

Hickies Hamburgers

From High Notes for 01-11-07

There is an internet blog, entitled, Culinary Corner, My City.com, and Chuck Charles wrote this article for the blog entitled, Burger Bound: In Search of the Best Burger. I am reprinting some of it here, because of its obvious local interest related to Hickies Hamburgers of New Boston.

Mr. Charles wrote: "I am not ashamed to say it: My favorite meal in the whole world is a big juicy burger. Nowadays, burgers are made from everything from turkey to emu; abut for the purpose of this search, I will stick to the classic beef burger."

Here are the places to get the best burgers according to Mr. Charles:

10.. LA Buns, West Hollywood, CA

09. Red Robin, (National chain)

08. Ritz Carlton, Kapahua, HI

07. Johnny rockets, (National chain)

06. Gear Jammer Truck Stop, Mountain Home, ID

05. Ruby Tuesdays, (National chain)

04. Fatburger (Soon to be National chain)

03. Hamburger Hamlet, (Regional chain)

02. In N Out, (Regional chain)

Number 1. (One)

"Ahh, for the number one spot for best burger in the country is a very small burger, in a very small town, available exclusively at a very small restaurant. Hickies is located in New Boston, Ohio. Near the banks of the Ohio River, this small diner has become a staple of good food for this remote area. Hickies maintains a closely guarded recipe for their burgers, which are one size; small. I suggest ordering at least 5 of these mini delights and maybe 5 to go for the drive home. Each burger patty is hand pressed and grilled up home-style. The made-to-order burgers are then placed on a steamed dinner roll. Not that this regional delicacy requires any additional flavors, but it is served with onion, pickle and mustard. The burgers are simple and aromatic in their flavor. Hickies is always packed with customers and is overwhelmed with phone orders. If you ever wind up traveling to this small and quaint river town in southern Ohio, Hickies is a definite dining stop for a great burger, actually the Best Burger in the Country."

Apparently Mr. Charles travels the country looking for culinary delights. One person named Karen responded to the article back in July 2006. "I grew up on Hickies hamburgers and had to let you know that you are dead on about them being number one!! We have since moved away but when we are home to visit, it's on the top of the list of required stops. Thanks for taking the time to visit and enjoy a place of great nostalgia to me."

Shug Hickman, or Shoog, or however one would spell it, especially loves people whom she refers to as "Hickies Virgins". That is people who have never eaten one of her burgers. So, be sure and announce that it is your first time if you ever go in. You won't get a discount, but you'll be recognized if Shug is in the store.

Jim Kegley

A Tribute To Rocky Nelson

Without question, historians would agree that key exports of Portsmouth, a lively river town with a rich history, has been shoes, steel, pig iron and, of course, baseball talent. Dating back 100 years, to the turn of the 20th Century, Portsmouth has produced more than its fair share of prominent figures, helping people our National Pastime. Many were toasted and recognized during Thursday's Portsmouth Murals Baseball Banquet. But some of the greats have since passed on to those eternal green grasses, sights, sounds and smells of Baseball Heaven - Branch Rickey, Del Rice, Rocky Nelson, Al Bridwell, Wayne Blackburn, Frank Rickey and Billy Doyle, just to name a few. The most recent favorite son to pass away was Rocky Nelson Born in Portsmouth Nov. 18, 1924, Glenn "Rocky" Nelson died in Portsmouth at age 81 on Oct. 31.

He played for nine seasons in the big leagues and helped the Pittsburgh Pirates win a World Series in 1960. The nearly 400 who attended the Murals banquet enjoyed a 10-minute video tribute to Nelson, offering unique glimpses into his life through home photographs and other personal items, such as a menu from the Rocky Nelson Restaurant on Scioto Trail where fans could dine on a \$1.29 steak dinner in the late 1950s. Nelson posted a .249 career average in the majors with 31 home runs and 173 runs batted in. One of his best seasons came in 1960 when he hit .300 with seven homers and 35 RBI for the World Champions. Batting clean-up, in front of future legend and Hall of Famer Roberto Clemente, Nelson clubbed a home run in the first inning of Game Seven of the 1960 World Series at Forbes Field. What Nelson started, teammate Bill Mazeroski finished with a legendary title-clinching ninth-inning homer to sink the New York Yankees and give the Bucs the crown. Nelson finished the '60 World Series with a .333 average. A year later, at the age of 36, he was out of baseball. But what a career he had enjoyed.

