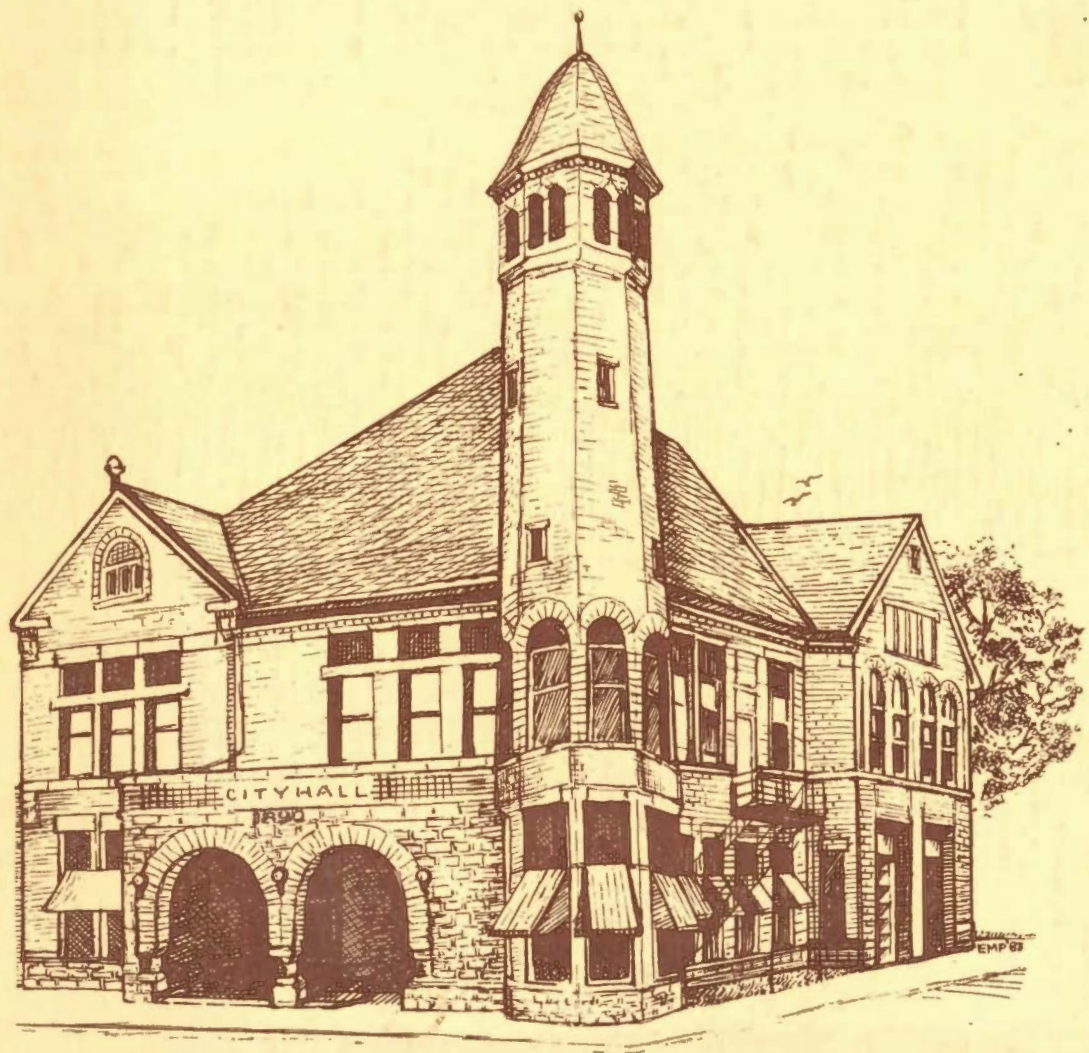


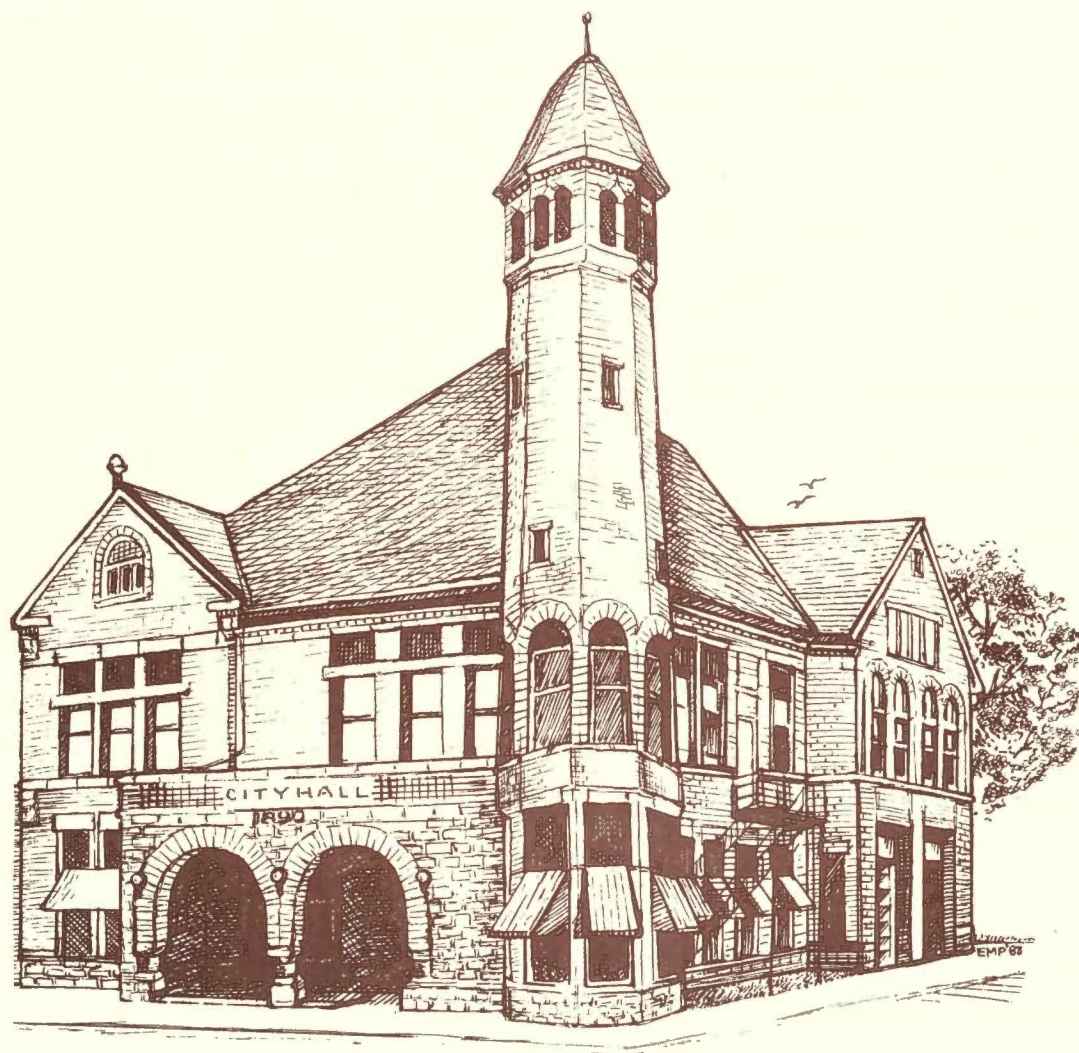
Celina, Ohio
Sesquicentennial



1834 ~ 1984

Celina, Ohio

Sesquicentennial



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By
Joyce L. Alig

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This Celina, Ohio SesquiCentennial, 1834-1984 History Book was prepared by Joyce L. Alig, in honor of the SesquiCentennial of Celina's original plat in 1834. One hundred and fifty years of events and photographs are stored in this book.

The material in this book is from books, newspapers, and citizens of Celina. First, most of the material was found in the 1978 Mercer County History Book, edited by Joyce L. Alig and printed by the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc. Authors of Celina history in the 1978 Book are acknowledged: Carol Thees, Margaret Fuhrwerk, Mrs. Eugene Dieringer, D.B. Spangler, Pat Amato, June Moothart and Don Grimes, and the school, business, church and civic organization and family historians. The 1882 History of Van Wert and Mercer Counties, edited by Sutton, and the 1907 History of Mercer County, Ohio, edited by Scranton, also were sources of material. The newspapers, "Western Standard," "Daily Standard," "Der Mercer County Bote," "Mercer County Republican," "Celina Democrat," "Celina Advocate," "Western Democrat," and "Mercer County Observer" provided local stories.

Members of the Executive Board of Trustees of the Mercer County Historical Society volunteered their time to help with the care of the Mercer County Historical Museum. Louise Hileman, indexed this book. Dillon Staas, Local History Teacher, Coldwater Schools, assisted in the final preparation of this book. Tom Lammers, SesquiCentennial Events Chairman of Celina Lake Festival Committee read the script of the book before printing.

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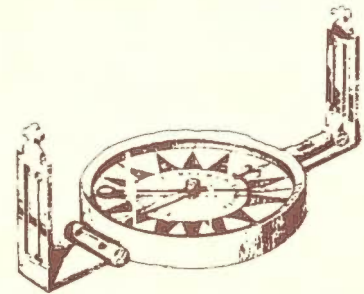
Seventeen years after Ohio was admitted into the Union as a State, Mercer County, along with thirteen other counties in Northwest Ohio, was created by an act of the Ohio Legislature, dated February 12, 1820. Prior to 1819, the land North of the Greenville Treaty Line, including most of Mercer County, was Indian Territory. After the Federal Government acquired this land, Captain James Riley began his survey of Northwest Ohio, Northern Indiana, and parts of Michigan. Captain Riley arrived at the Headwaters of the Wabash River, south of Fort Recovery, on November, 20, 1819; he proceeded with his initial study of the land and arrived at Fort Wayne, Indiana, November 24, 1819. Captain Riley kept journals of his travels; the 1882 History of Van Wert and Mercer County contains transcripts of his letters written as he surveyed this land. He was assisted in this survey by his son James Watson Riley.



Captain James Riley surveyed Northwestern Ohio, and parts of Indiana and Michigan of the Old Northwest Territory.

When Mercer County was formed in 1820, it included the Village of St. Marys, which was recognized as the County Seat. (Auglaize County had not yet been formed.) James Watson Riley settled in St. Marys with his family.

During the 1820's, canals were being established across Ohio. The canals provided a quick, efficient method of transportation to market for the farmers. With the Miami and Erie Canal being planned on the Western side of Ohio, the Reservoir was planned at the summit (high point) between Lake Erie and the Ohio River, the summit being near Saint Marys. James Watson Riley decided that there should be a town on the West side of the Reservoir and proceeded to create one. While on a journey to New York to have a map of the town lithographed, he paused at Salina, Onondaga County, New York. He was impressed by the similarity of location of that town at the head of a natural lake and his planned community at the head of an artificial lake. Still, to name his new town Salina might give rise to confusion of post offices. Mr. Riley, resolving to avoid this, secured the name by changing the spelling, and the town at the West side of the Reservoir was named Celina.



THE OLD NORTHWEST

Surveying Instrument used by Captain Riley and son James Watson Riley during their survey.



James Watson Riley, son of Captain James Riley, assisted his father while surveying the Old Northwest Territory. James Watson Riley platted Celina in 1834. He also platted Van Wert, Paulding, and Willshire.



Reynolds + Reynolds

Celina, Ohio 45822

1830's

The original town of Celina was established by James Watson Riley, Rufus Wilson Stearnes, Robert Linzee II, and Peter Aughenbaugh, acting in partnership. They agreed that each of them should pay \$100.00 for the purchase of land at the center of Mercer County for the purpose of establishing a town to be named Celina. The agreement, dated August 25, 1834, at St. Marys, Mercer County, Ohio, was acknowledged for record before the Honorable Stacey Taylor, one of the associate judges of the County, on September 8, 1834. With additional costs, the final sum paid was \$469.16, each share being \$117.29.

James Watson Riley, as deputy surveyor, laid out the town for the proprietors upon the West part of Section 6, Township 6 South, Range 3 East, and the East part of Section 1, Township 6 South, Range 2 East, with a variation of 4 degrees to the West of magnetic North. Main and Logan Streets were each made 6 rods wide and all others 4 rods wide, except Center, which was 3. Each alley was laid out 1 rod wide. The lots, numbered 1 to 156, inclusive, were made 10 rods long by 5 wide. The block called the Public Square, 21 rods long by 8 rods wide, was set apart for public purposes. Lots 23 and 119 were donated for use by the schools, and lots 44, 100, and 149 were donated by the use of the Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, and Presbyterian Churches, respectively, "to be used for no other purposes." In addition to the plat, 3 acres of land were set aside near Celina for burial ground, free to all denominations.

William Willshire Riley, a brother of James Watson Riley, traveled from New York to St. Marys in 1840. James Watson Riley still lived in St. Marys, even though the county offices had been moved to Celina, the new County Seat. He rode back and forth from St. Marys to Celina because he held the offices of Clerk and Recorder. William Willshire Riley accompanied his brother in his work and related the following to describe what had happened to Celina since the village had been platted in 1834.

"There had been a steam saw-mill erected near the reservoir on out-lot No. 1, for the purpose of sawing lumber for the centre of the embankment which was there constructing, and also for the Court House, then building by the town proprietors. This building was already under roof. The clerk's office was in a one-story frame building, about 30 by 25 feet in dimensions, and in the North end of which was a store. It stood on the West side of Main Street, just South of the Public Square. The store was owned by Mr. Riley, and was the only one in town. Mr. Rood was deputy clerk, and lived in a log cabin, built of round timber, on the South side of Fayette, near Ash Street. Franklin Linzee kept a hotel on the corner of Main and Warren Streets. It was a two-story frame, with an L kitchen. Another hotel was kept by a Mr. Simmons, on the Southeast corner of Sugar and Warren Streets. It was a long, hewed-log house of two stores. Benjamin Maurer lived

in a log cabin on the Southwest corner of Sugar and Logan Streets and Christian Maurer in a small frame house on Market near Mill Street. Sheriff Stedman lived in a small log cabin next to the clerk's office, and Mr. Magoon in a cabin near Rood's on Ash Street. I think all these men had families. A German doctor lived in a little cabin between the office and Linzee's, and Dr. John W. Fulton moved from St. Marys and had his office in a two-story log house on the Northwest corner of Fayette and Ash. There was a log cabin on the Southeast corner of Logan and Sugar, but it was vacant, as were several others built by Giddings and Bickell, contractors, on the reservoir embankment. Esquire Trenary lived on a farm adjoining the town. He was a blacksmith by trade, and had a family. There were several men boarding at the hotels who were engaged on the Court House. Among them were Henry L. John and his brother, who were carpenters, and a Mr. Jacobs, who was a brick-mason and plasterer. The latter was employed by my brother to build a brick hotel on lots 259 and 260, being the Northeast corner of Market and Main Streets. An amusing incident is here inserted as illustrative of the prejudice against the negroes then recently located at Montezuma, this county, by the executor of the will of the Hon. John Randolph, of Virginia. My brother (James Watson Riley) had tried for some time without success to get some person to take a contract for making brick. This contract was finally given some negroes, and they at once set about preparing the ground and moulding brick. At this juncture the very white men who had refused to do the work, either for cash or in payment of debts, made pretense of being anxious to work, and then determined to drive the negroes off by warning them out of town as paupers. I had bought the cabins already alluded to as vacant and rented them to the negroes, so that when the malcontents came to warn them out of town, they were found to be householders, carrying out a valuable contract to the satisfaction of my brother, James Watson Riley. The charge of pauperism miscarried, and the negroes completed their work, unmolested. The house was completed by fall, and my brother and family then occupied it."

He concludes by telling that his brother, James Watson Riley, finally moved to Celina in 1840, to reside in the brick hotel built at the Northeast corner of Market and Main Streets.

Near the close of the decade, plans were discussed for a new Court House in Celina. On September 13, 1839, the County Commissioners authorized a contract for the construction of the new building, which was let to Samuel Hunter and John McGee on December 3, 1839, for the sum of \$1,350.00.

A PART OF YOUR LIFE SINCE 1870

 **THE CITIZENS COMMERCIAL**
BANK & TRUST COMPANY F.D.I.C.
CELINA, OHIO

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The Whig Party nominated General William Henry Harrison in 1839 for the office of President of the United States, much to the disappointment of the Southern States who wanted Henry Clay. To conciliate the Southern Whigs, and to secure their vote, the convention nominated John Tyler for Vice President. Thus, it happened that a Whig President and, in reality, a Democratic Vice President were chosen.

As the political campaign of "Tippecanoe and Hard Cider" was opened, James Watson Riley entered the campaign with great enthusiasm. Being a personal friend of General Harrison, and an ardent Whig, he went to Dayton, accompanied by his brother, William Willshire Riley, to hear the General speak. William Willshire Riley told of the campaign program, and how glee clubs were singing patriotic songs. He continued that James Watson Riley hurriedly composed a song dedicated to the "Hero of Tippecanoe" which was sung to the air of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

After the successful nomination of General Harrison, the Rileys joined with the other local Whigs in Celina in celebration. To commemorate the nomination, they decided to clear the heavily timbered public square, where they intended to build the Courthouse in 1839. Accordingly, Messrs. John Jay Beach, Beebout, Rood, Christian, and Benjamin Maurer, Magoon, Henry L. Johnson, and William Willshire Riley, concluded to:

"Lay the giant forest low, chose the giants in a row;
Cut them down, nor spared a single tree;
As they struck the ground below upward our glad shout
would go,
And the sunbeams kiss the square in soft but rapturous
glee."

A few days later, without solicitation, John Watson Riley received through the mail the appointment as Registrar of the United States Land Office at Lima, Ohio. Riley moved to Lima in June of 1840, accompanied by his brother, William Willshire Riley, as his deputy. The canal lands were offered for sale at \$2.50 per acre, and during the summer and winter of 1840, nearly all of the lands were sold.

The signature of James Watson Riley's Commission was the last official act of President Harrison. In 1841, one month after the inauguration, President Harrison died, and John Tyler became President. When John Tyler succeeded to the Presidency, he reappointed Riley. However, Riley's firm conviction as a Whig prohibited him from working for a Democrat, and upon resigning his position, moved back to Celina.

James Watson Riley was elected to represent the district in the State Legislature, and took the same seat in the old State House which his father, Captain Riley, had filled from 1823 to 1824. He moved to Columbus in 1843, where he resided for about three years. Upon his return to Celina, James Watson Riley devoted his energies to development of the County.

The Court House, which was contracted in 1839, was completed June 1841. William Willshire Riley told how he glazed the windows as his contribution to the county. But it

seems that the Court House as first constructed was not plastered, for on June 7, 1843 Milton M. Miller received the contract for plastering the rooms of the second floor, which were used for court purposes, consisting of a court-room and two jury rooms. At the same time, W. Brandt was awarded the contract for plastering the upper story and Franklin Linzee the contract for building a fence around the Court House. In April 1846, John Carlin and John Bolton were awarded the contract for plastering the rooms in the first or basement story. Work was continued on the Court House through the 1850's. (Plans for the next Court House were contracted in 1867-1868.) After the 1868 Court House, this 1841 Court House was then used as a town hall by Celina, until it was destroyed by fire in 1884.

The Daily Standard began as the Western Standard, August 4, 1848. S.S. Snyder became part owner in 1850 with W.L. Blocher. Snyder's brother A.P.J. Snyder bought out Blocher's interest in 1854. The Standard continued under the Snyders, except for a brief time after the Civil War when they sold out to D.J. Callen only to have A.P.J. Snyder repurchase the paper one year later. In 1870, the building currently housing The Style Shop (in 1984) at 110 South Main, was built. (See 1870's article). The second floor of this building was built to hold the printing plant which received water born freight via a creek at the rear of the building, from canal boats. A.P.J. Snyder's son, Frank A., joined the firm in 1883. Eventually, the paper moved across the street and was above the Commercial Bank, when the fire of 1894 destroyed the entire block. Following the fire, the Standard built its own building at its present location. F.A. Snyder took over management of the paper. In 1904, he began the Daily Standard. In 1909, he bought the first Linotype for the paper. The weekly paper was discontinued in the mid-1930's. Following the death of F.A. Snyder, in 1944, management of the paper was taken over by his two children, Joy A. and Parker R. Snyder. Miss Snyder, who handled most of the personal news for many years, died in 1970. Three of Parker Snyder's children, Frank M., Jacob, and Lillian Schoch, work at the plant. Parker and Frank M. Snyder currently manage the plant.



The Standard Printing Co., Inc. The Daily Standard Newspaper began as the Western Standard August 4, 1848. The building to the east was built in 1919; the building to the west was built in 1954.

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1840's



Mercer County Reservoir, 1846, drawn by Henry Howe — The Reservoir was formed by raising two walls of earth, from ten to twenty-five feet high, called respectively the East and West embankment, the first of which is about two miles and the last near four in length. These walls, with the elevation of the ground to the north and south, form a high basin to retain the water. The elevated ground to the north and the south, were from recessional moraines, from Wisconsin age glacial deposits. The Reservoir was formed for the purpose of providing water to the St. Marys feeder of the Miami Erie Canal, the Reservoir being on the summit between the Ohio River and Lake Erie.

The Reservoir was commenced in 1837 and completed in 1845, at an expense of several hundred thousand dollars. The west embankment was completed in 1843. The water filled in at the upper end to the depth of several feet, but as the ground rose gradually to the east, it overflowed for several miles to the depth of a few inches only. This vast body of water thus exposed to the powerful rays of the sun, would, if allowed to have remained, have bred pestilence through the adjacent country. Moreover, whole farms that belonged to individuals, yet unpaid for by the State, were completely submerged. Under these circumstances, about one hundred and fifty residents of the county turned out with spades and shovels and by two days industry tore a passage for the water through the embankment.

The Mercer County Standard of April 1871 described the 1843 scene at the Lake. Justin Hamilton, of Mercer County, introduced a resolution into the Legislature, which was unanimously adopted: "That no water should be let into the reservoir before the same should be cleared of timber and the parties paid for this land." The Legislature appropriated \$20,000 for this purpose, but it was squandered by the officers and land speculators.



Beach Home, 111 South Ash — John Jay Beach and his wife Phoebe, daughter of Captain James and Phoebe (Miller) Riley, built the two-story brick home, on lots 238 and 255, fronting on 111 South Ash Street and adjoining the alley, about 1841.

The brick for the building was burned in the front yard, by Negroes who came to Celina on the Miami and Erie Canal. John Jay Beach was a fine Gunsmith. Zura Riley, who lived next door, recalled as a child, how he would watch Beach repair guns for the Indians and that the Indians, in turn, would pay for the gunsmith services with deer meat. A century after the home was built, John and Fay Sealschott owned the home in 1944. In 1967 this land was sold to the City of Celina; the City tore down the building in order to use the land for a parking lot.



The First Church built in Celina, in 1840, was twenty by thirty feet, the ceiling finished with paneled boards instead of plastering. The church was built by the Presbyterians; later used by the Methodists as a school house, also used by the Baptists. The building stood on lot 149, on the corner of Fayette and Ash Streets.

MERSMAN

tables

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A CELINA EMPLOYER SINCE 1900!

The decade of the 1850's was a time of challenge in the United States. The era preceding the Civil War was highlighted with the Lincoln-Douglas debates, the Dred Scott Decision, the Underground Railroad activities, Matthew Brady's daguerreotype portraits, the panic of 1857, and John Brown's Raid on the United States Arsenal at Harpers' Ferry, Va. (now W. Va.). During this decade, California, Minnesota, and Oregon were admitted to the Union.

Celina was growing; the community was becoming active in civic projects. Celina's population was 222 in 1850; Mercer County's population was listed at 7,712. The Mercer County Agricultural Society was re-organized March 27, 1852; the original organization was established in 1847. A Committee of Five, consisting of G.W. Raudabaugh, Willshire Riley, Francis Miller, W.R. Browning, and J.W. Riley, met June 8, 1852 for the purpose of planning the first annual fair to be held the last Thursday of October 1852. The Teachers organized to form a Teachers' Association in 1855. Citizens were becoming interested in public service.

When Farmers wanted grinding for flour or grain, they had to go to the mills powered by water at Willshire or Piqua. With the advent of steam power, mills could be built at sites which had no nearby source of water power. The August 31, 1854 Western Standard reported that Mr. G. and F.C. LeBlond had purchased two fine steam engines, sufficient power to drive six run of stones at their mill. This innovation was to secure the permanency of the grinding business at Celina. The LeBlonds promised that the same rate would be charged at the steam mill, as was charged at the water mills, and no more!

External problems of weather and of fire took their toll on Celina. The temperature reported January 8, 1856 was minus twenty degrees. It was so cold that the newspaper printers had to thaw the paper before they could print it. Fire destroyed the steam saw mill of Doyle and Johnston in Celina in November 1856. The autumn of 1856, woods through the northwestern counties of Ohio had been on fire for three or four weeks. Weathering took its toll on Celina's old brick school house in the northwest corner of town when the school fell down on the Sabbath afternoon, February 15, 1857. The most severe hail and rain storms that the people had ever witnessed were reported August 21, 1857. The Mercer County Jail burned down February 22, 1859.

