

Chapter 41 The Cincinnati Post 1942-1985 By Jack Klumpe¹

The war to end all wars--World War I---was 12 years in memory in 1930 but its echo was being felt on the hilltop and around the world following the October 29 stock market crash the year before, marking the end to postwar prosperity. Herbert Hoover had been elected president against Alfred E. Smith, the Catholic Democrat governor of New York. The cry was that grass will grow in the streets if Hoover was elected. The worst American depression began in the seventh month of Hoover's term and held full fury until early in 1932 when some of the first faint signs began to appear that things would be better. But lives, attitudes and "The Avenue" (Hamilton) as it has become to be affectionately known, would be changing too.

It was against this backdrop that the Ladies Aid Society of the College Hill Christian Church put out their recipe booklet, 'Favorite Recipes.' To historians the publication of Mrs. H. E. Turner's recipe for sweet milk waffles or 'Polly's' directions for making sour milk griddles is not important at this time. What is intriguing are the 72 small advertisements in the thirty six page booklet. Thirty five of them are from College Hill merchants. The others are for Mt. Healthy and North College Hill businesses.

Come walk The Avenue with us from a point on Hamilton Avenue exactly opposite Larch Avenue. The ads in the booklet will be our tour guide as we note the changes that haven't taken place. The 1930 City Directory will aid us in the addresses. We have to assume a basic correctness because we will find postal officials have slightly changed some of the numbers in these last 70 years although the designation between blocks has remained the same. When a new building came into being the address numbers were often readjusted. For example: Haggis Sweet Shop in the north store of the Hollywood Theater building listed its address as 5920 in the 1930 ad. That number is now Brill's furniture store. Haggis offered candy, light lunches and delicious home made ice cream at 50 cents a quart.

Standing at 5670 Hamilton Avenue, just opposite Larch Avenue is a two story light gray frame building with vertical paneling covering older windows on the first floor. This was one of Kroger's early stores. The 1924 City Directory lists this address as the 'Kroger Grocery & Baking Co' and continues the listing through 1930 after which it is noted as Adolph Haubner grocery. In 1933 and through 1935 it was Richard C. Rabe grocery. Fifty years ago, 1943, the Directory lists a Mrs. Mamie L. Kern as operating a grocery store at that location. Later the property fell into disrepair with various merchants making brief attempts at survival but finding it too far from the business district and parking to attract customers. The second floor living quarters are still used (1993).

As we approach Groesbeck Road and the College Hill Presbyterian Church on the northeast corner we again refer to our historical notes and learn the front portion of the church was dedicated January 4, 1953 after extensive remodeling to the entire edifice. The rear section, parallel to Hamilton Avenue, was dedicated October 5, 1890 after an earlier brick structure was completely wrecked by a 'sudden storm' on a Sunday in 1888, one hour after the end of the service.

At the north of the church, in matching stone, is the Parish House which displays a cornerstone that was laid January 1, 1926.

For a period of time after 1917 the North Room of the church was used by women from the church and from other churches of the hill for Red Cross work. Following World War I the need for different facilities for volunteer work, Sunday School classrooms and a place for the recently organized Boy Scout Troop became apparent. The Parish House was then built and used by the entire community for a time with Mr. Donald Nimmo as director of activities. There was little help outside of the church in maintaining the concept. As a consequence the salaried director had to be given up and the use of the building confined more nearly to church activities.

As we continue our nostalgic walk north on Hamilton Avenue we pass the church parking lot. There, 70 years ago, stood a row of stores. First in the line of four stores was College Hill Dry Cleaners with Ollie P. Pies as proprietor. In his ad he offered one day service and boasted 'your clothes are insured

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against fire and theft while in our care’.

Next was a shoe repair shop. The directory lists a Fred. A. Hilgemeyer as being at 5750 Hamilton Ave. Betty’s Sweet Shop was next. It was ever popular with the younger generation of the hill. George Timbert was proprietor. He sold candy, of course, Niser ice cream and offered a ‘full line of fireworks and holiday goods,’ his ad stated. And lastly was Ernest L. Hearn’s auto accessory store.

Still standing, but later extensively remodeled was the Pure Oil filling station. It was to become homes for pizza parlors and fried chicken restaurants. Across the street on the southwest corner of Hamilton Avenue and Llanfair was The Refiners Oil Corporation station. BP was the last station at that location, closing in 1991 with the removal of all its pumps. On the west side of Hamilton Avenue, beginning at the northwest corner at Llanfair, William Seiter had his blacksmith shop. Next, standing majestically to the north, was the Duennes Building. It has been cleared from the site, leaving an expanse for future development as part of the shopping mall. The two story brick Duennes Building, built in 1900, had a double store front with apartments on the second floor. The stores served many purposes for grocers William Broschert (1911), Bode Shoe Store, Theskins Meat Market, real estate offices and in 1918 the College Hill Branch of the Public Library was in the north store. The 1930 Directory lists The College Hill Feed Store and Lawrence Volz Hardware store as occupants that year. Volz sold radios which were then just becoming popular having been developed a bare ten years before. He also sold Virgora lawn seed, wall paper and the usual hardware items.

Continuing on Hamilton Avenue we pass the Hollywood Apartments. They are much as they were in 1930 except for new store fronts. The City Directory that year lists the Rev. Dale LeCount as living in apartment 24. He came to the Presbyterian Church as pastor in 1929 and remained until 1943. It was during his pastorate that the church built its manse on Groesbeck Road where he then resided.

To the south of the present LaRosa’s restaurant and noted as 5826 Hamilton Avenue was Harry Renner’s plumbing business. There were five flats above the business and Renner lived in one of them while two were vacant the 1930 Directory notes.

Then as now, from here to Cedar Avenue there is an unbroken line of store fronts. A glance to the roof line shows that it is a hodge-podge of buildings, however, with several stores occupying one building while another front is a single structure. Again, the post office has changed the address numbers since that 1930 listing so comparison with numbers today is not always the same. The building north of LaRosa’s is where Fred J. Kissel had his restaurant. Next was the Schneider’s Grocery. Then, Edwin M. Abshire had his dry cleaning establishment with Spadaro & Bottom fruits as his neighbor. The Burke Grocery Co. was next. Peoples -Packing House occupied the next store with Samuel Kohnop dealing in general merchandise just before we reach the corner where Al Hoffman operated Hamilton Cedar Service. He sold Oakland and Pontiac automobiles as well as ‘gas, oil, tires, batteries, radios, repairing and accessories’.

The intersection of Hamilton and Cedar Avenue to the northeast corner prompts us to recall how it was in 1930. Then, F. W. McNutt had a prosperous hardware store there where he sold along with hardware, ‘house furnishings and Frigidaire refrigerators’. Affluent, as he may have been, he had two ads in the Ladies Aid Society recipe booklet. The one for Frigidaire extolled its fine points with ‘cold control plus surplus power and guarantee of absolute satisfaction by General Motors’. His other ad urged one to ‘get the best results use ‘Mirrow’ (sic) aluminum pans.’

Housewives were not wanting for Kroger stores as they strolled ‘The Avenue’ back then. At 5902 Hamilton Avenue, was a Kroger Grocery & Baking Co. store. Recall there was one at 5670 Hamilton Avenue and find a third near the southeast corner in the Dixon and Wyckoff building at North Bend and Hamilton. The present location of Kroger’s across from Shuller’s Wigwam Restaurant, once held a ‘Pay-n-Takit’ grocery, lists the 1943 Directory. The Kroger Store near Cedar was still in business 50 years ago. Its neighbor to the south was Albert Hardert’s Restaurant while McNutts Hardware store is gone as is the Kroger Store in the Dixon Building.

As we linger in our 1930 memories at Cedar & Hamilton we have become overwhelmed by the number of grocery stores. For next to Kroger’s before the Ruthellen flats was Henry B. Kock’s grocery. Across Hamilton Avenue in Dow’s Corner building was a Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A&P)

store. Its next door neighbor was Henry Stegner's Meats. His slogan was 'Some people keep the best...but we sell it.' Goodies Restaurant occupied later the building. Sue Caruso had a fruit store between Stegner's and the Palace Market which Philip Steinman ran. He stayed open until 10 P. M. Selling 'imported groceries, cheese and select meats.' His motto was 'we supply the table.'

When you look beyond the facades added to buildings, such as the Ruthellen flats, you get a true picture of the intermix of stores and dwellings before the 1930's. Early construction had the buildings conform to lot lines. With the coming of sidewalks and paved roads buildings set back from the street chose the opportunity to add store fronts and incorporate the original building with a new commercial venture. So it was with the Ruthellen building when the facade fronts were added. Soon after the additions the Kock Grocery and Albert Hardert rented space in the newly available stores. Hardert had a confectionery.

Between the Ruthellen 'new' facade and the Hollywood Theater building one can observe the two store frame building with living quarters above. The building follows lot lines but is at an angle to the street with a small patio in front. The two stores are separated by a center entrance for the flats above. Oscar Lemkuhl had his barber shop in the south store and Ella M. Miles ran a dry goods store in the north section.

Across the street from Brill's Furniture store at 5920 Hamilton Avenue, Herb Doll had his bakery. An auto agency, one of three in College Hill, was to the north of the bakery. Here is what is now Brill's Cherry House Annex furniture store, Webster & Brown sold Ford automobiles.

In the two story frame house, just south of a glass front building where 50 years ago Albers Super Market was then located, George M. Hoffman had his photography studio. The address, then as now, is 6031 Hamilton. His phone number, Kirby 0423-R was a party line. Across the street at 6024 in a brown brick building, Charles Zimmermann had his poultry market. In another small shopping enclave between Elkton Place and Kroger's in the Dixon Building there were two more grocery stores, two meat shops and a bakery.

Louis G. Allgeier, known to his customers as 'Louie-the-butcher,' had his shop at 6110 Hamilton Avenue in the Junior Order building. He sold 'high grade meats and poultry'. Next to him was Katherine Baldauf's bakery with Ernest E. Eckert operating a meat shop next to her in what is now Schwartz Jewelers. Eckert's neighbor, who shared the same store front, was the Burke Grocery Company. And lastly in the progression of stores was Multner Brothers grocery. They also sold meats, fruits and vegetables proclaiming in their ad 'where your dollars have more cents.' They did business from what is now Bacall's Cafe.

The College Hill post office in 1930 was on the southeast corner of Ambrose and Hamilton Avenues, later moving to 6120 Hamilton where Angert's Appliances is located. A succession of building and loan institutions---Star, Society Bank, Ameritrust---had offices in the remodeled corner vacated by the post office.

Thirty years after the turn of the century and not yet 100 years since Freeman Cary created his first school, College Hill still had much vacant land and lots. The east side of Hamilton Avenue from Ambrose Avenue to Elkton Place was still vacant. Herman Mergard, Jr. had yet to build his bowling lanes. Across the street George Hoffman's neighbor to the north was in the next block. Hoffman lived in the house at 6031 Hamilton and his neighbor to the north was John J. Dupps, Sr. at 6031 Hamilton. To the south of Hoffman's two story frame house, still standing, were vacant lots before Hobart Flemming's Restaurant at 6013 Hamilton. The building can be identified as standing alone at one time. Now vacant, it is sandwiched on the north by an also abandoned building that was Desh's Cleaners and on the south by a newer structure, once Renner's Plumbing shop.

To further illustrate the amount of land available for development in 1930 we walk the west side of Hamilton Avenue to the north of North Bend Road where South and North Dixon Circle, Peaslee and Harbeson now exist. Here George T. Harbeson had his plant nursery and at a point across from Larry Avenue, William Kraft also had a plant nursery. Harbeson advertised in the Ladies Society recipe booklet his 'Peony and iris farm' and noted cut flowers were his specialty, selling 'gladioli, peonies, daffodils, iris and narcissi.'

Older residents of College Hill reading this will recognize as complete as this litany of 1930 Hilltop businesses may seem, there is still much left to be recounted. Many will recall Eugene S. Braun men's furnishing store and G. Gerstner's dry goods store in the Brighton Bank (now P. N. C.) building at 5851 Hamilton Avenue. Others may recall the 'Tom Thumb Golf in College Hill' which in 1930 advertised itself as 'Hamilton avenue - opposite the Post Office'. The post office then was at Ambrose and Hamilton. Operators of the course urged one to 'improve your putting.' They were open every day from 10 A.M. to midnight.

And off The Avenue at Belmont and Llanfair were the Belmont Grocery and Meat Market. They also sold fruits and vegetables. They had a second store at Hamilton and Belmont Avenues.

At 1618 Llanfair Avenue the C. D. Peters Ice & Coal Company did business. The College Hill Drive-In Delicatessen is there now. Just west and across the street on the southeast corner of Llanfair and Davey was the Cozy Corner Restaurant. You could call Kirby 1269-W for your reservation for their Sunday chicken dinners. The building is now a full residence. Then, living quarters of the owner was upstairs and the restaurant was on the first floor.

Even 70 years ago College Hill was not without its used furniture store. At 1539 Cedar, L. B. Eiler dealt in 'used furniture, stoves and rugs' his ad states. The address is in a blue two story frame house near the entrance to the present post office.

Well 'off the beaten path' was Frank D. Myer's Grocery at 1401 Cedar Avenue. He too sold fruits, meats and 'fresh' vegetables. The building still stands at the southwest corner of Cedar and Lantana. The store front has been framed over and the building sided.

While College Hill had its plethora of grocery stores and restaurants in 1930 it also had its fair share of barbers, druggists and doctors. On The Avenue you could choose at least three barber shops: Oscar Lemkuhl's, Kenneth Reynolds' or Lawrence Wenning's. Besides Dow's, there was Beatty and Sarsfield drugstore. William 'Doc' Schneider, who was on the southeast corner of Hamilton and Marlowe Avenues advertised 'we seal our reputation into every bottle.' Charles Geiser and Fred. C. Swing were physicians on the hill as was Forest V. And Orlando E. Cress who had their offices in the row of Hamilton Avenue stores that had Braun's Toggery and Gerstners. The doctors Cress had their office in the southern-most of the three stores where, before closing his business, John Ludwig had his shoe store.

