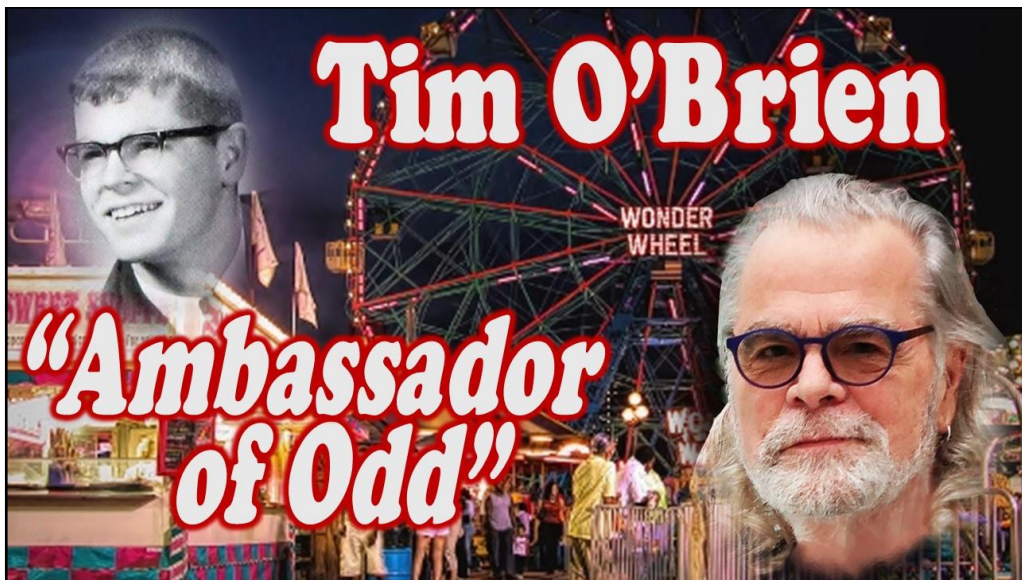




Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

THE COURIER

NOVEMBER-2024 Website: www.rths.info Email: RTHSCourier@aol.com Vol.50 No. 6



A Biography of Tim O'Brien

Tim is a proud graduate of Reynoldsburg High School, followed by The Ohio State University with a master's degree in broadcast journalism/film production. He is an accomplished photographer and public speaker, having lectured extensively at industry seminars, schools, libraries, and various civic groups.

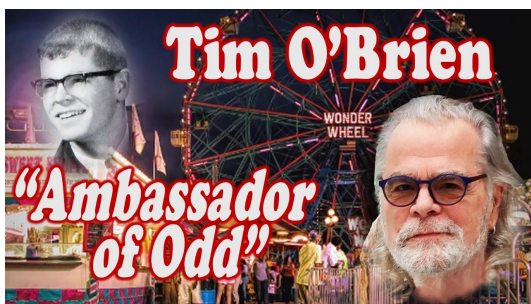
For nearly six decades, Tim has worked in the communications side of the entertainment industry chronicling in print and capturing on film the latest and greatest that theme parks, amusement parks and attractions, roadside attractions, circuses, carnivals and sideshows have to offer. He has a strong interest and proven commitment to preserving the legends, legacy and the history of the industry.

An industry specialist and award-winning photojournalist, Tim has had more than 5,000 articles and more than 3,000 photos published. He has visited (in the name of work),



Dolly Parton & Tim

more than 500 amusement parks and attractions in 29 countries and has ridden nearly 600 different roller coasters. (continued on page 2)



(continued from page 01)

He has appeared on the “Martha Stewart Show,” “Good Morning America” and in more than a dozen theme park documentaries on the Travel Channel, The Discovery Channel



and National Public Television. Tim has written and published 18 books, all still available on Amazon.

For 10 years, Tim served as the national corporate spokesperson for Ripley Entertainment Inc. and had the privilege of showing off the company's 90-plus attractions throughout the world, and in doing so has been widely published and quoted.

He was responsible for the promotion and public relations of Ripley Corporate as well as all Ripley brands

and attractions worldwide and served as editor of the venerable ‘Ripley's Believe It or Not!’ cartoon, established in 1918. He was producer and co-host of the Ripley Radio weekly broadcast creating more than 200 episodes over a five-year period. Today he proudly holds the emeritus title of "Ambassador of Odd" with Ripley's Believe It or Not!

Tim provided most of the talent booking for the various Believe It or Not! Odditoriums around the world, and the list of talented performers he brought to Ripley's front door includes the best in the industry, including wire walking Nik Walenda, showman Todd Robbins, the green skinned Lizardman, and Dan Meyer, the world's foremost sword swallower.

