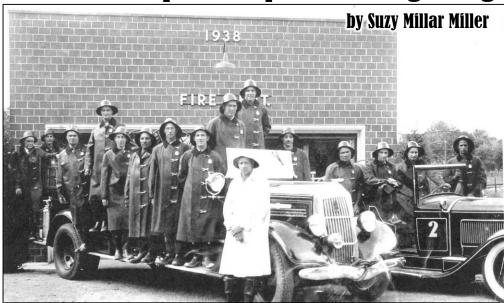


THE COURIER Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

NOVEMBER-2019 Website: www.rths.info Email: RTHSCourier@aol.com Vol.45 No.6

Truro Township Fire Department Beginnings



Truro Township Fire Department June 2, 1939 - Left to Right: Neil Graham, Pete Ashton, George Compton, Bryant Slack, Bill Damsel. John Cobel, Rex Whitehead, Bert Ebright, Wally Hemstead, Jake VanSchoyck, Gib Barrett, Dan Compton, Harold Montgomery, John Schwartz, and Ez Stapleton. Chief Vinton Raymer is in the white hat and coat.

My friend, RHS '66 grad and RTHS member, Robin Mansfield Kefauver, found some interesting Burg history while organizing her mother's (Mary Louise Shultis Mansfield) house. Mary Lou (RHS '43) apparently collected a lot of newspaper clippings and items about the Truro Township Fire Department because her uncle, Gilbert 'Gib' Barrett, was one of the members of the 1937 fire department.

Connie Parkinson wrote a chapter in her book, *History of Reynoldsburg*, which gave me some background of how the Burg started an organized fire department around 1890. She wrote that the crew consisted of big, brawny men including Lovett Feasel, the village blacksmith, who was 6'2" tall. His blacksmith assistants, Cyrus Rush and

Wesley Rodebaugh were ideal because "they were used to great heat day after day." James Hanson and Herman Owen (both 6'4") handled the ladders and roof because they were carpenters.

"'If you had a bucket,' says George Weeks, 'you belonged to the fire brigade.' When the church bells rang insistently, every available man ran to help, carrying his bucket, ready to form lines from the nearest well or creek."

"Starting in 1930, the fire department had a two-wheeled chemical cart, (soda acid), towed behind a car, which was run to the scene of the fire. In 1937, a volunteer organization was formed so that Truro Township could purchase a fire truck.

(continued on page 02)

Truro Township Fire Department Beginnings by Suzy Millar Miller

(continued from page 01)

Vinton H. Raymer was the first Fire Chief of Truro Township."

Vinton Raymer, Dan Compton, and Raymond "Fuzzy" Shaffer organized the department and obtained a 99-horsepower pumper truck capable of discharging 500 gallons of water a



minute. The **volunteers in 1937** were: Vinton Raymer (Chief), John Cobel, Harvey Miller, Clayton Tucker, E.D. Butts, W.V. "Pete" Ashton, Neil "Red" Graham, Dan Compton, George Compton, Bryant "Mickey" Slack, Bill Damsel, Rex Whitehead, Bert Ebright, Wally Hempstead, Jake Van Schoyck, Gib Barrett, Harold "Bosco" Montgomery, John Schwartz, "Fuzzy" Shaffer (President), "Gib" Barrett (Vice President), Wayne Myers, Ed Weger, Jim Slack, and Ezra "Ez" Stapleton.

According to *History of Reynoldsburg*, the first fire run for the organization was on Sept. 9, 1937 when

Jerry Myers' gasoline station was on fire. It took six minutes to get the fire under control.

There was a fire in Reynoldsburg on July 15, 1939. The fire was set on purpose to burn the mortgage on the pumper truck which cost

\$4,800. **By 1940** there were many more volunteers were onlisted and included. Everett "Shorty"

By 1940 there were many more volunteers were enlisted and included: Everett "Shorty" Lisk, Harvey Miller, James Pickering, Paul Pickering, Harold Palsgrove, Nelson Morris, Irvin Schwartz, Sam Moore, Russell Smith, Thad Greene, Ray Langel, Lee Wollam, Ray Johnson, Russell Griffith, Perry Walz (Sr), Perry Walz (Jr), Rev. Arthur Holt, Richard



Patrick, R.C. Shaffer, Jack O'Harra, Francis X. Forst, Lester Minor, Ralph Weaver, Ralph Arnett, Ray Cheatwood, Budd Oldham, Dale Weaver, James Donahey, James Morris, Harold J. Stouder, Gail Pickering, Leo Lautzenheiser, and Paul Pond. Melvin Walz, Ralph Smith, and W.R. Bates were listed as joining in **1945**.



