

Delhi History

Volume 45, Issue 1

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DELHI



HISTORY

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monthly Speaker Programs at Delhi Park Lodge

History of Findlay Market



Alyssa McClanahan

Join us on Monday, March 14 at the Delhi Lodge to hear author Alyssa McClanahan discuss her new book *Findlay Market of Cincinnati*. Located in Over-the-Rhine in the heart of Cincinnati, Findlay Market is Ohio's oldest continually operating market. It opened in 1855 to serve a growing population and quickly became a central neighborhood hub for



goods and services. Gathering personal stories of the merchants of Findlay Market, historian Alyssa shines a light on the past of this beloved Queen City institution to reveal its place in local and American urban history.

Lee Witterstaetter— The Westside Natural

Join writer/director Joey Witterstaetter for the premiere of "The Westside Natural" on Monday, April 11. It's the story of Lee Witterstaetter who grew up in our historic Farmhouse, and was born with natural baseball talent. From humble beginnings and some mishaps



Lee Witterstaetter



along the way, he rose through the ranks of America's pastime. Witness the story of one of the greatest baseball players who never was.

Programs & Events

- **March 6, 2022.** The Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum and Research Center will reopen.
- **March 14, 7 p.m.,** at the Delhi Park Lodge: *History of Findlay Market* with author Alyssa McClanahan.
- **April 11, 7 p.m.** at the Delhi Lodge: *Lee Witterstaetter: The Westside Natural* with writer/producer Joey Witterstaetter.
- **In the works:** A new exhibit featuring where and what Delhites ate as we feature saloons, restaurants, lunch counters, and eating parlors.

From the President

Anita Klawitter



As I settle in to write, I'm warm and cozy in my three bedroom bungalow sipping a hot and delicious cup of coffee. Never mind it's freezing outside and my driveway still resembles a skating rink thanks to our recent snow and ice storm of several days ago.

On evenings like this I often recall the stories my older brothers tell of their spending cold nights at grandpa's cottage which was located just across the street from Our Lady of Victory Church on Neeb Road. Grandpa's cottage had little heat and no indoor toilet. My brothers remember the outhouse was a "two-holer" and my brother Jim recalls it was so cold in the house one night that grandpa's dentures froze inside the glass grandpa kept on the nightstand. And this was the late 1960's!

Another winter musing reminds me of the first time the Bengals made it to the Super Bowl. I was in high school in 1981 and can still remember my mother – a lifelong sports fan – being absolutely ecstatic that the Bengals made it to the Super Bowl. I also remember the legend-

ary 1982 "Freezer Bowl" – the coldest game in NFL history. I was working part-time at the old Speedway gas station at the corner of Race Road and Harrison Avenue and had the game on as people came in to pay for their gas or grab a gallon of milk. Excitement was in the air and I can still recall the Bengals coming on to the field in their short sleeves and thinking they were absolutely nuts!

By the time this newsletter goes to print the fate of Super Bowl LVI will have been decided. Regardless of the outcome, I'm proud of this young team and new era of the Cincinnati Bengals. I can't help but think their determination, positivity, and even humor is inspiring folks like my mom and yet another generation of teenagers. History is being made and will be looked upon fondly. Who Dey!

Anita

Condolences

- To the families of members Robert Curd, Paul Ashworth, Eileen Gangloff and Barry Pulskamp.
- To Bill Backs on the death of his brother Tom Backs, and brother-in-law Bill Castellini
- To the family of Al Meyer, the Delhi Historical Society's first treasurer
- To Al Audette on the death of his mother Rita Molina,

The Mission of the Delhi Historical Society is to discover, preserve and share the history of Delhi Township and the surrounding areas.

The Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum and Research Center is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. If you are doing research please call 513.451.4313 to reserve a time.