To paraphrase the poet who remarked that the memories of yesteryear dim as the swift seasons roll, so it is with life then on The Avenue. What it was then has validity only now to those with a nostalgic curiosity and the historians. Whether we choose to reflect upon it at some convenient figure as fifty years ago or select an arbitrary date as we have with College Hill as it was in 1930 matters little. The fact remains is we could look back when we reach the year 2005 at the 75th anniversary of events in College Hill. But the view from there would be no different than what we have reported here. As it was, 1930, seems to have been a very good year as our hilltop community was coming of age.

College Hill has experienced a relatively mundane existence since 1930 as viewed from a pure journalistic viewpoint.

News reporters refer to 'hard news' as that of violence, crime, accidents, and that segment of events that make up much of the days headlines. Routine events, unless they involve larger groups, go unreported in the daily newspapers. Those events are left to the community 'papers to report.

As a reporter and a photographer for the Cincinnati Post that span nearly 50 years beginning in 1942 and ending in 1985 I can recall few College Hill milestones that have left a lasting mark on the local society. While some may recall seeing The Very Reverend Karl J. Alter, Cincinnati Archbishop, being driven by limousine from his home, Laurel Court at the corner of Belmont and Oakwood, to Hildebrand's Barber Shop on Hamilton Avenue for his frequent haircuts, it is for the longtime residents of the area to recall Jesse Locker.

Born in College Hill May 31, 1891, Locker attended the community high school and was the only Negro in his class. He resigned his Cincinnati City Council post in 1953 when he was named ambassador to Liberia. His untimely death from a stroke in the African nation Easter Sunday, April 10, 1955 was marked with the body's return here. It lay in state in City Hall one afternoon from noon until 4 p. M. as thousands filed past the bier. I recall that afternoon. I was there as a photographer for the Post.

As one memory fades another rushes to take its place. My first meeting with Dr. John Willke and his wife Barbara was in their in home one early December afternoon in 1964. At that time sex education was not something that was being freely reported in the newspapers. Dr. Willke was a pioneer in this field but there was little to predict that just six years later he would be establishing a nationwide 'Right to Life' movement and become one of the more outspoken foes of abortion.

At that time the Willkes had three children. One was in arms and the other two were active youngsters. A family picture was a must. Dr. Willke obligingly got down on the floor to play with blocks with the older children and Mrs. Willke looked on. The picture was made and a friendship was begun that lasted for many years. Early in the doctor's career, as an author, I made several cover pictures for sex pamphlets he was producing using members of his family as models.

Today the daily newspapers would ignore the simpler things of life in a community such as the building an addition to a church. But, June 17, 1951 the College Hill Presbyterian Church at Hamilton and Groesbeck broke ground for such an addition and the cornerstone was laid January 20, 1952. Church members had pledged to a mortgage that was not to exceed \$150,000 to complete the building program. Photographs were made at each event and they found their way into the newspaper.

Grace Episcopal Church at the corner of Hamilton and Belmont found its way into the daily press in a different manner. One late spring Saturday the rectory was moved along Belmont Avenue from its location behind the church so a fellowship hall could be built on the site. Moving the home to its new site immediately north of Aiken High School was not a remarkable event of the day. Houses had been moved before but this time all eyes were on a half full bottle of milk that was sitting on the kitchen window sill. It, with the house, made the trip to the new foundation without tipping from what seemed a very precarious perch. That made the picture.

The year 1958 also saw the closing of the Ohio Military Institute and its subsequent demolition. When the wreckers ball swung against the structure the next year to make way for Aiken High School, memories of a past culture were spewed upon the ground to be ignored by most but to be cherished by some who picked through the debris to salvage photographs, identification stickers and the other artifacts. They are now being preserved by the College Hill Historical Society.

As other memories are recalled one is with a 'bang' and the other with a light. Sometime after midnight the area around North Bend and Hamilton Avenues was rocked by an explosion. This was about 1976. Tolford Insurance, in a remodeled house just across from Kroger's, exploded from a gas accumulation leaving but a pile of rubble.

The light came from the Methodist Home when one Christmas season a huge electric star was placed on one of the twin towers. Visible from many points in the city it prompted many calls to the newspaper office asking what it was and suggesting a picture of the fact would be in order. We tried many times to get that picture. The problem was when you were far enough away a picture didn't show what it was and when you were close enough to see what it was, there was little reason to make the picture. The star continues to be lighted each year but the picture remains elusive.

From a collection of old negatives comes one of the more amusing incidents that had even the police confused as they tried to sort out who was at fault in a four car accident at Hamilton and Groesbeck, July 6, 1979. It was not funny to those involved but to onlookers it was a puzzle how four cars could end up in almost a pin-wheel fashion.

Photographic negatives are the way we preserve memories of events. Video and its associated electronics of computers is changing much of how we recall the past. Even now film nor magnetic tape holds the images that are stored in memories. It is to this nostalgia we now turn.

The early 1960's began to see the demise of the afternoon newspapers in this country as they had been known for generations before. Life styles were changing and a morning newspaper found greater favor with subscribers. In the decade before 1930 most German language newspapers in Cincinnati had ceased to exist. In the decade to follow the fourth of the city's daily newspapers, the **Commercial Tribune**, ended its tenure.

Until July 20, 1958 Cincinnati had two afternoon newspapers. The **Times-Star** was succumbing to rising production costs, weakening circulation and fierce competition from **The Post**. On this date **The**

Post purchased its afternoon rival for an estimated \$3.5 million.

In a fact not too familiar to many, it was really management problems at the **Cincinnati Enquirer** that was to spell the doom of the **Times-Star**. It was in 1956 that Scripps-Howard acquired controlling stock in the morning 'paper for a little more than \$4 million. The **Times-Star** had failed in its attempt to buy the **Enquirer** and with that its fate was sealed. Earlier in 1952 the **Times-Star** had its efforts frustrated to purchase the **Enquirer** in court by the combined efforts of the **Enquirer** employees and out of town financing.

Again in 1955 the **Times-Star** had tried to purchase an interest in the **Enquirer**, but were outbid for the **Enquirer's** convertible debentures. All this while **The Times-Star** also made repeated efforts to acquire **The Post** to strengthen their economic status.

The 118 year old **Times-Star** was dead. Its new owner, Scripps-Howard, now owned both the morning and the only evening paper in the city. Although there had not been any interference from the parent company and the **Enquirer** was allowed to set its own editorial policies, the U. S. Justice Department was soon concerned about both of the city's daily newspapers being controlled by the same corporation.

Following lengthy court proceedings Scripps-Howard was required to sell one of the newspapers. After 15 years of holding **The Enquirer** it was sold May 7, 1971 to an employee led group that sold stock to most of **The Enquirer** employees at \$40 a share as well as to other area residents interested in owning part of a major newspaper. The bulk of the funding, however, came from a corporation named American Financial Leasing Services that was underwritten by other industry. This time the price was \$20.8 million.

Following the sale of **The Enquirer** many **Post** employees suggested the choice, if there was a choice, was a poor one. With the observable decline of afternoon newspapers across the country, the reasoning was Scripps-Howard would have done better to divest itself of **The Post** and retained the **Enquirer**. It was a rapidly increasing lucrative and prestigious morning market. It is ironic that in little more than eight years Scripps-Howard found it financially prudent to enter into a joint operating agreement with the **Enquirer** to provide all functions of producing a newspaper with the exception of its editorial content. December 7, 1979 began a new era in Cincinnati news papering when the **Enquirer** began publishing **The Post**. This JOA, as it is referred to, is to continue by contract until December 31, 2007 and then may be renewed automatically every 10 years.

To underline the facts and clear up many misconceptions **The Enquirer** does not own **The Post**. Scripps-Howard still owns the 'paper while the **Enquirer** is owned by Gannett. Under the JOA the contract reads the **Enquirer** will sell and place advertising for **The Post**, perform other business and housekeeping operations, print **The Post** and distribute it. **The Post** remains a separate and distant editorial voice in the community with its own editor and staff of writers.

In the last 40 years there are several dates in the life of **The Post** that are milestones in its continued existence that should not be idly dismissed for they affect thousands who have given their careers to Cincinnati newspapers.

July 20, 1958 was a Sunday. It was one of those dates. The rank-and-file of the 649 employees of the **Times-Star** had little reason to expect this Sunday was to be a memorable one for them. With the purchase of the 'paper by **The Post** the night before, the plan was to inform all **Times-Star** employees by Western Union telegram of this fact. Apparently Western Union was overwhelmed with the delivery task. Many received the telegram after hearing the news first on radio, or a telephone call from a friend. Some did not learn of their fate until Monday morning when they reported for work.

The telegram instructed employees that the **Times-Star** could no longer offer them jobs but that some would be employed in the coming days by **The Post**. The day the purchase was announced - Sunday - **The Post** began moving its base of operations from a narrow, compact and antiquated building at Post Square and Elm Streets, now the site of the Albert Sabin Convention Center, to the luxury of the **Times-Star** building at Eight and Broadway². Its main newsroom was so large that on occasions -

² Designed by Hannaford & Sons, architects

usually Saturdays - some *copyboys* would use roller skates to get about. (Until the 1970's, reporters in the newsroom would call out 'BOY' when an errand was to run. This changed when girls were hired and then the call simply became 'COPY!')

Monday morning, July 21, 1958 was chaotic for both newspapers. **Post** employees reported to their old familiar building to routinely gather the news and go about the task of setting type and printing a newspaper. For **Times-Star** workers life had become one of confusion as hundreds gathered in from of their place of work. All doors were locked and uniformed guards stood by each entrance to the building. In the crowd the newspaper's baseball writer milled with the others. He had his notes in hand from the Sunday game. The floundering Reds had lost to St. Louis by a score of 3-1. Former Xavier star Jim Bunning, then a Detroit pitcher, had thrown a no hit game against Boston and there was no where for the **Times-Star** to print the news for its readers. **The Post** would now inform them.

By mid morning under the watchful eyes of guards and former department heads a few employees were allowed into the building at a time to claim personal belongings and have what they were taking from the building inventoried. This went on all day while across town **The Post** was preparing to print the first combined editions of the **Cincinnati Post** and **Cincinnati Times-Star**. It was Volume 77, Number 161. The right 'ear,' as that little box alongside the masthead is called, stated the price of the papers to be seven cents. The large **Times-Star** masthead of the 'paper was not diminished in size for several weeks. **The Post** masthead was directly above it.

All type for the combined newspapers was set on **The Post's** Linotypes. The headline and the style was unmistakably **The Post's** Tempo and Metro. The body type was one that had been created years before for Scripps-Howard newspapers and named Scripps Regal. The **Times-Star** was using a Bodoni style of type which was distinctive with them so there was no chance for a match with the two type styles.

For a time the combined newspaper printed the comics of both 'papers. There were four pages of them that first day. **The Post** assumed the rights to several of the other 'paper's features and hired two writers from the **Times-Star** whose names were familiar to readers. Hired was Earl Lawson who wrote baseball news and Daisy Jones who authored a garden column. With a few exceptions from the total, there were out of work 102 editorial employees, 152 in the composing room, 42 in the pressroom, 58 in circulation, 69 in advertising and 34 executives.

The first day of combined operations, and for some time to follow, proved more than the aging presses at **The Post** could handle. The total press run for the two newspapers was in excess of 300,000 copies daily. There was about 15% overlap in subscriptions of subscribers taking both papers. During the early part of this new venture the **Times-Star** presses were used to print much of the run of papers going to former **Times-Star** subscribers.

After awhile it all became routine. The green **Times-Star** trucks were no longer seen on the streets. In their place were those of **The Post** painted red. The legend on the side of each truck proclaimed *Cincinnati's largest newspaper*. The oversize news room of the **Times-Star** on the sixth floor of the building was abandoned by **The Post** and once again a compact newsroom was created and built on the fourth floor to be nearer the Linotypes, printers, sterytypers and engravers which were also on the fourth floor along with a new photography department.

As another decade was coming to an end, that of the 60's, there were storm clouds gathering for all of the afternoon newspapers. Even in 1958 Cincinnati was one of the few cities in the country that could boast of two afternoon newspapers. Such cities as New York, Chicago, St. Louis and Los Angeles were down to one afternoon newspaper while those still managing to stave off closing completely were finding profits falling at alarming rates. So it was with **The Post**.

The Christmas season was always a huge money maker for newspapers. Papers in excess of 100 pages were not uncommon at this time of the year. With the coming of 1970 it became even more apparent advertisers were using direct mail and television to promote their products. All newspapers, both morning and afternoon, were suffering. With the ever increasing popularity of the television evening news, afternoon newspapers' circulation was dropping and morning papers began showing an increase. This all added up to placing afternoon newspapers in a precarious future.

The seemingly great future **The Post** envisioned for itself when it purchased the **Times-Star** was in

jeopardy. For several years prior to December 18, 1975 there were rumors from the business community that **The Post** was in trouble. Then, there it was. Another milestone. In a one column item on page one of the 'paper just a week before Christmas we read: **Post** to end in house rumors. The item confirmed **The Post WAS** discussing combined production plans with the **Enquirer**. In early spring of 1975 the newspaper unions were tipped to the possibilities of 'early layoffs.'

Now that the intent of **The Post** management was known in no uncertain terms there was great concern among all departments of the 'paper. The trade unions that produced the paper and the business and circulation employees stood to lose the most. It would be their jobs. It was almost 20 years since many of the **Post** employees had seen it happen to the **Times-Star** employees. It would be happening to them. The editorial department would, of course, be exempt for they would still be gathering the news, writing it, but someone else would be distributing it. That is the way a joint operating agreement with a newspaper works.

The 1975 Christmas season was over and 1976 was 49 days old when labor unions of **The Post** and its management met February 18 for six and a half hours under circumstances that was unique in Cincinnati newspaper history. Representatives of eight unions having contracts with The Post sat with representatives of **The Post** management under auspices of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The **Working Press**, the house organ of the Cincinnati Newspaper Guild which represents editorial employees, stated in a mimeographed sheet: Impressed with the serious situation in Cincinnati. Where unions are bargaining under threat of a combined newspaper operation, the FMCS set up the meeting. The purpose was to lay a base upon which negotiations could proceed in an orderly manner. The meeting opened with general outlines of options opened to **The Post**. Management, represented by Earl Brown, wondered if the unions were interested in helping avoid the combined operation.