Some other firefighters who joined **between** 1955 and 1968 were: John Zollinger, Frank Shirey, Granville Ratliff, Charles Alspaugh, Everett Noble, Ralph Rawn, Terry Nicodemus, Harry Knodel, Chuck Krafft, Robert Broseus, Charlie Walters, William Scholl, Harold Newcomer, Barry Brown, John Knight, Carl Shirey, Wayne Alspaugh, Calvin Fancher, Larry Blake, Jim West, Larry Stansbury, Jerry Goss, Bill Wiswell, and Robert Hamler.

While I know this list is not a complete listing of those firefighters, I know that many of you will

recognize most of the names. **Former Fire Chiefs** were: Vinton Raymer, 1931-1942; John Cobel, 1942-1964; John Knight, 1964-1996; Jim Sharps, 1996-2007; Jerry Foltz, 2007-2012; Steve Hein, 2012-2018; and Jeff Sharps, 2018 to present.

Long before there was a Tomato Festival, the Burg had a Truro Township Firemen's

(continued on page 03)

Truro Township Fire Department Beginnings by Suzy Millar Miller

Jubilee every year to raise funds for the fire department. It was an event where the entire village showed up to celebrate and visit with their neighbors; see who was elected "Miss Firefighter" and "Little Miss Firefighter"; ride carnival style rides; and eat a lot of "fair" food. In the years before the Jubilee the Burg held a Firemen's Ball.

According to Connie Parkinson's article in the December 1979 RTHS Courier, the fire department held its first Firemen's Ball on March 5, 1938. There were all types of activities including

ship, she wrote about a school board round and square dancing, a home-made meeting in 1947. "Several firemen

candy booth, refreshments (including some "hip flask" additions), and a checkroom. The event raised over \$200 in profits which were used to build a new firehouse that was completed in June 1938. building cost The \$687.85 with many donations of labor, materials (brick donated by Gail T. Landrum, RHS 1916) and a

public subscription. Apparently, the Firemen's Ball continued for many years. It must have been a wild event some years, because in Connie's book,

were present at a board meeting to discuss conduct at a recent Firemen's Ball. (The following year, use of the auditorium for the Firemen's Ball was. unanimously refused.)" Now the Truro Township Fire Department holds an annual "Open House" with displays featuring the K-9 unit, local medical centers, crafts for children,

Turner Stoots, had a table where she passed out Halloween candy brochures on October 6, 2019 to support the community and the fire fighters.

paramedics, a helicopter, and other organi-

zations such as RTHS. Our president, Mary

Visit our museum barn to see the display of old firefighting equipment which was donated by the Truro Township Fire Department.



Support our Fire Department and Police Department as they support our community

New Members!

Sharon Kern Bartholic - Individual Patty Francis - Individual Don Furry – Individual Tina & Zoe Jakobsky - Family Linda McConagha Kelly - Family Wilda Moore Kuhn - Individual

Sunshine **Committee**

Do you know someone who needs some Sunshine?

Contact Wendy Raftery if you are aware of an RTHS member who could use a Get Well, Thinking of You, Sympathy, or any other type of card for some added sunshine in their life....

(614) 262-2673 Please call after 2:00pm

Write "SUNSHINE" in the subject line of your email: cdutchman1@aol.com

√2019 & 2020 CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2019

Publish November Courier

Publish President's Holiday Letter

- 06 Garden Club Meeting 7:00pm
- **07 thru 15** Meeting Room Unavailable to allow set-up for the Holiday Gift Shop
- 12 TUE Board Meeting in the Kitchen! at 7:00pm
- 16 SAT Open House, Holiday Gift Shop 10:00am-2:00pm
- 17 thru 30 Meeting Room Unavailable

