

Delhi History

Volume 44, Issue 2

Delhi Historical Society

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DELHI



HISTORY

Summer 2021

Volume 44, Issue 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

June 14: Cincinnati Germans Before WWI

Speaker Programs resume at Delhi Park Lodge

If you are a native of Cincinnati, chances are you have some German roots in your family. Delhi's German heritage is everywhere...from street names to churches, to the people who live next door.

Join us in person at the Delhi Park Lodge on June 14 at 7 p.m. as Don Heinrich Tolzmann discusses his new book *Cincinnati's Germans Before World War I*. The book provides a comprehensive history of German immigration, settlement, and influences in the greater Cincinnati area before the first world war. Dr. Tolzmann is a recognized expert in the field of German-American studies. He has written dozens of books about the Cincinnati German connection.



He is president of the German American Citizens League of greater Cincinnati and curator of the German Heritage Museum (formerly the Feist house on Pedretti Road), which now sits in Green Township's West Fork Park.

Don said he plans to also talk a bit about the Feist house, so if you are you a descendant of – or know someone who is – a Feist, Lipps, Yunker, Ritter, Oehler – be sure to attend the next program.

Programs & Events

June 14, 7 p.m. at the Delhi Park Lodge: *Cincinnati's Germans Before WW I* with Don Heinrich Tolzmann.

Sept. 13: 7 p.m. Delhi Park Lodge: *The Betrayal of Pearl Bryant - Unraveling the Gilded Age Mystery that Captivated a Nation* with author Larry Tippin.

Oct. 11: 7p.m. at the Delhi Park Lodge: JFK: Conspiracy or Coincidence? With JT Townsend.

Ongoing: "The Schools of Delhi" exhibit at the Farmhouse, during regular museum hours.

The Delhi Historical Society

Farmhouse Museum is open to the public on Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday from 12:30-3

Our Old Farmhouse Getting Some Needed Repairs

Porch Decking

One of the goals of the DHS Capital Campaign in 2019 was to fund redecking the Delhi Historical Society Farmhouse Museum's signature wrap-around porch.

Now, with funds in hand or pledged to us, the porch decking replacement project is scheduled to begin in late June or early July. We received the funds from Jim Fanning, former owner of Adam Wuest, Serta Mattress Company, to purchase the "tongue and groove" red mahogany wood decking. This particular wood was selected so as to replicate the original wood decking from decades ago!! In addition, another Delhi businessman has pledged \$5,000.

Steve Meyer and Phil Ohntrup are the contractors who are performing the work.

Greenhouse Water Hydrant

If you have ever stopped to take a drink from a cast-iron public fountain in a park or play-

ground, you probably used a Cincinnati firm's invention – frost-proof cast iron water fountains.

But the company, Murdock Manufacturing, also makes water hydrants. The company began making water fountains and water hydrants in 1853.

The old greenhouse on our property has a Murdock hydrant that is likely between 50 and 75 years old. About 5 years ago the valve gave out. Repair estimates of \$500 were out of the question, so we began dragging a long hose from house faucet out to the greenhouse to water plants. Early this year, Bob Catanzaro, a friend of the historical society, knew a member of the Murdock family, who quickly donated the valve and gaskets to make the repair.



Our thanks to Bob Catanzaro and Ben Schmidt who made the repairs, and to Bob Murdock, who provided the parts.

Your Best of Delhi Raffle Tickets are enclosed. We hope you will donate by purchasing tickets for great prizes including \$500 in cash. Your support helps keep the Farmhouse running during the summer.

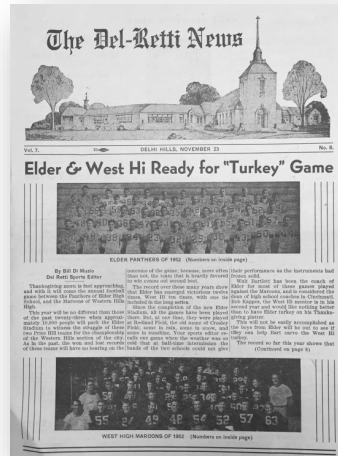
The Mission of the Delhi Historical Society is to discover, preserve and share the history of Delhi Township and the surrounding areas.

Collections Corner

Library and DHS Collaborate To Put Old Local Newspapers Online

The archives of the Delhi Historical Society hold collections of three defunct local newspapers which specialized in reporting news of Cincinnati's West Side. Those papers are: *The Del-Retti News*; *Township, the Newspaper of Delhi*; and *Cincinnati Newsmonth West*.