The Reservoir was a common topic of conversation with the citizens and was reported in the Western Standard. In 1854, the Reservoir's high level was reported in the newspaper; benefits to the local residents were said to be hydraulic privileges and delicious fish. Thousands of pike, eight inches to sixteen inches long, were taken within a few days from the lake; the cat were taken out by the basket, even an occasional Black Bass was caught. Thousands of white cranes were reported around the Reservoir in August 1855. A new post office was reported in the July 3, 1856 paper, located half-way between Celina and St. Marys, called the "Reservoir Post Office." The spring of 1858 was wet; the Reservoir was reported to be six inches above high water level and no corn had been planted by May 27. That winter, the December 9 paper reported that corn was so very scarce in this county that farmers and all others had had to kill their hogs. In May of 1859, the work on the feeder from the

Reservoir to the Miami and Erie Canal was completed; the boats could then pass from the Reservoir to the Canal and back. The Canal had provided transportation for immigrants to Mercer County; county population increased. The Europeans from England, Germany, Ireland, France, and other countries, found transportation via the Canal, and available work and available farm land for sale in Northwest Ohio. Population increased from 1,116 in 1830 to 8,277 in 1840. With Auglaize County being formed in 1848; St. Marys, Minster and New Bremen became part of Auglaize County and no longer a part of Mercer County. Mercer County Census in 1850 was listed at 7,712; the 1860 Census at 14,104; the 1870 Census at 17,254. Thus, the Miami and Erie Canal played a tremendous role in the settlement of Western Ohio.



This Ellis House stood on the southeast corner of Main and Livingston Streets; it was purchased in 1869 by the Ellis Family after the original brick Ellis Hotel on the corner of Market and Main was torn down in 1866. (The Masonic Lodge was chartered in the old Ellis House in 1853, which was a brick building, which stood on the corner of Market and Main and was torn down in 1866.)



This Boulder was taken from the Auglaize River and placed at the site of the Ellis House, at the Southeast corner of Main and Livingston Streets. The Tablet states, "The Celina Masonic Lodge 241 was chartered here October 20, 1853 in Old Ellis House. The Table erected by the Masonic Centennial Committee on November 25, 1953, the 150th year of our State.



Reynolds + Reynolds

Celina, Ohio 45822

1860's

The Civil War dominated the national news in the decade of the 1860's. The 1860 Census of the United States was 31,443,321. This year, 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected President. Also, in 1860, South Carolina seceded from the Union. Transportation and Communication levels were improving for the United States. The First Trans-Atlantic Cable was successfully laid in 1866 by Cyrus W. Field. Alaska was purchased from Russia by the United States in 1867. In 1869, the First Transcontinental Railroad was completed across the United States.

The Village of Celina was incorporated in June of 1860 with a population of 307. In the 1861 election, Dr. Joseph N. Hetzler was elected the first Mayor; with Adam Baker, John Luck, John M. Pohlman, and S.S. Snyder elected to the first town council. The Council had the responsibility of maintaining dirt streets, wooden sidewalks, and alleys. At the April 11, 1861 meeting, the Mayor presented the petition of local citizens, with an ordinance to prevent the erection and use of certain buildings therein named: including, breweries, tanneries, soap and candle factories, powder houses, fish cleaning houses, slaughter houses and asheries. In July of 1861, the Council considered building a town hall and engine house, but, in August, the plans were abandoned and the house then occupied was repaired at a final cost of \$6.50. In April 1867, The Town Council ordered that three crossings be put across High Street, one at the Jail, one at the old tavern stand and one at the Post Office, and one crossing Market Street opposite A. Wickoff Shop.

Citizens of Celina brought a variety of nationalities to the community. A German, Captain Gustavus Darnold, commanded the Steamer which plied the Reservoir and towed canal boats back and forth from the bulk-head to Celina. This Steamer, twenty-five feet in length, with its boiler of seventy gallons capacity and a pipe four feet in height, was quite an attraction on the Reservoir. (A photograph of this steamer on the reservoir is shown in the 1880's of this book.) An Englishman, William Hole, sold his property of 164 and 51/100 acres, known as the Mead Place, a two story frame dwelling and a frame barn, for \$3,500 to the Mercer County Commissioners (for the County Home) in July 1863. An Irishman, Michael McCarty, from Cork, saved the day when a span of horses started from the Dick Small Hotel, and dashed off at a desperate rate in the direction of the Methodist Church, one Thursday in May 1867. Gallant Michael McCarty checked the speed of the horses and took them back to the Hotel; no one was injured. That same month in 1867, an Englishman Magnus William, killed a Canadian Lynx, within a hundred yards of the corporation of Celina. The 1867 newspaper reported the activities of the young men and their baseball clubs of Goosehaven and Forrest Club of Celina.

The March 14, 1867 Western told the story of a man, claiming to be a leader in the Radical Party of this County, who was overheard to say that a Negro born in America was entitled to more privileges than a German or Irishman. The writer went on to say that this chap was doing business in Celina and that many of his customers were persons of foreign birth! Despite an occasional controversy, the citizens of various nationalities learned to work together.

Education was always important to the citizens of Celina. The autumn of 1866, Superintendent S.F. DeFord reported a total of 202 students in Celina School; with 94 in the Primary Department; 45 in Second Grammar; and 36 in First Grammar; and 27 in High School. The Annual Meeting of the Mercer County Teachers Institute was held on Monday, December 24, 1866. Religion was also important to the residents of Celina and they were proud of their churches. It was a sad occasion when the Methodist Church burnt down March 20, 1861, at the loss of \$1,500.

Correspondence from Celina's Civil War Soldiers was printed during the war years. Requests for warm scarves and gloves, woolen socks and letters from home were often

included in these letters, as were reports on conditions and accounts of battles. Mercer County sent about 450 men to form four companies to assist the Northern cause in the Civil War. (Editor's note: Civil War Discharge Papers belonging to Mercer Countians, photographs of soldiers, and accounts of battles and Mercer Countians, given in the 1882 Sutton's History of Van Wert and Mercer Counties, Ohio, are on display at the Mercer County Historical Museum). War was not the only cause of sadness in the 1860's. Diseases, such as measles, diphtheria and smallpox, were common in the 1860's and often were the cause of closed schools.

Celina's business section grew in the 1860's. In 1866, George Zay opened a drug store at the southwest corner of Main and Market Streets, the present site of Bair Pharmacy (1984). Zay was a dealer in drugs, medicines, chemicals, perfumery, soaps, combs, brushes, trusses, supporters and shoulder braces, fancy and toilet articles, paints, varnishes and dye stuffs, school, blank and miscellaneous books, wall paper, ceiling decorations and specialties. James R. Crockett established his store at the Northwest corner of Main and Fayette Streets, the present site of Goldstein's Department Store (1984). Crockett used the coming of the railroad in his advertisement; stating that in furtherance of the great cause, Jas. R. Crockett has filled his large and spacious store room with stock of dry goods, queensware, notions, boots, shoes, etc. The June 14, 1866 Western Standard reported that President Hodder, who had been absent for several days on businesses connected with the Cin. & Mac. Railroad, had returned and had informed everyone that he had every reason to believe that the railroad would be completed at an early day. (Editor's note: The railroads arrived in Celina in the late 1870's.)

The Hotels which were advertising in the Western Standard were the Dick Small House, and the Brandon House. Celina Attorneys in the 1860's were Broadwell & Steel, Abery and Murlin, LeBlond & Hodder, Godfrey & Cullen, and W.D. Lowry. Licensed Real Estate Agents were Schunck & Snyder.

At the South end of town, the business section was not as prominent. The July 27, 1867 Western Standard reported that "Rat-Row" was on fire and the buildings on fire were saved when people formed a string of fight, and water being passed up the line soon extinguished the fire. There was no insurance on the building, and the writer estimated the total damage being worth about 15 cts.!



Mr. Struckman built this house at 206 E. Livingston; the last board nail was driven at the end of the Civil War in 1865. Vale-Stein-Lehman Funeral Home used this house as their business site until 1978, when Hirschfeld and Klosterman, Attorneys At Law, moved to this building at 100 North Ash. Mark Klosterman began his practice in Celina in 1960; Fred Hirschfeld started practice in Celina in 1973, when he joined Klosterman in the firm. (Stein and Lehman Funeral Home moved to 901 Myers Road in 1978.)

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Celina, Ohio 45822



Band Stand on Court House Lawn.

Mercer County Courthouse (1868-1923) — April 13, 1866, the Mercer County Commissioners resolved to erect a Court House, 58 feet by 70 feet in ground dimensions, three stories high, including a stone basement. At a subsequent meeting held the same month, the dimensions were changed to 60 by 97 feet. The first bids, which were opened on May 18, 1866, not proving satisfactory, no contract was awarded. On March 13, 1867, Mr. Rumbaugh, an architect of Lima, Ohio, submitted plans for a Court House, which were adopted. The plans provided for a building 56 feet, 6 inches by 81 feet 4 inches, two stories high — with main tower 16 feet square, four stories high and a smaller tower 14 feet square, three stories high — to be of brick work, cut stone, plastering stucco work, roof slating, court-room, painting, clock, etc. The building was to be finished by September 15, 1868. Ten bids, ranging from \$39,000 to \$44,850, were considered; the final contract finally being awarded to R.G. Blake and F.C. LeBlond. By consent of the Commissioners, this contract was transferred by Messrs. Blake and LeBlond to M.P. Guffey, on the same conditions. On June 22, 1869, the Commissioners sold the old Court House lot (no. 276). This Court House was used until 1923.



The Honorable Francis C. LeBlond built this home at 528 North Main, around the time of the Civil War. LeBlond was first elected to Ohio Congress in 1862 and reelected in 1864. LeBlond also served as delegate to the Democratic National Convention in New York City in 1868; again in 1876 at the St. Louis Convention. This LeBlond Home was extensively rebuilt. Later the back part of the house was moved away and used in the construction of two smaller homes. Today, this home is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Myers.



CELINA

"THE WENDY CITY"

544 E. MARKET STREET

1870's

The decade of the 1870's was the decade following the Civil War and the Period of Reconstruction. . .and the decade preceding the arrival of the railroads in Mercer County. The economy was doing well with businesses expanding and buildings, churches and schools being built. The nation, as a whole, was prospering. The year of the Nation's Centennial in 1876 was most significant. Citizens celebrated the Centennial by attending the Exposition in 1876 when they saw Alexander Graham Bell's telephone and Thomas Edison's lightbulb, at Philadelphia. The Western States saw an increase in white settlement; Custer's Last Stand at Montana was indicative of the Indian/White struggle in the West. Colorado was admitted to the Union in 1876.

In Celina, citizens were becoming actively involved in their community. Academic and religious education held a high station in values. The Members of the Lutheran Church dedicated their new building; which dedication was described in the June 22, 1871 Western Standard newspaper. In 1876, Father Theopistus Wittmer, C.P.P.S., with the help of the building committee, supervised the erection of Celina's first parochial school, which measured 35 by 40 feet, accommodating ninety pupils and costing \$1,200. In 1879, a small convent was built, and two Sisters of the Precious Blood Order arrived to take charge of that school. In May of 1878, Celina Public High School honored its first female graduate, Lizzie Snyder McKim.

Citizens were surprised when over one hundred skeletons were taken from a gravel pit in August of 1870. The skeletons, apparently Indians, were in a sitting position with their heads inclined forward.

Citizens were interested in civic organizations. September 14, 1870, the Royal Arch Masons received their charter; the Masonic Order having been in Celina since 1853. February 27, 1874, Hopewell Grange No. 2688 was organized. The Mercer County Agricultural Society (Fair Board) in February 1872, purchased land from the State of Ohio, for the fair to be held on the east side of the town of Celina on the north bank of the Reservoir — Lake Mercer. In June 1878, the Society, foreseeing the necessity of more ample grounds for annual fairs bought land from the Brandon Heirs, on the West side of Town, which constitutes the present Fair Grounds. (Photography by Terry is located in the home of the Brandon family who originally owned this land.)

Extremes in Weather patterns were evident in 1872-1873. In the summer of 1872, the temperature reached 124 degrees in Celina, which was followed by a cold winter with twenty-one degrees below zero reported December 12, 1872. The July 1873 newspaper reported the county being visited by four terrible tornadoes on Fourth of July Weekend. Timber was lost in Jefferson Township, but no lives were lost.

Another newspaper was initiated in Celina. The Western Democrat Newspaper was established in September 1874, which was re-named the Mercer County Observer when J.E. Blizzard purchased it in April 27, 1876. The paper was Republican in politics and the only Republican newspaper in the county. The Mercer County Observer ceased publication February 12, 1926.

The Citizens Commercial Bank and Trust Company, 115-119 South Main, saw its beginnings in the 1870's. The Celina Building & Loan Association was founded January 29, 1870, by G.W. Raudabaugh, T.J. Godfrey, E.M. Piper, R.G. Blake, A.P.J. Snyder, Christopher Schunck, and Abner Davis, at the site of the Richardson Building, on the Northeast corner of Main and Fayette. In 1872, the business became the Milligan, Godfrey & Co. A new building was built, on the site of the present location, in 1874. Calvin Riley, a prosperous farmer of Jefferson Township and John Pulskamp, a bank employee since 1881, joined the firm as partners and the name was changed to The Commercial Bank in 1888. This building, at 115 South Main, was lost in the 1894 fire.

The Celina Village Council took an active role in ad-

ministering the Village. The Council awarded a contract on September 14, 1874, for the erection and finishing of a corporation building in Celina. On July 27, 1875, the council proceeded to purchase the Bass Foundry Machine Works cells for the purpose of a calaboose. On March 28, 1877, the council moved, "For the care of the Hook and Ladder Wagon and use of room for same to be transferred to the Rescue Hook and Ladder organization, to be used by them for the benefit of the corporation in subduing fire." The motion was approved April 3, 1877, under Mayor J.W. Riley. Two years later, July 8, 1879, the council had a committee appointed to seek a fire engine for the corporation. On March 5, 1878, a committee of two was appointed to procure a suitable hall for Armory and drill for military purposes, and on April 14, 1879, the council approved payment of \$6,000 to D. Hellwarth for the previous year's rental of a hall. On December 14, 1875, council introduced an ordinance to compel keepers of saloons and other places where intoxicating liquors are sold to close their places of business at ten o'clock P.M. Much of the village council business was in consideration of hauling gravel for streets, sidewalk construction, cistern and sewer construction. On February 11, 1879, Joseph Miller presented a bill of \$70 to the village for the loss of a horse which fell into a sewer. Street lamps were installed in 1879, which consisted of the installation of seventeen coal oil lamps.

The Reservoir provided recreation and transportation. The July 6, 1871 Western Stand reported a mammoth catfish weighing thirteen and one-half pounds and measuring twenty-eight inches in length, being caught in the lake. On November 4, 1873, Jed Kelsey shipped over 300 ducks, via the canal, to the Cincinnati Market. During the early 1870's, residents were complaining about transportation. Travelers told of a trip from Celina to St. Marys, via a plank road, taking four hours. The Miami and Erie Canal was no longer a popular means of travel.

On May 11, 1872, the Celina Village Council held a Special Session. One hundred taxpaying electors of the Incorporated Village of Celina submitted a signed petition to the Council, requesting the Council appropriate \$10,400 toward the construction of a railroad, the Lake Erie and St. Louis Railroad, from the Ohio Indiana State Line to Celina. They wanted this money to be raised through bonds. People talked railroad construction for several years and watched as three railroads reached Celina. March 5, 1878, Council adopted a resolution for the Lake Erie and Louisville Railroad Company's authorization to construct and operate their line through the Incorporated Village of Celina. In addition to this railroad, both the Cincinnati, Jackson and Mackinaw (Cincinnati Northern) and the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton passed through Celina by the early 1880's. The railroads were sources of business interaction and communication with the outside world. The 1870 Census of Mercer County was 17,254; the 1880 Census was 21,808. The 1890 Census illustrated additional growth at a figure of 27,220. Thus, the importance of the railroads to Mercer County Settlement is obvious.



Brandon House was built by the Brandon family in the early 1870's, at 603 West Market. Today, this building is the office of Photography by Terry, owners Mr. and Mrs. Terry Shideler.

Compliments Of

PURDY, HOGAN & LAMMERS

Attorneys At Law

Celina & Ft. Recovery, Ohio

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Photography By Terry

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Phone 586-6166



Thomas J. Godfrey, State Senator, built this home, 1874-1876. This twenty room home was designed by the Architect Luther Peters of Dayton.



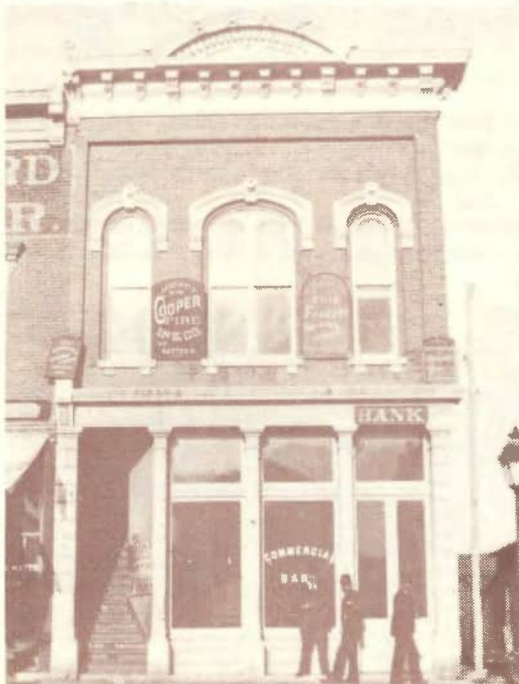
Mercer County jail — In the spring of 1875, the contract for the new county jail and sheriff's residence was awarded to E.W. Wilson, Van Wert, for \$25,000, according to the plans of T.J. Toland & Son of Delphos. In 1876, the contract for heating the jail with steam was awarded to C. Buehler & Company, St. Marys for \$935. This jail was used until 1939.



Will Shepherd's Grocery stood between the Citizens Bank and the Commercial Bank prior to the 1894 fire. The Store boasted the first ice cream parlor in Celina.



This house, known as the Headington House, was built in 1871 at Northwest corner of Ash and Market. A.P.J. Snyder, one of the early publishers of The Western Standard, built the six bedroom home for \$700. He sold the home in 1921; the Snyder family, through the Standard Printing Company, repurchased the home in 1973.



Commercial Bank located at 115 South Main was lost in the 1894 fire.



The Interior of the Commercial Bank (building 1874-1894 fire). Left to right, Calvin E. Riley, J.B. Pulskamp, A.M. Riley, and Thomas Godfrey.

A PART OF YOUR LIFE SINCE 1870

THE CITIZENS COMMERCIAL
BANK & TRUST COMPANY
 F.D.I.C.
 CELINA, OHIO



1870's



Rentzsch's (Style Shop today) — The Building housing the Style Shop was built in 1870. January 29, 1870, the Office of the Standard moved to the second story of the Culver & Briggs Building, on the east side of Main Street. The building was built with the second floor having been built to hold the printing plant which received water born freight via a creek at the rear of the building from canal boats. The photo is dated 1914, with Rentzsch's on the North side and Laudahn and Mesarvey Grocery on the South side.



Phillip and Candace (Coate) Cozadd purchased the Style Shop, 110 South Main, January 1, 1975, from Don and Garnet Coate. (Don Coate and Dorsey Grimm had purchased the Style Shop from D.K. Mendenhall in 1936, at 123 South Main. The Shop moved across the street, in 1965, to what was at that time the Rentzsch Department Store.)



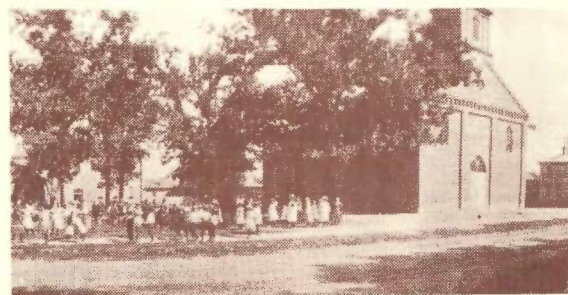
The addition to Union School Building was completed in 1874; the original four room school was built in 1859. This addition of eight rooms made the school into a three story building, which stood where Celina Group Insurance Building stands in 1984, on Walnut Street, between Livingston and Fulton. Students called this building the West School.



Grapner Shoes, Inc., 102 South Main, was opened by Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Grapner August 1, 1961, at the Plaza Shopping Center and moved downtown in 1966. On November 3, 1978, they moved to the Riley Building at the Southeast corner of Main and Market, 102 South Main. The Riley Building was bought by Dr. R.E. Riley in 1902; his son, Joel K. Riley of Royal Oak, Michigan, now owns the store. Joel Riley is a descendant of James Watson Riley, who platted Celina. In 1980, Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Grapner and son Randall opened Gallery of Shoes, at 207 South Main. This, in 1984, the family is operating both stores.



The Riley Building, on the Southeast Corner of Main and Market, was built in 1872. The building was bought by the late Dr. R.E. Riley in 1902. Dr. Riley was the father of the present owner, Joel K. Riley, of Royal Oak, Michigan. This photograph was taken after the turn of the century, when the trolley came from Lima and St. Marys to Celina, on Market Street.



Father Theophilus Wittmer oversaw the building of the first parochial school, 36 x 40 feet, on the corner of Wayne and Walnut Streets, in 1876. The first Immaculate Conception Church was built in 1865, a brick building, 40 x 60 feet, at the corner of Anthony and Walnut Streets.

the style shop

110 SOUTH MAIN ST.
CELINA, OHIO 45822



GRAPNER SHOES, Inc.

GALLERY OF SHOES

CELINA, OHIO 45822

Growth in the decade of the 1880's reflects the influence of the railroads on the community. Celina's population increased from 1,346 in 1880 to 2,702 in 1890. The economy's strength also increased, as people invested in oil and gas well exploration and businesses were initiated. In 1882, the First United Presbyterian Church built a brick church at the corner of Fulton and Walnut Streets. That same year, Dr. David H. Richardson settled in Celina and served the public in a large medical practice. The Mercer County Bote newspaper began in 1883, and was unique, being that was the only newspaper in the county being printed in the German Language. In 1884, fire destroyed the former Court House (used before the 1867 Court House had been built), which had served as a city building. (In 1890 Celina City Hall was built.) On December 2, 1886, a German Teachers Institute of Mercer County, Ohio was organized for the purpose of meeting once a year to encourage the German Language in the local schools. In 1888, Calvin E. Riley became a partner in the private banking business of Godfrey and Milligan. In 1893, the banking business was incorporated and in 1901, it was merged into the Commercial Bank of Celina, with Calvin E. Riley as President.

Across the nation, laborers were discussing unions and reform. In 1881, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions was formed, which became the American Federation of Labor (AFL) in 1886. Farmers were also stating their demands. The political climax of the agrarian discontent of the 1870's and 1880's was the organization of the People's Party of America, or the Populists. In Mercer County, it was the railroads which were in most demand by the farmers and laborers. The railroads provided the quickest and cheapest method of transportation to the market for farm and industrial products.



R & K Tavern owners, John Roberts and Chalmer Kuhn, purchased the business from Mrs. Leona Kerns. Her husband, Ed Kerns, had owned the business since the late 1950's, having purchased it from Carl Gibbons. This building at 402 South Main, at the southeast corner of Warren and Main Streets, was built originally as a hotel to serve the people traveling on the train, with the depot located just behind the hotel.



The Celina passenger station at 424 South Main Street, which headquarters the Celina Corporation, was built in 1878 and operated by the Lake Erie & Louisville Railway Company. The first train, an excursion special, arrived at the Celina station from Lima on July 4, 1878 during public ceremonies. The L.E. & L. later reorganized as the Lake Erie and Western Railway Company. The L.E. & W. operated under various corporate control through December 28, 1922, when the line was consolidated with the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad Company, better known throughout the midwest as the "Nickel Plate Road." The last passenger service on the line was October 17, 1959. The "Nickel Plate Road" became history on October 16, 1964, when it merged with The Norfolk & Western Railway Company. Reduced local freight traffic forced the closing of the Celina station on December 13, 1981. However, the now Norfolk and Southern still operates a successful freight business, providing service to Celina. The Present occupant of the railroad station building is The Celina Corporation, Telecommunications Group, organized April 19, 1980 by R.D. Rumpff, President who began business on February 13, 1982. The Celina Corporation, Telecommunications Group, is involved in national sales and leasing of mobile radio telephones — automatic, dial car telephones. The Corporation also operates the Citizens Mobile Telephone Company, which endeavors to provide mobile telephone service, radio-paging, burglar and fire alarm monitoring and answering services to Mercer and Auglaize Counties.



Murphy's Store stood at 302 South Main, at the Southeast corner of Warren and Main. On the side of the building, a sign indicates that Mercelina Hotel is located 3 blocks east, with Fish, Chicken, Steak, and Modern Cottages.

**CELINA
TELECOM**

Telecommunications Group

THE CELINA CORPORATION

424 South Main Street

Celina, Ohio 45822-0121 Ph. 419 586-5626

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R & K TOWN TAVERN

402 S. MAIN STREET

CELINA OHIO

1880's



The John W. Karch Stone Company was begun in 1880 when a quarry was started for the purpose of burning lime. In 1903, Mr. Karch began in the quarry business at the present location, 6430 Karch Road. He installed new crushing equipment. Steam furnished the power for operating a small jaw crusher and for drilling the blast holes. In 1911, a Lima steam locomotive replaced the mules to pull the quarry cars. By 1933, a Lima 403 gasoline powered shovel replaced the Marion steam shovel. Electricity was first used in 1941 by installing a larger Buckeye oil engine and a generator. Throughout the years, the plant was modernized. The John W. Karch Stone Company has a policy of constant attention toward improvements of the materials produced. Through the years many changes have been made to not only raise production but also improve quality. They strive to make the very highest quality crushed stone that modern technology and equipment can produce.