For his contribution to the international amusement park industry, Tim was the first journalist to be inducted into the prestigious International Assoc. of Amusement Parks & Attractions (IAAPA) Hall of Fame in 2016, where he joined industry



greats such as Walt Disney, Walter Knotts and PT Barnum. Tim was previously presented the Lifetime Service Award in 2001 by the same association.

(continued on page 3)

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During the summers of 2023/24, Tim presented programs at 27 Maine libraries (18 during summer 2024 alone) to promote his newest book, "The Maine Roadshow: A Roadside Tour of the State's History, Culture, Food, Funk & Oddities." A book that took five years and 7,000 miles traversing the state to create.

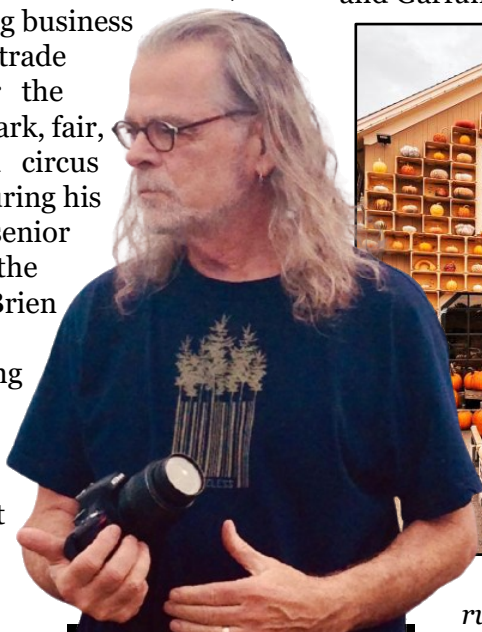


**Kathleen
O'Brien**

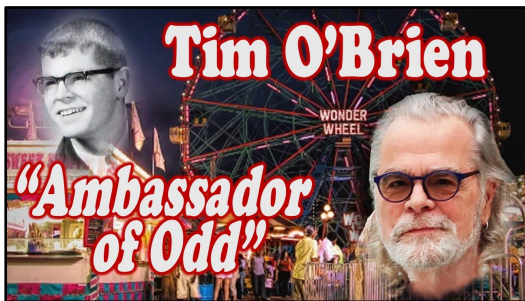
**Joan
Rivers**

**Tim
O'Brien**

Prior to his position with Ripley Entertainment, Tim served as senior editor of Amusement Business, the world's leading business to business trade magazine for the amusement park, fair, carnival, and circus industries. During his 18 years as senior editor with the magazine, O'Brien traveled the world reporting the news and the history of the outdoor entertainment industry.



Tim O'Brien



Tim currently serves on the National Advisory Council of the Barnum Museum in Bridgeport, Ct.; on the board of governors of the Applause Award which recognizes the world's top theme park; on the board of the Society for Commercial Archeology; and is the former chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee of the International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions, of which he remains a member.

When not traveling, he splits his time between Nashville, Tennessee and Belgrade, Maine with his wife, Kathleen and their two cats, Simon and Garfunkel.



All of the photos were ruthlessly pilfered from Tim O'Brien's Facebook page.

2025 Board of Directors



by: Mary Stoots

At our September 17th General Meeting and picnic, we elected our Officers and a trustee for 2025.

Our officers all have one-year terms, and our three Trustees each have a three-year term that rotates, so every year we vote for only one Trustee.

President – Mary Stoots
(614) 560-4987

Vice President - Jim Slonaker
(614) 864-4581

Treasurer - Marvin Shrimplin
(614) 570-2294

Recording Secretary
Mark Myers (614) 376-6809

Corresponding Secretary
Sheryl Knapp (614) 370-9273

Trustee (One year)
Donald Larimer

Trustee (Two years)
Judy Diuguid

Trustee (Three years)
Neal Whitman



NEW MEMBERS!

Orville Kincade	Individual
Michael & Lynn Neff	Family
Gene Shivener	Individual
Deanna Sulonen	Individual
Melissa M. Woodward	Individual

THE COURIER

November 2024 Issue

Reynoldsburg-Truro Historical Society

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Mary Turner Stoots & Tim O'Brien

Contributors:

Tim O'Brien, Sam Van Schoyck
& Mary Turner Stoots

I WANT TO GROW
MY OWN FOOD
BUT I CANT FIND
BACON SEEDS

RTHS 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President – VACANT

Treasurer – Marvin Shrimplin
(614) 570-2294

Recording Secretary – Mark Myers
(614) 376-6809

Corresponding Secretary VACANT

Trustee (1 year) – Jim Slonaker
(614) 864-4581

Trustee (2 years) – Donald Larimer

Trustee (3 years) – Judy Diuguid

Courier Editor: Mary Turner Stoots
Publicity Chair: Mary Turner Stoots
Email: RTHSCourier@aol.com
Museum Phone: (614) 902-2831
Website: www.RTHS.info



Sunshine Committee

Do you know someone who needs some Sunshine?