Collections Corner

Today's Snapshots are Tomorrow's History

By Alan March

In 2018, the Delhi Historical Society began a project called, "Scanning Station." We invited members of the community to bring their family photographs and documents to the Society. Then, we scanned them into a computer to digitally preserve them. The scanned items then became a digital resource future researchers can use to learn about life in and around Delhi Township. The originals were returned to the owners. People were welcome to bring their own "thumb drive," too, so they could take home digital copies of their family treasures.

Several people were interested, but reluctant to participate in Scanning Station. They felt their family photos and papers were not worthy, not "historical." However, we believe all family items are important to history.

History is the story of people, *all* people. While books and movies and documentaries may be made about famous people and major events in the world, the every-day person is just as important. Learning how people lived in the 1950s, 1920s, or 1890s, helps others today understand those periods better. It makes those eras real, easier to identify with.

In November of 2021, a man visited the Delhi Historical Society's Farmhouse Museum with 31 photographs he had inherited from his grandmother. She



Pedretti home at the northeast corner of Pedretti and Foley roads is now the site of an apartment building.

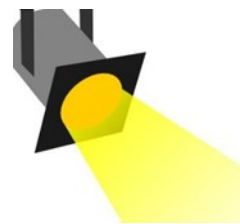
had been a live-in housekeeper for the Charles Pedretti family, whose stately home was at the corner of Foley Avenue and Tanner Road. (Tanner is now named Pedretti Road.) Most of these photographs are snapshots of Charles, his wife Maria, and a few other people as yet unidentified. Several photographs of the house are included, including two interior shots. This adds to our knowledge of that bygone home of Delhi. One photograph shows Mrs. Pedretti, in her later years, sitting on a bench in the rose garden on the home's grounds. Sitting next to her is an equally aged dog, obviously the family pet. On the back of the photograph are the words, "Mrs. Pedretti and Teddy." Looking at the image again, you realize the sense of humor Mrs. Pedretti had: her pet was "Teddy Pedretti!"

These simple snapshots were made by an unknown person, not a professional photographer. The photographs were not intended for publication in a newspaper or magazine. They were simply made to record the private moments of a family. Now, they give all of us a glimpse into the everyday lives of the Charles Pedretti Family.



Charles Pedretti, left, and his wife Maria Pedretti.

Board News



The DHS could not function without the commitment and expertise of our Board of Directors who offer thoughtful leadership as well as strategic and organizational oversight in order to keep DHS thriving for generations to come. In this issue we spotlight Chip Brigham and Ped Schmidt.

Peg is a founding member of the Delhi Historical Society, having served as secretary of the Delhi American Bicentennial Commission 1973-1976, the forerunner of the DHS. She has served on many committees and positions over the years, including president. She co-authored the book, *The New Pioneers: The People of Delhi 1820-1900*. A graduate of Mount St. Joseph University with a BS in Management Communication with a concentration in Information Systems, she worked as a newspaper reporter for 15 years, until taking a position with MSJ in its Marketing Department. Peg retired as the Mount's Internet Marketing Manager in 2007 and served as a paid consultant for the DHS for 5 years. Peg remains the most active of volunteers and is unofficially the Society's chief historian.

Charles A. "Chip" Brigham, III is a resident of Delhi and has served on a number of non-profit boards and currently serves as the chair of the Investment Advisory Committee for the DHS. Chip graduated from Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio and received his Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University Law School, Cleveland, Ohio. Chip is a practicing attorney in The Holfinger Stevenson Law Firm, as well as Regional Counsel for the Northwest Title Family of Companies, Inc. Chip formerly owned and operated Buckeye Land Title, a family legacy, and a staple of Cincinnati's west side for over 50 years. In his role for Buckeye Land Title (a part of Northwest Title), Chip provides guidance and active management of the operations of the Delhi branch, and is frequently found in the closing room serving customers.

He has received the designation of Ohio Land Title Professional by the Ohio Land Title Association and received recognition by the "Best Lawyers in America" for real estate law in 2018. He has authored the public information real-estate-law pamphlets, "Buying a Home" and "Law You Can Use - Short Sales in a Nut Shell" published by the Ohio State Bar Association.

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