Yesteryears

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Winona was thriving village in 1890s

Booming farm industries received national attention

By Lois Firestone

SHEEP RAISING WAS AN indispensable industry in Winona in the 1890s — the warehouses of James Graham in New Garden and Joseph Koll in Salem were piled high with wool fleeces unloaded from farmers' wagons.

The sheep business was flourishing because every family kept a flock — up to 300 head were raised by village farmers. Wool prices were stable and profitable; during the Civil War and the years afterward sheep wool sold for 75 cents, 80 cents and $1 or more per pound.

Wheat was another money crop. With the money from the sheep and wheat, the people built their houses and barns, paid their taxes and made the payments for their land.

Two other booming Winona farm businesses extended far beyond the area towns and cities, attracting countrywide attention in the 1890s. The success of one, swine breeding, was the direct cause for creating the other, a thriving creamery business.

The major swine breeder was Willis Whinery. The enterprising farmer had built up a herd of over 2,000 Chester White hogs and more than 200 brood sows. In one year on the books of the National Association of Chester Whites, 2,000 were registered; of those, 777 were sold from Winona and shipped from Salem.

Whinery's purebred hogs won ribbons in exhibitions thorughout the country from New Jersey to Kansas and Nebraska and from Minnesota to the southern states. At the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, the Winona hogs won $1,440 in prize money — the farmers institute later created a quilt from the array of blue ribbons.

Whinery was convinced that his hogs would be healthier if they had large quantities of skim milk. At the time several farmers were using the Cooley creamer, one of the best cream separating devices on the market. Joshua Brantingham owned one of them and Whinery convinced him to take some skim milk to the Brooks farm for testing.

The test revealed that a lot of butterfat was wasted using the Cooley, but it could be saved if the milk was put through a centrifugal separator. The test got the farmers to thinking, and neighbor talked to neighbor about forming a community creamery.

The Winona Creamery Co., one of the first successful operations in this section of the state, capitalized for $25,000 early in 1890. An acre of ground was purchased from Nathan Whinery and construction on the creamery building began in the spring. The equipment contract was let to H. F. Hudson of Ravenna. Water came from a well blasted through solid sandstone, 45 feet deep and eight feet — the well was still in use in the 1970s.

By June 1890 the plant was operating. Drivers following prescribed routes hauled in the milk to the creamery where it was skimmed and cream churned. Skim milk was returned if the shippers wanted it; otherwise the creamery kept the skim milk.

The company was closed Sunday but on Monday the supply often ran 25,000 pounds and averaged 20,000 pounds during the spring months. As much as a ton of butter was churched daily — 100 pounds of five percent milk churched 5.66 pounds of butter. The firm made fine quality cream cheese and cottage cheese or "smear case" products.

The whey from the skim milk was fed to the Whinery hogs while the curd was dried and sold to the Casein Mfg. Co. who used it to make fine glazed papers and chintz. A June 2, 1900 entry in creamery records, according to a Winona Centennial history, showed 8,291 pounds of dried curd sold for $413.55.

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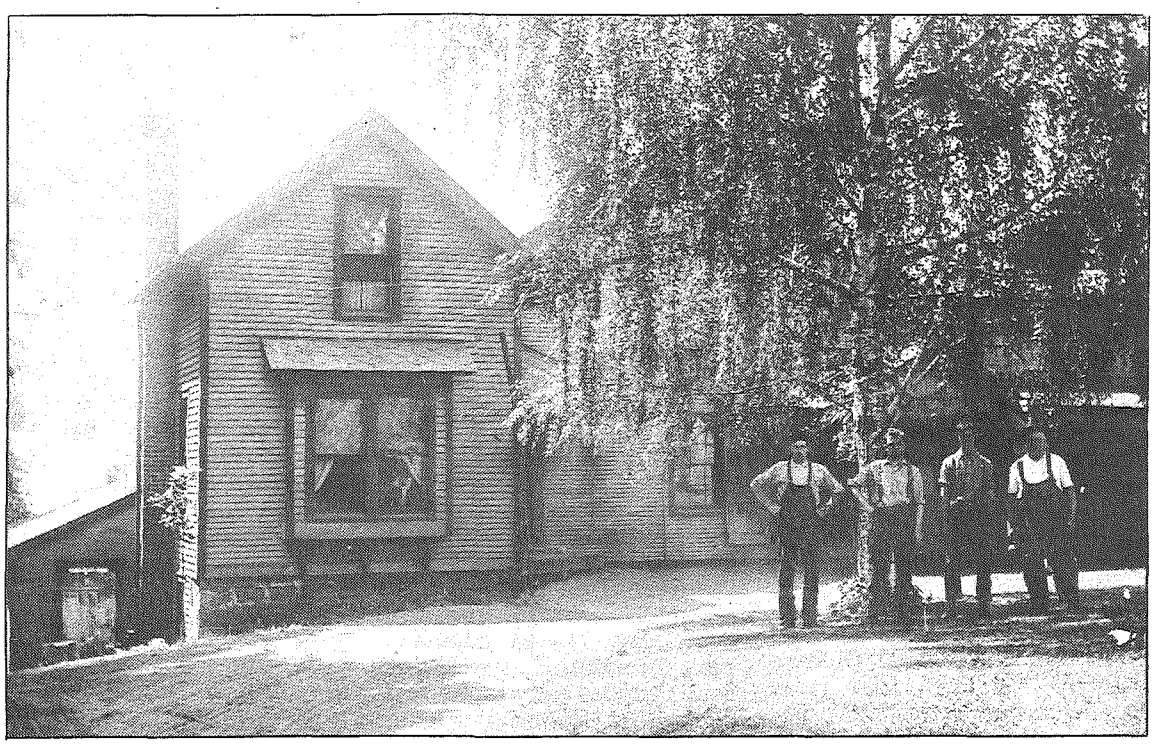
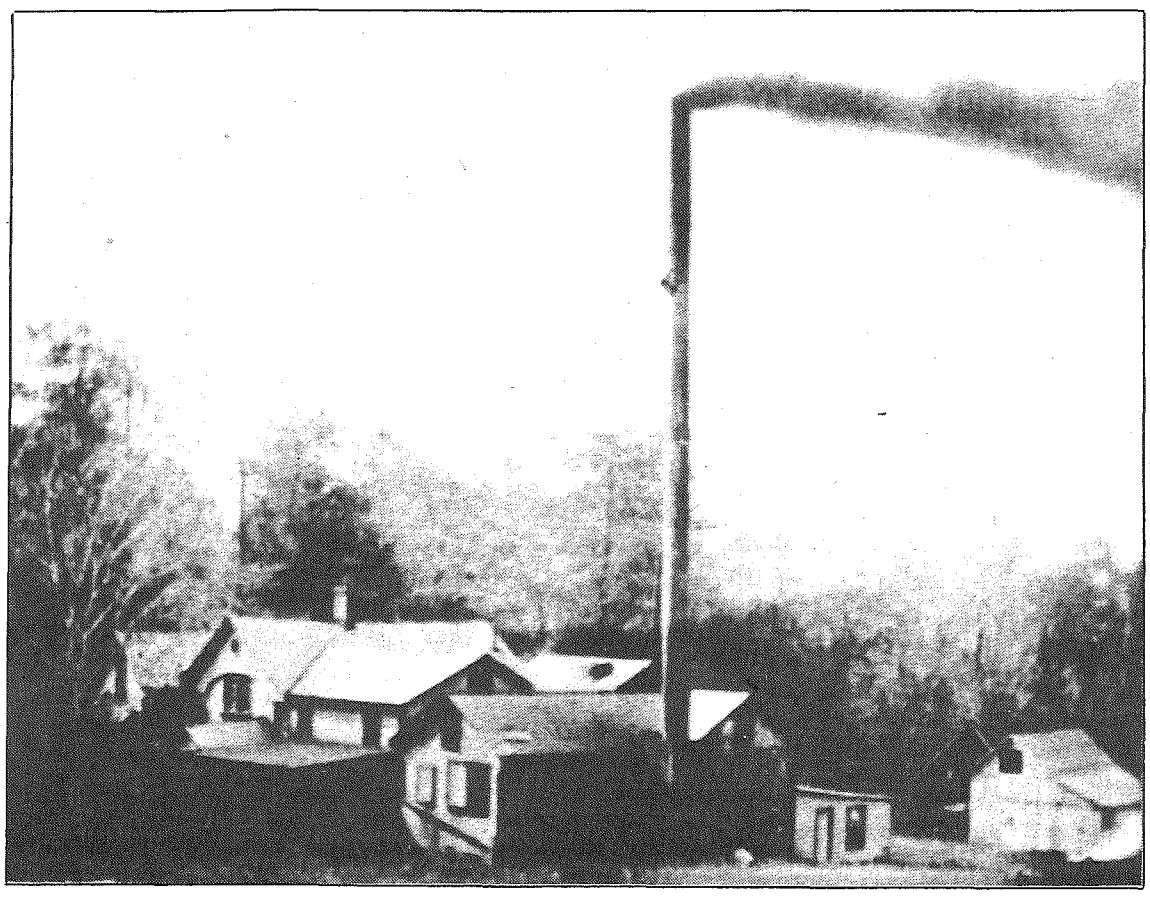