Thus the die had been cast. Was a joint operating agreement with the **Enquirer** inevitable or was **The Post** management simply seeking relief in forthcoming union negotiations? In a union caucus chaired by acting president of the Unity Council, Wesley Willis, the unions prepared a resolution to **The Post** management stating the unions were interested in the fate of **The Post** and were not inflexible in their positions regarding whatever relief **The Post** sought.

In the months and years to follow before the inevitable, the editorial workers agreed June 12, 1976 to accept an unprecedented two-year moratorium on base salary increases, and a five year contract. The loss ranged from \$2000 to \$5000 a person when yearly salaries ranged from about \$15,000 to \$25,000. The other unions agreed to similar wage freezes to stave off forcing the 'paper into a JOA agreement.

In September of 1977 **The Post** and the **Enquirer** once again resumed talk of publishing both newspapers from a single facility. The milestones were flashing by more rapidly now. At a meeting September 21, 1977, **The Post** management asked that the unions come up with ideas to save **The Post**. Management said they had run out of ideas of how to cut losses. Soon it was December. It was 31 days before Christmas when union representatives were told that plans were going ahead for a combined operation with the **Enquirer**. Objections could be filed with the Justice Department until December 28. **The Post** asked for a January 16, 1978 date by which it could answer those objections.

Public hearings on the application of **The Post** and **Enquirer** for a single facility operation started at 1:30 p. m., Monday, September 11, 1978 in Cincinnati Federal Courtroom 822 before Administrative Law Judge Donald R. Moore. It was a virtual certainty that at some point the request of a JOA would be allowed. A month later Judge Moore made his recommendation of approval. Now it was in the hands of the Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti who agreed November 26, two days short of 26 months when the request was first filed that The **Cincinnati Post** is financially failing. He approved the joint operating agreement under regulations that had been set forth by Congress in 1970 when it created the Newspaper Preservation Act. The Act gave newspapers the opportunity to obtain exemption from anti-trust regulations. **The Post** as a full newspaper entity had two weeks to live.

The Post would survive but the price would be that nearly 500 employees represented by eight unions would see their last day of work at the newspaper Thursday, December 6. The following day, December 7, the first **Post** to be printed by the **Enquirer** rolled from its presses on Western Avenue. In

the weeks following, **The Post's** composing room computers would be gone, the engraving room facilities dismantled and the presses sold to an Australian publisher and shipped away. It was obvious **The Post** no longer needed four floors of space. This now was a decision the **Enquirer** would make.

For nearly three years the editorial staff of **The Post** remained in a nearly deserted building that had been built specifically in 1931 to house the **Times-Star**. There was more consolidation to save on the square feet of space being used to reduce the rent payments. At the same time there was talk of how best to solve the needs of both 'papers. It was once suggested the **Enquirer** and **The Post** could share space in the Enquirer building at 617 Vine Street but this was soon abandoned in favor of a separate address for the afternoon newspaper. A search was on. One site, just off the Seventh Street exit from Interstate 75 at an old but remodeled school, was rejected as was another on Third Street near Vine.

The vagabond journeys of **The Post** would note another milestone August 24, 1984 when it made its third move in the last 74 years. This time, it was to 125 East Court Street in a newly constructed building. Here the editorial department would be ensconced on the fifth floor and the photography department and newspaper library on the fourth floor. The move from Eight and Broadway was begun Friday afternoon and continued through the night and all day Saturday, August 25. The main frame computer and about 30 terminals were moved so that when the Sunday corps of reporters arrived, all was in place. Monday it was business as usual as a newspaper was created for that day without 'missing a beat.' **The Post** was at its Post Square and Elm location for 48 years from 1910 to 1958 and 26 years in the Times-Star building.

No U.S. daily newspaper has observed its bicentennial year. The first successful daily newspaper, the **Pennsylvania Packet & General Advertiser**, published first September 21, 1784, is no longer printed, **The Cincinnati Enquirer** is 157 years old. **The Post** is 120 years old and the **Times-Star** died at the age of 118 years. What the future is for the city's two remaining dailies can only be speculated. Currently each is serving the wants of its subscribers. Some like morning papers, others like theirs at night. Both will continue to exist long into the 21st century. Whether we will find our daily newspaper tossed upon our front lawn 50 years from now is problematical.

Delivering a newspaper to the homes of subscribers is now the single biggest concern facing today's newspapers. With electronics so now involved in the production of our daily paper it is only reasonable to anticipate that these same miracles that produce the 'paper will somehow deliver them to our homes. Historians will then chronicle these next fifty years as we have recalled those last fifty years...

The first news pictures to be printed in Cincinnati newspapers came shortly before the turn of the last century.

While pictures of news events began appearing soon after the invention of photography itself in 1839, it was another 40 years before newspapers would be able to share anything more than a sketch with its readers.

The invention of the halftone process made possible the quick and inexpensive reproduction of a photograph. Experiments by Stephen Horgan at the New York **Daily Graphic** resulted in the first picture to be printed in this manner. It was of a shanty town in New York photographed by Henry Newton, and appeared in the **Daily Graphic** on March 4, 1880.

In Cincinnati one of the earliest halftone engravings of any consequence was nearly a half page wide showing the bust of President McKinley on the front page of the **Commercial Tribune** on Saturday, September 14, 1901 following his lingering death after being felled by an assassin's bullet. **The Cincinnati Enquirer** on March 4, 1905 reproduced a picture from the **London Illustrated News** showing a Russian general receiving news from Czar Nicholas in the early days of the Russian Revolution.

Pictures of local events in Cincinnati newspapers came slowly. Newspapers contracted with established commercial photographers for a photograph of a planned event. One such picture was of The Young Men's Club ...280 strong, accomplished by Weber's Band of fifty pieces and the Citizen's Taft Club and Smitties Band of thirty five pieces as they left for Washington to participate in the inauguration of William Howard Taft as president.

It was also in 1909 that saw the start of newspapers hiring a staff photographer. It was customary for a reporter to work when needed as a photographer. Or, even some other employee of the newspaper who

had photography as a hobby was given the opportunity to make pictures for the 'paper. One of the earlier news photographers to establish himself as a staff photographer and be remembered by Cincinnatians was Paul Briol.

Graduating from a New Orleans high school in 1908 he came to Cincinnati after less than a year's work on a St. Louis newspaper. Here he joined the **Commercial Tribune** as a photographer and 'Question and Answer' columnist. His photograph of the first rehearsal of Leopold Stokowski conducting the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra was published in the Tribune on November 26, 1909. It has been called one of the most popular pictures he made as a Cincinnati photojournalist.

Whether it was foresight, or the lure of more money, Briol left the **Tribune** for a job as photographer with **The Enquirer** where he stayed until 1920. In a brief 11 year span he in many ways established news photography in Cincinnati. He considered his future lay in commercial, industrial and landscape photography where he did establish his profession.

In the decade from 1920 to 1930 news photography was only something at which a few editors hinted and the word 'photojournalist' hadn't even been invented. It was in the late 1930's as the U.S. was recovering from the Depression that camera concepts and interest in photography grew rapidly. Great enthusiasm was aroused by the Farm Security Administration photographers as well as bold use of photography by fashion magazines as **Vogue** and **Vanity Fair**. Life magazine in this same era was to popularize the miniature camera.

It was in the 1930's that the 4" X 5" Speed Graphic came to be the 'work horse' of the press photographer. Although the camera was first produced in 1912 it did not come into its own until the professional photographer needed a 'smaller' camera than the tripod mounted 5 X 7 and 8 X 10 cameras they had been using in their studio. These photographers found they could increase business by venturing outside to make pictures for newspapers.

It is this period from the early 1940's to the present that we will chronicle here now as they relate to the Cincinnati scene of news photography. Here again, a bit of history is in order as we lapse into the first-person-singular and recall some of the highlights of our 43 years with **The Cincinnati Post**, most of them as a staff photographer.

For us it began about 1936 with a ten dollar Eastman Kodak Bantam camera. There were those high school days and making pictures for the school magazine. It soon became apparent, however, a better camera was needed. So for \$29.95 a Zeiss Ikon camera that would make 16 pictures on a roll of number 120 film was purchased. Following graduation from the University of Cincinnati in 1942 and a certificate to teach seventh grade geography at Holmes High School in Covington, there was a summer's work at **The Kentucky Post**. The following year - 1943 - it was another summer at **The Post**, this time as a reporter. As they say, I learned I had 'printer's ink in my veins.' The bug of newspapering had bitten me.

Leaving teaching in November of 1943 it was back to the paper with stints of sports editing and city editor. With World War II over, there was a move to the copy desk of **The Cincinnati Post**. This was an unglamorous job. There was little reward writing headlines to someone else's story or placing captions under someone else's pictures. The lone highlight recalled from this phase of my journalism was the late afternoon of April 12, 1945.

Sitting on the rim of the copy desk alone with Henry Segal in the 'slot' dealing out copy to his lone copyreader the quiet of the newsroom was shattered with the ringing of bells on the United Press Teletypes. The bells always tinkled to alert the wareroom operators when a news bulletin was soon to come over the wires. This was to make certain copy paper was in place and the machine was turned on to receive the news.

The ringing was unduly long. It was like in the days of the baseball games by wire when on the radio you could hear the clatter of the sounder in the background and the announcer was not saying anything. You knew it was going to be something more dramatic when the Western Union operator had copied all the information and the announcer, reconstructing the game from the telegraphed information, began speaking again. So it was with the teletype machine that late afternoon of April 12, 1945.

Then it came: BULLETIN...BULLETIN. Dateline: Warm Springs, Georgia. President Roosevelt died today at 4:35 p.m. EST suddenly and unexpectedly. More to follow.

It was nearly six o'clock. Only Segal, the composing room foreman and I were still at work except for the pressroom crew who were soon to shut the presses down from the final edition run. I had been in the newspaper business less than two years while Segal was an old hand at more than 15 years in the trade.

This was still the era of the EXTRAS. With little hesitation after notifying the pressroom to stop the presses that there would be an EXTRA the three of us - Segal, the composing room foreman and I - put out the extra edition. I read copy, Segal wrote headlines and the foreman set type and headlines. After the presses were rolling with the replated front page the next thing to do was to hurry down to Fourth and Walnut streets.

When you thought you were better than the other guy - that was the **Times-Star** - someone was always dispatched to Fourth and Walnut because this was the first drop-off point for newspapers downtown for both **The Post** and **Times-Star**. It was great satisfaction to the editor and others to be first on the street with the news. In this case that afternoon in April, I recall it was about a half hour before the **Times-Star** joined **The Post** for sale on that corner. It was great satisfaction. The 'team' I was on had won.

It was a year to remember. Less than a month later on May 8, VE Day (Victory in Europe) came. The HOME and FINAL editions of the paper were combined that day. I, with thousands of others, wandered Fountain Square which was at that time in the center of Fifth street between Vine and Walnut. We were celebrating the War in Europe being over. Then in rapid secession came August 7 when the first atomic bomb was dropped on Japan. September 2 was on a Sunday when Japan surrendered.

My early career on a newspaper was during some of the most momentous times in the world's history. Being on the copy desk was interesting but being a photographer was where all the fun was. Had it not happened as it did, I probably would have gone back to teaching school.

At that time **The Post** had two photographers. They were Arthur Lapp and Gene Smith. **The Times-Star** undoubtedly had a similar duo. News photography was rapidly becoming of age. Smith had announced that the Associated Press was opening a photo bureau in the city and he was leaving to be the AP photographer in town. This was my chance. It was convenient that I should be transferred to photo and given a 'trial run' as the managing editor put it.

I went on a few assignments with 'Smitty' as most called him. Never before had I used a 4 X 5 Speed Graphic camera. For those unfamiliar with the camera, it used film loaded into what was called a plate holder. One film to each side of the holder which was slipped into a spring loaded back of the camera. In loading the film into the holder in the darkroom, a fiber-board like slide with the top edge silver on one of side and black in the other protected the film from exposure until such time the plate holder was safely in the camera. The rule was that the silver edging was showing for unexposed film and after the picture was made the slide was flipped so the black side was in view. This was one detail 'Smitty' had neglected to tell me.

After observing for a time or two it was my turn to make my first picture for a newspaper using the trusty Speed Graphic. Sighting through the wire frame finder which was safer and faster than using the optical finder on the camera, I was told, I made my first picture. It was of some new Marine commandant at his desk with the fellow he was replacing also to be in the picture. I knew how to take pictures, maybe not with a Speed Graphic however. So I did everything flawlessly, I thought. That is until I got back to the 'paper with 'Smitty.'

Film and flash bulbs were expensive in 1945 and photographers had learned through the war years to conserve on all materials necessary to produce a picture. The 8 X 10 photographic paper was cut into two pieces to conserve. And, it had become an axiom that one sheet of film was to be used for one subject. So it was with some surprise when, in the darkroom and ready to process the film for the picture that I had just made, 'Smitty' in an unbelieving voice asked, You pulled the slide, didn't you?

Of course I did, I replied. Well, then which side of the holder did you use? They are both silver, he protested. Assuring him that I had certainly made a picture he introduced me to a plate holder and what you did after you had made an exposure. The slide goes in blackside out. Now we have to develop both pieces of film and one will just be wasted, he argued. This was my introduction to being a news

photographer. And I never stopped learning.

It is only in retrospect that I am now aware of the facts that I was one of the first in Cincinnati news photography to give up on the cumbersome Speed Graphic camera and go to the smaller twin lens reflex camera called a Rolleiflex. The Rollei with its square 2-1/4 X 2-1/4 format had some advantages for a newspaper in that you could make either a horizontal or vertical print as the makeup editor might require. With its short focal length lens it was a poor choice for sports photography.

For many of my working years I had a close association with United Press and more so after they bought International News Service (INS) and it became United Press International (UPI). In the late 1950's the UPI photographers in New York were experimenting with the 35mm camera for news work but in particular for use in sports coverage because of the interchangeable lenses available.

This was all prior to the Korean War when the made in Japan Nikon camera became so popular with press photographers. Before this, out of East Germany came a camera called the Hexacon which was a single lens reflex camera with a motor drive that made it possible to take two or three pictures a second. Also this one could use lenses of greater focal length to zero in on the action while remaining at a safe distance.

