

THE 1955 TROJAN Alumni PRINTS

December 2004 • Send news articles and/or photos to Frank Hunter, 3379 Hidden Haven Ct., Tampa, FL 33607 • Email fhunter@sptimes.com • Issue 26

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!



The Esplanade - Portsmouth, Ohio
1954



Columbia Music Hall Opens

Excerpted from Jeff Barron, PDT Staff Writer

Lee Scott said there were times during the past three years when he thought the Columbia Music Hall would not open. But the grand opening became a reality Sunday, as Scott had an open house, and local rock act Mindchaser performed throughout the afternoon.

Scott's wife, Christine, owns the theater, which is on the Roy Rogers Esplanade downtown. Once known as the Columbia Movie Theater, Lee Scott has converted it into a concert hall.

"It's been a long time coming, but it sounds really good," he said. "Basically, today's just an acoustic check to see what we've got to do to the building to see where we've got to go." Some of the band members said the building has an echo problem. But Scott said that when the building is filled with people, the echo should go away.

Scott Shelpman co-owns Allegro Music, which is a couple doors down from the Columbia. "I'm really glad this place is opening up," Shelpman

said. "Portsmouth needs this kind of thing. The place looks great and they've done a good job." Shelpman said the hall would also benefit his business once open. Shelpman said the music hall will also help the downtown area because it will draw people at night. "So they (businesses) may have to change their hours a bit if they want to cash in," he said.

Mayor Jim Kalb also said the Columbia will be an addition to the city. "I think it's great," he said. "It will bring a lot of people downtown. They've put a lot of work into it and I think everybody ought to be down here to see what kind of work they've done."

Portsmouth resident Thomas Henry said the Columbia would be one of the best things to ever happen to the city. "Since '79 this town has been going downhill," he said. "This would give the town a jump start as far as entertainment. There's no entertainment."

A Note From Judy Davis Conlogue

I just received the #25 newsletter and was surprised to read about the picnic. I really enjoyed the pictures and news but was not even aware that it had happened. I haven't received a newsletter for a while, don't know why, but I probably could not have attended anyway because, things have been very busy this year. I lost my husband Jim on May 8 and prior to that he was very sick for a year and a half. That combined with my working and handling a bout with breast cancer (everything fine now) made for a year and a half that I NEVER want to repeat. Things are getting better now. It will take a long time to get back to "ground zero", but I am on the way.

I have a new address: Judy Conlogue, 731 Mountainwater Dr., Charlotte, NC 28262, phone 704-548-1486. My e-mail address is still judy.conlogue@wachovia.com. Hopefully I will be retiring soon, but I like my job and so, who knows. My family, two daughters and one son, and three granddaughters, are all in the area, so I have a great support system. I am starting to travel again. I missed that when Jim was sick

It was great to see the picture of the Highland Fourth Grade that Lee Lansing sent in. I can identify (at least partial ID) one of the girls. The last one in the picture is Patsy (don't know the last name). The rest of the "??s" I don't know either, but it sure was fun to look at the faces and try to remember. As a matter of fact, I saw Lee when I came back to Portsmouth many years ago for my dad's funeral, and he showed me this picture. I enjoyed it then, and really enjoyed seeing it in the newsletter.

I am sorry to have missed the previous outings, but hopefully I will get to attend the 50th class reunion next year. I am looking forward to it. Please keep me on your lists for news. Hopefully, some of you will get in touch. I would love to hear from you. Best wishes to everyone

Judy Conlogue

A Note From Blaine Bierley

On Friday, November 12th, 2004, I slipped and fell on the tile entryway in our living room. My shoes wet from being out in the rain. I broke my right femur - the bone above the knee. In March of 2002, you may remember, I broke the tibia - the bone just below the knee of this same leg. I guess my right leg is jinxed. I had orthopedic surgery on Saturday, November 13th, at Riverside Methodist Hospital. It was the same surgeon who repaired my tibia and knee in 2002. The doctor said this break was not as bad as the first one was because it did not involve the joint.

I'll be going through the same procedure as in 2002, I guess. No weight-bearing on my right leg for 8 to 12 weeks, using a walker, and physical therapy. Everyone around me is very supportive and I remain optimistic that all will be well eventually. My E-mail will be curtailed since my computer is in the basement.

Please keep me in your thoughts. All best -

Blaine

TV Wrestling

I was trying to remember the other day some of the silly things that were on television in the early years. In an effort to fill the dead spots between the Friday night boxing matches and big league baseball games, NBC began to serve up a side show of a quasi-sport: professional wrestling. To just about everyone's astonishment, these oddball exhibitions prospered.

