



Memories From 1956

by Suzy Millar Miller

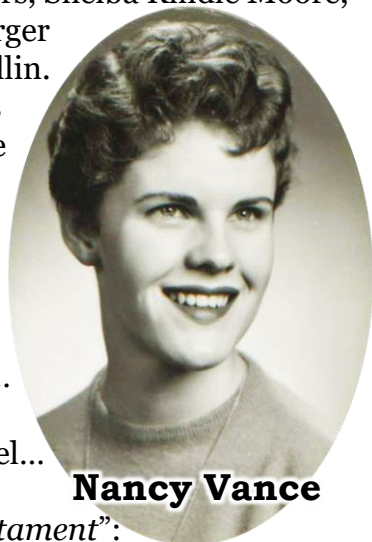
Hard to believe it has been **65 years** since 1956. The world has changed since those simple times where everyone in the Burg knew one another. The Reynoldsburg High School Class of 1956 graduated 61



members who made plans to raise families with a motto of, *“The future belongs to those who prepare for it.”* Members of the class of '56 gathered in 2006 for a class photo at the Alumni Banquet at the Days Inn. Pictured are: **Row 1:** Patricia Hymrod Keaton, DeAnna Keppler and

Martha Schatzman Chesser (in wheelchair). **Row 2:** William Shanks, **Nancy Vance Johnson**, Stella Scholl Peters, Shelba Kindle Moore, Barbara Harshaw Garside, Connie Harshbarger Alexander, Frank Ickes, and William McMullin. **Row 3:** **Barbara Smith Doane**, **Delores Gramelt Trivett**, Robert Mills, and Connie Riehle Fletcher.

Nancy Vance Johnson is a current member of RTHS. In the 1956 Reynolian the caption under her picture read: “This is the girl with the natural curl. Ambition – to have identical twins...Ohh honestly!...Gene... Pet Peeve -- dandruff...Dutch Chocolates... Anybody got a stick of gum?...Wants to travel... loves lilacs... buttermilk...Bermuda shorts.”



Nancy Vance

Nancy wrote as her class *“Last Will and Testament”*:

“I Nancy Vance, bequeath my six years as (continued on page 02)

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cheerleader to any seventh grader who can last that long.”

Other former RTHS members of the class of 1956, Barbara Doane and Delores Trivett, have both passed away. Both Barbara and Delores were very active members of the society and we miss their smiling faces.

Another member of the RHS Class of 1956 was **Jim Near** who

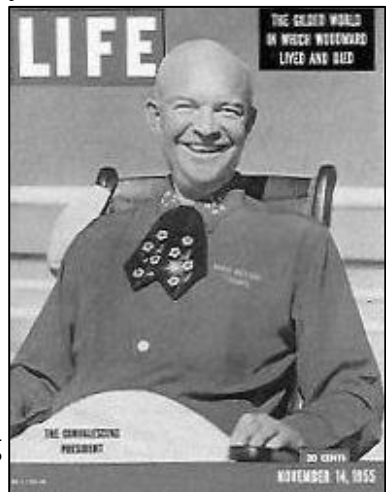
became the “Whiz Kid” of Fast Food. Jim’s senior picture caption read: “He’s really neat from head to feet.” Ambition – to own a drive-in...Pet peeve – dumb car hops...”Where’s Dan?”...favorite pastime – Cattin’ around...Burger Boy...”Rose La Rose.” In his class “Last Will and Testament” Jim wrote: “*I, Jim Near, bequeath my ability to fry hamburgers to Gary Blackstone.*” Those words were very prophetic. Jim began working as a short order cook while still in high school and became the night manager at the Burger Boy in the Burg. He graduated from Hanover College in Indiana in



James Near

1960, joined the National Guard for a while, and then started working at the first McDonald’s in Columbus on South High Street where he became the manager. His former boss from the Burger Boy, Roy Tuggle, co-founded BBF (Burger Boy Food-O-Rama) “home of the whirling satellite” and asked Jim to become manager of the new burger chain.

Jim eventually became vice-president. Borden, Inc. bought out BBF and Jim became the President of Borden Retail Operations. After he left Borden’s, Jim joined Dave Thomas, his BBF boss, and other investors to found Wendy’s Hamburgers where he opened over 39 Wendy’s restaurants in West Virginia and Florida. He sold the franchises back to Wendy’s to “retire,” but ended up developing a spicy chicken sandwich which became the basis of “Sisters Chicken and Biscuits.” Wendy’s bought the concept. Jim became President and Chief Operating Officer and later CEO and Chairman of Wendy’s International.



