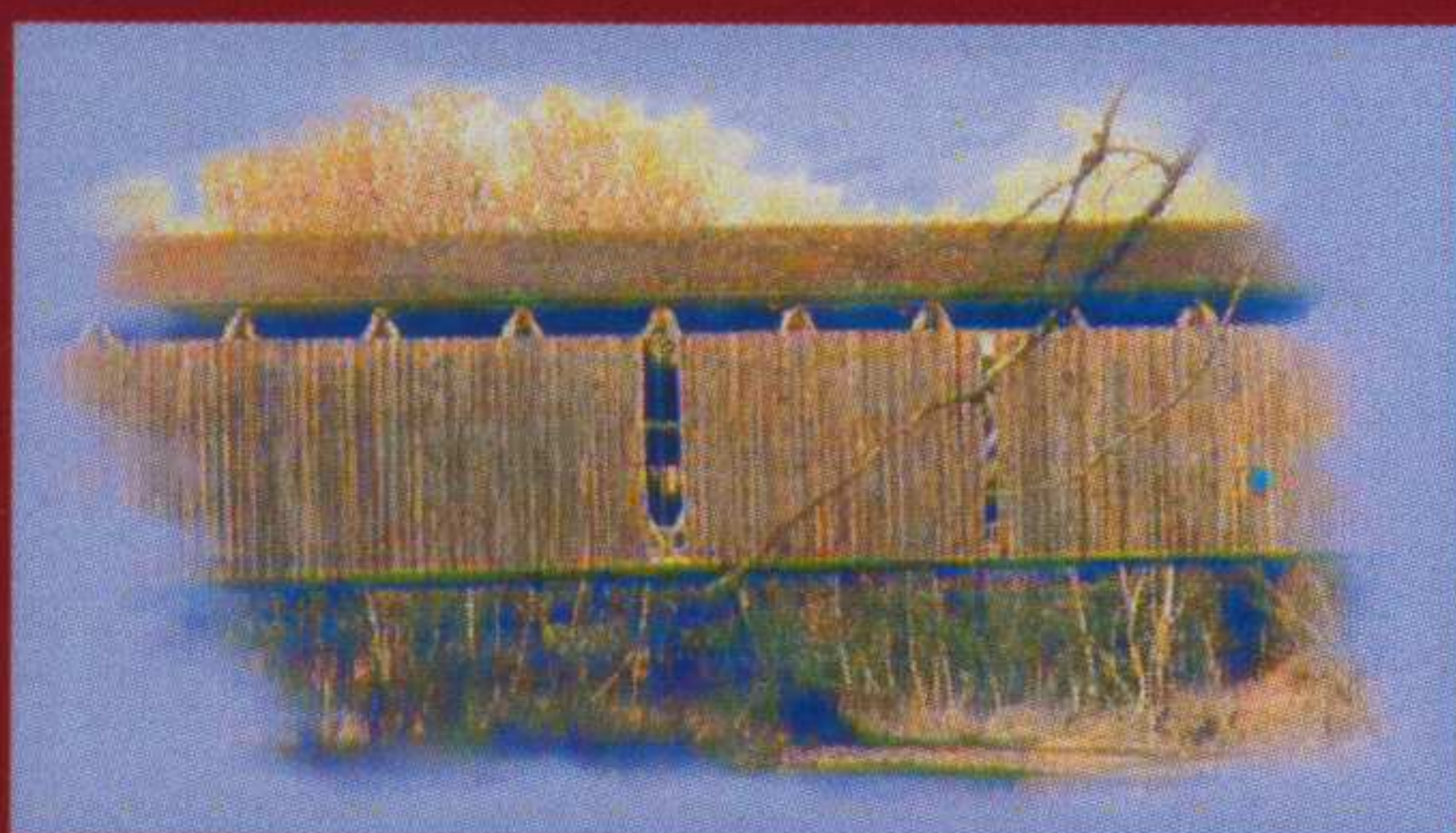


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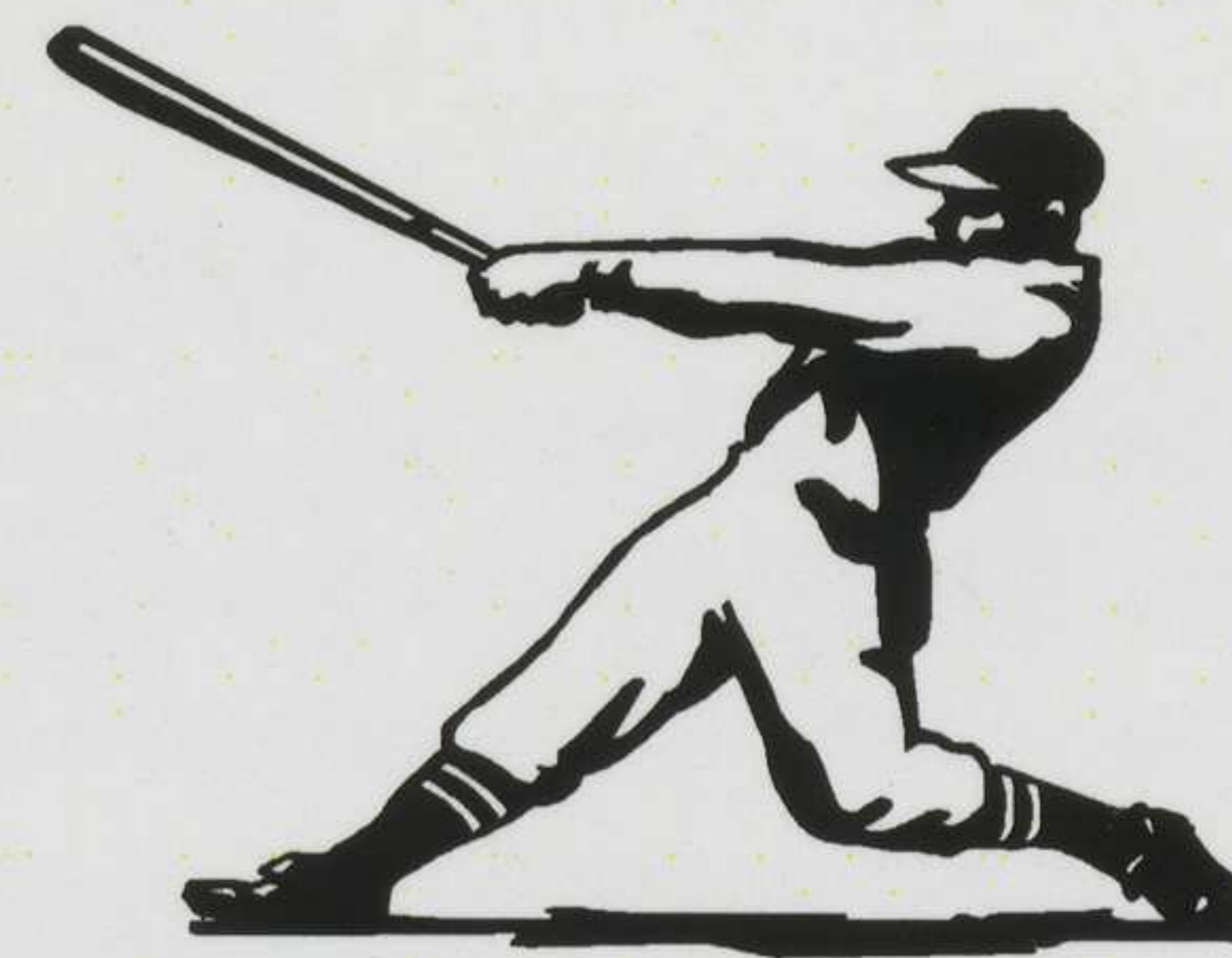
Wilson Bridge Road



A LINWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY

Linworth Historical Society Newsletter

The Boys of Elmwood



From a stand of sugar maples, hickory, and elm trees, a clearing was cut, a baseball field laid out, and the boys of Elmwood had a home field, called Hard's Grove.