For the first time in decades, these papers are once again available to the public, thanks to the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library and Delhi Historical Society. The library's Genealogy and Local History department digitized these papers. They can now be found on the library's website at no cost to anyone who wishes to read them.



The *Del-Retti News* was published monthly by the Saint Dominic Church parish, at Delhi Pike and Pedretti Road, from 1946 to 1967. More than a simple church newsletter, this true newspaper focused not only on the parish, but on the wider Delhi Township community. News of family and social events, baseball and football teams, festivals, and other items were covered by this wonderful publication. The advertisements in each issue give a great glimpse into the Delhi business community of the day.

Township, the Newspaper of Delhi, was a weekly founded in 1975 by men who saw that the community press had been gobbled up by out of state conglomerates and lost their local focus.

Township offered real news covering local issues including traffic, schools, politics, sports, business, crime, and everything which impacted Delhi Township. This professionally produced paper was supported by



local advertising and was delivered to homes free of charge. *Township* published its last issue in the Spring of 1979. *Cincinnati Newsmonth West* was a monthly tabloid style paper produced by the same group who published *Township*. This paper covered a wider area including Green Township, Price Hill, Sayler Park, and the surrounding areas. The inaugural edition was issued May

1979. The name suggests ambitions to produce a sister publication covering Cincinnati's East Side, but that never came to be. Cincinnati Newsmonth West's final issue was published in 1983.

For the digitization project to begin, Delhi Historical Society had to secure permission from the publishers of each paper to make them public. St. Dominic Church gladly granted the rights. The church even provided many copies of *Del-Retti News* from its own archives to complete gaps in our own collection. The publishers of *Township* and *Cincinnati Newsmonth West* were former Delhi Township Trustees Jerry Luebbers and Dusty Rhodes. These civic-minded men were glad to grant permission to share their work with the public in the 21st Century. Genealogists, historians, or simply curious readers can view these papers on the Cincinnati & Hamilton County Library's digital library at: Digital.CincinnatiLibrary.org. *The Del-Retti News* appears under the category of "Published in Cincinnati." *Township* and *Cincinnati Newsmonth West* will appear either under "Published in Cincinnati," or "Magazines and Newspapers," when they appear sometime in the week of May 24-28.



Delhi Skyline Chili Mural Features Photos from DHS Collections

When Delhi's Skyline Chili wanted to redecorate its 40 year old building, they came to Delhi Historical Society! Collections committee member Veronica Buchanan worked with manager Joe Lambrinides to choose just the right photos for the mural that now circles the gazebo section of the restaurant. It has received rave reviews from all who have viewed it.



From the President Anita Klawitter Summer Beckons



Summer beckons. The summer of 2021 for many will be like no other, we are grateful COVID restrictions are being lifted as more and more individuals get vaccinated. However, for many like me, some of our family, friends and loved ones will be missing from summertime celebrations. COVID, early on claimed the lives of nine people in my life - so for the most part I isolated in my home over the past year. Only after I was fully vaccinated did I begin to venture out. Being isolated made me appreciate my friends, family and even strangers more as we all exhale a huge sigh of relief as things return to a "new normal."

Coincidentally, one of my first outings was working as a volunteer at the DHS annual flower sale. It was wonderful to be out on a glorious spring day among great people and hundreds and hundreds of flowers donated by our benefactor, Bob Maddux. Each year Bob furnishes us with gorgeous flowers which become our single biggest fund raiser of the year. On behalf of the governing board, our volunteers and myself, we offer a huge thank you to Bob, and to everyone who purchased flowers and/or flowerboxes to support the mission of DHS!

Another of my recent outings was to attend and lay the wreath at the Delhi Veteran's Association Memorial which honored Delhi's Killed in Action (KIA) on May 30. I was invited to lay the wreath due to re-



New KIA Memorial at Delhi Administration

search I completed on several of the 21 veterans who once called Delhi home, but whose personal story had become lost over time. After researching and learning so much about these men, it was a humbling experience to see their names on permanent display for all to see, remember and honor for generations to come. The privilege of laying the wreath will forever stay with me. To learn more about these brave men please visit delhiveterans.com or the blog section of our website.

It's odd to think that I have been President here at the historical society for more than 18 months - yet we've only had one in-person board meeting due to COVID - and *that* meeting was on the farmhouse front porch! Rest assured the board has been "meeting" online and via email in order to continue the business of the DHS.