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CLASS

REYNOLDSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

1956



Schrick's
Photo Studio

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Here are some other things that were happening 65 years ago

The **cost of living in 1956** was: Average new house, \$11,700; Monthly rent, \$88; Yearly wages, \$4,450; Gallon of gasoline, 22¢;



New car, \$2,050; and Coffee was 85¢ per pound. The Interstate Highway System was authorized in June by President Eisenhower and General Electric/Telechron introduced the first snooze alarm clock. Black and white portable televisions hit the market and Tefal started producing non-stick frying pans. Polio pioneer, Dr. Albert Sabin, developed an oral vaccine while Dr. Jonas Salk was

administering injectable polio vaccine. There were 57,879 reported cases of polio in 1952.

Rocky Marciano, 31, retired as the only undefeated Heavyweight Champion of the World with a perfect record. New York Yankees pitcher, **Don Larson**, threw the only perfect game in World Series history in game 5 of the 1956 World Series against the Brooklyn Dodgers.



We watched **To Tell the Truth** on CBS-TV and Bob Barker made his TV debut as the host of **Truth or Consequences**. The **Huntley-Brinkley Report** was on NBC and MGM debuted **The Wizard of Oz** on CBS as the final installment of the Ford Star Jubilee. Popular films were **Guys and**

Dolls, **The King and I**, **Trapeze**, **High Society**, and **Around the World in Eighty Days**.

Other entertainment news included the premiere of the movie **The Ten Commandments** and **My Fair Lady** opened on Broadway with Julie Andrews and Rex Harrison. **As the World Turns** became the first half-hour soap opera on CBS and lasted until 2010. Elvis Presley appeared on **The Ed Sullivan Show**. Norma Jean Mortenson changed her name to **Marilyn Monroe** and married playwright,

Arthur Miller. **Dean Martin** (continued on page 05)

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and Jerry Lewis performed their last comedy show together after being a team for 10 years.



Disneyland opened in Anaheim, CA. Film idol, **James Dean**, was killed in an auto accident at the age of 24. In the comic strip, **Dogpatch**, Li'l Abner and Daisy Mae were married in a surprise wedding after 18 years of "dating." Jacqueline Bouvier married Senator **John F. Kennedy**. **Davy Crockett** hats were popular with boys and **Bermuda shorts** were being worn by men!



On the local front, the Burg residents danced at the Reynoldsburg Barn Dance (both Round & Square), went to Town and Country for luggage sales, bought stylish dresses and shopped at Cussins and Fearn.

(11 MI. EAST OF COL. RT. 40)
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One of the most memorable events in the Burg happened during the middle of the night on Friday, June 22, 1956. A raging thunderstorm hit around 10:30 pm on the 21st with high winds and heavy rain. During the long night, rain passed through western Licking County and Franklin County deluging the Blacklick Creek and French Run watersheds. The *Columbus Dispatch* wrote: *Shortly before midnight, two roaring walls of water burst upon the Village (the Burg), one traveling west down French Run and the other traveling south down Blacklick Creek. They collided in a roaring, whirling, maelstrom of mud and debris at the confluence of*

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the two streams, just west of Lancaster Avenue and several hundred feet north of US Route 40.”

Along the banks of French Run the power lines went down, water swirled into homes, the bridge on Lancaster Avenue collapsed, the footbridge floated away, and yellow mud and tree limbs flowed with



the massive flood waters. The firemen said the four hours after midnight were a nightmare. There were daring rescues of residents trapped in their homes. Using boats, people evacuated children to higher ground while everyone tried to save their homes.

The night of the flood was truly terrifying. I was one of the children who rode a boat up Lancaster Avenue to my grandparent's house. One of my cousins, Marty Nessley, was a baby and I remember him being passed over flood waters from the front porch to the boat. When our basement wall collapsed, the house just groaned and sank to one side. Eventually, the water came up to the first-floor level, but it didn't cover the beds. After that flood, all of the doors in the house were a little warped and never closed easily.

1956 was one of my most memorable years!