This was important, particularly for baseball coverage. Several years before the Hexacon camera came into limited use baseball games were covered from the field using a Speed Graphic camera and flash bulbs for night games. Cincinnati was the last major league city to be allowed to cover games from the field.

As a rule the umpires had only to contend with three photographers during a game. One each from **The Post**, **Times-Star** and **Enquirer**. Usually we congregated on the top step of the home team's dugout near the water cooler until either side got a runner on first base. Then we would trot out to a position in the coach's box always being certain to having the coach between you and the batter. This was to lessen the chance of being hit by a batted ball. The coach could be counted on to warn you, or deflect a ball coming your way.

If there was a slide back to first the flash bulbs would fire and the next day each newspaper might have the identical same picture. The angle difference was barely noticeable. With a runner on second, and depending on the batter, we would take up a position near home plate for the hoped for slide home. There were other nuances to covering a game in this manner. Should you fail to get a game action picture there always was the clubhouse to get a shot of the winning pitcher or hitter.

Covering a game by this method had its dangers. I recall being hit in the calf of the leg with a Frankie Robinson foul ball that came whistling past third base when the coach in better judgment, jumped out of the way allowing me to be fully exposed to the line shot.

Gene Smith, the Associated Press photographer for the area, accidentally got us all ruled off of the field some time in the late 50's. At the time it seemed a tragedy that we were being forced to cover games from a photo position off the field like everyone else in both leagues had been doing for some time. What 'Smitty' had done was the unpardonable. He had violated the unwritten rule of every baseball clubhouse and baseball diamond. The exact details escape me now, but he had overheard some bit of conversation between two umpires between innings when he had held his position at third base. He reported in detail the comments to Sports Editor Nixon Denton of the **Times-Star**. The AP had its offices in the Times-Star building.

When the umpires comments appeared in type, while they were true, they seemed to have a different ring to them. This was the end of our covering a game from the field.

Getting ruled off the field in mid-season presented problems for all three newspapers. None of the papers had equipment to solve the dilemma on such short notice. I recall early on that the Associated Press made a long lens camera available to its photographer. And the **Times-Star** and **Enquirer**, both being clients of the AP, got their baseball pictures from this source. United Press sent me a 'Big Bertha' camera too. This is what they were called. Using a 5 X 7 sheet film in holders and with a 36 inch focal length lens we made pictures from photo gondolas suspended from the upper decks near the first and third bases at old Crosley Field.

The Big Bertha cameras were dinosaurs. Few photographers covering baseball games used them. We

were forced to for at least the remainder of the baseball season. The 35mm camera was making itself felt, particularly as it was convenient and very useful for baseball. Its motorized drive allowed the photographer the luxury of as many as four frames of action in a few seconds. Then it was simple to pick the best frame for printing. It made better photographers out of all of us.

There are many events from the years of sports photography that flood back in memories. In football: The year was 1967 and Cincinnati was attempting to get a National Football League franchise. Ohio Governor Jim Rhodes, along with many city councilmen, was on hand in Miami, Florida to urge the league to grant the coveted franchise to the Queen City. I was there and also covered the third Super Bowl held there in Miami that year. Then there was that game when Quarterback Joe Namath came to town and crushed the Bengals at Nippert Stadium where the games were played the first few years before Riverfront Stadium was ready. And there was that 1971 game in Green Bay, Wisconsin when Bengals player Ken Deyer was critically injured (spinal cord) and the game was delayed for more than 15 minutes when he was lovingly scooped from the field and placed on a stretcher. He stayed in a Green Bay hospital for months and never walked assuredly again. I had it all on film.

As for baseball: There are literally hundreds of incidents that could be recounted, however, two memorable pictures that resulted in costly injuries to Reds players come to mind. One had to do with Roy McMillan sliding into second base only to break his collar bone. Using the motorized Hexacon camera a series of pictures were made that resulted in an eight column strip for the newspaper. In 1961 the Reds had won the pennant with the help of Gene Freese's play at third base and his bat in critical situations. The next year at the baseball Spring Training in Tampa during an inter-squad game, Freese slid into second base improperly, breaking his ankle. Not only were the series of pictures used around the world via UPI syndication but **Sports Illustrated** used the picture showing the fracture and the grimace of Freese's face and the headline *The Reds Is Dead*. And they were that year, unable to repeat the accomplishment of the year before. Some ball players thought my presence was jinxing them and called me the 'fracture photographer.'

As for basketball: It was at the Netherland Plaza Hotel that U. C. Basketball coach George Smith introduced a slender Indiana player and his mother with the remark this is one basketball player Cincinnati will never forget. And they haven't forgotten Oscar Robertson. Then there was the kid from Middletown High School that could work magic tricks and was an outstanding all A's student. After his years at Ohio State the onetime Cincinnati professional basketball team drafted him. Jerry Lucas led the team to many victories. And there was that tear wrenching time one Christmas at Good Samaritan Hospital where we went to photograph Maurice Stokes. Once a giant of a pro-player he had suffered a brain injury and was an invalid. He could not speak understandably anymore and had only minimal muscle movements. It was Christmas. To make the picture I had wrapped an empty box with seasonal paper to include in the photograph. After making the picture his private nurse, who could understand his mumblings, said to me, He wants you to open the wrapper to see what he got. It was difficult to explain that it was but an empty box but I dutifully opened it and Stokes burst into laughing thinking it was a big joke. It was, but I felt badly about it all.

Who could forget the high school careers of some of those I photographed before even they, themselves, did not dream their names would be so familiar to us all. There was Pete Rose, Don Zimmer and Roger Staubach to mention the most notables.

There were the tennis stars Billy Talbert and Tony Trabert. In their years at the University of Cincinnati the similarity of names confused even the most observing. In boxing it was Ezzard Charles who became the unexpected world heavyweight champion. Also from U. C. came Gregg Cook who had a brief but illustrious career with the Bengals as quarterback and Jim O'Brien whose Super Bowl place kick to win the game will long be remembered. In bowling Eddie Jackson's name comes to mind. And in distance running is Julie Isporning. These names stand out from others. I have photographed them all.

The surface of recollection has barely been scratched. I have seen the devastation of at least five tornadoes and recall naively 'chasing' the one that struck the Saylor Park area of the city and seeing it from a hilltop only to have it disappear before my eyes.

I recall the early days of the 727 airplane and covering the crash of two of them into the hill sides of

Kentucky on their approach to the Greater Cincinnati Airport with the loss of lives totaling nearly 200. And more recently was the emergency landing of the Air Canada DC-9, Flight 797, with fire aboard and its burning on the tarmac of the airport with the loss of 23 lives.

And who among us doesn't remember May 30, 1977 when Beverly Hill Supper Club burned taking its toll of 166 victims. The memories of that time when I was called away from friends at home to 'cover' the catastrophe knowing that my son, Kerry, now Editor of the **Brunswick News** (Georgia) was to be at the Supper Club that evening with a date.

As I stepped around on the grass I could not then realize that these persons had not just been placed there for fresh air until they revived from the smoke. For them it was over. The panic of uncertainty and trying to do my job as a news photographer, and all the while wondering where my son and his date might be, was indescribable. With my two-way radio I could talk back to **The Cincinnati Post** but there was no one to respond to my queries but the night watchman and he did not know how to work the radio. Then, sometime later, almost as though it was journalistically pre-ordained, a **WLW-TV** reporter got word to me on the scene that Kerry had called home and was at the **Enquirer**, with his date, and writing some of his versions of the event. Later I was to learn his tickets were for the late show. The fire came and there was no show.

In the 1950's and 60's newspapers were about their business in a manner differently than they are today. There was more of a personal concern of the little events that made up the lives of individuals. It was reporting by neighborhoods. We all had an interest in what was happening down the street, or across town as trivial, or as saddening as it might seem.

Two such events I recall involve a dog and a cat. Another involves a young girl whose cry I hear to this day. The dog story is this: As I was returning from one story I heard on the police radio in my car of Unit 152 being dispatched to an Over-the-Rhine address. We knew this to be a fire department rescue unit so we responded only to find that the fireman had just 'rescued' a small dog whose tail had been caught in the gears of a washing machine. The cat story: It too happened downtown. The newspaper had been called by a woman who kept hearing a cat whine in the wall of her apartment. People used to call newspapers with things like this. I was dispatched and after a time was successful in coaxing the cat to a torn section of the wall where I freed the cat and this time made a picture. The sobbing of the young girl was in the College Hill area many years ago when her father, on a Saturday, had a tree fall on him as he was attempting to cut it down. It pinned him to the ground and killed him. The girl's cry, "My Daddy is too young to die" is still in memory. I took no picture that time.

Anecdotes of the many years of photographing the Cincinnati Reds in baseball spring training; in the clubhouse and on the field would fill volumes. The closing of old Coney Island; tearing down the many historic buildings to make way for a new downtown; the racial unrest in the Spring of 1968; arrivals and departures at Union Terminal and then its closing; old Fountain Square in the center of Fifth Street and then its re-birth; General Motors 40 millionth car off the assembly line in Norwood in 1959; the Beatles singing group arrival in 1964; walking the Union Terminal concourse with President Truman in the wee hours of his train's layover; and the list goes on. It seems endless. These are the memories. And this is what history is made of. (ed. note, **The Post** ended Dec. 31, 2007.)

OMI Baseball Team, 1892 Courtesy of the Emerson family



Chapter 42 Autobiography of Earl Valentine Thesken

On a snowy Saturday morning, April 13, 1907 Dr. Will Abbot delivered my mother Clara Wenderoth Thesken of a fourteen and three quarter pound boy. It was a nip and tuck situation for my mother but she managed to survive to name me Earl Valentine. The Valentine was for my maternal grandfather. My father Theodore Thesken spent a good bit of time bragging about the size of his second son. George had preceded me by three years. We lived on Clark St. when the event took place and my father had a meat market at 1035 Freeman Ave. which was not more than a block or so from old Lincoln Park which is now the site of the Union Terminal (note: Cincinnati Museum Center).

Two years after I was born my brother William was born. It was shortly after that event in November 1910 that my father sold his business and bought another at 5811 Hamilton Ave. in College Hill. Because the new store had a delivery service we had a horse and that led to a long association with horses for George and me.

My sister Catherine was born in 1912 and Clara followed in 1915. Theodora came along some six years later.

When I was four I was enrolled in kindergarten at the College Hill School. I was told that Miss Bridgeman made an age exception because of my size but I like to think it was because of my superior intellect.

The next year I started first grade at St. Clare School. It was a new school with two rooms for the eight grades. The first five were held in the church sacristy. When I was in the fifth grade a new church was built with the church auditorium on the first floor and six classrooms on the second. In spite of the multiple class setups we learned our basics because of the efficiency on the nuns. They were thorough and exacted good discipline. I graduated at the head of my class when I was 13.

When I was about seven, I started to drive the second delivery wagon after school and on Saturday. This was the procedure with a few interruptions, which I will mention later.

After I finished the eighth grade I demonstrated that I wasn't so smart because a classmate and I deliberately flunked the test required to enter Hughes High School. The idea was that we would get jobs and make money. Of course at thirteen this was impossible so my father enrolled me in St. Boniface Business College. I was somewhat out of my element there because most of the students were a bit older than I. But I spent two years and graduated with knowledge of bookkeeping, shorthand, typing, and business law. I immediately attempted a job as a bookkeeper for a lumber company. That lasted one week. I quit because I could not stand the heat and confinement of a ten by ten office three feet from a railroad siding. My dad put me to work driving the model T Ford delivery truck. That I did until I went to Miami University in 1926. The fall after I left St. Boniface a fellow delivery boy, who worked for a local drug store, talked me into going with him to enroll at West Night High School. Classes met from seven till nine-thirty Monday through Thursday. On Friday night from six to ten we had science classes. Along with the intellectual pursuit we played on the school's football team. We practiced after school at 9:30 in the gym and played most of our games on Sunday afternoons except when we played other high schools. Then we played on Saturday afternoon or on Thanksgiving morning. I mention this because the football was instrumental in three of us enrolling at Miami. Kentucky and Xavier offered inducements to the three of us, I, Althausser and Nenninger, to play for them. But two Miami alumni Kaese and Blair convinced us that Miami's work program was a better and surer way to get through. We started as freshmen in September 1926.

Going to a live in University after coming from a Night High School was a unique experience. I had saved up about a hundred and sixty-five dollars and most of it went to pay for the first semester room, board and tuition because the promised jobs were not forthcoming. I was desperate and discouraged and about to quit when I was cut from the freshman football squad because I had lost about twenty pounds. About that time I found a job firing the furnace at St. Mary's Church which was equivalent to the five dollars a week that board cost. That along with odd jobs cleaning windows and basements for faculty members enabled me to get through. In my sophomore year I have a board job at Ogden Hall and along

with my furnace job and a little clerical job for Dr. Carter I was able to keep solvent. I did land a job working for a builders supply company the summer after my freshman year. It paid thirty dollars per week which was good for those days. The summers after my sophomore and junior years I worked for an Ice and Coal Company-seventy two hours each week for \$37.50. That was really good pay those days but the muscle conditioning was terrific. When I went back for my sophomore year I went out for football again but had to quit when Chet Pitser told me I couldn't leave from practice at six o'clock. I had to be on the job at Ogden at six to keep my job and couldn't afford to pay a substitute like some of the others.

I majored in History and Social Sciences and also in Mathematics. I had a minor in psychology and philosophy I wanted to attend law school when I graduated. I planned everything towards that goal. When I graduated in June of 1930 I had made arrangements through a friend of the family to work in a large corporation law office. The head of this office had a hobby of helping young legal aspirants through law school in this manner. It was 1930 and the depression. About the middle of the summer the lawyer called me in to tell me that his retainer had been cut in half and he therefore would not be able to pay a salary to cover law school fees. He did offer the opportunity to work in the office for experience and to use the law library. I had been working that summer for the U. S. Engineering Corps. As a draftsman. I thought about continuing there but when all of the vacationers returned they wanted me to join a field team of surveyors. That of course would have been impossible to permit me to attend Chase Law School as I had planned as an alternative. I quit the job and started a long hunt for another. Time for enrolling in Chas passed without me because I did not have the funds.