Contact **Carol Deuber** 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

Cell: (614) 581-7048
Home: (614) 471-3288

Write **"SUNSHINE"** in the subject line of your email:
cadeuber@gmail.com

Follow the Leader (Don Larimer) to Silent Home for a Tombstone Tour!



SUPPORT LOCAL HISTORY

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Individual - \$20 Family - \$25 Sustaining - \$30 Contributing - \$50 Life Membership - \$300

Name _____

Additional Names _____

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Make Check Payable to RTHS and mail to: RTHS, PO Box 144, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Invite your friends to join!

Some Upcoming Events!

The ladies from Four Seasons Garden Club are always a welcome sight to see at the beginning of November!



Come and catch the “Early Bird” deals at our Holiday Gift Shop!



More Upcoming Events!



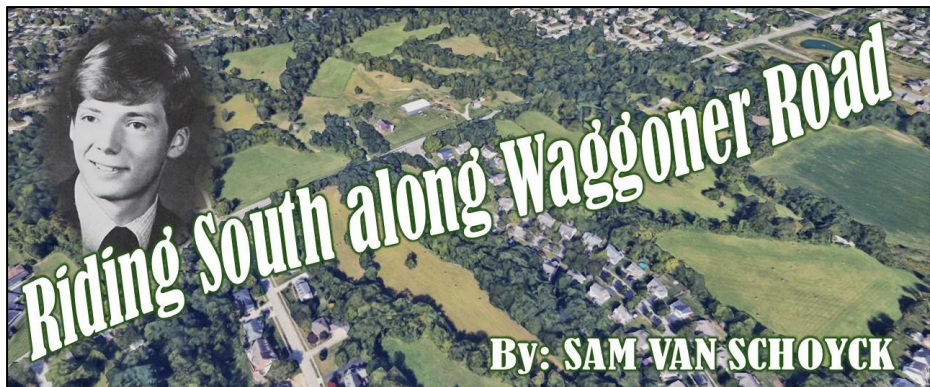
Join us for our annual Christmas Dinner at the MCL cafeteria restaurant on December 18th!

Be sure to grab something along the way to give away as a door prize!

It doesn't have to be very much. A canning jar filled with candy has made people smile in the past! This will be a great opportunity for us, because **we are receiving 20%** of the sales this night to go toward our operating funds!

We haven't had a big fundraiser all year, so (hopefully) this will help! And I would love to see you there!





Before beginning our trip south on Waggoner Road, did you know that the first house west of Waggoner on the south side of Broad was the home of Bob Hope's brother during the 1950s? The house was there for a long time. It was used as a construction office for a while when Broad Street was widened from two lanes to four. Then it sat empty until the turn-lane was added for the UDF gas station/convenience store. At that point, the house was removed.

The next house west belonged to Sally Smith Cody, the granddaughter of Doc Smith. His estate was on McNaughten Road, (*the site of Smith Farms Condos today*). Sally's house was originally a school built to educate the children of workers building the National Road. It was torn down to widen Broad Street.

Beginning from Broad Street south to Main on the West side of Waggoner

DEERFIELD ESTATES – This must have been a beautiful farm with its rolling terrain. The house and barn sat about where the first and second house west of Waggoner and north of Deer Park Way sit today.

MUHLBERGER'S

BRUBAKER'S

BOB DEHNER – Bob was a self-employed excavator.

ART ALLEN – house sat far back from the road. Art was President of Ohio Savings and Loan and had a local outdoors show on WBNS TV. Clark Oldham said this property was known as "The Frog Pond" in his youth. It was a natural gravel quarry of sorts, and he used to drive a wagon there to buy gravel for the farm lane.