One of the early "heroes" I remember watching was a hunk of peroxidized beefcake named Gorgeous George. He became one of television's first celebrities. Although true sports fans debunked his sport and most sports writers were outraged by his antics, George grunted and groaned (as they say) all the way to the bank as he grossed up to \$70,000 per season!

It was quite a show. Gorgeous George's valet would enter the ring first wearing a tail coat and vest. He carried a large silver tray on which rested a towel with a large GG monogram, a chromium-plated spray gun, and an atomizer. The valet placed the tray gently on the floor of the ring. He then took the shiny gun and sprayed the entire ring with a scented antiseptic to remove all germs and sweat smells.

Next, the valet placed a small prayer-rug at the side of the ring where George was to enter and brushed it off with a whisk broom. By this time the excitement was tense with much neck-craning. Then, "There he comes! He's in PINK tonight!" And Gorgeous George came striding down the aisle. He was dressed in pink (as far as we could tell on our black and white TV sets). He had on a satin quilted robe, with a lining of silk and sequins. On some occasions he even wore ermine robes. His hair, a mass of golden ringlets, looked as though he had just spent four hours in a beauty parlor. George made his grand entrance, sneering at the crowd. Slowly and calmly he removed the sequined bobby pins from his hair and tossed them into the crowd. Then he shook out his hair like a spaniel just out of a bath. Only then was he ready to begin the match.

The quality of the ensuing wrestling match left much to be desired. It was not nearly as entertaining as the entrance of Gorgeous George.

Isn't it funny how some ridiculous things from the past stand out in your memory?

Blaine

Joan Stearnes

I am writing to inform you that Joan E. Wilcoxson (Stearnes) Class of 1955 of Portsmouth Ohio passed away on April 18, 2004. I am her daughter if you have any questions.

*Carol E. Clark
Vacaville, CA 95688
phone (707) 449-9990*

Blaine Bierley writes: Joan (Jo) Elizabeth Stearnes graduated in the PHS Class of 1958. She was in my wife's (Carolyn Rayburn) class.

Late News

Mary Ann (Hamilton) Mowery's son Danny Mowery passed away in mid November.

The photo on the front is of the lyric theater. The back one is of the Market St. Esplanade.

The Poets Corner

GOD'S WORLD

O world, I cannot hold thee close enough!
Thy winds, thy wide grey skies!
Thy mists, that roll and rise!
Thy woods, this autumn day, that ache and sag
And all but cry with colour! That gaunt crag
To crush! To lift the lean of that black bluff!
World, World, I cannot get thee close enough!

Long have I known a glory in it all,
But never knew I this;
Here such a passion is
As stretcheth me apart, -- Lord, I do fear
Thou'st made the world too beautiful this year;
My soul is all but out of me, -- let fall
No burning leaf; prithee, let no bird call.
Edna St. Vincent Millay

TO E.

I have remembered beauty in the night,
Against black silences I waked to see
A shower of sunlight over Italy
and green Ravello dreaming on her height;
I have remembered music in the dark,
The clean swift brightness of a fugue of Bach's,
And running water singing on the rocks
When once in English woods I heard a lark.

But all remembered beauty is no more
Than a vague prelude to the thought of you --
You are the rarest soul I ever knew,
Lover of beauty, knightliest and best;
My thoughts seek you as waves that seek the shore,
And when I think of you, I am at rest.
Sara Teasdale

If you have a favorite poem for us to print, just send its title to Jackie at jackieb@earthlink.net or snail-mail to Jackie at 124 Glen Circle, Worthington, OH 43085. If you have an original poem to share, please do the same. Jackie will choose poems for every issue but welcomes your contributions as well.

A Note From Roger Howard

I was elected president of my condo Association. I caught an 18 3/4 inch Large Mouth Bass in the pond at my development. My wife, Marcia, died on Sept. 25, 2004. She had been in a nursing home for 2 1/2 years. My wife got to see our first Great-grand Daughter just before she died. The treasurer of my condo Assn is also a PHS grad from a later year than me. She is Darlene Wales who is a friend of Bob Collins, another PHS grad. I want to thank Blaine Bierley for the Card- I did not think that he knew me. I also heard from Jerry Mann, a person I used to work with at the Portsmouth Times. I still do an online Bible study with 22 students & do an online newsletter for my church and one for my Condo Assn. Does any one know anything about Dave Schisler? or Bob Ginn?
rhoward6@insight.rr.com.

Roger Howard



Front row left to right: Curt Gentry, Larry Sunafrank, Donald Frazier, Jim Duncan, Jerry Higgins, Chet Corbitt, Bruce Johnson, Fred Malone, Harlan Frazier, Jim Scott, Mgr. Back Row: Coach Dick Hopkins, Don Walker, Ron Spinks, Larry Boren, Ron Shumate, Dave Otworth, Phil White, Tony Price, Tom Riddle, Skip Martin, Bob Rau, Mgr.

