



A Walk Down Main Street Part V

by Suzy Millar Miller

For the September 2023, *Courier* I “walked” down the South side of East Main Street from Pick Richardson’s antique shop to the Reynoldsburg mural. Now, I am

going to continue West on the South side of Main Street to Blacklick Creek. My memories are a blend of the 50s, 60s and 70s. Those impressions may not be totally accurate because my mind may remember things differently from my youth than what they actually were.

I guess I’d better hustle across South Lancaster Avenue. Currently, the first building opposite the

mural is Vick’s Pizza which I’ll talk about later. But during all of the time I lived in the Burg, it was **Connell Hardware**. The hardware store was established as the Osborn Tin Shop in 1872. Elzy Connell took over the shop after he married Nelle Osborn. The Connell’s had one son, Ralph, who took over the hardware store in 1948. Ralph, a 1943 RHS graduate, and his wife, Jean Hamilton, a 1938 RHS graduate, had two daughters, Sarah and Charity. **Charity is a current member of RTHS** Everyone in town knew Ralph because everybody had hardware, seed, or plant needs in a farming community like the Burg. One of the best things to see in Connell’s was the pot-bellied stove that warmed the store. There was a group of guys who hung out around the stove that became the “Hot Stove League”. The unofficial members were: **Frank Rowland, Ralph Connell, Keith Seeds,** (Continued on page 02)



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W.V. “Pete” Ashton, Ted Kibbey, Nelson Smith, and Earl Hart. Of course, if anyone else showed up at the store, they also stood around with their hands to the fire.

As a kid, it seemed like I was in the store every other day to pick up stuff for my parents. My dad was a masonry contractor who built basements and was always needing special supplies. Ralph always seemed to know exactly what was needed.



My mom also needed things from the store, but they were items that she regularly replaced. When I walked into the store, Ralph would ask me, “Is it for your mom or dad?” If I answered, “Mom”, he would say, “Glass panes or Revere Ware Teakettle?” It was generally one or the other. We had an electric stove and mom would forget to fill the pot or would be on the telephone while all the water boiled away and burnt the bottom of the teakettle. After a couple of severe burnings, it would be time to replace the kettle.



The glass pane problem was that mom would forget her keys or leave them at the school. There was a side door that led down into the basement which had nine glass panes in it. I think they were around 5”x 8” in size. Mom kept a big rock close to the door under some bushes. She would pick up the rock and smash the window-pane closest to the handle and come on inside. My dad kept a stack of five or six



panes on hand at all times for speedy replacement. Ralph knew it all!

The hardware store was a good place to pick up gossip because the men who hung around the store knew everyone and why they required certain things in their lives. It was a friendly, happy place that felt like home.

Above the hardware store there was a large meeting room. In the distant past, the space was used for Commencement exercises, out-of-town speakers, oratories, and other community

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RTHS Museum, 1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Mailing address: Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

P.O. Box 144, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

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events before the RHS auditorium was built in the school. In the 50s, the space was converted to a **Duckpin Bowling Alley**. It was a very popular sport at the time. Leagues were developed for the many teams that rolled the ball down the smooth alley. My mom bowled on a team, so I went up there often. It was fun watching the young boys leap down at the end of the alley to reset the pins after every turn. I never did figure out where they hid during the actual roll of the ball.

In the late 70s or early 80s, **Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society** obtained the space for their first museum. I still was amazed at how many old things they managed to stuff in there. Martha Savage welcomed guests at the top of the stairs. George, Martha, and **Kendell Weeks** (a current RTHS member) contributed a large amount of knowledge and they helped tell



guests what was being displayed. We had our board meetings in a small room off to the side where the RHS class composite photos were displayed. We had very lively

meetings, with a lot of discussion and concerns.

The little building next to Connell Hard-



ware was where **Carl Whitmer** held court with his barber shears, combs, and gossip. Many people congregated there to catch up on village news

while waiting to get their hair cut. Carl was one of the village's barbers. He worked in the trade for 56 years. He had a rigid schedule. I remember him walking down the street at precisely the same time



every day on his way to the shop. At exactly noon, when the fire siren sounded the noontime blast, Carl would calmly put down his scissors and walk out of his door to go to lunch at Green Gables across the street. Customers were left waiting in the barber chair until his lunch was over. Good thing he had a stack of old magazines to look through. After his lunch of a can of vegetable soup, two packages of crackers, and glass of milk, he would

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pay his bill and leave Eleanor Pickering a 10-cent tip. Then he'd walk across the street and finish the haircut. Carl spent a lot of time looking out of his large glass windows and didn't always pay attention to the haircut he was giving if something interesting was happening outside. Carl Whitmer was a very interesting character!

