am hoping you can come and join us!
See back page for dates. Please share!

Continued from page 1.

The Traffic Safety Committee immediately went into action by monitoring traffic in the Fudge Drive and Ferguson Estates neighborhood areas. Fudge Drive runs from Dayton-Xenia Road to Bahns Drive, a distance about 0.9 miles uninterrupted by stop signs or other means to slow traffic. They recorded license numbers and names of vehicles that were speeding and reported them to the police as well as calling the companies directly involved. They learned that many of the speeding vehicles were operated by their friends and neighbors. Other activities of the TSC to advocate and express their concerns included meeting with local police and other citizen groups and attending court proceedings.

The TSC became known as Bader's Raiders because of the zeal and vigor that they exhibited in their activities. The TSC is given credit for influencing the change in the speed limit on Dayton-Xenia Road from 55 mph to 35 mph. Bicycle safety rallies were held. The breadth of the TSC activities throughout Beavercreek is illustrated by the letter shown on page 3 that Laura sent to about 80 residents in the Fudge Drive area seeking their assistance in the TSC endeavors. Note that the letter was dated November 1, 1969, and the signature block included the Beavercreek Women's League Title.

More information about the community service work that these women began fifty years ago will be included in our Summer Edition of the Log by Log newsletter.

Get to Know the Presenter: Jim Charters

Jim Charters, our featured presenter for the April 23 quarterly meeting, is a spokesperson for Dayton History and has made presentations to numerous organizations about significant historical events and individuals from the Dayton area. He volunteers as an interpretive guide at Carillon Park and Hawthorn Hill. In 2013 he received Carillon Park's "volunteer of the Year" award. Jim was born in Dayton and graduated from Chaminade High School and Ashford University. After a career with Illinois Tool Works (ITW), he returned to the Dayton area (Washington Township) to enjoy retirement, traveling and volunteering.

He volunteers at Centerville High School, tutors at Magsig Middle School, and moderates a class at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Dayton. In addition, he performs on stage as an actor with the Tipp City Players and Dayton History.

Call for Submissions

The Log by Log wants your submissions for future issues! The quarterly newsletter relies on these submissions to make up each issue to provide readers with interesting historical tidbits as well as upcoming/past events. History, little-known-facts, interviews, and even stories about growing up in Beavercreek are welcome! Please submit articles and photos to the editor: b.joh88@gmail.com

*Log by Log
Submissions
Deadline:*

June 14, 2019

2689 Penny Drive
Xenia, Ohio
November 1, 1969

Dear Resident,


The Traffic Safety Committee of the Beavercreek Women's League asks for your help and support on our Letters of Petition. These petitions are directed to the judges of Greene County who handle all traffic cases for Beavercreek Township. We feel that there is an increasing disregard for traffic safety within our township; stronger penalties imposed on offenders will surely aid in reducing these traffic hazards. Similar petitions are now being circulated in other residential areas of the township.

We would like to point out specific ways in which you can help make this township safer.

1. Report cases of reckless driving and speeding to the Beavercreek Police or to the Greene County Sheriff's Department. Give the license number and complete description of the car and driver if possible. Calls made to the police station are recorded; the more complaints received, the stronger the indication that additional patrolling is needed in the residential areas.
2. Be especially aware of all trucks or cars in your area representing service companies. If those vehicles are obviously speeding, report them to the Chairman of your area traffic safety committee. Letters will be written to those companies requesting their cooperation.
3. Observe all traffic signs in your area. Are they sufficient? Are they readable and easily seen?
4. Help instruct children in the rules of safety for pedestrians and especially for bicycle riders. A Program for Bicycle Safety has been instituted with each PTO in the township.

Please talk with your friends and neighbors about the efforts for traffic safety. The more people who become acquainted with our program, the more effective it will be for all of Beavercreek Township.

Sincerely,


(Mrs) Laura J. Bader
Citizens for Traffic Safety
Beavercreek Women's League

Letter written by Laura Bader,
November 1, 1969, as
referenced on page 2.

The Shoups' Corner: Then and Now

Submitted by Jeanne Wensits

As far back as I can remember, that empty property surrounded by Grange Hall Road, Indian Ripple Road and Bern's Garden Center has been sitting in tranquility, blanketed with blowing grass and an occasional yellow daffodil, disturbed only by the sounds of cars rushing by. But according to Tom Shoup, it was not always like that.

Way back in 1817, this plot of ground was part of a large farm owned by various members of the Shoup family. Later on, Moses Shoup donated approximately 2.5 acres of land for the building of a one-room brick schoolhouse, Concord School #1, named after Concord Church which stood nearby. Bounding two sides of the school were slopes where the children whooped and hollered playing games. Although the yard to the east was fairly level, across Indian Ripple Road were woods and a little stream to explore. The school was affectionately referred to as The Little Red Schoolhouse.



Beaver Creek Township Concord School #1 - November 2, 1959

However, a larger, more modern school was needed by 1934. The property was sold to Russell and Hazel

Benham who turned the school into their home. Electricity was added but not much else was changed.

In 1953, John and Grace Shoup bought the home and John made several updates, including inside plumbing, a basement he dug with a shovel, and a full bathroom upstairs in the ¾-story attic that eventually became the bedroom for their four children, Lynne Marie, Bill, Tom and Lori.

Grace loved to play the piano and somehow managed to get an upright piano into the living room where it became her pride and joy. Another passion was gardening. Soon colorful flowers were blooming all growing-season long around the yard. In the spring yellow daffodils blazed along the entire 200-feet of frontage of Indian Ripple Road.