DECEMBER 2019

- 01 thru 06 Meeting Room unavailable
- 07 SAT Christmas on the Town, Open House, 11:00am-4:00pm, Children's Activities, and Holiday Gift Shop
- 08 SUN Raftery Family Christmas gathering
- 10 TUE Board Meeting, 7:00pm
- 14 SAT Christmas Dinner, 6:00pm, MCL Restaurant 5240 E. Main St., Whitehall (614) 861-6259
- 22 SUN Deadline for January 2020 Courier

JANUARY 2020

Publish January Courier

14 - TUE - Board Meeting - 7:00pm

18 - SAT - Open House, 10am-2pm

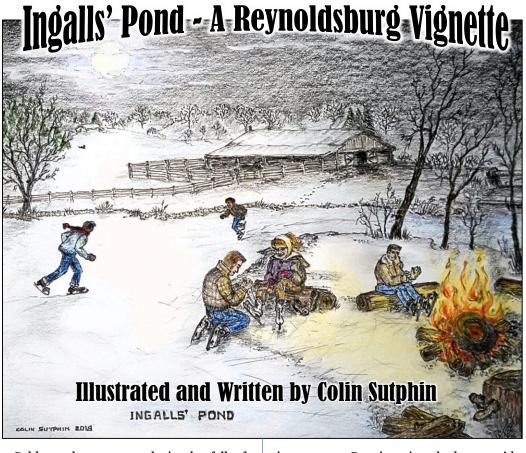
Be sure to visit us at the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

Open House

Saturday, November 16

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Shop early in our Holiday Gift Shop! 1485 Jackson Street (across from the Hannah Ashton Middle School)



Cold weather came early in the fall of 1958. By Thanksgiving snow had fallen and the ponds were freezing over.

Soon the kids from the Reynoldsburg area would be skating at the few places we had around town. Blacklick Creek behind Snyder's Dam, Burwell's Pond on Brice rd. and pictured below, Ingalls' Pond off Waggoner Road, about a half mile north of Main Street.

I would walk from our house in Brookside, skates over my shoulders, through the field north of French Run school and down the wooded hill to Ingalls' Pond. My brother Dwain use to go there with the Baker kids.

The only illumination at night was the moonlight and a fire built on the island.

Someone would always bring an old

tire or two. Burning tires had an acrid odor and created thick black smoke, but they provided a lot of light.

I chose two RHS students for the subjects in the center of the drawing. The guy was in class of '59 and the gal was in the class of '60. See if you can identify them. My ubiquitous avian friends are there, and maybe one or two other things.

I hope remembering this bit of Reynoldsburg's past brings a smile to your face.

Note: This was to be the last season for ice skating on Ingalls' Pond. The flood in late January 1959 washed out the dam.

Subsequently, St. Pius X had the pond filled in and now the area is used for recreation and athletics.

RTHS Courier, NOV 2019-05

The Blue Bonnet, so well liked by those who frequented entertainment an establishment, restaurant, dance hall. bar and grill. that flourished at McNaughten Road and Main Street in the 1930s and 1940s. The dance floor was frequented by those in high school and early college. Too young for a quick snort or two? You were not allowed to sit at the bar, but were served food and pop at wooden booths at the sides of the dance floor. I



remember it as spacious, but I think it was not. We went there to eat and dance and flirt and have fun with people we knew, see everybody dancing to somebody else's nickel in the jukebox, and watch a good-looking man jitterbugging in his zoot suit with the long golden watch chain, and the hip-swinging terpsichorean grace of Eleanor Wilson (partner Milton Shonting). Some may even remember the night when one hotheaded youth kicked out a window to cool the place -- and was promptly hustled through the door to cool off outside. That could have been once when Anna (Mrs. Edward) Rinehart, the business owner, regretted having paid the county \$5 for a dance hall permit, but felt the \$2.50 to \$4 for the deputy of the evening was worth it.

Many of us cherish mostly-innocent romantic memories of the dimly lit dance hall, where a quarter bought two Cokes, potato chips, and two songs on the jukebox ... and an evening of close dancing and gazing intently into the eyes of the beloved. Ahh me. When the jukebox was



silent for a while, and nobody was dancing, there was no trouble filling up the time, for you had so much to talk about, the atmosphere to say it in, and the one to say it to.