For a while the building was used as a Yoga and Massage Therapy business. The building has since been leveled to make a patio for Vick's Pizza.



The next building was very important to the teenagers of the 60s. Originally, the building was Esta (Estelle) Lunn's Dry Goods Store. She carried dresses, work clothing, boots, shoes, jackets, yard goods, and notions. She was born in 1866 and by the time she was 35 she partnered with Charles L. Graham in general merchandise. The store started in 1901. Esta died in 1952.

(Editor's note: Esta ran the business for 40 years until she was 75, then she sold her store to Garry & Maude Wiswell in 1941, one week before WWII was declared.)

Vick's Pizza turned 50 years-old on June 18, 2011 which makes the business 62 years-old now. Hollis Vickers began making pizzas in 1958 at Cys Pizza. That company changed its name to 3C Pizza because it was on the 3C Highway. Apparently, the people who made the pizza dough was a grandson and grandmother at Cys Pizza. Later the grandson, Jim Grote, started Donatos Pizza.

I tasted my first real pizza at Vick's in 1961. I know we made Chef Boyardee mix pizzas at home, but no one sold fancy pizza like Vick's made. It was my first taste of real Italian food. To this

day, whenever I return to the Burg I have to stop at Vick's and buy a large all-the-way pizza. My son, in Texas, counts on me to bring him a Vick's pizza every trip. That's a 1,400-mile takeout order!

Vick's Pizza moved into the Connell Hardware building recently. They have been doing a thriving business and have added a live band on some nights. The old Vick's has been torn down due to foundation problems. The upstairs at the Connell Hardware building has been completely renovated, and it is used now as a venue for

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class reunions, weddings, family gatherings, graduation parties, and many more events.

The next building is **Kohl's Chiropractic**. In 1987, there was a guns and ammo sales business. The building has been extensively remodeled. I don't remember what the building was in the past.



After crossing the alley, there is a house that used to hold the **Law Offices of Mitch Wagner**. In 1987 it was painted white and became Pieces of Oak

Today it is Windsong Senior Care, a company that cares for seniors in their own home, versus moving them to a facility, and the owner is a current member of RTHS.



Boy, I'm starting to get tired from this long walk on Main Street. I need to get moving on.

The two-story **French House** was built before 1834. The land was owned by John D. French from 1816-1832, so it is quite

possible he had the house built. The small white house next to it was only 18" away



away from the big house. In Cornelia (Connie) Parkinson's book, *History of Reynoldsburg*, she said the house was put that close for "spite only". Carl Whitmer lived in that house for a time. In his later years, he boarded with numerous Burg residents. The French House has been used for many businesses over the years including a bookstore.

The next business is the **Reynoldsburg Animal Clinic**. It has been there for many years with different veterinarians.



Finally, I have reached the last property that I'm interested in on this long walk. In the late 50s or early 60s a store was built on the property next to Blacklick Creek on

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products delivered. **Lawson's Milk Company** sold milk, milk products,

Main Street. It was something we had never seen before. The **Wetherell**

Dairy Store sold milk, butter, cream, ice cream, and a few other perishable staples. They didn't stock a bunch of canned goods or have a butcher in the back of the store, it was basically just milk and related products. We always had a milkman, Eddie



Wetherell, who delivered our milk every week. We put our empty milk bottles on the porch and Eddie would replace them with full bottles. The milk had a small layer of cream on the top and the bottles were capped with a little cardboard circle that fit into the top of the bottle. The Wetherell Dairy was located in Pickerington on Lockville Road. They had Jersey cows. After a few years, they sold the store to Lawson's which had a number of stores in Ohio.

Lawson's started in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio in 1939. They had figured it would be easier to do business having the people Come to the store rather than having their

eggs, deli meats, and orange juice. By the 1980s, Lawson's had grown to about 700 stores. In 1985, the name of Lawson's was replaced with Dairy Mart. In 2002, a Canadian convenience store company bought Dairy Mart and converted the group into Circle K brand. So here in the little village of Reynoldsburg we had the beginnings of the omnipresent "convenience store". It's hard to go two blocks out of a residential area without seeing a Speedway or 7-11 store.