Speaking of the Board I would like to introduce our newest board member, Carole Williams: Ms. Williams is a CPA, with a Bachelor's degree in business from the University of Michigan and an MBA from Clark Atlanta University. She has also completed courses in historical preservation through University of Cincinnati's graduate program. Ms. Williams is very active in community organizations and sits on the board of Bethany House of Cincinnati, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, and Habitat for Humanity for whom she is the Board Treasurer. She has experience in financial management in academic and international business settings, as well. Ms. Williams serves as an "ambassador" for Mount Saint Joseph University as her husband, H. James Williams, has been the president of MSJU since 2016. Ms. Williams and her husband live in Delhi Township. Please join me in welcoming Carole

Membership Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State__ zip_____
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- Membership Levels:**
Regular Individual (\$15) ____
Regular Household (\$25) ____
Donor (\$50 or higher) ____
Business (\$50) ____
Member Benefits include 10%

Richard Witterstaetter: The Carnation King

By Alan March

When he died he was known as the "Carnation King." He served six years as president of the Cincinnati Florists Association and served as president and vice president of the American Carnation Society. He was a Pioneer Life Member of the Society of American Florists and Ornamental Horticulturists, since 1888. Richard Witterstaetter was an award winning,

self-taught creator of a large variety of carnations. In 1934, he was posthumously awarded a US patent for one of his varieties. That patent was applied for by his nephew and namesake, Richard C. "R.C." Witterstaetter.

The elder Richard Witterstaetter, called Dick by his friends, was known for his careful, painstaking process of creating new carnations. His hybridization process could take as much as five years to produce the results he sought. Each one had to be perfected before he would give it a name and introduce it to the floral industry. His carnations had names such as Emma Woche, Estelle, and Enquirer. Others were Adonis, Afterglow, Aristocrat, and Albatross. His Enquirer won national fame for its "flawless character," and was awarded a medal by the Society of American Florist and Ornamental Horticulturists.

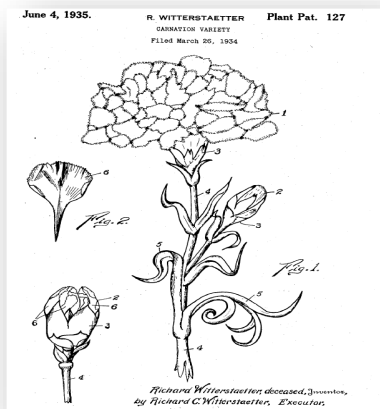
Not just respected for his conscientious, meticulous hybridizing

of carnations, Dick Witterstaetter was known as a "prince of hosts," always willing to help others. In his 1916 memoirs, florist Simon Skidelsky said of Dick Witterstaetter, "Surely he deserves the affection for him by his fellow florists!"

Richard Witterstaetter was married when he was 42, but lost his wife Louisa Dinkelacker to tuberculosis only a few years later. They had no children. However, he was close to the family of his late brother Charles. When Charles' widow Mary feared her rented farmhouse would be sold and she would have to find another home, Dick was instrumental in assuring that she and her children could continue to live there. That Farmhouse on Anderson Ferry is now the home of the Delhi Historical Society.

When Dick Witterstaetter died in 1933, the executor of his estate, R. C. Witterstaetter (son of Charles and Mary), applied for a patent for one of his uncle's carnations. The patent application notes that flower's "distinctive shade of pink," and its "perfect form," and strong fragrance of clove. The patent was granted June 4, 1934. While the name of the patented carnation is not known, it is suspected to be the Emma Woche carnation, which was also known for its beauty and its light pink color.

Today, you can find silk light pink carnations as well as carnation seeds at the Delhi Historical Society's Farmhouse Gift Shop. For only a dollar, you can take home a lovely reminder of the time when Richard Witterstaetter was known across the nation as the Carnation King.



Patent application drawing



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DELHI HISTORICAL SOCIETY BRICK PAVERS:

Become a part of Delhi township history. Purchase a brick paver engraved with your name or the name of a relative or friend (living or deceased) which will be added to the flag landscape at the Delhi Historical Society. **Bricks are 4" by 8"** and engraved with a maximum of three lines of 14 letters each, including spaces. All letters will be upper case. Cost per brick is \$50.

Name on Brick (3 lines of 14 letters each)

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Donor's name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

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Sayler Park Historical Society To Bring Mobile Vietnam Wall to Westside July 8-12

The Sayler Park Historical Society and Eden Chapel United Methodist Church will be sponsoring The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall July 8-12, 2021 at Eden Chapel. We encourage our members to support our Sayler Park counterparts in this project to remember and honor those fallen heroes from the Vietnam conflict.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/saylerparkhistory