Workers stand in the shade of a tree in this photo taken in the 1900s of the Winona Creamery, one of the first successful operations in this section of Ohio.



The Winona Creamery complex is shown in this 1890s photo taken of the firm. The creamery started up in June 1890 and quickly grew to nationwide prominence. For years butter made at the creamery brought top prices in city markets.

Yesteryears volumes are indexed

By Lois Firestone

AFTER WEEKS OF TEDious research, fellow writer Dale Shaffer has compiled an index of every Yesteryears story published, dating back to the first 52 issues printed in Volume 1 in 1991 and extending through 1992 and 1993.

In 1992, the newspaper was changed to a twice monthly paper, so the Volume 2 and 3 indexes cover 24 issues for each of those years. Dale has cross indexed everything. For instance, Baseball is listed with Templin Nursery in parentheses; the Templin Nursery is listed alphabetically elsewhere.

It's something we've wanted to do for months, but couldn't seem to squeeze in the time to do it. Already, we've used the indexes a dozen times, to check on a date or look up a past story. Dale has placed the indexes on file at the Salem Public Library which also has microfilm of Yesteryears, contained within the Salem News nim.

The Ohio Village north of Columbus is gearing up for its 19th century harvest activities on weekends in October and November. Costumed interpreters will depict rural Ohioans during the Civil War years going about harvesting crops, shelling corn, making apple butter, drying and preserving foods and splitting wood for winter fires.

Two events are worth noting: All Hallows Eve on Saturday, Oct. 22 will recreate a 19th century Halloween celebration; and a taste of Thanksgiving on Saturday, Nov. 19 and Sunday, Nov. 20 will explore early Thanksgiving traditions. Hours through Nov. 23 are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

A really special event that runs from Nov. 25 through Dec. 23 is the "Christmas in the American Tradition" — hours are 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. every day. The $4 admission price for adults ($1 for children 6-12) includes entry to the adjacent Ohio Historical Center where exhibits on Ohio history, archaeology and natural history are on display.

In the Earl Grate story in the Sept. 13 issue, we misnamed a Salem Polo Club member. It was Ray Moff, not Larry Moff, who entertained at Sunday games on the field north of Salem in the 1940s and 1950s.

Quaker Mule has its admirers

By Lois Firestone

THE BUSINESS ACUMEN of entrepreneur Earl L. Grate was brought out in our story in the Sept. 13 issue about the West Point native who succeeded in many fields — as a car dealer, builder of apartment houses and homes and a pioneer in establishing a local airport.

He was also an inventor. In the early 1950s, Earl designed and patented the Quaker Mule, a sturdy three-wheel tractor, and manufactured them at the Grate Pump and Machine plant along 1515 S. Lincoln Ave.

Our story caught the attention of two owners of the Grate tractor. One of them, Quent Hirst of Beloit acquired his Quaker Mule from a greenhouse owner in Salineville. The tractor was in bad shape when he bought it, according to Quent's friend Larry Messer of Salem who helped restore the tractor to its original condition. "It was rusted from sitting in a non-heated outdoor building for years," Larry says, but now looks like it did when it was sold in 1952.