I was dating the young man I married, Richard W. Parkinson, and when we got potato chips, he laid the package face-up on the table and pulled out his pocketknife. (All males carried one then -- and a clean handkerchief in his back pocket.) He then cut a round hole in the front of the package, making a neat bowl we could reach into. That impressed me; I'd never seen anybody do that before, never would have thought of it myself.

C. B. Arbogast, a Spanish-American war sold-

ier, and his wife Ina owned the story-and-a-half building and lived upstairs, getting \$100 a month business rent. (After their marriage, Amelia Stonestreet and Paul Doritan lived there briefly. To me the space felt cramped and unhandy, with a low ceiling and not enough windows.) In 1937 Arbogasts bought a Frigidaire beverage cooler for \$148.50, plus \$4.45 sales tax and \$15.72 for 21 months' carrying charge, having to give Morehouse Martens a chattel mortgage. After all, it was an expensive item and the company might want it back if it wasn't paid for. At \$7.50 a month, the mortgage was paid off in time. (In 1941, the *20-year* mortgage

06-RTHS Courier, NOV 2019



on a fine new house built on Brice Road was \$7.67 per month.)

You had a choice of watering holes and munching spots. The 1939 Reynoldsburg Directory showed that C. B. Arbogast owned the Blue Bonnet, with 1 male, 3 female employees. Mrs. Adeline S. Rhodes owned Horton's Restaurant (famous for the high quality of its food), with Claude Benefield also listed. Benjamin 0. Cochenour owned Ben's Place, on Main Street. Edwin Mayer

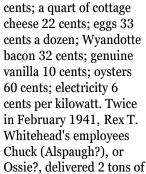
owned the Bridle Path, at East Broad and Taylor Road. Harold "Barney" Rothrock owned Barney's Tavern, at Main and South Lancaster. About this time, Whitey Wahlberg's Tavern was also doing a good business (Whitey was one of Al Haft's wrestlers, with a good tan,

broad muscular shoulders and lots of pale hair). If you didn't care for liquor, you knew where not to go. If you liked a good meal, that place was better than this other one.

Monthly expenses for the Blue Bonnet averaged \$5 for gas, heat, and light; \$5 for phone. (Just numbers then; the UN-prefix came later); \$10 for laundry; \$1.19 for insurance (the insurance agent came to your house weekly, or your business place, and collected the money himself. The unspoken threat was that your insurance could be cut off if you got behind on payments; so the insurance company made certain they got what was due them); \$13.75 for those green sales tax stamps, which the customer was given as a receipt for the tax paid. (Some people saved their tax stamps; but even in quantity they weren't good for any reward.) Twenty lines per week of advertising in the Columbus Star, that rumbustious, scandalmongering, yellow-journalistic newspaper, cost \$70 every year. Daily ice

delivery for the food icebox and that beverage cooler averaged 38 cents; wages, \$6.65 for 3 to 5 workers. Flies were terrible in July 1939; one week, Mrs. Rinehart paid 29 cents, 35 cents, then \$5.41 for what seemed a lifetime supply of fly spray (Fly-Tox, poured into a blue and red metal Fly-Tox sprayer, was popular but a whiff made you sneeze.)

In those happy years a 5-pound chuck roast was 85 cents; 2 pounds pork chops 50



Elkhorn coal for \$13, plus 39 cents tax, and collected on the spot. No billing, no MasterCard, credit not given, cash or no coal. But if you were poor, it was a different story.

Someone in these records bought a new 1940 Ford TDR for \$780.18. Think of the tax stamps. Annual insurance premium \$39.33.

(Unknown person, but likely Mrs. Rinehart's) Individual Income Tax Report for 1939 showed total business receipts \$13,602.71; labor \$2,427; material and supplies \$454; merchandise bought for sale (food, plus those Cokes and potato chips) \$69.39; repairs \$64; sales tax stamps \$162; police protection \$30; miscellaneous \$270. After deductions of \$13,183, the owner's total profit for the year was \$414.43, no work required to make an easy \$1.13 every single day.

State tax stamp packets cost the vendor a penny for every penny stamp. If the vendor bought enough at *(continued on page 08)*



(continued from page 07)

one time, he was allowed a discount of 0.03%. There were colors besides green, for larger purchases, such as a car. I seem to remember yellow. The vogue for tax stamps were off; tax never goes out of style.

