

Local History Round Table Discussion November 28, 2023

(Images at the end of the article.)

Beth Keuneke, adult services coordinator at the St. Marys Community Public Library, started the Local History Round Table with a photo of bricks taken by Claudia Mescher during the recent open house at the Armory. The bricks are located in the furnace room and several of them contain signatures, although the signatures could not be identified. This brought to mind the signed bricks in one of the participant's garages, which were signed by Howard Schultz and Chris Finke. Howard Schultz was a local contractor in the 1960's.

Mike Clark, son of Evelyn Andreoni Clark, brought in photos of Andreoni's Confectionary and pictures of some family members including Albert Andreoni, Eletta Anderoni, Evelyn Andreoni Clark, and Victor "Vic" Andreoni. Keuneke found the obituary for Eletta on Findagrave.com and it gave some interesting information. Eletta was "owner and operator of the Andreoni Confectionary until last September." She died on March 22, 1972. "A native of Italy, she was born November 10, 1881." "On May 8, 1905 was married to Natale (Charlie) Andreoni who had opened the Confectionary and wholesale fruit market in St. Marys three years before". They had three children, Victor, Evelyn, and Albert. The store was located at 229 East Spring Street where We Can Too is now located. One of the photos was of Albert Andreoni who died in 1946 and was an attorney. Several photos were of Eletta who ran the store until she was 90 years of age. One was of the store taken in the 1920's or 1930's before Charlie died in 1935. Several in attendance remembered the booths that were located at the back of the store that were installed in later years. Another remembered the roasted peanuts that were sold there. Someone else remembered the newspapers that were located near the heating stove. Several of the photos were of Mike's mother Evelyn and his grandfather Natali. He recalled that the Andreoni family owned the store front next door at 231 East Spring Street where Joseph A. Reineke had his barber shop. The OK Barber Shop run by Joseph A. Reineke and Carl E. Meckstroth was listed in the 1957 Directory.

Keuneke announced that the library now has a digital microfilm reader and one of the features is that a whole page can be displayed and printed. She showed several pages of the June 10, 1940 Evening Leader. The headline read, "Open House in St. Marys Tuesday and Wednesday." The paper was announcing the open house of the newly renovated Chakeres-St. Marys Theatre. Other businesses who would be hosting open houses at their establishments included: the Goodyear plant, The Evening Leader, the St. Marys Woolen Mill, and the White Mountain Creamery. Several one page ads were shown to the group. One for the theater and one for the contractor C.W. Fry Construction Co. of Greenville, Ohio who did the renovations of the theater. At the time Fry was working on constructing the Eagles Lodge on the corner of Spring and Spruce. This would have been the earlier building as the present building was built in 1999 and opened in 2000.

One of the ads was for Anderson and Haney, manufacturers of cast stone products at Oil and Derrick Streets. Keuneke pointed this ad out because of the elephant on the ad. According to the ad, "Our Elephant Says:- "Nice going to St. Marys. I'm for you as strong as an Anderson and Haney Block!" It was mentioned that west of this establishment was the R.V. Rison Coal Yard at the corner of Oil and Vine Streets. In later years Robert V. and William C. Rison had Rison's Cabinet and Supply Co. at 605 N. Vine St.

The Wisener's ad brought back memories of how packed the store was. In 1940 it was located in the Camille building. McManamon's: The old reliable store had a full page ad in the paper. It was located at 212 East Spring Street.

This led to a discussion of various buildings mostly within residential areas. One was a building at 945 Columbia Street. It was originally the West Ohio Gas Co. garage and then Don Miller from Lima used this building for storage. In the 1990 directory Keuneke found that the building was called Cherry Auto Body and run by Doug Stethem. Someone thought that Mr. Temple's garage started there and then he may have built a building at the end of Columbia Street. Keuneke could find no documentation about Mr. Temple but did find that in 1993-4 Ronald Keith had Keith's Service Center at 150 N. Knoxville Avenue which is at the end of Columbia Street. The 1999 directory lists Keith's Service Center at 220 North Pine Street where it is now located. According to the earlier directories Ron worked for others before starting his own business.

Another person asked about the Glass Block building. According to a newspaper article written 65 years after the construction of the Glass Block Building, "the Glass Block was erected to house St. Marys finest department store - - a store which continued in operation for better than a quarter of a century; then continued as a furniture store until the 1940's when it too was discontinued." At the time of the article, maybe 1970," three stores - Johns Furniture, Slonkosky Studio, and the St. Marys Decorating" occupied the building. According to the article the original Glass Block "store carried a full line of merchandise - dress goods, ladies ready-to-wear, lingerie, bedding, linens, findings, furniture, stoves, pianos, sheet music, household accessories, dishes, utensils and many other items." It was determined that the Glass Block was just the name and did not or was not made out of glass blocks.