After that, the corner turned into **Automotive Technicians**. They were in business for a while, but then the City of Reynoldsburg bought it. Now look at it – an empty lot. I liked it better as the Wetherell Dairy Store. Now I think I'll take a stroll to look at Blacklick Creek and see



if I can reflect on everything I observed over the years. Look around you and remember history, not everything has to be new.

Many of my historical references came from Connie's "Big Brown Book". *The History of Reynoldsburg, Ohio—Illustrated* from 1981 by Cornelia M. Parkinson.



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NEW MEMBERS!

- **Emma Brewer & Tisha Simeral** Family
- **Ray Gosnell** Individual
- **Linda Young** Individual
- **Kenda Turner** Individual

**20+ New Members
so far this Year!**



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Karl Gotch



Big Bill Miller



by: **Mike Zim**

Coincidentally, Reynoldsburg's **all-time top two** wrestlers have simultaneously resurfaced, in Ohio and Japan, 60 years after their last Columbus clash.

historian Ryosuke Rattel Nasa. Gotch is known in Japan as the "God of Wrestling" due to his influence in

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

FAIRGROUNDS COLISEUM
Friday Night, April 19, 8:30

Karl Gotch, King pin of heavyweights
Vs.
Big Bill Miller, No. 1 contender, 280 pounds

Five other bouts—Myaki, Blanchard, Hillis, Johnson, Evans, King, Talber, Graham, Marconi, La Rance, Allen, Clark.

Seat Sale—The Clock, CA. 4-3030

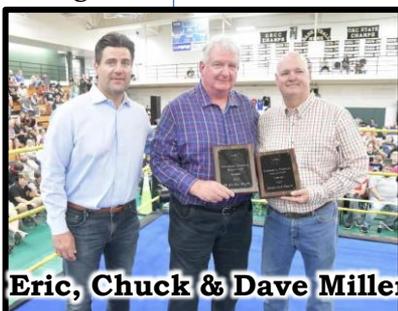


Ryosuke Rattel Nasa & fans

On September 30, "Big" Bill Miller, and his brother "Dandy" Dan, were inducted into Ohio's Pro Wrestling Hall of Fame, during a Chilli-cothe grappling show. Bill Miller's son, Chuck, and grandson, Eric, accepted the award in Big Bill's honor.

shaping Japanese professional wrestling style. Gotch and Miller lived a few blocks apart (6386 Brauning Drive and 1726 Kaiser Drive), and both exercised in Gotch's garage. Gotch, like Miller, was a legitimate, non-gimmick wrestler, representing Belgium in the 1948 Olympics.

"Dandy" Dan Miller's son, Dave Miller, accepted the award in his honor.



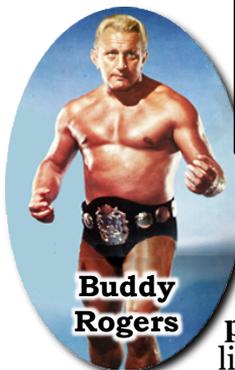
Eric, Chuck & Dave Miller

At Ohio State, Bill Miller was an All-American heavy-weight wrestler, and a 2-time Big Ten Heavyweight Champ.

Also in September, Karl Gotch was the subject of a talk in Japan by wrestling

BUDDY ROGERS INCIDENT
Promoter Al Haft booked the famous "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers to wrestle "Handsome" Johnny Barend
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Buddy Rogers

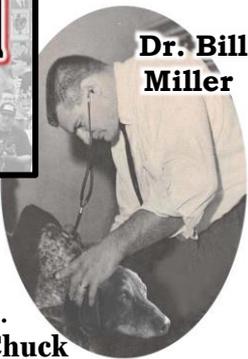
Mat Maestros Memorialized

by: Mike Zim



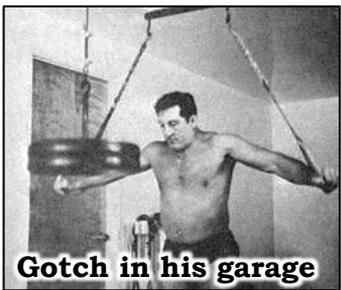
at the Fairgrounds on August 31, 1962 Rogers, the reigning champ and a **major power broker**, didn't

assault charges and Gotch and Miller were released after posting \$25 bonds. **Bill Miller's son, Chuck**



