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Fire levy sparks heated debate

By CHRIS SHOTT
New Albany News Reporter

It was a narrow defeat last November when voters rejected a local tax levy to increase funding for the Plain Township Fire Department.

While voters decided Tuesday the fate of the fire department's second try, Issue 4, prior to the election disagreement continued about its chances.

"I don't see how it could pass," New Albany Village Councilman Tom Taneff said Friday.

Taneff said many local residents are "fed up" with continual tax increases, and it is for that same reason that voters probably chose to defeat the levy last time.

Taneff said he is one of the few voices among a "silent majority" of taxpayers who feel they are overburdened and will vote "no" on the levy.

Voters in November rejected a similar tax levy by a count of 1,097 to 1,034. The current incarnation of the levy would increase the fire department's annual budget by $480,363.

"I think people are really tapped out and they need a break," Taneff said.

He also said he has little faith in the fire department's money management strategies.

Taneff asked why government entities cannot learn from private businesses that downsize and make cuts when they are over budget.

The fire department most likely will make cuts if the levy does not meet voters approval, Lt. Joe Brown said, but not because it is over budget.

Brown, chairman of the fire department's campaign committee Citizens For A Safer Community, said the fire department needs the additional funds the levy would raise to hire more firefighters to handle an increasing

See SPARKS, *Page 2*

News photo by Tim Norman

Portal in time

Harriet Donaldson of Westerville examines a Federal American bull's-eye mirror at Patricia Berger's booth at the Columbus Academy antique show Friday through Sunday. The show attracted antique sellers from across the country.

Longtime residents named Grand Marshals

By CHRIS SHOTT
New Albany News Reporter

Pat and Willard Zarley have been through a lot in the 50 years they've lived at their home on Babbitt Road.

They have been fruitful in many senses of the term — not only amassing a large family of three children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, but also operating their own strawberry farm in the backyard for about 15 years.

Active members of the New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society for many years, the Zarleys often helped in organizing activities for the annual Founder's Day celebration.

But this year, they will be figureheads during the festivities.

The Zarleys recently were chosen by the historical society as Grand Marshals for the May 15 Founder's Day Parade.

The couple will lead the procession, starting from New Albany High School at 11 a.m. and following Dublin-Granville Road to New Albany Elementary School.

"They have been pillars of the community and pillars of the historical society since day one," historical society co-President Marilyn Saveson said about the Zarleys.

Pat and Willard met in Plain Township as sixth-graders, both moving into the area in 1937.

Willard's family came from Amesville and Pat's came from around Lima, they said.

High school sweethearts, they married in 1944 and then moved around, landing in Biloxi, Miss. and Amarillo, Texas while Willard worked in the Army Air Corps.

In February 1945, Willard joined many other young men in Europe in WWII. He worked as a fighter plane mechanic and was supposed to become a flight engineer as the war ended and his project was canceled, he said.

Pat, in the meantime, returned to Central Ohio and took a factory job, which she kept for about four years.

When he returned, Willard said he worked as a mechanic at an airport on Sullivan Avenue, which later closed down, and then as a mechanic at the military depot.

Later he would return to school to study computers and worked as a systems analyst for the federal government until he retired in 1983, he said.

In 1949, the Zarleys bought a home on Babbitt Road, where they have stayed ever

See MARSHALS, *Page 2*

News photo by Chris Shott

Pat and Willard Zarley recently were named Grand Marshals of the May 15 Founder's Day parade.

Parents may be able to choose kindergarten schedule

By LISA EVERMAN
New Albany News Reporter

Over the last several months, New Albany Elementary School has been studying the possibility of offering a variety of kindergarten options as a result of increasing requests from parents.

The school has been exploring three options: the current half-day, every weekday kindergarten schedule; an alternating half-day, full-day schedule; and a full day of kindergarten every day. The board of education could choose to offer any of the options to parents.

If the board chooses to offer more than one option, parents would choose one for their child.

"We are investigating and exploring community input, other school district schedules and current kindergarten research," primary Principal Deloris Croxall said.

"We want to offer choices," Croxall said. "A half-day may not be enough time for some students."

"During the survey I was impressed by the parents' knowledge of their child's needs," kindergarten teacher Pam Boh said.

To gather community input, the kindergarten team surveyed 117 parents of incoming kindergarten students. The results of the survey are: 26.5 percent of the parents favored the current schedule, 10.25 percent of the parents favored an alternating full-day schedule and 63.25 percent of the parents favored a full-day, every weekday kindergarten schedule.

See SCHEDULE, *Page 2*

MARSHALS

Continued from Page 1

since, though the size of their house and property has increased over time. And they began a family, with Pat giving birth to the couple's first child, Willard Mark, that same year.

They couple have two other children, Steven Allen and Pamela Sue.

Once the children were grown and left home, Pat began a new hobby.

"It was that empty-nest syndrome," she said.

Pat bought 500 strawberry plants during the 1970s and started a garden behind their house.