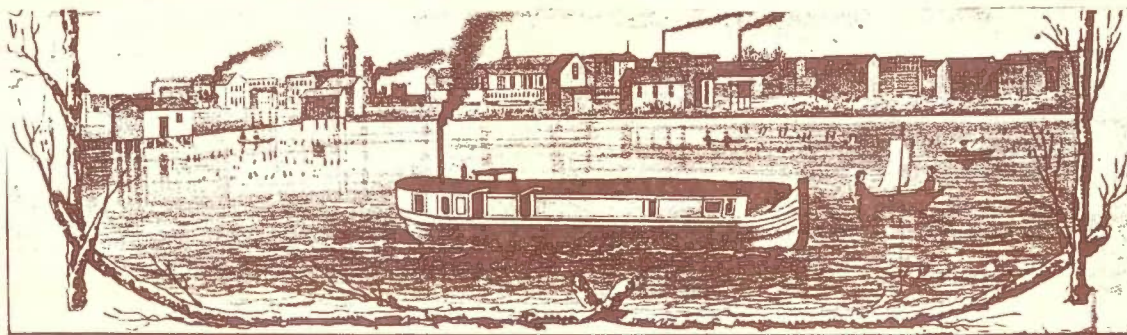
The Reservoir Hotel, stood at 306 South Main, on the east side, where the Standard Oil Station is in 1984. John Winter and his son ran the hotel, which was torn down in the 1920's.



This scene is the shooting of an oil well, in the 1880's at Celina, Ohio. Read about Captain Gustavus Darnold's Steamer in the 1860's.



Local citizens invested in finding oil and gas. The first oil well in Celina was drilled in the spring of 1886 within the Village limits of Celina, and was completed in June of 1886. This well proved to be dry and showed only a slight trace of gas and oil. The second well within Celina's Village limits also proved to be dry. A Celina Gas Company was formed by the village and a gas plant was installed to furnish the town with light and fuel for a number of years. In July of 1888, an ordinance was passed to contract for the supply of natural gas to encourage manufacturers to locate in Celina. Four and one-half years later, a franchise to light the streets of the Village of Celina by electricity was given to George E. Turner and Martin Lutz. This ordinance stated where the lights were to be located and that the posts and wires were not to interfere with the flow of water in any gutter, drain, or sewer. Oil derricks were numerous across the Reservoir. By the turn of the century, over 2,700 wells had been drilled in Mercer County. The local wells began to decline in production and the era of gas and oil wells quietly closed. Today, 1984, there are a few gas wells used across the County.



Celina from the Reservoir; Canal Boat on lake; see 1860's for story of the steamboat.



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603 W. MARKET CELINA, OHIO

At the national level in the 1890's, Grover Cleveland had scarcely been inaugurated as President (March 4, 1893) before the country was in the grip of a panic. At the local level, Celina suffered a disastrous fire in 1894; citizens then worked together and rebuilt an entire block in downtown Celina. The economy of Celina was strong enough for the citizens to build a new Town Hall, a new schoolhouse, a new water-works building, and an electric light plant, within the decade of the 1890's!

July 26, 1894, downtown Celina suffered its greatest fire in its history; an entire city block, bounded by Main, Market, Fayette and Walnut Streets, was destroyed by fire. As often happened in local villages, after a major fire, the town increased its fire protection services. One month after the fire, August 29, 1894, Celina Village Council passed Ordinance No. 131, which provided for the issue and sale of \$50,000 worth of Bonds of the Village, in order to purchase a fire engine, hose, and apparatus, for the erecting and purchasing of water works and supplying water to the corporation and inhabitants thereof. In 1895, the water-works building was built on Touvelle Street; in 1900, in connection with the water-works plant and in the same building, an electric light plant was installed.

People were interested in civic projects. The October 8, 1891 Mercer County Bote (German Newspaper) reported 10,000 people in attendance at the German Day Program in Celina. In 1893, local citizens traveled to Chicago to visit the World's Fair. The Fair had been planned in 1892; this Fair inspired Mrs. Charles (Lizzie) McKim and eight ladies to form the Celina History Club, and to become more familiar with the first 400 years of our country's history. The town built a new schoolhouse in 1894, at the southeast corner of Wayne and Buckeye. In 1897, credit is given to the Shakspeare Club for establishing a library in Celina. Local citizens were involved as men were called to serve in the Spanish American War; with the Treaty of Paris being signed in 1898. That same year, in 1898, the United States acquired the Hawaiian Islands. In 1899, the Altrurian Club was organized in Celina.

Robert Ellsworth Riley, M.D. returned to Celina in 1896, and engaged in practice, in the meantime becoming interested in the drug business. He subsequently purchased a half interest in Charles A McKim's Drug Store; five years later Dr. Riley bought out McKim. This drug store was in the Riley Building, on the Southeast corner of Market and Main, and is owned by Dr. Riley's son, Joel Riley. Dr. Robert Riley purchased the Brandon Home for his family; today this home is the office of Photography by Terry.

The last year of the Nineteenth Century witnessed a political event, which was one of a kind in Celina. William Jennings Bryan, from Nebraska, was nominated in 1896, 1900

and 1908 to the office of United States President. He was the only three time Presidential Candidate who came campaigning to Celina. people from over Mercer County rode the train to Celina to hear William Jennings Bryan speak in October 1899.



Ashley Hotel and Adam Schunck Harness, Boots and Shoes Store were built on West Fayette after the 1894 fire. The Antiquity House, 125 West Fayette, operated by Joan Overman and Marvel Gertz began in 1979. They leased the building from Robert Doll and Ken Woeste. (McKirnan Bros. had occupied this building.) Robbins Leather Store occupies the Schunck building, the west side, 131 W. Fayette. Bottle 'N Keg occupies the right side of the Schunck Building, 129 West Fayette. Bottle 'N Keg is owned and operated by the Elmer and Irma Kuess family. Bottle 'N Keg has DJ's on Wed., Fri., Sat., and Sun. nights, 9:00-1:00 A.M.; pool table tournaments, foos ball tournaments, and daily card players. Prior to the Bottle 'N Keg, Gerald and Rosie Fleck had Fleck's Pool Hall for over forty years.



Schunck Jewelry Store began at 111 West Fayette, in 1894.



View of West Fayette Street.

Mrs. J. McFarland

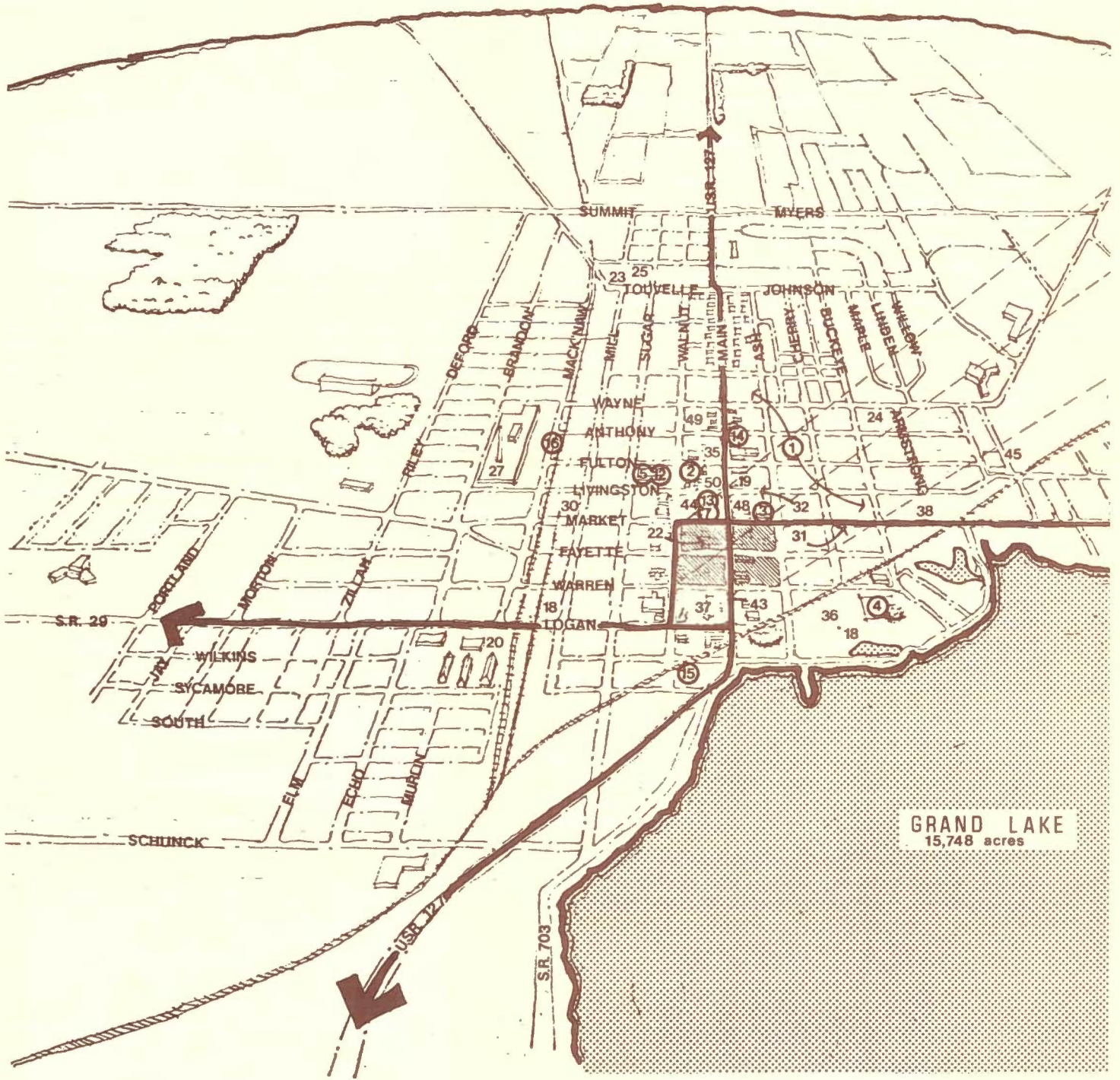
Dealer in
Fine
Millinery
and
Notions

Bargains in
Trimmed Hats

117 W. Fayette St.
Celina, Ohio

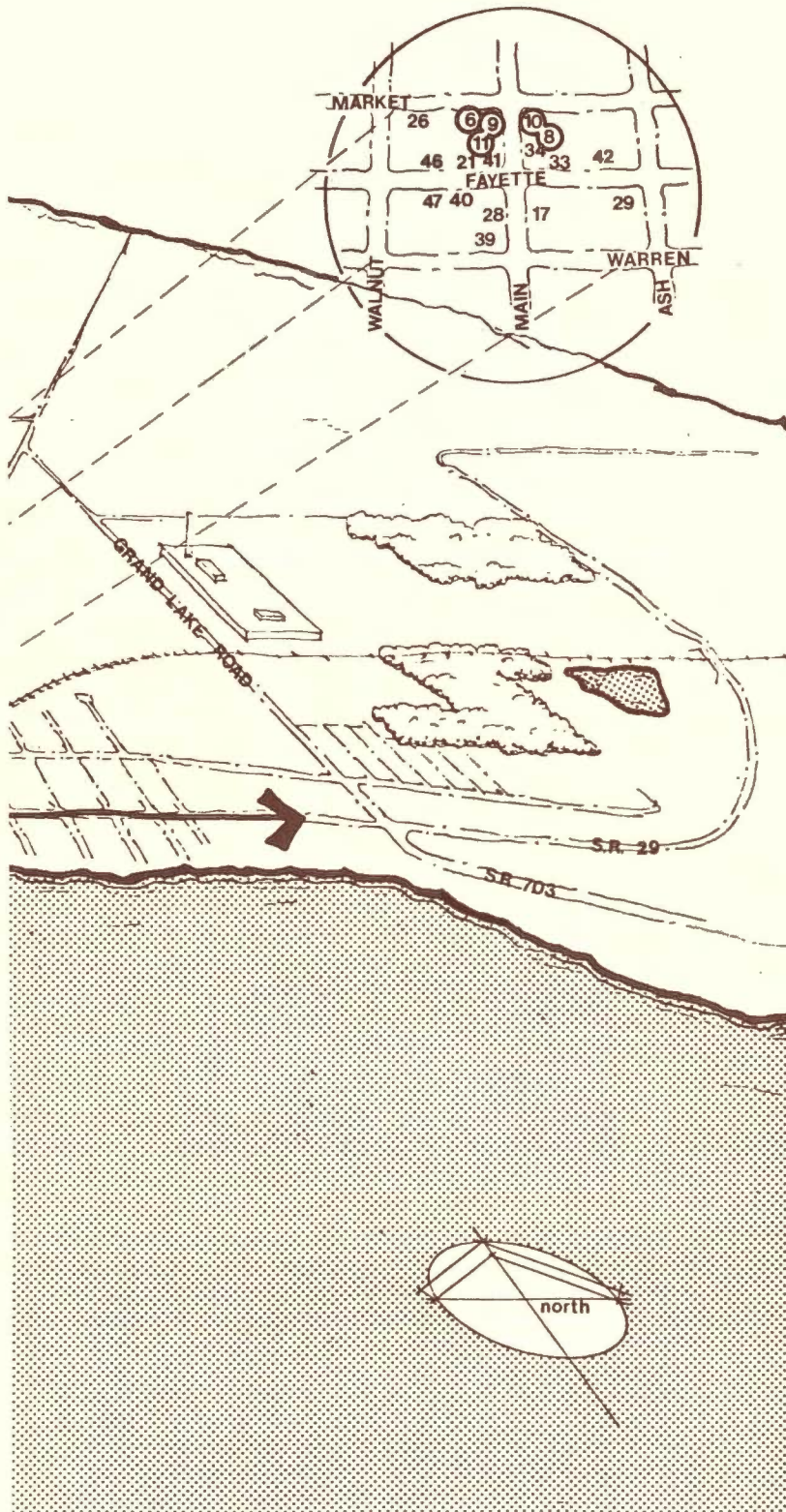
WINKELJOHN PRINTING and
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212 North Main Street - Celina, Ohio 45822

THE BOTTLE 'N KEG
129 W. Fayette St. Celina, Ohio
Homemade Soups & Sandwiches
Beer - Pool - Games - Music
D.J. Wed., Fri., Sat., & Sun. 9- 1:00



CELINA

BUSINESSES - BUILDINGS



CAN YOU MATCH THE NUMBERS ON THE MAP TO THE APPROPRIATE BUSINESS, BUILDING OR EVENT FOR THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS (1884 to 1934)

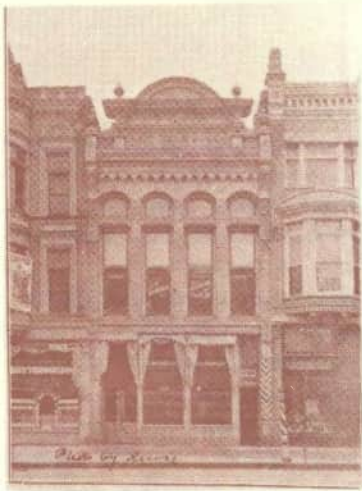
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- 1834 CITY PLAT PREPARED
- 1840 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-later became school
- 1848 STANDARD PRINTING COMPANY
- 1852 FIRST COUNTY FAIR
- 1859 FOUR ROOM SCHOOL (WEST SCHOOL)
- 1866 BAIR PHARMACY
- 1867 MERCER COUNTY COURT HOUSE
- 1870 RENTZSCH BUILDING
- 1870 COMMERCIAL BANK
- 1872 RILEY BUILDING
- 1873 CITIZENS BANK
- 1874 WEST SCHOOL - two story addition
- 1875 NEW JAIL & SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE
- 1879 STREET LIGHTS
- 1879 L.E. & W. RAILROAD
- 1883 CINCINNATI NORTHERN RAILROAD (C.J. & M.)
- 1888 MERCER COUNTY BUILDING & LOAN
- 1888 GAS WELLS - followed by oil wells
- 1890 TOWN HALL
- 1894 P.K. LUMBER
- 1894 SCHUNCK JEWELRY STORE
- 1894 CELINA FIRE - block south of court house
- 1894-5 WATER WORKS BUILDING
- 1894 EAST SCHOOL
- 1900 ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT
- 1900 FIRST NATIONAL BANK
- 1900 MERSMAN BROS. BRANDTS FURNITURE FACTORY
- 1900 COFFEE SHOP
- 1900 WM. CRON'S CARRIAGE FACTORY
- 1900 BUCKLAND MILLING COMPANY
- 1901 ELECTRIC TROLLEY to Lima
- 1903 LIVINGSTON ST. PAVED WITH BRICK
- 1904 RICHARDSON BUILDING
- 1906 UNION BLOCK
- 1907 LIBRARY
- 1907 STEARIC ACID PLANT
- 1914 CELINA GROUP INSURANCE
- 1915 OTIS HOSPITAL
- 1917 CELINA AUTO COMPANY
- 1919 OTT BUILDING
- 1921 GOLDSTEINS
- 1922 GIBBONS HOSPITAL
- 1922 F. & W. SALES & SERVICE
- 1923 COURT HOUSE
- 1925 OLD JR. HIGH BUILDING
- 1926 SAM DIXON MOTOR SALES
- 1927 BOCK PRINTING and OFFICE SUPPLY
- 1929 J.C. PENNEY STORE
- 1930 PAROCHIAL HIGH SCHOOL
- 1934 POST OFFICE

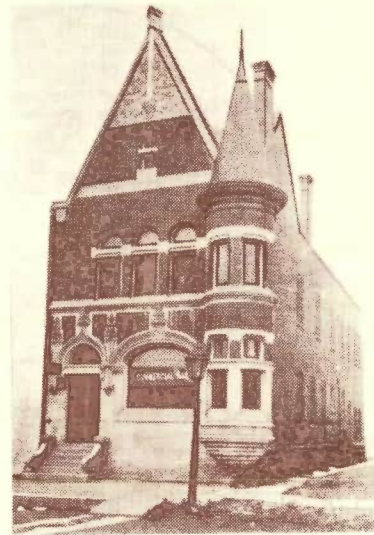
1834-1884

BUILDINGS-EVENTS

1890's



The Citizens Bank was founded May 1, 1873 by John W. DeFord, R.G. Blake, and F.C. LeBlond. This Bank rebuilt after the 1894 fire, at 119 South Main.



The Commercial Bank, founded in 1870, rebuilt after the 1894 fire, at 115 South Main.



Citizens Commercial Bank and Trust Co., Fayette Street Branch Bank, opened August 1981.



In July of 1957, stockholders of The Commercial Bank Co. and The Citizens Banking Co. unanimously approved an agreement of consolidation between the two institutions. The first Board of Directors was named and the Executive Officers were elected: Roscoe D. Riley, President; Lewis D. Fryinger, Lee Heckler and Louis J. Hierholzer, Vice Presidents; L.R. Gallman, Cashier; and Sam D. Dixon, Hugo S. Rentzsch, Richard Sharp, Henry Knapke, and C.A. Stubbs. The Citizens Commercial Bank and Trust Company, in 1984, has the Main Office at 117 South Main, and two branch offices in Celina at 115 West Summit and 124 East Fayette; with offices at Fort Recovery and Chickasaw.



Citizens Commercial Bank and Trust Co., Summit Street Branch Bank, opened May, 1972.

A PART OF YOUR LIFE SINCE 1870

THE CITIZENS COMMERCIAL
BANK & TRUST COMPANY
 F.D.I.C.
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The Celina Town Hall was built in 1890. The town had needed a new town hall, or "city building" because the building that had been used as a town hall had been destroyed by fire in 1884; that building had been the Court House, until 1867 when the 'new' Court House had replaced it. The contractors, Kreusch & Fanger, residents of Celina, built the Town Hall at a cost of about \$20,000. The second floor was for the City Opera House, with a seating capacity of about 500. In 1890, the Town Hall Building was occupied by a large Council Chamber, Mayor's office, Township Office, city Bastile, Water Works and Electric Light Plant Offices and quarters for the Celina Fire Department. The City Opera House had theatrical productions, produced by theatre groups traveling via the railroads. Local citizens also produced programs for the Opera House.



The J & J Club Cafe and Restaurant, 107 South Main, has been a restaurant for years. Jim and Jane Frysinger purchased this restaurant from Stan Laux, February 1983. Some of the previous owners were Mike Gehle, Bob Fleck, Paul Weitz, Herman Gant and Al Richards.



The play was Tom Thumb Wedding at the old Opera House in City Hall in 1896.



July 26, 1894, downtown Celina suffered its greatest fire in its history; an entire city block, bounded by Main, Market, Fayette, and Walnut, was destroyed by this fire. The fire started in the hay filled barn, on West Fayette, and continued throughout the wooden framed buildings with wood-shingled roofs. A hand-pumper, and a hose cart were the equipment available to Chief Leifeld and the Celina Fire Department, assisted by a bucket brigade. Van Wert and Lima Fire Departments, with steam pumpers were called by telegraph, and arrived by railroad, in time to assist in keeping the fire from spreading. The cisterns were pumped dry, and hoses were stretched to the Reservoir, and lake water was pumped on buildings across the street from the flames. Only one person was injured, when he hurt his leg after jumping from a second story window.



Rankin's, 105 South Main, began on May 10, 1955, when Bill and Anna May Rankin purchased Bair's Appliance, which formerly housed the Lake Theatre. (The building was built after the 1894 fire.) Since their 1955 opening, Rankin's has undergone a slow transition from the appliance store to the present store, with a wide selection of gifts, sporting goods, housewares, toys, and hobby and craft items, which make for easy shopping for the entire family.

CLUB CAFE

107 S. MAIN STREET

CELINA, OHIO

RANKIN'S

Gifts, Housewares, Toys, Hobbies
& Sporting Goods

105 S. Main Street Celina, Ohio 45822

Established 1955

1890's



Charles and Rochester Wyckoff rebuilt the building, at 101 South Main, Southwest corner of Main and Market, after the 1894 fire. (The Pharmacy was begun in 1868. The Court House, built in 1868, is to the North.)



The growth and progress of the schools made another schoolhouse a necessity. A model two-story brick schoolhouse was built, at a cost of \$13,034, at the southeast corner of Wayne and Buckeye in 1894.



This view of the interior of Bair Pharmacy, in Wyckoff Building, at 101 South Main, 1907-1922, shows John Good, Henry Puthoff and Ed Gerlach.



In 1895, the water-works building was erected in the north end of town, on Touville Street, and a plant installed at a total cost of \$50,000, under the supervision of J.P. LeBlond, John Milligan and C.D. Hierholzer, who constituted the first Board of Water Works Trustees elected.

In 1900, in connection with the water-works plant, and in the same building, an electric plant was installed at a cost of nearly \$50,000. Both the water and the electric light plants were owned and operated by the city, under the immediate control of the Board of Public Affairs, which early members were J.P. LeBlond, John Milligan, C.D. Hierholzer, D. Piper, L.D. Brumm, M.J. Hemmert, Jacob Gerlach, S.S. Scranton, John E. Hamberger and James D. Johnson.



Bair Pharmacy, 101 South Main, after a series of owners, Wyckoff, Puthoff, Ross and Bair, was purchased by Paul Arnold August 24, 1973. (In the background of this photograph, is the First National Bank, which was destroyed in the 1983 fire.)



Residence of Dr. John E. and Mary A. Hattery, 204 East Market, built in 1893.

BAIR PHARMACY

Downtown On The Square

Mercer County's Oldest Drugstore

Digitized by Andy Niekamp ~ andyniekamp@gmail.com ~ www.andyniekamp.com

ARNOLD PHARMACY

Celina Medical Center

801 PRO DRIVE

The first decade of the Twentieth Century was a prosperous time for Celina. The First National Bank of Celina opened in 1900. Mersman Tables began in Celina in 1900. The Crampton Canning Company was established, for the canning of tomatoes, peas, sweet corn and other vegetables. The Celina Telephone Company was busy; the newspaper Bote reported that the Celina Telephone Company was erecting telephone posts for St. Henry, December 13, 1900. With the improved economy, Celina improved its streets. In 1902, Fayette Street was paved with brick; in 1903, Livingston Street was paved, after which Walnut and East Market Streets were paved. Main Street was paved in 1905; West Market was paved in 1906. The Western Ohio Electric Railway extended its line from Lima to Celina. Local citizens also visited the World's Fair at St. Louis in 1904. October 1904, Mercer Countians rode the train to Celina to hear William Jennings Bryan speak. The December 1905 Bote reported that sleighing was good those days; on Saturdays the streets were filled with sleighs and that helped business! After having served Celina for twelve years, the Advocate Newspaper moved to Saint Henry and became the St. Henry Advocate. The Remaklus Company began business. A new Carnegie Library was built and opened in January 1907. September 1908, Mercer Countians rode the train to Dayton, to hear William Jennings Bryan speak, in his third bid for the Presidency; the fare for the round trip was one dollar; the November 7, 1908 Bote reported that Bryan was "beaten to a frazzle" with 162 electoral votes and William H. Taft was elected with 321 electoral votes. The summer of 1908, citizens went to Piqua to see the Buffalo Bill Show. The July 1908 Bote reported that the Prohibitionists were getting busy in the County; the October 3 Bote reported that 16 counties went dry as a result of the elections under the Rose Law, and that 287 saloons were put out of business. The December 4, 1908 Bote reported that 'twas a wet victory; wets carried Mercer County by 243 majority!



