

THE 1955 TROJAN Alumni PRINTS

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Radio Serial Programs from the Forties

If you were fortunate enough to grow up in the 1940s and early 1950s you had a chance to experience the "Golden Age" of radio. Some historians have aptly named this era the "theater of the mind." Radio transported us to other worlds and other times with nothing more than the spoken word and sound effects. Without the need to provide pictures, the simplest of devices could be used to stimulate a kid's imagination in those days of yore.

Because the action occurred in the listeners' minds, virtually anything could be and was produced on the radio. For adults, radio was an endless fountain of comedy, drama, and culture; but for kids, it was the source of great heroes. I can remember listening to radio station WPAY in Portsmouth, and later on, WNXT, to get my weekly fix of deeds of daring-do and altruistic heroism.

One of my favorites was broadcast on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights at 7:30 from 1942 through the year I graduated from PHS in 1955. I challenge anyone of our generation to hear Rossini's stirring "William Tell Overture" and not immediately think of The Lone Ranger.

"A fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust, and a hearty 'Hi yo, Silver'--the Lone Ranger rides again!" This famous opening introduced one of radio's best-remembered Western adventure series. Wearing a black mask as a disguise, the Lone Ranger fought to keep the American West free of outlaws and other bad elements. Interestingly, the program was action-packed, yet it inspired and instructed without an emphasis on violence (a far-cry from today's action-adventures, in my humble opinion). Do you remember his faithful Indian companion, Tonto? It seems to me that General Mills was the program's sponsor for many years and convinced me to ask my mother to buy an endless supply of Cheerios, Wheaties, and Kix cereals.

Another of my favorites was broadcast on Sunday afternoon each week--The Shadow. It ran from 1935 until 1954. The Shadow, Lamont Cranston, was one of the first crime fighters to have a secret identity and a believable "super" power, the ability to cloud men's minds. He was, to me, powerful and mysterious and invincible. Do you remember the opening lines of the show?: "Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows!" By the end of each half-hour show we were all convinced that the weed of crime bore bitter fruit and that crime did not pay. The sponsor I remember was Wildroot Cream-Oil hair dressing--which I can remember using in my youth.

Ahhh, to be able to return to the mind's imagination of those by-gone days again.

Blaine Bierley

Stream of Consciousness Portsmouth in mid-1950s

Detroit Steel Corporation-Portsmouth Division; Radio Station WPAY, 1400 on your dial, the home of CBS radio; Gil Galyean Company-Chrysler & Plymouth automobiles; Atlas Fashions-smart feminine fashions; Taylor's Barbering-by appointment, room 24, the National Bank Building; The U. S. Laundry, "Beauty Parlor for Clothes", 822 Fourth Street; Edward Staebler Jeweler, 1117 Gallia Street; Mack's Men Shop, "Sharp clothes for men and boys", 218 Chillicothe Street; The Wilmere Tea Room, 7th & Gay Streets; Murfin's Insurance Agency, 1542 Gallia Street; Wear's Ice Cream Store, 1412 Gallia Street; West End Electric; East End Supply Company; Wurster Drug Company, "The Rexall Store", 419 Chillicothe Street; Chabots Super Service, "U.S. Tires and Gulf Oil Products"; Anne's Coffee Cup Drive-In; Babette Dalheimer School of Dancing, Hurth Hotel; Moore's Restaurant, 2004 Scioto Trail; Sears Roebuck and Company; Darone's Pizza, 1630 Gallia Street; Ohio Consolidated Telephone Company; American Savings and Loan Association, 503 Chillicothe Street; Massie's market, 1801 Eighth Street; E. H. Russell Glass Company, "Give Us A Break", 1106 Gallia Street; SmithDrugs, Your Walgreen Agency; Hess Engle's Home Supply Company, 831 Sixth Street; Lowes Stag, "Leisure Time is Stag Time", 908 Gallia Street; Long and Company, "The Home of Quality Furniture", 729 Sixth Street; Carolina Lumber Company, 1011 Lincoln Street; Henry Oberling Motor Company, "Your Dodge-Plymouth Dealer"; Stapleton Office Supply Company, 829 Sixth Street; Kobacker's; Charles Herrmann & Sons Packing Company; Windel-Howland Funeral and Ambulance Service, 1503 Offner Street; Kirby's Flowers; Ideal Milk Company; The Standard Supply Company; Bragdons; Houston Pontiac Company; Borden's "Since 1857--the Greatest Name in Milk"; Crispie Creme Donuts, 1546 Gallia Street; Dairy Queen, "The cone with the curl on top", 2916 Scioto Trail; The Bake Shop, 817 6th Street; Mitchellace, Inc.; Pre-Cast Concrete Company, 8th & Broadway; Dehner Department Store; The American Steam Laundry and Dry Cleaning Company, 10 Glover Street; The J. W. Stir Company, 516 2nd Street; The Crawford Coal Company, Tenth & Hutchins Streets; The Lane Shop, 1212 Kenny's Lane; West End Furniture Company, 518 Second Street; Vandervort's Plumbing & Electrical Supplies, The J. C. Penney Company; Radio Station WNXT, 1260 on your dial; Portsmouth Mixed Concrete, Inc., at the foot of Fifth Street; The Criterion, "the men's shop"; Mart Glynn Funeral Home, 1147 Second Street; The Distel Furniture Company; "Tink" Nodler & "B" Arganbright--Insurance; Hunter's Lock & Bicycle Shop, 1522 Gallia; S. S. Kresge Company; The H. Leet Lumber Company; Fred