Dr. Bill Miller

like Gotch (feared?), and repeatedly refused to give him a shot at his title. Before Roger's match with Barend, Gotch and Miller confronted Rogers in the locker room. Gotch **felt Rogers was starving him out**, and said that they should have it out, right then and there. Rogers tried to flee, but was blocked by Miller, Gotch's pal. Gotch started beating Rogers while Miller kept Rogers in play



Gotch in his garage

when the champ tried to escape. (A **déjà vu of his Ohio State linebacker days?**) Rogers, 6'0", 235 lbs, was no match for the duo of Gotch, 6'1", 245 lbs. and Miller, 6' 6", 290 lbs. Roger's arm was injured, and his match was canceled. He filed

Rogers Says Wrestlers Attacked Him

Wrestler Buddy Rogers filed charges Saturday against two fellow performers who allegedly beat and kicked him Friday night, prior to a performance at the fairgrounds coliseum.

Charged with assault and battery were Carl Krauser, alias Carl Gotch, 6386 Brauning Dr., Reynoldsburg, and William Big Bill Miller, 1726 Kaiser Dr., Reynoldsburg.

ACCORDING TO Rogers, he and wrestling promoter Al Haft Sr., were discussing business in the dressing room when the two wrestlers entered and challenged Rogers to a match.

"The next thing I knew, Haft is flying through the air and these two guys jumped me and slammed a door on my arm," Rogers told Prosecutor Bernard Chupka. The 245-lb. athlete's left arm was encased in a cast following treatment at University Hospital.

The Coliseum ticket office refunded \$2500 of \$8000 worth of tickets sold, when the fracas caused cancellation of Rogers' bout.

Miller, told the author, "Dad said Rogers was a crybaby." Haft was upset at having to refund \$2,500 of the \$8,000 gate, and smoothed things over with the authorities. "Boys will be boys."



The real damage, however, was to Gotch, who angered other promoters



and wrestlers for his actions, and general behavior. He looked abroad for work, and things clicked for him in Japan.

Last Chance for the 2023 OSU Raffle One Ticket Wins It ALL!



Please note: The sizing is not comparative between the items

A Handy Ticket Order Form is Enclosed



What's included in the 2023 OSU Raffle?



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- 09 - OSU Quilted Purse or Tote
- 10 - One Deck of OSU Playing Cards
- 11 - Large plastic OSU Relish Tray
- 12 - Thirty+ Plastic OSU Party Tumblers
- 13 - Sandstone OSU Coasters
- 14 - Two Doubled-Sided OSU Can Coolers
- 15 - OSU Chip Clip
- 16 - Large "Go Bucks" Bucket

In Addition to ALL this stuff?

After we draw a ticket to win the OSU bucket, we will Draw a Second Winning Ticket from the same Raffle Jar for this **Evergraph O.S.U. Nightlight!** Two Prizes – One Raffle Jar!!

Thank You Hannah Moore!

After we Draw a Second Winning Ticket from the same raffle jar for the **Evergraph OSU Nightlight!** - THEN we will draw AGAIN, for a THIRD ticket to win this **OSU Cooler!** Three Prizes – One Raffle Jar!!



Thank You Shirley Buck!

2023 CALENDAR

November

Publish November *Courier*

Publish President's Holiday Letter

08 – WED – Four Seasons Garden Club

3:00pm-5:00pm

14 – TUE – Board Meeting, 6:30pm

15 – WED – Mary Stoots is the Featured

Guest on the 12 O'Clock Show

With Mayor Joe

18 – SAT – Open House, Holiday Gift Shop

10:00am-2:00pm

December

02 – SAT – Christmas on the Town, Open

House, 11am-4pm Gift Shop and

Children's Activities

05 – TUE – Board Meeting, 6:30pm

09 – SAT – Christmas Dinner, 6:00pm,

MCL Restaurant

5240 E. Main St., Whitehall

(614) 861-6259

16 – SAT – Open House, Holiday Gift

Shop 10:00am-2:00pm

20 – WED – Deadline for Jan 2024 *Courier*

THE COURIER

November 2023 Issue

Reynoldsburg-Truro

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12-RTHS Courier, NOV 2023

Invite your friends to join!

The 2024 Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society Officers

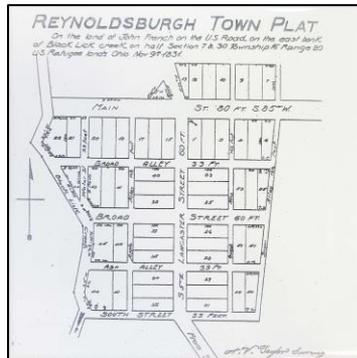
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Ed Saleski made some TOKENS for us!