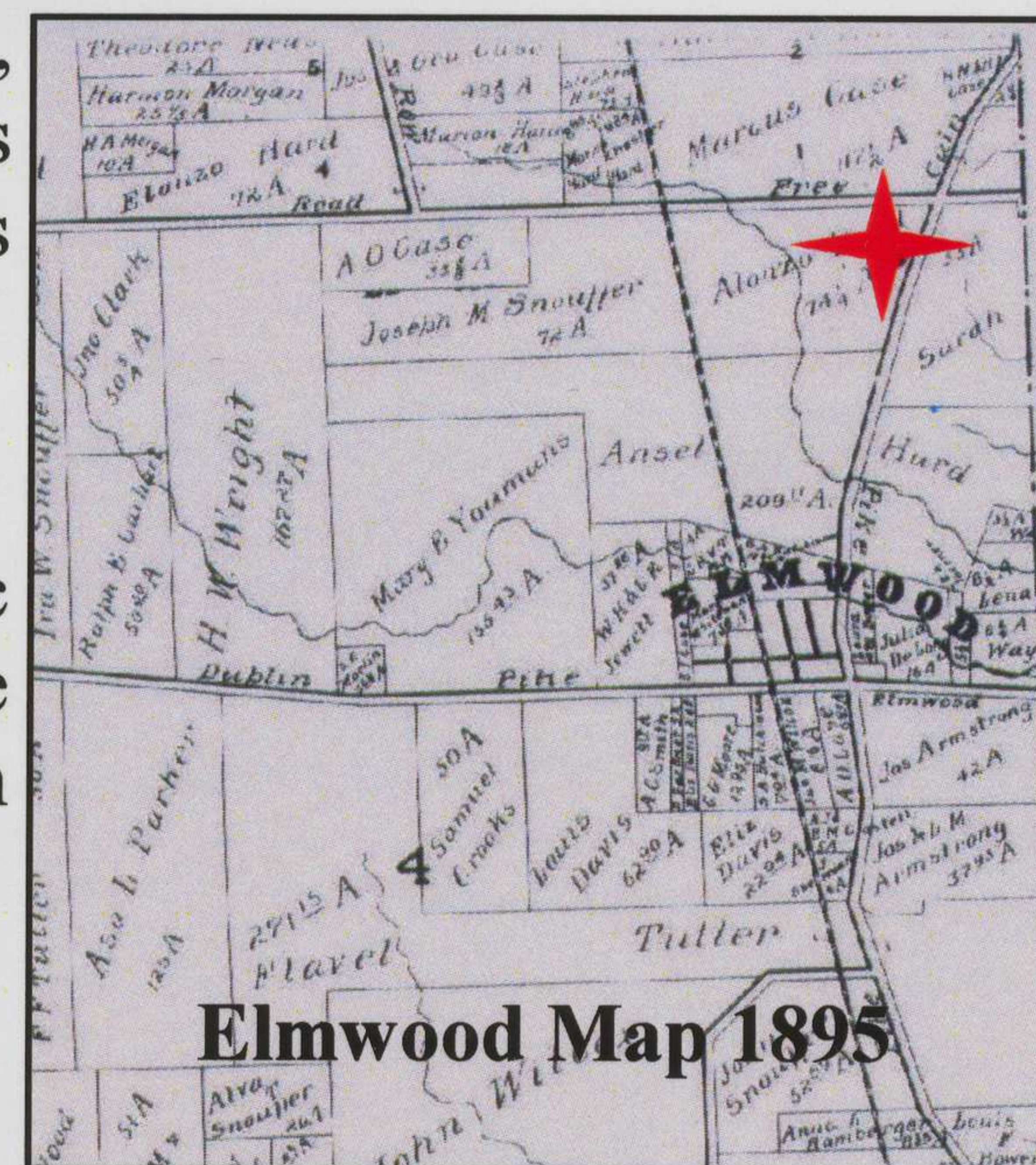
Elmwood Baseball Team at Hard's Grove 1890c
SW corner Linworth and Snouffer Roads

Around the turn of the century, church picnics, fried chicken, apple pie, and baseball were memorable parts of life in Elmwood (called Linworth after 1910). Men, young and old, formed baseball teams in local villages such as Powell, Dublin, Worthington, Hilliard, and Elmwood. Many players lived on farms in 1890 causing most of the games to be played on Sunday afternoons or holidays such as the Fourth of July.



Elmwood Methodist Church picnic
1890c

Martha Wilcox Drake, born in 1910, remembers coming to neighborhood picnics at Hard's Grove when the mode of travel was horse and buggy.