The Smell of Burning Leaves

Once in a while I catch the "aroma" of burning leaves. It doesn't happen very often in this modern era, but the scent of burning leaves always takes me back to the fall when I was growing up on Charles Street in Portsmouth.

Back in the 1940s and the early 1950s, long before environmental concerns and controls, many of the folks in Portsmouth raked their leaves down to the street curb gutters and burned them.

In those years before the ban on open burning you could count on having the October and November breezes perfumed with the smoky (and somewhat sweet) smell of burning leaves. I'm sure that this lowered the quality of the air in Portsmouth; but, probably no more than the soot and cinders of coal furnaces and the many coal-burning railroad engines that we had in those days.

Some of our neighbors raked their leaves into the alley between Charles and Williams Streets. I can remember one family who built a make-shift little oven out of bricks and put potatoes in it. After covering the oven with a huge pile of leaves and enjoying the fire, we would share some baked potatoes. Sometimes the potatoes got a little singed, but the fragrance of the potatoes and the leaves was a wonderful combination to smell in those autumn evenings so long ago.

I'm just nostalgic enough to wish that the local authorities would allow maybe just one date each fall when folks would be allowed to burn their leaves and sniff the ambrosia.

Blaine

A Note From Donna Boren

Shirley McCulloch Bodley's son Eric Ramsey was killed in an auto accident.

Donna

Portsmouth in the 50's Industry

The Detroit Steel Corp. • The Harbison-Walker Refractories Co. • General Refractories Co. The Williams Mfg. Co. • The Vulcan Corp. The Selby Shoe Co. • The Dayton-Portsmouth Steel Foundry Co. • The T. M. Patterson Paper Box Co. • Ohio Stove Co. • Portsmouth Casting Co. • Baltimore & Ohio Railroad • Norfolk & Western Railway • Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad Midland Grocery Company of Ohio • Mitchelace, Inc. • The Borden Co., 237 Second St. • The Ideal Milk Co., 1637 Tenth St. • The Pure Milk Co., 2001 Gallia St. • The Select Dairy Co., Gallia St. & Kendall Ave.

Groceries

A & P Food Store, 1508 Gallia St. • Wendelken's Mkt., 1426 Grandview Ave. • Aeh's Food Store, 343 Second St. • Wolf's Mkt., 1716 Coles Blvd. Alber's Super marker, Fourth & Bond Sts.

Campbell's West End Mkt., 130 Second Street • Chabody's Mkt., 202 Eastern Ave. • Corner Grocery, 1027 Findlay St. • Curnutte Grocery, 1663 Jackson Ave. • DeLotells', 1662 Twelfth St. • Field's Grocery, 1556 Eleventh St. • Freytag's Mkt., 1406 Kinney's Lane • Gemperline's Mkt., 1922 Grandview Ave. • C. Herrmann & Sons, 913 Gallia St. • Literal's Mkt., 605 Broadway • Massie Bros. Grocery, 1801 Eighth St. • Meyer's Grocery, 1114 Kinney's Lane • Schaefer's Super Mkt., 2034 Eleventh St. • Schoonover's Grocery, 1202 Ninth St. • Sparks Market, 622 Campbell Ave. • Watkins Grocery, 1502 Fourth St. • Wedebrook Mkt., 1020 Clay St.

Automotive

Marvin Jones Lincoln Mercury • Huston Pontiac Portsmouth Motors (Ford) • Henry Oberling Dodge • Gil Galyean • Glockner Chevrolet

Other

Adams Baking Co. • Phoenix Pie Co.