But on November 2, 1959 everything changed.

Around 9:40 a.m. that day, an F-104 fighter plane took off from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base heading south and moments later experienced an engine explosion. The pilot hung on, trying desperately to reach a sparsely populated area before parachuting. But at the point of ejection the plane was already in free-fall and it went straight down, crashing into the Shoups' house. Tragically, sisters Lynne Marie (12) and Lori (2) were killed and their mother, severely burned, was flown by military transport to a Burn Unit in Texas where she passed away. Brothers Bill (10) and Tom (8) were at Fairbrook School at the time of the crash. Their father was at work at NCR.

The remaining family, John Shoup and his sons Bill and Tom moved a quarter of a mile up Grange Hall Road to live with the boys' grandparents. For the next 33 years, the two boys continued to mow the grass and care for the corner property like it was their yard until their father passed away in 1992.

Two years later the property was sold to a



F-104 Plane Crash

commercial developer. During the next 24 years the land was passed to a local chiropractor who had plans for a pain clinic that were never realized, and the City of Beavercreek continued to chip away at the land for widening Indian Ripple and Grange Hall Roads.

Meanwhile, in a vacant bank that was part of the “Old Lofino’s” Plaza on Dayton-Xenia Road, Tom’s daughter Jennifer Shoup opened the Piano Preparatory School to teach adults and children classical-piano, string, guitar and voice in 2005. A surprising aspect of the school was, yes, the large bank vault. Jennifer shares that the school opened with 4 instructors and 71 enrolled students. Due to

rapid growth, in 2010 the school relocated to a small retail center on Indian Ripple Road that provided more space for teaching studios. By 2018 the school was averaging 350 families enrolled per semester and a teaching staff of 20. More space was needed.

By an amazing quirk of fate, the “more space” turned out to be that hallowed Shoup family ground on the corner of Grange Hall and Indian Ripple Roads. Jennifer’s spacious, new Piano Preparatory School has been rising from the land that hasn’t heard piano music for 60 years. As a final touch, Tom and his wife Mary will be transplanting some of his mother’s yellow daffodils there that have traveled with them to every home they’ve ever owned. This seems to be a perfect way to complete the renewal of this historic corner.

And if one listens very closely they may hear the gleeful laughter of school children echoing down through the ages on that corner.

I gratefully acknowledge the generosity of Tom, Bill and Jennifer Shoup for sharing much of the content of this article.

– Jeanne Wensits



The Piano Preparatory School
Beavercreek, Ohio – 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

Quarterly Meeting, April 23

Peace Lutheran Church 7:00 p.m.

Jim Charters presenting the Dayton Codebreakers

Board Meeting April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11

1981 Dayton-Xenia Rd. at 6:30 p.m.

Spring Living History

April 26 – Set-up Day

April 29 – May 3

May 7, 8 and 10

May 14 – 17

May 21 – Tear-down Day

Log by Log Submission Deadline, June 14

Send to Editor, at bjoh88@gmail.com, no later than 9:00 p.m.

Quarterly Meeting, July 23

Tobias-Zimmer Barn 6:15 p.m.

Annual Ice Cream Social



1368 RESEARCH PARK DRIVE
BEAVERCREEK, OHIO 45432
BeavercreekHistoricalSociety.org

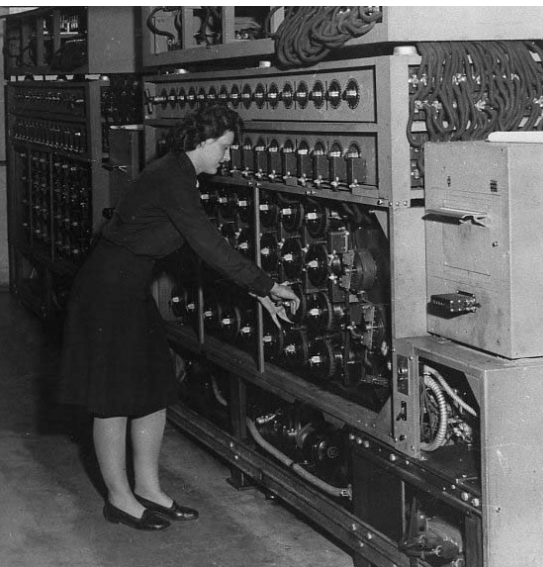
If your mailing label shows Exp 12/31/18, then you have not yet renewed. We hope you'll do that.

Thank You

THE BEAVERCREEK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S

Quarterly Meeting

When: April 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. | **Where:** Peace Lutheran Fellowship Hall



"Bombe Operator"
Photo courtesy of NSA.gov

Jim Charters, a spokesperson for Carillon Park, will be presenting the program "The Dayton Codebreakers" at the April 23, 2019 Quarterly Meeting. Courtesy of Carillon Park, those attending the presentation will receive a free pass to the Park.

The story of the Dayton Codebreakers is quite fascinating. In 1942, German UBoats were sending American ships to the bottom of the Atlantic. The US Navy took the problem to NCR in Dayton. There a laboratory was set up to design and build code breaking machines. This project was top priority and top secret.

The Navy came to NCR because of an engineer named Joseph Desch. He had the insight and the technical ability that they needed. The work that he and the WAVES accomplished at NCR's Building 26 was truly remarkable.

The April 23 meeting will be held at Peace Lutheran Church, 3530 Dayton-Xenia Road, in Beavercreek and begins at 7 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. For further information, call 937-427-5514.