

ROCKY RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P O Box 16445, Rocky River, Ohio 44116, Ph:440-331-4614
<http://rockyriverhistoricalsociety.org/>

A Centennial City

1903-2003

September 2020 Newsletter



Newsletter Sponsored By:

DUBICK FIXTURE & SUPPLY



We will keep in touch about future events.

CHARLES M. INGERSOLL

by Gay Christensen-Dean

President

Jan Cipriani

Vice-President

John Going

Recording Secretary

Cheryl McCoy

Corresponding Secretary

Dottie O'Neill

Treasurer

Gay Christensen-Dean

Trustees

Tom Barrett

Carol Benyo

Vic Erml

Ginni Going

Suzanne Lydrickson

Jack Nickels

Rachel Regula

Sandi Regula

Jay Rounds

Trustee Emeritus

W. Philip Ardussi

Honorary Member

Dr. Michael Shoaf

Newsletter Editor

Gay Christensen-Dean

Anyone who has lived in Rocky River a long time remembers Charlie Ingersoll. He was born July 27, 1896 in Madison, Ohio. His father, Francis Siegel Ingersoll, was an executive of the Madison Wheel Company. Francis had a disagreement with the president, sold his company stock, and moved the family to Rocky River in 1906. He bought the John Deere Agency from W.J. Geiger, the hardware store originally at the corner of Blount and Detroit. The family lived on the southeast corner of Wooster and Telbir.

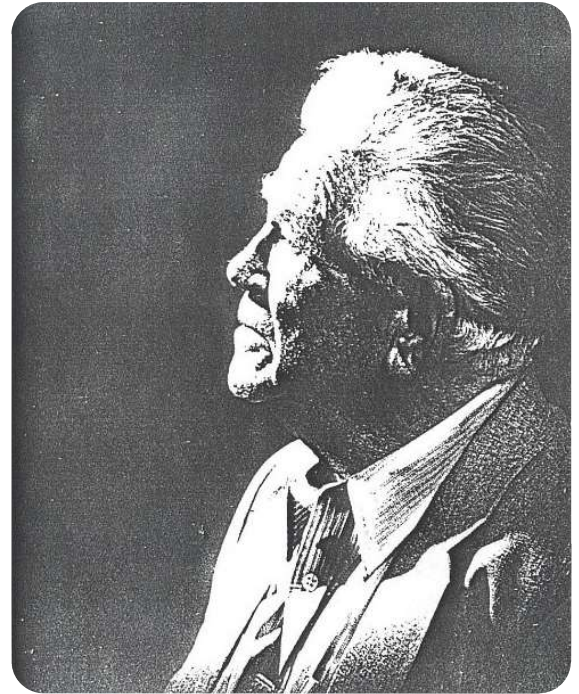
In 1922, Charlie married Ethel Sayers. They built a house on Wooster Road, second lot north of Shoreland, and had two children, Frances Sara and Charlene Ethel.

In 1927, Charlie bought his father's John Deere equipment dealership. Charlie's first customer was Fred Schneider and sons on Northview. They bought an engine-driven tractor, made by the Dodge Co. of Boston, for \$128.00. As a result, Charlie got the distributorship for the state and set up dealerships in five Ohio cities. He later got state tractor distributorships for the Bolen Co. of Wisconsin, and Gibson of Colorado. Charlie had a lot of energy and drive. He wheeled and dealt his way around the country besides Ohio. He dealt in many types of heavy equipment, including tractors of various kinds, lawn mowers, front end loaders, rock crushers, seed planters, pumps, road graders, scrapers, etc.; and dynamite, that he stored in Caldwell's Gully off Detroit Road across from Linda Street.

The following are excerpts from Horseradish and Old Maude, an Autobiography and Life-long Memories of Rocky River Ohio.

(written by Charlie at age 88)

"One of my early business ventures, was manufacturing fly spray with M.B. Diederich of Avon Belden Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio. We bought several chemical ingredients by fifty gallon barrels and mixed the material in a power driven mixing machine and then put up the fly spray in one gallon cans. I looked after the sales to dairymen to spray their cattle if they were infested with flies and Diederich covered the states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. We set up dealerships in other states to distribute fly spray."



[Charlie joined the Navy.] "I was sent to Boston to get on an ocean going submarine chaser. As we traveled by rail to our duty station, and trains were not always on schedule, the ship had left port about an hour before I arrived. I was assigned to another submarine chaser patrolling the Atlantic Seaboard. I later heard that the original ship that I had been assigned to, had been sunk off the coast of Germany with all hands lost."