Founded in 1876 at Ottoville, Ohio, by sawmill operator J.B. Mersman, the Mersman Brothers Company moved to Celina in 1900 and began manufacturing beds, library tables and dining room tables. The Company employed 125 people when it was incorporated as The Mersman Brothers Brandts Company in 1906. Mersman was acquired by Congoleum Industries in 1963 and operated as a member of Congoleum's home furnishings group until 1977, when it was purchased by a group of private investors, headed by Willard Somers. In September, 1981, Waldron Furniture Manufacturing Co., Waldron, Arkansas, was acquired by Somers Corporation as a complementing upholstery line for the Mersman Table production company. Today, Mersman/Waldron manufactures completely correlated living room collections, featuring wood and upholstered products, employing nearly 1,000 people. Don Vander Horst, Sr., is Vice President and General Manager.



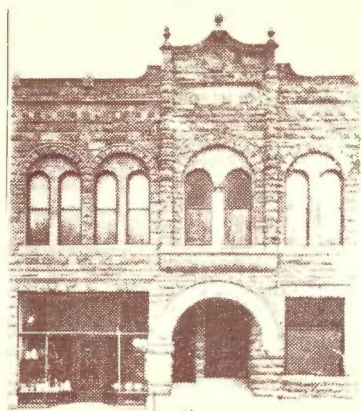
Employees of the Mersman Bros. Brandts Co. Mfgs. of Dining and Library Tables, Celina, Ohio, May 29, 1913. Boosz photo.

MERSMAN **WALDRON**
tables™

SOMERS CORPORATION

CELINA EMPLOYER SINCE 1900

1900's



A tradition of sound, secure and progressive banking began when The First National Bank of Celina officially opened on July 31, 1900 in the building shown above. The original Board of Directors was comprised of the Honorable Judge James H. Day, Dr. John E. Hattery, Charles Howick, William Touvelle, Frank Benke (all of Celina), Michael Mooney (St. Marys), and Frank Bimel (Sidney).

First National began business under the presidency of Judge Day with original capital of \$25,000. After 84 years of banking service The Third National Bank & Trust Company has deposits of \$140,000,000, nine offices throughout Mercer and Auglaize counties, has employment of nearly 100 people, and is a member of The Society Corporation, a state-wide organization with 194 offices and assets of \$5.4 billion.



Odd Fellows Building, located East of First National Bank, on West Market.



In the summer of 1905, the Celina Chautauqua Assembly held its first session, at the site of the old Fair Grounds, located on the north shore of the Reservoir (where the park is with the log building, in 1984). Seated in the horse drawn cab is William Jennings Bryan, preparing to depart from his oration, accompanied by Mayor Patrick E. Kenney and Senator James D. Johnson.



Val Fortman Grocery store, SE corner Market and Walnut. The old grocery store from this building is now on display at the Mercer County Historical Museum.



1907 Chautauqua next to the Lake.



Third National Member FDIC
Bank & Trust Co.



Bruns, Gant & Toms Insurance — Bruns Brothers, Al and Birt, began the agency. Then Charles Gant bought out Birt Bruns. Later Bill Toms joined the firm. Bill Toms and Charles Gant bought out Al Bruns. Charles Gant retired; Bill Toms, Mike Gant and Everett Dorsten had the firm. In 1982, Mike Gant and Everett Dorsten became the sole owners of the firm, Bruns, Gant and Toms Insurance Agency, Inc. In 1983, they moved from their 113 East Market location, to their 104 North Main Street location.



MEIKLE, TESNO & LUTH, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, are located in the Roemer Building, registered with the National Register of Historic Places. According to local legend, the offices of Bill Meikle, Jim Tesno, and Tom Luth are positioned immediately over a former pond, which yielded some of the largest frogs "in these here parts."

In 1959, Meikle began his practice of law in Mercer County. In 1975, Tesno began his full-time practice, later entering into a partnership with Meikle. In 1977 Luth began his practice and the current firm was organized in January, 1982.



The Celina Stearic Acid Company came to Celina in 1907, when August J. Spieler located the business at the five acre site of the liquidated Haneke Iron Works, 410 South Ash. The Stearic Acid was a refined product and was sold to the Drug Compounders, Cosmetic Makers, Paint Manufacturers and Candle Makers. Glycerine was also refined and was used in drugs, cosmetics, paint and explosive manufacturing. The Celina Stearic Acid Company ceased operation in 1962.



The Shakspeare Club established a library in 1897, by meeting at the Calvin E. Riley Home. The members put the books in the Town Hall. The new library was built at 303 North Main, and opened January 1, 1907, as The Dwyer Mercer County District Library.



Building the West Bank on the Reservoir.

BRUNS, GANT & TOMS INSURANCE

CELINA, OHIO

Evart Dorsten - Mike Gant - Bob Grubaugh

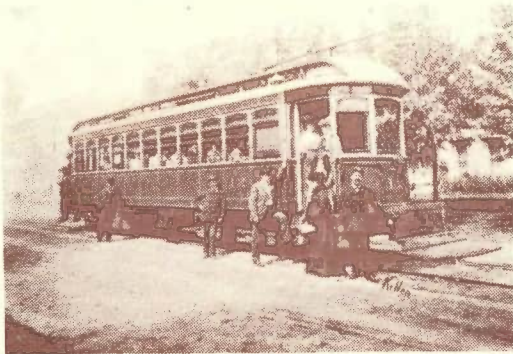
Digitized by Andy Niekamp ~ andyniekamp@gmail.com ~ www.andyniekamp.com

MEIKLE, TESNO & LUTH, ATTORNEYS

100 N. Main, in Roemer Building located over former frog and turtle pond.

CELINA 586-6481

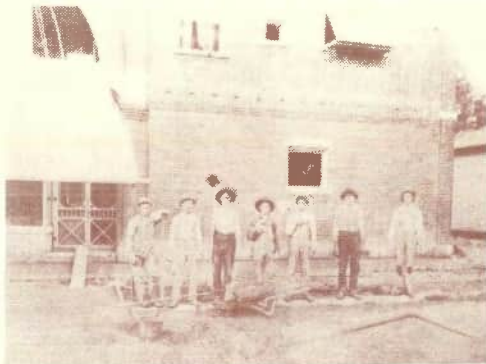
1900's



The Western Ohio Electric Railway extended its line to Celina, connecting Celina to Lima. Trolleys left town almost hourly for Lima. April 7, 1904, the Members of the Celina History Club, made a motion that the Club husbands take their wives by trolley to St. Marys or Lima and treat them to dinner. Citizens tell stories of having missed the last trolley at night, and having to spend the night with friends in Lima; the trolley was used for social travel as well as business travel.



Burl Myers set up his legal practice in Celina in 1909, having been graduated from University of Michigan that year. His brother, Orel Jacob, joined the firm in 1912 and remained until he was drafted in 1918; the firm name was changed in 1912 to Myers and Myers. Burl's son James joined the firm in 1939. Burl's son Dave joined in 1948. Burl's son Don joined the firm in 1950. Dan Myers, Dave's son, joined the firm in 1976. Myers and Myers, Attorneys at Law, is the oldest existing firm in Celina under the same name.



Workmen install trolley tracks on East Market Street around the turn of the century. (Above) The building in the background contained the office of Dr. John E. Hattery in the early 1900's, and is now occupied by the Law Firm of Purdy, Hogan & Lammers (left). Don M. Purdy entered the practice of law in 1949; James P. Hogan in 1972, and Thomas D. Lammers in 1977.



The Richardson Building is located at the Northeast corner of Main and Fayette Streets. Male Fashions is located in this building in 1984. (The Mercer County Historical Museum was located on the second floor from 1959 until 1974.)



Compliments Of
PURDY, HOGAN & LAMMERS
 Attorneys At Law

Celina & Ft. Recovery, Ohio

MYERS & MYERS
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW

324 E. Market St. P.O. Box 230
 CELINA, OHIO 45822
 419-586-2396

James W. Myers (1939-79) David M. Myers

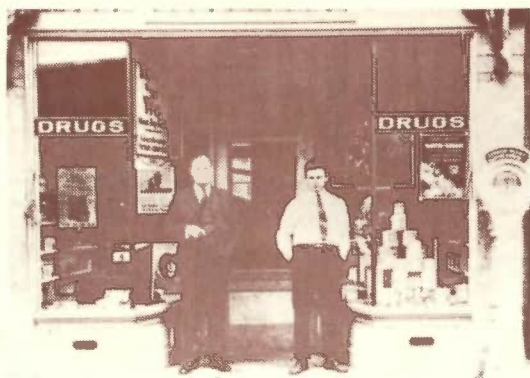
Daniel Myers (admitted Florida, Penn., Bar)



Coffee Shop, interior, 1941 — Fred Schlenker, in 1908 was serving between 200 and 300 diners nightly; his restaurant had been the Schmidt Restaurant, also the Manhattan. John McKirnan married Fred's daughter and eventually joined the business. John McKirnan opened a restaurant in the building which later housed the City Loan. That was the original Coffee Shop. In 1941 Dan McKirnan and his son Pat bought the Coffee Shop. Pat McKirnan has the business in 1984.



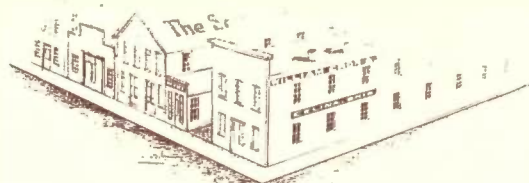
1904 Schlenker Restaurant — First row: Irma Schlenker, Coxy Schlenker, Marie Eicher, Anna Deitsch, Earl Schlenker; second row: John Lewis, Frank Fanger, Eli Johnson, Sam Mesarvey, Clyde Spriggs, Clyde Mesarvey, Fred Schlenker, Mrs. Fred (Kate) Schlenker, Grandma Schlenker.



Kindell's Drug Store — B.L. Kindell began his career in the R.E. Riley Drug Store. In 1913, he purchased the Willshire Hight Drug Store on Fayette Street. He moved the drug store to 207 South Main. Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Grapner and son Randall own Gallery of Shoes, 207 South Main. In 1913, this building was the site of Kindell's Drugs. Benjamin L. Kindell is the gentleman on the left of the photograph. The Gallery of Shoes opened in this building in 1980.

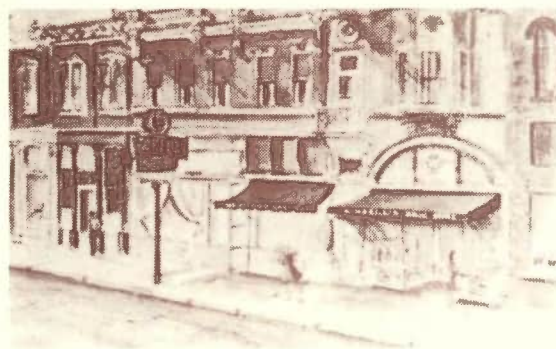


Cron Auto Parts, 215 South Main, formerly Cron Tire and Supply, was begun in 1918 by John A. Cron. The business started on W. Fayette and moved to Market, and then to its Main Street location about 1920. The building used to be Joe Schmit's grocery. John A. Cron's two sons, Clarence J. Cron and Charles W. Cron, followed in the business. Today, Clarence's wife, Lucille, and his son, John Cron, own the business.



THE WM. CRON SONS CO.
Wholesale Manufacturers of
SELF SELLER LINE OF VEHICLES
CATALOGUE ON REQUEST (CELINA, OHIO)

William Cron's Sons had the buggy factory at 118-132 East Fayette, at the turn of the century. William's son John A. Cron, after buggies were being replaced by automobiles, began the Cron Tire and Supply Co. Today, the Branch Bank of Citizens Commercial Bank and Trust Co. at 124 E. Fayette, opened Aug. 17, 1981.



View of South Main, taken from a drawing by Ray Kindell, brother of Carl Kindell.

CELINA COFFEE SHOP

211 South Main Street

"Celina's Oldest"



419-586-2375

Machine Shop Service

1910's

The first year of the second decade of the Twentieth Century was highlighted, May 12, 1910, at 3:00 A.M. Thursday, when people were aroused by their alarm clocks to view Halley's Comet and then stood out in the streets watching until the comet disappeared from view. Automobiles were becoming a part of the downtown scene.

Celina's first concrete highway was built in 1912 — State Road 566, which in 1984 is known as West Bank Road; it was concrete for two miles in length and ten feet wide. People were talking about the Titanic disaster in the North Atlantic in 1912. The following year, Spriggs' Furniture Company began in Celina. One of the greatest tragedies that ever visited Ohio was the flood of 1913.

Several businesses were initiated during this decade: Celina Group Insurance, Barr Company, Olding-Gebele-George Insurance Company; Otis Hospital. Farmers organized the Mercer County Farm Bureau in 1919. The Ott Building on West Fayette was built in 1919 to house a meat market.

World War I played a dominant role in the lives of local citizens, when sons, husbands, fathers, and brothers left home to serve our country. In 1919 Veterans decided to apply for a charter for an American Legion Post in Celina and used the name Celina Post 210; September 1919, a charter was granted to ninety-four charter members, all veterans of World War I.



IN A CORNER



In August of 1914, Dr. Lloyd M. Otis came to Celina; in the early spring of 1915, he purchased the Carlin Property at 441 East Market, and opened Otis Hospital with the first

patient in September 1915. In 1921 he enlarged the hospital making it a 25 bed hospital with six bassinets; the architect who drew the plans for the renovation was Lyman Strong of Lima. Dr. James Otis joined his father in practice in the early 1940's; they built a new office at 115 North Walnut. Dr. James Otis continues to practice in this office building today, 1984. Open House was held in January 1956 for the public to see the improvements including extensive interior remodeling and a new addition. With increased federal government regulations, the cost of hospital care rose considerably, but Otis Hospital had never received any tax dollars from the day it opened till the day it closed its doors. Dr. James Otis continued with the Otis Hospital as a non-profit hospital until he closed its doors in 1978.



Otis Hospital staff, 1915, First Staff: Mary Wooten, Miss Slusser, Clay Shaner, Dr. L.M. Otis, Maude Crawford, Ida Moore.



Knapke & Ingraham, Attorneys at Law, began when Henry Knapke began his legal practice in 1932. Murph Knapke began in 1972 and Jeffrey Ingraham began in 1975. April 4, 1977 they formed the firm Knapke & Ingraham. Their office is located at 115 North Walnut. This building was formerly the home of Dr. Lloyd Otis. The story is told, that every time Dr. Otis delivered a baby at someone's home, he would pick up a stone and then used these stones on the porch of his home.

Compliments Of
PURDY, HOGAN & LAMMERS
Attorneys At Law

Celina & Ft. Recovery, Ohio

Knapke & Ingraham

Attorneys at Law

115 N. Walnut Street, P. O. 504

Celina, Ohio 45822

Area Code (419) 586-6444



Barr's Grand Opening 1914



The Olding-Gebele-George Insurance Agencies, Inc. had its beginning in 1915. After a series of various owners, L.C. (Lee) Olding and D.P. (Dennis) Gebele, purchased the Agency in 1964. A Coldwater Office is managed by David George who joined the Corporation 1969. The firm moved to its present location at 213 W. Market in the fall of 1974.



The Barr Store, Division of W.R. Thomas Stores, founded in 1914 by Fred and Will Barr. The Barr Stores, (four) were bought by W.R. Thomas Co. in 1978, now a chain of 12 stores in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. The Store Owner, Mr. Philip Spear, is located at Warsaw, Indiana; the twelve variety stores have their headquarters and buying offices in Warsaw. The Celina Store's Manager is W. Edward Kuenning. The Barr Store is located in the Union Block Building, which was constructed in 1906.



R.F.D. Mail Carrier, C. Hemmert, 1903.



Mendon-Celina Auto Taxi Service was operated in the early twentieth century. In 1917, William J. Brown purchased the Celina Auto Company, located at 225 South Main Street. In 1952 the entire block burned.



Aeroplane over Banner Fair, Celina, August 20-23, 1912.

agencies Olding • Gebele • George
 CREATIVE INSURANCE PROFESSIONALS
 215 WEST MARKET STREET CELINA OHIO 45822
 PHONE 419/586-2359

1914 ————— 1984

THE BARR STORE
 (Division of W. R. Thomas Stores)
A COMPLETE VARIETY STORE

70 YEARS IN CELINA

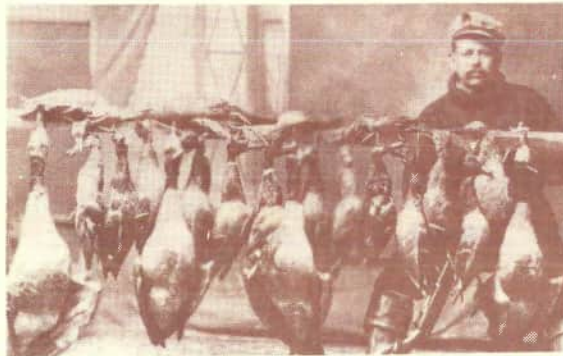
1910's



McKirnan Bros. Vending, Inc. — Dan C. McKirnan and James A. McKirnan founded a retail cigar and tobacco store in 1914, at 209 S. Main St. In 1919 a wholesale tobacco, cigar, cigarette, and candy business was started and moved to 119 S. Main St. That location served until 1935 when the business was moved to 125-127 W. Fayette St. Dan M. and Robert J. McKirnan joined their fathers at the end of World War II. In 1956 the Vending/Food Service Division was formed. The businesses were incorporated separately in 1966 as McKirnan Bros., Inc. (wholesale), and McKirnan Bros. Vending, Inc. The Schunck Road facility was purchased in 1979. That year Robert D. McKirnan (Robert J.'s son) joined the firm. The next year, 1980, Frank D. McKirnan (Dan's son) joined the firm. Kevin M. McKirnan (Dan's son) serves as legal council to the firm.



Driveway along West Bank of Lake Mercer



Edward Peak, Sr., with a day's shooting of Canadian Geese and ducks, taken from the Grand. (Grand Lake St. Marys)



Parade on West Fayette Street.



Celina's first concrete highway was built in 1912 — State Road 566, which in 1984 is known as West Bank Road. It was concrete for two miles in length and ten feet wide.



This tree grew this way; it was located in Riley's woods, West of Celina, in back of Zender Laudahn's home, toward the Fairgrounds. Fred Gilberg and his nephew Harry are in the photograph.

WHOLESALE
586-2428

McKIRNAN
 *Brothers*
CELINA, OHIO

VENDING
586-7970



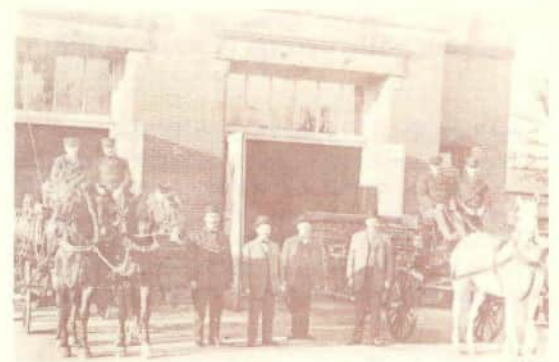
September 1914, The National Mutual Automobile Insurance Association was incorporated, with J.D. Johnson, President; O.F. Rentsch, Vice President; W.T. Palmer, Treasurer, Edgar J. Brookhart, Secretary and General Manager, and T.A. Weis as the five members of the Board of Directors. This Insurance Association became the Celina Group Insurance Company, with offices in the Celina Insurance Group Building on Walnut Street.



Marcelina Park Hotel



The Celina Marcelina Team, 1910-1913. First Row: Left to Right: Alfred Rinehart, William Schoch, Edward Durbin, Viro Pulskamp. Second Row: Albert Betzel, Zender Laudahn, Ralph Hight.



Celina Fire Department, 1911

Celina
Group

A part of Celina's
life and economy since 1914

Life Insurance Property & Casualty Insurance Reinsurance Insurance Services

1920's

The Republican Party in 1920 picked Warren G. Harding of Ohio as its Presidential candidate; they sensed a deep longing on the part of the American people for an end to international involvements and a "return to normalcy." Suffrage, Prohibition, and child labor laws became ideals of the crusaders of reform. The American people made heroes of Will Rogers, Billy Sunday, Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan, Charlie Chaplin, William S. Hart, Mary Pickford, Gloria Swanson, Douglas Fairbanks, Rudolph Valentino, Jack Dempsey, Babe Ruth, Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Carl Sandburg, Charles A. Lindbergh, and Henry Ford. However, in spite of all of the enthusiasm exhibited in the 'roaring twenties' the decade ended with the Stock Market Crash of October 29, 1929, and an end of prosperity!

In Celina, new businesses were initiated: Goldsteins, Gibbons Hospital, Celina Equity Exchange, Dixon's Motor Sales, J.C. Penney's, Bock Printing and Office Supply, White Mountain Creamery, Pogue's, C.W. Vale Funeral Parlor, the Fayette Theatre, and Lombard's Beauty Salon. A new high school was built. Ferd Wannemacher and Brothers started selling Nash, Hudson, Packard and Studebaker in 1922.

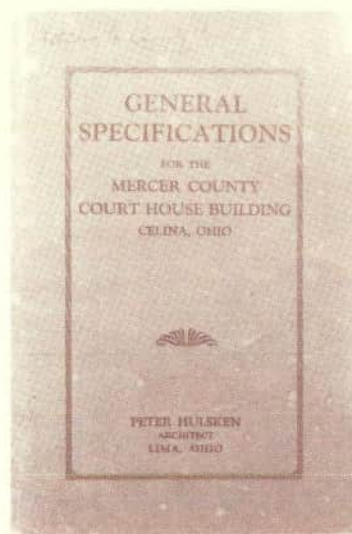
The summer of 1922, an airplane dropped into the Reservoir, at Highland Park. Three young men were injured; the plane was carrying passengers from other parks on sight-seeing tours over the Reservoir.

In 1923, the new Court House was completed, replacing the Court House which had been built in 1868. At the day of dedication, the Ku Klux Klan chose to appear on Main Street. (The Ku Klux Klan had been revived in 1915, but increased membership to over 4,000,000 in the 1920's. By the end of the decade, the organization had been widely discredited.)

The Western Democrat newspaper began September 1874; J.E. Blizzard purchased the paper April 27, 1876 and changed the name to the Mercer County Observer. The Mercer County Observer newspaper was published until Fred Gilberg printed the last copy February 12, 1926.

A spectacular storm hit the Grand Reservoir in May 1927. A funnel-shaped cloud dipped down in the center of the Reservoir, "throwing water and waves upon the north shore to a great height. . .water literally lifted up in the air. . .dashed over the shore more than the distance of three city squares, sweeping loose planks and board walks away." One boat was carried 30 feet back of a retaining wall.

The summer of 1928, the Church of the Nazarene was organized in Celina. The Celina Lions Club organized to serve the Community; Herman J. Dues was elected to the office of President for 1929-1930.



General Specifications for Court House Building

The Mercer County Court House, which had been built in 1868, had become too small and lacked electricity, telephones, modern heating and means of sanitation. In the April 27, 1920 presidential primaries, a \$500,000 bond issue for Court House construction was carried by a majority vote in Mercer County. The Building Commission was appointed in May; Peter M. Hulsken, Lima, Ohio, was the assigned architect. Ground was broken May 19, 1921; the cornerstone was laid July 20, 1921. Dedication Day was September 3, 1923. The Court House today, 1984, is as it was the day of dedication. The Gray Bedford Limestone of the Court House is cut straight and clean, to be complemented by the forty-



foot-columns. The bronze doors open for guests to be greeted by a hall of marble. The stair well encircles the heart of the Court House as the stair railings are cut concave to the radius. The baluster rail in black marble and carved newel posts leading to the rotunda with high panels of Vermont Marble on the circumference of the rotunda's highly polished marble floors. Mythological figures of Greece in the frieze bordering the top floor rotunda feature the motif of Greek figures from the Athenian Parthenon, 432 B.C. The dome of the Court House is shining colored glass, crowning the Grecian edifice.

A PART OF YOUR LIFE SINCE 1870

 **THE CITIZENS COMMERCIAL**
BANK & TRUST COMPANY
F.D.I.C.
CELINA, OHIO

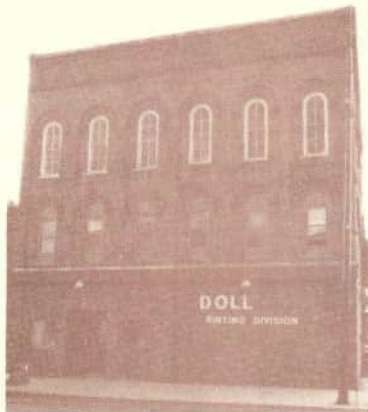




West Fayette Street before Ott Building was built. The building at 130 West Fayette now has Doll Printing Division of Doll, Inc. since November 1982.



