

Yesteryears

Vol. 4, No. 4

Tuesday, July 26, 1994

Section of the Salem News

Beaver Creek park's acreage rich in history

River flows through mountain ranges, glens, glacial displays

By Lois Firestone

THE PARK WAS A GEM of nature — in 1963, its 1285 acres encompassed a wild river flowing through land ranging from mountainous terrains to bottomlands. Rich in geological history, the Echo Dell area displayed the only four glaciated periods visible to the human eye in the United States.

Over 125,000 nature enthusiasts swarmed to the Beaver Creek State Park in 1963, although at the time it was undeveloped and comparatively unknown. That same year 16 million tourists fished, hiked and camped in Ohio's state parks. Those same people spent over \$1 billion while they were there.

A year later, the legislature passed a bill making \$38 million available for developing the state's parks; another \$5 million would be donated by the federal government. The plan was to offer recreational facilities for 28 million people.

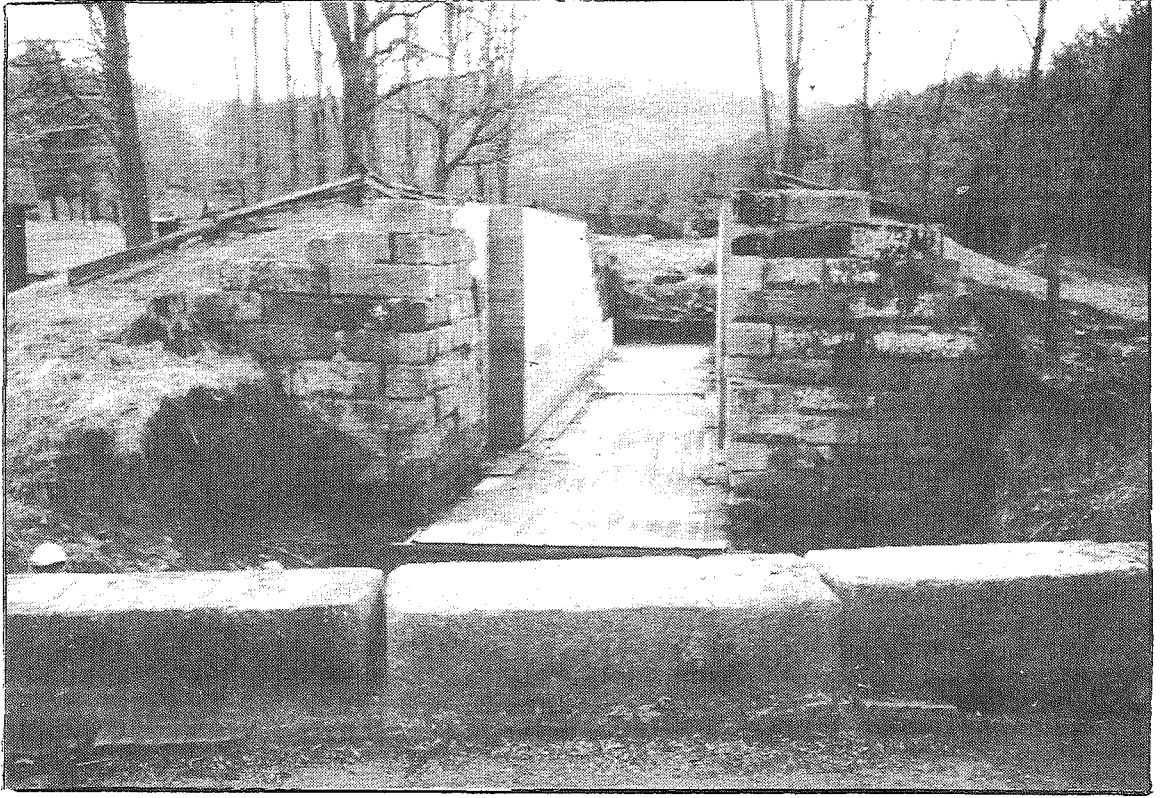
Tourism and recreation were Ohio's third largest industry, following agriculture and manufacturing. Running the Ohio parks program was E. J. Gebhart, chief of the Ohio Division of Parks, whose timetable included completing work in 126 parks in various sections of the state, including the 170-acre Highlandtown Lake, Guilford Lake and Beaver Creek.

Floyd Lower had been Columbiana County's extension agent for 39 years and was the first to mobilize extension efforts in land use planning. Lower, who developed one of the first written county extension programs, was the driving force in organizing the Columbiana County Soil Conservation District. Over the years his

leadership abilities were obvious: he led the move to organize cooperatives such as the Northeast Ohio Poultry Association and the Greenford Fruit Growers Cooperative, was a leader in farm and home development and he formed a producers group within the county for each agricultural commodity grown in Ohio. The busy agent also organized the first Ruritan Club in Ohio, later serving as district governor and national president.

The growth of the county's forests and parks resources was vital for the area's future, Lower believed. Others felt as strongly, and in 1961 the Columbiana County Forests and Parks Council was formed. Donald Elliott of Rogers was named president and Steve Barborak of West Point, vice chairman. Lower was the secretary-treasurer. Involved early on were, among others, Foster Shattuck, Milan Miles, Harold Barth, Richard Wilson, William H. Vodrey, Elmer Hiles, Fred Cope, William Newell and William Ogilvie.