He also appeared in the 1952 World Series as a member of the National League champion Brooklyn Dodgers. A remarkable minor league player, he was a three-time Most Valuable Player of the Class AAA International League, in 1953, 1955 and 1958. Nelson married his wife, Alberta, at home plate in 1947, while he was playing for the Lynchburg, Va. Cardinals. A journeyman, Nelson wore the uniform of five different big league clubs - Cardinals, Pirates, White Sox, Dodgers, and Indians

All Newsletters Now On Discs and On Our Web Site

I have sent Gene 3 discs. One to keep on his file and one for the new school and one for the public library. There are 38 issues along with appropriated indexes (thanks to Blaine Bierley) Tom Dupuy has uploaded all 38 on the web site (phs1955.com). Please inform all interested alumni or Portsmouth residents that they may enjoy the city of 50 years ago.

Portsmouth schools may buy both stadiums for one dollar

By JEFF BARRON PDT Staff Writer Monday, December 11, 2006 11:20 PM EST

In a move that stunned some city officials and infuriated another, Portsmouth City Council President Howard Baughman on Monday said the city wants to sell Spartan Stadium and Branch Rickey Park to the Portsmouth Schools System for \$1. Under the plan, the schools system would renovate them using money from an anonymous \$10 million donation set for building a new downtown football stadium and sports complex, according to Baughman. The schools system would still build a smaller sports complex west of Waller Street if the city sells the two stadiums. "This enables us to restore a historic piece of property that the city doesn't have the wherewithal to do," Baughman said. Spartan Stadium was the home of the Portsmouth Spartans, who later became the NFL's Detroit Lions. The stadium is believed to have been the scene of the NFL's first night game. Portsmouth High School and Notre Dame High School now use the stadium.

Baughman said Notre Dame would be given all considerations when councilman Jerrold Albrecht asked if the school could still use the stadium. City Service Director Chris Murphy is responsible for the upkeep of the two stadiums. He was livid when Baughman made the announcement, and immediately asked to address the council. "I'm sort of in shock to hear this," Murphy said. "It's bad enough I heard on the radio on a Friday night that the school system wanted to build a new stadium. Now I'm getting backdoored by my own City Council by selling what I manage." He said he was concerned about the stadium's historic value. "I don't like to see it turned over to just anybody," Murphy said. Engineering director Bill Beaumont urged Baughman to make sure all the terms of the potential agreement are in writing. City Council will give the proposal a first reading at it Dec. 26 meeting. It also could pass the measure then. Councilmen Bob Mollette and David Malone voted against preparing the legislation because they wanted time to get more information about it. Vice President Marty Mohr said he was "flabbergasted and excited" about the plan. "This would give us a ball park that is second-to-none not only in Portsmouth, but statewide," he said. "And we'll be preserving a historic building. I'm almost out of words." Mohr said the plan would allow the city to keep land near Portsmouth High School for retail development. However, Mayor Jim Kalb quickly corrected him and told him of the plans for the smaller complex in addition to renovating the stadiums. Councilman Mike Mearan said the issue came up after a conversation with attorney Clayton Johnson. Mearan said Johnson is in charge of the \$10 million donation. Mearan then called Baughman, who met with schools superintendent Jan Broughton on Monday

THE 1955 TROJAN *Alumni* PRINTS

(& Mid-50s Classes)

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Hail to thee our Alma Mater



Splashing Jim Spangenberg

It was the summer of 1957. I was home from OSU working for \$ 1.00 per hour at the Williams Shoe Manufacturing Company on the production line. We worked two weeks on the day shift and then two weeks on the night.

