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Elmwood Station



A LINWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY

Linworth Historical Society Newsletter

Linworth United Methodist
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A Step Back In Time - Part II

With Long-time Resident and Church Member

Rhea Beard

“The Hocking Valley passenger trains served us well. A horse-drawn wagon, with two bench seat and a back step for entering, carried passengers to and fro between Linworth and Dublin. As a result, it was easy to go to Columbus to get produce at the market, to enjoy a day of shopping, or to have lunch.”



1910 - sisters Eleanor (left) and Ruthella Dominy, taking a ride in a horse-drawn buggy. Years later, both girls married and became active in local churches. In 1923, Eleanor became Mrs. Charles W. Lewis and they attended Linworth United Methodist Church for many years. Ruthella was wedded to Henry Albert Termeer and both joined and served in the Dublin Community Church.

“Sometimes we went to see a silent movie and the delightful cartoons, both enhanced by the pianist’s mood music. I can still feel the pleasure of sitting by my mother in the darkened theater enjoying the movies and laughing at the cartoons. So, we and others enjoyed these pleasures because of the available trains and closeness to the city.”

“Such was Linworth at the beginning of the second decade of the twentieth century. We had the advantage of being a small community surrounded by a rural area as well as being close to the city. I think of it as a blessing.”

Sounds of that day come to mind: the church bells ringing for services or Sunday School, and tolling for funerals; the hooves of the horses making their rhythmic sounds; the train whistles blowing their messages with quick toots deciphered by their number, prolonged blasts for railroad crossing signals and mournful wailing sounds coming across the night air; screen doors squeaking and slamming in the summer-time; and the many sounds of nature so easily heard in those days.”

“My mother loved hearing the voices of her children and their friends as they played at eventide. That, along with the setting sun, made her feel that “God’s in His Heaven and all’s right with the world”.”

A Step Back in Time - Part II

With Long-time Resident and Church Member Rhea Beard

“Our families went to Sunday School to the call of the church bell. I remember how much Mother enjoyed the class for teenage girls, of which Alice Neds was a member. Later, Alice was my teacher. I know that those in our class were old enough to be in the sanctuary, sitting in the pews, instead of the church dining room, where the younger children met.”



Church members claimed “You could hear that bell as far away as the Olentangy River. It was as if God Himself was calling you to church.”

“In the very early days of radio, Ralph Neds had one which, if I recall correctly, he assembled (this reminds me that he wired our house for electricity which functioned throughout our years there). He arranged for townspeople to gather in the auditorium to hear those voices that traveled through the air to be heard miles away. It was a big event and many assembled. Ralph was seated on the stage in front of his small radio. We, who sat in anticipation, were all ears.”

“He waited. We sat and waited. As he twisted the dials, we became apprehensive and, perhaps, restless. Then, there was a sound! Our attention was alerted. The sounds continued. No voices. Then there was silence again. The sounds returned: squeaks, screeches, staccato sounds of all sorts with alternating silences. Yes, static!”

“Then, in words which I do not recall, he called it a day (meaning not tonight). I was sad. Some who had gathered were nay-sayers. Those who had heard one before knew it was just a bad night for radio reception. I am sure that none of us envisioned the wonders that would be developed during this century.”

“I have come to love this town and state. My roots are here, intertwined with those of my Ohio memories. This has been a labor of love. During this writing, I have recalled much, written some, and thought of you all. Best wishes.”

- Rhea Beard Henson

Rhea was 9 years old when her father purchased this farmhouse (1918) on the southwest corner of St. Rte. 161 and the railroad crossing in Linworth. Rhea, sister Charlotte and brother Walter spent most of their childhood here. John Beard was stationmaster and Mother, Bessie, was very active in LUMC, Ladies Aid, etc.

“Rhea Beard was my 1st grade teacher when I attended Linworth Elementary in 1931. It is now an Alternative School.”

Treva Buck - 2011