Elmwood Map 1895

★ Hard's Grove had a ball field and picnic area. It also was the site of a horse racing track. (Location Perspective: western end of track is now Perry Middle School)

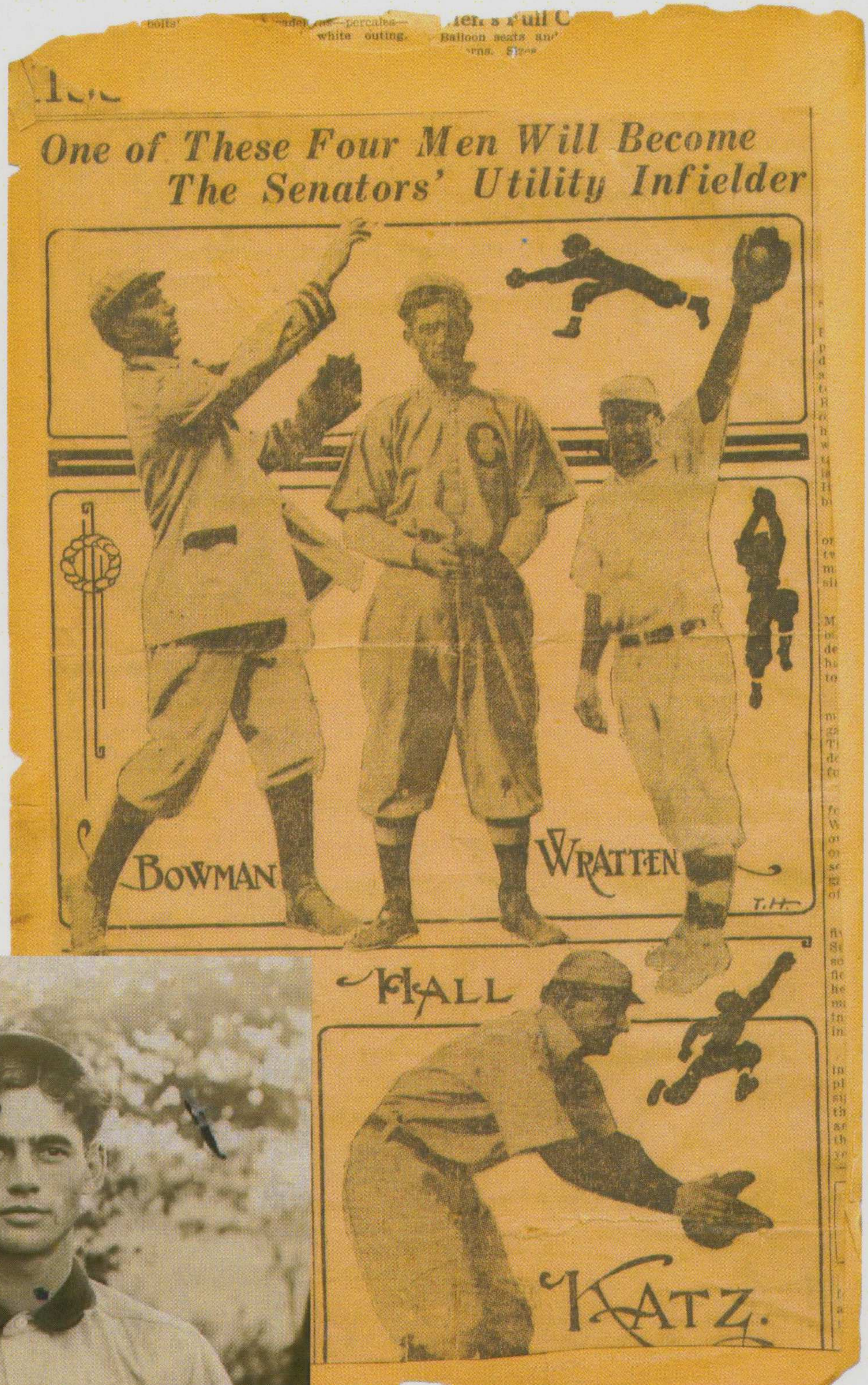
Linworth United Methodist Church
7070 Bent Tree Boulevard
Columbus, Ohio 43235
614.336.8485

One of the best ball players to play the game at Hard's Grove was Les Hall. Born near Powell, Ohio in 1882, he played for several local teams in the late 1890's. After getting married, he moved to Elmwood, built his home on Hutchinson Street and lived there until he passed away in 1945.

Several professional teams, one being the Columbus Senators, scouted Les in the early 1900's and were interested in signing him to a contract. He tried out and played for several organizations until his wife became terminally ill at a young age. This required him to quit the ball circuit and return home to Elmwood. He later married Jennie.



Les at Home on Hutchinson Street in Linworth, Ohio, 1944



Jennie Hall, Les Hall's widow, is quoted as saying, "From the time Les could swing a bat, he played ball. He played somewhere every summer until he died of a heart attack in 1945."