I took a job with the Miami Chapter of Delta Upsilon to solicit contributions for the new house that was being built. I traveled throughout Ohio, Michigan and Indiana with less than success on a commission basis.

My next job was with the Lily-Tulip Cup Co. selling paper specialized to drugstores and department stores. This was not lucrative enough to keep my family since I was the principal supporter of my mother, father and two sisters who were still in school.

In 1932 I took a job with Western and Southern Life Insurance Co. working at debt collecting and selling insurance. This was pretty good for most of a year but as the depression deepened lapses outran the writings. I quit and took a position with Reliance Life of Pittsburg. That was good for a while but as prospects became harder to find I finally gave that up.

It was while I was working for reliance that I tried to sell my former High School Principal a policy. He wasn't interested in more insurance but he was interested in someone who could teach a practical course in Sales and Advertising. I took the job and taught three classes each night four nights each week. It helped keep food on the table and was some of the most interesting work I have done. I kept that job for eleven years.

In the summer of 1934 I heard that a position for a business and social science teacher was open at North College Hill High School. I applied and was hired by the school board. I had been taking some classes at U.C. on Friday nights and at Miami and Ohio U. in the summer for a master's degree in education and economics.

After teaching for four years I was made a teaching Principal of the High School because I had been doing a good bit of the organization work for the Superintendent who was also the Principal... After the first year as Principal I relinquished all but my advanced math classes and devoted most of my time to administration. This I continued until I resigned in 1947.

In 1943 my mother died and my deferment in the draft was terminated. The school board wanted to appoint me a superintendent but the draft board said no and I was drafted. Then I was rejected as a 4-F because of my age and my sight. I returned as Principal because the board had hired a retiring U.C. professor to be superintendent. In 1947 difficulties between the Supt. and a new board of ed. Developed causing a student/parent strike which lasted forty days in February and March. I was able to get the schools opened by having the North Central Assoc. threaten to withdraw the high school charter unless the entire board resigned and turned the school over to the Probate Court, which they did.

I had had enough of the strife so I resigned and took the position of Assistant Registrar at Miami University. The next year I was appointed Associate Registrar mainly because I had computerized the

registration and record system resulting in expediting the process. I continued as Associate Registrar until 1953 when the North College Hill Board of Education offered the Superintendency at almost double the salary Miami was paying me.

The Superintendency was a challenge. Under the former Super, things had deteriorated both staff and plant wise. I instituted a new salary schedule, got the people to pass a levy, repaired and equipped the school plant and developed a future building program with the aid of Ohio State U. The new salary schedule enabled us to improve the teaching staff and things were looking up.

In the summer of 1954 Clarence Kreger, Provost of Miami University under the new President John Millet, called me and offered the position of director of Extension and Summer Sessions. The salary and opportunity were tempting but I was reluctant to leave the superintendence just when I had so many things going. Kreger and the Board held several meetings and the Board decided they could not match Miami's offer. I assumed my new position in March of 1955.

The new position was also challenging. John Millet wanted the Extension reorganized into centers with a definite program of studies. This we did, setting up Centers in Dayton, Hamilton, Middletown, Piqua and Norwood in High School buildings after hours. The program flourished so that by 1962 we had 3,200 students at Dayton and nearly five hundred in each of the other centers. In 1960 my title was changed to Director of Academic centers and Summer Session. After President Millet left to become Chancellor of the Board of Regents, Dr. Wilson changed my title to Dean of educational Services, with responsibility for Branch Campuses, Extension, Summer Sessions, Admissions and the Registrars Office.

In 1962 we opened in conjunction with Ohio State University, the Dayton Campus which was to become Wright state University three years later. This was the first of three campuses to be built away from the Oxford campus. When we had increased our enrollment in Dayton to 3200 part-time students it became obvious that we needed more permanent space than we were able to have at Nettie Lee Roth High School. After several attempts to obtain a site and the means to build a campus, Mr. Allyn, chairman of the Board of National Cash Register met with John Millet and President Fawcett of Ohio State and brought about an agreement for the two schools to jointly develop a new campus. Three million dollars were raised from contributions by industry and private individuals as a nucleus for the campus to be sited adjoining the Wright Patterson complex.

We worked with the Ohio State people to develop a campus offering full programs in Arts and Science; Education and Business Administration; which were under the direct administration of Miami U. Ohio State took on the development of the Sciences and Engineering. In spite of expert predictions to the contrary, we opened with 1235 full time students and some 3000 part time students in 1962. Allyn Hall was the first building followed by Oehlman, Millet and Fawcett Halls. Many more have been added since the campus became independent and chartered as Wright State University.

We had no sooner had the Dayton Campus underway when a movement in Middletown for a Junior college led to the development of a second branch campus for Miami U. At a community meeting at the Board of Ed. offices I convinced the interested people that a higher education facility under the administration of Miami University could do more for the community than a Junior or a Community college. Herman Lawrence who had been the director for our Academic center at Middletown was instrumental in interesting Logan Johnson of Armco, Bob Milan of First National and several other business leaders in the idea. The result was a drive to raise a million and a half dollars as a nucleus for the campus. The money was raised under the chairmanship of Logan Johnson and the Armco Corp. who donated Armco Park in University and Breol Blvds. with 120 acres for the campus site. The first two buildings were dedicated in September 1966. They were Logan Johnson Hall and the Gardener Harvey Library. The Armco Girls Clubhouse was contributed by that group for a student center and money for its development was contributed by Calvin Verity. In 1967 the third building was started and dedicated in 1968. It was the Science Technology building and is now designated as Earl V. Thesken Hall. In the meantime Mrs. Gladys Finkelman contributed over a million dollars for the erection of the Dave Finkelman Auditorium, which was dedicated in 1970.

About the time the Middletown Campus was underway a group headed by Peter Rentschler of Hamilton started a move to build a Miami U. campus there. After receiving encouragement from John

Millet- Chancellor, Governor Rhodes, and the University Board of Trustees a committee was formed and a fund raising company brought in to raise a million dollars as a nucleus. This was done with dispatch and the building of a campus was started on the old landfill site between Nielan and Peck Blvds. The site was selected by me and Mayor Kindness after exploring many possibilities. It was the only one centrally located that fit the planned budget. The first two buildings were Mosler Hall and Rentschler Library dedicated in 1968. The technical and auditorium building was dedicated in 1970.

I retired in 1972 after 39 years in education, most of which was in administration.

In 1943 I married Caroline Slack, also a Miami U. graduate, who was a teacher of history in Roosevelt Junior High school in Hamilton, Ohio. She had previously taught for seven years in Harrison, Ohio High school... (Contributed by "Teddy" Theodora Thesken Schubert)

Earl Thesken passed away in 2006 and the following information was from his obituary. Miami U. presented him an honorary doctor of laws degree in 1973. His first wife died in 1981 and he married Galen Glasgow, who passed away in 2005. He had a daughter, Jane, and a son, David.

The Hollywood Theater was opened in the 1920's with 'talkies'



Chapter 43 The Developing Business District

The early settlers had business that they could run alone or with the help of their family, frequently out of their cabins. The economy was agricultural and stores provided equipment and seeds for farming, building materials, and those things that a person couldn't do practically for themselves, such as grind grain or make shoes.

Because there were few directories printed, we don't know the complete lists of businesses in College Hill. The original business district was a cluster of store around the Hamilton and Belmont Avenues intersection. There, Skillman had his grocery store and the post office was nearby, and for a time was in his store. As people built further away from this area, stores were built a few blocks away. Flamm's was at Belmont and Llanfair, Kroger's across the street from Hamilton and Larch Avenues. Because of the lack of early documentation this could have been an early store started by Barney Kroger. Photographs of the store show the same logo on the window as other Kroger stores of that time. College Hill was a walking community - perishables were bought daily at close by stores.

The business district continues to change as customers have a wide array of goods and services everywhere they turn - from huge malls to fewer stores along a sidewalk or in a strip. National chains with enormous buying power, and lower prices, make competition difficult for the small businessman.

Merchants from other near-by communities sold their merchandise in College Hill. There was a constant stream of wagons and early cars going between College Hill and Northside. One such business was Crystal Springs Ice Company located at Knowlton and Apple Streets. There a stream of pure water was turned into ice. Because most of the cost of ice was for transportation, a retail outlet was included in the factory for those wanting a larger than average sided piece of ice and a lower price. During the winter months, they sold coal.

Doctors were also part of the Hamilton Avenue landscape. Dr. Charles Howard had his office in a frame building (still standing) slightly south of Ambrose Avenue. Dr. Milson Basil Van Pelt, originally from Holland and practiced first in Colerain township, built his frame home and office at Marlowe and Hamilton Avenues in 1908. This building was behind the Brighter Day Bookstore. Near Linden Drive was Dr. Charles Geiser. There are still several doctors at that corner. Dr. Schonwald also had his office on the Avenue, as did Dr. J. C. Willke (6304 Hamilton Avenue), Drs. Fred. Swing, Sway, Rice, Sanker and Hunnicut.

A & P, 5905-7-9- Hamilton Avenue, 1926



1939 College Hill Retail Merchants Association
5922 1/2 Hamilton Ave.

A. & C. Motor Sales	5756 Hamilton Ave.
Bartel Shoe Repair	1604 Cedar Ave.
College Hill Dry Cleaners	5818 Hamilton Ave.
College Hill Grille	5907 Hamilton Ave.
College Hill Seed Store	5818 Hamilton Ave.
Doll's Bakery	5917 Hamilton Ave.
Ray Drew's Meats	5846 Hamilton Ave.
Edward's College Hill Florist	5922 1/2 Hamilton Ave.
W. A. Effler	5924 Hamilton Ave.
L. Eiler	1539 Cedar Ave.
Ernst Appliance Shop	5922 1/2 Hamilton Ave.
Herb Desh - Dry Cleaner	5928 Hamilton Ave.
R. Franz	5905 Hamilton Ave.
Hardert's Cafe	Cedar & Hamilton
Hehemann's Pharmacy	6106 Hamilton Ave.
Honerkamp Motor Sales	5848 Hamilton Ave.
Kessen's Cafe	6120 Hamilton Ave.
Knopf Hardware	5920 Hamilton Ave.
Krout Hardware	5836 Hamilton Ave.
Kryn Shoe Store	5840 Hamilton Ave.
Ludwig Shoe Store	5841 Hamilton Ave.
College Hill Drug Store	Marlowe & Hamilton
Richter's Palace Market	5909 Hamilton Ave.
Sand's Paint Store	5930 Hamilton Ave.
Stang's Delicatessen	5838 Hamilton Ave.
Van Pelt Service	Elkton & Hamilton
Vanity Beauty Shop	5924 Hamilton Ave.
Wanninger & Dolan	6114 Hamilton Ave.
Woehle's Pharmacy	5845 Hamilton Ave.



Chapter 44 Businesses Then and Now

Prominent for decades on the Avenue was **Allgeier's Catering and Hall**. Started in 1927 by Louis Allgeier as Allgeier's Grocery Store, it occupied the first floor of the Junior Order United American Mechanic's building, a fraternal organization that supported an orphan's home at Lexington, N. C. and a national patriotic legislative program. Located at 6110 Hamilton Avenue, the building was constructed by Willis Forbes. Louis's son, Norman and his wife Mary Jo were a popular business duo, known for their tasty catering and the hall that was rented by many weddings and celebrations in College Hill. Mary Jo passed away in 1992. She was the local force behind the reforestation program which has lined miles of College Hill streets with blooming trees.

Angert's Appliances-The Angert family has a long history in Cincinnati. Bill Angert, Jr.'s and Ed Creighton's great-grandfather, George Angert served in the Civil War as a drummer boy, that is after adding a few years to his age. Later George founded the Eureka Brass Works on Spring Grove Avenue. They made brass valves for radiators, fire hose nozzles, and valves for many purposes. Even today, we use something that George Angert invented-the automatic shut off nozzle at gas pumps. In the early 1940's the business was sold to the Ohio Pattern Works and he retired but was offered a position with Lunkenheimer Valves that he accepted. George lived on Larry and towards the end of his life became blind from long term exposure to the fumes of molten brass.

His son Ed, father of Carolyn and William (Bill, Sr.), worked for the Ohio Pattern Works during the start of WW II. After the war, he worked for Phillips Oil in Fairfield but it was difficult to get gasoline and car tires for the long commute, so George funded Ed to start an appliance business.

Great grandson, Ed Creighton remembers Ed Angert telling him of how Lindbergh flew into the cornfields that later would become Teakwood and Wionna Ct. in his 'Sprit of St. Louis' to help raise funds on his way to Long Island, New York for his transatlantic flight in 1927.

Carolyn and Bill, Sr. went to the Hollywood Theater and they both won prizes in a drawing there; Carolyn a bicycle, Bill, Sr. an electric scooter. Jim Rockwell, a neighbor who was an engineer working for Powel Crosley, Jr., taught Bill, Sr. radio construction, design and repair. Bill, Sr., only 13, started the Victory Radio Repair Service out of his parent's basement, using his new scooter to pick up and deliver the repaired radios for free.

When Angert Radio and Appliance Company opened in 1944 in the Dixon building, there weren't many appliances because of the war. There was a waiting list and when a new refrigerator was received, either you accepted that one or it was offered to the next person on the list. Likewise for stoves. By now Bill, Sr. was in high school and he moved his repair shop into a corner of the store with the limited hours of 4:00 to 9:00 PM. During the years of W.W. II repair parts were hard to purchase so Ed would drive through small towns in Ohio and Indiana buying up old radios for the necessary parts.

Bill, Jr. said in an interview,³ "They sold flashlights, batteries, lamps, light bulbs and attempted to purchase and sell radios, Victrolas and small appliances, but they were difficult to find. They obtained wringer washers that had no electric motors because of war production shortages. My grandfather again hit the road trying to buy motors from hardware suppliers to put together a complete product.

In 1946, Angert's became the first franchised radio dealer in Greater Cincinnati and expanded into installing roof-mounted antennas. A few years later, we sold the first color television in Cincinnati."