"All the parts are original except the tires," Larry says, "The genuine engine, a Lawson, operates well." Early Mules were equipped with the Lawson, although later on Earl installed Briggs & Stratton engines.

Production on the Mule ended in 1958. The originals were painted red and green; the men researched paint colors and found a match in paint General Motors used in 1946 on its Pontiac. The men reproduced the original decal of a mule which was placed on every tractor.

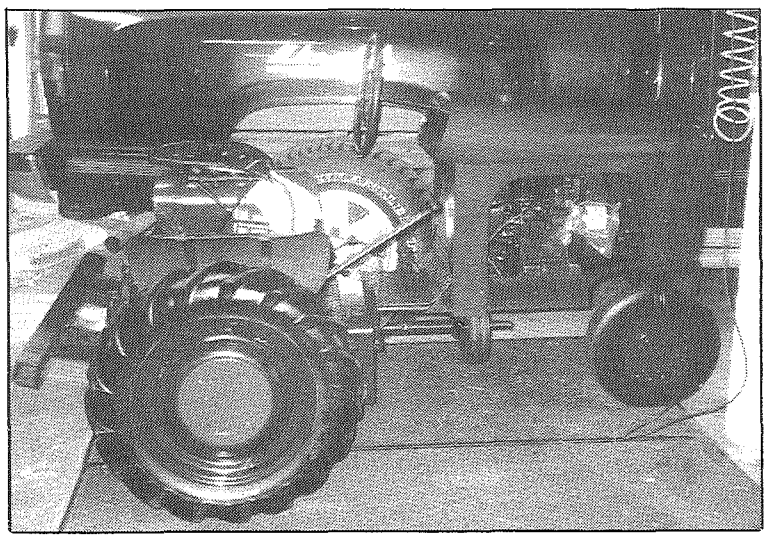
Larry's enthusiasm for digging up old garden tractors matches Quent's: he has a 1948 Farmall Cub he's reconditioned and he has a 1946 Elgin outboard motor in running shape. "We're surprised at the number of people acquainted with the Quaker Mule, people that know about it," Larry says. "A lot of people we've talked to remember their Dads had them when they were kids. But there are very few around."

So Quent was elated when he recently acquired a second Mule from Joel Aukerman of Salem who bought the tractor from a Berlin Lake resident. Joel's wife Cindy, who works at the Salem News, said the couple had cultivated their garden with the tractor until recently.

When Mrs. Lillian Logue read the Grate story she remembered that she and her husband Homer had bought a Quaker Mule from Earl in the 1950s for their monument business. "We used it all the time, because we had so much mowing to do — we had the front, back and side yards," Lillian says. "A small child could drive it. It was wonderful; you could turn it on a dime."

Every year, Lillian says, Homer had the mower blades sharpened and the Mule was ready to go for another season. When she and Homer sold Logue Monument to Nora and Donald Rock in 1973, they left the mower. Nora says the mower is stored and hasn't been used in recent years but is in good condition.

Earl's grandson Ken Holwick of Salem owns one of the three-wheel tractors his grandfather sold, but he doesn't keep it in storage. Instead, he uses his Mule to plow snow in the winter and mow grass with its sickle bar attachment in the summer.



This 1952 three-wheel tractor made by Earl Grate in his Grate Pump and Machine Plant in Salem has been restored by owner Quent Hirst of Beloit and his friend and tractor antique tractor enthusiast Larry Messer of Salem. All the parts on the red and green Quaker Mule are original except the tires.

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Expert on 'junque' talks about porcelain figurine

By Anne McCollam
Copley News

Q. Enclosed is a photograph of a porcelain figurine that has been in my family for more than 75 years. It is 11 inches high. Her aqua pleated dress is trimmed with a white lace collar. The base is decorated with multicolored flowers. On the bottom there is a sunburst mark and the words "Heubach — Made in Germany." Could you tell me what it's worth?

A. Your porcelain figurine was made by Heubach Brothers, Lichte, Thuringia, Germany in the early 1900s. The firm manufactured dolls, doll heads, figurines and piano babies. "Warman's English & Continental Pottery & Porcelain" by Susan and Al Bagdade lists a similar figurine at $510 in mint condition.

Q. My Irish Belleek creamer has this mark on the bottom. It is decorated with a smiling face peering out from behind vines and grapes. The glaze is a cream color.

Who does the face represent, what is it worth and when was it made?

A. Your Irish Belleek creamer was made by David Mcbirney & Co. in Belleek, County Fermanagh, Ireland. This is Belleek's second black mark and was used on parian and porcelain from 1891 to 1926. The pattern is called "Mask" and the face is that of Bacchus, the Roman god of wine. "Belleek, The Complete Collector's Guide and Illustrated Reference" by Richard K. Degenhardt, shows a Mask pattern creamer at $140.

Q. I have a Sears Silvertone television with a 10-inch screen. It's a tabletop model that has two knobs on either side of the screen and it works. The cabinet is in good shape. The model number is 9131. What can you tell me about my TV?

A. Your Silveretone television was made in the late 1940s. This model was similar to an RCA set from the same period. "Poster's Radio & Television Price Guide" by Harry Poster lists a Sears television model 9131 at $100.

Q. Many years ago my uncle gave me two Wallace Nutting prints. One is titled "Primrose Cottage" No. 8029, the other is !Nethercote" No.7803. Both have a label with the words "Authentic Wallace Nutting Process Pictures Must Bear This Label. All Others are Unauthorized." They have scenes of thatched cottages, colorful gardens and old brick buildings.

I would like to know if they are worth anything and how old they are.

A. Sometime in the 1930s Wallace Nutting began producing reprints of some of his most popular pictures. They were called "Process Prints" and were nothandcolored. Although they were machine produced they were not considered reproductions. Only 12 of his best selling pictures were reprinted. "Primrose Cottage" and "Nethercote" being two of the dozen.

A label saying that the picture was a process print, along with a number, was placed on the back of all these prints. These pictures measured 12 by 15 inches and 16 by 20 inches when matted. Your pictures were made sometime in the 1930s. Each would be worth about $45 to $50 in good condition.