The Fayette Theatre, advertised as the only movie theater in Celina, was housed in the western portion of the Ott Building, built in 1919. The eastern portion of the Ott Building housed the Mercer County Observer Newspaper, which ceased operation in 1925; the Gilberg Printing Office followed in that office and in 1927, the printing plant was sold to George Lutz and Ralph Bock. At one time, the C.W. Vale Funeral Parlor was housed in this building.



Robert and Phyllis Doll bought the printing business of Bock Printing and Office Supply July 1, 1977 from Charles Dues and Don Eyink, and located at 124 West Fayette. In November 1982, they moved to 130 West Fayette, as Doll Printing Division, Doll, Inc.



George Lutz and Ralph Bock bought the printing plant from Gilberg's in 1927. Bock bought out Lutz; Bock later sold out to George and Bessie Kinder. Charles Dues bought out Kinders in 1970. Don Eyink came into the business as a partner in 1975, at which time, Dues and Eyink incorporated as Bock Office Supply, Inc., 118 West Fayette.



Ellis Hat Shop, West Fayette Street building



Emma Too, Milliner and ladies who worked in Millinery at Ott Building

DOLL — PRINTING DIVISION

Robert & Phyllis Doll

130 West Fayette Street
Celina, Ohio 45822



BOCK, INC.

"Complete Office Outfitters"

118 W. Fayette Street

1920's



Goldstein Department Stores, Inc., 121 S. Main, began in 1916 in St. Marys, by Barnett Goldstein. His daughter Harriette worked in the store there after school, 1916-1921. They also opened a store in Celina on Fayette Street, in 1921, and kept the St. Marys store a short time. They closed the Fayette Street store. In 1921, they opened the store in the Hamburger building on South Main; Frank, Julius, Anne, Harriette and Jack took care of the store until Frank and Julius went to the service of their country. The family continued in the store to the present. Harriette Chodash has been in charge of the bridal party clothes since 1923. Frank's wife, Lillian Goldstein, runs the children's department clothes. Harriette's husband, Joe Chodash, buys the coats, sportswear and accessories. Today, 1984, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chodash and Mrs. Frank Goldstein own this store which is located at 121-125 South Main.



J.E. Hamburger built this building in 1897, after the 1894 fire had destroyed the block. In 1900, Joseph Dyert had Gents clothing in this store. Today, 1984, Goldstein's Department Store is located in this building and in the building to the south of this. (This photo shows Citizens Bank to the north of the Hamburger building.)



M.L. Spicer began the White Mountain Creamery Co. distribution in Celina in 1925. He picked up his milk at the trolley, in Celina; the milk having been sent from St. Marys. His son Eugene is looking out the window of his wagon, in this photograph.



M.L. Spicer began his delivery route in 1925; in 1928 he built his building at 512 East Wayne. Today, Eugene Spicer is the owner; for the retail and wholesale delivery of Meadow Gold milk. This 1965 photograph shows M.L. Spicer and son Eugene standing in front of their Meadow Gold Building.



A new high school building was built in 1925, on East Livingston and later became the Junior High School. Today, 1984, the building is used for office space and educational programs.

GOLDSTEIN'S DEPARTMENT STORE

Children's Shop - Bridal Shop - Shoe Department

Serving The Public For 62 Years

Where the customer is someone special

M. L. SPICER & SON MEADOW GOLD DAIRY

CELINA, OHIO

59 YEARS OF SERVICE



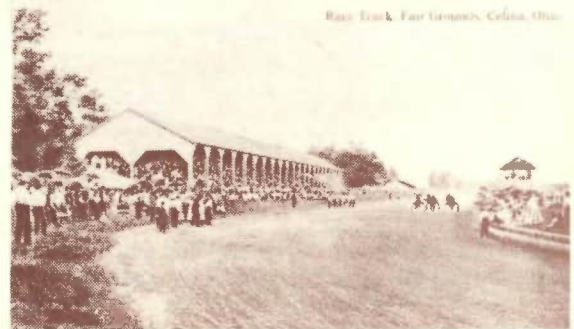
In 1889, Sam Dixon, a Great-Grandfather of Sam H. Dixon, engaged in the business of breeding Belgium Work Horses. In 1911, Sam's son Virge began the automobile business, after attending an auto mechanic's course at YMCA in Cincinnati. In 1926, Virge and his son Sam D. Dixon started the automobile business in downtown Celina.



In 1921, John T. Gibbons, M.D. purchased lots 117 and 119, East Fayette Street, and had an architect draw plans for new offices, consisting of a waiting room, business office, x-ray room, treatment room, consultation room, and two rooms were leased to Dr. Guy Bryson, Dentist. In 1921 another room was added to the Gibbons Building, for two beds for in-patients, and in 1931, a second floor was added which provided nine additional rooms plus a surgical suite; thus were the beginnings of the Gibbons Hospital. Doctors having served on staff at Gibbons Hospital include: Benning, Helfich, Barton, Chrispin, Adkins, Slusser, Schmidt, Willke, McLroy, Fox, P. Beare, R. Dobbins, L. Finkelmeier, D. Fox, G. McLroy, J. Otis, and John T. Gibbons. Dr. John T. Gibbons' son John C., assumed the position of hospital administrator in 1947. This hospital closed in 1980.



Sam H. Dixon, son of Sam D. Dixon, entered the business of Sam Dixon Motor Sales, in 1946. Today, 1984, Sam H. Dixon, as General Manager, continues the business in merchandising the sales of Pontiac, Buick and Cadillac automobiles, at 206 West Fayette.



Phi Delta Clubhouse at Mercelina Park. The young men played cards here.



This Boarding House stood at the site of Sam Dixon Motor Sales on West Fayette.



SAM DIXON, INC.



Walnut at Warren

Celina, Ohio

586-2385

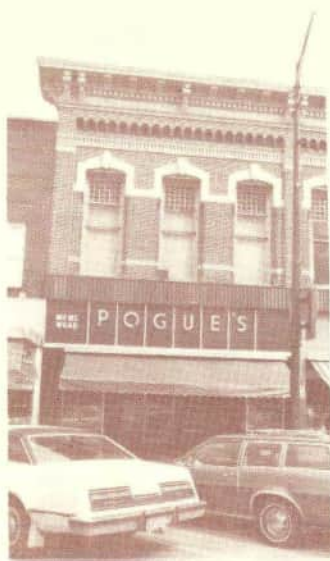
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TRANSPORTATION SINCE 1889

AUTOMOBILES SINCE 1911

DOWNTOWN CELINA SINCE 1926

1920's



I.W. Pogue established Pogue's Store in 1920. He was succeeded by his son Owen who owned the store until 1970 when Si Dumbauld purchased it. After Si's death, John Houts became one of the owners, and this past year, 1983, became sole owner. Pogue's provides quality men's clothing at moderate prices.



The Mercer County Auto Club, 105 North Walnut, was founded July 1920, by Charles Marvelius, President; Frank Kloeb, First Vice President; E.J. Lloyd, Second Vice President; Herbert Schindler, Secretary Manager; and Harold Bowman, Treasurer. October 1, 1982, the Mercer County Auto Club merged with the Ohio Auto Club, with headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, and Tom Jones is President in 1984. Joan Lachey was appointed Mercer County Division Manager on February 1, 1983, to succeed Mr. William Schindler. The above photograph was taken in the 1950's.



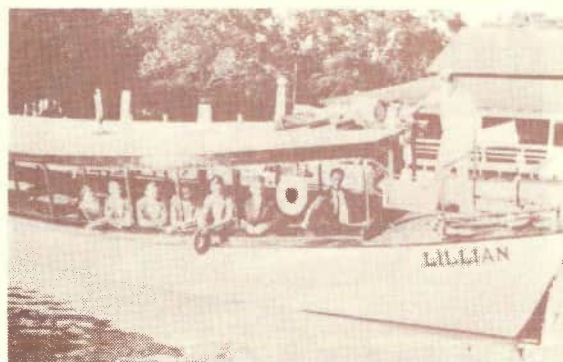
This steam engine ran the Go-Devil at Mike Hemmert's ice house in the 1920's. The ice house was located at Buckeye Street and supplied block ice in the era before modern refrigeration.



The Celina Boosters for Grand Reservoir, at Troy, Ohio, June 26, 1928. Kneeling: 1., 2. Herbert Schindler, 3. Roy Wycuff. Standing: 1. I.W. Polle, 2. Mae Ayers, 3. Margaret Godfry Menchoffer, 4. Clara Menchoffer, 5. Pulskamp Art, 6., 7. Pacifica Forsthaefel, 8., 9. Josephine Depweg, 10., 11. Ruth Hoel Brandts, 12. Pulskamp Creeden. Back Row: Carper Meyer,



Extremely cold weather in 1922 resulted in high quality ice. These workers are harvesting the ice. a crew of 125 men worked for Hemmert's when harvest time came around.



The Boat Lillian docked at Edgewater, Labor Day, September 5, 1928.

POGUE'S
108 SOUTH MAIN
CELINA, OHIO 45822

"Quality Clothing At Reasonable Prices"



Mercer County

Driver services.
Everyday. Everywhere.



Complete services.
For all travelers.

In 1930, Sinclair Lewis became the first American to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature; his best known novels being *Main Street*, *Babbitt*, *Dodsworth* and *Elmer Gantry*. The famous personalities of Jesse Owens, Lou Gehrig, Bronko Nagurski, Joe Louis, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Al Jolson, and Lionel, Ethel and John Barrymore, Clark Gable, Jean Harlow, and W.C. Fields were cheered. Artists Edward Hopper, Thomas Hart Benton and Grant Wood came into recognition. Literary personalities of Eilla Cather, Thomas Wolfe, John Steinbeck and Robert Frost were among the many authors of the thirties. The infamous names of John Dillinger, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow, and Al Capone crossed the newspapers.

In Celina, in 1930, the Census was 4,664; the Mercer County Census was 25,096. January 1930, flood waters were said to have been higher than in 1913. The local Beaver Creek suffered livestock loss. Almost a dozen farmers living along the turbulent flood stream of water were forced to put their household on second stories of their homes and move with neighbors or relatives. Mercelina Park in Celina was literally a sea of water. The waste weir at the Reservoir resembled Niagara Falls with a furious cataract of white water pouring over the twin spillway. The countryside looked to the government to leadership in controlling such floods. The TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) was signed into law by President Roosevelt on May 18, 1933, for the purpose of flood control, development of navigation channels and production and marketing of electric power. In 1930, the Celina Manufacturing Company prepared to build near railroad facilities. That year, April, many slot machines were removed from the Celina area. That same year, a \$50,000 blaze of undetermined origin threatened the Brandts Chair Company; in 1935, during fire prevention week, the Brandts Furniture Co. had a big fire. On April 23, 1931, the Sunday afternoon and evening movie showing was legalized.

November 1932 brought the heaviest snowfall in a decade that blanketed Celina. The schools were dismissed; all trains were off schedule. The rural deliveries were curtailed. It was claimed to be the deepest snow since January 12, 1918. The rain and sleet that preceded the two feet of drifting snow made all roads impassable.

Following the Stock Market Crash of 1929, the most critical year of the Depression was 1932, with over 12 million unemployed Americans! All was not well for law-abiding citizens. January 21, 1932, arrests and raids were made on a sixty gallon still and a large amount of alleged whiskey was seized in Mercer County. In 1932, a large safe was dynamited at the Dar-Mer Milk office on West Warren Street; the safe had not been locked for years. The Peoples Bank Company at Fort Recovery, now Branch of Citizens Commercial Bank and Trust Company, was robbed in the mid-1930's; John Dillinger's gang was blamed, but only one of his men was caught by the F.B.I. During the depression in March 1933, the President of the United States declared a bank holiday. All banks closed for nine days and on March 15, 1933, all banks which proved solvent, were permitted to reopen for business. Celina Banks reopened. The economy reached its low point in the summer of 1933, and thereafter showed signs of recovering. That next year, the most disastrous drought in a half a century took place. The Celina newspaper, *Daily Standard*, reported that the crops were withering, May 10, 1934. The fourteenth day of extreme heat saw temperatures soar into the hundred degrees again and again.

Business activity in Celina began picking up momentum. The Firm of Bernard & Scheer, Attorneys at Law, 116 East Market, began when Walter Bernard began his practice January 2, 1933; Jim Scheer joined firm in November 1935. Speicher Corporation began in 1935, as a small welding shop which was operated by Marcus Speicher at his home in Geneva, Indiana. Fred and Ida Gilberg began Gilberg Printing in 1935. The Style Shop was purchased by Don Coate

and Dorsey Grimm from D.K. Mendenhall on April 10, 1936. In December of 1938, Mercer County Building and Loan Association purchased the office at 130 West Market from Fred and Margaret Fortman. The J.C. Penney Company moved into the former Remaklus and Beckman Company, 106 North Main, location in 1939.

As the economy improved, people had more free time for other activities. Night baseball was inaugurated at the playground at the Mercelina Park in Celina in 1935. The Garden Club of Celina was organized on March 19, 1936. March 1938, the third annual homemade kite contest was held at Mercelina playgrounds. Don VanTilburg received the Golden Glove Crown in 1938. Another youth, son of Mayor Rice, won the lightweight champion title at Ann Arbor, Michigan. In 1939, a Community movie was produced in Celina, called, "Life in Celina," and shown in technicolor at the Lake Theatre.

As the depression of the early thirties started to lift, the Federal Government helped with local programs. The WPA, Works Progress Administration, was created by the federal government to provide work for Americans. By the year 1938, one family out of every twelve was on WPA payroll. (Some citizens, noticing that not all workers worked as hard as they might have, called the WPA, 'We Piddle Around.')

Also, the C.W.A., Civil Workers, projects gave Celina curbing, gutter improvements, repainting the Court House, work on Tama Road, side ditches worked on, and the South Bank Road improved. Even the weather worked against the citizens at times. In January 1937, twenty-five refugees were sent to Celina from the Cincinnati Flood area. Heavy ice downed many power and telephone lines on April 7, 1938.



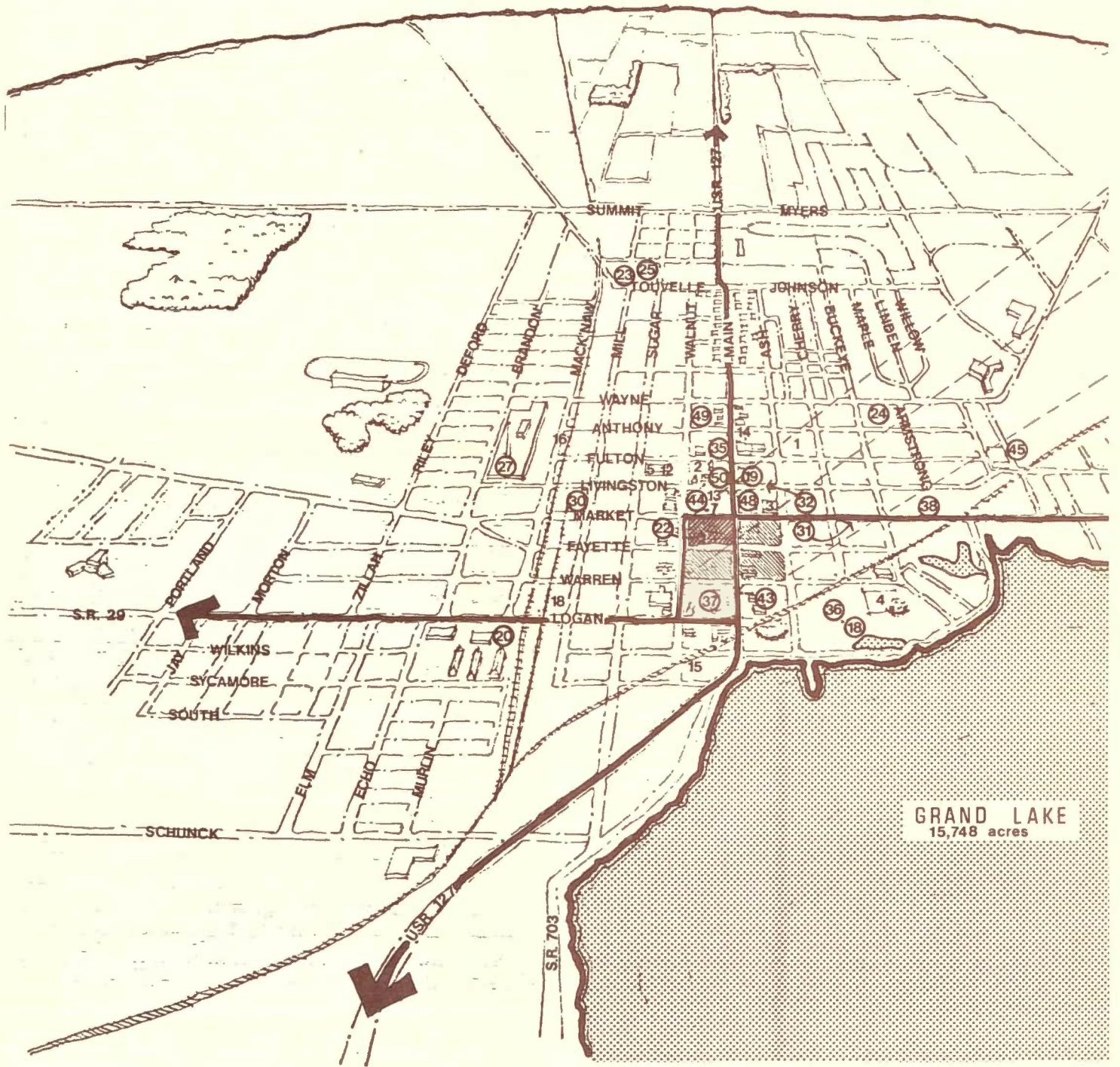
The increase in high school applicants at the Immaculate Conception High School, made it necessary to add to the parish plant. On Thanksgiving Day in 1933, the new high school building was dedicated. Built on the corner of Anthony and Wayne Streets, the building cost \$72,000. Due to the level of economy this school closed in 1972.



The J.C. Penney Company moved into the former Remaklus and Beckman Company, 106 North Main location, in 1939, having been in Celina since 1929. As the community expanded, so did the volume of business in the J.C. Penney Store. In October 1970, the business expanded again, moving to its present location at North Main and Summit Streets; the store now contains 92,358 square feet of space.

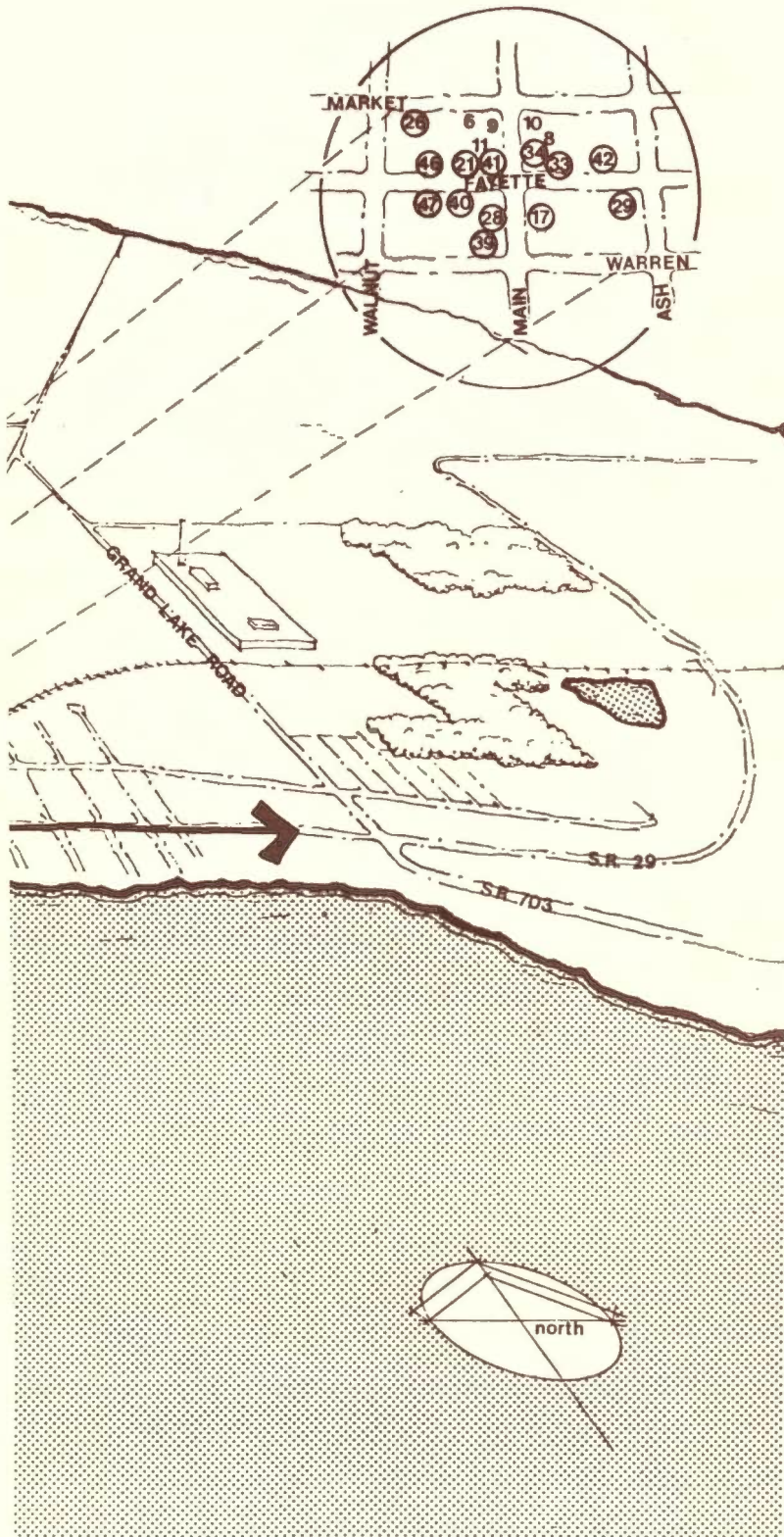
JCPenney

WE'RE PROUD TO HAVE SERVED THE CELINA AREA FOR 55 YEARS. AT JCPENNEY YOU'LL FIND EVERYTHING FROM FABULOUS FASHIONS TO BEAUTIFUL HOME FURNISHINGS TO OUR OWN STYLING SALON. ALL AT ONE PLACE. JCPENNEY, NORTH MAIN ST., CELINA, OH
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CELINA

BUSINESSES - BUILDINGS



- | | | |
|----|--------|--|
| 1 | 1834 | CITY PLAT PREPARED |
| 2 | 1840 | PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH-later became school |
| 3 | 1848 | STANDARD PRINTING COMPANY |
| 4 | 1852 | FIRST COUNTY FAIR |
| 5 | 1859 | FOUR ROOM SCHOOL (WEST SCHOOL) |
| 6 | 1866 | BAIR PHARMACY |
| 7 | 1867 | MERCER COUNTY COURT HOUSE |
| 8 | 1870 | RENTZSCH BUILDING |
| 9 | 1870 | COMMERCIAL BANK |
| 10 | 1872 | RILEY BUILDING |
| 11 | 1873 | CITIZENS BANK |
| 12 | 1874 | WEST SCHOOL- two story addition |
| 13 | 1875 | NEW JAIL & SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE |
| 14 | 1879 | STREET LIGHTS |
| 15 | 1879 | L.E. & W. RAILROAD |
| 16 | 1883 | CINCINNATI NORTHERN RAILROAD (C.J. & M.) |
| 17 | 1888 | MERCER COUNTY BUILDING & LOAN |
| 18 | 1888 | GAS WELLS-followed by oil wells |
| 19 | 1890 | TOWN HALL |
| 20 | 1894 | P.K. LUMBER |
| 21 | 1894 | SCHUNCK JEWELRY STORE |
| 22 | 1894 | CELINA FIRE-block south of court house |
| 23 | 1894-5 | WATER WORKS BUILDING |
| 24 | 1894 | EAST SCHOOL |
| 25 | 1900 | ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT |
| 26 | 1900 | FIRST NATIONAL BANK |
| 27 | 1900 | MERSMAN BROS. BRANDTS FURNITURE FACTORY |
| 28 | 1900 | COFFEE SHOP |
| 29 | 1900 | WM. CRONS CARRIAGE FACTORY |
| 30 | 1900 | BUCKLAND MILLING COMPANY |
| 31 | 1901 | ELECTRIC TROLLEY to Lima |
| 32 | 1903 | LIVINGSTON ST. PAVED WITH BRICK |
| 33 | 1904 | RICHARDSON BUILDING |
| 34 | 1906 | UNION BLOCK |
| 35 | 1907 | LIBRARY |
| 36 | 1907 | STEARIC ACID PLANT |
| 37 | 1914 | CELINA GROUP INSURANCE |
| 38 | 1915 | OTIS HOSPITAL |
| 39 | 1917 | CELINA AUTO COMPANY |
| 40 | 1919 | OTT BUILDING |
| 41 | 1921 | GOLDSTEINS |
| 42 | 1922 | GIBBONS HOSPITAL |
| 43 | 1922 | F. & W. SALES & SERVICE |
| 44 | 1923 | COURT HOUSE |
| 45 | 1925 | OLD JR. HIGH BUILDING |
| 46 | 1926 | SAM DIXON MOTOR SALES |
| 47 | 1927 | BOCK PRINTING and OFFICE SUPPLY |
| 48 | 1929 | J.C. PENNEY STORE |
| 49 | 1930 | PAROCHIAL HIGH SCHOOL |
| 50 | 1934 | POST OFFICE |

1834-1934

BUILDINGS-EVENTS

1930's



Main Street



The Mercer County Savings and Loan Association began as The Mercer County Building & Loan Association in 1888. The first office was located on South Main, where the city parking lot is located (in 1984). They moved twice, and in 1938 moved to 130 West Market Street, and in 1955 remodeled at that location.