Brown, Inc.; Craigmiles; The Kopy Kat; Echo Dry Cleaners; Segraves Electric Company; The Town House and The Town House Annex; Luther Moving & Storage,

1910 11th Street; The Citizens Savings & Loan Association; Wolfe, "Good Clothing for Men and Boys"; Samuel Levi & Company, 840 Gallia Street; Massie's Market, 1801 Eighth Street; Herms Floral Company; Selby Show Company; Mauntel's Lunch, 811 Murry Street; "Meet me at the Cameo", now open 24 hours a day, 839 Gallia Street; Grimm's Sporting Goods; B & B Loan Office; The Four Keys Restaurant; The Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company; Carr's Jewelry Store; The Coca-Cola Bottling Company, 3001 Scioto Trail; Harry E. "Huck" Foehr's Turkey Shoppe Restaurant, Scioto Trail at the Boulevard; Crichton Office Supply, 740 Fifth Street; The Cycle Inn, Home of the Big Juicy Cycleburger, 1865 Coles Blvd.; Marting's, "One of Ohio's Good Stores"; Lake Margaret; The Ohio Power Company; Anne's Pastry Shops; Flood Drugs, Inc., The Ett-Mar Motel, Just off U. S. Route 52 on Kendall Avenue; The Hibbs Hardware Company, 733 Fifth Street. If this list brings any stories or ideas to mind, please write us.

Blaine Bierley

Latest on the N&W Depot Demolition As of April 1st

Latest word is demolition of Portsmouth depot will not be this week, and probably not next week either.

After the contractors that were removing the asbestos left, the EPA did an inspection and found a bunch more that has to be removed. This may or may not get done this week.

Now it gets good. In a typical Scioto County screw-up, as of today, Boone Coleman still has NOT received an official OK from the County that they got the winning bid. In the meantime, Boone is tearing down the old Foodland store on Chillicothe St., and the demolition of the station isn't even on the planning calendar. Secretary at Coleman's I talked to said she would be very surprised if anything is done by the end of the month.

Having practically grown up inside that building in the '70's and early '80's (my father was an N&W Dispatcher) the building is very much a part of me and I hate to see it go. Being also an amateur railroad historian for this area, I have been collecting everything I could find relating to the N&W in Portsmouth, and the depot, for a number of years.

I am currently going through literally boxes of papers, files, pictures, etc. gathering material on the station. My hope is if I can somehow put this into a readable format, to write a book on the depot and its impact in the Portsmouth area.

Jim Detty
Lucasville, Ohio

A Note from Bonnie and Russ Jett

Been meaning to write another little tidbit but time seems to go by so quickly that I'm just now getting around to it. Just wondering how many of you out there remember Compton's Restaurant on 4th and Union (I believe that is the cross st) across from Grant School. It was the favorite place to gather after school and now and then for lunch. The food was good (and cheap) at the time (hamburger, chilli, and a drink for 50 cents). They had a jukebox and you could dance. Also, there were pinball machines. Compton's has a special memory for my husband and me... It's where we started going "steady". Went together 6 years and have been married nearly 43 years.