Q. I am attempting to learn the value, if any, of a mahogany calendar clock. On the back of the clock is a paper label with the words ". Ingraham and Company." The calendar mechanism was made by B. B. Lewis with an 1871 patent date. It is an eight day, has a double dial, a chime and is in the shape of a figure 8. The clock measures 22 by 13 inches and is in good working order. What can you tell me about my clock?

This figurine was made in Germany in the early 1900s and would probably sell for about $500 in good condition.

A. Your calendar clock was made by E. Ingraham and Co. in Bristol, Conn. sometime between 1871 and 1880. B. B. Lewis, also of Bristol, was an inventor who held patents on calendar clock mechanisms. the value of your clock would probably be int he rangeof $1,700 to at least $2,200.

Book review

"Student Lamps of the Victorian Era" by Richard Miller and John Solverson (Wallace-Homestead) contains vital information for all lamp collectors. There are over 200 pictures of student lamps, all in illuminating color and with corresponding detailed descriptions. Important facts on lamp manufacturers, original advertisements, tips on restoration, repair and ocnversion are just some of the highlights in this book.

Miller and Solverson shed a lot of light on the subject. This should be required reading for student lamp collectors.

Historical look at Friends Cemetery

By Dale Shaffer

MARGARET STARbuck recently showed me a partial listing on burials at the Friends Cemetery on South Ellsworth Avenue. Here are some interesting observations:

†There were at one time 36 rows of graves recorded in the two-acre cemetery. Row one begins at the northwest corner of the site. Keep in mind that in 1891 bodies from the front part on Depot Street were removed to the back portion so ground could be sold for building lots.

†Both Zadok Street Sr. (1751-1807) and his wife Eunice (1751-1828) are buried there. Zadok was co-founder of Salem. John Straughan (1776-1858), the other founder, and his wife Martha are also buried there.

†John Street, son of Zadok and Eunice, is on the burial listing, along with his wife, Ann (1783-1861). John was Salem's first postmaster. His home still stands at 631 N. Ellsworth Ave.

†Elisha Schooley (1756-1838) arrived here in 1801 and built perhaps the first log cabin on the site near where the railroad crosses South Lincoln Avenue. Both he and his wife, Rachael (1757-1838), are buried at the Friends Cemetery.

†Although the city council passed an ordinance in 1890 prohibiting interments within the city, except at Hope Cemetery, there are 14 stones at the Friends burial ground indicating burials after that date. The latest burial date found by Margaret Starbuck was April 24, 1937.

†The three Jennings brothers associated with the naming of Jennings Avenue were Levi, Simeon and William. Levi, who died in 1850 and is on the burial listing, was an early settler from Pennsylvania. He served as Goshen Township treasurer in 1810, before the formation of Perry Township. Simeon Jennings was Salem's first banker, operating a private banking business in his home. He became president of the Farmers Bank when it was founded in 1846. When he died in 1865, he was considered one of the richest men in the area. William Jennings purchased the Straughan home at 375 W. State St. after John Straughan died. Simeon lived across the street.

†Samuel Davis (1762-1836) was an early settler here. He purchased land and built a cabin on North Lincoln Avenue where the Salem Junior High School is now located. The first formal Friends religious service (a silent meeting) was held in his home during the summer of 1804. A dozen people assembled, plus an Indian chief and his squaw. All were treated to dinner after the service. Both Samuel Davis and his wife, Mary, are buried at the old Friends Cemetery.

†The first burying ground of the Friends in Salem was located on the northwest corner on Pershing Street and Broadway Avenue. Bodies were moved from this site when J. Twing Brooks constructed the Gurney and Wilbur buildings in the early 1870s.

Looking back on dates in history

Sept. 25

In 1690, one of the earliest American newspapers, Publick Occurrences, published its first — and last — edition in Boston.

In 1775, American Revolutionary War hero Ethan Allen was captured by the British as he led an attack on Montreal.

In 1890, Mormon president Wilford Woodruff issued a manifesto formally renouncing the practice of polygamy.

In 1957, with 300 U.S. Army troops standing guard, nine black children who had been forced to withdraw from Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., because of unruly white crowds were escorted to class.

Sept. 26

On Sept. 26, 1789, Thomas Jefferson was appointed America's first Secretary of State, John Jay the first chief justice of the United States, Samuel Osgood the first Postmaster-General and Edmund Jennings Randolph the first Attorney General.

In 1892, John Philip Sousa and his newly formed band performed publicly for the first time, at the Stillman Music Hall in Plainfield, N.J.

In 1969, the family comedy series "The Brady Bunch" premiered on ABC.

In 1980, the Cuban government abruptly closed Mariel Harbor, ending the "freedom flotilla" boatlift of Cuban refugees that began the previous April.

Sept. 27

In 1939, Warsaw, Poland, surrendered after weeks of resistance to invading forces from Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II.

In 1942, Glenn Miller and his Orchestra performed together for the last time, at the Central Theater in Passaic, N.J., prior to Miller's entry into the U.S. Army.

In 1943, Bing Crosby, the Andrews Sisters and the Vic Schoen Orchestra recorded "Pistol Packin' Mama" and "Jingle Bells" for Decca Records.

In 1954, "Tonight!" hosted by Steve Allen, made its debut on NBC.

Sept. 28

In 1850, flogging was abolished as a form of punishment in the U.S. Navy.

In 1892, the first nighttime football game took place, in Mansfield, Pa., as teams from Mansfield Teachers College and the Wyoming Seminary played under electric lights to a scoreless tie.

In 1920, eight members of the Chicago White Sox were indicted for allegedly throwing the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds in what became known as the "Black Sox" scandal. (Even though they were acquitted at trial, the players were banished from the game.)

In 1924, two U.S. Army planes landed in Seattle, having completed the first round-the-world flight in 175 days.

In 1976, Muhammad Ali kept his world heavyweight boxing championship with a close 15-round decision over Ken Norton at New York's Yankee Stadium.

Sept. 29

On Sept. 29, 1789, the U.S. War Department established a regular army with a strength of several hundred men.

In 1829, London's reorganized police force, which became known as Scotland Yard, went on duty.