South Main Street, at corner of Logan (J. Wenning Saloon and Lunch Room stands at Southwest Corner of Main and Logan). (City Livery Feed and Sale Stable. John Hein, Prop., 231 South Main.) (Lewis Fennig Livery, Feed and Sale Stables, 317 South Main.)



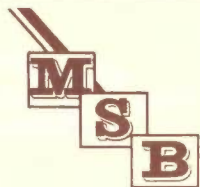
The Mercer County Building & Loan Association changed its name to Mercer County Savings & Loan Association and merged with Fort Recovery Building & Loan Assn. In 1972, they moved to their new office at 217 West Market. In 1983, they changed their name to Mercer Savings Bank and expanded operations to Greenville, Ohio.



Putting in drain sewer on South Main, at corner of Logan Street. J. Wenning, Saloon & Lunch room at corner Main and Logan. Star Livery was located at 103 W. Logan; next, Logan St. Horseshoe Repair; Thomas E. Totten & Charles C. Fast, Blacksmith and Horseshoe Shop at 112 West Logan.



May 30, 1932 Parade on South Main Street.



**MERCER SAVINGS ★
BANK**





The Celina operation of the W.H. Dick & Sons Funeral Home was established in Celina in 1937, while also maintaining the original location in Mendon, Ohio which began in 1913. In 1968, a new modern facility, encompassing nearly eleven thousand square feet, was built on the 218 West Market Street property by Vic Steinke Builders. Charles A. Dick is manager in 1984.



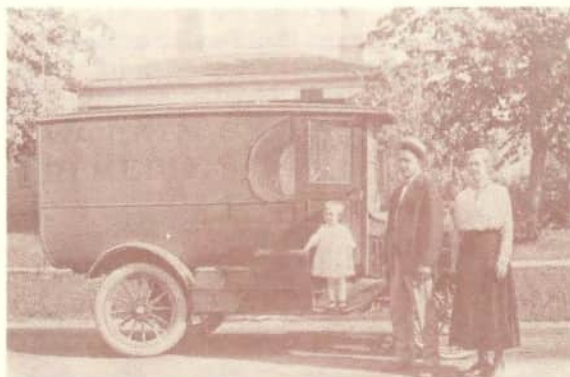
March 8, 1934, the post office site was selected at the North Main Street location. A Frank P. Coate Livery Barn had stood on this site.



Watkins Remedies, Farm Remedy Co., Stock & Poultry Tonics; William Hecht, 225 East Fayette St., Celina.



Aerial view of Main and Livingston Street intersection; with 1876 jail; Livery Barn (site of 1934 post office); and 1890 Town Hall.



Watkins Remedies: Compliments of your Watkins agent and wife, William Hecht, 225 East Fayette St., Celina, Ohio.



Founded 1913

W. H. DICK & SONS

218 WEST MARKET STREET

CELINA, OHIO 45822

1930's



Kinnison Tin Shop was started in 1937 by William H. Kinnison at 819 East Wayne, doing heating and tin work. Through the years the tin work faded out and the heating business expanded and home air conditioning became part of the business. In 1964 Kinnison Tin Shop was incorporated and Harold Kinnison, the founder's son, became President and Bill Ballinger, a many year employee, became Vice President and a stock holder.



Wolff's Tire, Inc. (old building in photo), 301 South Walnut, was started in 1939 by J.J. Wolff as a gasoline station. Carl and Leo Schockman purchased the business in 1953.



The present Mercer County Jail was constructed in 1939 at a cost of approximately \$41,000 of which Mercer County paid \$23,000 while the other \$18,000 was paid through a federal grant program, Public Works Administration. The Sheriff, L.M. Davis, moved into the new jail and residence on August 4, 1939, and the old jail, located on Courthouse Square, was sold. Since 1939, two major renovations and additions in 1966 and 1973 were completed, at the 125 W. Livingston location.



Wolff's Tire, Inc. (1978 photo) was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. George (Ike) Coate and Paul Zurcher in September of 1981. Today, 1984, their service includes retail and wholesale tire sales, "in the shop and on the farm" service, front end alignment, wheel balancing, battery service, brake work, exhaust system work and shocks.

KINNISON TIN SHOP, Inc.

**HEATING & COOLING SINCE 1937
SALES & SERVICE**

PHONE 586-2481

CELINA, OHIO 45822



WOLFF'S TIRE, INC.

Phone: 586-5166

301 S. Walnut St. Celina, Ohio

The 1940 Celina Census was 4,841; the Mercer County Census was 26,256. The decade of the nineteen forties was overshadowed by World War II. However, buildings and businesses progressed. Celina initiated a Sewage Treatment Plant, and a Municipal Power Plant. Several businesses began business and a new school building was built. The first year of the decade ended with four unmasked bandits robbing the Citizens Banking Company at 1:13 p.m. Thursday, December 12, 1940.



Reynolds and Reynolds opened its small new plant in rural Celina in the summer of 1948. Bob Carr, whose 35th anniversary as Celina's plant manager, said the plant set in such an open area at the south edge of town that you could look out the office window and watch a Mr. Florence train running horses on his small farm across the road from the new plant. The original plant had 35,000 square feet and 42 employees in May of 1948 and by August of 1948 was up to 148 employees.

October 1940, the United States Selective Service System, commonly known as the Draft Board, was established, prior to World War II. America was shocked when Japan attacked the United States Fleet at Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941; the next day, President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare a state of war between the United States and the Japanese Empire; three days later Germany and Italy declared war upon the United States. During the World War II years, practically everything remotely connected with war activities was rationed. Sugar, meat, flour and gasoline could be obtained only with coupons or tokens that were skimpily issued to everyone. The normal allotment of sugar was twelve ounces per person per week. No new automobiles were available from 1941 to 1946. Tires were more valuable than gold and strictly rationed. The allotment to the Mercer County Ration Board for one specific month was one and one-fourth tires. Metals were in such short supply that one could purchase a tube of toothpaste only by returning a used tube. A Prisoner of War Camp was maintained at the present site, 1984, of the 4-H Camp, near Grand Lake St. Marys, at Harbor Point. In 1944, some 300 German War Prisoners aged 17 and 18 came to Mercer County to pick tomatoes for local canneries and were housed at the Camp. 1945 saw the end of World War II as the Nazis and Japanese surrendered.



On March 15, 1945 a tremendous gas explosion in the Eichenauer building on West Fayette Street in Celina rocked the business district and severely injured a number of people. One hundred and sixty-nine claims were filed in connection with the blast. The Martz Cabinet Company was begun in 1946 by Ray O. Martz. The Mercer County Unit of the American Cancer Society received its charter April 20, 1948. Reynolds and Reynolds Company began in Celina in 1948. Vic Steinke began his Building Business in 1949.

Reynolds and Reynolds' first expansion was in 1952 when 16,000 square feet were added for the letterpress room. In 1955, 19,000 square feet were added for the office and litho room. Then, in 1957 another building was added for envelope manufacturing and warehousing, totaling 19,600 square feet. A big acquisition came in 1961 with the purchase of the old Sommers furniture factory just south of the main building. This totaled 78,000 square feet and was used for shipping and warehousing. Another expansion was made in 1966 for office and warehousing. The largest new plant addition was made in 1969 to plant II when 52,000 square feet were added for rotary and bindery operations. In 1971 Reynolds and Reynolds leased warehouse space at Stokely Van Camp and in 1979, Ruell's Furniture; 1982 Green Acres was leased plus space from Minster Machine. Today, 1984, Reynolds and Reynolds provides over 2,000 brochures covering various products they manufacture, for example, automotive, hospital, nursing, business and industry; they carry approximately 7,000 different forms. In 1984, Reynolds and Reynolds employes 552 persons at the Celina plant. The 1984 business will reach over \$60 million from the Celina operation. Reynolds and Reynolds Corporate Offices are at Dayton; Celina is a branch office. Among other branch offices are Elmwood Park, New Jersey; Grand Prairie, Texas; Tulare, California, and Brampton, Ontario, Canada.

The outbreak of a serious epidemic of polio in 1949 brought everything to a standstill. Schools were closed and church services cancelled as a strict curfew was enforced by the Village Officials. There were over 800 cases reported in Ohio and 36 in Mercer County. Several deaths in the County resulted from this epidemic.

The way of life for America was to change with the introduction of televisions to the homes. Television antennas began springing up across the horizon of roof tops in the communities, as people tuned into world entertainment and news with the flick of the dial.



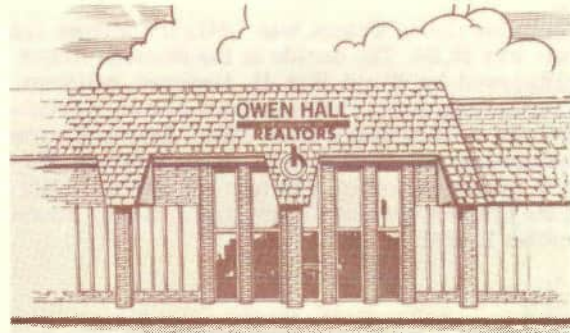
Reynolds + Reynolds

Celina, Ohio 45822

1940's



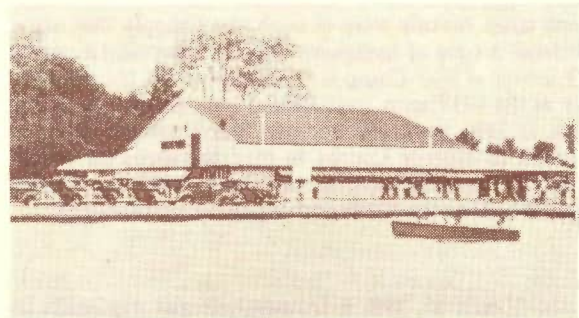
Celina Music Store, 126-128 West Fayette Street, opened for business in 1949. Elmer Schweizer, having been an employee in 1953, purchased the store from Paul Miller in 1954. Today, 1984, Dean Schweizer, son of Elmer, is owner. The Celina Music Store offers a complete selection of band, and orchestra instruments, pianos, organs, sheet music, and stereophonic equipment.



Owen Hall and Associates, Inc., 109 East Forest Street, was begun by Owen Hall. Owen Hall began as an auctioneer in 1947 and became associated with real estate in 1949. Today, 1984, in addition to Owen Hall, the staff includes Richard W. Fell, James B. Dabbelt, both Realtor/Broker; and Virginia Paulus, Jonathon M. Hall, Dean F. White, and Madonna L. Hall, Realtors; and Sharon Swoveland and Rita Ann Snider.



Prisoner of War Camp, near Grand Lake St. Marys, at Harbor Point. In 1944, some 300 German War Prisoners aged 17 and 18 came to Mercer County to pick tomatoes for local canneries and were housed at the Camp. Today, 1984, this site is the 4-H Camp for Mercer County 4-H Clubs.



Edgewater Park, Roller Skating Rink and Motor Boat Basin



Chevrolet's most popular style in 1947, was the Fleetline Aerosedan, Model 2144, of which 159,407 were built. The attractive car sold for \$1,313 and weighed 3,125 pounds. It continued to feature the triple chrome fender bars as a mark of the Fleetline sub-series. Jack Kerns Chevrolet Company began in Celina in 1947.



Edgewater Park, Main Drive



Celina Music Store

Phone (419) 586-2296

126 - 128 West Fayette St. Celina, Ohio 45822



Owen Hall & Associates, Inc.

109 E. Forest St.
Celina, Ohio 45822
419/586-7728

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The Celina Music Co., Inc., 8235 Rt. 703 East, was formed by Paul Recker in 1949. The company installs all major brands of coin operated phonographs, pool tables, bowling machines, foosballs, electro mechanical pin games and electronic pin games, in local restaurants, taverns, etc. The owner is Clarence B. Neargarder.



C.B.S. Automotive Supply Inc., 401 South Main, was begun in 1949, by A.J. Schritz, Otto Steinbrunner, and Dale Baer. (J. Wenning, early saloon site) (See photos — 1930's)



The Celina Municipal Power Plant was constructed in 1941; the old plant on Touvelle Street was retained on a stand-by basis.



C.B.S. Automotive Supply Inc., 401 South Main, built the new building in 1968. Otto Steinbrunner worked with the company until his death in 1968, after the building was constructed. A.J. Schritz worked with the company until his death in 1982. Today, 1984, Dale Baer and Robert Schritz, son of A.J. Schritz, own the business.



The Celina Sewage Treatment Plant, designed to handle a flow of 900,000 gallons per day of domestic and industrial wastes, went into operation on February 15, 1940. In 1962, it was expanded to a capacity of 2,000,000 gallons per day.

COIN OPERATED PHONOGRAPHS
AND AMUSEMENT DEVICES

CELINA MUSIC COMPANY, Inc.

8235 S.R. 703 E. P.O. Box 213
CELINA, OHIO 45822

586-5735

894-2167

Clarence B. Neargarder, Pres.



C.B.S. AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLY, INC.

401 South Main St. Celina, Ohio 45822

1940's



The Celina Wine Store Inc. opened as The Celina Wine & Beverage Store on May 26, 1946 at 132 W. Fayette St., by John and Charles Hierholzer.

On opening day, the only beer the store had to offer customers was five cases of London Bobby Ale. Customers were limited to four bottles of beer, and there was a sign posted, "No Bottles, No Beer" because of the post-war glass shortage. After the first ale was sold, John and Charles couldn't get any more beer for about six weeks, but stayed in business because they could buy a couple of cases of Coca-Cola a week, all the Dr. Pepper they could use, and just about all the wine they wanted.

After about six months the bottle shortage was over. In those days, Wooden Shoe Beer sold for 10 cents a bottle, gasoline was 18 cents a gallon, and the Celina Wine & Beverage Store delivered beer and pop to customers' homes.

In March of 1953, the Celina Wine & Beverage Store introduced pizza to this area, and eventually it became a big success. Pizza business helped to provide employment for John's and Charles' children. Eventually John bought Charles' half of the business, and in 1972 Charles retired because of poor health.

In the spring of 1972, the Celina Wine — Beverage Store, now known locally as the Celina Wine Store, built a drive-through carry-out at 716 W. Logan Street, and moved the business to that location. Celina Wine used an already tried and successful idea of people actually driving their cars through a building to purchase beer, pop, wine and snacks, without getting out of their cars. Celina Wine carried the idea one step further and added sandwiches, French fries, and eventually tacos to go along with their pizza menu. Customers could phone in an order, and then drive through and pick it up. Business was successful enough that in 1979 another drive-thru lane was added to provide faster service.



Interior of the Mercer County Observer, a weekly newspaper published from 1874 to 1926. Pictured here is the late Fred Gilberg, publisher.



The fish float was built by the businessmen of Celina for the purpose of advertising Grand Lake. The float, 30 feet long and nine feet high, was mounted on a truck chassis and used in parades and celebrations all over Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. During the Lake Festival in 1941, on the float were Mrs. Paul Slusser, Mrs. Walter Buedel, Mrs. Robert Cole and Mrs. Robert McKirnan. The float was invited to the "Parade of Roses" in Pasadena, California; the float was destroyed at the time of loading for the Rose Parade, and never reached California.



North Main Street, 1890's. City Hall; Globe Saloon; Anthony B. Grothjan: carriages, buggies, wagons, horse-shoeing, blacksmithing, and Sheriff, 216 N. Main.



Fred and Ida Gilberg began Gilberg Printing in 1935 on West Fayette; they purchased the present building at 212 North Main in 1946. In 1961, they sold the business to Herb and Esther Winkeljohn. In 1983 it was sold to Herb's son, Randy.

126 W. Fayette St.
1946 — 1972

716 W. Logan St.
1972 — Present



PIZZAS
SUBS
TACOS BURRITOS
SANDWICHES

The 1950's began with local citizens concerned about the turmoil in Asia, and the United States' involvement with the Korean War. Local citizens were called to the military. In the mid 1950's Geroge Meany and Walter Reuther celebrated the merger of the AF of L and the CIO into one union. Teenagers went in their convertibles to the drive-in movies to watch Marlon Brando, James Dean and Audrey Hepburn; teenagers also danced rock 'n' roll to their Elvis Presley records. The Civil Rights Movement gained momentum as the nonviolent direct-action tactic preached by the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., was used to desegrate schools and public buildings. Russia launched Sputnik in September 1957, which threw the United States into a dedicated effort at upgrading science in the schools. The Celina Schools joined Mercer County Schools in emphasizing science education. The first U.S.A. satellite Explorer I was sent into orbit in 1958. Alaska was admitted to the Union in 1958; Hawaii became the fiftieth state in 1959. President Eisenhower welcomed Nikita Khrushchev to the United States in 1959.

The Census of Celina in 1950 was 5,703; the Mercer County Census was 28,311. Downtown Celina experienced a fire in 1952. The fire swept an entire half block, at 225 South Main, (the site of Motel Celina, 1984). Otherwise, times were good in the 1950's. People were employed; the teenagers even had employment which provided them with cars and money left over for gasoline and entertainment expenses. People had free time and were financially able to donate funds to various civic organizations. A landmark in Celina, the beautiful, old J.D. Johnson home on North Main, was purchased by the First United Presbyterian Church from the D.R. Smalley family. The inside of the home was remodeled to accommodate the growing congregation. In 1953, the Mercer County Branch, Central Ohio Heart Chapter, Inc., American Heart Association, Ohio Affiliate, began with Dr. James J. Otis as first President. Another organization, the Mercer County Ars Nova Club, was formed in 1953; this club has regular meetings as well as an annual art show. The Grace Missionary Church congregation moved into their newly built church at the corner of Portland and Sycamore Streets, June 12, 1955. Another businessman, John Garman began Garman Brothers Service Station at 422 West Logan in 1954. Hopewell Grange, No. 2688, having been founded in 1874, held their first meeting in their new Grange Hall at the Mercer County Fairground August 8, 1955. The Bethany United Methodist Church broke ground, April 28, 1957 for a new church, and dedicated the new building in 1958, at 416 East Wayne; they had sold their old church building at 527 Sugar Street to the Nazarene Church. By 1958, the Immaculate Conception Parish Grade School was crowded with an enrollment of 560; the Parish built a 15 room addition plus the conversion of the gymnasium in the older section to an efficient cafeteria. Ground breaking ceremonies for a new Celina Church of Christ, at 2035 East Livingston, were held September 21, 1958. The decade of the 1950's came to a close as the Mercer County Historical Society was founded; the first meeting was held January 28, 1958; persons instrumental in founding the Mercer County Historical Society were Roscoe D. Riley, Carleton C. Reiser, and Carroll A. Stubbs. The Mercer County Historical Museum was opened, above the Richardson Building, at the corner of Main and Fayette, September 8, 1959, with Bronsart Gilberg as Curator.

Fanning/Howey was originally founded by Ralph Fanning in 1950 as a one-man engineering office. Through the years, the firm has been known as Auferoth & Fanning; Fanning & Gebhart; Ralph Fanning & Associates, Mitchell & Fanning; Fanning and Howey; and Fanning & Howey, Inc. In 1984, the firm is located at 540 East Market, Celina, and is a professional corporation offering architectural, engineering and consulting services; and has grown to a staff of more than 40 with regional offices located in Michigan City and Indianapolis, Indiana. The firm serves clients in the states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, New York, and South Carolina. Principals in the firm are Ronald Fanning, Clair Howey, Thomas Dunwoody and Wayne Schmidt of Celina; Lee Brockway of Michigan City; and Joseph Munhier of Indianapolis. Buildings designed by Fanning/Howey in the Celina area include: Dwyer-Mercer County District Library, Mercer County Savings & Loan Building, Citizens Commercial Bank and Trust Company - Summit Branch, Empire Restaurant Addition, Coldwater Fire Station, Third National Bank of Western Ohio - Coldwater Branch, Richardson & Bretz Building, Cheryl Ann School & Mercer County Adult Activity Center Sheltered Workshop, Celina Medical Center, Mercer County Joint Township Community Hospital Addition, Celina Junior High School, and Dwyer Hall - Western Ohio Branch Campus - Wright State University.



East Elementary School — By a three to one majority, the voters of the Celina School District approved, in November 1949, a \$975,000 bond issue for a new elementary school. This school, to be constructed at 615 East Wayne Street would replace the old East and West Elementary Buidings. This building was completed in 1951.



Celina West Elementary School was built in 1956, at the West edge of Celina on St. Rt. 29, at 1225 West Logan Street.



FANNING/HOWEY ASSOCIATES, Inc.
 ARCHITECTS - ENGINEERS - CONSULTANTS
 540 EAST MARKET STREET
 CELINA, OHIO 45822

1950's

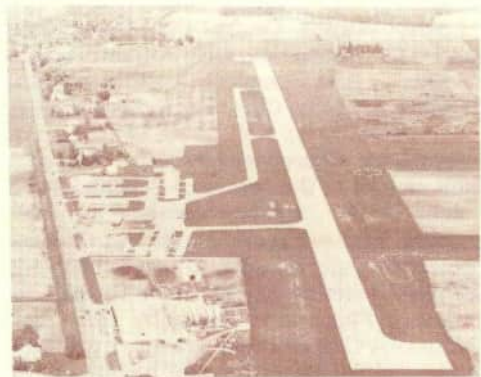


Huffy Corporation started production of bicycles in Celina in 1955. Through the years, significant growth has resulted.

Innovative product design, aggressive marketing strategies, automated manufacturing processes and dedicated employees throughout the organization have resulted in Huffy becoming the largest employer in Mercer County and one of the largest bicycle manufacturers in the United States.



CELINA WATER TREATMENT PLANT went into operation in 1952 with a capacity of 1,500,000 gallons per day of clear potable water for the citizens of Celina.



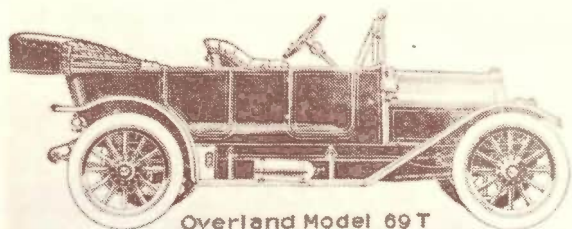
In the 1950's, a group of area industrialists and concerned citizens formed the Lakefield Area Airport Founding Committee; this Committee purchased a 34 acres site, which included the private airport originally began by Perry Noll. Today, (1984), Lakefield, located on the South-West corner of Grand Lake St. Marys, is owned by Mercer County and is directed by the Lakefield Airport Authority under authority of the Mercer County Commissioners; the Airport serves Mercer County and the surrounding area.



HUFFY BICYCLE DIVISION

HUFFY CORPORATION
410 GRAND LAKE ROAD
P.O. BOX 318
CELINA, OHIO 45822
PHONE (419) 586-5171

THE CELINA AUTO COMPANY
 Celina, Ohio 308 South Main St. Phone 1975



Overland Model 69 T

Agents for Leading Motor Cars
 WINTON SIX, PAIGE, DAVIS, OVERLAND AND YALE MOTORCYCLES.
 automobiles repaired and rebuilt. Repairing of all kinds. Full line of supplies.

William J. Brown purchased the Celina Auto Company, located at 225 South Main, in 1917. Brown operated the company until his death in 1946. Then, the Company was operated by his widow and son, William, Jr. until they sold it to Jared Halderman in 1950. In 1952 the entire one-half block burned.



Wilson's Shoe Store was purchased from Leo Gast's widow in 1952; Leo Gast had started the store in 1941, after the close of Roemers Dept. Store. Wilson's Shoe Stores also operate in two other cities: Bowling Green and Marion, Ohio. Roger L. Wilson began selling shoes for Coombs Shoes at Celina Flower Shop Building in 1938.



The 1953 Bess Brown built the Sunoco Station on the corner. William Jr. and his wife, Jean Baumgartner Brown, purchased the property around the station and built the MOTEL CELINA in 1958, where they made their home. They have two daughters Sandy and Pat. They started with 13 units and continued expanding until they reached 28 units. In 1972 they purchased the Sunoco Station, tore it down and completed the Motel to its present 35 units, at 225 South Main.



Mersman Swimming Pool building



Mersman Swimming Pool, dedicated May 30, 1954, was a gift from the Mersman Civic Foundation to the citizens of the community in memory of J.B. Mersman, founder of the Mersman Brothers Corporation.

