



# Old Tyme Chronicle

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## Office Space in Myers Inn Open

The southwest room of the Myers Inn has been a rental since before the museum opened in July 2008. There is 300 square feet of office space at the busiest corner in town for only \$575 per month. The rent covers all utilities including internet. It has its own entry from Granville Street. Museum restrooms and a kitchen for refreshments at meetings are available.

This is a perfect site for a starter business. Big Walnut Chamber of Commerce was a tenant until they could afford their own building on Granville Street.

While the Myers Inn Museum is closed for Governor DeWine's Stay-at-Home, a tour can be arranged. If you have questions or wish to arrange a tour, call Damon at 614-745-4375 or email at [bower67@gmail.com](mailto:bower67@gmail.com).

## Looking North on Columbus Street From Corner of Myers Inn



**Spring Flowers Cheer Sunbury Visitors Even When the Museum Is Closed During Ohio's Stay-At-Home.**

## Stay-At-Home Postpones BWAHS Programs

While April and May programs have been rescheduled for August and July respectfully. Facility Manager, Damon Bower used the time to tackle projects too difficult when the museum is open. He stripped the paint from the stairway and refinished the steps, and railing. Beautiful!



*Finished stairway on April 5*

## Horn Remembers May Day

“As a child, I remember making cone shaped paper baskets, filling them with violets, spring beauties, dandelions and anything else we could find blooming. We would sneak up to the neighbors doors and our door, knock loudly and wait for the resident to open the door and be surprised. My sister, Peg, and I thought this was great fun.

“Dad would remind us Mom had been the Denison University May Queen and we would look at pictures of girls dancing around a May pole which looked very much like the Giant Stride we had in the middle of the Sunbury School playground.

“Like many of our traditions, this had its roots in pagan celebrations of Spring. Nothing like our little May baskets,” noted Polly Horn.



Like Easter, this year Mother's Day will not be the same. The annual Big Walnut Area Historical Society Mother-Daughter Tea will not be held. Stay Safe!

## Caissons Go Rolling Along

by Polly Horn

While my 95 year old mother was getting her hair cut in Angie Roush's Total Concept Salon at 115 E. Granville Street, and a line of semi's would go by, she would say, "The Caissons Go Rolling Along." I grew up in the brick house at 210 E. Granville and remember as a child sitting on the steps to the street watching the military caravans coming up the hill and singing that song. It felt like we sometimes waved for an hour. Many of the drivers honked when we made a fist and pulled it down. The song was linked with the caravans

I was doing research in August 1940 editions of "The Sunbury News," when I came across an article about Routes 3 from Columbus to Sunbury and 61 from Sunbury to Mt. Gilead had been designated military roads and needed a hard surface strong enough to carry 30 tons. It was believed this was part of the nation building up our military defense.

In another article "National Guards to Leave For Camp," told of several thousand guardsmen leaving for a month's training in Sparta, Wis. It listed Capt. Walter Williams, a Sunbury dentist whose office would be closed for the month, Celmont Wilson, Charles Metzger, Jack Henson and Raymond Allen were all going from Delaware with the medical detachment of the 166<sup>th</sup> Infantry. When I was in highschool, the boys went Camp Grayling, MI. These would not have gone on Rt. 37 but others did.

As an adult, I realized I wasn't singing the right set of words when the song was played. Why?

A 1908 graduate of West Point, First Lieutenant (later Brigadier General) Edmund Louis "Snitz" Gruber wrote

## Calendar of Events

**EVENTS MAY BE CLOSED PER OHIO REOPENING PLAN. Watch Website**

**May 12 No Meeting and Program**

May 25 OPEN HOUSE 9-3 for Memorial Day

June 9 at 6:00 Board Meeting

June 9 7:30 Program: "Eli Whitney" with Jack Brown

**EVENTS ARE IN MYERS INN MUSEUM**

the original song "The Caissons Go Rolling Along." During a particularly challenging march in the Philippines, Gruber overheard one of his section chiefs shout to the drivers, "Come on! Keep 'em rolling!" He was inspired. The song was born.

"Snitz" was a descendant of Franz Gruber, the Australian who wrote the music to "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve in 1818. A caisson was a wheeled cart used by the Army to carry ammunition and supplies. Today they carry veteran's caskets for burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1917, John Phillip Sousa converted the song to march and renamed it "The Field Artillery Song." Our Big Walnut High School band played this version.

From 1948 to 1953 the Army ran contests to select a song. When they failed, Army leaders were polled and the overwhelming majority voted for "The Caissons Go Rolling Along" — but only if new lyrics were written. Dr. H. W. Arberg's lyrics were elected from the 140 sets that were submitted. So in 1956 "The Army Goes Rolling Along" became the U.S. Army Song.