Bill Huber related that his grandfather had a furniture store in Ada and he would travel to Muncie to get card tables. He would travel through St. Marys and have lunch at the Jitney. One time when he was eating at the Jitney, he struck up a conversation with someone who mentioned that St. Marys needed a furniture store. So he scouted around and found a place to open up a furniture store, in the Glass Block Building. Bill remembers that the canal ran next to the building and that a channel ran behind the store where boats would come to make deliveries. Several other businesses were in the Glass Block over the years including but not limited to John's Furniture and Floor Coverings, Slonkosky Studio and Camera Shop, St. Marys Decorating Co., Morris 5 cent and 10 cent to \$1.00 Store. GC Murphy Co. and Donnerberg's TV Sales and Service.

Bob Makley introduced himself and told a little about the Makley family and how they came to Dayton in 1832 and later to St. Marys where they opened a blacksmith shop. Bob's dad was a welder at Wright field in Dayton and his mom, Janet, was the daughter of Dr. Kite the dentist and the sister of Jim Kite. His mom grew up in the blue house on West South Street, now home to Attorney Kenneth Hitchen at 510 W. South. Bob is very interested in history and is interested in finding out information about the photo at the Mooney museum of a group of Civil War veterans that played cards together. This group was called the Schlabberhannes Klubb, 1859-1899. Several of the members were General August Willich, Henry Althausen, August Pauck, Charles Hipp and R.B. Gordon and two others. He has also been taking photos for the St. Marys Theater and Grand Opera House and brought multiple copies of three different postcards that he passed around and the folks could take if they wanted.

Due to the library being closed for the holiday on the next normal meeting day, there will be an evening Local History Round Table held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. The public is welcome to attend.

Our Elephant Says:-

"NICE GOING ST. MARYS. I'M FOR
YOU AS STRONG AS AN ANDERSON
AND HANEY BLOCK!"



"The Block That Has Stood The Test"

DEALERS IN
CEMENT & HARD BUILDING MATERIAL

ANDERSON AND HANEY

Manufacturers of Cast Stone Products
Oil & Derrick Sts. Phone 4174 St. Marys, Ohio

It's Fun to Build If You Build **RIGHT**



THE NEW CHAKERES ST. MARYS THEATRE

IS THE FOURTH CHAKERES THEATRE WE HAVE BUILT AND WE LIKE TO FEEL THAT WE WERE AWARDED THE CONTRACT BECAUSE WE BUILT THE BEAUTIFUL CHAKERES-STATE IN GREENVILLE, THE LUXURIOUS CHAKERES-XENIA IN XENIA AND THE DELUXE CHAKERES-COLONY IN HILLSBORO IN THE "RIGHT WAY." ONE SATISFACTORY JOB MERITS ANOTHER ... AND GETS IT WITH CHAKERES THEATRES, INC.

No Job Is Too Big No Job Is Too Small

FROM A DELUXE THEATRE TO A NEW "EAGLE" LODGE ... THERE IS NO JOB TOO BIG FOR US TO HANDLE. WE ARE COMPLETELY EQUIPPED WITH MEN AND MATERIAL TO HANDLE THE BIGGEST BUILDING JOBS THAT COME ALONG ... AND TO HANDLE THEM EFFICIENTLY, INTELLIGENTLY ... IN SHORT TO BUILD THEM "THE RIGHT WAY." A LONG LINE OF SATISFIED OWNERS IS OUR BEST RECOMMENDATION.

BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IS THE FACT THAT NO JOB IS TOO SMALL FOR US TO CONSIDER. FROM REDECORATING TO REMODELLING OR BUILDING YOUR OWN HOME, WE HAVE THE MEN TO DO THE JOB "THE WAY YOU WANT IT DONE." WE HAVE A COMPLETE STAFF OF ARCHITECTS WHO SPECIALIZE IN MODERNIZING, REMODELLING OR BUILDING HOMES, LARGE OR SMALL. WE WANT YOU TO FEEL FREE TO CALL ON US FOR BUILDING CONSULTATION ANYTIME.

C. W. Fry Construction Co.

GREENVILLE, OHIO

A NEW ERA IN ENTERTAINMENT DAWNS..

The merchants and manufacturers join with the residents of St. Marys and vicinity in offering you their heartiest congratulations on your new St. Marys Theatre. We feel that your confidence in St. Marys as demonstrated by the building of a deluxe theatre which would be a credit to a city many times larger than St. Marys will be justified by the support of our people. We extend to you, Mr. Chakeres, our most sincere best wishes for your success here.



To Mr. Chakeres...

THE NEW CHAKERES ST. MARYS THEATRE IS A TRIBUTE TO THE PROGRESS OF ST. MARYS AND WILL STAND AS A MONUMENT TO THE PURPOSE OF THE CHAKERES THEATRES, INCORPORATED... TO GIVE THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY THE FINEST PICTURES AVAILABLE AND TO PRESENT THEM IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF BEAUTY AND COMFORT SO THAT THE THEATRE BECOMES AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LIVES OF EACH MEMBER OF THAT COMMUNITY. THE PEOPLE OF ST. MARYS ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE ST. MARYS THEATRE AND CHAKERES THEATRE, INC.

All Roads Lead to

The NEW

ST. MARYS THEATRE

Chakeres