



Beth Keuneke started the round table by saying that she had some incorrect information in the last local history round table newspaper article. It was previously written, “One of the participants remembers riding Penny the pony that was given to Barb Parker by her father, Jim Parker who owned Parker Motors...” There was no Jim or Barb Parker. It was Robert “Bob” Parker who owned Parker Motors. From a conversation with Jane Tallman, an article that appeared in the Evening Leader on January 21, 1950, and with additional information from the 1939 and 1946 Directories, the following information was given. “Bob [Parker] came to St. Marys in 1941 and bought the H.S. Jenkins Motor Sales and Service Company.” In the 1939 and 1946 Directories this business was located at 155 W. South Street which would have been across the street from the 1923 Memorial High School building. The article continues, “In 1943 Bob was drafted into the Army, serving 18 months in Hawaii. However, before he went into the service he took his brother Bernie Parker into partnership with him. Since 1946 the brothers Parker have been active business partners.” They began operations at 1350 Celina Road on January 21, 1949. After announcing the correction, Doris Cook said that Bob and Bernie Parker’s brother Herb Parker also worked at the business along with driving a school bus. Bob Hurm related that the Parker Brothers built a canopy onto the west side of the Celina Road building for a show area. They later enclosed the canopy which became the show room while the north part of the building became the parts department with several offices. Bob Hurm remembers that his dad came home with a 1950 Chevy car from Parkers that did not have a clutch. Hurm wondered how it could work without one, as all cars previously had a clutch. The 1950 had a new system called power glide which was an early automatic transmission system. It was a two-door car with no air conditioning for their family of six. Bob Hurm said that Penny the Pony belonged to Bernie Parker while Jane Tallman said that Lisa Parker, Herb’s daughter, had a Palomino pony.

Mike Homan and Bill Huber said that Dick Parker and Grady Shaner at one-time ran Parker Motors. They then sold it to a man named Bob from Continental, Ohio, who changed the name to Bob's Chevy who then sold it to Bud's Chevy. Beth Keuneke also heard that at one-time Parker Motors was located at 820 S. Wayne Street, after talking to Doug Moran she found out that the Moran brothers bought the building from the Parker family. In the 1957 directory 66 Motors Inc. was located at 820 S. Wayne Street with LJ McFarland as president, CB Nearing as vice-president and GL Nearing as secretary-treasurer while in the 1961 directory that address is listed as vacant. Beth concluded that Parker Motors was first located on W. South Street then moved to S. Wayne Street before moving to the Celina Road location. Someone related that Parker bought out 66 Motors which sold Oldsmobile. Jim Winget remembers seeing a convertible there that had a record player in the middle which played 45rpm records and he thought that was very interesting. 66 Motors was remembered as being in a Quonset hut type building and that there was a dry cleaning establishment near there run by Mike Axe. Axe Cleaners at 838 S. Wayne Street was described as a small shack south of 820 S. Wayne. According to Doug Moran the old portion of the original building still has a domed roof. Sometime before the remodel in 1972 the Axe Cleaners building was torn down to make way for the addition, which also took place in 1972.

Since it was the Christmas season, Beth Keuneke asked if anyone had any Christmas memories to share. Mike Homan related that Goodyear had a big Christmas party for the children of the employees. It was held at the 1923 Memorial High School. The children went in the front door, and went turned west and wound their way back to the auditorium where they received a bag with an apple, an orange, some candy, and they also received a toy. Mike Homan remembers that they were pretty nice toys and one that he remembered was a model airplane. Santa was there and the employees on salary would pass things out to the children. Mike remembers looking at the pictures on the walls of the school, most likely the former graduating classes.

At one-time South Wayne Street went straight south through the Goodyear property while South Main Street ended after the railroad tracks at Huffman Street. In the late 1950's early 1960's, South Main Street was extended and became State Route 66, while South Wayne Street ended at Goodyear. Greenville Road did not extend east past Wayne Street. Mike Homan remembers in 1975 the houses at the intersection of Wayne and Greenville were torn down and the road was extended east. The bypass from Main Street to Spring Street past the hospital was put into place sometime prior to 1975 and was called the North Connector and was put in as a way for ambulances and emergency vehicles to get to Joint Township District Memorial Hospital without going through downtown. The City of St. Marys received a grant for this. Marv Rupert remembers that there was a path along the feeder where Park Drive is now that went all the way to Greenville Rd; while Bill Huber remembers the community gardens that were south of the Goodyear factory. There was a question as to how Quellhorst and Koop road connected prior to when State Route 66 continued south from Main Street. No one seemed to know the answer to this question.

KC Geiger park was at one time the city dump. Bill Huber related that in 1975 the City of St. Marys got a grant to clear the area, but not enough for equipment. Bill Huber was on the committee and also involved with the little league. He asked if the city would allow in kind contributions. He was told yes, so he got the little league to do an in kind contribution which helped with getting the park areas ready for use.

Mike Homan asked about the Wayne Street Lounge. For many years it was known as Hidegkuti's Café/Restaurant run by Steve and Mildred Hidegkuti. It became Wayne Street Lounge sometime between 1973 and 1975. There were several different managers or owners over the years according to the directories, some of them include: Bill Messer, James Temple, David Anthony, Mary Nieter and Sharon Bayman.

The next Local History Round Table will be held on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 2:30. The public is invited to come listen and share.