I worked there all the summers while I was attending college. The company had a benevolent way of employing local college students. Although they did warn us each summer not to talk about unions and even to report to our supervisors anyone who tried to convince us that the union was the way to go.

Well, anyway, my first summer on the line was at the bottom of the shoe factory totem pole-I was a last (the thing the shoe is built upon) puller. This was the final process in the making of the shoe-taking it off the last and putting it on to the moving belt line to be cleaned up and then boxed for shipment out to stores all over the United States.

The summer of 1957 I had worked my way up to the exalted position of being a "trimmer, pounder, & sander." I ran a machine which trimmed the excess leather off the sole of the shoe, then pounded down the nails that attached the sole, and then sanded the nail heads off flush with the sole. The machine had a vacuum bag on it which collected the dust of the sanded leather. However, as you might expect, when you sanded nail heads with a belt sander, there were sparks. And, of course, the sparks occasionally caused the leather dust in the collection bag to catch fire.

You must understand at this point that the line supervisor's rule was that the line is never turned off-short of the death or dismemberment of a worker. My supervisor, Jim Spangenberg, was very emphatic about that--a shut off line meant that his line shift might not reach or exceed his production goal for that day. So, with a fire in the bag, I had to both put out the fire with the extinguisher provided nearby for that purpose, and continue my trimming, pounding, and sanding at the same time so as to keep the line going. To keep this story in perspective, you also need to know that we worked for 55 minutes and had a five minute break each hour.

During the lunch break one day, several of us young whipper-snapper college boys were devising a plan to get some revenge on our supervisor, Jim, for keeping our noses to the grindstone and for being such a slave driver. We worked on the fourth floor of Williams and Jim and some of the other line supervisors would go out on the loading dock directly below us to smoke during the lunch break (35 minutes).

Several of us devised a scheme to bomb dear old Jim with a paper sack filled with water. Luck was with us, even without a Norden Bombsight. We scored a direct hit (mainly luck) on Jim. Obviously, he was as mad as a wet hen and stormed up to the fourth floor to find out who had done the dirty deed. Of course, we were no where near the windows when he got upstairs, so he didn't catch any of us. He said, "I know it was one of you smart-ass college kids. When I find

out who did it, I'll fire him on the spot!"

Jim nosed around for several weeks afterwards talking privately to as many employees as he could to find out who the culprit was. He was on my case pretty good and I finally asked him, "If I tell you who did it and you fire him, can I have his job?" He was elated and took the bait. "Sure," he said, "you can have the SOB's job right now if you tell me who it was."

"Okay," I said, "I did it, Jim." Thankfully, even though he was still very angry, Jim was a man of his word. In fact, after a couple more weeks everyone on the line could have a good laugh about the episode.

Wolff's Closes Doors

Abridged from an article in The Scioto Voice newspaper by Terri Fowler.

On Saturday, December 30, 2006, at 4:15 p.m. Portsmouth lost one of its longest-running downtown businesses. The Wolff Clothing Store, located at 320 Chillicothe Street, closed the doors for the final time due to steadily declining profits.

According to John Collins, Jr., the son of store owner Agnes Collins, the three-story building has housed a shop that sold men's clothing and accessories since 1912.

"It was originally started by Phil Wolff," Collins said. "He started across the street, and then they built this building in 1925. It was built specifically for him for a clothing store."

Though the store changed ownership many times over the years, each new owner kept the original name. John Collins, Sr., bought the building about twenty years ago, his son said.

"We've always carried quality merchandise--no junk," Collins said. Overall, Collins blames changing fashion trends for playing a significant role in the decline of the family business and falling profits. "There's been a trend toward casual attire," he said.

Collins also attributed several key local factors with the store's demise, including the overall loss of large downtown retailers and the closing of the U. S. Grant Bridge in 2001.