Restoring a park landmark destined for a bulldozer's shovel was the first major project of the newly-formed council. Gaston's Mill, built in 1837, was nearing collapse at the time but the council felt it should be brought back to its original condition. J. T. Darling, the publisher of the Farm & Dairy, had campaigned for the salvation of the towering mill for years, because Gaston's was the sole surviving "Mill of the Pioneers" along the Beaver Creek. His previous pleas fell on disinterested ears but in 1961 the state finally approved the project. With the Columbiana County Historical Association's co-sponsorship, work on the mill was started, all



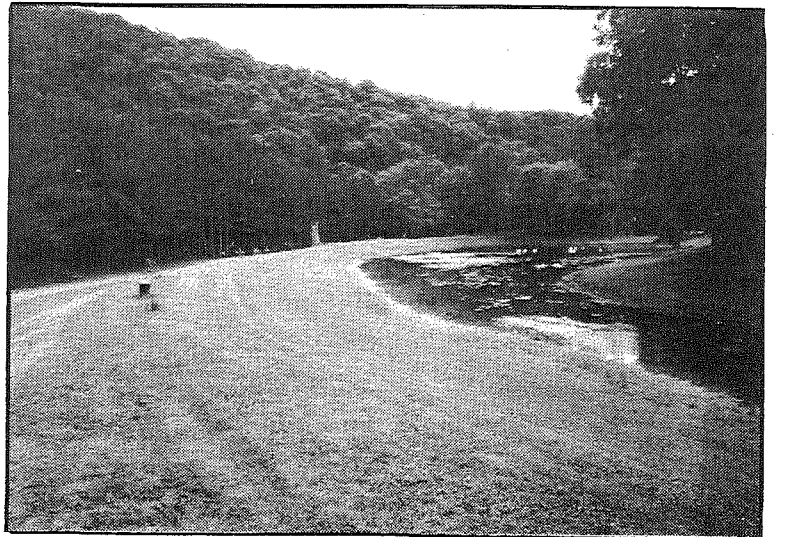
Lock 36 of the Sandy & Beaver Canal showing stages of restoration. (Photos courtesy of Baird Stewart)

volunteer.

Barborak recalls jacking up and blocking the mill for stability and tearing out the chimney, marking bricks by number for the rebuilding. "We took many photos and studied them," Barborak says. "We didn't know what a water wheel was. We dug up the sluice and got underneath; we found enough of the rim in the mud for a pattern and pulled it out." Belts, elevators, chutes and partition boards were purchased from the Army which had purchased the old Orangeville mill.

"Lorne Cameron, a restorer from Damascus, made the rims. We had a hard time getting a good straight tree for the shaft which had to be 18 to 20 feet long. We put on a tin roof and wood shakes. Beams and posts were replaced and a wall rebuilt, new roof put on, gears replaced. We never intended to run it, we just wanted a replica. But by 1970 the mill was operating." The mill restoration committee included Harold Barth, Richard Wilson, W. H. Vodrey Jr., Foster Shattuck, R. Max Gard and roy Guy.

"From 1962 to 1970, we were busy everywhere, locally, in the county and in the state," Barborak remembers. "Our aims



This photo shows part of the original towpath for the canal, now an embankment for the mill pond.

were to protect wildlife, stock fishing areas and repairing Lock 36." Lusk Lock, one of the largest canal locks in the world, features the finest masonry in canal lock construction. Lock 36 is the best preserved of the 40 canal locks meandering through Beaver Creek park.

The canal era in Ohio started with the construction of the Ohio-Erie Canal in 1825 which connected the Ohio River at Portsmouth with Lake Erie at Cleveland. Several feeder canals were built connecting with

this vital waterway to access the larger markets and promote economic development. Elderkin Potter, a New Lisbon lawyer, originated the idea of connecting the Ohio River at Glasgow, Pa. with the Ohio-Erie Canal at Bolivar by a canal using the watersheds of the Sandy and Little Beaver Creeks. Benjamin Hanna, Dr. George McCook, Caleb Cope and David Beggs.

The Sandy and Beaver Canal Co. was incorporated in 1828

See Beaver Creek, page 6

Sharing memories of Dec. 7, 1941

By Dale Shaffer

MEMORIES OF SUNDAY, Dec. 7, 1941 are many. Allow me to share with you one of mine. On that day, Sammy Kaye and his orchestra were performing their weekly Sunday Serenade show on NBC Radio when the program was interrupted by the news flash of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It brought the United States into World War II.

Sammy Kaye was so touched by the news of the attack that he went home and wrote the song "Remember Pearl Harbor." It was the first American song of World War II and was released eight days later. Over one million copies were sold.

Sammy Kaye came from Rocky River and was known for his "swing and sway" sound. He formed a band to pay his way through Ohio University, playing at campus

night spots, and then went on to become one of the most popular leaders of the big band era. In the 1950s he had a television program on Saturday night and allowed a person from the audience to lead the band. It was the segment known as "So you want to lead a band."

Many older Sailemites will remember dancing to his music at Meyers Lake in Canton and attending his performances in the 1940s at the old Palace Theater in Youngstown. In 1961 he put on a show for the Monday Musical Club and in 1971 a charity ball at the St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

Sammy Kaye died of cancer in 1987 at the age of 77. His sweet music of the war years, however, continues to live on. Who could ever forget his beautiful "Harbor Lights" or "Remember Pearl Harbor?"



Sixth graders at Columbia Street School pose for the camera in 1929 or 1930 with their teacher who was also the school principal, Elizabeth Horne. The youngsters are (first row, from left) William Weigand, Paul Sanlo, John Olexis, ?, Horace Schwartz, ?, Granville Woods; (second row, left) ?, ?, ?, Dorothy McConnor, ?, Betty Jane Hoffman, Margaret Hannay, ?, Ruth White, (third row, left) Clifford Althouse, Charles Kniseley, Fred Roth, Olive Patterson, ?, Jean Pasco, ?, ?, Elizabeth Horne; (fourth row, left) John Wilms, ?, Charles Knepper, Alex Fratila, William Lowry, John Trombitas, Robert Regal, Lowell Shallenberg, ?, Richard McConnor. (Courtesy of Lowell W. Shallenberg of Tullahoma, Tenn.)

State Theater opened dream world in 1931

By Thelma Bradley

THE YEAR 1931 WAS A romantic one for me, a 19-year-old girl who walked across the street from a position as bank teller at the old Citizens Savings Bank to sell the first ticket from the booth at the newly decorated and glamorous State Theater.

Salem needed this happy place in those Depression times, and the people responded with smiling faces of appreciation for the luxurious and magnificent surroundings. They came every time the

marquee changed.

Upon entering this land of make-believe, every doting mother imagined her little darling to be Shirley Temple, as she sang, tap danced and tossed her bouncing curls. Sonja Henie, dressed in her rose or purple velvet, fur-trimmed costumes, skating on glistening silver skates — yes, one could

dream and feel like a star. Matinees were for those der mothers, including my own, who entered the world of glamour for a few hours of pure magic.