JO MILLS – Herb Mills was an employee

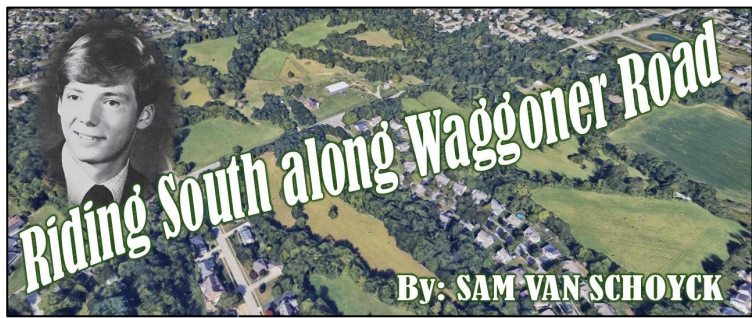
of the Wolf's and integral to their start of WBNS TV. A long-time school board member, Herbert Mills Elementary in Huber was named in his honor. Herb's widow Jo married Clark Oldham in 1973. Her children were Nancy and Jim.

DON BARRY – retired beat cop from Columbus. I mowed for him in my teen years. Mrs. Barry's children were Marylou and Dave Lumpkin. They both attended RHS.

FRED AND LUCILLE GRAHL – Green shingle two-story house. This was the original farmhouse for the property north of it to Deerfield. I mowed for them too. Their two sons joined the army after graduating from RHS. Each had a car that they put up on blocks in the barn. Neither returned from war. In my youth, the cars remained just as they left them.

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HERMAN AND NELLIE WOODRUFF - owned south to Rodebaugh, but the main acreage was across Waggoner Road to the east.



Herman and my granddad Oldham helped each other during thrashing



and silo filling. Herman once lost fingers while helping fill silo at the Oldham's.

This farm was originally owned by John Oldham, my great-great grandfather. He lived in a log cabin on the southwest corner of Waggoner and Rodebaugh that stood until the 1930s. The farm was then inherited by his daughter Florence Jones. Aunt Florence lived in the two-story house on the north side of Rodebaugh, just behind the old red barn at the corner. She in turn sold it to the Woodruffs. Nellie Woodruff was a direct descendent of John French who platted Frenchtown, known as Reynoldsburg today.

Crossing Rodebaugh Road

EMORY BENDER, LATER MALLERNEE'S, THEN THE FOUCHE'S - my mother cleaned house for Mrs. Bender. Their son Russell tore down the cabin mentioned above and built a small house

on the original site. When I was a child, the Annis family lived here.

GASTON'S - relocated from Brookside and built a ranch house in the 1980s. Their children were Barry, Gary, Larry, Sherry and Eldon Jr.

STEINKE'S - The house was built by contractor, Claude Sigman in the mid 1960s. The Steinke children were Cindy and Dave.

ADA GOOD

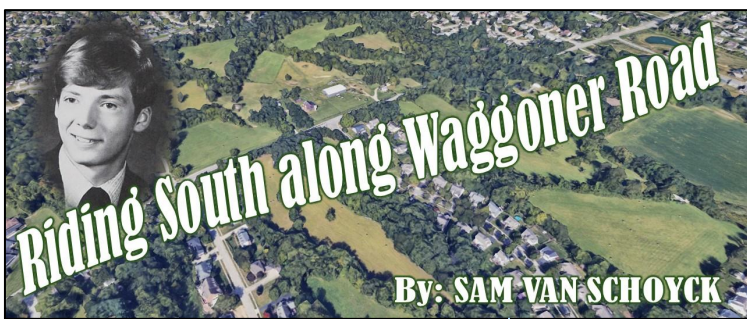
VIOLA GOOD

BERNICE GOOD

FLOYD & TESSIE GOOD - Floyd originally owned the property from Ed and Grace Carr's north to Bender's, then west to Rodebaugh where the road took a 90-degree bend south. Thus, he had frontage on two roads. He was a livestock dealer and hauler and made money in later years by selling off lots on both Waggoner and Rodebaugh to Weltners, Nears and Shepherds to name a few.

It was platted as "the Floyd Good Addition". Floyd built the three houses north of him for his three daughters. At one time, Fay May, the mayor of Reynoldsburg, owned this property, though I never knew why. He was not a farmer, so I assume it was for speculation.

AL AND DOT MARSHALL - Dot taught Home Economics at RHS and was a high school classmate of Woody Hayes. (continued on page 10)



(continued from page 09)

Claude Sigman built this house in 1962 and my brother Joe worked for him at that time. After the Marshalls passed, the house was sold to Muriel Higgins, and she was the mother of Debi and Melody Hutson. Debi was our very first Tomato Queen!

FLOYD GOOD'S ORIGINAL HOUSE

A series of families lived here after Floyd sold the property, including Mike and Birdie Zorich, Thrashers, and Paul and Kitty Teeters.

ED AND GRACE CARR FARM - Ed and Grace built their home in 1922.