Marianne Lucas

Marianne Lucas, 68, of W. Portsmouth, died Friday, Dec. 22, 2006 at Heartland of Portsmouth. Marianne was born Sept. 11, 1938 in Portsmouth to the late Norman Lester and Edith Pearl Branham Wessel. She was a member of Nauvo United Methodist Church and retired after 30 years of service as treasurer of Washington Local School District. She is survived by her husband H. Eugene Lucas; two sons, Barry and Brian, both of W. Portsmouth; one brother Jerry Wessel, of W. Portsmouth; one sister, Sharon Wessel, of W. Portsmouth; three grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a sister, Betty Lou Bowman.

Gene wants to thank all who expressed concern and condolences.

Joan A. Cook

Joan Arlene Cook, 70, of Cumberland, MD, died on December 28, 2006, at her home. She was born September 8, 1936, in Portsmouth, Ohio. A homemaker, Joan was a member of the Cumberland First Church of God. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, John R. Cook, Sr.; her sons, John R. Cook, Jr. (Tammy) of Sardinia, Ohio, and Gary L. Cook of Wellsville, NY; her daughter, Debra Courtney (Arnold) of Cumberland; as well as eight grandchildren.

A funeral service was conducted on January 2, 2007, with interment at the Maryland Veterans Cemetery at Rocky Gap. The family requests that memorials be made to the WMHS Home Hospice Care, c/o Linda Green-Valentine, 900 Seton Dr., Cumberland, MD 21502.

Email Address Changes

rl57nl@tampabay.rr.com
Ron & Norma Lowe

bobmarthacook@roadrunner.com
Bob and Martha Cook

Our Aging Undeclared Tennis Team:
Stone (dec) Kouns, Oxley
Hunter, Lehman, MacKelvey, Ramsey

Blaine Needs Help

Help unravel the mystery of who our 1954-1955 senior homeroom teachers were? After polling several classmates I have the following:

The seven Senior Homerooms on the first floor were:

- 101: Mrs. Nellie Niswonger (1 vote)
- 102: Mrs. Nellie Niswonger (1 vote))
- 105: Mr. Bert Leach (confirmed)
- 109: Miss Genevieve DuPre (1 vote)
- Mr. Lowell Adams (1 vote)
- Miss Isabel Musser (1 vote))
- 110: Miss Isabel Musser (1 vote))
- 111: (?)
- 112: Miss Gurney Noel(1 vote)
- Miss Isabel Musser (2 votes)
- Mr. Charles McClure (1 vote)

Replies can be sent to Blaine Bierley at BBierley@columbus.rr.com.



Another landmark destroyed by the wrecking ball. Methodist church at Gallia and Offnere



Deanie, daughter Brandy and Tom Stone
thanks to Deanie's mother Mollie Harrison for supplying the latest photo available

Columbia Theater Reborn

An event took place last night that the community's been expecting for quite a while! The grand opening of Columbia Music Hall featured two local groups and a pair of acoustical cowboys from Charleston, plus the Columbia's impressarios, Lee and Joe, in tuxes.

"Big Mo and a Couple of Cokes" opened. They covered Elvis Costello, Pearl Jam... good and loud. The place has a mighty nice sound system. The two cowboys did originals with titles like Trapdoors in My Mind, Why Did You Get Lost in My Mind?, Shadows in My Mind... then they broke stride and did Kathy's Song (Paul Simon) -- it's been a while since I'd heard it so I was caught by surprise when the line came up "in the shelter of my mind!"

The rouser, in black blazers and shades, was our local blues brothers aka "Second Hand Smoke." The devotees standing along the edge of the stage couldn't light their lighters to wave because of the fire regs, so they lit up their cell phones and waved them. A lot of people stood during the evening because the cheap seats were aluminum bleachers. Awaiting installation on the huge new balcony is a big pile of seats from PHS auditorium (PHS is just about down).