Love was in the air for many

joyous couples, first holding their favorite candy or munchies, and later holding each other's hands for hours of contented bliss. Emotions ran high. I know of several marriage proposals made in those

ecstatic surroundings. My own culminated in a marriage in June to my sweetheart named Harold, whom I shared my love with for 60 years until his

See theater, page 7

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ARCHER'S

Located on the Square
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Dayton inventor developed aerial torpedo, the Bug

By Dick Wootten

IN 1918, THE MULLINS Company in Salem was trying to help win World War I by developing a pilotless bomber, a precursor of the guided missile, for the U.S. Navy.

During the same year in another Ohio town, Dayton, inventor Charles F. Kettering was developing his own guided missile for the U.S. Signal Corps.

Salem News reporter Larry Shields came across the Dayton information while thumbing through a U.S. Air Force Museum book he purchased on a trip to the Dayton museum. (For background on the Mullins plane, see the March 22, 1994 issue of Yesteryears.)

Kettering nicknamed his Kettering Aerial Torpedo the "Bug." It was described as the world's first "guided missile," a statement that may or may not be true, since that same year the Mullins plane was also being developed.

Whether Kettering and Robert Modisette, the developer of the Mullins plane, knew each other is not known. However, the two planes were strikingly similar in the way they worked.

The unmanned Bug took off from a dolly running along a track. Modisette's "Hot Shot" was a seaplane and took off on a body of water.

The Bug was guided toward its target by a system of internal pre-set vacuum-pneumatic and electrical controls. The Hot Shot used the force of the engine's exhaust and various air valves to keep the plane on a level flight. Modisette makes no mention of electrical controls.

At a pre-determined length of time, based on air speed, the planes would be above their targets, which were also chosen

before the planes took off. The Bug had a control that closed an electrical circuit which shut off the engine. The Hot Shot's timing mechanism, said Modisette, was "nothing more than an accurate clock with a few improvisations." In the Hot Shot the timing mechanism would activate an air valve, which tripped the bomb release mechanism, which opened the bomb bay doors and three 65-pound bombs were released. The doors were connected by wires to three pins in each wing, upper and lower. When the doors opened the pins were pulled from wing fittings and the wings fell off. Ideally, it all landed on the enemy.

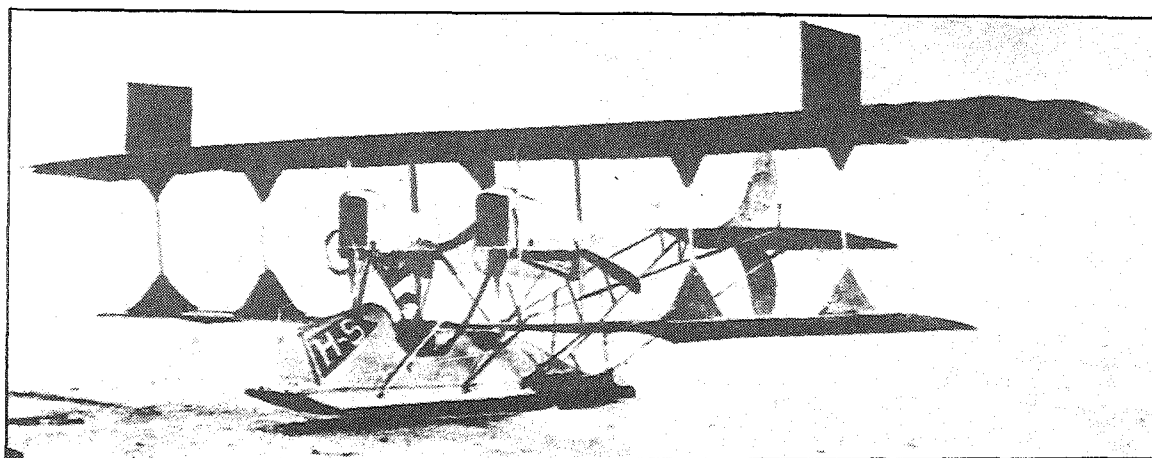
The description of a Bug's final seconds simply stated "The wings were then released, causing the Bug to plunge to earth where its 180 pounds of explosive detonated on impact."

The Hot Shot was simply a modification of a Mullins seaplane that was piloted by an aviator. The Bug was meant from the beginning to be pilotless.

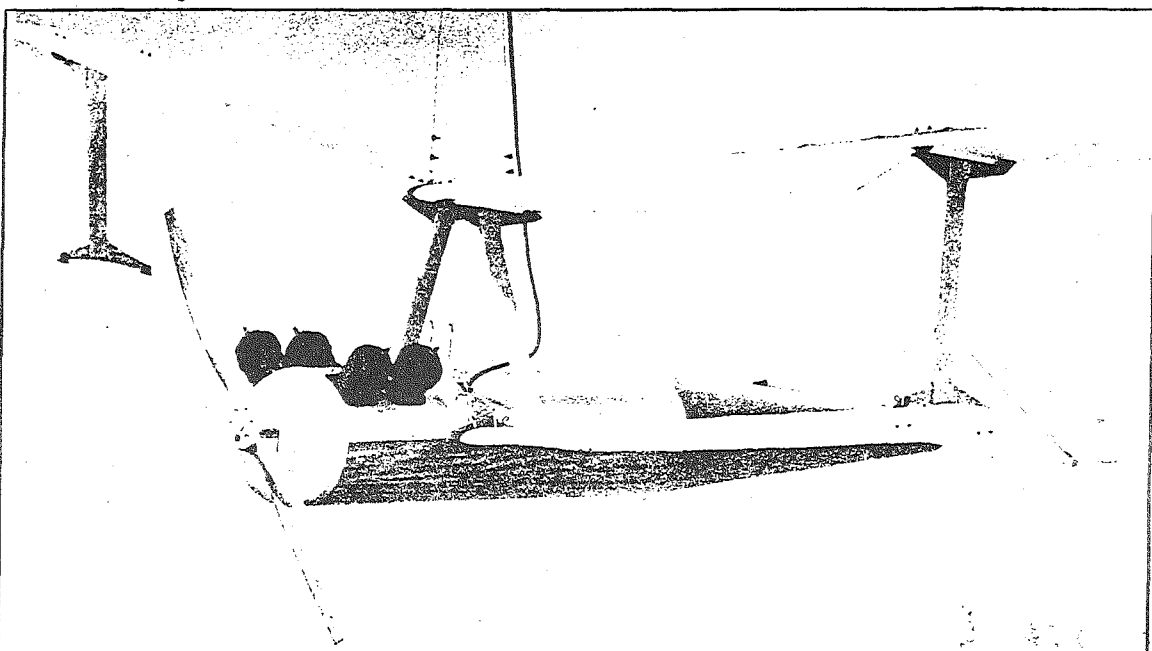
The Hot Shot was bigger and heavier, weighed 1985 pounds loaded while the bug weighed 530 pounds loaded. The Hot Shot's wing span was 46 feet; the Bug's was almost 15 feet. The Hot Shot from nose to tail measured 19 feet, 8 inches; The Bug measured 12 feet, six inches.