Motel Celina



DOWNTOWN

Phone 419-586-2343

Color TV - Air Conditioning - Electric Heat - Phone

In Every Room

225 S. Main St.

Celina, Ohio 45822

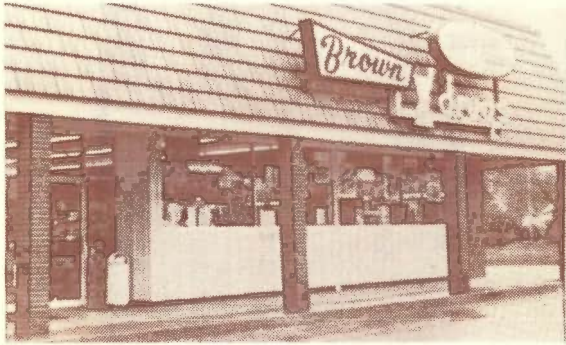
HAPPY BIRTHDAY - CELINA

WILSON SHOE STORE

Downtown Celina

"YOUR FAMILY SHOE STORE"

1950's



Brown Drugs, Inc., was founded in January 1955 by Paul and Betty (Fetters) Brown, when they purchased the Kindell Drug Store on South Main (site of Gallery of Shoes in 1984). In 1961, Brown Drugs moved to a location in the Plaza Shopping Center on North Main. In 1969, they became a Walgreen Agency and became incorporated, and moved to their present location at 814 North Main, in the Plaza Shopping Center. Paul Brown is President and David Quilling is Vice President.



Fred Walls and Sons, Inc. began in the 1920's. Sons Roy and Vint Walls ran the business during the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's. At Roy's death in 1951, Vint ran the business until his death in 1979. In 1979, two sons-in-law of Vint Walls, Ed Muhlenkamp and Steve Hennessey managed the business up to the present. The business is located at 6948 Staeger Road, Celina.



Main Street, looking South to the lake, in 1955.



Otto Grimm, President of the Mercer County Garden Club, was trimming the rose buds on June 21, 1957. Placing floribunda roses along walks was one of the Group's main projects.

Brown  **drugs** Phone 586-2264
PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER, CELINA, OHIO


Marketers and Appliers of
BITUMINOUS PRODUCTS

Fred Walls and Sons, Inc.

6948 N. STAEGER RD.
CELINA, OHIO 45822



Tractors, Inc. opened for business May 1, 1959, in a leased building at 230 East Market Street, Celina, with eight employees. The primary business was and still is repairing and rebuilding the undercarriage of crawler type tractors and cranes. The rollers, idlers and tracks are rebuilt by submerged arc welding process. Hand welding is used for sprocket rims and other parts. A track press is used for turning or replacing pins and bushings. They also stock a complete line of new undercarriage parts for the tractors. In 1971, the company purchased and renovated the building currently used at 215 W. Fayette Street. They added a new completely automatic welding machine for rollers, the only such operation in the area. In 1972, they purchased the house and lot to the west of the building, razing the house to use the lot for storage and parking. The eight board members are: George H. Laws, Chairman; Elmer Nofzinger, President; Paul D. Linton, Vice President and General Manager; Joseph R. Smith, Secretary; and Joseph T. Suhr, Treasurer; and Dwayne G. Hoenie, James M. McClure, and Zelma V. Andrew. Dorothea Davis is the Office Manager.



Gene Rolfes and his family began Celina Glass in 1958, at 308 East Anthony. As the business grew, they moved to another location six years later. Their business continued expanding until they moved to the present location at 415 West Market Street. The construction part of the business gave them the chance to work in schools, hospitals, bank offices, and showrooms for many different retail and factory businesses. Celina Glass is known in a five county area. This business is a family business, administered by Gene Rolfes and children, Barry, Randy, Terry, and Kim (Rolfes) Swonger.



1953 Celina Parade for Ohio's Sesquicentennial.



1953 Celina Parade for Ohio's Sesquicentennial



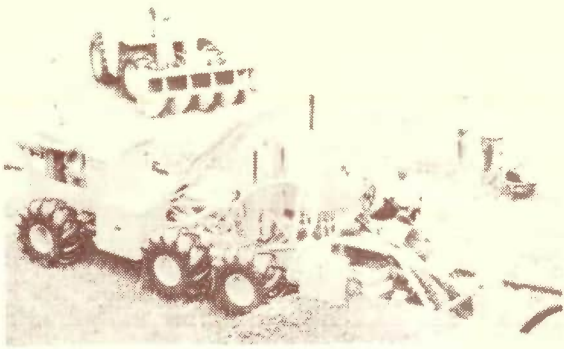
CELINA GLASS CO.

Glass Is Our Business

415 West Market St. Ph. 419-586-2183

CELINA, OHIO

1950's



Carl Marsee, Carl Speicher, Mark Speicher. Mike Hoelscher with Speicher Trencher.



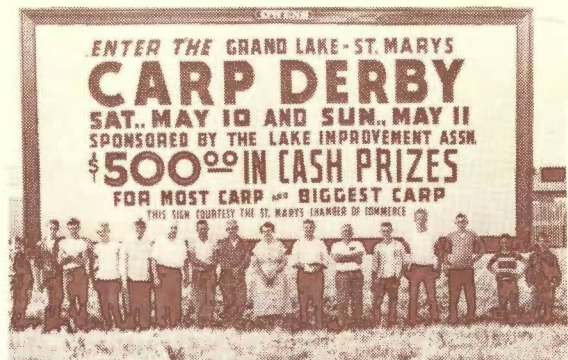
WELCOME TO SPEICHER CORP. — Speicher Corporation began as "The Celina Welding Shop," established by Mark Speicher in Celina in 1937. In 1952, the company began manufacturing trenchers under the name of Speicher Brothers (with Mark and Carl Speicher and Nathan Shimp as partners). In 1961 Speicher Brothers, Inc., also began to manufacture backfillers. In the 1970's, the Speicher brothers, who were soon to retire, saw Speicher Corporation, with Carl Marsee as President, continue to grow with the demand for Speicher products. The facility, with a staff of about 40 employees, now consists of 70,000 square feet of building and 13.5 acres of land, located at 600 East Wayne.



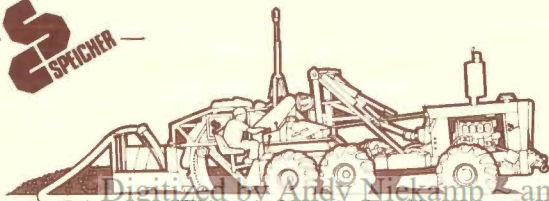
Wilbur (Bud) and Jinny Curry and son Rick, in costume for the 1953 Pageant at Celina in honor of Ohio's Sesquicentennial.



1953 Oldtimer Costume for Celina Parade, for Ohio's Sesquicentennial. Howell family: Ruth, Paula, Denny and Denzel



Carp Derby at Grand Lake St. Marys.



SPEICHER CORPORATION

600 EAST WAYNE ST.
CELINA, OHIO 45822

In 1961, the inauguration of John F. Kennedy as 35th President of the United States was recognized as one of the most dramatic political events of this century. The even more dramatic event was to occur on November 22, 1963, when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. The nation was in shock. Every adult living in Celina at that time can tell exactly what he was doing when he heard the tragic news of Kennedy's death that day. Other national news of the decade of the sixties which touched the lives of Celina citizens included, The Beatles, British Singing Group; U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers on trial in Moscow; the installation of the direct telephone line between Washington and Moscow; Vietnam; Cuba; Martin Luther King, Jr. and Civil Rights; environmental protection, and space exploration.

The Celina Census was 7,659 in 1960; Mercer County census was 32,559. The "Soaring Sixties" began with a spirit of optimism and plans for continued building in Celina. The January \$100,000 fire destroyed Geren's Supermarket; which was rebuilt by November. St. John Lutheran Church set a \$250,000 building goal and St. Paul's Methodist Church, a goal of \$350,000. St. John's Lutheran Church was dedicated September 9, 1962. St. Paul's United Methodist Church added the new educational building. The Benevolent Protective Order of Elks Lodge, No. 2170, was granted its charter June 24, 1960. December 18, 1960, Elmer Schweizer and J.P. Moore were the original owners of WMER, the first radio station in Mercer County. The Celina Lodge #241 Free and Accepted Masons were granted a charter for the Order of Demolay, March 29, 1961; and a charter for the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, April 24, 1968. Celina Moving and Warehousing, 1901 Industrial Drive, began in 1960; they move and warehouse commercial and household goods; Gordon Leistner is the owner, today, 1984.

The Lake Festival Parade was revived on July 28, 1961 and marked the first time the parade had been held since World War II. The 1961 goal of the Celina Combined Drive was set at \$31,200.00. The first meeting of the Mercer County Indian Relic Collectors Society was called to order September 19, 1962 by President Ray Eblen, with Vice President Lloyd Grapner, Secretary-Treasurer Dick Gray and Members Doug Eblen, Herb and Dan Meyer, and Hap Smith; today, 1984, the Mercer County Indian Relic Collectors coordinate the Indian Artifact Display held annually the last Sunday of June, at the Mercer County Historical Museum, in Celina. The year 1962 saw enthusiasm among adults who had waned to attend college, but were unable to attend colleges at a distance, when the Western Ohio College was founded; 285 students enrolled that fall. Mersman Brothers Corporation was sold to Congoleum-Nairn for \$4,597,040.00, in 1963. Reynolds and Reynolds announced plans for a \$300,000 expansion at the Celina plant in 1966. That year, the Chamber of Commerce named a new Community Improvement Committee aimed at attracting new industry to Celina. The decade ended with an 8.5 inch snowfall, which closed out 1969; the city's four snowplows, plus three rentals, were put into action at midnight, and the city's streets were cleared by 9:30 A.M. the next morning of New Year's Day.



Reynolds and Reynolds largest plant addition was made in 1969 to plant II. Reynolds and Reynolds continued expansion has led to an employment of 552 persons at the Celina plant in 1984. The 1984 business will reach over \$60 million from the Celina operation.



Case Leasing and Rental, Inc., 715 South Sugar, began in 1966; the owner is Robert E. Case. They provide long term leasing of semi tractors and trailers. They own Lakefront Racquet and Health Club, which began in 1976.



Crampton Cannery began in 1900. This canning business continued as Stokely Van Camp, located on U.S. 127, south edge of Celina. The plant closed in 1962.



Case Leasing & Rental, Inc.



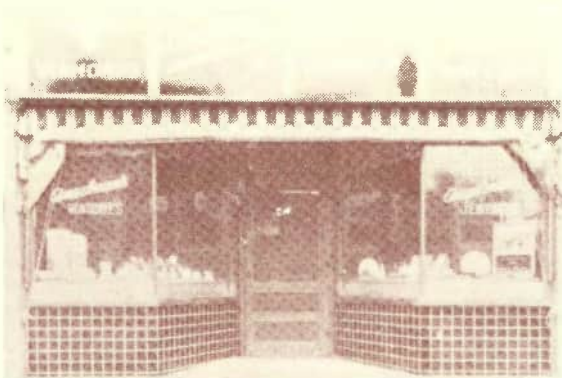
1960's



BRUCE GREEN FORD, INCORPORATED, 2225 St. Rt. 703, began when Bruce Green purchased the agency from Otis Johnson, who had operated it for 38 years, on August 1, 1960; located at 220 West Fayette. On February 22, 1963, the dealership burned down; by October 1963, the operation was moved to the present location on St. Rt. 703. Bruce Green Ford, Inc. has the franchise for Ford, Mercury and Lincoln. Bruce Green is President; Robert F. Green is Vice President and General Manager.



Administration building (1st Celina Group; 2nd WOEf, 3rd, administration building. Western Ohio Branch Campus of Wright State University, began as Western Ohio Education Foundation (WOEF) which was incorporated January 24, 1962. An initial fund drive sponsored by the WOEf Board of Trustees raised \$53,000 for the purchase of furniture and equipment. They leased the three story office structure located at 315 South Main from the Celina Insurance Group for the physical plant. (Celina Insurance Group had moved to their new location.) WOEf trustees purchased the building in 1965, after a second fund drive. Ohio Northern University offered the courses. The Fall of 1962 saw 285 student enrollment. In 1967 WOEf trustees anticipating the termination of Ohio Northern University's involvement in the Western Ohio College Program, went to the Ohio Board of Regents. Discussions with the Board of Regents led to the affiliation with Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, as the Western Ohio Branch Campus, in June 1969. The Branch Campus moved to the new Dwyer Hall, east of Celina on the lake, in 1972. The Mercer County Commissioners purchased the old building at 315 South Main for additional office space for the county.



Anselman Jewelry Store — Anselmans bought the Jewelry Store in September 1944 and operated it until they sold it in September of 1967 to Arnold Jacobs.



Celina High School, 715 East Wayne, was built in 1963 by Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc.



BRUCE GREEN

FORD - MERCURY - LINCOLN

2225 S.R. 703

CELINA, OHIO

Celina's 1970 census was 8,072; Mercer County's census was 35,558. Environmental protection of the sixties was followed by conservation of the seventies. People turned down their thermostats in their homes and insulated their homes. People wore more clothes; the "layered look" became a part of the clothes fashion as people added more clothes, with layers of a T-shirt, blouse or shirt, vest or sweater. At Christmas season, people did not set up the beautiful electric lighting arrangements outside their homes. Drivers slowed down to fifty-five miles per hour, which, incidentally led to fewer traffic accidents.

Celina celebrated with other communities in 1976 in honor of the nation's bicentennial. Civic organizations centered their program themes around this event.

The scenes of the seventies included a variety of subtle changes in lifestyle. Garage sales became a new method of getting rid of things no longer needed by families. Some citizens used garage sales as a means of joining friends and spending a day attending various garage sales. Mini calculators became so popular and inexpensive that men carried calculators in their pockets; women in their purses, and school children with their textbooks. The government took interest when the swine flu was considered a threat to the nation's health; as a result, people stood in long lines to receive their swine flu shots, in Mercer County.

The Blizzard of 1978 shocked the community. Snowmobiles, previously considered recreational vehicles, were called into service to help people who had been stranded during the blizzard. CB clubs (citizens band radios) were organized for the purpose of helping others. Citizens Band Group 54 was formed in 1974 as a CB disaster group and is affiliated with the Mercer County Disaster Services and the Mercer County Sheriff's Department. Muddy Pond Socializers CB Club, Inc. was formed March 16, 1975, with a coffee break and organizational meeting; to provide help to community organizations and the Mercer County Sheriff's Department. Mercer County React (Radio Emergency Assistance Citizen's Team) was chartered on January 13, 1977, with React International; they also provide help to local agencies. These citizens band radio groups provided invaluable help to Mercer Counties during the 1978 blizzard.

Ambulance Rescue Squads were formed in the 1970's. By 1984, the communities of Rockford, Mendon, Celina, Coldwater, Saint Henry, and Fort Recovery had citizens volunteering their time to serve on these squads.

The city of Celina was faced with problems at the power generating plants. Plant employees went on a short strike the last week of March 1971. The old and new generating plants became inoperable in August 1971. The discontent continued until a \$2.36 million lawsuit was filed by the city against the three firms involved in designing or equipping the new, but non-operational \$5.2 million electric generating plant. Dayton Power and Light Co. provided local electrical requirements. In spite of disagreements, the plant has remained idle since May 6, 1973.

Citizens of the seventies were conscious of helping others. In 1971, the Mercer County Commissioners accepted Mr. and Mrs. Orville Crouch's donation of land on Hellwarth Road, which became Eden Haven Park. Another institution for community service saw a new building in the form of Dwyer Hall of Western Ohio Branch Campus of Wright State University the autumn of 1972. Another school building, the Cheryl Ann School was constructed on the corner of Fleetfoot Road and Mud Pike in 1975-76 for the Mercer County Mental Retardation Program.

The spring of 1976, the Mercer County Unit of Multiple Sclerosis Society was founded. Helping others was the theme of the Celina Combined Services Appeal. In 1977, Bob Engle, John Porch and Jared Halderman spearheaded a reorganization of the drive with a goal of \$60,000; which realized \$81,848 for 13 service organizations. In 1978, the

drive's goal was \$75,000; over \$104,000 was realized.

Celina's school enrollment peaked in the mid 1970's with over 3,500 students. The class of 1972 was the last to graduate from Immaculate Conception High School. The high school students then went to the Celina Senior High School. In 1978, Celina honored 240 graduates; just one century after Celina honored its first graduate, Lizzie Snyder McKim, in 1878.

Business in Celina was business as usual. Bryan's Bridals, 122 East Wayne, opened in 1972, and served the area's brides for a decade. Citizens Commercial Bank merged with Peoples Bank of Fort Recovery in 1972. Male Fashions (formerly Student Shop) in the Richardson building — at the North East corner of Main and Fayette, was purchased by Dan Schreiberman. (From 1959 to 1973, this Richardson Building housed the Mercer County Historical Museum on the second floor.) After studying a cable television system, the Celina City Council awarded a 15 year franchise to Tele-Media Company of State College, Pennsylvania. Kawasaki, dealers in motorcycles, snowmobiles, mopeds, and equipment began at 124 E. Fayette in 1973; this business in 1984 is located at 7199 Havemann Road as Kawasaki-Yamaha of Celina. In 1974, the Grand Lake Mushroom Farm (built in the 1920's) was producing 300-400 three pound baskets of mushrooms per day which were trucked to Lima for distribution. The plant later closed and Somers-Mersman Furniture Showroom is located in the building in 1984. Mary Ellen Lombard celebrated her 50th anniversary in Lombard's Beauty Salon at 315 East Market in 1974; 1984 is her 60th anniversary. Phil Hawkey and Doug Giesige opened the Furniture Shop, for custom building and repair at 442 West Market in the old Penn Central Railroad Depot. A new ice cream store, House of Flavors, opened in 1976 at 106 East Fayette in Mildred Lininger's building.

Wreckers destroyed the Louis Wall frame buildings at the North East corner of Main and Warren Streets in December of 1976. The buildings were used by Wall and his son for the manufacture of mufflers and the sale of auto accessories during the 1950's and 1960's. The structure on the south housed an early movie theater where newsreels of the Kaiser's invasion of France were shown during World War I. Later, the building housed the Liberty Tire Shop.



The Richardson and Bretz Memorial Endowment is a charitable foundation created under the will of Dr. David H. Richardson, dedicated to art, science, literature and moral uplift. The Open House for the Richardson-Bretz Memorial Building, West Fulton Street, was held Sunday, September 7, 1975. The architects for the building were Fanning/Howey & Associates, Inc.

Kozy Kampground, 5134 It's It Road, Celina, Ohio, was started about four years before William Goodwin purchased it in 1972. At present there are about 300 campsites and mobile homes on an 85 acre plot along the southwest corner of Grand Lake St. Marys. The facilities at Kozy include 150 boat docks, 2 swimming pools, recreation hall store, large party building, several maintenance buildings, and 2 shower houses. The people who visit Kozy come in everything from tents and travel trailers to 35 foot motor homes. The campers can stay for one night or the entire season as most sites have water and electric at the site.

5134 IT'S IT ROAD
Celina, Ohio 45822

KOZY KAMP GROUNDS

(419) 268-2275
(419) 268-2277

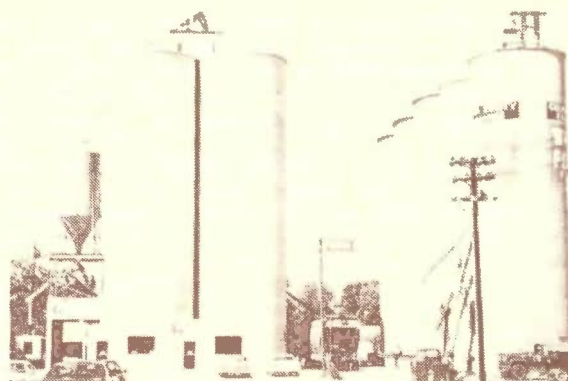
Seasonal Camp Sites SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

DOCK RENTALS • Pop. • Bait • Food • Beer • POOL • Fish License • Bottle Gas • BOAT RENTAL
Digitized by Andy Niekamp ~ andyniekamp@gmail.com ~ www.andyniekamp.com

1970's



Bob's Radio & TV was begun by Bob Krick in 1952. His son Tom joined the business in 1972. They were located at 1011 North Brandon. They jointly opened the new store at U.S. 127 South and Schunck Road.



Mercer Landmark, Inc., started business on January 14, 1934, in Celina. The Celina elevator is located on 417 West Market. Charles Hiegel is the General Manager. The General Office is at 715 West Logan. Mercer Landmark also has elevators at Chickasaw and Ohio City; the Coldwater Fertilizer Plant is located on the Burkettsville-St. Henry Road.



Thees Machine & Tool is located at 2007 St. Rt. 703 East. John Thees bought the business in 1973 when it was located in Ohio City; Thees moved the business to Celina in 1978. His wife Carolann takes care of the books of the business.



The Celina Equity Exchange began operations at 417 West Market after purchasing The Buckland Milling Company, in 1920. They had a fire June 28, 1875, destroying their elevator. After the fire, they rebuilt the elevator with a modern feed mill. January 1, 1978, there was a merger with Mercer Landmark, Inc.



NCS was incorporated on April 9, 1974, and Marcus Speicher built the plant on West Market Street in 1975. This machine shop has sophisticated equipment which turns out precision parts for local industry and industry across the United States. Mark retired in 1974 from Speicher Brothers, Inc., a company founded in 1959 by Mark and his brother, the late Carl Speicher.



Palmer Miller grain, seed, wool, flour and feed was located on West Logan at the turn of the century. After Mercer Landmark came to Celina, they merged with that company. November 11, 1977, fire razed the elevator and office building on West Logan.

"Sales With Assured Quality Service"

BOB'S AUDIO VIDEO

Just Off 127 S. & Schunck Rd. - Celina, Ohio



MERCER LANDMARK, INC.

715 West Logan Street • P.O. Box 328
Celina, Ohio 45822-0328

Digitized by Andy Niekamp ~ andyniekamp@gmail.com ~ www.andyniekamp.com



Total Electric, 215 W. Logan St., had its beginning on December 20, 1972, when John Brown and Roger Spohn opened the shop to provide the area with residential wiring, electric heating, and insulation service. In 1975 Roger Spohn sold his interest to Tom Robbins and Tom and John remain as the present owners. The business has been expanded to include all types of residential and commercial electrical work. With the increased demand for heat pumps and the concern with home insulation, Total Electric is meeting the needs of the energy conserving customers. The business is operated out of its own building and serves its customers with four vehicles. The current employees of the business besides John and Tom are: Marce Nietfeld, Stan Brown, George Tester, and Theresa Berry.



Neal J. Muhlenkamp, Certified Public Accountant, acquired the accounting practice in August 1973 from Lloyd Colburn. In October 1981 a partnership was formed with Richard A. Mosier, Certified Public Accountant. The office was formerly located in the First National Bank Building until September 1981; it is now located at 215 North Main Street, Celina. This building was originally owned by Dr. Robert Owens, Optometrist.

Muhlenkamp, Mosier & Associates provide the following professional services for businesses and individuals: tax return preparation, financial statement preparation, bookkeeping and payroll services, auditing, estate and tax planning, accounting system design, and general business and financial consulting.



Wendy's of Celina, 544 E. Market St., opened in June of 1980. Manager Louis Huelsman Jr. and his staff enjoy serving "Celina, the Windy City" old fashioned hamburgers, chicken, salads from the "garden spot," and frosties.



The Celina Municipal Power Plant first produced electricity in 1970. It contains a 12,500 KW turbine-generator and a 20,000 KW unit which was never used. The plant has been idle since May, 1973, due to equipment malfunction and economic reasons.



The 85 foot aerial tower quint shown above belongs to the Celina Fire Department. It was purchased from the Sutphen Fire Equipment Company, Columbus, in 1974 at a cost of \$159,113, and was delivered in April, 1977.



MUHLENKAMP, MOSIER & ASSOCIATES

Certified Public Accountants

215 N. Main Street

Celina, Ohio

"Your Hometown Accountants"

1970's



Caylor Nickle Medical Center — Celina, 801 Pro Drive was opened July 1979, and administered by Caylor Nickle Clinic — P.C. Bluffton, Indiana. Fanning/Howey Associates Inc. were the Architects for this building.



Calvin Erastus Riley was the son of James Watson and Susan (Ellis) Riley. Calvin Riley became a partner in the Commercial Bank in 1888. He was chosen as the first president of the Bank and continued in that capacity until his death November 13, 1914. The Riley Home was built in 1896 by Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Riley. At the death of Mrs. Riley, their son Zura and his family came to live with Calvin and cared for him until his death in 1914.



Mercer Countians traveled to the Klondike at the discovery of gold in Alaska. James Zura Riley joined a group of friends and chartered a company in 1897, to prospect in Alaska. After his return, he was a partner in Riley-Griffith Hardware, later to become the Nickel Hardware. This hardware was in the Union Block Building, which Zura willed to the Celina Masons, of which he was a member. Zura was a Vice President and Director of the Commercial Bank.