In 1943, the middle of WWII, there was imposed a federal Victory Tax. After all, a war cost something; but we may still be paying it anyway. If any employee made over \$624 per year, the employer was required to withhold 5% of the excess. If the wages were \$12 but not over \$16, the Table of Withholding called for the employer to withhold 10 cents weekly. At the high end, if your wages were \$190 but not over \$200 weekly, your employer paid \$9.10 in Victory Tax.

The Blue Bonnet wage scale began at 25 cents per hour and never was recorded as being above 32 cents. An apprentice for house-builder-carpenter Alonzo "Lonnie" Foltz was paid 25 cents, and could pay most of his college expenses on it. Prices did not just automatically go up at intervals, as they did later. (I have wondered what the result would be if the entire world kept prices the same for a whole week -- so maybe I should put down my hookah.)

The Blue Bonnet had numerous employees, as many as five at a time. January through May 1941, there were two males, three females. June through December, one male, two to three females. Question on the tax return: Did you employ Negro workers in 1941? None. None applied.

1939 employees included Dorothy E. Miller, Mae Abbie Davis, Charles Herman Skelton and Catherine Skelton, Lillian Long Collins and Damon Collins, Esther Louise Landis, Donald Van Atta, Martha Bobb Doddroe, Margaret Burke Cummins, Beulah Burton, Marie Beavers, Ruby C. Curnell (sic). (There were Comells in the area for over 100 years.) Charles Burton, Blue Bonnet porter, also worked at the Southern Hotel. Other

employees were Goldie Hicks, Elsie Click (popular waitress wherever she was working, mother of Patty who married Elmer "Bud" Butler, Clifford, and Jane who married Don Weaver), good-looking Ted Rinehart, son of Anna and Edward; Cora Hill, Anna's mother, as cook. Anna took no wages.

The Blue Bonnet ceased business in mid-WWII. A dollar a day profit hardly paid for the hassle. Because of food and gas and rationing ("there's a war on, you know") there was probably difficulty in obtaining food, especially meats, or the ice to keep it fresh. Later, that building and the beautiful little fairytale Dutch Chocolates cottage next door were sold to create width for road improvements.

(Source: records in possession of RTHS.)





08-RTHS Courier, NOV 2019

David E. Betts, Sr.

April 12, 1931 to September 12, 2019



David was a 1949 RHS graduate and long-time member of the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society. He attended several events; always accompanied by his beautiful and dedicated daughter.

~ Mary Turner Stoots

You can read more about David on our tribute page at: www.RTHS.info/betts-david

William L Kibbey

December 25, 1946 - September 17, 2019

Bill graduated with the RHS Class of 1965 and has visited the museum on numerous occasions during alumni events.

You can read more about Bill on the RTHS tribute page at:

www.rths.info/kibbey



Jerry Wallace Robinson

June 18, 1938 - October 10, 2019



Jerry spent most of his professional career at Reynoldsburg High School where he taught various social studies classes from 1964-1986 and was the Athletic Director from 1986-1998.

You can read more about Jerry on the RTHS tribute page at:

www.rths.info/robinson



Meeting that was held on October 15, 2019. Our Board Meetings are all open to our members, and you are always welcome to join us:

- Five Sympathy cards and one Get Well card was sent to various RTHS members from our Sunshine Committee
- The Corresponding Secretary had no September mailings
- The Garage Roof is ON!
- The Upstairs Furnace needs repair (but has since been fixed)
- The Spruce Tree is gone!
- Digital Inventory Discussion
- Columbus Neighborhoods aired the segment about A.W. Livingston on 10/10.
 It has been loaded to the website under 'History' and 'Bits About the Burg'
- The TTFD Fire Inspection was scheduled for 10/04/19
- Newspaper Archive discussion
- · A Calling Committee has been formed
- The third-grade history workbook (Branches) has been delegated to the appropriations committee
- The Livingston Society will be contacted in 2020 about a possible Open House event
- Our Facebook posts have reached 351,509
- Upcoming events include
 - o 11/06 Garden Club meeting

people to date since 04/25/16!