~~ Suzy Millar Miller





The Little White Market

by Mary Alice Feucht Foster

From the April 1995 Courier Twentieth Anniversary Edition

1949...And every salad began with a box of JELL-O. The Republic of China was established; the X-1 Rocket Plane soared to 63,000 feet; Margaret Mitchell, author of *Gone With the Wind*, was killed by a drunken driver; the Congress of the United States raised the President's salary to \$100,000; and Fred and Freda Feucht started a grocery store on the east end of Reynoldsburg.

They called their grocery store the East End Market, but because it was painted white, the children in the neighborhood soon nicknamed it The Little White. The store was open from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M., six days a week, but never on Sunday. That

That was the Lord's Day. They were the sole employees. They ordered, stocked, cut meat, ran the cash register, did the janitorial duties and lawn care. The store *sold* meat, cheese, frozen food, dairy products, canned goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, yard goods, and school supplies, but it also had something it *gave*-friendship. Friendship is reaching out for someone's hand and touching their heart, and Fred and Freda did.

They dried tears and gave comforting hugs and advice. (One of Freda's bits of wisdom was, "Don't wish for the moon when you have the stars.") Freda would hold your baby while you made your selections. You could run a tab and pay on Saturday, when you got paid. It was a place where the

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The Little White Market

by Mary Alice Feucht Foster

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news of the village and recipes were equally exchanged. Fred made bird-houses for the children of the neighborhood, and Freda baked pies on Thanksgiving to give to any customer who was ill. When there were no customers Freda would crochet on her afghan or sew on her quilt blocks, and Fred would work in his garden beside the store.

Next to the store was their famous strawberry patch. Why famous? Berries were sold by the honor system. When Fred and Freda were not home, they would set the quarts of berries on their porch, beside a King Edward cigar box. The sign on the box said, "Deposit money in box and make your own change."

The store closed in 1969, the year Freda died. Fred died in 1987, at 96 years, 8 months. Folks still tell me what wonderful people Fred and Freda were. One man, who had been their paper boy, said Fred never yelled at him when he cut across the lawn. A woman recently told me of how Freda always put a Hershey bar in her mother's bag of groceries, and what a treat that was for a five-year-old child. One of Fred's favorite sayings was, "Wishing doesn't paint the gate." They were workers and achievers.

A special time, a special place, and very, very special people. My mother and father.

1949...And every salad started with a box of JELL-O.

~ Mary Alice Feucht Foster

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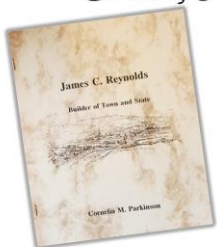
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Courier Editor: Mary Turner Stoots
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by Cornelia M. Parkinson
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THE COURIER

January 2021 Issue

**Reynoldsburg-Truro
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 Mary Turner Stoots

Contributors:

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 Mary Turner Stoots,
 Mary Alice Feucht Foster



Sunshine Committee

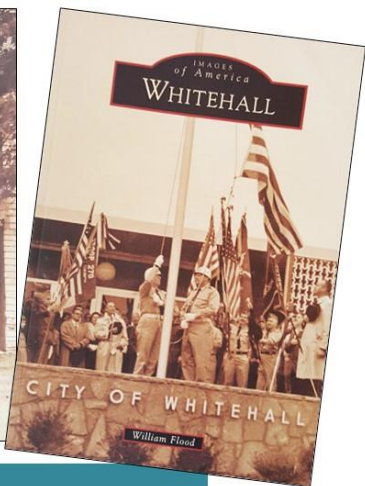
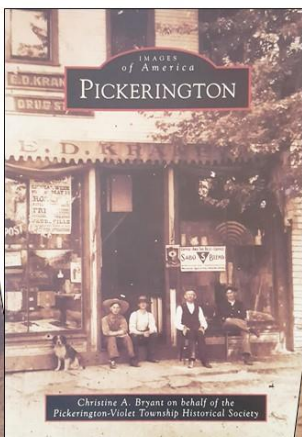
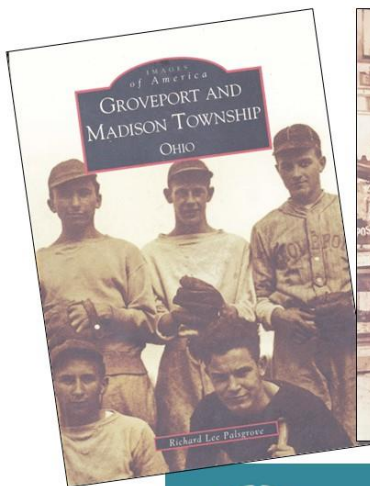
**Do you know someone who
 needs some Sunshine?**