Fifty Bugs had been completed at the time of the Armistice. At least four Hot Shots were constructed. In both cases, the planes were not put into use because the war ended.

According to the Air Force Museum's book, after the war, the Air Service conducted additional tests on the Bug, but a scarcity of funds in the 1920s



The Modisette Hot Shot was built by the W.H. Mullins Co. in Salem and tested in 1918 at the Salem Country Club Lake.



The Kettering Aerial Torpedo, nicknamed the Bug, was built by the Dayton-Wright Airplane Co. in 1918 for the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

halted further development. Modisette reported that the end of the war halted production of the Hot Shot.

Both planes were tested. The Bug's testing was reported as successful. Modisette said three of four test flights for the Navy were successful.

The Hot Shot test in which the plane fell "in the general area" of the target was a 90-mile flight. The Bug's range was 75 miles.

No actual Hot Shot plane is known to exist. However, the Air Force Museum in Dayton has a full-size reproduction of the Bug on display.

Inventor Charles F. Kettering (1876- 1958) earned the thanks

of all automobile drivers on July 1, 1911 when he announced the invention of the self-starter which put an end to motorists having sore arms from cranking.

Robert Modisette, the son-in-law of W.H. Mullins, became a Navy pilot in World War I and during World War II served as a technical expert involved in speeding up production of the Liberator bombers.

The Wright Brothers of Ohio started real aviation history and Kettering and Modisette, also of Ohio, were pioneers in the field of guided missiles, which ultimately led to space flight. You might say with certainty the gamut of aviation history has been run in Ohio.

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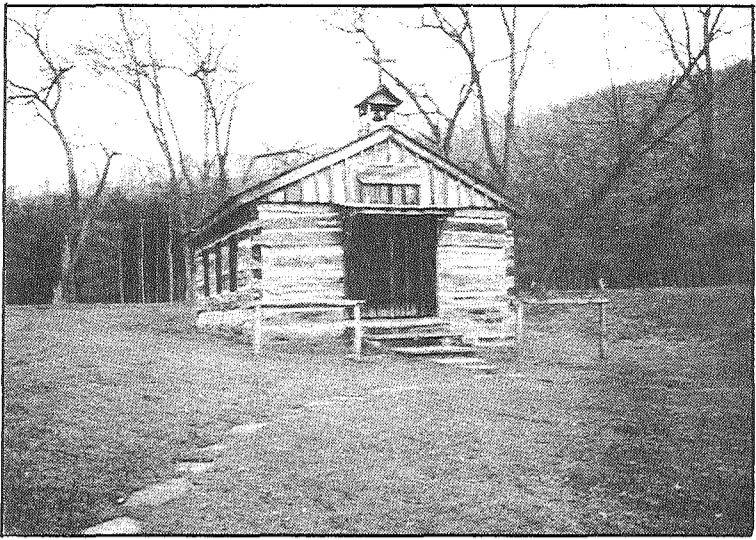
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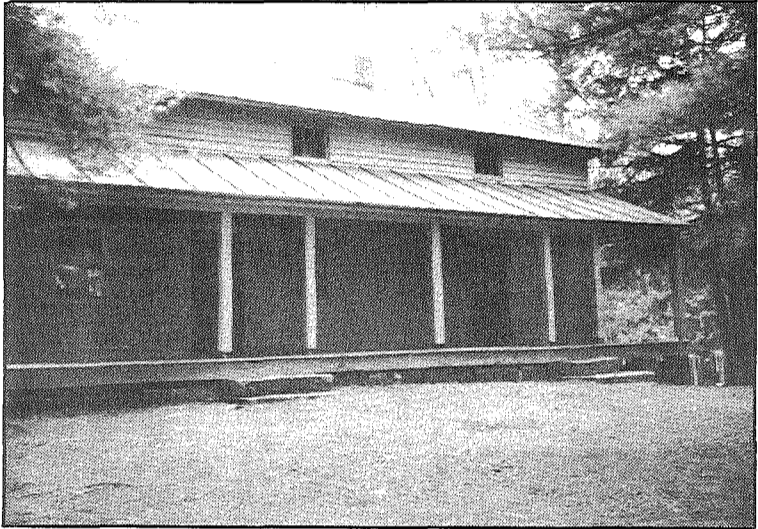
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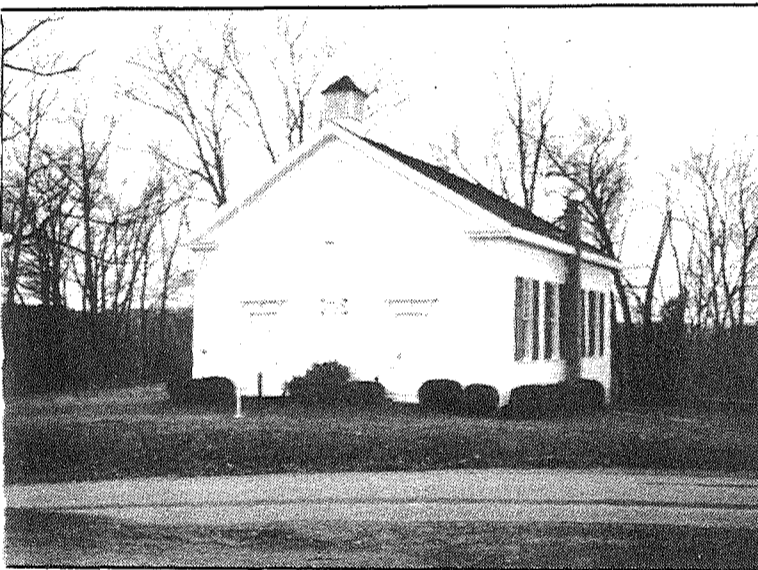
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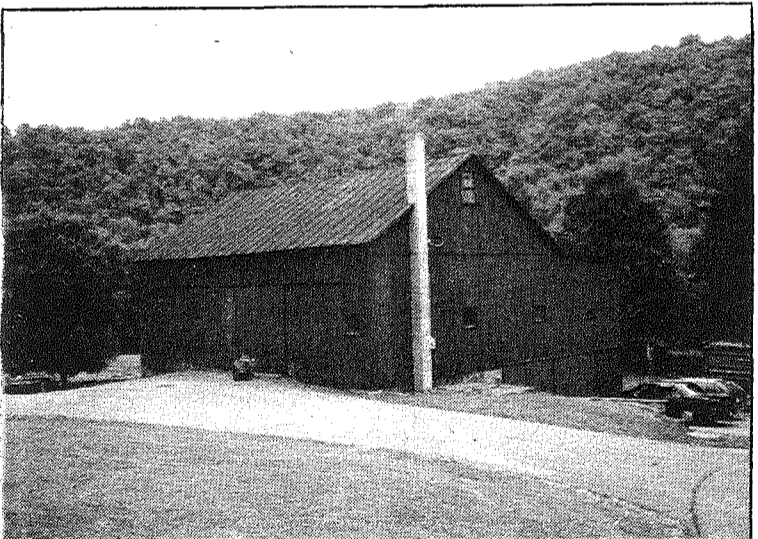
Vodrey's Chapel on the grounds of Beaver Creek State Park.