She said she knew a woman on Central College Road who used to grow strawberries, and Pat often would go there and pick the fruit for her family.

But when that farm folded, Pat said she decided to raise a small crop of strawberries for her own family.

"I considered this continuing education," she said.

The hobby quickly became a full-time operation. Pat said she placed an ad in a local newspaper to advertise selling some of her crop and made $500.

"Then I thought, 'Gee, why don't I plant a thousand?' " she said. "We kept getting bigger from there, and after a while we had so many berries that we couldn't pick them all."

She said soon people were coming to their garden to pick their own berries straight from the plant.

The Zarley's strawberry farm became so fruitful that one spring they had 75,000 plants within two acres and sometimes had as much as five acres of strawberry plants in total, they said.

The couple became members of the North American Strawberry Growers Association to learn more about strawberries and better techniques to grow them.

They said their son excavated an acre-sized pond for irrigation of the crop and for frost protection.

Willard said he once constructed a frost alarm to help protect the crop. The setup included a refrigeration thermostat, which he set at 35 degrees, connected to a wire which ran from the field into the bedroom, he said.

When the temperature would drop, the bell would ring and Willard would go out into the garden and turn on the irrigation sprinklers.

He explained that the water spray would freeze, giving off heat and encrusting the strawberry blossoms in ice, preventing them from getting any colder.

It would sometimes take 48 hours of straight sprinkling to adequately protect the crop, and it also was something they had to do repetitively, he said.

Frost was not the only thing the Zarleys had to worry about. When raccoons began eating a good portion of their crop, they said they put up an electric fence.

When birds began picking at the crop, they said they chopped up hoses and arranged the pieces as if they were snakes to scare the birds away. They brought rens — birds that are "very territorial" and eat bugs — to keep other birds away, they said.

"It was more involved that we first thought," Willard said.

The Zarley's strawberry fields did not last forever, as they dug up the garden in 1994. But the couple holds on to the wisdom they gained from the farming experience.

Now they devote much of their time to the historical society and specifically to working to maintain and improve the Kern-Harrington House.

"I never run out of things to do," said Willard, who is the society's vice president.

Pat works as a society curator.

SCHEDULE

Continued from Page 1

Monday the elementary school sent out a survey to the parents of kindergarten through second-grade students for their insights into the proposed schedules.

"We don't want to make a recommendation to the board of education in isolation from the community and parents," Croxall said.

"It is our job to gather as much information as possible and pass it along to the board so that they can make an informed decision about the scheduling options," she said.

Croxall said that the board will also have to take finances and other district resources into account

"We don't want to make a recommendation to the board of education in isolation from the community and parents."

—Deloris Croxall
primary principal

Offering full-day kindergarten would require more staff and resources.

A public forum will be held to discuss the kindergarten schedule at 7 p.m. on May 13 in the Primary Multipurpose Room located in the primary elementary building.

"We are excited about the possibility of providing options to the community and all the different needs of families," kindergarten teacher Valerie Bevelhymer said.

"It's our school," Croxall said. "We all have to collaborate in an effort to make the best, most informed decision."

The kindergarten team is expected to present a report on the three options along with community input to the board of education at its regular meeting on May 24.

SPARKS

Continued from Page 1

amount of calls for service.

Brown said the department also needs the increased funding to keep up with the increasing cost of medical supplies and equipment.

But if the levy fails, Brown said the department will have to cut out one part-time position per shift, leaving only five firefighters — enough to staff one truck — on duty at any given time.

This also will mean an increase in the time it takes firefighters to respond to an emergency, he said.

According to figures from the Franklin County Auditor's office, homeowners with $100,000 homes would see their property taxes increase from $58.76 to $122.50 if the levy passes.

Currently area residents are paying the same amount for fire services that they were in 1983, but the fire department is a lot busier and providing a higher level of service than ever before, Brown said.