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**



By Mary Turner Stoots

On August 27th, I received an inquiry through the RTHS Website from Lora Little. She wrote: *"I recently came across 'Images of America' books that are about different cities, counties and more. I could not find one for Reynoldsburg which surprised me. I grew up around this area and was hoping to find a book that had the great history and pictures of Reynoldsburg! Do you know of one? When I tried the publishers of Images of America, they said they have received several requests but have not heard recently anything about someone making a book like this. I'm sure there would be a lot of interest if one was done! Thank you for your time!"*

I did some research at the Arcadia website to look at the series Lora was referring to at the following URL:

www.arcadiapublishing.com/books

Then I asked Mark Myers about it. Mark said, *"have you ever considered using Arcadia Publishing? I've always been impressed with them. They were after us about 7-8 years ago to do one for Reynoldsburg, but we kept turning them*

down, because we did not yet have our files and picture collection organized. Now, I believe that we do."

Arcadia Publishing has produced over 17,200 American history books. In the *Images of America* series, there are 468 books about people and places in Ohio alone. I purchased the books on Groveport, Bexley, Whitehall, Pickerington, and Canal Winchester. After talking to Connie Parkinson and some Board members, I signed a contract on November 25, 2020 to create a Reynoldsburg book.

The book will be 127 pages of pictures and captions and will be published late this year or early next year. I have four deadlines that cover different criteria. My final deadline is in May, then the publisher will need six months to edit and complete the process.

I couldn't take on this project without the help of Connie Parkinson. She has taught me everything I know about this town and the people who built it. I will be working jointly with her so she can monitor everything I write. It helps to have an expert!!

2021 CALENDAR

Dues were due by
12/31/2020

If you haven't paid them
yet, please pay now so you
can be included in our
annual Directory!

JANUARY 2021

- 12 – TUE – Board Meeting – 7pm **CANCELED**
16 – SAT – Open House, 10am-2pm
CANCELED

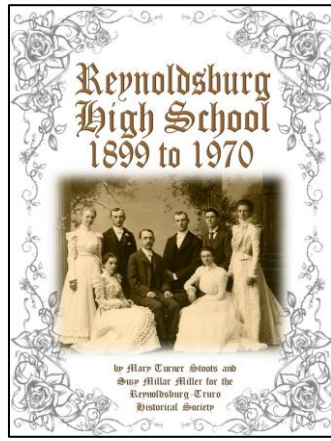
FEBRUARY 2021

- 16 – TUE – Board Meeting - 7pm **TENTATIVE**
20 – SAT – Open House, **TENTATIVE**
28 – SUN – Dues Deadline for listing in the
Directory

MARCH 2021

Publish March Courier

- 16 – TUE – Board & General Meeting
Combined- 7:00pm **TENTATIVE**
20 – SAT – Open House, 10am-2pm
TENTATIVE
24 – WED – Max & Erma's ALL DAY
Restaurant Fundraiser!



Mary Turner Stoots and Suzy Millar Miller are publishing a new book for the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society (RTHS) this month. The book is called *Reynoldsburg High School 1899 to 1970*.

This book is around 100 pages and contains a chronology of the school system; a story about the acquisition of the class composites; indexing of every graduate by the year of graduation; and an alphabetical index by the name of each graduate from 1871 through 1970.

The book includes high quality photos of every class composite we have at the museum from 1899 through 1970. It will be available to purchase this month as soon as it's received from the printer at the cost of \$35.00 plus \$5 to cover the postage and a padded envelope. If you are interested, You can send a check for \$40 to RTHS at the following:

RTHS
PO Box 144
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0144

Please write “RHS Photo Book” in the memo line of your check.

New Members!

Jim & Michelle Slonaker - Family
John McElhinny - individual
Margaret Colgin – Individual

Due to the size and weight of the book, USPS First Class may not be our best option, and we will need to send it “Media Mail.” If so, it may not arrive in a timely manner. We are exploring several mailing options to stay within the \$5.00 range.

If you would like to save \$5.00, we will arrange or set up a pickup time for our local members. Please include your contact information with your check.

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- 1 - 3x-Large (26-28)

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