In 1978, Pope John Paul I was found dead in his Vatican apartment just over a month after becoming head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1982, seven people in the Chicago area died after unwittingly taking Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules that had been laced with cyanide.

In 1986, the Soviet Union released Nicholas Daniloff, an American journalist held in Moscow on spying charges, whose detention had been regarded as a serious obstacle to a U.S.-Soviet summit.

Sept. 30

In 1777, the Congress of the United States, forced to flee in the face of advancing British forces, moved to York, Pa.

In 1791, the opera "The Magic Flute" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart premiered in Vienna, Austria.

In 1846, Dr. William Morton, a dentist, used an experimental anesthetic — ether — for the first time on a patient in his Boston office.

In 1927, Babe Ruth hit his 60th homer of the season to break his own major league record.

ry in registering for classes at the University of Mississippi.

Oct. 1

In 1885, special delivery mail service began in the United States.

In 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit his 61st home run during a 162-game season, compared to Babe Ruth's 60 home runs during a 154-game season.

In 1962, Johnny Carson succeeded Jack Paar as regular host of NBC's "Tonight" show.

In 1971, Walt Disney World opened in Orlando, Fla.

In 1987, eight people were killed when an earthquake measuring a magnitude of 5.9 and an aftershock measuring 5.3 struck the Los Angeles area.

Drugstore's shelves still stocked with 1950s items

By Ted Anthony
Special to Yesteryears

EACH AFTERNOON until the end of her life, Elva Norris sat behind boarded-up windows of her drugstore on the edge of downtown Philadelphia, reading magazines and guarding dusty memories.

Yards away, generations of footfalls passed on the sidewalks. But on the "Fresh Up With 7-Up" calendar inside Charles B. Norris' pharmacy-soda fountain, June 1953 was the month that stopped in time.

No one outside knew that the Norris Drugstore's shelves still brimmed with tubes of Brylcreem, jugs of Coke syrup and packs of snapshots depicting Kodak moments long lost.

Now, a year after Mrs. Norris' death, Martin Rosenblum, an architect who stumbled on the treasure, has dusted off the stock, polished the chrome and resurrected the room as the "Phantom Fountain" — a monument to the first wave of American disposable culture.

As Rosenblum sees it, he didn't have a choice.

"It's all about our youth, our childhood — when things were simpler and easier," he says.

With partners Bruce and Shelly Menkowitz, Rosenblum rents out the establishment that was Mrs. Norris' sitting room. And people come — from children's birthdays to adult nostalgia parties.

Rosenblum, who owns the building next door, wanted the property as an investment. When he pulled back the rubber curtain that separated the upstairs apartment from the store, he knew he had a more exciting task ahead.

"My knees buckled," he says. "I was sure that I had lost it and entered the Twilight Zone."

Stacks of prescriptions dated to 1910. The soda fountain was tarnished but intact. "Phototone Album Prints" of people long gone had been left for development but never claimed.

Charles T. Norris opened his shop in 1902 and ran it through one world war and part of another. When he died in 1944, his son, Charles B., took over, and his wife ran the shop until he returned from WWII.

In a block then filled with doctors, a place where you could fill a prescription and get a lemon phosphate and a 15-cent slice of cake, it flourished in the postwar years. Local kids called it "Pop's."

"A lot of doctors used to come in there and enjoy their lunch. Everyone was friendly and you just kind of learned a lot," says Priscilla D. Muringer, Elva Norris' daughter from a previous marriage.

"We did a lot of special things for people," adds Muringer, who worked the lunch counter as a teen. "It was just a different era."

But the son, Charles B. Norris, had a wanderlust and was unhappy running his father's pharmacy, his stepchildren say.

In June 1953, the couple boarded up the storefront and took a job delivering rental cars around the country.

"Whatever was in here, that's the way they left it," says Edgar Key, Norris' stepson and the apothecary's former soda jerk. "They just said, 'We're going to go do something' and left everything as it was."

When Norris died in 1975, his wife turned the shop into a sitting room. She would read magazines, send an unsold greeting card to a friend or bring grandchildren in for a treat.

"You could just go out there, sit down and go back in time," says Muringer, who grew up in the apartment upstairs.

A January 1992 family video shows Mrs. Norris walking through the store, past her chaise lounge, past her plants on the soda fountain, and remembering.

"You got soup, sandwich and a cup of coffee for 31 cents," she says on the tape. "A milkshake was 15 cents — 20 cents if you used two scoops."

And later: "All these nice people around here, all of them helped me, because, you know, I just had one day to learn to run this store."

Mrs. Norris died on Jan. 20, 1993, at age 87.

Now historians are ecstatic about the piece of the past.

Ara DerMarderosian, curator of the historical museum collection at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, says shops such as the Norrises began to disappear in the mid-50s when suburbanization spread.

"All those people that were born and brought up around the war years were the original pack rats," he says. "Everything was saved — nothing was wasted. That's something that's been lost."

DerMarderosian sees it as a snapshot of the medical and pharmaceutical industries, popular culture and advertising history.

"This was frozen right at the right time — a cache of materials that are very hard to duplicate," he says.

There's an Avon Pocket Book on the shelf, a 1950s pulp classic: "The Chastity of Gloria Boyd: The Intimate Life Story of a Girl Who Became a Woman the Hard Way."

Coca-Cola syrup sits in gallon jugs for the soda fountains. Down the shelf is an 8-pound can of Evans Chocolate Flavor Syrup.

One bottle of blue liquid is called "U.S. Government Check Writing Fluid." Made by F.C. Burnell of Indianapolis, it bears this message: "No chemical or combination of chemicals can erase any writings written with this fluid without wholly destroying the paper."

"Venida-Liquid Tint Hosiery (for leg beauty)" allowed women to tint their legs during World War II, when stockings were scarce.

Across the room, old greeting cards bear messages with words and sentiments no longer even considered — "A Swanky Birthday, Son."

On one glass cabinet is a small label alerting customers about "what you should do in case of a gas attack." Not gastric distress.

"They Come Without Warning," it says. "Did you know one drop of mustard gas the size of a pinhead will cause a blister the size of a half-dollar?"

