

Footprints

Volume 38, Issue 2

Delhi Historical Society

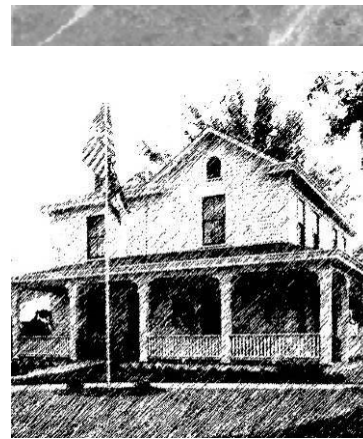
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Preserving our Past for the Future

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Programs & Events

April 13: "History of the Enquirer" presented by Jeff Seuss, Cincinnati Enquirer Librarian and journalist.

April 21: "World War II in Cincinnati" by local author Robert Earnest Miller; a book signing will follow. At the Delhi Public Library, 7pm.

May 11: "Local Boys: Hometown Players for the Cincinnati Reds" presented by authors Jack and Joe Heffron

June 15: "A Sentimental Journey with Doris and Rosemary" presented by Cincinnati Museum Center

The Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum is open March-October from 12:30-3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday. Please call to arrange an appointment in off-season.

DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2015
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CINCINNATI DAILY ENQUIRER



On Monday, April 13, the Delhi Historical Society welcomes Jeff Seuss, Cincinnati Enquirer Librarian. Seuss will present a history of the Cincinnati Enquirer, last standing of many daily newspapers in this city's history.

The Cincinnati Daily Enquirer was founded in 1841 as an afternoon, Democratic-leaning newspaper. Publications in those days were partisan, opinionated and published six days a week, with Sunday viewed as a day of rest. In 1848, the Enquirer became only the fifth newspaper in America to begin publishing on Sundays.

Some fun facts, taken from an article the Enquirer published on its own history in 2013:

- ♦ The first edition in 1841 was four pages and type was set by hand, letter by letter, and set on flat-bed presses.
- ♦ The Enquirer had its own train that delivered papers to Dayton, Columbus, Toledo and Louisville between 1870 until the 1910s.
- ♦ Freelance artists Henry Farny and Frank Duveneck once illustrated a 1874 murder story.
- ♦ The Enquirer was one of only six papers that ran the story of Wilbur and Orville Wright's historic first flight in 1903.

Jeff Seuss also writes about local history for the Enquirer. His first book, *Lost Cincinnati*, about lost buildings, neighborhoods and venues here, will soon be available from History Press. Seuss also moderates a graphic novel discussion group at the Mercantile Library.

The Delhi Historical Society holds its programs at 7pm on the second Monday of the month at the Glen Carder Lodge at Delhi Park (5125 Foley Road). Please bring a snack to share!

The Delhi Township Bicentennial, 2016

This past winter, Delhi officials gathered local organizations together to begin planning the 200th anniversary of Delhi Township's incorporation.

Delhi has enjoyed several bicentennial celebrations over the years. Our nation's 200th birthday was celebrated in small towns and big cities across the country; here, it inspired the founding of the Delhi Historical Society. In 1989, the township recognized the anniversary of the founding of South Bend village. That village and South Bend township no longer exist but the Delhi area was once a part of it.

Now we are celebrating Delhi Township's true bicentennial: when the township was incorporated through the State of Ohio in December, 1816. A four-member steering committee includes Peg Schmidt, a knowledgeable Delhi historian and a founding member of the historical society. The

historical society is now considering reprinting an updated *The History of Delhi Township* for the celebration.

Local organizations are excited about the many plans that are forming around a year-long celebration. These will include, in part, monthly programs and events, a large summer festival-type event, and an official, formal event in December commemorating the actual anniversary date of incorporation.

The Delhi Historical Society is committed to its involvement in the planning and celebration of the Bicentennial and believe this year-long celebration will bring to the community pride in its past and excitement for its future. If you would like to become involved in the planning, please contact us by phone or email info@delhihistoricalsociety.org.