**Featured Business Member**

**ANTHONY DENTAL CARE**

Clinicians at Anthony Dental Care make up a neighborhood practice committed to building lasting relationships with patients and our community. Their office sponsors a variety of educational, religious, public service and athletic organizations. Their offices are located at 257 West Granville Street. (740-964-4090)

# For Our Children's Children, Let's Make a Difference

*Tired of Stay-at-Home? Tired of cleaning the corners? Miss visiting with your friends?*

## Join For Our Children's Children

by Polly Horn

Back in 1993, Bob Greene was a columnist in the *Columbus Dispatch* as well as many other big newspapers. He wrote a book, "To Our Children's Children." I was enchanted with this book so I bought a copy for my mother, Marian Whitney, who lived in Florida at the time. When I went for a visit, I took her some #2 pencils, a couple of stenographer's notebooks and Greene's book. She rolled her eyes but decided to hear my plea.

1. Start reading in the book. Stop when you come to a question that triggers a memory from your life.
2. Write your memory in the left column of your book.
3. Repeat the process.

When mother came home for a six week summer visit, she brought the notebook. She had simply listed the answers without any part of the question. We spent her visit writing her book.

The week before our Stay-at-Home took place my 12 year old granddaughter was excited to tell me she has the same birthday as her great-great-great-great-great grandfather. She knew because she read it in her great grandmother's book. Mom would be so pleased.

In 1994 we moved into the new Community Library on Burrer drive which had a nice meeting room. As director of the library, I wanted people to know this was for them. I bought additional copies of Greene's book and invited 12 couples to a Valentine program in February. It snowed so deep we postponed the meeting until March but I still showed the Valentine slides.

Do you remember your first Valentine? Do you remember making them? Did you just give them to your best friends? Almost everyone had something to say.

Have you told your family about this? Immediately everyone was eager to tell me "My children keep telling me to quit living in the past. They've already heard those stories." So I passed out Greene's book to each

couple. "Let's write for our grandchildren." My instructions were the same as I had given my mother. They could buy 2 notebooks at Shaw Pharmacy. Write in the left column so later when you think of something more to say on the subject you can add it in the right column.

When we met the second time, most of the people had answered a question but still were insecure. I had them continue to do the questions but asked them, "Stand outside your grandmother's kitchen window and write about everything you see inside. Any special memories with this room?" After that we picked a topic but they could continue with Greene's questions.

Each month they brought a notebook to the meeting. We would share what we had written. When someone read something that triggered a memory in another person, they would write it in their right hand column. I had recruited a couple of volunteer typists and my mother to input the notebooks into the library computer. I printed out the typed pages and returned them with the notebook. On their own they began collecting the typed pages in a notebook.

They offered suggestions to each other. I remember Doris Day seeing a roll towel in her grandmother's kitchen. I had no idea what she was talking about. Mary Ellen Miller brought in a roll towel holder and I remembered one in Grandma Duncan's kitchen. This was a very educational program for all of us. Another complained because it was always so cold when they butchered next year's hog - that started a discussion on food preservation.

So we are stuck in our houses with our memories so let's record them for our children's children. They will make wonderful Christmas presents - whether this year or the next!

I am starting this same program with members of Condit Presbyterian Church. You are welcome to be a part of it if you like. ***(Continue on page 4)***

**Featured Business Member**  
**Payne and Brown Insurance**

Payne and Brown Insurance has served clients since 1965 from their hometown Sunbury Office. They have expanded into five other Ohio offices: Johnstown, Marengo, Danville, Delaware and Upper Sandusky.

They are located at 35 S. Columbus Street in Sunbury. Mail goes to P.O. Box 356, Sunbury, OH 43074. Email is [Info@paynebrown.com](mailto:Info@paynebrown.com)  
 Call: 740-965-4472.

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**For Our Children's Children**

If you have a computer, by all means type in it. If you do not use a computer, get at least 2 Stenographer's notebooks from Amazon. Only write in the left column and use the right one for additions or corrections. Bob Greene's book "To Our Children's Children," is available thru [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) and Community Library. A 3-ring binder will be good to collect your typed sheets. When the Stay-At-Home is lifted we can meet in the church perhaps on a Tuesday. In the meantime, we will try Zooming. Perhaps someone in your house can get you started or call me and I'll help you set up. I will email the login code the day before the online meeting.

**Big Walnut Area Historical Society**  
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 Brian Moore, Vice President  
 Chip Welch, Secretary  
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For Information Call 740-965-1154  
 leave a message or  
 email [Info@BigWalnutHistory.org](mailto:Info@BigWalnutHistory.org)

For those who can not use a computer, each week I would like to collect your notebook so our typists can input your memories into a computer. Your typed sheets will be sent back to you to collect in a three ring notebook. We will talk about how to do this.

When you have done all you want to write, we will add photos to the text so set them aside as you come across them. Eventually your manuscript will be returned to you and you can have one printed at OfficeMax for each of your grandchildren.

For now, let me know if you are interested or have questions. Email me at [Pollyho@columbus.rr.com](mailto:Pollyho@columbus.rr.com) or call me 740-965-3582 and leave a message so I can return your call. I do not answer numbers I do not recognize.

If you would like to help by inputting someone's story into a computer, let me know. I do not have my battery of volunteers that I had when we did the 24 books at Community Library.

So start thinking about what you want your grandchildren to know. Take your time and enjoy your memories.

## Stay Home and Stay Safe!

### Joining BWAHS is Easy . . . .

**Circle One:**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address or P. O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Send with check for dues to BWAHS**

**P.O. Box 362  
 Sunbury, OH 43074**