Over the lunch counter is the menu:

—Hot Soup $.25
—Liverwurst $.25
—Cake $.15
—Salami $.30

Rosenblum says he finds new items daily.

"I'm a restoration architect," he says. "I love things that are old. The idea of taking something like this and being part of its dismemberment, I couldn't do that.

"We really didn't want to go for perfection. We wanted it to be as they created it. And this is what it was like."

Ultimately, Rosenblum would like to renovate the soda fountain and draw filmmakers. For now, he's happy to make other people happy and earn back some of his investment, which he declined to specify.

"Some people want a real 'Happy Days' or 'Dobie Gillis' experience. The kids relate it to 'Grease,'" he says. "The older people are the ones who actually have the memories."

So when a party's scheduled, they put on Glenn Miller's "Moonlight Serenade" or fire up the jukebox. And for $335, a party of people can spend an evening in a postwar American fantasy.

For Edgar Key and Priscilla Muringer, that was their childhood.

"We would have hated to just get rid of it," Key says. "And this man just fell in love with it. My mother wanted somebody to keep it going. So we said, if he's going to do what he's going to do, what a legacy to leave her."

Winona

Continued from page 1

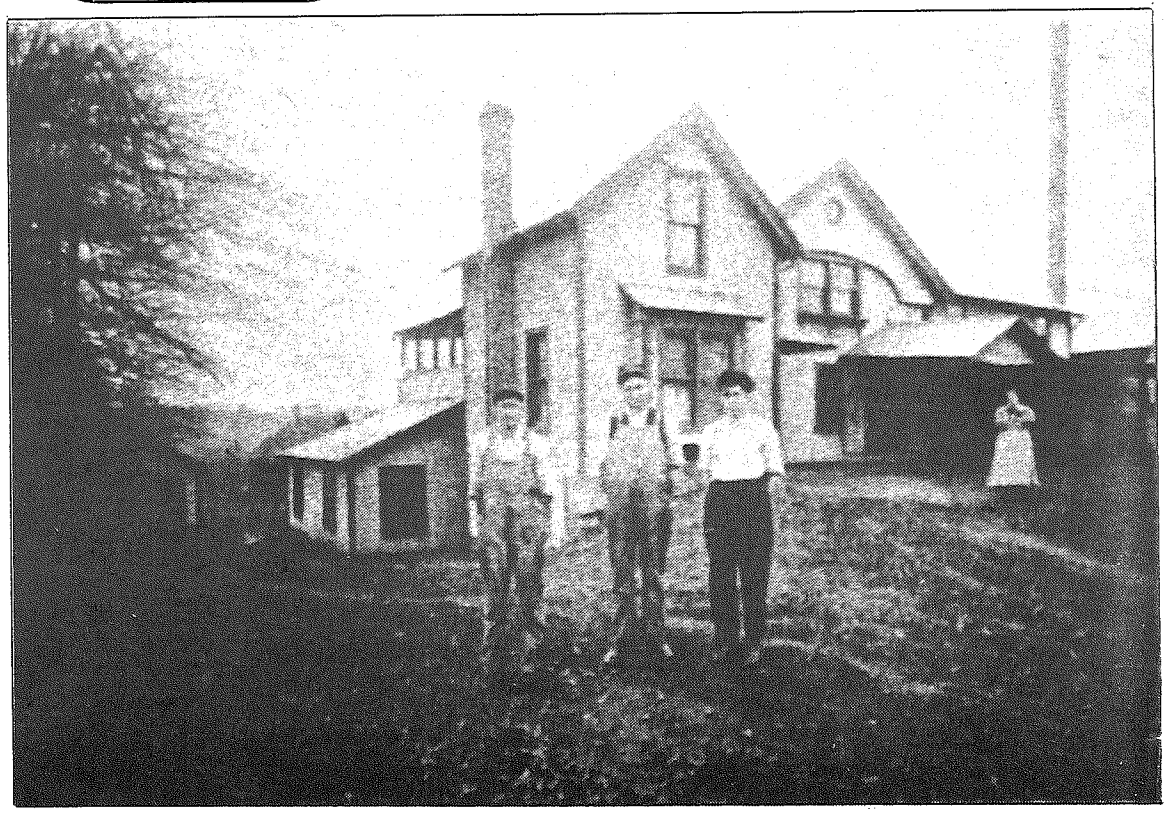
Butter brought top prices in city markets. One of the best accounts was the George K. Stevenson Co. of Pittsburgh who bought Winona butter for years. In May 1907, the firm received 22,500 pounds for $5,677. The weekly price per pound paid that month was 28, 26, 25 and 24 cents.

By then, the creamery had installed a milk condensing plant. Sugar was hauled by wagon from Salem where it was sweetened for candy making and hauled back in barrels for shipping to the candy maker in Cleveland. Because more water was needed a 133-foot well was drilled.

A Cleveland firm ran by the Bartchez brothers, the Western Reserve Condensing Milk Co. bought part of the company stock and took over management in August 1907 through the efforts of the Cleveland candy company officials. William Brantingham continued as local manager.

Stockholders received 1½ times the original value of the stock. William and Anna Brantingham kept their stock, and later got double the purchase price.

Local stockholders listed in 1907 included Alice G. Cope, Finley Hutton, L. T. Lamborn, Curtis Votaw, J. B. Whinery, William Brantingham, Joseph C. Stratton, Dillwyn Stratton and Joshua Brantingham. That same year, on Aug. 17, 1907 the last checks issued by the Winona Creamery were sent out. The company had been in business 17 years.



This 1910 photo shows Tom Moncrief, (from left) Andrew Zepernick, Wilson 'Dutch' Moncrief and Jenny Moncrief (in background) posed in front of the Winona Creamery.

James Dean's memory lives on in Coldwater

By Michelle Koidin
Associated Press

RED LIPSTICK KISSES dot James Dean's tombstone. Scrawled notes of love flutter on the earth. Cigarettes — homage to the sulky star's bad boy ways — teeter atop his pink granite monument.

Thousands of fans crowded the streets of Fairmount, Ind., the actor's hometown, this past weekend to mark the 39th anniversary of his death.