From the Archives by Peg Schmidt

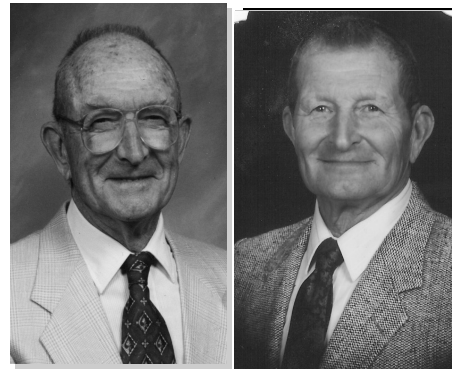
Deaths of Seitz brothers recalls Delhi tomato-growing era

Within the span of five days, the Delhi Historical Society lost two longtime members, Clint and Howard Seitz. Their lives spanned 96 and 94 years respectively and were spent in an era of Delhi that is quickly fading. They were the second and third children of Ed and Carrie Seitz. The two boys began school at the Northwestern District School on Cleves Warsaw, where their father was president of the board. They worked on the farm that had been in their family for 100 years - their great-grandfather, George Schuster, purchased it in 1840. It passed to his son-in-law, Fred in 1861, then to Fred's son Ed.

In 1912, Ed decided to put three acres of the 35 acre truck farm under glass. At first he raised general farm crops in the greenhouses, but eventually began specializing in tomatoes. He served as president of the Hamilton County Vegetable Growers Association in the late 1920s, and hosted the National Convention of Vegetable



The Seitz Truck, laden with bushels of tomatoes.



Clint (1918-2015) Howard (1920-2015)

Growers in 1931. He was given the title of "master farmer" in 1928, and in 1972 became the first living person to be inducted into the Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame.

By the time Clint and Howard took over the business in the late 1970s, Seitz Greenhouses was the largest greenhouse operation in Southwest Ohio, producing 60,000 eight-pound baskets of tomatoes a year.

Clinton and Howard decided to close the business in the mid-1980s, citing the high costs to heat the greenhouses. As children, Clinton and Howard milked cows, fed the cattle, hogs and turkeys, and collected eggs from the chickens. They remembered the days without electricity and running water, and got their farm supplies, staples and shoes at the general store. Like their parents, they attended the Westwood First Presbyterian Church, where funeral services were held for Clinton in early March.



Mary Schuster Seitz (1853-1947), grandmother of Clint and Howard, packing tomatoes.



In 1931, the Seitz's were hosts to the Vegetable Growers of America 23rd Annual Conference at their farm on Rapid Run Road near Pontius Road. Several hundred growers and their families attended the event and posed for a photo in front of the Seitz house.

Opening Soon: New Exhibits at the Farmhouse

This year, the Delhi Historical Society is planning the opening of a permanent exhibit, with two distinct but related themes.

"Delhi In Full Bloom" will provide a historical perspective on the greenhouse industry in Delhi: how it developed, its golden years and, as it declined, how that affected the township's development.

"The Language of Flowers" will explore the quaint, Victorian practice of using flowers to convey thoughts of love and romance. The Victori-

ans' great demand for blooms was the catalyst in the growth of the greenhouse industry worldwide and locally. Flowers have long been used symbolically, and this exhibit will explore how humans have spoken through flowers over the centuries and in many cultures.

Mount Saint Joseph University Graphic Design professor Beth Brann and her Topography II class are working closely with the historical society in designing the exhibit panels. They have measured the farmhouse exhibit space and have studied other history exhibits to understand how to design panels that educate and enlighten.

These are "permanent" exhibits because they will stay up for several years instead of yearly replacement. We plan to create programs that compliment the exhibits and continue to keep them relevant and interesting. The exhibit openings will be this summer—and Delhi Historical Society members will be the first invited! Watch for more news soon.

Help!

We have a list of needs for our new exhibit. Can you help in any way? We promise to return borrowed objects in the same condition we received them.

For our exhibit on the greenhouse industry in Delhi, we are still looking for photographs and mementos that we could scan and/or display and eventually keep copies of in our archives.

We are also looking for 5" - 9" Victorian bud vases to borrow for "The Language of Flowers" exhibit.

Finally, we are lucky to receive free design help from the Mount. Now we are looking for donations for the exhibit fabrication costs. Any contribution will be welcome, and your gift will be acknowledged in a Donors Honor Roll as part of the exhibit. Thank you!

Our Condolences...

- ◆ To Charlie Lipps and Frieda Knolle, for the loss of their brother Edward in October
- ◆ To Bob Schaefer, on the death of his brother James in October
- ◆ To Bob Gates, for the death of his father in December
- ◆ To the Seitz family, on the deaths of brothers Clinton and Howard Seitz this March.
- ◆ To Dan Witterstaetter, on the passing of his wife Lisa in January

Membership Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State _____ zip _____
 Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Make checks payable to: Delhi Historical Society,
 468 Anderson Ferry Road, Cincinnati, OH 45238

Membership Levels

- Regular Annual (\$15) _____
- Regular Family (\$25) _____
- Donor (\$50 or higher) _____
- Business (\$50) _____