One incident stands out in my mind when Clyde Mullins who was a student in 7th or 8th grade at the time asked the teacher to be excused. She said absolutely not. Clyde started for the door and she blocked it so he said if I can't go out the door I'll go out the window (2nd story). She said, "No, you won't"....but he did! It had been raining and his footprints stayed in the mud as a testimony for weeks. That's all anybody talked about! (By the way, Clyde is now a house painter) Guess the "no fear of heights" helps!

Also, do you remember the Saturday morning matinees at the movies... Laroy, Columbia, Lyric, or Garden theaters? You could get in for 16 to 20 cents depending on which theater you went to. This included a series of cartoons, usually a serial like Roy Rogers, Superman, or some other story that you had to come back the following week to see what happened, then the main feature... sometimes a double feature. You could stay and see it over if you wanted, all for the original ticket price. Candy was usually a nickel, popcorn was a dime, and drinks were a dime but you couldn't take the drink to your seat. You had to drink it in the lobby. The theaters had ushers who wouldn't hesitate to kick you out if you were disturbing the other people trying to watch the movie. (Boy, for the good old days!) Now you pay \$6 and usually there is someone around you who would rather talk as watch the movie.

How about the downtown area? There were at least 4 Five and Dime stores... Greens, Kresges, Woolworths, and Grants. Shoe stores galore, dress shops, dept stores... remember Kobackers at Christmas... the toy dept especially. Oh, well, I guess our town is not the only one to lose the downtown areas to malls. It just makes me so sad to see so many of our historical buildings being torn down. I still think if someone with some insight and money to invest would just fix up some of the empty stores, make them energy efficient, and then make the rents reasonable, we could have a nice downtown area again. Go for the River Town theme since tourism seems to be the goal. I think a good sized outlet mall would go over good as this town is mostly a college and retirement population now. Unemployment is way up there so people look for bargains. Why should we have to travel to Columbus, etc. to find an outlet store when we have so many empty buildings in a row on Chillicothe St?

Recall petitions back to city clerk

Jeff Barron, PDT Staff Writer

After failing last week to get enough valid signatures to force a recall election of Mayor Greg Bauer, Columbia Theater renovator Lee Scott said he gave City Clerk Jo Ann Aeh revised petitions Tuesday. Calls to Aeh's office to confirm Scott's claims went unanswered.

On March 22, Aeh rejected 383 of the 941 signatures Scott turned in. She disallowed them for a variety of reasons, including some signatures from non-registered voters and some illegible signatures. Aeh also disqualified 10 petitions because names of the signers were blocked out and other names written over them. She turned the petitions over to the city solicitor to look at possible criminal actions for what she said were altered petitions.

On Tuesday, Scott brought another 383 signatures. He needs 757 to force a recall election of Bauer. He said the Scioto County Board of Elections inspected them before he gave them to Aeh. "It would be kind of sticky to turn them down without a valid reason," Scott said. "We feel real comfortable nothing is wrong with them. If the petitions are turned down, it's her fault." Bauer had no comment regarding the second batch of petitions.

Aeh has until Tuesday to either certify or reject the petitions. Should she approve them, the City Charter says Bauer has five days to resign. If that doesn't happen, the city must have a recall election anywhere from 40 to 90 days after the fifth day. OScott admitted to turning in improper petitions the first time, but said that was not criminal. "We were very, very careful with this," he said. "The first time we were novices, but the second time is the charm." If Aeh again rejects Scott's petitions, the recall attempt will die. But, Scott said he would then start another attempt. "Absolutely," he said. "We're going to keep them under the microscope."

A Note From Harry Clyburn

Well Frank, as you are no doubt aware, good ol' PHS High School building will be the next to feel the wrecking ball. I guess progress comes at a price, but I would rest easier if I knew there were concentrated efforts to seek alternative uses for some of the historical buildings. It just hurts man! Had to share it with someone who cares as I do.

Harry

Joe Berthe

(Bur-thee) was my brother, and he did graduate in Portsmouth. Then he attended the University of Alabama, majoring in music, and spent most of his life in West Chester, PA, his wife's residence, where he was a musician, and taught elementary school music.