"When I took over the farm implement business from my father, in those years the farmers were short of money. To get my profit on a machine, I had to take it out of the down payment that the farmer would make. John Deere gave the farmers, on a note and mortgage, two years to pay for a tractor. Many farmers did not have the entire cash on the down payment, so I would have to take produce or teams of horses or livestock. The animals I couldn't sell locally, I would take to my grandfather's farm in Brunswick, Ohio and pasture them until I could find a buyer. I have a great many horse stories."

"When the banks closed and the Depression struck, I had to take vegetables from farmers and gardeners who could not sell their produce at a profit. In the meantime, I found that I could sell produce in Pittsburgh, that couldn't be sold in Cleveland. I took loads of all types of produce from farmers that owed me and I credited their bill on the deals we made. There was always a ready market for coal in Cleveland, so I would take three truck loads of produce, three times a week, to Pittsburgh and return with three truck loads of coal, which I sold for cash. The 19th Street Produce Company in Pittsburgh was owned by an old Polish gentleman and his wife. They paid me for produce every two weeks. But his bill had run up to twelve hundred and fifty dollars. One day he said that his son had sent him money to go to California. 'I'm turning the business over to you for what I owe you.'

So I was in the produce business. I operated this for two years, and one deal, the turnip deal, put me back in business. A gentleman who lived south of Medina, Ohio, on the road to Chippewa, owed me for his seed and implement bill, but he had no funds except a field of turnips. He said, 'Charlie, take the turnips for 15¢ a bushel.' I had talked to Art Romp and others in the commission district and they said if you could cold store the turnips, you'll be able to sell them in the winter for a huge profit, as we understand there's a shortage of turnips in the central west. So I hauled over 2,000 bushels of turnips to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and put them in cold storage. December, January and February came and no one would buy turnips. Finally, an offer of 20¢ a bushel came in, and then another commission merchant offered me 40¢ a bushel. I kept getting higher offers until March when Cavalier, Gulling and Wilson offered me \$2.25 a bushel. I have always had a lot of respect for turnips ever since."

"One of my manufacturing items that I produced after buying the farm implement business from my father was the Miller Power Roller. I bought the patent rights and this was the first engine driven power roller built in this country. Our big sale was to golf courses all over the country. Later we sold the power roller to garden supply dealers so this was a very profitable unit to manufacture. Another item was the root washing machine. That item we sold to market gardeners and vegetable growers to wash carrots, beets, turnips, etc. before the produce was sold to grocery stores. This unit was propelled with a one H.P. electric motor and when gardeners didn't have electricity we used a Briggs and Stratton single cylinder gas engine. This was called the Ingersoll Root Washing Machine."

WILLIAM J. GEIGER OBITUARY



For nearly 90 years a resident of the Dover-Rocky River district and for many years a businessman in the latter city, William J. Geiger died yesterday in his home, 1724 Wooster Road, where he had resided for 51 years.

Mr. Geiger was born in Dover (now Westlake) in September, 1860. His parents were William and Barbara Fry Geiger, residents there more than a century ago. His early years were spent on a farm in old Dover.

In 1890 he opened a hardware store on Detroit Road. It was one of the earliest stores in what was then the village of Rocky River. He operated it continuously until in 1908. In that year he sold the store to Frank S. Ingersoll.

In later years he had been active in real estate development in Rocky River. He was one of the founders and for many years vice-president of the former Rocky River Savings Bank, opposite the old Silverthorn Tavern. It was the first bank in Rocky River.

Mr. Geiger was a 50-year member of Dover Lodge, F. & A.M. He was also one of the older members of Rocky River Methodist Church. For a number of years he had spent the winter in Florida.

From [Horseradish and Old Maude, An Autography and Life-Long Memories of Rocky River](#) by Charles M. Ingersoll

Taken from "CITY of ROCKY RIVER GOLDEN JUBILEE
And OHIO SESQUI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 1903-1953"
By Ralph D. Richards, and contributor Mayor J. Frank Gibson

April 22, 1910 – Detachment of part of Rocky River and establishment of the same into the township of Goldwood completed on April 20, 1910.

July 15, 1910 – Goldwood village was declared an incorporate village (Phinneys Corners).

October 21, 1910 – Contract entered into between the village and Adam Wilbert for construction of municipal building.

January 13, 1911 – Justice of Peace appointed for township of Rocky River.

February 3, 1911 – Population proclaimed by secretary of state, Charles H. Graves, to be 1,861.

March 3, 1911 – Resolution declaring a clearance of 12 feet under the Nickel Plate Railroad for extension of Blount Street to connect with Frazier Drive introduced and carried.