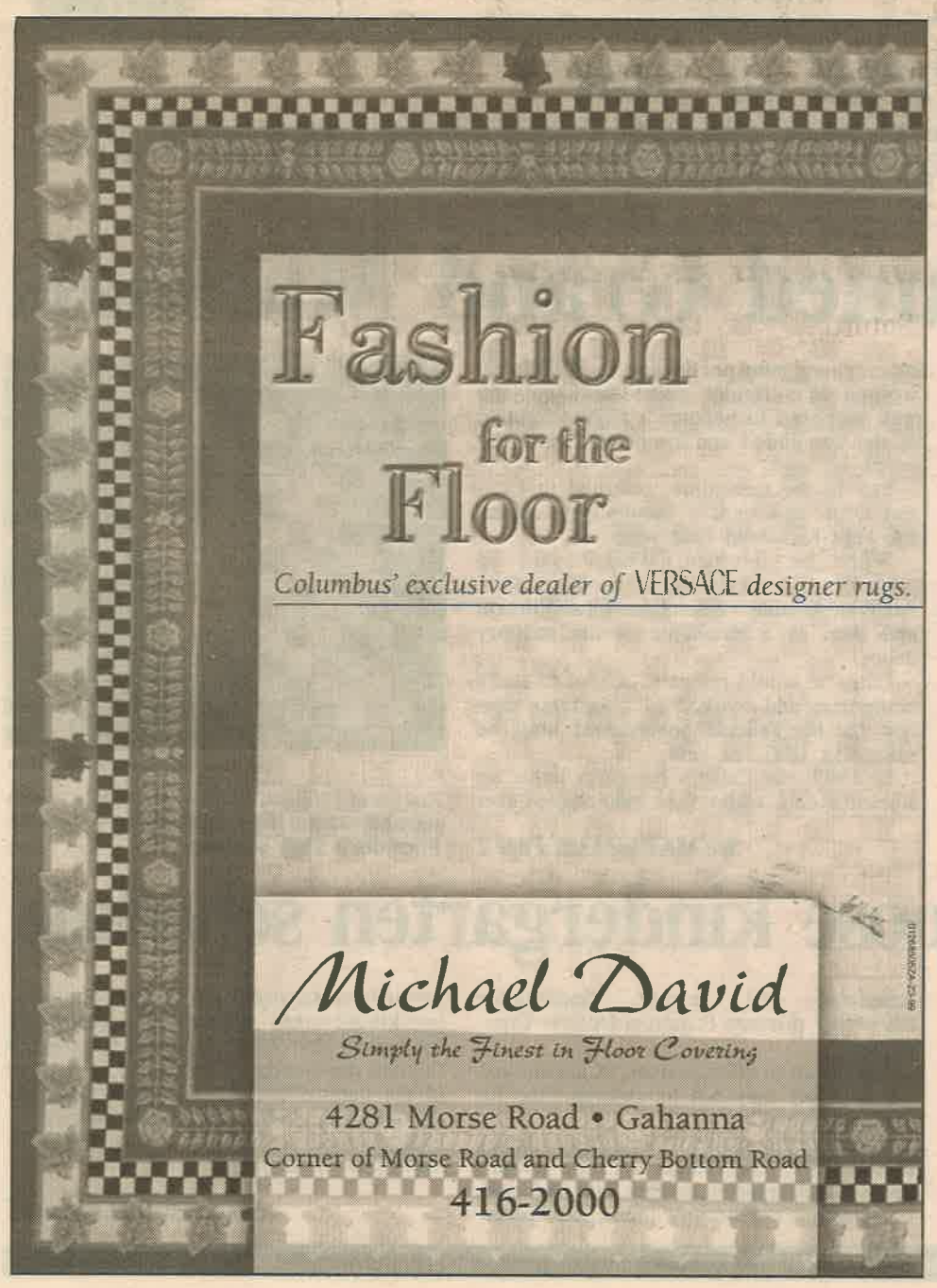
"The majority of people in the community do support the fire levy," he said. "The key is for them to get out and vote. If they do that, we'll be all right."

According to pre-election campaign finance reports filed with the Franklin County Board of Elections, Citizens For A Safer Community received contributions totaling $2,600 through mid-April.

The group received $2,000 from the Plain Township Firemen's Association, $400 from Plain Township Firefighters Local 3850 and $200 from Township Trustee Don Shoemaker.

Trustee Janis Bobb made an in-kind contribution of $120 for mailing labels and a list of registered voters.

The campaign group spent $931 on campaigning prior to the April 15 reporting deadline, including $837 on yard signs and literature.



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- ❑ **Thursday, May 27, 9 a.m.**- Cambridge, Ohio, Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center

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Saturday, May 15, 1999

Grand Marshals

Willard and Pat Zarley are the grand marshals for this year's Founders Day parade. 3

Early settler

Archibald Smith, one of Plain Township's founding fathers, owned 160 acres in the township and operated a sawmill on Blacklick Creek. 4

Event schedule

A schedule of events being held for the Founder's Day celebration. 6

Museum

The Kern-Harrington House has undergone renovations. 7

By Stephen S. Counsel/*ThisWeek*

New Albany High School boys basketball coach Jim Morgan, right, recovers from a pie in the face from his son, Jeremy, during last year's Founders Day celebration.

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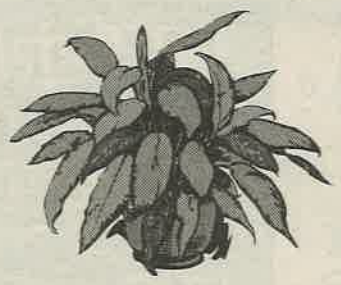

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Founders Day celebration will run all day

By LORI WINCE
ThisWeek Staff Writer

This year's Founders Day celebration, "There's No Place Like Home," will provide a full day of activities and entertainment beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 15, with a United Methodist pancake breakfast at New Albany High School.