"I was a James Dean fan when I was a kid," said Mary Murphy, 56, who drove 126 miles from Coldwater, Mich. "I could relate to him because he had an attitude, and I always wished I had one but didn't have enough nerve."

The pilgrims outnumbered the roughly 3,000 locals in this town 60 miles northeast of Indianapolis during the festival, braving a downpour to browse amid the many operations sporting Dean memorabilia.

There's The James Dean Gallery, which showcases photographs from Dean's high school yearbook, costumes he wore in "Rebel Without a Cause" and "Giant," and handwritten pages from his 5th-grade binder.

And there's the Fairmount Historical Museum, which boasts the largest collection of authentic Dean memorabilia. Among its displays is Dean's British Triumph Trophy 500, the last motorcycle he owned.

Dean was born nearby in Marion on Feb. 8, 1931. After his mother died when he was 9, his aunt and uncle raised him in Fairmount.

He left at 18 to pursue an acting career. "East of Eden," "Rebel Without a Cause" and "Giant" brought him international fame.

The legendary symbol of disillusioned youth died on Sept. 30, 1955, in a car wreck on a California highway.

But around here, they just remember him as Jimmy — and they remember that special spark he had.

"If you knew Jimmy Dean, you always had a feeling that someday he would be something big. He was that kind of person," said Herb Ricks, 75, who recalled Dean as a child.

"You can tell a thoroughbred when they come out of the gate."

Gunsmoke thick in Dodge City

By Matt Truell
Special to Yesteryears

IT HAS BEEN YEARS since Marshal Matt Dillon rode off into a television sunset, but the gunsmoke is still thick along Dodge City's Front Street.

This southwestern Kansas town was the setting for the long-running but now defunct TV show "Gunsmoke," a series not remembered by everyone.

"You mention 'Gunsmoke' to anyone 25 and under and they think that's something that's left in the air after a drive-by shooting," says Mike Armour, executive director of Boot Hill Museum and Front Street.

The old TV show may not be much of a drawing card for the younger crowd, but today's Dodge City remains a magnet for anyone attracted to the romance of the old Western frontier.

A two-block section along Front Street re-creates the storefronts of the Dodge City of the 1870s, when the city was a wide-open cowtown. Showgirls dance and sing on the stage, visitors drink sarsaparilla and pretend it's red-eye whiskey.

There are even gunfight reenactments, stagecoach rides and chuck wagon meals. Tourists love it. Last year, Boot Hill Museum and Front Street drew 115,000 visitors, making the area one of the most popular tourist attractions in Kansas.

And Armour says the eventual opening of Denver International Airport will bring plenty of foreign travelers to tourist attractions in the Plains states, including Dodge City.

Foreign tourists make the New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., rounds their first trip to America. "There's more interest, especially the second time around, in the heartland," Armour says.

Dodge City, and the romance of the American West that surrounds it, qualifies as off the beaten path.

"We're a pass-through stop," Armour says. "We realize we're not a destination point."

Germans and Japanese are particularly fascinated by Western folklore, Armour says.

That does not surprise Loren Alexander, associated professor of German and foreign language education at Kansas State University.

Germans hold festivals in their country celebrating the American West, complete with cowboys and Indians, roping and riding, he says.

"They're very enthusiastic about it," Alexander added from his KSU office. "It's amazing. Open spaces and open possibilities are exemplified by the American West."

Dodge City, the most famous cowtown in America, was in its heyday during the 1870s, when the likes of Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson walked its streets. It was the recreation spot for buffalo hunters and cowboys who brought cattle north from Texas.

Even back in those days, Armour says, Dodge City was famous for its lawlessness, attracting East Coast journalists and pulp writers. The town made Boot Hill famous as the place where troublemakers and penniless drifters were buried without ceremony.

Front Street recaptures that feel. Using old photographs and historic research, workers built an assortment of stores, including a barbershop, two saloons, a pharmacy, a dry goods store and a blacksmith's shop.

Today's Long Branch Saloon even includes a painting that hung in the old Long Branch. "Cowboy's Dream" shows a topless woman being drawn in a chariot by a white horse.

McKinley funeral film donated

Rare motion picture footage of President William McKinley's during his 1901 funeral is being given to the McKinley Memorial Library and the National McKinley Birthplace Memorial Association in Niles by the Library of congress.

The videodisc documentary was produced during the Library of Congress American Memory pilot program, an effort to share its collections with libraries and groups across the country.

Dairy Queen has been a tradition for five decades

By Steve Jackson
Thomson News Service

LITTLE HAS CHANGED inside the Markland Avenue Dairy Queen in Kokomo, Indiana since it opened in 1947. The counter is still fronted with linoleum DQ logos interspersed among white tiles. Vanilla is still the only flavor of ice cream served. And Charles Wyrick is still behind the counter — but not for much longer.

While the inside of Indiana's first Dairy Queen will likely remain unchanged for some time to come, Wyrick is putting his cone-making skills to rest after 37 years of dispensing hot fudge sundaes and chocolate malts to eager children and adults.

"I've watched three generations come through here," Wyrick said, reminiscing on his career as one of Kokomo's leading sweet-tooth tempters. "They came as kids, they brought their kids, and now their kids' kids are coming in. It's amazing."

Wyrick's Dairy Queen has been a tradition for Kokomoans for nearly 50 years. His parents, Anthony and Doris Shine, opened the store in 1947 after seeing one while visiting Florida. It was popular from the day it opened.

"They had lines right to start with," Wyrick said.

The lines never really ended, as hot summer days would bring out hundreds of kids in search of something to cool them down.

But the lines never got any longer than they did on the 1962 day Wyrick reopened the store after remodeling it.

"Starting at 11 o'clock in the morning we had two lineups straight around the back. It didn't let up till 11 that night," Wyrick said.

The steady stream of customers caused Wyrick to turn out more soft-serve than he ever has in any one day. As part of the grand reopening, Wyrick ran a one-day special — by a quart of ice cream, get a quart free. He sold more than 900 quarts that day.

"The other two stores (in Kokomo) weren't involved in the sale, and they were making me quarts just so I could keep up," he laughed.

Wyrick, who took over the store in 1957 after serving a few years as district manager for Indiana DQ franchises his parents operated, has kept tradition in mind at his Markland Avenue store.