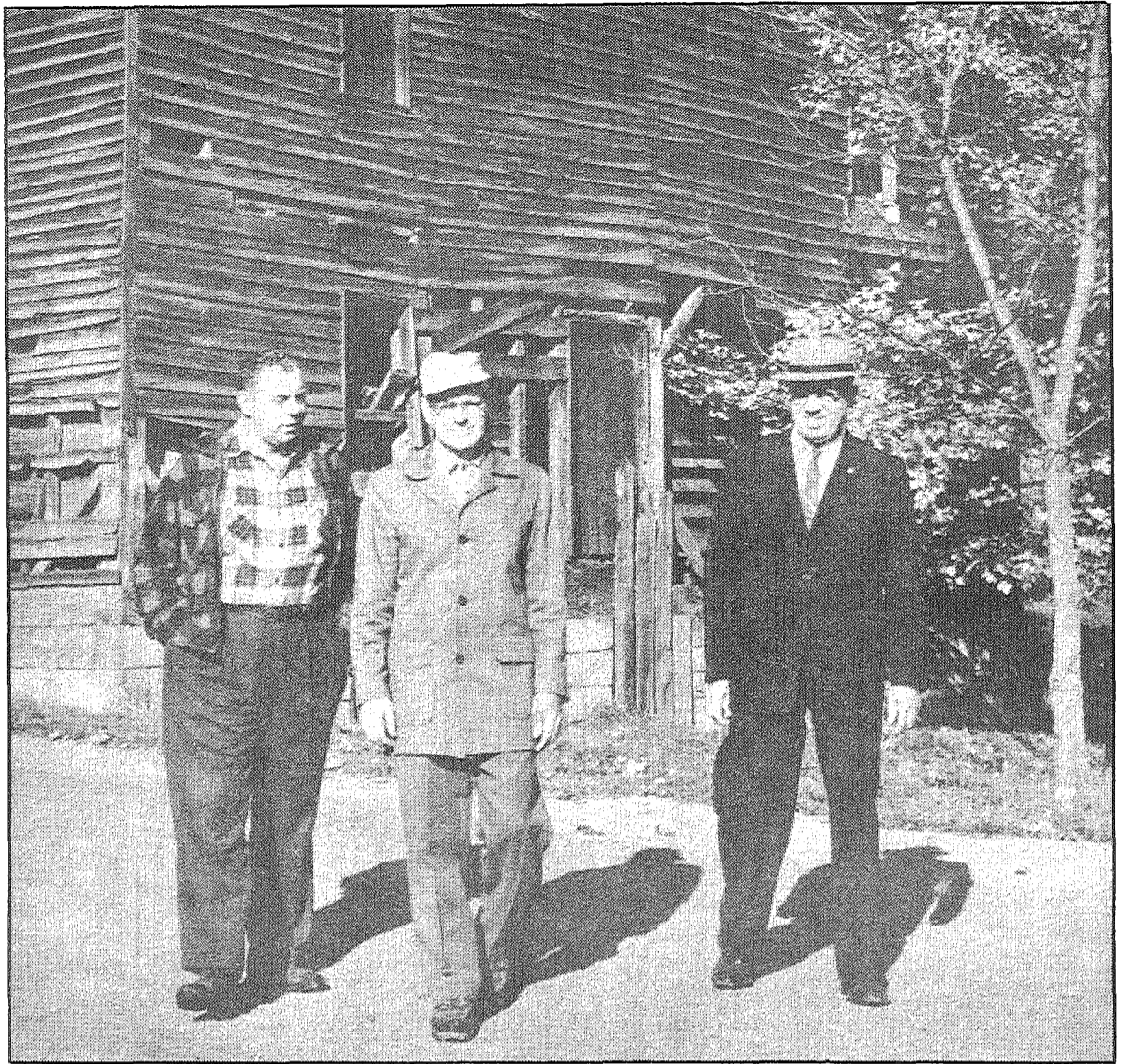
The Williams House built in 1875.



The Williamsport Chapel, the old Methodist Church purchased by the park council in the 1970s.



The barn purchased from the state.



Vice chairman Steve Barorak, chairman Donald Elliott and secretary-treasurer Floyd Lower stroll in front of Gaston's Mill during the 1960s renovation.