Entries for the parade, which can take about an hour to complete, will start lining up at 10 a.m. in the New Albany High School parking lot. Judging will begin at 10:30 a.m. for four prizes:

- Grand Marshal award for best historical representation
- Chamber of Commerce award for best business representation
- Mayor's award for the most imaginative float
- Founders Day award for best interpretation of the theme, "There's No Place Like Home."

A closer look

Entries for the parade, which can take about an hour to complete, will start lining up at 10 a.m. in the New Albany High School parking lot. Judging will begin at 10:30 a.m.

The parade is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. and will continue up Dublin-Granville Road to state Route 605, concluding at the New Albany Elementary School, where the rest of the activities will begin at noon.

This year's parade will feature a special entry, a working calliope owned and restored by Myron and June Duffield of Middleburg. Eileen Leuby, executive director of the New Albany Area Chamber of Commerce, said the traveling organ can be heard from more than a mile away. The calliope rests on a trailer, and Myron plays while June pulls the trailer behind a truck.

Leuby said Duffield will play during the parade and afterward during the celebration.

The elementary school grounds will be filled with food, crafts, an art show, flea market, rides, the Plain Township Fire Department's fire safehouse, free bike registration by the New Albany Police Department and many other information booths.

A list of other scheduled events follows:

- noon to 12:30 p.m. — Performances by the New Albany High School band
- noon to 1:30 p.m. — Weigh in for tractor pull for children under 80 pounds
- noon to 2:30 p.m. — car cruise in
- noon to 3 p.m. — caricature artist Steve Campbell drawing on site and Koontz the Clown shows
- noon to 5 p.m. — childrens games, dunk tank, pony rides
- 1 p.m. — demonstrations by J K Martial Arts
- 1 to 3 p.m. — Performances by Blind Suspicion band and a silent auction
- 2 p.m. — Tractor pull
- 3 to 5 p.m. — Performances by Peter & Keith band

This calliope will be featured during the Founders Day parade.

The Founders Day celebration began in New Albany in 1976 as part of the nation's bicentennial celebration. Marilyn Saveson, co-president of the New Albany Plain Township Historical Society, said the society originally organized the celebration.

She said history is an important part of a community because it provides a common thread.

"That's the one thing that can hold everybody together," Saveson said. New Albany was founded by William Yantes and Noble Landon in 1837.

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Willard and Pat Zarley are the grand marshals for this year's Founders Day parade. The Zarleys have lived in Plain Township for more than 60 years and are known for their work with the New Albany-Plain Local Historical Society and for the pick-your-own strawberry patch they had at their home. The parade will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Longtime residents to lead Founders Day parade as grand marshals

By LORI WINCE
ThisWeek Staff Writer

If change is inevitable, then Willard and Patty Zarley have lived a life of inevitability.

This year's grand marshals for the Founders Day parade have made their home in Plain Township for more than 60 years. They have watched the area grow from a group of farming families to a community full of people.

"Change is a way of life and it's been changing all along," Willard Zarley said of the area.

When the Zarleys came to town during their elementary school days in the Depression era, there were no large housing developments in the village or township. Instead, people lived simple lives, growing their own food and selling what was left over at an open market. Everyone owned a cow for milk and the homes were not extravagant.

Patty Zarley's family lived in a log house that used to be on Ulry Road. The logs were covered with siding on the exterior of the home. Patty said she remembers it well because she had never seen one like it before and she did not like it, for good reason.

"Being the only girl in the family, I was the one who had to dust the darn things," she said of the large walnut logs which were exposed on the home's interior.

Willard Zarley's childhood home is still in existence and still owned by the family. He lived with his mother and stepfather in a one-room schoolhouse that was converted into a home. He said his mother had a beauty shop added on the back.

He and Patty currently rent the home, which is located at the corner of Kitzmiller and Central College roads.

The house was built in the late 1800s on land donated by Archibald Smith and has been in the Zarley family since 1937, Zarley said.

> *"At that time, you knew everybody in Plain Township because there weren't that many people. Now, we don't even know everybody on Babbitt Road."*
>
> **WILLARD ZARLEY**
> —Plain Township resident

Their love of old buildings is still strong today. The Zarleys help with the New Albany Plain Township Historical Society and are advocates of saving the township's older structures. But they are realistic.

Patty Zarley says her husband usually has to remind her, "If you can't buy it, you can't control it."

The Zarleys are known in town for their work with the historical society but many remember them for another endeavor. While Willard was working for a programming office of the U.S. Department of Defense, he and Patty planted a strawberry patch at their home on Babbitt Road.

Though it was a pick-your-own patch, a lot of the berries the Zarleys picked were sold to caterers.

Patty Zarley said the biggest strawberries are the first fruit produced by the plants, so they would pick some of the large berries and sell them to caterers and restaurants. Late in the season one year, a caterer called Patty in a frantic state: She needed those big strawberries because she was catering a party for Burt Reynolds. Patty Zarley said none of the large fruit was left but they would get her something.