August 4, 1911 – Street commissioner instructed to procure and place enameled street signs at all street intersections.

November 17, 1911 – Ordinance introduced to lay eight inch water main on North Ridge Road (Detroit Road) and six inch water main laid on Northview Road.

November 24, 1911 – Contract entered into with Adam Wilbert to build a fire station.

January 19, 1912 – Roy Martin appointed fire chief for two years. B.F. Sarles appointed constable.

May 28, 1912 – Ordinance to purchase Winchester repeating shotgun for use by village marshal.

June 20, 1912 – Old town hall property purchased by W.C. Landphair for \$1,106.00.

VISIT OUR SPONSORS



20370 Center Ridge Road
Custom Picture Framing Since 1982

Fruchey Family Fund

DUBICK FIXTURE & SUPPLY

6211 Euclid Avenue
Food Service Equipment Sales

The Barrett Company

19621 Lake Road
Commercial Storage/Rentals Since 1956

The DEAN Family



24112 Lorain Road
Full-Service Printing

FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Thank you for your support! A membership renewal application is enclosed for 2021.

!!SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY!!

For the 2020 tax year:

If you do not itemize deductions on your tax return, you may still take up to a \$300.00 deduction for charitable contributions.

If you do itemize deductions, you may deduct up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for charitable contributions.

In memoriam

HARLOW HERMAN EICHLER

1933-2020



Harlow Eichler was born on Story Road, Rocky River, near Wooster Road (parents = Herman Eichler and Marguerite Landphair). He graduated from Rocky River High School in 1951, and Baldwin Wallace College in 1955, and lived in Rocky River most of his life.

He owned the mechanical calculating service company, Eichler Inventory, which later became Ohio Calculating. In his "spare" time, he was a Rocky River trustee, and past-president of the Rocky River Chamber of Commerce; one time receiving the Chamber's "Person of the Year" award.

Harlow was one of the founders, and first treasurer, of the Rocky River Historical Society, and a past-president. We will miss him.

!!JUST PUBLISHED!!

ANCIENT NATIVE AMERICAN STONE FACES Of ROCKY RIVER, OHIO

By Rocky River resident, Thomas MacFarland Harper

Bradstreet's Landing Park is a treasure-trove of small ancient Native American stone maskette faces, Native American artifact stone tools, Col. John Bradstreet's boat disaster of 1764 relics and other stone oddities. Tom Harper's book details much of what has been found there. Price = \$25.00.

The book may be purchased at the following Rocky River businesses:

Pier Beverage and Deli, 22474 Lake Rd.

Ace Hardware, 20200 Detroit Rd.

Ford's Clothier, 19821 Detroit Rd.



CHRISTMAS WREATHS

Look for information on our Christmas wreath sale in the next newsletter.

BORED? What about a road trip?



OHIO BICENTENNIAL BARN

(7450 West 130th Street, Middleburg Heights)

Ohio native Scott Hagan was commissioned by the Ohio Bicentennial Commission to paint the Ohio Bicentennial logo on a barn in each of Ohio's 88 counties for our Bicentennial (1803-2003). He started in 1997 and completed the project in 2002, sketching all the images by hand, using 100 brushes and 645 gallons of paint.

The following is a list of the painted barns within approximately a 50-mile radius of Rocky River. (The current conditions of the paintings are not known.)

Cuyahoga County: 7450 West 130th in Middleburg Heights near Bagley Road.

Lake County: 8249 Munson Road, Mentor.

Geauga County: 13034 Madison Road in Huntsburg Township, State Route 528, 20 miles south of I-90 and 13 miles north of U.S. 422 on Madison Road, 5 miles north of Middlefield.

Portage County: 6205 Tallmadge Road in Rootstown, Edinburg Township.

Summit County: 3742 Hudson Drive, in Stow, visible from northbound lanes of Ohio Route 8, north of Graham Road.

Medina County: 8354 State Route 3 (Wooster Pike), north of Seville and I-76.

Wayne County: 6500 Ashland Road/Route 250, 6 miles out of Wooster, near Memorial Park on the south side of the road.

Ashland County: 974 County Road 1600, off Ashland County Road near Ashland, visible from I-71, 3 miles south of U.S. 250, faces southwest.

Huron County: 479 U.S. Route 250 in Olena, 10 miles south.

Erie County: 3707 Perkins Avenue in Huron at State Route 6.

Lorain County: 9455 Leavitt Road, Lorain; State Route 58, Amherst Township, south of Route 113, 4 miles north of Route 511, across from Deer Track Golf Club