Beaver Creek

Continued from page 1

and construction started six years later. Financial problems prevented its completion until January 1848; by then, railroads were having an impact on transportation. The end came in 1852 when the Cold Run Reservoir Dam outside of Lisbon broke, ruining a large portion of the canal. The canal company eventually went bankrupt settling lawsuits.

The canal spawned the town of Sprucevale with 17 homes, a post office, general store, woolen mill, and blacksmith shop. Stone foundations from this 1800s village are interspersed throughout the Sprucevale section of the park but the only survivor standing are three walls of Hambelton's stone grist mill.

Work throughout the park continued over the years. Hiking trails were forged — 6½ miles are open for walking — as well as bicycle pathways and 23 miles of horse trails. Horse trails have always been popular; 65 people use them on an average weekend. Camp sites were set up and campers can attend worship services at the old Williamsport Methodist Church every Sunday from May through September.

The church purchase was another early project. Built in

1871, the church interior is original down to the pews. The council bought the building for \$2,000 through a committee including M. V. Redpath, Verna Swaney, Arthur Hickman, Barborak, and Rev. Frederick A. Shiltz.

An 1875 barn standing near Gaston's Mill was restored. Sam Shaffer cleaned out the bottom, had it blacktopped and built a kitchen with the help of \$2,000 from the Calcutta Rotary Club.

Adding to the looks of an 1800s village are the cabin schoolhouse added in 1973 and Applebee's blacksmith shop. A covered bridge from the Elkton area was added in recent years. Under way this summer is a general store.

Also near the mill is the Williams house, built in the late 1800s. Descendants of the original owners continued to lived on the property and in 1977 the council bought the house and 3.7 acres for \$9,000 from Blanche Williams. Paul Dailey sanded and refinished floors and walls, removing three layers of wallpaper. New roofing was put on the house and this year a herb garden grows outside the home. On craft days every year the house is electrified.

Fifteen years ago, David and Audrey Elwonger organized the Pioneer Craft Days at the park the first weekend in October. Profits go to park projects, most recently to refurbish

the Williams house, reroof the Williamsport Chapel and build a covered picnic pavilion under the barn.

"The first year of Craft Days just a few craft displays were set up in the Gaston Mill building," Audrey Elwonger says. "The next few years it expanded into several tents spread among the buildings on the grounds...Most craft persons are from the Columbiana County area and as many as 75 people set up each year...Wild plants for food by Don and

Lois Chandler has been a popular display for several years, and apple butter making by Yellow Creek grange members in a 50-gallon kettle over an open fire provides a treat for eating or taking home." The Elwongers have organized music on the Williams porch and the appearance of a calliope, wagon rides by the Horsemen's Association and antique and classic car displays in the picnic area.

For the years ahead, the parks council members have dozens of ideas for bettering the Beaver Creek park. One is to build a lodge with cabins, a project they've included in the 20-year forecast presented to Ohio parks officials in Columbus. Dale Diddle, council president, says members are enthused over the possibility of a park lodge and numerous others, including a riding stable.



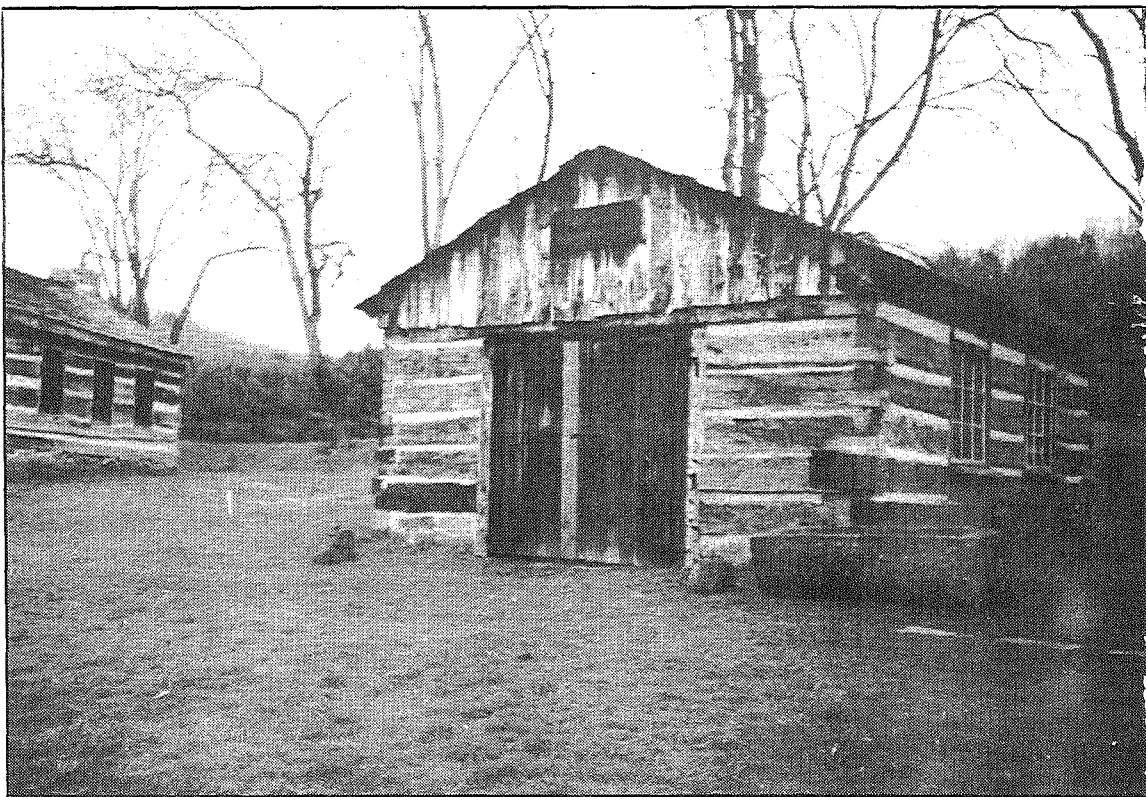
Horseback trails are well marked and well maintained.