- 11/12 Board Meeting (in the Kitchen)
- 11/16 Open House Gift Shop

(continued on page 11)

RTHS Courier, NOV 2019-09

YOUR 2020 Board of Directors

- President Mary Turner Stoots
- Vice President Dick Barth
- Treasurer Marvin Shrimplin
- Recording Secretary VACANT POSITION
- Corresponding Secretary Suzy Millar Miller
- Trustee (1 year) Wendy Wheatley Raftery
- Trustee (2 years) Vickie Edwards Hall
- Trustee (3 years) Don Larimer



The Courier is 45 Years old this year!

Since this is the last issue for Volume 45, I thought I had better say "Happy Birthday" to the *Courier*.

Connie Parkinson started this newsletter 45 years ago, and still contributes articles today.

I don't have an index for the first issue of the *Courier*, but Volume 1, Number 2 contained the following:

- Historical Society gets Mailbox POB 144
- Society Acquires RHS Graduate Photos
- Request for Personal Family Histories
- Old-Time Fiddlers Entertain Society
- VFW Restoring Old Graveyard About Hill Cemetery on Waggoner Road
- Where is Reynoldsburg Area's Oldest
 Building? (The 1830s building "the Upper
 Tavern" housed Don Foltz Jewelers from 1953 on.) The oldest dwelling house found so far was
 built in 1834.
- Need for a Museum (looking into the railroad station at Blacklick)

By the way -> Did you know that the Courier isn't the only publication Connie Parkinson started?

Seventy-six years ago, she was the editor for the very first Reynolian!

THE COURIER

November 2019 Issue

Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

Mailing Address:

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Museum Phone: 614-902-2831

Courier Editor: Mary Turner Stoots Courier Editor Phone: 614-560-4987 Courier Email: RTHSCourier@aol.com

Photos & Illustrations Provided by:

Connie Parkinson, Colin Sutphin, Suzy Millar Miller, Mary Turner Stoots

Contributors:

Connie Parkinson, Colin Sutphin, Suzy Millar Miller, Mary Turner Stoots,



- · No Website **Inquiries Received**
- · Received a letter asking help with
- family genealogy · A member bought a leaf for our Giving Tree in honor of her high school class
- · Donations include a Girl Scout Handbook, scrapbooks from Brice, Boy Scout artifacts, a
- letter sweater, and some varsity letters RTHS now has a power washer!
- · A new interactive possibility was discussed utilizing rotary phones
- · A BIG Thank You for volunteering and/or helping at the museum goes out to: Jim & Judy Diuguid, Kim Fisher, Cheryl Foley,

Barth Cotner, Suzy Millar Miller, Wendy

- Wheatley Raftery, Marvin Shrimplin, Connie Parkinson, Dick Barth, Don Larimer, Tom McCray, Neal Piek, Steve McLoughlin, Mark
- Myers, Carol Deuber, Colin Sutphin, and Lauren Shiman

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President

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- **Corresponding Secretary** Suzy Millar Miller (512) 635-6376
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Trustee (2 years)

Wendy Wheatley Raftery (614) 262-2673

Trustee (3 years) Vickie Edwards Hall (740) 503-4955

Courier Editor: Mary Turner Stoots Publicity Chairman: Mary Turner Stoots Administrative Assistant: Lauren Shiman Museum email: RTHSCourier@aol.com Museum Phone: (614) 902-2831

RTHS Courier, NOV 2019-11

SUPPORT LOCAL HISTORY

Join the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society Individual - \$20 Family - \$25 Sustaining - \$30 Contributing - \$50 Life Membership - \$300

Name	
Additional Names	
Address	

City Zip State

Home Phone Cell Phone **Email Address**

Make Check Payable to RTHS and mail to: RTHS, Box 144, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Come and visit us at the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

Christmas on the Town

Saturday, December 7, 2019

11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Visit our Holiday Gift Shop!

Children's Activities are planned

Christmas on the Town will be followed by a 4:00 Christmas Parade! After the parade, there will be a "Tree Lighting" at Town Hall.

RTHS Wishes you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!





The October 6th Truro Township Fire Dept Open House See more Open House pictures on our website at https://rths.info/past-events





Beggars' Night, October 31st was FUN!

See more Spooky pictures on our website at https://rths.info/past-events