The original store was on the right side of today's H&R Block Tax Service. The store was expanded by breaking a wall into the other side of the store. Next to Angert's on the left was Turner's Deli. His specialty was boiled ham and Turner's made noontime sandwiches for everyone around, especially the post office employees. Where Angert's Appliances is today was originally the post office, before a new building was erected on Cedar Avenue. A pharmacy was on the corner of the Dixon Building with a Kroger's grocery next to it-both are now the College Hill Coffee Company.

³ Source: William Angert, Jr., Family Beats the Big Boxes, John Rogers.

Bill, Sr. repaired TVs, radio and small electrics but as the appliances moved away from tubes and into circuit boards, Bill, Sr. no longer was able to repair them and moved onto the selling floor.

It was voted by **Cincinnati Magazine** as the ‘*Best Appliance Store in Cincinnati*’ on its 50th anniversary in 1994. By stressing quality, service, and customer satisfaction this store has successfully met and bested its competition.

Bill, Jr. followed the steps of his father and grandfather in the business. He retired and the business was purchased by one of his employees and his brothers.

Charles and Alice **Brill** opened their furniture store in 1946 on Savannah Avenue, just over the line in North College Hill. They later opened a second store on Hamilton Avenue in College Hill, closing the earlier store. Charles Brill died in 1970 and Alice Mary Brill died in 1988. For generations this store sold fine furniture.

College Hill Food Market,⁴ 5846 Hamilton Avenue was started in 1945 by George and Frances Smith. A ‘Mom & Pop’ grocery store, the business was continued on by their nephew, Marvin Kolde and his wife Hilda. Once a staple on every block, these small grocery stores thrived until the large supermarket chains started expanding into all neighborhoods.

College Hill Coffee Company and Casual Gourmet has anchored the corner of Hamilton and North Bend at 6128 Hamilton Ave. for fourteen years. Its current owner is Tina Stoeberl who has brought a bit of fame to her store by its inclusion in “The Dinette Set” cartoon by Julie Larson which runs in the **Cincinnati Enquirer**. The cartoon actually uses the store’s logo. The café is a great place for buying gourmet coffee, gifts, food and wonderful pastries. This space was formerly a drug store.

College Hill Progressive Building & Loan⁵ began in 1911 at 5910 Hamilton Avenue. About 1950 it was on the south east corner of Hamilton and Ambrose Avenues. In 1957 it moved to its new building at 6230 Hamilton Avenue. The name, too, changed over time. About 1970 the name was shortened to Progressive Savings, in 1972 it merged with Central Fairmount to form Central-Progressive. It was acquired in 1982 and changed its name to Gem Savings and Loan. The last occupant of the building was the Fifth Third Bank, which acquired the Dayton, Ohio, based Gem Savings and Loan. The business was started by D. D. Flannigan, A. H. Davis, Charles Smith, Jr., John J. Dupps, John Hoffman, Jr., W. H. Carpenter, D. E. Hayman, Robert B. Haskins, O. C. Peters and Dr. J. Ferris to serve a rapidly growing community.

Desh Dry Cleaners⁶ was started in 1939 by Lee Becht who later sold the business to Sherman Evans. The business first was at 5928 Hamilton Avenue and in 1946 moved to 6015 Hamilton Avenue. Herbert Desh, Sr. purchased the business that was later operated by his son, Herbert Desh, Jr. The last owner was Clifton Poe.

W. H. Forbes and Son⁷ built many homes and commercial buildings in and around College Hill. The business was found in 1880 by Charles Henry Forbes, who lived at 17 Cedar Avenue. His son, W. H. Forbes, built the family house at 6017 Cary Avenue by the light of coal oil lamps in 1904. During the summer months, Charles H. Forbes would build homes. During the winter he built wagons and carved woodwork, molds, etc. from his shop behind Deininger’s blacksmith shop. The Forbes and Deininger

⁴ Source: Marion and Hilde Kolde

⁵ Source: Terry Edward Todd, whose father, Edward H. Todd, grandfather, George E. Todd, and great uncle, Herman Knuepfer, all were employed by this business over the generations.

⁶ Source: Herbert E. Desh

⁷ Source: Karen Forbes-Nutting

family are related by marriage. When Charles died, his sons, Andrew Thomas Forbes, Willis H. Forbes and George Forbes continued the business. Thomas broke away, leaving Willis and George in business together. George died at a young age and Willis then stayed in the business alone, calling it in 1904, W. H. Forbes. When his son, Willis Forbes, Jr., joined the business in 1929 it was renamed W.H. Forbes & Son. Willis, Sr. died in 1944. When his son returned from the South Pacific of W. W. II in 1945 he resumed the business until he retired in 1978.

It was a combination of good fortune, craftsmanship and money that one staircase and three rooms of William Cary's house, the first brick home (1816) in College Hill, were moved and preserved in the Cincinnati Art Museum. For nine years Mrs. Samuel Joseph⁸, owner of the Hy Pure Drug Company, had wanted to present a group of house interiors to the Museum in her husband's memory. Then one day in 1938 I was just driving along Hamilton Ave. and saw an old home being wrecked. This house had been the home of John Dupps and was being torn down to build the Hodapp Funeral Home. The building was in excellent condition with hand hewn timbers. Mr. Siple, Director of the Art Museum and Mrs. Joseph chose the rooms and hallway to be saved from among the still standing rooms in the Cary house.

W. H. Forbes and his son, Willis S. Forbes, were the contractors for the disassembly, moving and restoration of the rooms in the Museum. According to Mrs. Joseph: They did the work with loving care, searching for old nails, hardware and boards as examples if the carpentry of the period. The cost for the entire job was \$4,170 and it took one year.

Mr. A. Lincoln Fechheimer was responsible for planning the Museum interiors and Benjamin Ihorst, an architect who lived across the street from the Forbes', was instrumental in getting Mrs. Joseph to sponsor the purchasing of a set of rooms to donate to the Museum.

By the time of demolition, the Cary house was unfurnished and Mrs. Joseph loaned her collection of early American antiques, which were in the style of the period, for display. The 'Joseph Rooms' were dedicated May 10, 1939. The robin's egg blue woodwork was authentic to the color that the Carys used. The reassembled rooms were identical to the way they originally stood, except for a mantel that was purchased in northern Kentucky.

By 1948 most of the loaned furniture was returned to the owners and the rooms were reopened in 1952 furnished from the Museum's own collections.⁹

The Linden/Park Hotel¹⁰ Mr. & Mrs. John Henderson purchased the land at the intersection of Cincinnati and Hamilton Turnpike and North Bend Road from the William Cary estate on Oct. 25, 1890. Henderson sold the land to Adam Gray, of the City Insurance Company and a land speculator, in 1892. Mr. Gray sold a portion of the original parcel to the Cincinnati & Hamilton Electric Street Rail Company on July 13, 1898, for \$3,000 with the stipulation that ...for ten years no saloon purposes in the sale of intoxicating liquor, malt beverages or wine to be sold... or the property would revert back to Adam Gray and heirs. Gray sold the remaining tract of land to Lewis Hauck in 1899. At that time, this land was not considered part of College Hill.

In 1887 the Village of College Hill passed Ordinance 527 which prohibited ale, beer and porter houses within the community. It wasn't until Dec. 19, 1910 that #527 was repealed.

When the John Hauck Brewing Company owned the land, the Linden/Park hotel was built.

The Linden/Park was a resident hotel and had a large ballroom where dances were frequently held. Both the porch and lawn held tables and chairs and on Saturday nights people gathered there to hear the orchestra. People also came out on the street car just to stand on the sidewalk outside of the hotel and listen to the music.

William F. Biddle was the proprietor of the Park Hotel and George Murrison from Scotland was the

⁸ Times-Star, Iphigene Bettman HEREBABOUTS, 3 October 1952.

⁹ Community Resource for Enriching the 5th Grade Social Studies Program in the College Hill Schools, Marion Dinkelaker, thesis, 1952.

¹⁰ Contributed by Mrs. Karen Forbes Nutting.

bartender, Mr. Murrison also cranked the autos for the patrons.

The former hotel building was demolished in 1963 so that a new O. E. S. Home could be built on the site. This was the first Eastern Star Home in Ohio.

Ludwig's Shoe Store was started in 1932 by John Ludwig. Favorite brands back then were Poll Parrot, Florsheim and Red Ball sneakers. The store originally included shoe repair. The 5845 Hamilton Avenue store was not his only one; he expanded over the years to one in Mt. Healthy, Northgate and Beechmont Malls. A prominent local business leader, Mr. Ludwig held a patent on a shoe/foot sizer which was sold abroad. Next to Ludwig's was **Schwartz Jewelers**, a family jewelry store founded in 1932. And next to them was **VonderBrink's** dress shop. These three stores anchored a block of store-to-store shopping until they were demolished in 1989.

Pearce's Auto Care Center¹¹ has been at the same corner, 6014 Hamilton Avenue, since its founding in 1936. Jim Pearce is an accomplished artist but after high school he could not find a job due to the Depression. He joined with Harry Pearce, who was mechanically inclined, to open a service station. Harry eventually bought out Jim's share of the business. It is now owned by Harry's son, 'Hank' Pearce. This gas station has seen the spectrum of automotive history - from hand pumped gas to computers and electronics.

Piazza-Discepoli Vine Wine Merchants¹² 5901 Hamilton Avenue was started in 1988 at the corner of Hamilton and Cedar Avenues. Originally the building was built to house a Dow Drugstore (Charles "Daddy" Dean) which later became Brothers Drugstore (Larry & Mark Schwienher.) The last pharmacy on that corner was Family Drugstore. Piazza-Discepoli specializes in quality wines and specialty foods. The Discepoli name has been associated since 1930 in the pharmacy business.

When Guy leased the empty storefront, little did he know the history he was acquiring. In addition to years of accumulated junk going back to the original drugstore, he found old medicine boxes, full gallon bottles of Glacier Spring and Mountain Valley water.

The basement held the original cast iron furnace and water heater (ca 1924). The floor on which the soda fountain from years ago once stood was concrete, which can be seen between the rafters.

Guy was able to reuse the original tobacco showcase as his counter by replacing the glass top with wood and turning it around so that the bin handles face today's customer. The bottom is lined with corrugated tin to hold damp rolls of newspaper or towels for tobacco humidification.

The suspended ceiling was removed, revealing the tin original made by the Edwards Manufacturing Company. Guy cleaned the tin ceiling for three weeks. The grime of sixty-five years came off, down to the original baked on enamel paint, which is ivory colored. Guy left a small thin strip untouched at the back of the store for comparison. He also connected ceiling lights and fans to the original fixture placement of one light in each bay and two fans in the center of the tin ceiling. When the window display area was renovated, pieces of the black faux marble ceramic that once formed the exterior facade were uncovered. This handsome store is a good example of how restoration and renovation can compliment each other.

Pies Dry Cleaners¹³ at 5748 Hamilton Avenue (1921) and 5822 Hamilton Avenue (1935) was started by Ollie Pies. When Ollie died in 1945 the business was continued by his sons, Ambrose and Robert. Ollie Pies was known for more than being a good dry cleaner, he was one of the best pinochle players in College Hill.

¹¹ Source: Harry Pearce II

¹² Source: Guy Discepoli

¹³ Source: Ambrose Pies

Renner Plumbing & Heating¹⁴ was founded on March 22, 1922 by John Henry ‘Harry’ Renner. The business was operated originally from the Renner residence at 1772 Cedar Avenue. In 1925 the business and residence moved to 5828 Hamilton Avenue. In 1929 they moved next door to 5826 Hamilton Avenue, a newly built five apartment and two store building built by W. H. Forbes & Son. This building was razed in 1987. In 1940 John’s son, Ed, joined the business and the name became Harry Renner & Son. In 1945 his other son, Harry C., joined and the ‘s’ was added to son. In 1949 they built a new showroom and store at 6009 Hamilton Avenue. Harry Sr. retired in 1960 and in 1970 Harry C. left the business, selling the building to his brother, Ed. Ed operated the business from his Mt. Healthy home until his retirement in 1972.

George Schiering & Son, a family-owned and operated retailer of electrical appliances, was located for more than 25 years in College Hill at 1623 Hamilton Avenue-adjacent to the southwest corner of North Bend Road and Hamilton Avenue. Mr. George Schiering and his wife Carrie opened the business in 1929 with a store on Hamilton Avenue in Mt. Healthy. They became the first General Electric Appliance dealership in Cincinnati, introducing several generations of appliances, including the innovated “wringer washing machine.”

In 1945, their son Glen Schiering, assumed leadership of the business which was then moved to the College Hill location, a building which included the appliance store on the first floor and residential apartments on the second floor. Glen Schiering’s wife, Edithe, provided bookkeeping and scheduling assistance as the business grew. For many years, the family had the invaluable and loyal assistance of their employee, Clayton Lockwood. The retailer received many awards for leadership in the sales of General Electric appliances with significant patronage by the many employees of General electric in the Cincinnati area. Ronald Reagan, who then was the spokesperson for General Electric, personally delivered an award for excellence to the family in the 1950s.

The College Hill property also included an adjacent parcel fronting on North Bend Road. The family constructed a building on the parcel which was leased for a new College Hill library. In the early 1970s, the family sold the building and property to an oil company which subsequently demolished the building. Angert’s Appliances, the family’s friendly competitor across the street, employed Clayton and assumed the business telephone number to carry on the tradition of sales and service in the community---Glenna Schiering

George Schiering’s son, Glenn, worked both in the family business and was on the board of the College Hill Building and Loan. He continued on the board of the College Hill Branch when Provident bought the College Hill Building and Loan.

Schwartz Jewelers has been in College Hill since 1937. It was founded by Rita Effler and her father William Effler, Sr. who owned a jewelry store in Mt. Healthy. Rita hired Herb Schwartz as a clock repairman, later marrying him shortly before he left for W.W. II. When Herb returned, the store was renamed Schwartz Jewelers. In 1979, he turned over the management and ownership of the store to their son, Dave, and Sandy, his wife, both of whom had been teachers. In turn, in 2007, ownership passed along to Dave and Sandy’s son, Marty. Offering both customer service and price, they have withstood competition for the mall stores and have thrived. Their extensive line of clocks and gifts compliment their jewelry. In their 70 years of being in College Hill, they have been at 4 locations, the current one since 1990.

