



Old Tyme Chronicle

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From the President

Help Keep Myers Inn Open

By Mindy Pyle

Myers Inn is opening its doors again. Although, the doors are not open as much as before the pandemic begin, it is a wonderful sign that we can begin to share our love for the community's history with the public.

I grew up in Westerville, but always loved taking the drive north on Route 3 to see my grandparents in Sunbury. I have fond memories of browsing the Sunbury Square and looking for priceless antiques, grabbing a bite to eat at the Sunbury Grill, and experiencing the smell of the Nestlé's Factory. I also loved being a part of my grandmother's planning with her C.C.L. Mother's Club and the different programs at the Myers Inn.

This year has brought us struggles, however the doors opening again at the Myer's Inn hopefully helps the community to see that we can adapt to the changes around us and still embrace the stories of the past.

The Myer's Inn is an important part of the history of Sunbury. It helps us to cherish what makes Sunbury the community it is. It is exciting to now see my own children walking through the museum and being able to retell the story of how the raccoon saved the bank.

My goal as the president of the board is to help the younger generation continue their love of learning and see the value of the community's history. It brings me such joy when the third graders come into the museum and run up to the Loom Room to tell their family about the raccoon.

Our doors are open now on Saturdays from 10am to 1pm and we will have an open house during the Labor Day celebration on the square. I look forward to sharing my passions about this community and what makes it a wonderful place to live.

Beginning September 1

Tell Johnny Hello

An Email received 7/13/2021

"I am John Cleland, retired teacher of Mount Vernon High School and author of a biography of S/Sgt Carl E. Cleland, a gunner and radio man on B-24 stationed at Shipdham Air Base, Norfolk, England, from November 1942 to August 1943. Our home was in Kingston Twp. I grew up there but was on the west side of line so went to Elm Valley High School. Carl and brothers Earl and Howard, my dad, lived on farm on North Galena Road, just north of 521. The book is based on 125 letters he wrote home and a personal diary of his bombing missions and daily activities. It is a history of a WWII gold star family. Carl was killed in a plane crash on a training flight near Casper, WY. in March 1944. I would like to donate a copy of the book to your museum. Thank you. John"



John Cleland

I, Polly Horn, first met S/Sgt. Carl Cleland in 2004 when my mother, Marian Whitney (then 94), worked with me and the Community Library staff to bring her scrapbook of World War II soldiers alive. During the war Marian's husband, Bill was editor of "The Sunbury News," and started a column "With our Boys in the Service." He asked the recruits to write and share their experiences and he would give them a free subscription for the duration of their service. Bill had no military experience so he was embarrassed when one of his first entries demoted a soldier rather than promoted him. Bill made a formal apology in his column but challenged Marian not to let it happen again.

So in a spiral notebook, Marian put a sheet of paper

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Calendar of Events

September 1 Roger Roberts presents John Cleland and the making of his book, "Tell Johnny Hello." See page 1.

September 6 at 9:00 to 1:00 Labor Day Open House at the Myers Inn and Forge

Need Volunteers - call 740-965-3582 leave message

September 14 at 6:00 BWAHS Board of Trustees meet live and via Zoom

**MYERS INN MUSEUM IS NOW OPEN
9-1 ON SATURDAYS**

Carl was mentioned in eight papers along with siblings, his wife, mother and left an impression with me because of his Wyoming death after flying 26 missions overseas.



S/Sgt Carl and Johnny

John Cleland, author of "Tell Johnny Hello," was too young to remember his Uncle Carl, who died when he was 4. What a surprise when another family member gave him a footlocker with memorabilia from Carl's years in WWII including letters ending with "Tell Johnny Hello."

Our September Program for the historical society is John telling how he took the letters, diary, clippings and memorabilia to piece together World War II from his uncle's point of view. Thanks to the internet, he was able to learn details about places where Carl was stationed and the missions he was on as well as how the military kept the men's morale up.

Beginning September 1, a link to the YouTube program will be on the website at www.BigWalnutHistory.org. Books are for sale in the Myers Inn Museum Gift Shop and Amazon. Watch for a book-signing.

Tell Johnny Hello continued from page 1
for each soldier filed in alphabetical order. Each column was pasted to another sheet and filed in chronological order. Before long she made an alphabetical index to help her find a particular person.

When the war was over the notebook went on a reference desk in the news room. Bill died in 1970 and Marian retired around 1976 and pitched the notebook in the trash but I pulled it out and took it to Community Library where it rested until I was facing retirement and needed to deal with this treasure. It is on our website.

http://BigWalnutHistory.org/Local_History/Index.html

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Volunteers Needed to Open
TRAINING PROVIDED
call Polly 740-965-3582
leave a message

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