He died in 1994, at 57 years of age, in West Chester. So, yes, he would be 67 (in October, 2004). His widow and one daughter live in West Chester, and the other daughter lives in Florida.

Mary Berthe

A Note from Sue Rowson Herrmann PHS Class of 1963

My name is Sue Rowson Herrmann PHS 1963. I got acquainted with the paper because of Gene Lucas. Our football season tickets were next to each other a few years back. I have thoroughly enjoyed every issue since and have shared it with several people.

My connection with PHS goes back to my parents, John Dent Rowson and Lillian Wilson Rowson of 1931. Dent went on to teach there in the 1940's until his death in July of 1948.

My sister, Carolyn Rowson Lynch graduated in 1950 and my brother John D. Rowson in 1958. My husband C. B. Herrmann and I started our relationship there at the Jr. Senior Prom in 1962. Our three daughters, Andrea 1990, Carrie 1993, and Erica 1996, cheered on the Trojans also.

C. B. and I still attend the games and he films them for the coaches. So you can see our connection has been long and pleasurable.

Several times, I have wanted to write but just haven't gotten around to it. The article about the traveling Duncan Yo Yo salesman brought back memories. My brother John won one of those contests proclaiming him the city champion. I think he still has the trophy. He and his friends used to decorate their yo yos with initials and rhinestones. He would walk around the house "walking the dog, rocking the cradle, or even doing around the world". Of course, I couldn't even make the darn thing go up and down. Even after all of these years he is still entertaining classrooms with his skill. The students love it.

The last issue talked of the 1950 Blizzard. My sister was at Ohio State for that football game and her weekend left her stranded at a Fraternity house for several days. For some. it was a fun... time! I still remember being pulled around Portsmouth on a sled to enjoy the great snow. We even walked to Second Presbyterian Church to see an ice/snow sculpture of the manger scene which someone and sculpted on the front lawn of the church. I have a picture somewhere of the sculpture.

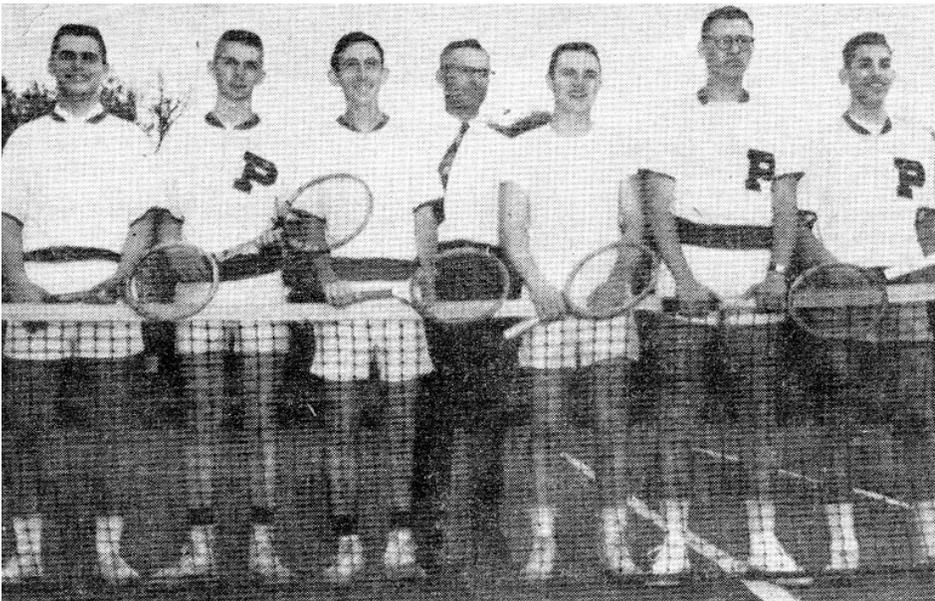
Memories are wonderful and the older I get the more wonderful they are. And now memories of the school building will be what we have. As sad as it is for us who attended the fine school building, it is now time for the Portsmouth children to make their own memories in the new buildings.

Since the 1950's our town has suffered many economic woes, going from a population of 48,000 to just about 21,000. Financially, we can't support buildings just for the sake of memories. So the citizens of Portsmouth have voted to move forward. The new buildings are going up.