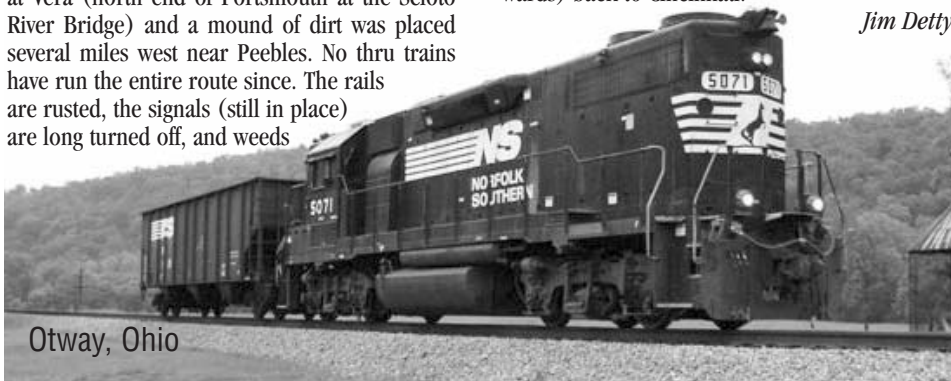
N&W Peavine Gone

The former Norfolk Southern (N&W) line from Portsmouth to Cincinnati (thru Peebles, Sardinia, Mt Orab, etc.) is referred to as the Peavine. The last train to run the entire route was June 23, 2003 (picture attached) from Portsmouth to Cincinnati. After that the switch was spiked down at Vera (north end of Portsmouth at the Scioto River Bridge) and a mound of dirt was placed several miles west near Peebles. No thru trains have run the entire route since. The rails are rusted, the signals (still in place) are long turned off, and weeds

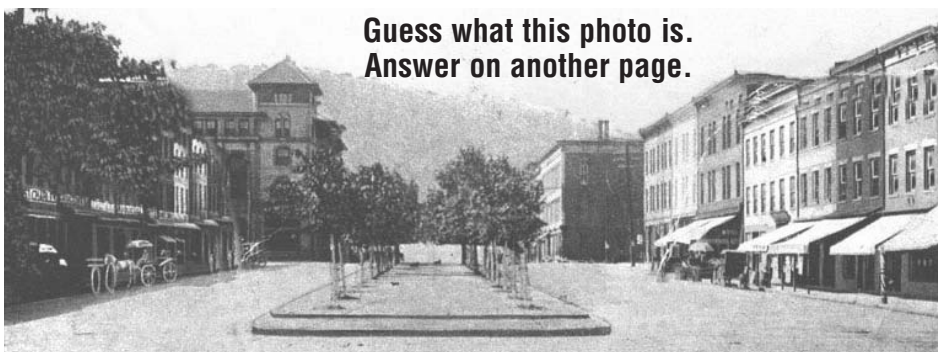
are growing in between the rails.

The western portion of the Peavine out of Cincinnati is still in use though. From Cincinnati eastward one daily train handles cars for the Ford plant in Batavia, and a couple of very small industries before ending its route just west of Peebles. The train then returns (usually backwards) back to Cincinnati.

Jim Detty



Otway, Ohio



**Guess what this photo is.
Answer on another page.**

When I Get Old

The average cost for a nursing home is \$200 per day. I have checked on reservations at Princess. I can get a long term discount and senior discount price of \$135 per day. That leaves \$65 a day for:

Gratuities which will only be \$10 per day. I will have as many as 10 meals a day if I can waddle to the restaurant, or I can have room service (which means I can have breakfast in bed every day of the week). Princess has as many as three swimming pools, a workout room, free washers and dryers, and shows every night. They have free toothpaste and razors, and free soap and shampoo. They will even treat you like a customer, not a patient. An extra \$5 worth of tips will have the entire staff scrambling to help you.

I will get to meet new people every 7 or 14 days. T.V. broken? Light bulb need changing? Need to have the mattress replaced? No Problem! They will fix everything and apologize for your inconvenience. Clean sheets and towels every day, and you don't even have to ask for them. If you fall in the nursing home and break a hip you are on Medicare. If you fall and break a hip on the Princess ship they will upgrade you to a suite for the rest of your life.

Do you want to see South America, the Panama Canal, Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, or just name where you want to go? Princess will have a ship ready to go. So don't look for me in a nursing home, just save me a lounge on deck 6. And don't forget, when you die, they just dump you over the side at no charge.

Note From Gail Miller

On Oct. 15 the name "a true golfer" became a reality to me. On that day 22 "real" golfers played in the fourth Annual Whitney D. Miller United Way Golf Tournament. It was cold and rainy and fingers were wet and freezing, but the golfers persisted and played the entire 18 holes. These were truly dedicated men who are great supporters of the United Way.

The proceeds from this tournament go to support people in need in Scioto County. These are monies that are above and beyond the campaign pledges and enable United Way to help groups and people with a little needed extra.

Hunter-Williams reluctantly turned over its trophy from last year to Weaver Gas and Oil. But, they said that they would be back next year to try to win it back. A plaque hanging at the Elks shows all the winners of the tournament, starting in 2000.

A very special thank you goes out to all who played and endured the bad weather. Thank you to the Elks Country Club and Kendrick Perkins and his staff for all their help. I personally want to say a special thank you to Mary Ann and Nannette who help so much to get this event going and keep it moving. They are truly my right-hand ladies and I appreciate them so much. Please mark your calendars for next year's tournament on Sept. 9. We hope to see you all there.

Gail Miller