Founders of the Mercer County Historical Society, Inc., Roscoe D. Riley, Carleton C. Reiser, and Carroll A. Stubbs, held the first meeting January 28, 1958. The second floor of the Richardson Building on the Northeast corner of Main and Fayette Streets was leased for the Museum and Bronsart Gilberg was employed as Curator. The Museum progressed until the late 1960's when the society became inactive. In the 1970's volunteers reopened the Museum and monthly meetings were held. The Museum was moved to the Riley home in 1975, by Director Joyce Alig, Trustees Vera Speicher and Don Muhlenkamp, and Treasurer Ray Eblen and a few volunteers. Active members have held Spring and Christmas Open Houses, June Indian Relic Displays, September Farm Days, October Wally Post Baseball Days, plus photograph displays, art exhibits and quilt displays at the Museum each year in addition to monthly meetings. The Historical Society has held seminars funded by the Ohio Arts Council, Ohio Humanities Council and the Ohio Museums Association. The Mercer County Historical Society also organized October Mercer County History Month to honor the six museums in Mercer County. 1984 Directors are: Ralph Schindler, David Riley, Don Muhlenkamp, Frank Snyder, and Ray Feltz. 1984 Officers are: President Joyce Alig, Vice President Eugene Hirschfeld, Secretary Marjorie Pierstorff, and Treasurer Vera Speicher. Joyce Alig is also Director of the Museum. The Historical Society is also active in the Ohio Historical Society, Ohio Academy of History and the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums and is represented on the Board of Trustees of all three organizations, by the Director. Museum funding has three sources: private donors and memberships, Combined Drives and local government.



Lena Riley, Zura's daughter, was the last to live in this house. After Lena's death in 1974, the house was sold to Mercer County to become the Mercer County Historical Museum in 1976.

CAYLOR - NICKEL CELINA MEDICAL CENTER 801 Pro Drive (419) 586-6489

Specialists in Family Practice, OB-GYN,
Internal Medicine, Podiatry, Pediatrics
and Urology Since July 1979.





On October 16, 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Floyd sold the Celina Firestone Store to James R. Bell and Noel R. Horn. The business was renamed Bell & Horn and located at 112 North Main. In 1963 Noel Horn sold his interest to Mr. Bell. In 1973, they moved the store to 204 West Market. The store recently expanded to the 206 West Market office next door, which is now the paint and parts department; they then enlarged their present store to include a microwave section. They now have two factory trained service technicians, a service shop and a large parts department. Mr. and Mrs. James R. (Dick) Bell and son Steve are still operating this business at 204-6 West Market.



State Farm Insurance Companies form the world's largest insurance firm. State Farm came to Celina in 1973. So, although many people in this area have heard of the State Farm name, only recently has State Farm been locally available and locally promoted and serviced. The current State Farm office has been at 114 N. Main St., Celina, since November of 1974. Since July of 1975, Bob Nuding, a Celina native, has been the local agent. During this time, the local agency has expanded much like the State Farm Company has elsewhere, by telling the State Farm success story about all kinds of family protection. The Celina agency has gone from one employee to three, due to the successful growth of the quality products State Farm offers.

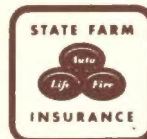


Celina Junior High School, 715 Holly, was built in 1979. Fanning/Howey & Associates were the architects.



The Cheryl Ann School, Mercer County Mental Retardation Program, was built in 1976 on the corner of Fleetfoot Road and Mud Pike. Fanning/Howey & Associates were the architects.

General Electric



ROBERT B. NUDING, Agent
 114 N. Main St. Celina, Ohio 45322
 Office 419-586-1666 Home 586-4410

Auto - Life - Health - Home and Business

1970's



Kentucky Fried Chicken, 203 W. Logan St., Celina, Ohio, was opened on March 3, 1970. Raymond and Mildred Meyer, owners, became interested in serving Celina and Mercer County the Colonel's finger lickin' good chicken. In 1969 the Meyers received the franchise and built the restaurant at the present site. In 1980 the original building was image enhanced into a beautiful and warm earth tone dining room. The facility also includes a drive in window and family room accommodating 35 people.



Sue Grey bought Simplicity Salon, 301 East Market, in 1971 from Judy Martin, who had started the business in the 1960's. (Before Simplicity Salon, Dr. Chas. Amato had his office in this building.) When Sue began, the business was a three operator beauty salon; recently the business expanded to a five operator salon.



Logan Street House stood at the site of Kentucky Fried Chicken, 203 West Logan Street.



Sue Grey is wearing the hair style when hair was teased high upon head with petal curls, in 1969.



The Dr. LeRoy Weber home, 117 Brandon Ave., was built in 1972 by Vic Steinke Builders. This building is currently the office of Carlos Baytion, MD.



In 1984, the girls working at Simplicity Salon: Janice Green, Sue Houts, Paula Luthman, Sue Grey, Julie Sommer.

KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN

Mercer County's Catering Headquarters
WE CATER YOUR MENU

1 Block West of Main
on Rte. 29 West
Ph. 586-2214 or 586-4039

**We Do Chicken
Right.**



Simplicity Salon

301 East Market Street
586-2620

Celina, Ohio 45822

Sue Grey, Owner

Printed by Andy Nickamp ~ andynickamp@gmail.com ~ www.andynickamp.com



Dale Hileman became owner of Hileman Texaco, 126 N. Main, in 1946. The Courthouse Restaurant appears to the South.



Hileman Texaco in the mid 1950's, this is the new building at 126 N. Main. Dale Hileman had this location for 33 years, from 1946 to 1979. He then moved to 303 S. Main.



Dale Hileman began Hileman Marathon Service Station, 303 S. Main, in 1979. Today, 1984, John Hileman, Dale's son, manages the station.



THE P. KUNTZ & HERR LUMBER CO.

SET THE PACE FOR

CEMENT, GRAVEL, SAND, PLASTER, BUILDING BLOCKS, SEWER PIPE, FLUE LINING, WIRE FENCE AND BUILDERS HARDWARE.

The P. Kuntz and Herr Lumber Company, 500-514 West Logan St., Celina, was incorporated in 1894.



Ferd Winkeljohn joined P. Kuntz and Herr in 1919 as Assistant Manager. The name of the company was changed in 1929 to Celina Lumber and Supply Company, with Ferd Winkeljohn becoming a Vice President and General Manager. The major stockholders being The Peter Kuntz Company, Dayton, Ohio, and Ferd Winkeljohn, Celina. Besides its retail lumber, building materials and hardware supplies, it operates a wood manufacturing division; supplying industries in a more than one hundred mile radius with all types of specialized wood packaging, boxes, pallet, etc. Lumber is supplied by West Coast Manufacturers, as well as Southern Yellow Pine. Native hardwood lumber is used in manufacturing, as well as lumber from Southeastern Ohio and Northern Michigan. It operates its own fleet of trucks and the employees number approximately 25. Robert Wolters became General Manager in 1972. The name was changed to PK Celina, Inc., 508 West Logan in 1981. That year, 1981, they built a new building to include a home building center.



HILEMAN'S MARATHON, INC.

303 S. Main Street

Ph. 586-4263

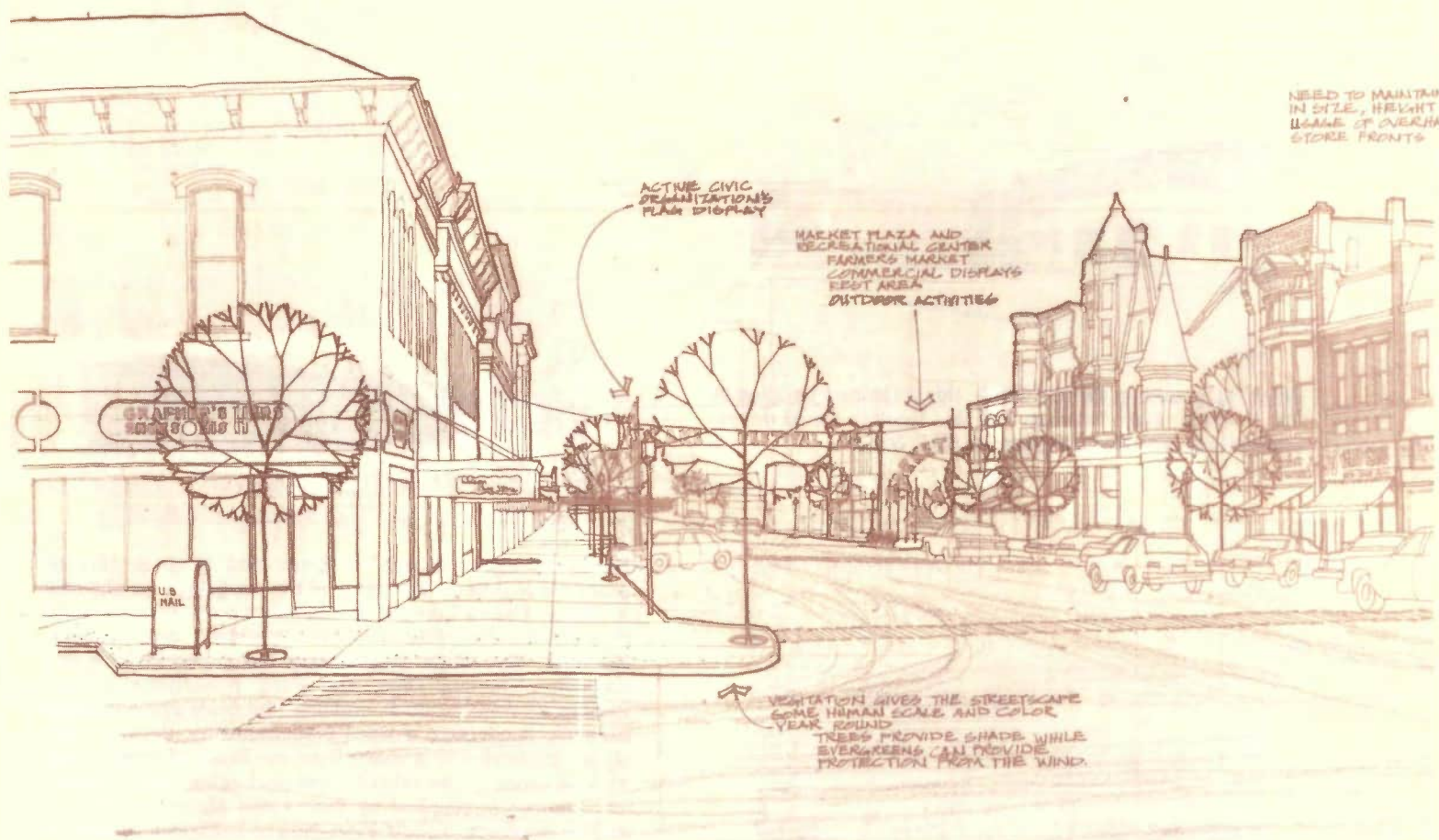
Celina, Ohio



THE CELINA AREA'S
COMPLETE BUILDING CENTER

CELINA

508 W. Logan St. Celina, Ohio



NEED TO MAINTAIN
IN SIZE, HEIGHT
SCALE OF OVERHA
STORE FRONTS

ACTIVE CIVIC
ORGANIZATION'S
PLAN DISPLAY

MARKET PLAZA AND
RECREATIONAL CENTER
FARMERS MARKET
COMMERCIAL DISPLAYS
REST AREA
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

VEGETATION GIVES THE STREETSCAPE
SOME HUMAN SCALE AND COLOR
YEAR ROUND
TREES PROVIDE SHADE WHILE
EVERGREENS CAN PROVIDE
PROTECTION FROM THE WIND.



MAINTAIN SOME CONTINUITY
HEIGHT AND MATERIAL
OVERHANGS FOR
DNITS

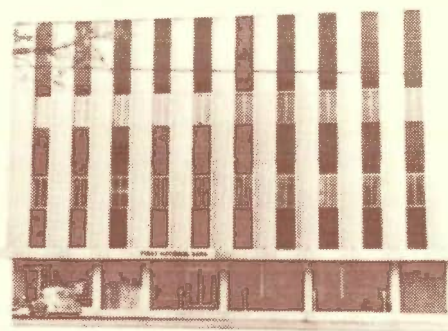
USE OF COMPLIMENTARY BUILDING
MATERIAL AND COLOR FOR RENOVEL
WORK MAINTAINS BUILDING
INTEGRITY AND CHARACTER

SIMPLE GRAPHICS ON OTHERWISE
BUILT BUILDINGS CAN BRING SOME
LIFE TO THEM; HOWEVER, A GOOD
MAINTENANCE PROGRAM IS NECESSARY

1980's



1.) As The First National Bank (now Third National Bank & Trust Co.) grew within the county, it became evident that more room was needed at the main office. The adjacent buildings to the east and west were purchased and incorporated into one efficient, spacious banking facility. The expansion finished in 1972 (shown at right) proved to be of significant benefit both to customers and personnel as it provided a locale for quiet, confidential banking and loan service.



Celina Office

2.) A tragic fire totally destroyed this building on January 27, 1983. The fire which started during the night was apparently caused by electrical wiring. Area firemen fought the blaze throughout the night and into the next morning. Although they were unable to save the bank building their valiant efforts protected the adjacent buildings from any significant damage. The only surviving part of the building was the bank's vault which preserved all the customers' possessions in the same condition as the day they were deposited.



3.) The Westway Office, 309 W. Logan Street, the newest of Third National's Mercer County offices, was completed in August of 1977 primarily as a drive-in facility, featuring the most sophisticated equipment available at the time. The new office was built as a greater convenience to southern and western Celina and to alleviate the congestion at the downtown and Plaza offices.



Celina Plaza Office

4.) The Plaza Office, 810 N. Main, Celina, was opened in 1960. Plaza offered a drive up window, full service and great convenience to the growth area of Celina. Customer acceptance of the new facility proved so great that four additional drive through lanes were added in 1971. In 1983 Plaza received a "Green Station, Mercer and Auglaize County's first drive up automated teller machine.

5.) The original vault door will be the main feature of the new bank lobby. Completion date for the new structure has been set for January, 1985. The economy of design in the new bank building will provide usable space comparable to the usable space in the old bank.

6.) The exterior design of Third National's new building emphasizes compatibility with the existing architecture in Celina. A circular abstract mosaic representing the vault door on the front of the 9,000 square foot building is an important part of bank design. The one story building will maintain the cornice line of adjacent downtown buildings and pick up the rhythm of the other facades in Celina. The building is 120 feet long and will be architecturally broken up into three 40-foot modules.

3rd

Third National
Bank & Trust Co.

Member FDIC



Jerry's IGA Market's owner Jerry Roessner, started working for Joe and Mary Shambaugh in 1937; he purchased the grocery from them in 1966. Jerry's IGA Market building, 320 West Wayne, was built in the early 1920's.



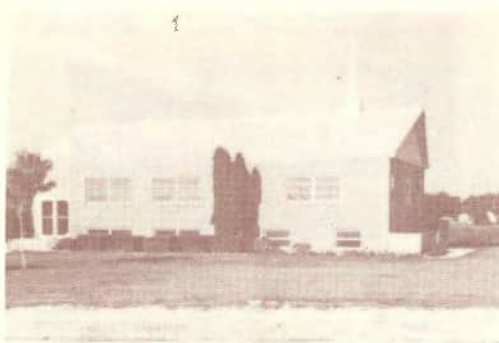
Celina Moving & Warehousing, Inc., 1901 Industrial Drive, began in 1960 by Gordon Leistner, who owns the business yet today. The business moves and warehouses commercial and household goods.



Bethany United Methodist Church
416 East Wayne
Rev. Paul W. Miller



Celina First Church of God
201 North Brandon
Associate Dave Hicks
Rev. Richard VanHorn



Celina Church of Christ
2035 East Livingston



Assembly of God
SW corner East Market and Vine
Pastor O. Steven Hampshire

Compliments Of
JERRY'S IGA
"TABLERITE MEATS"
CELINA, OHIO

CELINA MOVING & WAREHOUSING, Inc.
1901 Industrial Drive Celina, Ohio 45822
419-586-7731

1980's



Brodbeck's was started in St. Marys in November of 1927. They opened the second store April 1, 1963, in Celina, at 999 East Market. They moved to 1020 North Main St. in 1970. Remodeling in 1979 increased the size of the store to 22,000 square feet. A third store was opened in Coldwater in October of 1966. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Brodbeck started the store. Their son Joe Brodbeck took over after World War II. He was owner until 1981, then sold to Bob Adams, who is owner and president now.



Celina Robo Car Wash washed its first car November 12, 1969. Ralph Now started the business and still owns it today, 1984. Robo has a car wash in Celina at 700 East Market, one in Coldwater, one in St. Marys, and is currently building its fourth car wash building in Celina.



Celina Church of the Nazarene
900 Fairground Road
Rev. Stanley Gerboth



St. Paul's United Methodist Church
119 East Fulton
Pastor James Flinchbaugh
Associate Pastor John Whitaker
Student Pastor Lynda K. Middleton



Love, Word, Faith Center
529 North Walnut, corner Blake Street
Pastor Scott Strable



St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Educational Building

BRODBECK'S SUPERVALU

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 24 HOURS A DAY

1020 N. Main Street Celina, Ohio

Fast, Friendly, Courteous Service

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CELINA ROBO CAR WASH

St. Rte. 29 East

WEST CENTRAL OHIO'S MOST COMPLETE
CAR CLEANING CENTER



John Irmischer and Ed McGillvary formed Empire Family Restaurants, Inc. in 1966. The first of ten restaurants was opened in Celina at 308 East Market. There are other Empire Restaurants located in Urbana, Troy, Greenville, Piqua, Van Wert, Englewood, Sidney, Napoleon and Beavercreek. A modern food processing plant, opened in January of 1979, enables Empire to develop new products and handle twenty-five restaurants.



WCSM AM/FM radio stations began in 1963, Oscar Baker was the original owner. In 1977 Hayco Broadcasting, Inc. purchased the stations. Today, 1984, John H. Coe is President and General Manager of the corporation. WCSM AM/FM is an ABC News affiliate and uses the services of the Associated Press wire service. The station is a member of the Agri Broadcasting Network, SportsOhio Network, the Ohio Association of Broadcasters and the National Association of Broadcasters.



First Presbyterian Church, Johnson Home on North Main (old) J.D. Johnson Home, North Main. After 1950, became the First Presbyterian Church.



Grace Missionary Church
520 Portland
Rev. Robert Moening, Pastor Ron Smith
and Pastor Rebekah Montgomery



First Presbyterian Church
700 North Main
Pastor: Mark Stephen Merold



Saint John Evangelical Church
1100 North Main
Rev. Eugene Langholz and Rev. Ronald Wean

**BREAKFAST SERVED ALL DAY, COMPLETE
DINNERS WITH DELUXE SALAD BAR FOR
YOUR DINING PLEASURE**

**EMPIRE
FAMILY RESTAURANTS**

808 East Market Street

WCSM AM 1350
FM 96.7

P. O. BOX 492

CELINA, OHIO 45822

HAYCO BROADCASTING, INC.

1980's



JACKSON GARAGE, 1130 W. Logan, began in 1962 in Coldwater, and moved to Celina in 1981; the owner is Carl A. Jackson. Jackson Garage provides sales and service repairs of trucks and cars: Chrysler, Plymouth and Dodge cars and International Harvester, G.M.C., and Dodge trucks.



WKKI, K-94 FM radio station, 126 West Fayette, began broadcasting in May 1982. The station is owned by Cage Media, Ind. Chris Cage is President and Chairman of the Board. This station began in 1960 as WMER, first radio station in Mercer County, owned by Elmer Schweizer and J.P. Moore.



Celina Baptist Temple
7507 Celina-Mendon Road
Rev. Gilbert M. Cubbison



New Life Apostolic Church, 1984
231 Grand Lake Road



First Church of Christ, Scientist
516 East Wayne



JACKSON

1130 W. Logan St.

CELINA, OHIO 45822

Phone (419) 586-1681

WRECKER SERVICE



WE LOVE YOU MERCER COUNTY!

the new!

K-94 fm





The Stammen Insurance Agency, 209 South Main Street, was started April 1, 1982 by Pete, Chuck, and Tom Stammen. They sell all types of insurance including auto, fire, and life.



JaMar Clothing, 703 East Market, retailers of name brand clothing for men and women, was begun by Jay and Mary Sanders, December 1, 1983.



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
229 West Anthony
Rev. Richard Riedel
Associate, Rev. Ernest Krantz



The Dwyer-Mercer County District Library was formed from the Celina Public Library in September of 1960. In 1970 a new building was built and opened.



Immaculate Conception Parish Elementary School
West Wayne Street



The worst snowstorm in five years hit Mercer County Monday, February 27, 1984. Seven inches of snow and 39 mile per hour winds closed roads, schools, factories, and businesses. The above photograph of snow-covered Grand Lake St. Marys was captured by Daily Standard photographer Mike Lamm.

HOVER-STAMMEN INSURANCE AGENCY

"For All Your Insurance Needs
And Dependable Service"

Contact CHUCK TOM DIANE

JA-MAR CLOTHING

NAME BRAND
QUALITY CLOTHING AT 40 - 70% OFF

703 E. Market Celina, Ohio

1980's



The Western Ohio Branch Campus of Wright State University has its roots in the nonprofit Western Ohio Educational Foundation (WOEF Board), which was incorporated to provide higher education to the people of west central Ohio. Representatives from Mercer, Auglaize, Darke, and Van Wert Counties sit on this board.

In 1962, the college program opened in a former office building in Celina, with 285 students enrolled. At that time, the academic program was administered by Ohio Northern University. Community response was enthusiastic, and, within a few years, growth made affiliation with the state system of higher education a necessity. In June 1969, the college became a regional branch of Wright State University — The Western Ohio Branch Campus. The entire community supported the new branch and established a permanent 173-acre site, located on the north shore of Grand Lake St. Marys, between Celina and St. Marys. In 1971, ground was broken for the first building, Dwyer Hall, and the following year, 757 students attended classes at the lakeside campus.

In 1973, Wright State University granted college status to WOBC. In accordance with the mission of the Western Ohio Branch Campus to meet the academic needs of the area, ground was broken in 1979 to expand the facilities of WOBC for the inclusion of additional two-year technical programs, resulting in Andrews Hall and Trenary Lab. These buildings were named for the Andrews and Trenary families in recognition of their generous support of WOBC. The enrollment of 970 students in the fall of 1982 is a result of the successful cooperation of the Western Ohio Branch Campus and the surrounding communities.

WOBC offers quality post-secondary education to any interested student within a reasonable commuting distance. Prebaccalaureate and two-year technical programs as well as other selected credit and noncredit courses are offered as needed.



Western Ohio Branch Campus of Wright State University



Andrews Hall houses the secretarial, electronics engineering, and drafting engineering programs



Dwyer Hall houses the Administrative Offices, computer science, and general education classrooms



Trenary Lab was designed to accommodate the manufacturing engineering and automotive facilities



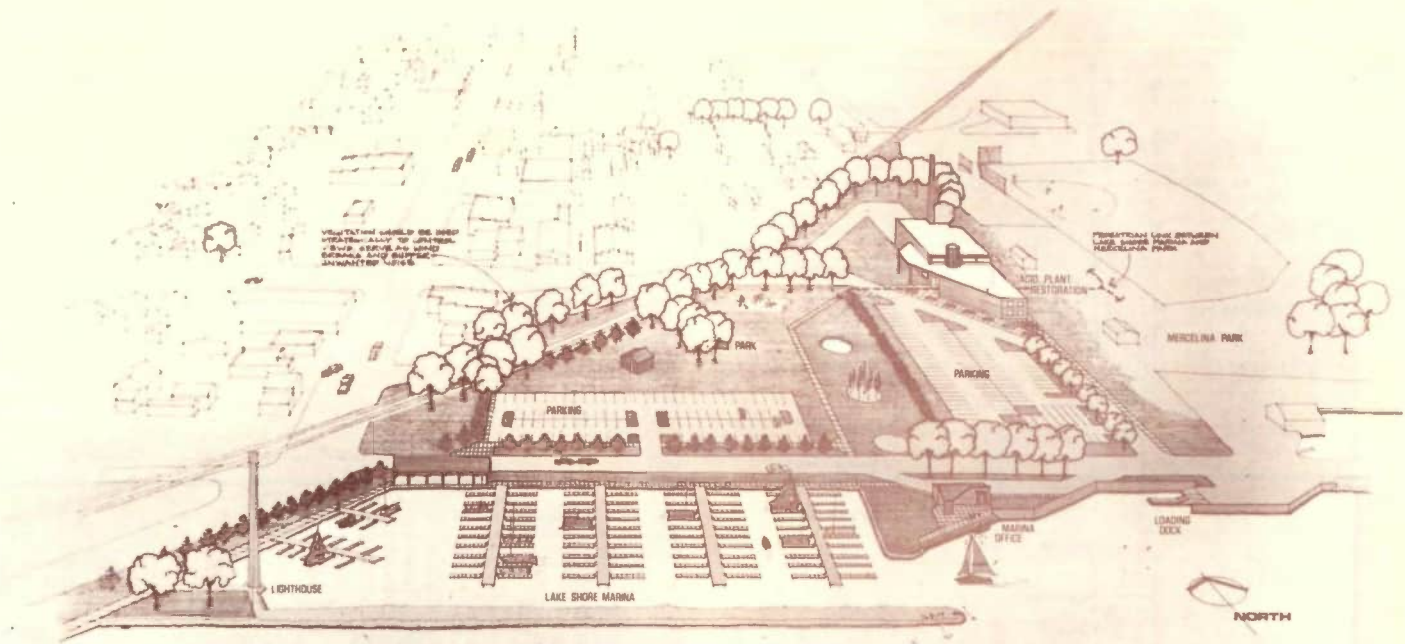
Learn by the Lake

Western Ohio Branch Campus
of Wright State University
Celina, Ohio



STREETSCAPE SOUTHWEST

4



LAKE SHORE DEVELOPMENT

5

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