The next large farmhouse south

Durant and owned property on both sides of Waggoner. He sold the main part of the farm to Ed Carr in the late 1950s. The rest was bought by my



granddad, my parents, the Baer's and Walker's. The small white barn just south of the old house was formerly a one room school that sat on Rodebaugh. Grace Carr was my mother's sister. The farm is now

owned by their grandson, Chris Baer.

ST PIUS X CHURCH

Also originally part of the Lunn farm. The buyer had a son who was physically disabled.

They built an out-



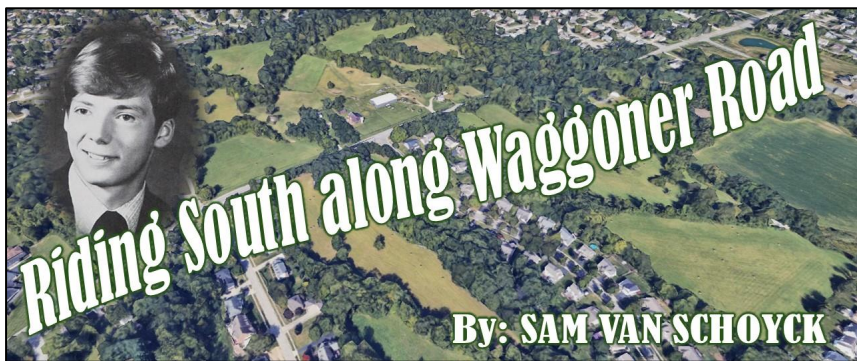
door exercise facility and small home so he could have weekends in "the country". After his death, the father gave the property to the Catholic Diocese, the beginning of St Pius X.

was their rental. It was the home of Bernie Lunn and included the large red barn to the north. Bernie ran a large (for its day) Holstein dairy. He had two full time dairymen, Hap Orndorff and Bob

(continued on page 11)



(continued
from
page 10)



THE CHAMBERLAIN PROPERTY - They were early landowners on Waggoner and their heirs lived in Chicago. They owned all the property south to Main Street, including the old farm with the Mail Pouch barn at the corner that faced Main Street. Mr. Link rented the farm when I was a kid. A strip mall sits there today.

Editor's Note:

The Chamberlains planted a Bald Cypress tree about 1880 that still stands on the north side of Main Street just west of the strip mall on the east side of the driveway that runs beside Joseph's Coat (formerly Culligan's) to the businesses that are behind the building.

In 2020, Mary Turner Stoots heard that the City was going to install 14-foot sidewalks down Main Street. The drawings of the proposed changes reflected that the concrete would end up in the middle of the tree-trunk. She wrote a letter to the Mayor and all of the City Council members. She then added on the Director of Public Service, City Auditor, City Attorney, etc., then she

copied the RTHS Board of Directors along with ten local, county, state, and

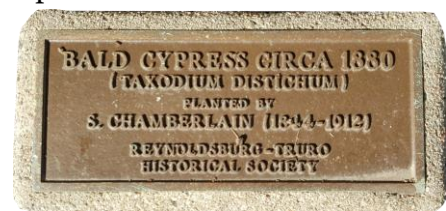


federal forestry and arboretum societies. The list ended with Smokey the Bear*. It worked! The current picture above shows the sidewalk going around the tree. During the Main Street construction, the Chamberlain family happened to drive

through town and saw a big X painted on the tree, and they contacted Mary about it. After conferring with RTHS member Tom McCray (who formerly worked for a utility company), she was able to assure them it was marked to "Save the Tree."

Watch for the January issue of the Courier! After all, we need to take a trip north up the other side of Waggoner Road!

* By the way - Smokey the Bear responded to my letter!



BOOKS FOR SALE!

Reynoldsburg High School 1899 to 1970

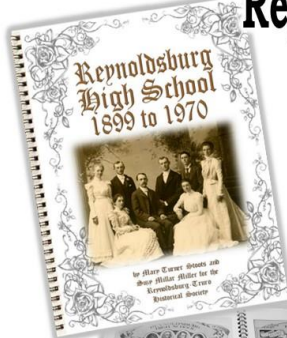
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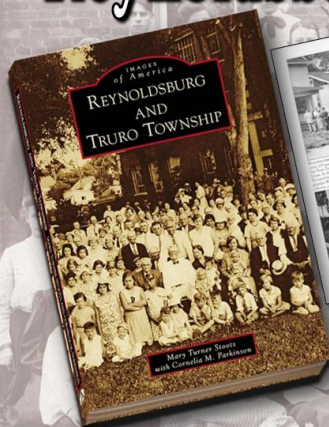
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by Mary Turner Stoots and Suzy Millar Miller

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