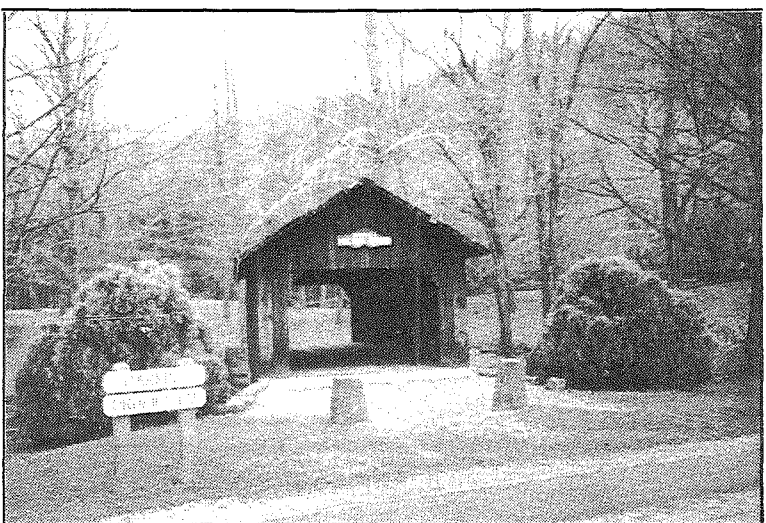
Gaston's Mill, restored and operational. Flour is ground on weekends at the mill built in 1835.



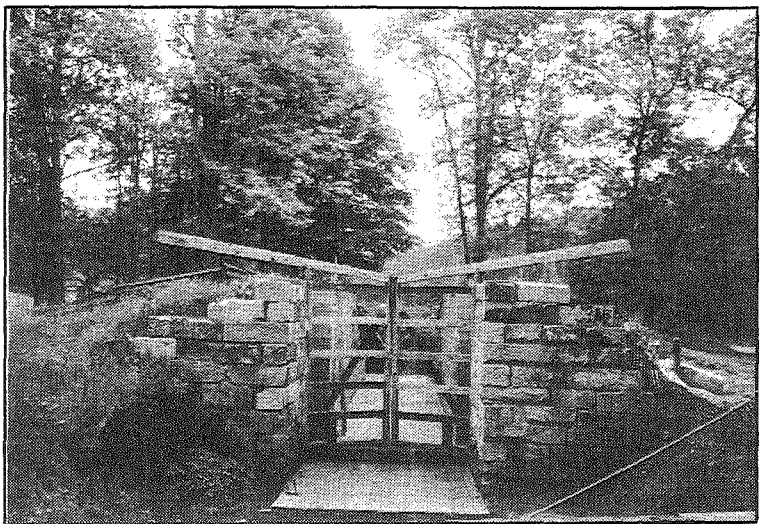
The Columbiana county highway department bridge 1025 over the Little Beaver Creek erected in 1910.



Applebee's blacksmith shop near the schoolhouse and Williams house in Beaver Creek State Park.



The Malone covered bridge near the restored Gaston's Mill.



One stage of restoration of Lock 36 of the Sandy & Beaver Canal.

Theater

Continued from page 2

death in 1991.

Dick Powell and Don Ameche were the Don Juans and idols of that era. Buddy Rogers had his Mary Pickford, and that charmed couple lived in Pickfair. The chiseled face of John Barrymore always brought a full house. Eleanor Powell's tapping was the challenge of the time for children of all ages.

The popular song "I'm in Heaven" put everyone on the edge of tomorrow. Music for the graceful musicals ushered in the fabulous ballroom dance studios, with Dame Graham, Fred and Adele Astaire, Ginger

Rogers and Arthur Murray. You felt you had finally reached paradise when Jeanette McDonald and Nelson Eddy sang their unforgettable duets. No, you were not out of this world — you were in the very best part of this one.

The following lines of poetry reflect the feelings of how I felt when the beautiful State Theater opened in 1931:

Romance and beauty — how much can you take, That's exactly what awaits you at the theater, the State.

It's regal, luxurious but I must tell you so, I'm reminiscing back to 1931, over 60 years ago.

Shirley Temple sang and danced, and tossed her golden curls, Sonja Henie on silver skates challenged all the girls. Dick Powell and Don Ame-

che, Don Juans of that age, Every young girl's idols, sometimes left them dazed.

Buddy Rogers had Mary Pickford, now who could ask for more, Well, if you ever wonder, how about John Barrymore?

Eleanor Powell and Ruby Keeler tapped their twinkling toes, While Fred and Ginger twirled up, down and around to their special "Anything Goes."

Nelson Eddy and Jeanette McDonald sang duets so crystal clear, The blending of those voices brought paradise so near.

I still thrill when I think of all those very special stars, And the beautiful State Theater, a special "Thanks" because it was ours.

Nixon's ancestors early Goshen settlers

By Carol Willsey Bell
Certified genealogist

REGARDLESS OF YOUR political persuasion, the death of a former president is always a touching event...and even more so when one becomes aware of Richard Milhous Nixon's ancestral ties to the Mahoning Valley.

At the time of his funeral, frequent mention was made of his Quaker upbringing. Historically the Quakers (Society of Friends) were among the earliest settlers in Columbiana County and part of what would become Mahoning County in 1846. There were numerous Quaker Meetings in this area, settled by Friends who moved here from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia. Many of these people would later become active participants in the anti-slavery movement, many years prior to the Civil War.

Richard Milhous Nixon was the son of Francis Anthony Nixon (1878-1956) and his wife Hannah Milhous (1885-1967). His maternal grandmother was Almira Park Burdg, born Sept. 16, 1849 in Goshen Township, Mahoning County. In 1879 in Indiana, Almira became the wife of Franklin Milhous. The Milhous grandparents both moved to Whittier, Calif. where he died in 1919, and she in 1943.

Almira Burdg Milhous was the daughter of Oliver Burdg, born Sept. 28, 1821 in Jefferson, Pa. He died June 11, 1908 in Whittier, Calif. On April 29, 1846 in Mahoning County he was married to Jane M. Hemingway, born Aug. 30, 1824 in Goshen Township. She died April 5, 1890 in Jennings County, Indiana. In the 1850 federal census, Oliver "Berge" and his wife Jane were living in Goshen Township with their two young children, Martin and Almira. Oliver was a farmer by occupation. In 1852, the family transferred their membership from Upper Springfield Meeting (Goshen Township) to Driftwood Meeting in Indiana.

