

At the July 26, 2022 Local History Round Table, Lynne Ray brought in a large number of photos and postcards taken by Fred Yacmett. Fred Yacmett was a photographer in St. Marys from 1903 until 1936. His studio was located 133 1/3 East Spring. His mother, Mrs. Callie Yacmett, lived at 206 S. Pine Street. Fred and his wife Edna and their daughter Rosemary lived above the studio. After Fred's death in 1936, Edna and Rosemary moved to Toledo where Edna died and was buried. According to Findagrave.com Rosemary died in Memphis, Tennessee, and was buried in Genoa, Ohio.

Some of the pictures taken by Fred Yacmett included the 1910 Harvest Jubilee, which included the tight rope walkers with and without the elephant costume. Other pictures include the construction of Memorial Park and the construction of Memorial High School which that was built in 1923. He was a devote Catholic and took pictures of St. Charles Seminary one of which was taken before the was grass planted. Many of the pictures are of or include his daughter Rosemary. Among the photos are what are thought to be numerous local business people but there are no names associated with them. Lynne Ray would love to be able to put names to the faces. One of the pictures was labeled John Rable and Charles Folk. There were many pictures of Northwood including the construction of the lighthouse. Fred also took many if not all of the photos in the St. Marys Centennial program book. Doug Endicott bought out Fred Yacmett and continued as a photographer in St. Marys.

Mike Homan, recalls going to the SMAKO (St. Marys Annual Kommunity Outing) on the Northeast corner of Grand Lake St. Marys. He remembers in 1960 or 1961 the St. Marys Ontario band came and played at SMAKO. Bill Huber said that it ran from the late 1950's to the early 1960's and was located between the first and second beaches. Bob Hurm said that Conrad "Connie" Mandross ran SMAKO. Bill Huber said that the State Office was located near the small ponds along 364. The patrols would dock their boats there. That is also where they held the fishing derby.

Another question asked was what the grotto in Memorial park was for and why it was there. Bill Huber said that legend has it that it was made to provide water to control the fountain that was in the Memorial park and that after they no longer needed it, the back was filled in. He doesn't know if this is true or not.

Carol Chivington's father owned Fortman's Meat Market at 221 E. Spring street and she remembers driving behind the store and trying to turn around and having to be very careful because the canal ran close to the parking area so there wasn't much room to turn around.

Other things recalled were: Doris Cook related that she typed up The Saint Marys Story for Frank B. Shuffelton in 1973. The building at 723 S. Wayne Street at one time was a Sunoco Gas Station, a paint store run by Richard Haines, the Dari-Whip Ice Cream shop and last as Hirschfeld Plumbing Heating and A/C, which is being sold at the time of the writing. Others recalled the Ratskeller in the basement of Kuck's Cafeteria when it was located at 101 West Spring. There were windows that looked out over the St. Marys River.

At one time, Bill Huber had an office at 137 East Spring. The back of the building ran along the canal where Thrive Family Wellness is currently located. On the lower level there were windows and doors that opened onto the North side of the canal. From his research he found that the canal boats would unload their passengers on the north side of the canal and that there were slaughter houses on the south side of the canal and that is where they would unload the animals. In 1905 the Gospel church was located on the South side of the canal in what is now Memorial park. Memorial Park was dedicated to

the soldiers lost in World War I. Lynne Ray remembers that when she was in school they had to do a leaf identification project and someone told her to go to Memorial Park because the trees had plaques under them that identified the tree. Beth Keuneke related that there is a grove of trees in K C Geiger park north of Murray Cemetery that have identifying plaques under them.

At one time the "Castle" at 518 Jackson street was the St. Marys Nursing Home. Mike Homan recalls touring the home and down in the basement there is the cement foundation for the house and there is also a cement wall under the outer edge of the porch. There are arches from which a person can look out onto the lawn.

Bill Huber shared that in Ohio the births were recorded at the probate court before 1914 and after 1914 they were recorded at the Health Department. Many births took place in the home and when the parents came to town they would record the birth and/or death. Sometimes it would be a while before they came to town so that is why sometimes the birth and/or death dates do not correspond, as they might have forgotten the exact date.

In the last article, I related that Bob Hurm's grandmother made pizzas. That was an error it was his mother who made the pizzas.

The next Local History Roundtable will be held Tuesday, August 23, 2022 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. The public is invited to attend to share or to listen.