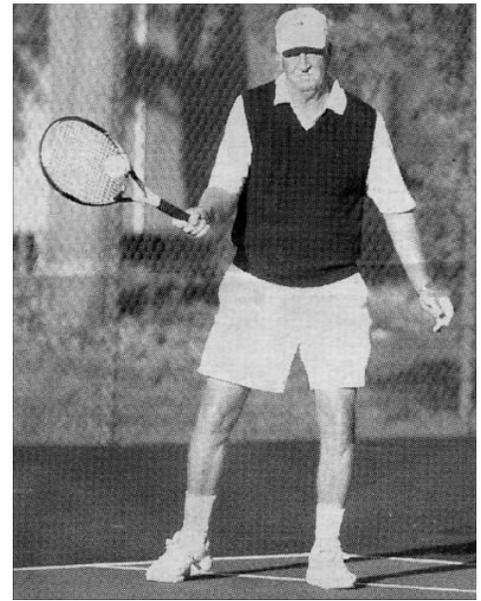
For the Trojan sport fans, be sure to look for the finalized plans for a special basketball game to be played in Grant Gym before the team moves to the completed new building.

In closing, thanks to all involved with this newsletter. It takes time and energy to produce it, but we readers do enjoy reading it.

Sue Rowson Herrmann



Our 1955 Undefeated Tennis Team Terry Kouns, Allan Oxley, Frank Hunter, Coach Lorentz, Charles McKelvey, Tom Stone, Marty Lehman and (missing) Fred Ramsey



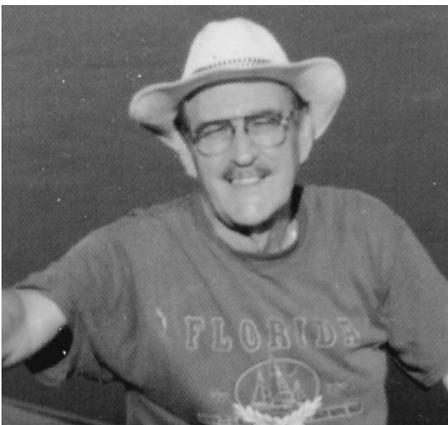
Dick Klitch one of Ohio's most successful tennis coaches, turned 70 last Aug. 15

A Note From Lowell Barton

Formerly a telephone engineering consultant and technical writer, Lowell divides time between Thailand and the U.S. He found satisfaction in writing for Thailand Timeout and he once said: "writing technical journals was easy - my readers had to read what I wrote. In creative writing I must write what people want to read and that's much harder - but it is more fun." He kayaks and photographs Thailand's riverside life. His book on history spices and their role in cuisines is just about to be launched.

We moved to 2674 Winnkler Ave, #326, Fort Myers, Florida last July. We are in the process of re-immigration as my wife, who now teaches at Chulalongkorn U. (teaches Mandarin) received her green card last year, but it will take another year or two.

I finished my last contract in the US for Ameritech in Michigan in Jan 2003 and sold my business and retired to write some travel memoirs and write a travel column for some local magazines here in Asia. I am an editor for one of them and have enclosed a short byline and picture. I am finishing a book for publication this fall - having fun and am in good health.



A Note from Bob Mohl

Fond greetings! You and I haven't spoken in some time but I want to let you know how pleased you would have been with the cast, the crew, even the pit orchestra for the current PHS production of "South Pacific." The vocal music department likes the breadth this musical gives the kids - Charles Varney staged it in 1973 and 1986. This year's director is Sally Baughman Gower (whose children Molly and Mitch play the children of the French planter).

The 2004 performance saw three near-standing-room performances: no missed cues, no mangled lines, no wrong notes! The scene changes were lightning-quick: you would've marveled as the stage hands deftly hoisted hefty realistic palm trees into the fly space and brought-in a convincing metal quonset hut.

The lights go up: beyond the nostalgia of the place, you'd be awed by the auditorium with its fresh paint and plush seating donated by the alumni campaign.

At the final performance: a standing ovation and three deserved curtain calls, the stage awash with congratulatory flowers, including a small bouquet for each graduating senior. What memories that will be! The more-than fifty students connected with this production have received a learning experience made virtually professional not only by playing to so handsome a house, but by the capabilities of the exceptional stage itself.

The PHS building that served you and I so well is still serving very well. But the school board is applying to the state for funds to demolish it. Put on your thinking cap and see if you can come up with alternative uses for this monumental place when it's no longer being used for a school.

