



# Old Tyme Chronicle

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## *End of Year Contribution*

By now you should have gotten an email plea from our President Bill Comisford for you to consider Big Walnut Area Historical Society as a recipient for your year-end donation. It is tax deductible and helps us keep our doors open. Remember BWAHS has no paid staff and no funds from any governments. We count on membership and your help.

*Bring Your Valentine. . . .*

## **Valentine Luncheon**

Historical Society members will prepare and serve a luncheon on Saturday, February 10 from 11:30 to 1:30 I the Myers Inn. There is no fee but donations are appreciated. Hot soup, salad bar, desserts and beverages will be available.

Sue Comisford is chairing the event and can use help setting up, serving, and cleaning up. If you are available to help, call Sue 614-403-4565.

## *Angels Watching Over Us . . . .*



A week ago on Wednesday morning, December 20, I received a text from our tenant with the photo on the left taken out the front window. The truck appears to be backing into the Myers Inn.

The driver of the pick-up had stopped in front of the municipal building to run in with a quick question. When he came out his truck was gone. Apparently it was in reverse and went diagonally through the intersection and over the curb and hit the stone Lot

*(Angels continued on page 2)*

## *A River Community Recalls*



## The Flood of January 1937

Connie Ackerman and Roger Roberts are bringing another film to Big Walnut Area Historical Society at 7:30 Tuesday, January 9th in the Myers Inn Museum Meeting Room. "River Voices: A Portrait of an American River Community" tells the story of the January 1937 Flood in Portsmouth and the impact on its people. This film predates the painting of the flood wall which we watched at another program.

Programs of the historical society are free and open to the public.

After the March 1913 flood which killed 467 people, cities along the Ohio River built flood walls to protect them in case such an event should happen again. Portsmouth built a wall 10 foot higher than flood stage. Surely the people felt safe as the rains of January 1937 continued day after day. All along the Ohio river, the water kept rising.

What will happen if the water goes over the wall? Following the depression, there is no extra money for repairs. Officials made the tough call which flooded the business district with 8 to 10 feet of water.

Delaware County natives have heard of the devastation of the 1913 flood in Delaware. Many of us in Sunbury chuckle when we see FLOOD PLANE on plans for new buildings. Just below Community Library down to Prairie Run is flood plane. Polly Horn does not remember the exact date but "I believe it was in 1959 I was riding the train from Lake Forest College north of Chicago to Marion, Ohio at the end of January for

*(Flood continues on page 2)*

*(Flood continued from page 1)*

semester break. While I waited for our train in Union Station there was talk about the high water in the east. When I watched out the train windows, the rails slowly disappeared below fields of water. My fear was for the tracks not Sunbury. Would be make it home?

“When my parents met the train at 2:30 a.m. in Marion, they asked about the high water and devastation I had seen and then told of the flooding in Sunbury. Just a few days earlier, Prairie Run was out of its banks so far that people were riding in rowboats over Columbus Street. My Uncle’s family lived in one of the houses needing evacuation. Mother found herself with a houseful of people needing food and water. In the kitchen was a forgotten Civil Defense Cupboard with water, canned goods and first aid supplies we had collected as Girls Scouts and stored there. While the water tasted flat, it was still good. Within 24 hours the water dropped out of the village.” It was only a taste of what folks in Portsmouth and other Ohio River towns go through.

In case of bad weather, check the website or call 740-965-3582 before 7 p.m. to see if the meeting is cancelled. [www.BigWalnutHistory.org](http://www.BigWalnutHistory.org).

**Future Programs**

- February 13: Vice Presidents  
Gone Rogue by Roy Nichols
- March 13: Westerville and Sunbury Railroad  
by Dennis Fravel
- April 10: Sparrow Lodge  
by Rick Helwig

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*(Angels continued from page 1)*

Marker displayed at the edge of the porch. The ball on the truck hit the edge of the marker turning it and lifting it from the ground where it fell over stopping the truck. Neither marker or truck hit the building.

Many years ago, a drunk driver went through the intersection and hit the pillar on the porch which made Hosea Hopkins angry and he replaced all the wood pillars with brick ones.



When Community Library was given the property, Marion Ackerman replaced all the brick pillars with wooden ones. “If the truck had hit the pillar and broken it off, you would have had a domino effect,” noted Ackerman. The pillar would have fallen and caused the balcony to slowly to fall. The roof over the porch is attached to the ain roof on the building. All of the structural integrity would have been damaged

The marker will be replaced to guard the corner of the Myers Inn.

**Have a Safe and Happy New Year!**

**Joining BWAHS is Easy . . . .**

**Circle One:**

**Individual \$20, Family \$35, Business 10 or fewer employees \$50, Business 11-99 employees \$75, Business 100 or more employees \$100, Patron \$100, Other ?**

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**Send with check for dues to BWAHS**

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