Oliver Burdg was the son of Jacob Burdg Jr., born Jan. 28, 1783 in Shrewbury, New Jersey. He died Jan. 1, 1862 in Butler, Indiana. On Dec. 9, 1807 at Redstone Monthly Meeting in Fayette County, Pa. he married Miriam Matthews, born in 1786 in Baltimore County, Md. In 1835, this couple transferred to the Upper Springfield Meeting in Goshen Township, then in Columbiana County. When the 1850 federal census was taken, Jacob and Miriam Burdg were living in Knox Township, Columbiana County. His occupation was to "carry-the-mail." In July 1853 they followed their son Oliver and other members of the Burdg family to Driftwood Meeting in Indiana.

Jane M. Hemingway was the daughter of James Hemingway Jr., born Aug. 23, 1801 in Burlington County, New Jersey. He died Jan. 28, 1893 in Missouri. On Jan. 19, 1823 he married Hope Malmsbury, born Sept. 7, 1804 in Burlington County, New Jersey. James came to the area from New Jersey in 1818, settling with his parents in Goshen Township. When he married in 1823, the Salem Monthly Meeting condemned him for "marriage out of unity." In 1824, Hope was received into the Meeting by request. However, by 1828, James was dismissed, the reason not being stated. He served as the clerk of Goshen Township from 1827 to 1842, and also taught school. By 1850, the family was living in Butler Township where James' occupation is listed as "inn keeper." In 1854, the family moved to Iowa, transferring their membership to Red Cedar Monthly Meeting. Residing in Johnson County, Iowa in 1879, James received land scrip for one hundred acres of government land, based upon his father's military service.

James Hemingway Jr. was the son of James Hemingway, born April 12, 1760 in Framingham, Mass., the son of Isaac and Elizabeth Haven Hemingway. He died Aug. 15, 1822 in Goshen Township. He had married in New Jersey to Elizabeth Armstrong, born March 17, 1757, the daughter of Ephraim and Elizabeth McCulley Armstrong. She died Jan. 15, 1837 in Goshen Township. In New Jersey, the family lived in Burlington County and in 1818, James, his wife Elizabeth and two children, James and Abigail, came to the Salem Monthly Meeting from Mount Holly Meeting in New Jersey. Although the Society of Friends are peace loving people, and did not believe in military service, occasionally a member did serve. In this case, James Hemingway served in the Revolutionary War in the 6th Regiment, Massachusetts Infantry under Colonel Nixon. It's certainly interesting that James' commander was a Nixon and there may be a relationship, although the president's paternal ancestors lived in Brandywine, Delaware at the time of the Revolution. Based upon this Revolutionary service, the heirs of James Hemingway Sr.

applied for an received bounty land in the western states. Their children married into the Cook, Cox, Malmsbury and Park families. Hope Malmsbury was the daughter of Benjamin Malmsbury, born May 6, 1779 in Burlington County, New Jersey, the son of John Jr. and Rebecca Doane Malmsbury. Benjamin died June 3, 1854 in Goshen Township. He married Jane Cattell, born April 22, 1780 in Burlington County, the daughter of James and Hope Gaskill Cattell. She died a year before her husband, on March 20, 1853 in Goshen Township. By 1810 or 1811, Benjamin purchased 30 acres of land in Section 30 of Goshen Township from Barzilla French. By 1820 the family was engaged in agriculture and manufacturing. He later owned 160 acres in Section 36, and in 1815 he served as township supervisor. In 1850, Benjamin listed no occupation and he and Jane were living with their

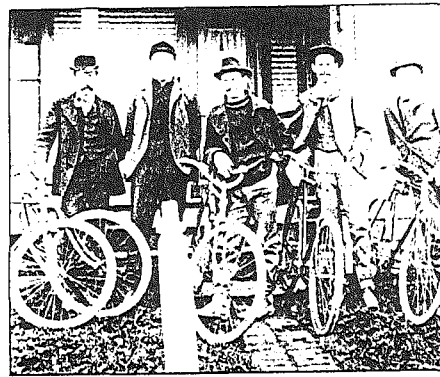
son James. Their nine known children intermarried with the Burdg, Cope, Engle, Hemingway, Schooley, Shreve and Whinery families, many of whom are still represented in the Mahoning Valley.

Among the occupations of these people we find farmer, innkeeper, manufacturer, mailman, school teacher, township clerk and Revolutionary soldier...most certainly, ancestors of whom one could be proud. If they could have known that one of their descendants would become president of the United States, imagine the pride they would have felt! The Mahoning Valley can claim pride as well, in these stalwart pioneers who spawned the 37th president, Richard Milhous Nixon.

(Carol Willsey Bell of Boardman, certified genealogist, author and lecturer, is head of the Local History and Genealogy Department at the Warren-Trumbull County Public Library.)



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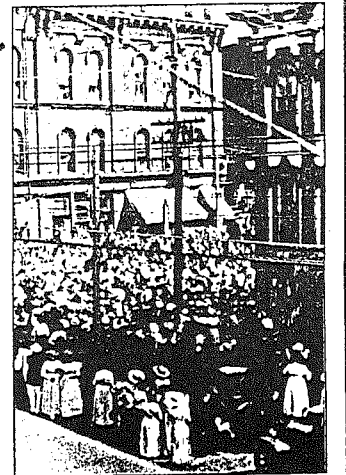


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Broadway and State Street, Salem, early 1900s

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Checkout scanner donated

By Associated Press

THE SUPERMARKET SCANNER, a novelty 20 years ago, will be displayed as a historical artifact at the Smithsonian Institute.

C. Alan Marsh, vice president of corporate development for the Fishers, Ind.-based company, donated the first checkout scanner used commercially to the Smithsonian.

The scanner, which used a laser beam to read bar-coded prices on store items, was first used in a Troy, Ohio, store in 1974.

"A lot of people said they wouldn't catch on," Marsh said Monday at the Smithsonian presentation in Washington. "Some manufacturers refused to put price bar codes on their packages."

Some customers didn't like the machines, believing they were being charged several times when cashiers ran items repeatedly over the scanner so the beam could read the codes.

"But you could see this was the wave of the future," Marsh said. "Food prices were going up. We were looking for ways to control costs."