RL Mohl.

New Address

Mary Thomas Hamilton, 5735 Sequoia Rd., Keystone Heights, FL, Phone 352-478-2484

Portsmouth Hosts Miss Ohio Teen USA

Mark Shaffer, PDT Staff Writer

Portsmouth once again will be the host city for the Miss Ohio USA and the Miss Ohio Teen USA pageants. This is the third consecutive year the pageant has been in Scioto County.

Portsmouth Area Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Brenda Marth said Portsmouth had heavy competition from four other cities in Ohio, although Pageant director Melissa Pitchford wouldn't identify them.

"I'd like to say that we had more to offer," Marth said. "Just the fact we competed with major metropolitan areas for the pageants says a lot about what Portsmouth has to offer and what we've done in the past." Marth added that many people in the community e-mailed and sent letters to Pitchford to let her know they held the event in high regard.

Marth said last year the pageant brought \$350,000 into the area economy with 550 area hotel rooms reserved for the contestants and their friends and family members. She added that this year the event will be larger and bring even more people to the area. "Melissa Pitchford said she is expecting 150 or more contestants this year," Marth said. "The Ramada has already been getting calls about the pageant. And, this year, we are taking over two hotels. We are splitting up the girls and some of them will be staying at the Ramada and some of them will be staying at the Holiday Inn Express."

Note from Martha Cook

Hi Frank, I had a phone call from Sharon Queen Blayney to tell me that Martha Flack Butler's husband Gene passed away Feb. 23. Martha's address is: P.O. Box 602, Temple, Georgia, 30179.

Ginny Bell Smith Wolfe has a new e-mail address: viwolfe@mindspring.com

Betty Bierley Holling's e-mail address is: bhevergreen@wispertel.net

Portsmouth... Once Upon A Time and A Recovery Plan

The following information was found on the internet. I know little about the date or content, but readers should find it interesting. Perhaps someone could follow-up on it. ED

This small Appalachian community once had a thriving industrial base, anchored by the 140-acre Empire Detroit Steel Mill in New Boston, which once employed as many as 4,200 people. Other economic setbacks included the loss of 1,000 rail yard jobs, 4,000 shoe manufacturing jobs, and the closure of the Harbison Walker brickyards in East Portsmouth. The Pilot area covers the Federally designated Greater Portsmouth Enterprise Community (EC). Poverty rates within the EC range from 29% to 51%, while the unemployment rates are among the highest in Ohio.

The main focus of the Pilot will be the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of the Empire Detroit Steel Mill property. This site contains significant amounts of asbestos, lead, and other heavy metals; in addition, 32,500 tons of PCBs were removed from the site. The return of this property to productive use was identified by community residents as the number one priority during the EC planning process.

Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot
Southern Ohio Port Authority, Ohio
July 1998, EPA 500-F-98-212, OBJECTIVES

The Port Authority's objective is to bring the former Empire Detroit Steel Mill back to productive use, thereby creating employment opportunities (including 200 manufacturing-related jobs), generating tax revenue, and removing the health and safety risks associated with environmental contamination. Pilot funds will be used to assist this effort through site assessments and community outreach activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Assessing three parcels on the Empire Detroit Steel Mill site;
- Identifying, assessing, and characterizing other potential sites in the EC for redevelopment; and
- Expanding the Brownfields Task Force and environmental justice working group to ensure that Pilot objectives and future brownfields problems are addressed and achieved.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

PHS Alumni Directory

Portsmouth High School is proud to announce the production of an all-new alumni directory!

The new edition of the directory will be the most up-to-date and complete reference ever compiled on Portsmouth High School alumni and feature detailed personal and professional information on graduates from all class years.

It is being compiled by Harris Directory and data Services of Norfolk. Please contact them to provide your biographical details.

Blaine Bierley

Doc Severinsen Comes to Town Again

G. Sam Piatt, PDT Staff Writer

Bandleader Doc Severinsen of NBC's "The Tonight Show" fame, who married a Portsmouth native and calls Portsmouth his second home, brings his band to town last month for a performance at Shawnee State University.

Severinsen began working for NBC in 1949, and in 1962 was promoted to music director for "The Tonight Show." It was there he met his future wife, Emily Purdom, who was an assistant on the set.