Shuller’s Wigwam Restaurant¹⁵ was founded by Max Shuller in 1922, a Russian immigrant who came to America in 1913. His first venture in the restaurant business was selling hot tamales from a pushcart in downtown. He purchased a diner from ‘Daddy Hart’ where the Dixon buildings now stand.

¹⁴ Source: Harry C. Renner

¹⁵ Cincinnati Enquirer, Shuller’s Wigwam wants to branch out without alienating loyal clientele, Lisa Biank Fasig, March 16,1997.

Max purchased a lot on the north east corner and built a small restaurant in 1929 and the business moved across North Bend Road. The restaurant has been on the corner (6210 Hamilton Avenue) ever since. When first built, this new building had a second story with four small sleeping rooms and a bath. During the Depression the Shuller's didn't turn away a man seeking work - they also were able to sleep in the upper story. Max understood the devastating effects of the Depression well. He owned seven diners by then and lost them all except the College Hill one during the economic crisis.

His building, next to the a Bear Power gas station and the Cincinnati & Lake Erie Railroad station, was replaced in 1933, after the repeal of Prohibition. This one had a roofed, outdoor beer garden which someone remarked made the restaurant look like a wigwam - the name stuck and has been called the Wigwam ever since. Leo remembered¹⁶ for the **Cincinnati Enquirer**; the drawing of draft beer and the large window shade which hung from the ceiling and used to hide liquor after-hours.

Success of the screened-in beer garden was largely due to 10-ounce glasses of beer at a nickel each. 'It was before the six-pack and people would come to us with their glass jugs to buy beer and take it home,' he said. The garden section was enclosed and the building expanded in 1941.

Known for decades by its large Indian and wigwam shaped sign, the restaurant finally went out of business in 2000 and the building was torn down. The site now awaits redevelopment.

Visconti-Lechler Pharmacy, 6106 Hamilton Avenue has been a drug store for many years. Originally two stores, Hehman Pharmacy was on one side and a dress shop occupied the other. The pharmacy, half of today's area, contained a soda fountain and ice cream booths.

The pharmacy was purchased from Gus and Irene Hehman in 1948 by Ralph E. Visconti, Sr. and Nick Kenney. A former director of marketing for Sperti Drug Products, Visconti left Sperti to establish two Visconti-Kinney drug stores: College Hill and White Oak.

By 1951 the College Hill store was growing and the dress shop was going out of business. The Jacob family sold the building to Visconti-Kinney and the pharmacy was remodeled. The dividing wall was removed in 1955, making the store its current interior size and exterior facade. It was one of the largest and most modern pharmacies in Cincinnati.

The soda fountain - the heart of 75% of the pharmacies around the country - was enlarged. Ralph Visconti, Jr., who worked at the College Hill location's soda fountain as a white coated 'soda jerk' described it ... as THE place to go for families and to meet friends after school. Those were the days when jerk did not describe a personality, but rather it was a reference to jerking the fountain handles forward to make the soda water spray. Flavored carbonated waters, malts, shakes, phosphates, and Cokes were not the only sweets offered - who can't remember large glass jars of penny candy?

Drug stores with soda fountains started in the 1860's. The fountains first sold sparkling mineral waters as a health product, an extension of attending mineral spas. Ice cream wasn't combined with syrups and soda until 1874, when Robert Green ran out of cream and substituted ice cream to mix with his sodas.

Visconti-Kinney was locally famous for their frosted glasses, making drinks extra cold. French Bauer ice cream was available in hand packed pints and quarts and Ralph Jr. still remembers the prices: nickel ice cream cones, double dips for seven cents and a soda for nineteen cents. The drug store was where families went after church and would take home some ice cream. It was part of the family scenario of the time, Ralph added.

The decline of the soda fountain started during W.W. II when sugar was rationed, young men were drafted and manufacturers retooled for war. The soda fountain business never recovered. The soda fountain-luncheonette started becoming popular. Everyone was in a hurry and lunches allowed the counter area to be busy more often than just for serving dessert. Visconti-Kenney, too, served lunches. Cosmetics, nylon stockings and notions were making their way into pharmacies - making more profit and less mess. Visconti-Lechler's soda fountain was removed in 1971 or 1972, replaced by a large greeting

¹⁶ Cincinnati Enquirer, 3 generation at Shuller's, Steve Hoffman, February 11, 1986.

card selection.

Ralph, Jr. made deliveries on his bicycle during his sophomore year in high school. He remembers that ...I delivered Sunday **Cincinnati Enquirers**, medicine and even hot fudge sundaes to as far away as Winsray Court near St. Vivian's and down Hamilton Avenue to Springlawn. Some things never change, deliveries were free then and are free now.

From 1948 until June 1966, the pharmacy was Visconti-Kinney. Then Ralph Visconti, Jr. and Joseph Lechler formed a partnership, buying the pharmacy. The market place has changed over time too. Soda fountains and tobacco counters have been replaced by card, gifts and health care. One of the keys to success for a private pharmacy to thrive against the competition against large chain stores is a wide selection of merchandise and, Ralph said, is personal concern for our customers. There will always be people who want service and product for their money. Stores that give good value have a pharmacist and staff that are interested in their customers and are warm and caring professionals. It is this philosophy which keeps Visconti-Lechler growing today. (ed. Note: the pharmacy closed Jan. 2008)

Ralph Visconti behind the soda fountain



Chapter 45 North College Hill¹⁷

An area of medium sized farms, Mt. Healthy became a thriving country town while North College Hill was retained as farmland until the early 1900's. Most of North College Hill was built between 1905 - 1960.

The village started to develop about 1905 when John Meyer, a saw mill owner, built a small subdivision on the south half of the old Johnson property, on the north side of W. Galbraith (Mulberry, Bising, LaBoyteaux etc.) and called it Meyerville. Meyer used his surplus lumber to build homes at modest cost and required only a small down payment. Attempting to boost home purchases, Meyer built a Protestant church for the community at Noble and Galbraith - this was later purchased by the Methodist Union and in 1908 James N. Gamble purchased it and presented it without debt to a small group of Methodists in the community. The building was replaced in 1927 by the current church as the membership outgrew the original church size.

In 1908 the Ohio Land Improvement Company of DeArmand, Knollman and Shiering, headed by Clarence 'Buck' DeArmand, platted the Sunshine subdivision south of Galbraith Road (Simpson, Catalpa etc.) DeArmand called his subdivision Sunshine, a name that could be marketed easily. Promoting on billboards that Sunshine was 'up where the sun shines and money grows on trees,' he also appropriated the song *Up Where the Sun Shines, Nellie*. Attempting to capitalize on the reputation of the then affluent College Hill, DeArmand later renamed the subdivision North College Hill to the everlasting confusion of reporters. Just opposite from Rabbi Wise's farm was the billboard '*Up Where the Sun Shines - Houses \$5 down and \$1 a Week.*'¹⁸

The area east of Hamilton Avenue was called the Clovernook subdivision. By 1916 the population of 500 incorporated Meyerville, Clovernook and Sunshine into the village of North College Hill. The community retained its rural flavor until the 1920's when water, gas and sewer lines were installed. At this time Hamilton Avenue was paved in bricks. The first mayor was John 'Jack' Williamson elected on 6-20-16, and the early village council met at Williamson's drugstore.

An omnibus was the way passengers traveled until the railroads were built. In 1875 Robert Simpson and John R. Davey organized the College Hill Railroad. The narrow gauge railroad passed through North College Hill in 1877 on the College Hill to Johnson's Grove, Mt. Healthy run. It consisted of the locomotive and two passenger cars. Running on two rails only 1 yard apart, it traveled into Cincinnati four times a day. The trip took 1 hour and cost .60 round trip. Called the "Dummy Line" because the engine was enclosed by a body similar to those vehicles drawn by horses, the named stuck for many years, even after the styling of the cars changed. The narrow gauge ran until 1930, connecting with the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad at Spring Grove Avenue.

After 1898 the railroad line only hauled freight, for it could not compete with the passenger nickel fare of the new electric interurbans that linked the industrial Mill Creek Valley to the suburbs until 1938. The interurban combined overhead electrical lines like those of a trolley with the speed of a train. The overhead lines were later used by trolley busses until the 1950's.

Until 1940 there was also a freight line that ran parallel to Simpson Ave. That is why Simpson is so wide in comparison to other streets. The engine was dubbed the **Grasshopper** and it ran between Cumminsville and Mt. Healthy.

One of the landmark cases that led to the repeal of prohibition was the Tumey case decision of the

¹⁷ Autobiography, F. G. Cary; History of College Hill and Vicinity, Samuel F. Cary, 1886
History of North College Hill, 1916 - 1966, Dorothy Mahlenkamp Old College Hill, Cincinnati Historical Society, 1982
Once Upon a Hilltop, Mt. Healthy Area Sesquicentennial 1817-1967; Pioneer LaBoyteaux Family, Coleraine Pageant, Ruth Wells
Stockades in the Wilderness, Richard Scamyhorn and John Steinle; The Bicentennial Guide to Greater Cincinnati, A Portrait of Two
Hundred Years, Geoffrey J. Giglierano and Deborah A. Overmyer, 1988; This is our City, Past and Present, The Story of North College
Hill, 1966, Dorothy Stein

¹⁸ Cincinnati Enquirer, January 17, 1971

Supreme Court in 1927. The case started in North College Hill when the mayor fined Mr. Tumey for the possession of liquor. Mr. Tumey took the case to the Supreme Court, where Chief Justice Taft ruled against the local justice system that allowed mayors and Justices of the Peace to obtain fines for convictions but gained nothing if a defendant was found innocent.

Many German, Hungarian and Italian homeowners were attracted to this area. Hard working, they understood the value of thrift, and were pleased with the new cape cod and bungalow style homes, some purchased as an 'Honorbuilt' kit from Sears and Roebuck. The inexpensive houses and large areas of undeveloped land created the 1940-1950 building boom that doubled the number of available homes. One of the few modernistic style houses built in Hamilton County was constructed of concrete at 2033 West Galbraith Road in 1940. Large apartment complexes currently present in North College Hill weren't built until the 1970's.

The current city hall was built in 1931, replacing a frame building which had been a hotel where cattlemen stayed. The pens were located where the Junior High School stands. Some of the early businesses were the Bising Dairy farm which was demolished for the building of St. Paul's Church. Schild's was a coal and building supply business. Starting in 1921 it carried cattle feed until 1942. Archie Keen from Batavia had a early lumber yard. Keen's lumber cart transported the buckets and ladders of the volunteer fire department. Knollman had a hardware and lumber business. It started in an old barn which was demolished in 1908 for St. Margaret Mary Church then moved to Simpson Avenue about 1910. A barrel store became Bittman's and there was a rope factory on Pippin, south of Galbraith Road. James Seward owned gristmill that was operated by treadle power. Isaac Betts had forty acres which was later subdivided and a street was named for him.

When the 1940 census showed the North College Hill had a population exceeding 5,000, it officially became a city on Feb. 9, 1941. Between the years of 1920-1940 the population rose 374%. The first mayor of the new city was Ed Ahlers.

Still growing, North College Hill annexed 20 acres in 1987. The Cross County highway was originally proposed in 1948 as a link from the Mill Creek Valley to a Blue Ash airport. While the airport idea was dropped the need for a linking highway was retained, and recently completed.

Charles Zimmermann's Store, Hamilton Ave., College Hill

Chapter 46 College Hill Grows

The postwar period after World War I saw an increase in building. These homes built in the decade between 1920 and 1930 are easy to spot. They are made of wire-cut brick, with some stained or beveled glass windows and doors and are two stories in height in the bungalow style.

But after World War II all over America the building of single family homes soared. For the first time Veterans Administration loans were available. The limit on the loan was \$10,000 which paid for a very basic house with few luxuries. One area developed at that time was the Lynnebrook (East Lynne) subdivision¹⁹ off of Kenneth Avenue. Built in 1949 by Carl Karst and James Hughes, the properties sold in the medium price range of \$11,450 to \$12,500. The foundations were of concrete block and the houses four rooms and an unfinished second floor in the lower price range, the second was finished for the higher price. The modern homes had marble window sills, hardwood floors, built in kitchen cabinets, casement windows and copper plumbing. Between 1948-1950 around 76 homes were built there in the Cape-Cod style.

The residents to this represented many professions: Jack McLaughlin and Mr. Hermes, policemen; Dr. Wade Bacon; Dr. Gey, professor at U.C., Albert Schuch; Nicholas Michels, assembly worker and bicycle maker. Marie Butler²⁰ lived at 1197 North Lynnebrook. Her house was built by Mr. Julius (Jack) Oelrick as were the first six houses on her street. The rest were built by Buffer & Par.

Karst & Hughes built many of the houses on Argus Road, which was Shepherd's pear orchard and cow pasture while Long Brothers builders constructed similar houses on Faircrest Court. Mr. Dillion purchased the Larmon Estate and developed most of the houses on that street.

John D. Haskins wrote to us about his home once located at the corner of North Bend and Daly Roads. That home was an eleven room brick built in 1910 by his parents, Robert B. and Mary Haskins. The property contained 15 acres and was previously owned by Sarah Jessup and was purchased by Robert Haskins at a sheriff's sale for \$2,000. The house was designed and built by Edgar Cummings. Across the street was the Ideal Poultry Farm, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius. It was later owned by Alicia and Ann Kelly, two nurses who operated a rest home 'The Harriet Sabin Grange.' A lawn mower shop is located today on the property and Haskin's home was torn down in 1970 and the site used to build a car wash.

College Hill was annexed to Cincinnati piecemeal in 1911, 1915 and 1923. Some street names in College Hill were changed to avoid confusion with other streets already incorporated into Cincinnati. Such was the case of Maple Ave. which became Llanfair.

Llanfair is an abbreviation of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndropwillllantysiliogogoch, a village in Wales with the longest place name in Britain, whose name means 'Church of St. Mary's in a Hollow of White Hazel Trees near the swift whirlpool by the Red Cave of St. Tysillio's Church.'