The high school-age workers stayed late that day to pick strawberries for Burt Reynolds and the Zarleys like to think Reynolds ate some of the fruit they grew.

Stories like that flow from the Zarley home, with Patty and Willard sharing the details like they have shared their lives for the last 54 years together. The two met in school and married after graduation before Willard went into the service.

They raised three children, Mark, Steve and Pam, and now look forward to spending time with their six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Sometimes, they say, they miss the old days, when they knew all their neighbors.

"At that time, you knew everybody by name in Plain Township because there weren't that many people. Now, we don't even know everybody on Babbitt Road," Willard Zarley said.

But they are not sad to see the new developments in the area.

"All these new homes are a big change," Patty Zarley said. "There are a lot of things that could have happened here that would not have been as pleasant."

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Early settler's autobiography showcases Plain Township's history

By LORI WINCE
ThisWeek Staff Writer

One of Plain Township's founding fathers was Archibald Smith, who owned 160 acres in Plain Township and operated a sawmill on Blacklick Creek from 1833 to 1852.

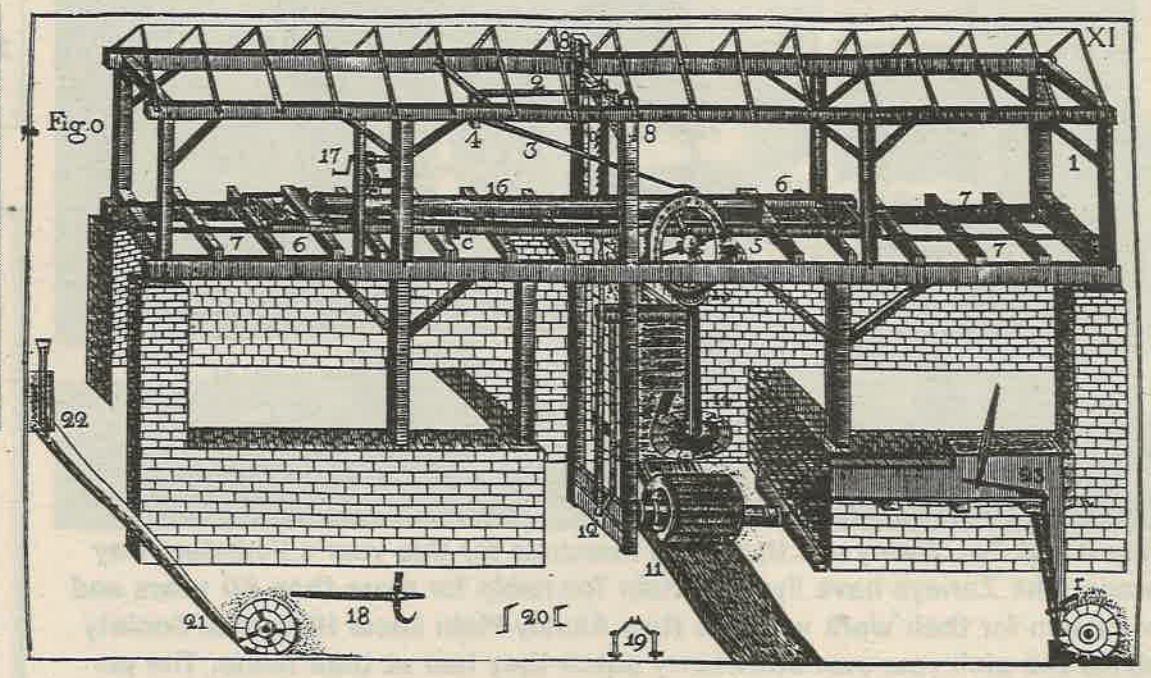
Smith's life is detailed in a new publication of the New Albany Plain Township Historical Society. John Saveson put the booklet together using Smith's own words. Apparently, he was one of the few settlers who could read and write and he wrote his autobiography, which was was then passed down through the family.

Smith worked as a carpenter along the Ohio Canal in his early days before earning enough money to buy land in Plain Township. His property was located in the northeast corner of the township, according to Saveson.

Archibald Smith

Many interesting aspects of Plain Township are discussed by Smith, including the first temperance meeting in 1823 in the old log school house. The second temperance meeting was not until 1835 but this one was with Father Emory.

Technology was important to Smith, especially the technological advances that had been made during his lifetime. He wrote "What great events have transpired during my life ..." Some of the most important inventions of his time that he listed included the steamboat, the telegraph, sewing machines, canals, railroads, mowing machines and threshing machines.



This is a drawing from The Young Mill-Wright and Miller's Guide, first published in 1795. it was the standard manual for building mills in Smith's time.

Also included in the autobiography are letters from Smith's sons, who served in the military, a poem written by Smith, and information on water-powered sawmills.

An historical marker commemorating Smith's sawmill will be placed by the historical society and a celebration of the marker is planned for June 5.