Purdom had moved from Portsmouth to New York after graduation to work on "The Tonight Show." After the show moved to Los Angeles, Purdom followed suit, and it was there the romance blossomed.

After the talk show's host, Johnny Carson, retired in 1992, Severinsen took his band on the road and remains a popular entertainer across the nation.

"Severinsen is one of the best trumpet players and band leaders in the world, and we are happy to have him playing here for the second time in four years," Carl Daehler, director of the arts center, said in a prepared statement. "Since the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts opened in 1995, it has been our goal to get some of the best talent in the world to play here, and Severinsen is certainly in that category."

Severinsen was nicknamed Doc after his dentist father and learned to play the trumpet as a 7-year-old. He was so good that he was asked to play in a high school band.

"He's very familiar with the area and the people, and he loves SSU and the Vern Riffe Center. You can look for him to give his very best in tonight's performance," Daehler said.

The 15-piece band features several talented soloists. His music appeals to all ages, Daehler said.

Critic From a Distance

I am critical of the poor civic leadership leading to the demolition of historic buildings in our beloved city. The financial condition of the city notwithstanding, there is almost always private monies available to undertake the lead. Someone must go out and find it however. Portsmouth leaders evidently do not have that capability to think out of the box. The gentleman who is remodeling the Columbia Theater is a perfect example of a person who can, but the reigning mayor and others can't think that way, so they throw stumbling blocks at his feet. If it were properly advertised nationally, I would almost bet what I have that some enterprising individual or company would not only buy the train station, but the right of way and trackage to Peebles on the now or soon to be abandoned Norfolk Southern Peavine Division. What a tourist attraction if it were made into a profitable tourist museum and short line railroad. Portsmouth has very little to go forward with as I see it. It needs its history to draw tourists because besides being a small college town, that's about its only chance.

Frank Hunter

Another PHS Star Grad Remembered

Albert White earned All-OAC honors while playing on the Capital University football team from 1958-1961. White is the Crusaders all-time kickoff return leader averaging 27.5 yards in 36 returns over his career. Two of his returns, a 90-yard return against Mount Union College in 1959 and an 85-yard return against Marietta College in 1960 still rank as two of the longest plays in school history. White also lettered in track while at Capital and after he graduated he briefly played football for the Cleveland Browns. White, who served in the Army and a term as mayor of his hometown in Portsmouth, Ohio, passed away in 1994

"The Freedom Train"

In August of 1948 I was ten-and-a-half-years old and would enter the sixth grade at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School in the fall. That August was when the Freedom Train came to Portsmouth, Ohio. It was a really big deal. The Freedom Train traveled the entire country-stopping in cities and towns in all 48 states-during its tour from 1947 through 1948. By the time it got to Portsmouth it had traveled over more than half of the country and its exhibits had been viewed by more than two million people.

I remember going to the Norfolk & Western Railway Passenger Station (we called it the "depot") at 16th and Findlay Streets and standing in a very long line with men, women, and many, many kids. Most of us kids were a little solemn as we tried to anticipate what the train would be like and tried to fathom the meaning of what we would be seeing.

The red-white-and-blue Freedom Train carried more than 100 historic documents and memorabilia on loan from the Library of Congress and the National Archives. As I remember, it took about a half-hour to pass through the three display coaches to view documents such as The Mayflower Compact, Thomas Jefferson's rough draft of The Declaration of Independence, George Washington's own copy of The US Constitution, Abraham Lincoln's draft of The Emancipation Proclamation, The United Nations Charter, and memorabilia like the Iwo Jima flag and General Eisenhower's personal five-star flag. They were all nicely exhibited in fluorescent-lighted cases along the walls of the display coaches that made up part of the train's complement. There was also a baggage car and three Pullman cars for personnel.

I can remember seeing city policemen, sheriff's deputies, and state highway patrolmen—who were mainly in charge of traffic control. But, the most impressive thing that I remember (unfortunately, relegating those documents which played such an important role in our nation's struggle for freedom to secondary importance) were the armed US Marines in snappy dress-blue uniforms who stood guard at all times within the train.

In my "Portsmouth Mementos Cigar Box" I still have my copy of the little 25-page pamphlet that describes the documents on the Freedom Train. It's a bit yellowed now, but I'm glad I kept it.

Blaine Bierley