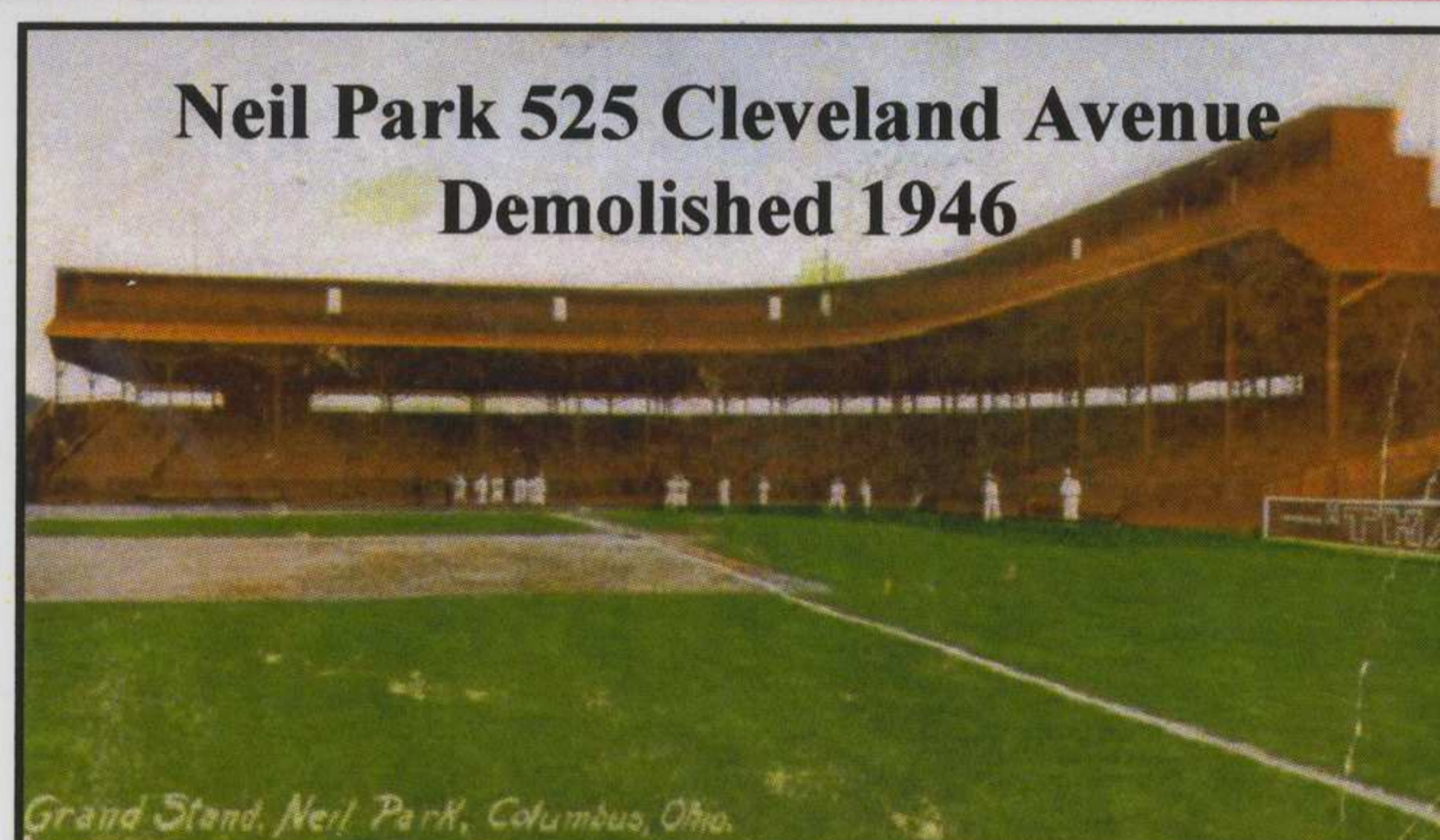
Above: Old newspaper clipping which includes Hall's name and picture

Left: Les Hall's baseball postcard 1900c



Historical Musings with Jim

In 1902 Columbus' professional baseball team, the Senators, joined Minneapolis, St. Paul, Toledo, Louisville, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Kansas City, to form the American Association. A powerful team, the Senators won three consecutive pennants in 1905



through 1907 remaining contenders for a dozen more years. Neil Park, a concrete and steel stadium was built in 1905. and was the home for the Senators for twenty-five years. The Senators later became the Columbus Red Birds. They moved to a new stadium in 1932 at 1155 Mound Street West.