Smith's autobiography is available through the historical society for $2. For more information, call 855-9809.

Excerpts from Archibald Smith's autobiography

I (Archibald Smith) was born in Pumpton Township, Bergan County, State of New Jersey, September 15th, A.D. 1803.

John, my grandfather, married Sarah Snider, in the year 1766. A record of their family is: John I. Smith (my father) born July 29th, 1767...

In the year 1813 my grandfather and Jacob Smith, Henry Smith with their families and Daniel Smith (then single) all moved to the State of Ohio. They moved with Ox teams. A journey (of) six hundred miles. It took them six weeks. They settled in Plain Township, Franklin County, then a wild unsettled place. I shall give an account of it in another place...

Previous to fathers leaving New Jersey he bought 23 acres of land of Samuel and Anna La Rue. (Anna was father's sister) he paid 56 dollars. It was their share of the estate of John Smith (Anna's father) it was dated August 7, 1818. The above 23 acres Constituted a part of fathers place on Blacklick (Creek in Plain Township). The balance of the place (20 acres) he bought of Daniel Smith, in all 53 acres.

We arrived at the place of our destination in Plain township, Franklin County Ohio September 5, 1818.

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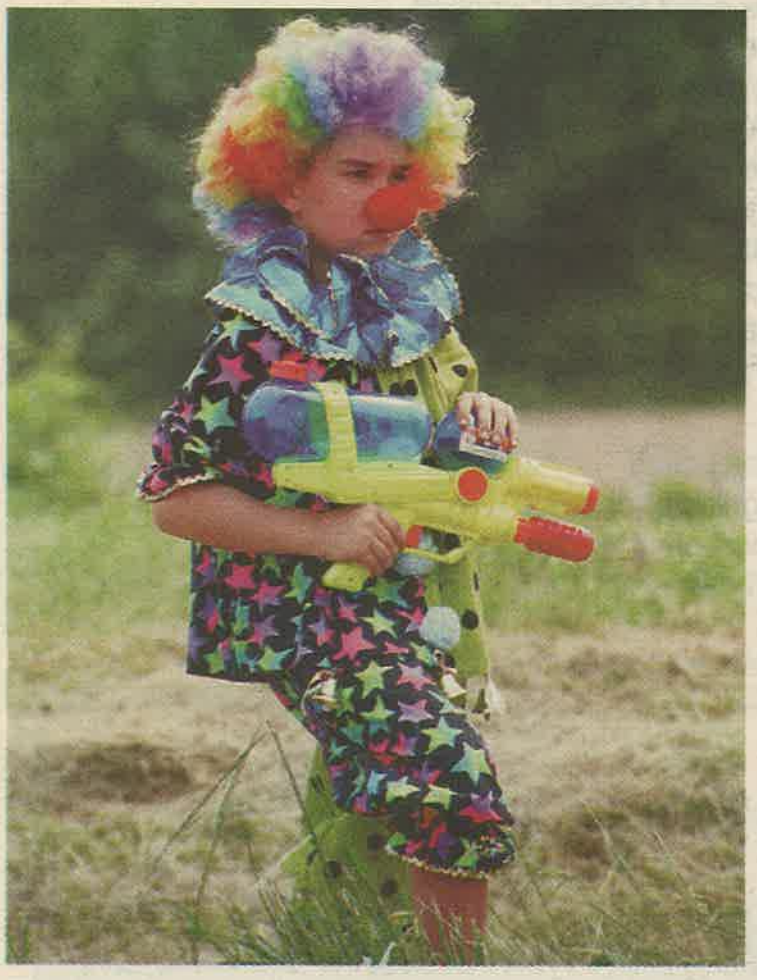
Scenes from the past

Photos from the 1998 Celebration
by Stephen S. Counsel



Harrison Hale waits with a watergun in hand for the New Albany Founders Day Parade to end.

Jessica Walsh rides down the street on Hellion as part of last year's New Albany Founders Day parade.

The Musical Chairs was one of the rides available at the Founders Day celebration.

The New Albany High School band marches in the Founders Day parade.

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Event schedule

Saturday, May 15

8-11 a.m.	New Albany Methodist Pancake Breakfast at the New Albany High School
10 a.m.	Parade line up at high school parking lot
11 a.m.	Parade steps off at the New Albany High School and heads into town (This year's special attraction includes an old-fashioned calliope)
Noon	Founders Day festival starts Meet clowns from the Ladies Shriners Food, crafts, art show, flea market, rides, fire safehouse
12-12:30 p.m.	New Albany High School band performs
12-1:30 p.m.	Children under 80 lbs. weigh in for the tractor pull
2 p.m.	Tractor pull contest
12-2:30 p.m.	Car cruise
12-3 p.m.	Caricature artist Steve Campbell Koontz the Clown shows
12-5 p.m.	Childrens games Dunk-tank fun Pony rides and photos Temporary tattoos
1 p.m.	J.K. Martial Arts
1-3 p.m.	Silent auction bidding Blind Suspicion band
3-5 p.m.	Peter & Keith band

Other events:

- Free bike registration by the police.
- The Youth League will be grilling hot dogs.
- Franklin Brethren Church will offer homemade pies.
- Blood-pressure checks, nutrition information and diabetes checks done by
- Community Medical Staff.
- The International Firefighters will be visiting.