With the exception of the remodeling project in the early '60s that created an enclosed dining area and enabled him to add the Brazier line of hamburgers and sandwiches, the store looks much as it did in the '50s. Wyrick has eschewed many of the new Dairy Queen products, such as frozen yogurt and frozen cakes, in favor of maintaining the same staple of vanilla ice cream treats present when the store opened.

And it's the tradition of the store that has kept Wyrick behind the counter since he first stepped behind it back in 1957.

"Except for working on my parents' farm, this is the only job I've had," he said. "I stuck with it because it was my mom's original store. I could have had one of the other stores in town, but I stuck here."

While Wyrick was maintaining tradition behind the counter, thousands of customers maintained it in front of it by dropping by regularly.

"Sometimes I don't catch their names, but I recognize their faces," Wyrick said. "And they always know my name."

After Wyrick closes down the Markland Avenue Dairy Queen for the last time, probably in October, he figures to become almost as familiar a figure at the football field and gym as he has been behind the counter dishing out ice cream.

A big high school sports fan, Wyrick says he will divide his retirement between following the Kokomo High School teams and spending time with his family.

And the first time he takes one of his grandchildren into a Dairy Queen and places an order, it will be strange feeling for a man who has been filling orders for children and their grandparents for almost 40 years.

"Yeah, it will," Wyrick said. "I'll miss it."

Christmas not early holiday

Until the Civil War Christmas was rarely observed and retailers took bare notice of the event. In 1841, the New York Tribune didn't have a single ad with a Christmas theme.

By 1870, though, merchants had caught on to the money-making aspects of the yuletide and December had become the merchants' single largst selling month.

Mabel Duncan's fifth grade class at McKinley School is pictured on Sept. 23, 1953 (first row, from left) Sarah Wilde, Lois Weirick, Carol Stallsmith, Dorothy Semple, Normadene Pim, Vera Wilson, Marlene Bindle and Linda Huffman; (second row, left) Mrs. Duncan, Tom Floyd, Tim Reynolds, Sandra Wilt, Karen Trombitas, Donna Safreed, Nancy Tarleton, Janet Call, Jim Mayhew, Ron Wright; (third row, left) Frank Petras, Colin Kelly, Jon Meggart, Keith August, Tim Sanders, Dave Butcher, Randy Strader, Dave Sprouse. (Photo courtesy of Randy Strader)

Explosion was maritime mystery

By John Nolan
Associated Press

AN 1865 STEAMBOAT explosion that killed as many as 1,800 people still stands as the nation's worst marine disaster and one of its greatest maritime mysteries.

The sinking of the Sultana killed at least 1,200 Union soldiers returning home from the Civil War and shattered the lives of those who survived.

By most accounts, more people died in the boiler explosion that destroyed the Cincinnati-built steamboat on April 27, 1865 in the Mississippi River north of Memphis, Tenn. than were killed when the Titanic sank in 1912.

But the Sultana's destruction — overshadowed by the end of the Civil War and the assassination of President Lincoln — received scant coverage in the newspapers of 1865, particularly in the prominent East Coast papers. There has been little mention since then in the nation's history books.

That in itself is a tragedy, said author Jerry Potter, who spent 13 years researching the disaster for his 1992 book "The Sultana Tragedy."

"Not only has very little been written about it, but today, almost nothing is known about it," said Potter, who became infatuated with the story in the 1970s after seeing a painting depicting the Sultana's destruction.

"Nobody knew about it. That's what compelled me to write the book," the Memphis lawyer, 43, said in a telephone interview. "These were young men who survived horrible situations during the war ... then, to be killed on the way home and for the nation not to know about it, it was appalling to me.

"The government more or less swept the disaster under the rug."

Most of those who died were paroled Union prisoners. They were being transported home to resume their lives after enduring disease and malnutrition in the Confederacy's most brutal prison camps, Andersonville and Cahaba.

Union Army officers loading the men onto the Sultana in Vicksburg, Miss., jammed at least 1,800 people onto a boat designed to carry only 376, according to Potter's book and "Transport to Disaster," a 1962 book by James W. Elliott, grandson of Sultana survivor J. Walter Elliott.

The men — mostly from Ohio, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky — were bound for Camp Chase near Columbus, Ohio, to reunite with families and resume their lives.

During the inquisitions, Union Army officers accused colleagues of accepting bribes from steamboat captains to transport as many soldiers as possible upriver. But investigators ignored the charges and shifted the blame elsewhere, Potter and Elliott wrote.

Potter found evidence that showed Army officers allowed two other steamers to leave Vicksburg hours before the Sultana, with no soldiers aboard.

But only one officer, Capt. Frederic Speed, was court-martialed. The Army's top legal officer later reversed Speed's conviction.

Nathan Wintringer, the Sultana's chief engineer, knew a leak in one of the ship's boilers was not repaired properly but said nothing for fear it would keep the ship from sailing, Potter wrote.

Wintringer was never charged, even though he was required by law to ensure the steamboat's safe operation.

The Sultana's captain, J. Cass Mason, pressured Army officers to give him as many passengers as possible and stood to be paid $10,000 by the government for his standing-room-only haul, according to records. Mason died in the explosion.

Historians said the Army never investigated the bribe allegations. Lt. Col. James Sullivan, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon, said the modern-day Army has no comment on the Sultana disaster.

John T. Hubbell, editor of the quarterly journal "Civil War History," said he found Potter's analysis sound.

"They overloaded it, knowing it was well beyond the capacity," Hubbell said. "The ship itself probably shouldn't have been out on the water, but those poor devils wanted to get home."

The Army's chief investigator at the time, Brig. Gen. William Hoffman, estimated the death toll at 1,238. The U.S. Customs office in Memphis put it at 1,547, a figure Potter said is generally accepted as the official estimate.

Civil War historian Shelby Foote wrote that estimates ran as high as 1,800. By comparison, 1,522 died when the ocean liner Titanic sank.

Potter found records showing the Sultana carried about 2,300 soldiers, 100 civilian passengers and 85 crew members.

Bodies of Sultana passengers popped to the Mississippi River's surface for weeks after the explosion.