After six years, work on the Columbia continues. One of the workers confided to us that the place is for sure haunted... ghost's name is Mister Stone and back when the place showed films -- there's no longer a screen - he was the projectionist. (I can't wait to tell Bob Stone, who was projectionist at the Columbia and who is alive in Friendship.)

There may however really be a ghost: a pretty little lady by the refreshment stand told me that for years she never missed a Wednesday matinee. She told me when what played and who was in it and how long it was held over. I wanted everybody to meet her but she couldn't make it up the stairs... I went right up and brought them down and she'd vanished. You bet, I'll be back.

What an evening! Ya shudda been there.

Bob Mobl

PHS Time Capsule

From the Portsmouth Times May 27, 1954:
49 Students In Auto Training Win Licenses

This spring 49 senior and junior students of Portsmouth High School have received their drivers' licenses through the driver education training course taught by George Heller, PHS varsity basketball coach. The course is given to reduce the accident rate among teenage drivers and to train young drivers in road courtesy and highway law. PHS students learn to drive in a dual-control car furnished by Portsmouth Motors. All who take the course must pass a series of tests to prove that they are capable of handling a car.

Students who received their licenses in this spring's course are:Norma Abdon, Joy Bailey, Peggy Cassell, Ruth Cole, Judy Cramer, Jane Dever, Janet Robinson, Phyllis Lewis, Phyllis Knowles, Shirley McLaughlin, Pat McGlone, Ruth Mary Nolan, Annajane Pigott, Joan Thatcher, Sue Ames. Shirley Allen, Louise Gillum, Eddie Harover, Roger Howard, Glenn Hollis, Billie Irvin, Jackie James, Wilma Liston, Judy McCoy, Carol Manley, Janet Morrow, Hurbert Reynolds, Ralph Riggs, Andrea Saunders. Don Wallace, Patty Ashcraft, Suzanne Brown, Janice Chick, Shirley Cooper, Larry Richardson, Bob Boorman, Dave Dautel, Gary Flowers, Bob Rickman. Katherine Doty, Carol Moss, Priscilla Mann, Nancy Rammel, Larry Russell, Dave Welty, Ralph White, Dave Bradley, Emilie Shields and Maxine Tagg.

From the Portsmouth Times May 27, 1954:
GAA Of PHS Gives Annual Dinner, Prizes

Girls' Athletic Association of Portsmouth High School held their annual banquet in the form of a covered-dish supper in the girls' cafeteria. Officers elected for the coming year were announced.

Sue Gammon, Linda Boorman, Carol Merb, Carol Gambill, Sue Shump, and Jane Taylor planned the banquet and made the programs. Following the meal, Ann Leightenheimer, this year's president, gave the welcome and announced next year's officers. Gladys Frazier is the new president; Carol Gambill, vice president; Martha Erfurth, secretary; and Sue Gammon, treasurer. Other officers for this year were Gayle Gammon, vice president; Gladys Frazier, secretary; and Joan Thatcher, treasurer.

Miss Ruth Ann Peake, sponsor of the club, made presentations of ribbons to the winning bowling and volleyball teams and presented letters to the girls with 1,000 points. Members of the winning bowling team were Sylvia Rogers, Henrietta Mannon, Ann Leightenheimer and Mary Ryan;

volleyball teams--Sylvia Rogers, Joan Thatcher, Jane Poole, Gladys Frazier, Henrietta Mannon, Janet Morrow, Kay Hannom, Sharon Gallagher, Mary Ann Carter, Jane Taylor and Sue Shump. Girls with 1,000 points were Mary Ann carter, Sharon Gallagher, Kay Hannom, LindaHenson, Henrietta Mannon, Pat Noel and Emma LouSpears.

My Retirement Business

As I would like to retire in a few months, I have entered into an online travel business similar to expedia, etc. I invite all my friends and readers to compare sites and book all your travel needs at

www.mytravelhunter.com *Frank Hunter*