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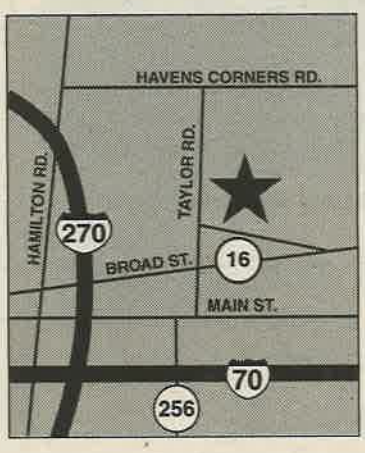

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Historical Society trying to preserve area's past for future generations

By LORI WINCE
ThisWeek Staff Writer

Members of the New Albany Plain Township Historical Society are working to preserve the area's history because they believe it is a link between the past and the present.

Marilyn Saveson, co-president of the historical society, said history is something that brings all residents of an area together.

The Historical Society is currently trying to preserve the area's history by acquiring two homes that will contain furniture and other items from New Albany and Plain Township families.

The Kern-Harrington House on East Dublin-Granville Road near the intersection of state Route 605 is currently open from 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays. Historical society members believe the house was built in 1881 because there is a transom in the home with that date on it.

The Historical Society purchased the home in 1994 after raising money for a down payment through society memberships, said Patty Zarley, a member of the Historical Society. The society has completed the downstairs renovations, working to restore the rooms to an authentic look of the late 1800s. Volunteers repaired plaster walls, cleaned and painted.

Zarley said many of the items inside have been donated by local families and were actually used in the area.

Furniture and lighting fixtures have been placed in the parlor and living areas, along with accents like the hand-carved stroller from the Schleppi family and the dolls donated by the Swickard Fodor family.

The second floor is not finished but the society does not have the money to complete the project while paying the mortgage on the building. Saveson said it would take $10,000 to $15,000 to finish the upstairs.

The society's preservation efforts have also doubled since the donation of the Rose Taylor Dryer House and farm, which will be deeded to the society in 2001 when renters vacate the home. Saveson said the society would like to see the home and its six outbuildings on Walnut Street used as a farming museum. The society currently has many antique farm implements that could be displayed there.

But money is a problem with this home also. Once the society takes ownership of the Rose Taylor Dryer House, members will be responsible for maintaining the facility and furnishing the home as they did the Kern-Harrington House, Saveson said.

Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about the Historical Society can call 855-9809 or 471-3342.

By Lorrie Cecil/*ThisWeek*

Pictured is the kitchen area of the Kern-Harrington House.

Now you can contact *ThisWeek* via E-mail at ThisWeek@infinet.com

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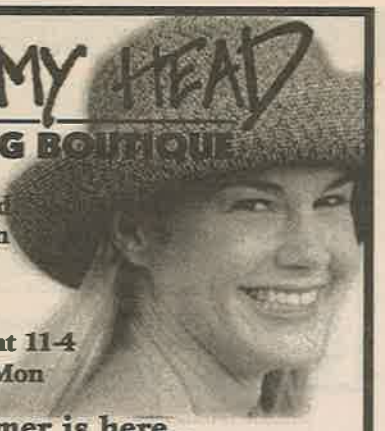
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Around the Town(ship)

May 20, 2000, is the date set for the 25th New Albany Founders Day celebration. Commissioners **Linda Honaker and Becky Knore** and the committee of the event met for the 1999 wrap up July 10. The decision was made to announce the theme and grand marshals in the newspapers by September because plans have already begun.

The New Albany Arts Council is continuing to entertain the community with outstanding music. On July 25 at 8 p.m., please plan to come to "Steppin' Out" and bring a date to the high school on Fodor Road. Bands will be playing, and you can hear soloist **Dave Morlan** sing and listen to the popular New Albany Chorus in concert.

Navy and white T-shirts that say New Albany will be used again. Remember the '97-'98 Festival of Homes? Volunteers and the New Albany Company dug out the shirts at the request of the grandmother of one of New Albany High School cheerleaders and donated them to the girls. They will use them at cheerleading camp at Ohio State University. **Norma Massie** was the one who put the girls and shirts together.

A new display has been added to the **Kern/Harrington Museum** at 107 East Granville Road in New Albany. Former resident **Mrs. Margaret Harrington** left hats, purses and gloves in the house at the time that the historical society purchased the home in November 1994. It's a fun thing to see the styles worn by a lady who liked to dress with the same color accessories about 30 or 40 years ago. The museum is open each Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. during the summer. You may also want to see the **Ohio Festival Theatre** production that plays at the same location on July 25. The featured play is "The Elephant Man." Refreshments are available.