Saranac was named in 1912 for Saranac Lake, a health and pleasure resort in the Adirondack Mountains, New York. This street is in the subdivision of Dr. John Nichols, who gave it the name. Built on Saranac Lake was the first sanitarium to treat early stages of tuberculosis. Saranac is an Indian term which means 'a river that flows under a rock.'

Monticello Avenue was originally named Atlanta Avenue but was so often confused with Atlantic Avenue in Hyde Park that it was renamed in 1941 in honor of Thomas Jefferson's home.

Edwood was named after Thomas Edward Wood, president of Wood Realty Co. Wood & Associates purchased about 200 acres in College Hill in 1928 and named the subdivision Lakewood. Later, Wood developed much of the area and named various streets with the suffix "wood," such as Amberwood, Brushwood and Bankwood. Edwood Avenue was named in 1950.

Aspen Avenue was named in 1910 to honor the tree that was used by early pioneers in their

¹⁹ Cincinnati Enquirer, January 30, 1949

²⁰ Source: Marie Butler correspondence to Karen Forbes-Nutting, 1988

tanneries. The wood could be used for charcoal and the bark was a source of glucoside, both necessary in leather tanning. Originally this was named Inez Street.

The Fifties - Teakwood Acres, A Neighborhood History²¹

In the 1930's, 15 acres were owned by Judge Coleman Avery (which became the Paul Brother's property). Described by Mr. Edwin Van Leunen, as a 'wealthy, retired lawyer,' his only access to the property was a lane leading north off North Bend Road across from his home. The late Mrs. Doris Wilmes remembered a barn, a creek in a field, and blackberries on a fence on this property. Neighbors remember that Judge Avery married a young woman and their marriage was troubled, and one morning he shot and killed her, then called the police, and killed himself - he wanted to make sure none of her relatives inherited any of his estate. When the property went up for sale, a relative of Mrs. Van Leunen bought it and leased it to Mr. Edwin Van Leunen, who was in the landscape gardening business. They used it for a nursery from the mid-1930's until they moved away from the neighborhood in 1959.

The Van Leunen family bought the house at 6300 Edwood (now at the corner of Wionna) in 1934, from the Lang Brother Builders, for \$10,000. They had a small pool and formal garden on the Edwood side. There were few homes on Edwood in the 1930's. Just south of the Van Leunen's were the Ed Wilsons - he was the developer of Edwood Avenue, which at that time was only built up for one block north (to 6400, where Ray Folz, of an insurance agency lived, and later founded College Hill Savings & Loan). Other interesting people in the area - Mrs. Wilson was known as 'Auntie Wilson,' an eccentric lady who took a wheelbarrow of manure up and down the street to put on trees that her family had planted. She also hung clothes out on the line but couldn't wait for them to dry, so she moved the clothes prop back and forth to fan the clothes, hoping they would dry faster. Her daughter, Hazel, had an all-girl orchestra and was a favorite of all the children on the street. Adjoining the nursery property was the field owned by Miss Bann, whose house faced North Bend Road. She was an elderly retired schoolteacher who traveled around the world.

The Van Leunen family sold their house in 1959 for \$25,000 to Mr. & Mrs. Donovan. The Lang Brothers purchased the nursery property with the intention of developing it. They signed an agreement with Jack Wittekind Jr. in 1960 who agreed to buy the plots, which were developed with by Lang, promising to build 75 homes. The first model home in Teakwood Acres Subdivision was opened on August 27, 1961. Wittekind built 34 homes on Teakwood Court and 32 - 34 on Wionna Avenue. He lost his option in 1963 and received lots in other neighborhoods from Lang in exchange. Other builders completed the last 8-10 lots on Wionna, the only name mentioned was an Earl Alburger, builder.

Altogether, from 1947 to 1983, Jack Wittekind built over 300 homes in College Hill and surrounding areas. His father had been a brick contractor, and uncles had real estate in the late 1920's. During the Depression they began to build houses to sell, building many homes on Wittlou, Wittekind, Heitzler and Birchwood.

\$5,000,000 Subdivision Planned²² Homes in College Hill Tract to Cost Upward of \$30,000, Wood Says By Bernard Boer, Business News Editor

Plans for development of a 65-acre tract in Lakewood Subdivision, College Hill, with ultimate expenditure of more than \$5,000,000, was announced Saturday by Thomas E. Wood, president of the Wood Realty Co.

There are 120 lots in the subdivision ranging in size from a half-acre to an acre. Estimated cost of the individual homes to be constructed will be upward from \$30,000, Wood said.

²¹ Written by Peggy Kehrer

²² Times Star, May 9, 1953

All of the utilities will be underground, including water lines, telephone, gas and electric service. Street contracts have been awarded and actual work will start within to weeks Total cost of these improvements alone will amount to \$500,000, Wood estimated.

The newest Lakewood Subdivision project is north of Hollywood Avenue and south of Oak Knoll Drive and designated prime residential area, zoned resident A, and fully restricted.

Edward C. Ahlers and George Eveslage, vice presidents of the Wood Realty Co. are in charge of new development. Lou Graf of Ayers & Graf will conduct the engineering details.

Development of the area completes the dream of Wood, who, in his youth, tramped the virgin section in quest for rabbits and squirrels. The original Lakewood tract comprised 167 acres and was acquired many years ago by Wood's firm.

At that time, Wood visualized making the section an outstanding home development of its type. With the newest project under way, his dream has come true, Wood mused.

Since the end of World War II in 1947, Wood has constructed more than 300 homes in the northern section of Lakewood. This area extends from Galbraith Road south on Daly Road and west to Clovernook Drive. Another section along Tarawa Drive in adjoining North College Hill has 56 homes, which were constructed by Wood for war veterans. These homes sold for \$11,500 and have enhanced considerably in value since then.

Carrie Schiering at the family's General Electric Store, Mt. Healthy location ca 1929
Courtesy of Glenna Schiering



Chapter 47 Men and Women from College Hill Who Served in W.W. I.I.

Allen, Otis; Amann, Frank H.; Amman, Charles Lee; Arszmann, Harold; Ault, C. P.; Azix, John A.; Baker, R. E.; Bambach, Karl; Baudendistel, John W. ; Bauman, Jack; Beer, W. A.; Benedict, McCrae; Benison, Harvey W.; Benison, Ruth; Berger, Donald W.; Berger, John W.; Berling, Edward W.; Berning, Pat; Betz, Emil Carl; Betz, Francos; Betz, Joseph; Binder, Otto; Bleill, Marvin B.; Blettner, Evelyn; Borchelt, Gerald; Bosken, Edward R.; Boskin, Sylvester; Botts, William L.; Breiner, Frederick; Breiner, John; Briner, William P.; Britton, Bill; Britton, Harley; Brueckner, J. A.; Brueckner, Paul; Budke, Donald H.; Buescher, Robert C.; Buescher, William J.; Burton, James E.; Busken, Sylvester; Buzek, Robert W.; Chadwick, M. P.; Chatwick, Jack; Cisko, Edward; Clark, John R.; Connelly, Arthur T.; Conners, Earl; Conrady, Greg; Cook, Stanley; Cook, Warren H.; Corkins, William; Costa, Jack; Crutchfield, Howard G.; Cummings, Edward J.; Dan, Frank S.; Dam, John Joseph; Dastilling, Jaques C.; Davis, Walter; Desh, Herb; Dessauer, Leander; Deye, Robert L.; Doherty, Jerry; Doherty, Lawrence; Domis, Edwin L.; Donnelly, Frank; Deer, Robert P.; Dreiling, George E.; Drewes, Telesphorus; Driscoll, Edward J.; Duncan, Helen; Eckstein, Erwin J.; Efke, Florence J.; Eiselein, R. J.; Everson, Clifford; Everson, Lloyd B.; Everson, Robert W.; Eyster, W. H.; Fahnenbruck, H. S.; Robert W.; Federle, Charles; Feller, Frank; Fey, Hildor; Ficker, Donald; Ficker, Donald; Ficker, Warren; Fischer, Charles; Fischer, Edward F.; Fischer, Robert; Fisse, Robert; Fisse, William; Floyd, James R.; Folz, David Lee; Forbes, Willis, Jr.; Froendhoff, John E.; Freudenthal, W. H.; Friedrich, Joseph; Fries, A. E.; Friesdick, ??; Geiger, Lawrence J.; Geiger, Robert J.; Geldhaus, Hubert; Gergen, John; Gergen, Nicholas; Gerig, Ferd L.; Gessner, Charles H.; Giver, William A.; Giwer, Matthias M.; Goefft, Lawrence; Goefft, Robert; Graf, Willard S.; Grome, Gilbert; Gumbinger, Ralph; Gumbinger, Roy; Habig, Michael, Jr.; Hagen, William L.; Hamilton, Carl; Harpen, Odie; Harrell, Richard; Harrison, Y.; Hasselbusch, Warren; Hartman, Fred.; Haun, Ervin; Hautz, Emmet; Hautz, Harry; Hautz, Robert J.; Hautz, William J.; Heal, J. C.; Hebig, ? ; Heineman, Nelson; Heinrich, Clifford; Heinrich, Milton; Heinrich, Nelson; Heitzler, George; Heyob, John C.; Heyob, Robert J.; Higdon, C. Roberts; Hill, David; Hock, Alvin R.; Hodge, Vernon; Holthaus, Robert; Homsn, Justin; Homan, Norbert; Huber, Frank G.; Huber, Marvin; Huhn, Herman A.; Huhn, Joseph, B.; Hutchinson, Gilbert E.; Hutchinson, Harry; Ingrham, August; Jack, Edgar; Jack, Richard; Jansen, Louis John; Jung, Gordon; Junker, Edward J.; Keating, Charles; Keller, Stanley; Kelsey, D. C.; Kelsey, Joseph; Kenkel, A.L.; Kessen, Harry J.; Kiefel, Bob; Kissel, Karl; Klahn, Frank; Klayer, Stanley L.; Klein, William O.; Kohis, Paul; Kopp, Betty; Korb, Henry C.; Krathovil, Joseph P.; Krathovil, William; Kratohuil, Ethyl M.; Kratohuil, William J.; Kress, Earl Edward; Kuessner, Eugene; Kuhl, Bernard H.; Kuhl, Ervin; Kuhn, Willard; Laake, Donald; Laake, Russell; Lang, Wm. D.; Langenecker, Robert W.; Latscha, Walter Y.; Lee, Robert E.; Leist, Henry A.; Leist, Theodore; Limke, Eugene T.; Limke, George; Limke, Louis H.; Linz, Howard; Linz, Ray Albert; Lobitz, Jr., Henry; Lockwood, Robert H.; Lucas, George W.; Luken, Robert T.; Manegold, Joseph; Manegold, Victor E.; Martin, Jack R.; Marvin, John; Mathsuer, Charles A.; Mathauer, George E.; Mathauer, Milton J.; Mawin, ?; McKinney, John G.; McLain, Homer; Medosch, Robert; Meier, Albert L.; Mers, Anna Mae; Merse, Edwin G.; Metz, Art; Meyers, Gilbert R.; Miller, Dale; Mitchell, John H.; Mock, Paul R.; Morgan, J. E.; Murray, Robert J.; Newton, Bill; Newton, Charles; Newton, William M.; O' Brien, A. M.; O'Keefe, David L.; O'Keefe, James E.; O'Neil, Gilbert; Obert, Bernard C.; Obert, Emma H.; Obert, Norbert B.; Parr, Joseph; Parres, James; Pearce, Harry; Pearce, Jim; Pearce, William J.; Pelzel, George Y.; Peterson, David; Peterson, James; Pfefferle, Richard A.; Phares, Paul; Phares, Pauline; Phares, Stanley; Picl, ?; Pierce, Chester; Pies, Joe; Rammacher, John; Ravenscroft, Marcellus; Regan, Harry Jr.; Reid, W. S.; Reinke, Milton; Renner, John M.; Reuter, William; Rice, Philip; Richard, William H.; Richart, Wm; Rigas, Wm H.; Rightmire, Elmer; Rinck, Charlie; Roach, John P.; Roach, Joseph J.; Robinson, L.; Roebke, Robert Paul; Rohling, Albert; Rohling, Louis F.; Rohling, Ralph M.; Rohling, Robert; Rohling, Stanley; Rohrscheib, Paul; Roth, Jos. N.; Rottker, Paul A.; Ruberg, Daniel C.; Ruberg, Raymond; Rusche, Elmer; Rusche, Joseph J.; Sammy, ?; Sadler, Al.; Sadler, Larry; Sax, William; Scheidler, William A.; Schenk, Cornelius A.; Schmidt, A. A.; Schmitt, Henry; Schott, Art.; Schroeder; Schulten, William; Albert H.; Schultz, Robert; Schutte, Elmer; Schwarz, Robert C.; Shephard, R. G.; Slach, Bueford; Sloan, Nick; Smith, Jack L.; Smith, Nick; Speiser, Harold J.;

Speiser, Jack E.; Speiser, Sorman A.; Stare, Edward W.; Stark, Robert; Stark, William; Staubitz, Herb; Stayton, Robert J.; Sterwerf, John; Stewart, C. C.; Strong, Robert M.; Taske, Paul A.; Taylor, Ralph; Taylor, Samuel; Tedford, Frederick; Tedford, Robert H.; Terkelson, Gene; Teufel, Richard A.; Theders, Edward H.; Theders, George; Torbeck, Robert; Turkelson, Charles; Turkelson, Eugene; Ulrich, Lawrence; Uttrich, E. L.; Volk, Erwin J.; Volk, John T.; Waechter, John; Wagner, Peter J.; Waldmer, W. R.; Wallace, Frank; Wallet, Joseph; Webb, Bob; Webb, Robert L.; Weber, Charles A.; Weller, Albert; Weller, George; Werdman, John F.; Werdman, Louis J.; Wernke, Bernard; Wessel, Jerome R.; Williams, Edward H.; Williams, Marvin R.; Willingham, Oscar; Willke, Jack; Wittekind, John G. Jr.; Wolf, Arthur L.; Wuest, Virginia; Yuelling, Charles W.; Yuellig, Kenneth E.; Yuelling, Stanley A.; Zimmer, Earl Edward; Zimmer, Walter; Zinser, Joseph C.

College Hill High School