If the Interurban Traction Line comes through town again, we will have our tokens READY!

Do you need to get a Round Tuit? Now, we have some!

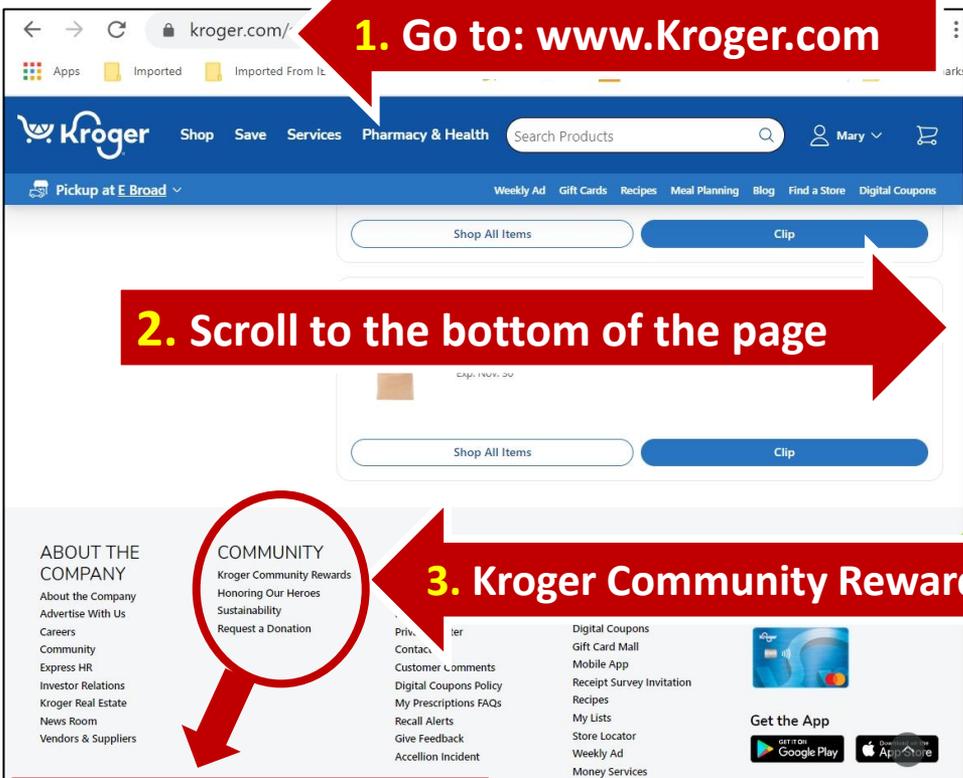
Ed also tested out a couple of our maps on some ceramic tiles. He is incredible!!





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4. Now that you have a digital account, you can clip digital coupons and hook them on to your Kroger Card!

You are Cordially Invited to the Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society Christmas Dinner

**Saturday
December 9, 2023
6:00-7:45 pm**

**MCL Restaurant
5240 E. Main Street
Whitehall, OH 43213**

Bring a door prize and join us for Dinner!

Please, please, please, PLEASE, consider coming to this dinner! (Did I say "please?") In order to get use of the full back room for us, (versus half of the back room), I had to promise to bring at least 35 to 40 people!

Without hesitation, I immediately replied, "Sure! No Problem."

So now you HAVE to come.



You can't let this food go to waste.



Put this on your calendar so you won't forget!

**MCL Restaurant in Whitehall
Saturday, December 9th from
6:00pm to 7:45pm** (they close at 8:00) Come a little early to get A good spot in line!



All these deserts are waiting for you.



I guarantee that you will have a good time. This is our chance to socialize, and I won't talk too much.

(I promise)

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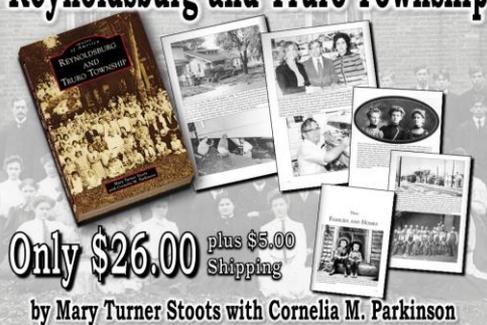
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