

Beth Keuneke, Adult Services Coordinator, welcomed the attendees to the Round Table. After some general announcements, she turned the meeting over to Detective Tim Rammel from the Auglaize County Sheriff's Office. He laid out some information regarding the Roger Parent murder which occurred around 11:50 pm on Friday, December 29, 1978 at the P & S Carry Out at 2111 Celina Road/State Route 703, St. Marys, Ohio. The date would initially be remembered for an incident that happened at the Gater Bowl when Ohio State University coach Woody Hayes punched one of the Clemson Tigers players.

The body of Parent was found by a neighbor of the business and the department arrived within one minute of the call, coming from the intersection of State Route 364 and Northway. Parent was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Several officers have worked on the case over the years. Detective Tim Rammel is working with the Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) going over the case again starting from the beginning. He mentioned that today the department relies on technology which was not available in 1978.

Several things that Rammel mentioned were there are some fingerprints that haven't been identified yet. There is also some discussion regarding the 7-11 store which was located where Sherman Williams is now located. Three male possible persons of interest were seen driving an orange over-white Ford Pinto. There are several theories regarding the murder one being a robbery gone bad and the other as an intentional murder. The Department believes that someone locally has information that could help with the case. It was discussed that if someone with information was worried about another crime that was related to the murder they can rest assured that the statute of limitations has expired on those crimes, although not the statute of limitations on murder. If someone would feel that they could get in trouble for not reporting something sooner, this is not the case.

Questions that they would like to have answers to are: What bars were in the area and what kind of bars were they? Would the hat the suspect was wearing in the composite be something that someone of that age would wear in 1978? Who was in the carry-out that day and what was the first reaction the people had when they first heard the news?

Rammel shared photos of the inside and outside of P & S Carry-Out as well as the composite of the suspect. Someone in the group thought that they had seen a different sketch. Rammel is also looking for help in recreating the area and getting the lay of the land as it was in 1978. Several businesses were mentioned: Villa Cerise, the Surf Club, Hegemier Trailer Service, My Carry-Out, A & W Root Beer, Haseker's Bait & Tackle, Bill's Carry-Out, Parker Hannifin, The Anchor Club, Momo's, Ralph Selby's, and BJ's Carry-Out some of which were before or after the incident. Bob Hurm said that he bought the lot on the southeast corner of State Route 703 and 364 from Louie Hasiker on which he built Paris Cleaners. There were a lot of black cinders there on the lot.

Someone thought they had heard that the person that committed the crime committed suicide after that. The department has five or six people on their list that also supposedly committed suicide after the crime.

Someone suggested that a reward be offered now, which might encourage someone to come forward. Bill Huber stated that at the time he was the president of the chamber of commerce and within a week afterward they had \$10,000 pledged for a reward for tips, but there were no tips.

The public is encouraged to share anything that they have heard or seen no matter how small with the Auglaize County Sheriff's Department at 419-739-6565 or contact Rammel directly via his email address, trammel@auglaizecounty.org.

The next Local History Round Table will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 1:30 pm in the Library meeting room.