Driving down Cedar Brook Glen in New Albany located off Central College Road between Route 605 and Route 62 you will see a lonely sunflower growing. The volunteer plant is beside the black mailbox at 6841 on the Glen. Birds sometimes peck and peck on the mailbox standard to remove the hull from the seed. We feel that some poor bird dropped his meal in the process. Wherever our feathered friend is, he or she is welcome to try again. We like the bright yellow posey that follows the sun.

Lucy Haning is now resting peacefully after 79 years of happiness and a life of fulfillment. She was a graduate of New Albany High School in 1938. She grew to adulthood on a farm located on Thompson Road. She is one of seven children, all wonderful friends and neighbors. She married Harold 50 years ago and they are the parents of four lovely girls. Other survivors are 12 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and other relatives. Lucy always met one with a smile that helped make New Albany a better place to live.

Ted and Helen Pestel left New Albany June 26 and returned July 7. Helen came to a July 8 scheduled organizational meeting before all the unpacking was done and Ted was helping make hay the next day. The couple attended the Lions Club International Convention in San Diego, and made the trip there and back by motorhome in very hot weather. There are clubs all over the world and in most of the free nations. The language barrier was met with earphones and translators.

While in San Diego, they visited cousins of both their families, enjoyed 70-degree weather and returned with sunshiney complexions. The Pestels represent the New Albany Lions Club at conventions all over the world.

An attraction for out-of-state visitors are New Albany's state-of-the-art schools. **Lindy Walton**, daughter no. 1, is here from Tucson, Ariz. She was impressed and also happy to see the 1925 building still included in the complex. She completed her first grade in 1950 at the site.

Now for some history: grades one through 12 occupied the New Albany School, named later as Plain Local, from 1925 to 1970. At that time, 12 of the country schools were sold – records revealing that the location was determined by the number of homes in any one area. They were also situated so that students would have only to walk two miles or less to get an education. Some of the country schools were sold in 1925, ranging from $125 to $525.

Please call 933-0594 and say hello.

Crime Stoppers

Police seek help in murder at after-hours club

The murder of a young man at a Hudson Avenue after-hours spot is this week's Crime of the Week in the Central Ohio Crime Stoppers program.

On Sunday, May 9, at 5 a.m., police were notified of a robbery and shooting at "The Spot," an establishment known to officers as an after-hours bar located at 1820 E. Hudson St.

Witnesses told officers that several suspects entered the bar and robbed patrons. During the course of these robberies, the suspects started shooting the patrons, killing Tyron Sneed, and wounding several others.

Witnesses described the suspects only as males dressed in all dark clothing.

Anyone with information about this crime is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 645-TIPS (8477). Crime Stoppers has posted a reward of up to $1,000 for any information received by July 28 leading to an arrest and indictment in the crime.

Crime Stoppers also takes calls from persons with information about any felony. Information leading to the arrest and indictment of a felony suspect could qualify the caller for a reward as determined by the Crime Stoppers Reward Committee.

A special coding system protects the identity of the caller, but allows him to be contacted at a later time.

Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization. Reward money comes from private individuals, businesses and foundations who see Crime Stoppers as an integral tool in the community's fight against crime.

Tax deductible donations can be sent to Central Ohio Crime Stoppers Inc., P.O. Box 16038, Columbus, Ohio 43216-6038.

For more information on Central Ohio Crime Stoppers, visit the Web site at www.stopcrime.org.

Community briefs

Cafe Express open to public

Cafe Express, the lunch service and restaurant in Express Med, is now open to the public in New Albany from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Cafe Express is managed by Dan Olzak, who formerly owned and operated the New Albany Dairy Cream. Cafe Express serves daily lunch specials and will be expanding its deli service on Aug. 1. Express Med is located in the New Albany Business Campus off state Route 605. For information, call 855-6377.

Historical society sets meeting

The New Albany Plain Township Historical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5, at the Plain Township Fire Station, 9500 Johnstown Road.

Suzanne Irwin of the New Albany Community Foundation will speak about the community playground planned for Swickard Woods Park.

The historical society's current display at the Kern-Harrington House contains more than 20 old hats from the 1940s and 1950s. Most belonged to Margaret Harrington, a former resident of the house.

The Kern-Harrington House on Dublin-Granville Road in New Albany is open from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays.

Continentals to play July 25

The Continentals will perform at 8 p.m. Sunday, July 25, during the second concert of the New Albany Arts Council's season. The concert will be staged on the New Albany High and Middle school commons.

Band members include Bill Leavitt, Roy Web, Don Weiser and Jim Kibler; back row from left, Bob Wise, Dale Thatcher, Lori Lynn and Bob Robuck. The concert, called "Steppin' Out," features big band and swing music with a special performance by the New Albany Chorus. Admission is free.